

Summary

The "Return, Reception and Reintegration of Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan" (RANA) programme provides reception and reintegration opportunities in Afghanistan for Afghan migrants that have returned from one of the European Union (EU) countries. Through the programme, both reception and reintegration services are provided to migrants on arrival. The first phase offers guidance and support not only with immigration and customs procedures at Kabul airport but also on issues such as mine awareness, security, information about assistance providing organizations in the region and RANA integration opportunities. IOM Kabul offers onward transportation to returnees' final destination in Afghanistan, either by air or road, as well as temporary accommodation in Kabul for a limited period of time, as necessary.

The second phase of RANA centres on reintegration assistance, which is managed according to the "Information, Counselling and Referral Service" (ICRS) system. Reintegration opportunities include vocational or educational training; employment, through referrals from IOM's job vacancy database; on-the-job-training, and self-employment/business startup projects. Returnees engaging in non-remunerated activities are offered food and lodging while in training.

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.



IOM assisting returnees at Kabul airport.

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Return, Reception and Reintegration of Afghan Nationals to Afghanistan (RANA) Programme

Background

In 2003, EU Member States, in conjunction with the European Commission, decided to adopt a coordinated approach regarding voluntary return to Afghanistan, seeking to provide a comprehensive assistance package to all Afghans returning from any one of the EU Member States. As a result, the RANA programme was developed in support of the EU Return Plan to Afghanistan in coordination with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of the Islamic Transnational Administration of Afghanistan. The project began on 1 June 2003 and will end 31 August 2006.

Objective and target group

The overall objective of the project is to provide arrival and post-arrival assistance to Afghan nationals (regardless of their legal status) who have returned to Afghanistan from one of the EU Member States.

Project activities

The project's activities include two phases – reception and reintegration.



IOM International Organization for Migration



For more information please contact :

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Phase one: Reception of returnee

- Identification of returnees and guidance through the immigration and customs process (voluntary returnees only);
- Provision of basic medical treatment/supplies as required 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, if requested.

Phase two: Reintegration

This second phase is managed according to the ICRS system and covers the following reintegration fields:

- Training – vocational or educational;
- Employment, through referrals that may be obtained by returnees through IOM's extensive job vacancy database;
- On-the-job training;
- Self-employment/Small business startup.

TRAINING: VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL

Training institutions are selected by the reintegration team, depending on returnees' needs and quality assessment. The training is paid for by RANA and accommodation is provided to beneficiaries for the duration of their course, if needed. Popular educational courses include information technology (IT) and English courses. Vocational courses are usually carried out through on-the-job-training.



Taking advantage of one of RANA's practical courses on carpentry.

EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS

Through IOM's job vacancy database, if openings occur, IOM is able to assist returnees with referrals.

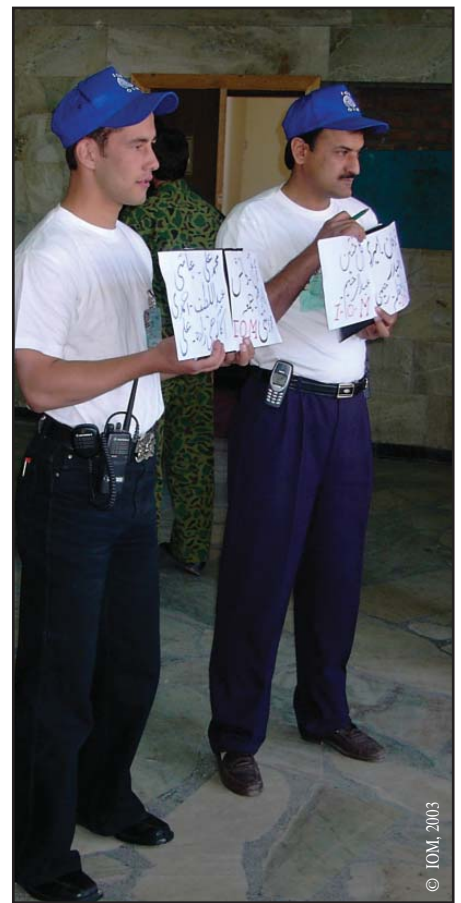
SELF-EMPLOYMENT/ SMALL BUSINESS STARTUP

The guiding principle for this component of the reintegration package is sustainable reintegration through the development of income-generating projects that aim to empower returnees by providing them with an opportunity to become economically independent. As successful businessmen, a returnee has good prospects to socially and economically reintegrate into Afghan society. The initial stage consists of counselling sessions designed to help the returnee decide whether business start-up is a sustainable option and identify which field offers adequate potential for economic success.

Important factors are returnees' work experience, their expertise in the chosen field, the proposed form of the business project (e.g. independently run or a partnership), viability of the project, the impact of the financial contribution and so on. The counselling process leads to the design of a business plan evaluated by IOM staff. IOM financial assistance primarily goes towards buying equipment that is necessary to set up the self-employment project.

Project results so far

As of 1 May 2005, 1,755 Afghans returning from EU Member States were RANA beneficiaries. Over 300 reintegration projects are active, including close to 200 small businesses, developed in a variety of economic fields.



IOM Kabul staff waiting at the airport for returnees.

Project partners and funding

The RANA programme is funded by the European Commission with the majority of co-financing provided by the Governments of Denmark and Germany.

Contact details and project website

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