



## Summary

The programme facilitates the voluntary return from Denmark to Afghanistan of unsuccessful Afghan asylum seekers currently residing in Denmark. The eight-month integrated programme includes an information campaign with an IOM helpline through which potential returnees can access information on the situation in Afghanistan and return and reintegration possibilities in order to help them make an informed decision about return. Close cooperation with the Danish Immigration Service (DIS) and multipliers, including the Danish Refugee Council, the Danish Red Cross, Afghan national associations, municipalities, IGOs, and individual returnees, ensures the safe and dignified voluntary return of members of the target group to their country of origin.

*IOM IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY.*

*AS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY, IOM ACTS WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO:*

*ASSIST IN MEETING THE OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION;*

*ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION ISSUES;*

*ENCOURAGE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MIGRATION; AND*

*WORK TOWARDS EFFECTIVE RESPECT OF THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS.*



Information meetings with Afghans in Denmark.

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# Integrated Return, Reception and Reintegration of Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan Programme

## Background and objectives

Although the peace process in Afghanistan has been disturbed by violent incidents against Afghans and international assistance workers and there are grave challenges to the establishment of sustainable national institutions as well as the delivery of economic and social assistance to the population, there are encouraging signs that Afghanistan is on the path to recovery. Some 3 million Afghans who had been displaced for more than two decades have returned home, the Afghan national army, national police force, and justice system are being developed, and, according to the United Nations, significant progress has been made in the fields of public adminis-

tration and economic and social development. While development in areas including the rule of law, disarmament, and counter-narcotics has been slower and the human rights situation in the north, north-east, and west of Afghanistan is still an area of concern; successful developments so far have been made possible by the political commitment of Afghans both inside and outside of Afghanistan and by effective and coordinated international support. Generous reconstruction support from Denmark has included provision of co-funding for the EU-backed "Return, Reception, and Reintegration of Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan" (RANA) programme, which is an initiative to provide reintegration assistance to members of the Afghan diaspora.



IOM International Organization for Migration



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The overall objective of this programme is to facilitate the sustainable return to Afghanistan of unsuccessful Afghan asylum seekers residing in Denmark by providing an opportunity for voluntary return and reintegration assistance.

## Programme activities

The programme involves a range of activities, including the development of information material for the target group, IOM participation in information meetings for unsuccessful asylum seekers, the establishment and maintenance of a dedicated helpline accessible to the target group, and return and reintegration assistance in Afghanistan.

### DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION MATERIAL

IOM created information material about IOM's AVR/RANA programme. Material included brochures, information sheets, and posters and were produced in Dari, Pashto, and English. This was distributed to the target group through information meetings and IOM's multiplier network in Denmark.

### PARTICIPATION IN INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR UNSUCCESSFUL ASYLUM SEEKERS

IOM colleagues participated in 12 information meetings in reception centres around Denmark. During these information meetings, IOM provided information about possibilities for return through IOM's AVR programme and information about the RANA programme. Information was presented through brochures, information sheets, and posters and was provided in Dari, Pashto, and English.

### HELPLINE SERVICE

IOM set up a toll-free information helpline for the target group and other interested parties (such as social workers and NGOs) that provided information on possibilities for return and the practicalities involved. The helpline service is based at IOM Helsinki and is staffed by an Afghan national with Dari and Pashto language skills. The service is provided throughout the duration of the programme.

IOM sent out a one-page newsletter in Dari, Pashto, and English to inform the target group about the existence of the helpline and to publicize the helpline number.

**The Afghan helpline number is: 80 20 16 00 (toll-free within Denmark).**

### ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS

After providing information and advice on return possibilities to the target group, IOM, in cooperation with partners, facilitates the voluntary return and reintegration of members of the target group from Denmark to Afghanistan. IOM assistance includes:

- AVR Application Form processing and review of travel documents;
- Booking arrangements on commercial flights and notification of itinerary and ticket status;
- Arrangement of relevant transit assistance and transit visas/visa waivers;
- Provision of escorts in those cases where returnees can be grouped;
- Provision of IOM plastic bags for immediate identification of returnees at transit points;
- Medical escorts, when necessary.

In order to facilitate returns, DIS organizes valid travel documents for returnees to allow them to travel to Afghanistan.

## RANA programme

After returnees have arrived in Afghanistan they can benefit from the RANA programme, which includes:

- Meeting of returnees upon disembarkation at selected airports and assistance with immigration and customs procedures;
- Provision of counselling and guidance related to reintegration upon arrival in Afghanistan;
- Provision of basic medical treatment/supplies as needed or alternatively, referral to local hospitals;
- Information on mine-awareness, security, available assistance and early counselling on RANA reintegration opportunities;
- Onward transportation to returnees' final destination by air or road transport,
- Temporary accommodation in Kabul according to capacity;
- Training – vocational or educational;
- Employment, through referrals that may be obtained by returnees through IOM's extensive job vacancy database in Afghanistan;
- On-the-job training;
- Self-employment/Small business startup.

## Institutional framework

The IOM Regional Office in Helsinki has overall responsibility for programme design, implementation, and reporting and coordinates programme activities in close collaboration with DIS. Danish NGOs working with Afghan asylum seekers and Afghan diaspora associations in Denmark provide grass-root implementation support. IOM Kabul is responsible for implementation of the RANA programme in Afghanistan, while the IOM Regional Office in Brussels has overall responsibility for reporting and donor liaison.

## Contact details

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