



## COOPERATE IN FACILITATING SAFE AND DIGNIFIED RETURN AND READMISSION, AS WELL AS SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION



### Associated actions

- a. **Develop and implement bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks and agreements**, including readmission agreements, ensuring that return and readmission of migrants to their own country is safe, dignified and in full compliance with international human rights law, including the rights of the child, by determining clear and mutually agreed procedures that uphold procedural safeguards, guarantee individual assessments and legal certainty, and by ensuring they also include provisions that facilitate sustainable reintegration
- b. **Promote gender-responsive and child-sensitive return and reintegration programmes**, that may include legal, social and financial support, guaranteeing that all returns in the context of such voluntary programmes effectively take place on the basis of the migrant's free, prior and informed consent, and that returning migrants are assisted in their reintegration process through effective partnerships, including to avoid they become displaced in the country of origin upon return

- c. **Cooperate on identification of nationals and issuance of travel documents for safe and dignified return and readmission** in cases of persons that do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory, by establishing reliable and efficient means of identification of own nationals such as through the addition of biometric identifiers in population registries, and by digitalizing civil registry systems, with full respect to the right to privacy and protection of personal data
- d. **Foster institutional contacts between consular authorities and relevant officials from countries of origin and destination**, and provide adequate consular assistance to returning migrants prior to return by facilitating access to documentation, travel documents, and other services, in order to ensure predictability, safety and dignity in return and readmission
- e. **Ensure that the return of migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory is safe and dignified**, follows an individual assessment, is carried out by competent authorities through prompt and effective cooperation between countries of origin and destination, and allows all applicable legal remedies to be exhausted, in compliance with due process guarantees, and other obligations under international human rights law
- f. **Establish or strengthen national monitoring mechanisms on return**, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, that provide independent recommendations on ways and means to 30 strengthen accountability, in order to guarantee the safety, dignity, and human rights of all returning migrants

- g. Ensure that return and readmission processes involving children are carried out only after a determination of the best interests of the child, take into account the right to family life, family unity, and that a parent, legal guardian or specialized official accompanies the child throughout the return process,** ensuring that appropriate reception, care and reintegration arrangements for children are in place in the country of origin upon return
- h. Facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants into community life** by providing them equal access to social protection and services, justice, psycho-social assistance, vocational training, employment opportunities and decent work, recognition of skills acquired abroad, and financial services, in order to fully build upon their entrepreneurship, skills and human capital as active members of society and contributors to sustainable development in the country of origin upon return
- i) Identify and address the needs of the communities to which migrants return by including respective provisions in national and local development strategies, infrastructure planning, budget allocations and other relevant policy decisions and cooperating with local authorities and relevant stakeholders



## Example practices

For more practices, visit the Migration Network Hub's **Repository of Practices**

### Protecting the human rights of migrants in the context of return

States can refer to OHCHR's recommendations for ensuring human rights are respected in the context of return, including:

- Non-refoulement and the prohibition of arbitrary or collective expulsion;
- Due process and procedural safeguards;
- Sustainability of returns; and
- Return monitoring and accountability (including during post-return) (OHCHR, 2018).

### Return and Reintegration Platform (IOM)

IOM's Return and Reintegration Platform aims to enhance capacity and know-how around facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission. On this platform, government actors can connect with other practitioners to share knowledge and good practices in the realm of return and reintegration. Funded by the European Union and created by the IOM in 2017, the platform offers a repertoire of reintegration initiatives that can be searched (initiatives can also be submitted), a community space to connect with peers and experts, e-courses and webinars, and a large repository of resources on the topic of return and reintegration.

## Supporting migrant children on the move during COVID-19

IOM and UNICEF are working with the government of Ethiopia and its social service workforce to support thousands of migrant children – many unaccompanied – returning from eight countries during COVID-19. This includes registering returnees, identifying those who are in particularly vulnerable situations, ensuring returnees are referred to appropriate services based on identified needs, tracing families of unaccompanied children, ensuring children return safely to their homes, and supporting reintegration to the community. The two agencies are also supplying the returnees with dignity kits, soap, recreational kits, tents, beddings and other essential items (UNICEF, 2020b).

## Honduras's educational bridges program

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education of Honduras have jointly developed a national educational bridges program that has successfully reintegrated over 2,000 out-of-school children into educational modalities, mainly internally displaced and returned migrant children and adolescents. The program includes not only academic levelling, but also counselling, psychosocial support, nutrition and basic social protection services. It is based on coordination across key sectors; In Honduras this implies involvement from the Ministry of Education, the national child protection authority, the Social Development Ministry, local governments and community organizations (UNICEF, 2019).



## Relevant sustainable development goals



### SDG 1: No poverty

- **1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- **1.4:** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance



### SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

- **10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



### SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- **16.b:** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
- **16.9:** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration



## SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

▪**17.18:** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts