

Rethinking “Return and Reintegration”

An agenda centered on people, contexts, coordination

EMN CONFERENCE

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OUTLINE




Introduction

1. **Ways to enhance sustainability of Return and Reintegration**

- What people want of return: Putting people back at the center
- Adapting to the contexts: Safeguarding the local space
- Continuity and coordination: Linking initiatives pre- and post-return

2. **Current discussions on standardization, development links and M&E**

- Building strategies for Return and Reintegration
 - Making the information accessible
 - Joining the learning community on measurement standards
- 



1. WAYS TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY

What people want of return:
Expectations and aspirations



Expectations:

- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Social Inclusion
- Protection

Vs. The reality:

- Cash grants
- Business start-ups
- Repeated calls





2. WAYS TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY



Adapting to specific contexts

- 1 AFGHANISTAN: Failure of AVRR Programmes have been
 - Not adapting solutions to people's skill sets
 - No follow-up or protection monitoring
 - No creative solutions: peer-to-peer, SMS-based technologies

- 1 SOMALIA
 - No capacity to do post-return monitoring
 - Counseling is limited to legal assistance
 - Lack of field staff training in reintegration

- 2 A SPECIALIZED – not a blanket – APPROACH NEEDED
 - Urban planning
 - Mental health planning
 - Labor market integration within the first month of return



3. WAYS TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY



Continuity and coordination

A MULTI DIMENSIONAL INTEGRATION INDEX: A common assessment tool

SAMUEL HALL's work with the REINTEGRATION WORKING GROUP in AFGHANISTAN: A standardized framework to understand and map integration processes of displaced and returnee populations.

- The first attempt at a consolidated data collection system on integration / reintegration.
- Baseline data on the integration of displaced and returnee groups to inform and measure the impact of programming
 - Applied with global (IASC) and academic standards
 - Efforts to combine indicators
 - Based on practitioner assessment tools already in place : an add-on 27 questions on integration



4. CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDS

Building Strategies for Return and Reintegration



A lot is happening at the moment to find ways to conceptualize return and reintegration

1. Globally, IOM is setting up a Global Reintegration Working Group
2. Regionally,
 - IOM is working on a Reintegration strategy for the Horn of Africa
 - The EU Trust Fund for Africa includes return under key projects (RDPP, BMM)
3. At the country level, in Afghanistan, UNHCR and Samuel Hall are leading this with the Reintegration Working Group to develop a **Multi-Dimensional Integration Index** that can be replicable and transferrable.



5. CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDS



Making the information accessible

Academics, think tanks, researchers in the field, consultants are working on return and reintegration yet the information is nowhere to be found. It is not shared.

1. Changing the **information culture**:

- “Knowledge is power” and the “bad” outcomes of returns are not shared. Donors should require of agencies to share them. Let’s go further: *A **dedicated space** for return & reintegration information: an online resource?*

2. An **innovation competition**: to put people in charge of their reintegration experience

- *A model being tested in Somalia with IDPs on local integration*



6. CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDS



Joining the Learning Community

THERE ARE 12 ON-GOING MEASUREMENT INITIATIVES ON SELF-RELIANCE & INTEGRATION

1. Self-Reliance Measurement tool (Refugepoint, Kenya)
2. Well-Being and Adjustment Index (WRC, Lebanon, Egypt, Ecuador)
3. Vulnerability Assessment Framework (UNHCR, Jordan)
4. Vulnerability assessment of Syrian Refugees (UNHCR, Lebanon)
5. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (IFRC)
6. Joint IDP Profiling (JIPS)
7. Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM)
8. Local Integration Index (UNHCR, Ecuador)
9. Minimum Expenditure Basket (UNHCR, Lebanon/Jordan)
10. MDI (UNHCR/SH, Afghanistan)
11. Graduation Criteria (Trickle up, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Zambia)
12. Surviving, Striving, Thriving Matrix (IRC, USA)



HAVING A BROADER DIALOGUE ON RETURNS:

- 1) PLAN RETURNS BASED ON PEOPLE AND CONTEXTS (NOT IN ALL CONTEXTS)
- 2) SHARE information: stop the culture of secrecy on returns
- 3) Plan REINTEGRATION before planning return: Skills assessments, labor market assessments but also...baselines, multi-dimensional assessments to understand societies and people's capacity to fit in them.

IN CONCLUSION



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Thank you