



Photo: Muse Mohammed / IOM 2017

OVERVIEW

Migration offers a wealth of opportunities for migrants and their host communities, but also carries inherent risks. For migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return to their countries of origin but lack the means to do so, IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme provides a solution to their immediate plight. AVRR supports a dignified return of migrants to countries of origin as it avoids coercion. When migrants travel with IOM, they travel as a regular passenger in a more safe and humane manner, without the stigma of deportation.

In Thailand, AVRR largely falls under the “*Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance for Bali Process Member States*” project funded by the Australian Government and implemented by IOM under the auspices of the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process. The project’s implementation takes place in close collaboration with Bali Process Member States and in partnership with UNHCR. In 2018, 228 migrants were returned to their countries of origin.

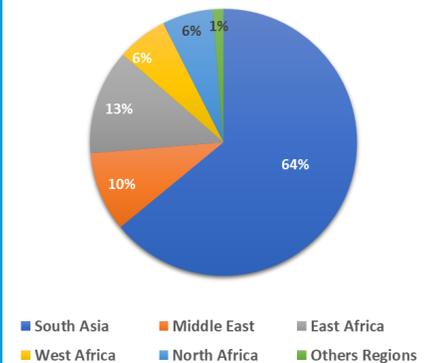
OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to provide a regional support mechanism to assist the voluntary, safe and dignified return of irregular migrants, rejected asylum seekers, as well as persons whose Refugee Status Determination (RSD) application has been formally closed in accordance with national or UNHCR established procedures. This includes those that have been intercepted in transit and for whom no other mechanism exists to facilitate their voluntary return.

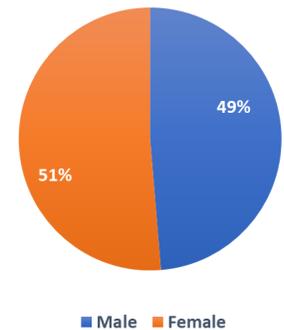
The project will support participation of individuals or groups located at the time of their application in one of the Bali Process Member States. Where no alternative funding is available under UNHCR voluntary repatriation programmes, the project can support the return of asylum seekers and refugees wishing to voluntarily return to their country of origin on the basis of an informed decision and in accordance with UNHCR established principles and procedures.

MIGRANTS ASSISTED IN 2018

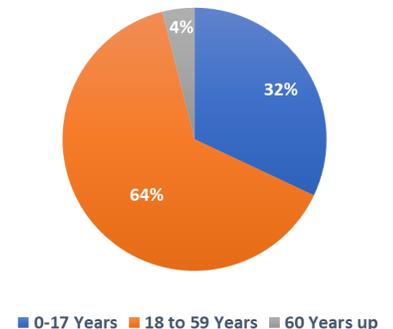
Region of Origin



Gender



Age Group



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The migrant's participation in the AVRR project is **strictly voluntary**.

The migrant **may be eligible** for return support and reintegration assistance if:

- The migrant is in an **irregular situation**, meaning that they do not have the necessary authorization or documents required under the country of residence's immigration regulations. This includes victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants and migrants intercepted by national authorities seeking to transit irregularly to another destination.
- The migrant is an **asylum seeker** – the migrant has applied for refugee status but whose claim has not been definitively evaluated and decide to voluntarily return to their country of origin in accordance with UNHCR established principles and procedures. Migrants whose asylum claims have been rejected are also eligible for AVRR assistance.
- The migrant is a **refugee** – the migrant is recognized to be in need of international protection on the basis of a fair and inclusive procedure who is willing to voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin in accordance with UNHCR established principles and procedures.

The migrant **will not qualify** to participate in the project if one of the following applies:

- The migrant is serving a prison sentence or is a known smuggler or trafficker.
- The migrant is eligible to receive assistance under another AVRR project, or UNHCR program for the facilitated voluntary repatriation of refugees, in a Bali Process Member State.
- The migrant has already benefited from this AVRR project.

Please refer **potential beneficiaries** in Thailand to IOM through email (thbkkavrr@iom.int) or phone (+66 2 343 9300).

SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- **Pre-departure assistance:** Counselling, medical assistance, administrative assistance including the acquisition of travel documents, the purchase of flights tickets, and specialized assistance and referral services to vulnerable individuals.
- **Travel assistance:** Departure (including travel and miscellaneous allowances), transport (movement coordination including support in transit and escort when required) and support for migrants with specific health needs.
- **Post-arrival assistance:** Reception and onward transport to the final destination, Counselling and referral to local partners if necessary, health-related support, provision of reintegration assistance (often in cooperation with local entities and non-governmental organizations) as well as monitoring and evaluation of the assistance delivered.

BALI PROCESS ON PEOPLE SMUGGLING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND RELATED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

The majority of AVRR are activities implemented by IOM on behalf of the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. Launched in 2002, it is a multilateral initiative aimed at combating people smuggling, trafficking and related transnational crime in the Middle East, Asia, and Pacific regions. With 45 member states, the Bali Process provides a forum for policy dialogue, information sharing and practical cooperation to help the region address these challenges. AVRR complements on-going efforts by Bali Process members to reduce irregular migration in the region.



Australian Government