

IOM Afghanistan

2014



Presentation Contents

1. IOM Afghanistan at a Glance
2. IOM Offices
3. Ongoing AVRR Projects
4. Reception Assistance
5. Post-Arrival Information and Counseling
6. Reintegration Assistance
7. Procedures for In-Kind Support
8. Socio-Economic Situation in Afghanistan
9. Transition Process
10. Impact of Reintegration Assistance
11. Statistics
12. Popular Practices
13. Businesses Not Assisted by IOM Afghanistan
14. Reintegration Challenges
15. Suggestions
16. Stories of Return

IOM Afghanistan at a Glance

- IOM is currently implementing the following programmes in Afghanistan:
 - 1) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
 - 2) Counter-Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants
 - 3) Reintegration of Returnees from Iran and Pakistan
 - 4) Return of Qualified Nationals
 - 5) Immigration and Border Management
 - 6) Capacity Building of Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
 - 7) Natural Disaster Response
 - 8) Infrastructure Development
 - 9) Community Cohesion Initiative
 - 10) Electronic National ID Card (under development)

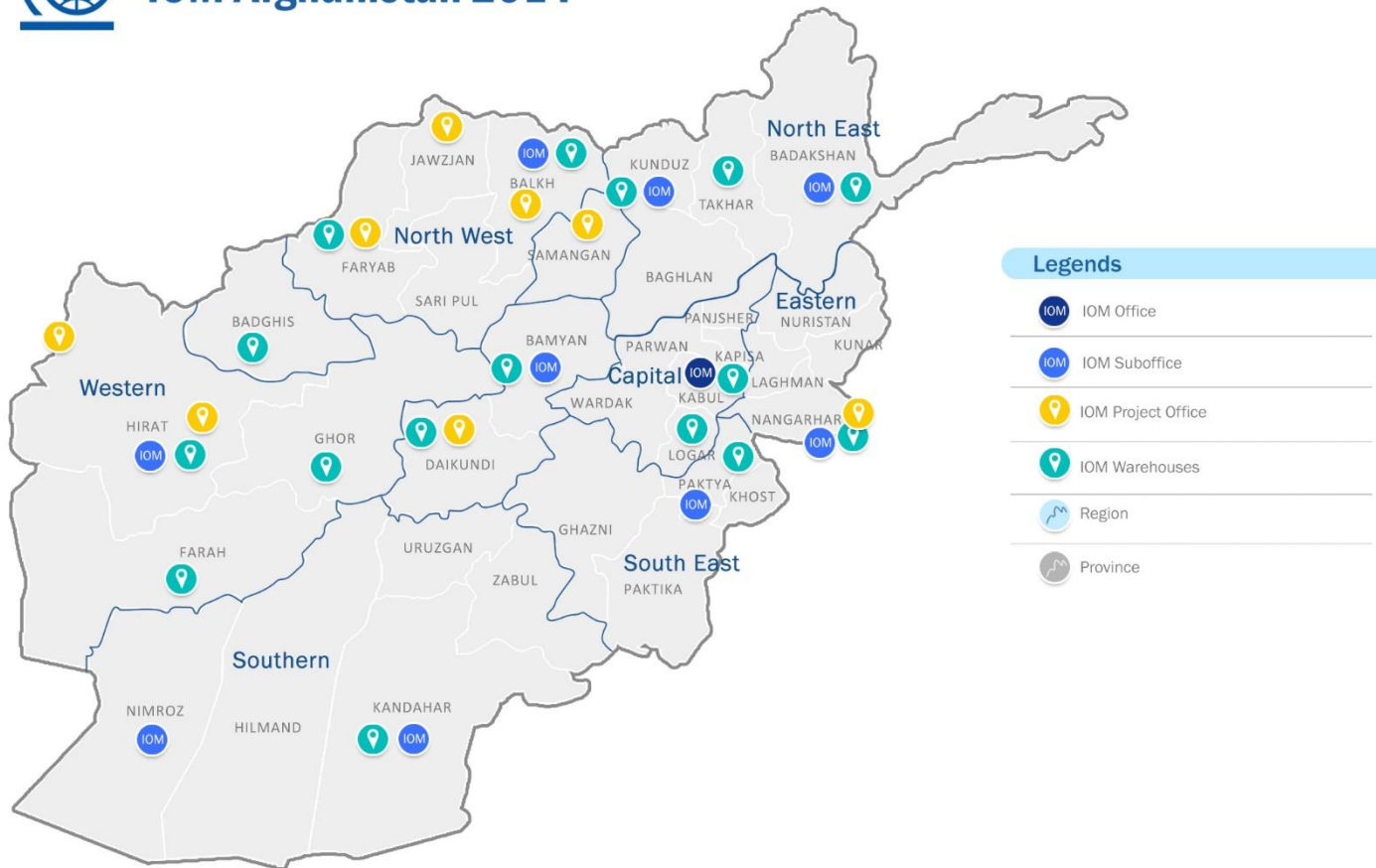


IOM Afghanistan Sub Offices

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IOM Afghanistan 2014



Updated 15 May 2014



Ongoing AVRR Projects

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Return, Reception and Reintegration Projects	Post-arrival Reception and Reintegration Projects
IRRANA	PRAN-Norway (Post Arrival Assistance)
RRA-UK (Post Arrival Assistance)	UK-Inv (Post Arrival Assistance)
FRS-UK	Sweden
The Netherlands: AVR D III, Ex-UAM4, Medical Cases, AVRFC 3	
Denmark	
Greece	
Australia	
Austria	
REAB and B+Extra (Belgium)	
SWISS	
Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland	
Sweden	
Slovenia , Slovakia, Lithuania, & Dublin, AVRR-ARIA	





Reception Assistance

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When a returnee arrives at Kabul airport,
IOM's Airport Coordination Cell will:



- ❖ Meet and assist returnees before immigration.
- ❖ Assist returnees with immigration formalities
- ❖ Assist in luggage collection and customs clearance
- ❖ Provide medical assessment including treatment
- ❖ Organize in-country transportation to final destination
- ❖ Arrange temporary accommodation
- ❖ Provide leaflets to returnees





Post-arrival Information and Counseling

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More extensive post-arrival counselling services are offered with trained IOM reintegration staff in any of our nine offices throughout Afghanistan.





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Reintegration Assistance

Provide reintegration assistance to returnees through:

1. **Cash grants**
2. **In-kind reintegration assistance:**
 - ❖ Vocational training
 - ❖ Educational training
 - ❖ Development of self-employment projects
 - ❖ Housing Allowance
 - ❖ Youth Training
 - ❖ Employment referrals and salary subsidies
 - ❖ On-the job training fees and allowance till final appointment





Procedures for In-Kind Support

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- Interviewing & counseling
- Document submission
- Developing the BP/JP plan
- Field assessment/visit
- Case process and approval
- Fund request & other paper works
- Implementation (purchasing)
- Monitoring



Opportunities in General

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- Availability of various jobs in government agencies, private sector, national and international NGOs and UN.
- Education is for free (school and university level)
- Micro-business loan is also available, but only few people benefit from it.
- Availability of training centers (MoLSA centers are available for free).



Socio-economic situation in Afghanistan

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Health:

State-Owned Hospitals:

- Medical treatment in state-owned hospitals is for free, however a patient needs to purchase some needed medicines/items from the market.

Private Hospitals:

- Private hospitals came into being only in 2002. The cost of medical treatment is relatively high in these hospitals.



Socio-economic situation in Afghanistan (cont...)

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Education:

Before 2002	Today
Less than 1 Million students	8.6 million students
Almost no female students	3.6 million female students
20,000 teachers	170,000 teachers (30% female)
3,400 schools; functioning in war destroyed buildings	4,500 newly constructed schools (in total 12,000 schools).



State-owned schools and universities:

- The education in state-owned schools and universities is for free for everyone.

Private schools and universities:

- Private schools and universities have emerged since 2002. The cost of education is relatively high in these institutions.



Housing:

The Cost of Accommodation:

- Buying a house or an apartment remains a distant dream for most of Kabul's citizens but it is cheaper in other provinces. A simple three room apartment now costs around \$60,000.
- In addition, landlords are keen to request payment of up to 12 months' advance rent.
- Hotels are widely available for temporary accommodation in Kabul city and as well as in other big cities of Afghanistan. The average cost per night starts at \$20. The monthly rent for a room in an apartment or flat starts at \$100.



Accommodation cost in big cities of Afghanistan:

- Kabul: The average monthly rent, in a safe area, for an apartment to house one family (3 rooms) is \$200-500
- Herat: The average monthly rent, in a safe area, for an apartment to house one family is \$200-400.
- Mazar: The average monthly rent, in a safe area, for an apartment to house one family is \$150-200.
- Kandahar: The average monthly rent, in a safe area, for an apartment large enough to house one family is \$130-180.
- Nangarhar. The average monthly rent, in a safe area, for an apartment to house one family is \$150-200.



Opportunities in General:

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Socio-economic situation in Afghanistan (cont...)

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- Economic growth slowed considerably in 2013 despite robust agricultural production as heightened uncertainty surrounding the political and security transition led to a slump in investor and consumer confidence.
- Economic growth in 2013 is estimated at 3.6%, down sharply from strong growth of 14.4% in 2012. Inflation was recorded at 7.7% in 2013, slightly higher than 6.4% in 2012.
- A smooth political and security transition would help restore confidence in the economy and enable a pickup in growth in 2015.



Access to Electricity:

- The Ministry of Energy & Water (MEW) estimates that about 30 percent of Afghans have access to electricity
- Major cities now have a 24-hour power access e.g. Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Pul-e-Khumri.



Transition Process

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- Started in July 2011.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd phases have already completed and 4th phase is going on, (over 90% of the country is in the control of the National security forces).
- 1st draw down of foreign forces started later in 2012.
- All foreign forces are expected to have left Afghanistan by end of 2014.



Impact of Reintegration Assistance

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- Sustainable reintegration of returnee back to his/her community.
- Give opportunity to returnee to reunite with his/her family in the CoO.
- Source of income for returnee and become self-sufficient
- Provide services to community by establishing an income generating activity such as; small business
- Contribution to the economic growth of the country

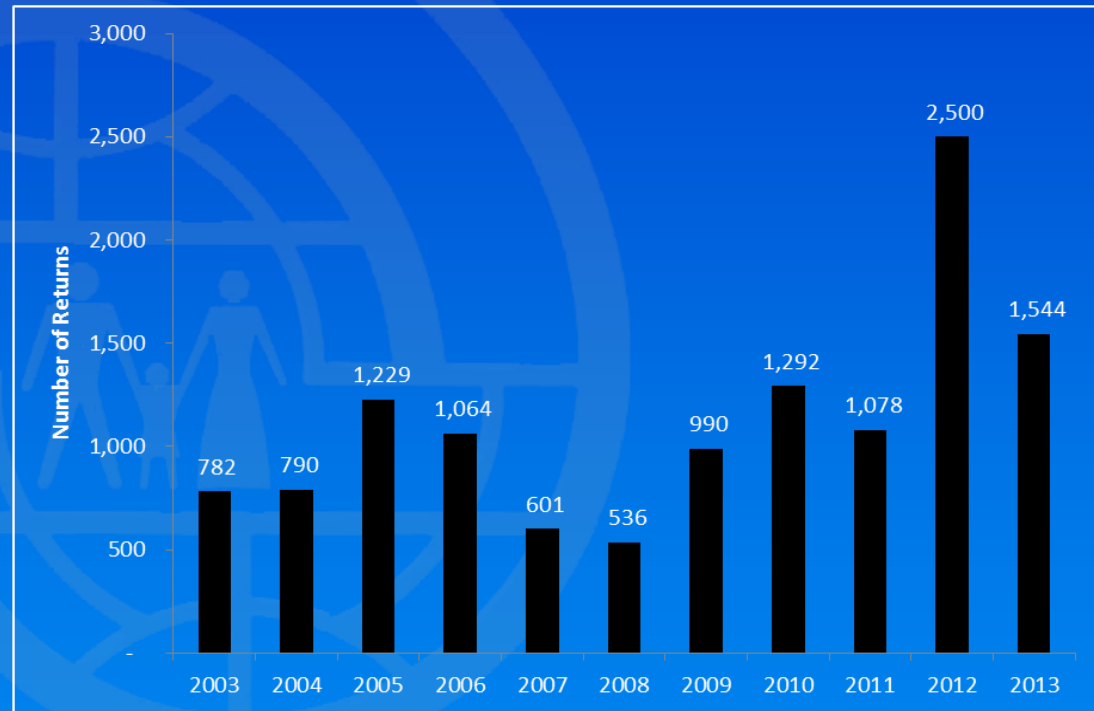


Statistics: Afghanistan 2003-2014

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Total Number of AVRR Returns = 13,055

– 2003	=	782
– 2004	=	790
– 2005	=	1,229
– 2006	=	1,064
– 2007	=	601
– 2008	=	536
– 2009	=	990
– 2010	=	1,292
– 2011	=	1,078
– 2012	=	2,500
– 2013	=	1,544
– 2014	=	649





Top 10 Countries of Return 2003-2014

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- United Kingdom = 3,900
- Greece = 2,463
- Germany = 1,178
- Indonesia = 1,139
- Netherlands = 1,069
- Norway = 715
- Austria = 393
- Turkey = 345
- Denmark = 333
- Sweden = 305
- Other Countries = 1,189

OTHER COUNTRIES

Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Georgia, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nauru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.



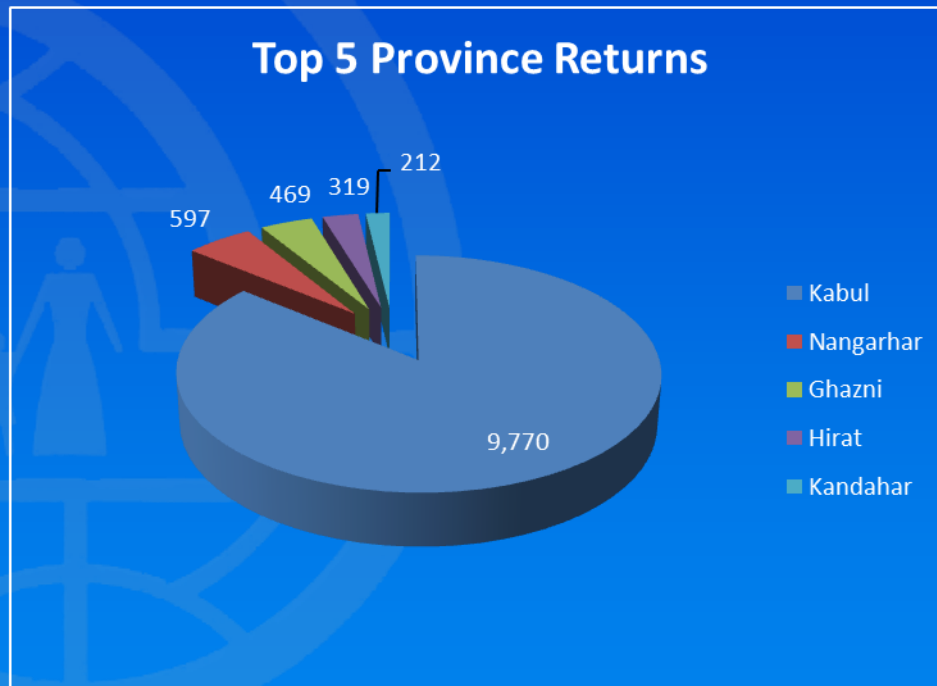


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Statistics

Province return breakdown (Top 5)

Province	Number of Return
Kabul	9,770
Nangarhar	597
Ghazni	469
Herat	319
Kandahar	212
Total	11,367





Statistics

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From 2003 – end May 2014

**Total Reintegration Assist.
of Top Five Countries**

6,213

Country wise reintegration breakdown (Top 5)

Country	Number of Reintegration Assistance
UK	3,950
Norway	993
Netherlands	462
Germany	416
France	392





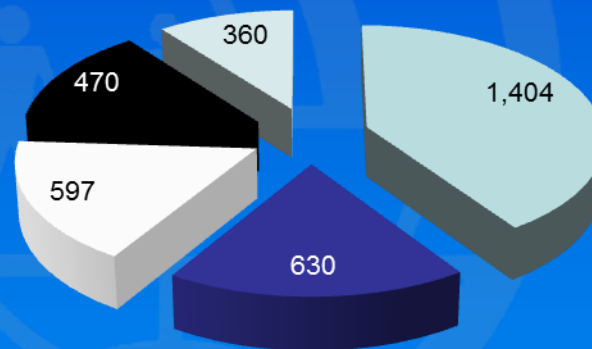
Statistics

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Type of Reintegration Projects (Top 5)

Reintegration Activities	Number
Grocery Business	1,404
Garments Business	630
Livestock Business	597
Transportation Services	470
Construction Materials Business	360

Top 5 Reintegration Projects



- Grocery Business
- Garments Business
- Livestock Business
- Transportation Services
- Construction Materials Business





Popular Practices

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❖ **Income Generating Activities:** Most returnees opt for small business setup/income generating projects as this is the quickest way for making money to start supporting themselves and families in Afghanistan after a long absence. Selection of reintegration package is done in coordination with donors.

❖ **Partnership:** Returnees, who apply for partnerships, usually choose partners who are relatives or friends. Being part of an already existing business proves cheaper and has a better foundation that gives returnees confidence to join with a monetary share rather than starting a business from scratch.





Businesses not assisted by IOM Afghanistan

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- ❖ **Taxi Cars/Transportation Services** – Due to unavailability of the beneficiaries. Taxi does not have specific address so that we can visit for monitoring if we could not reach our beneficiary via phone. Most of the returnees who opted for taxi business disappeared after they received their assistance and we did not succeed to reach them for the monitoring of their businesses.
- ❖ **Money Exchange Shop** - As investment in such business is equal to getting the assistance in cash. They do not need to buy anything else, apart from getting cash to work on.
- ❖ **Alcoholic Drinks, Snuff/Chew tobacco and Cigarettes** - As these products are injurious to health.
- ❖ **Mobile Phone Top-up Cards** - Considered as an indirect mean to get assistance in cash.



Reintegration Challenges

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- ❖ Education
- ❖ Lack of business Ideas
- ❖ Unfamiliarity with local procedures
- ❖ Independent businesses
- ❖ The security situation always remains a serious concern for each Afghan as well as for returnees





Suggestions

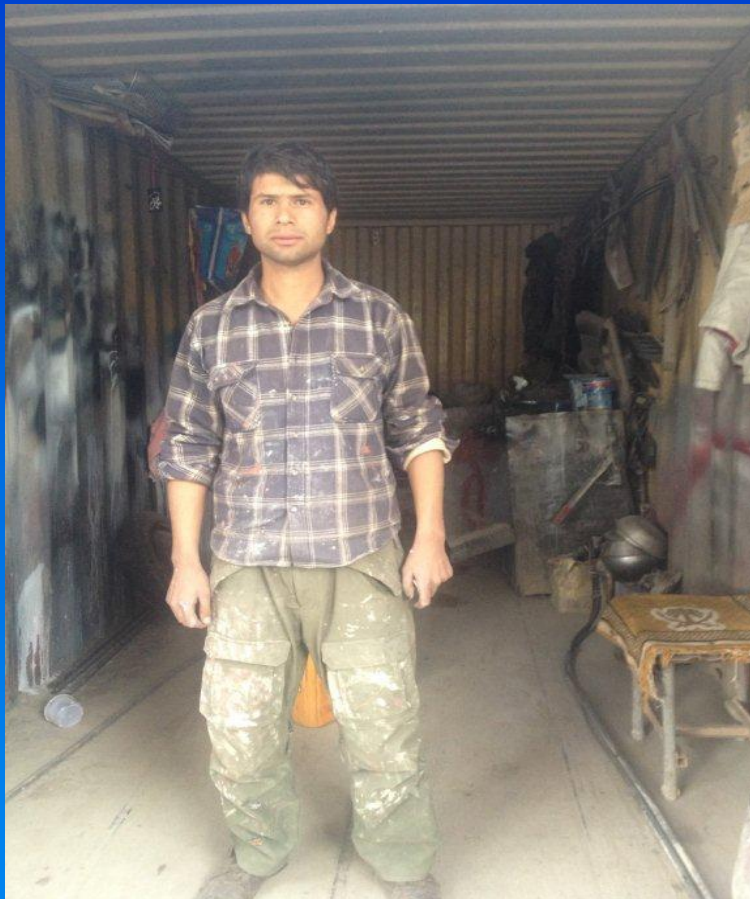
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- ❖ Flexible Reintegration Grant
- ❖ Housing allowance for vulnerable returnees
- ❖ Additional assistance for business related training
- ❖ Pre-departure training for educated returnees
- ❖ Teleconference with potential returnees
- ❖ Camps (RCs) visits by CoO representatives
- ❖ AVRR programme in place for voluntary returnees, as it is a dignified program for return and reintegration back in the community.



Story of Return (1)

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My name is Mustafa Soltani and I've returned back to my home country since Dec 2012 from Austria.

Before going abroad, I finished my tenth grade of school in Kabul city but due to some financial and economic problems I could not manage to continue my education. During my school time, I was working as traineeship in vehicle painting workshop. As soon as I stop getting my education, I've started my own business shop in vehicle painting in the local marketplace for 15 years. My intention behind going abroad was lack of employment opportunity in the country, economic problem and some other personal problem as well.

When I reached there, I had unfortunately not the permission for work since my application for asylum was under process. So after 25 days staying there in a very harsh time in a camp I decided to go back to my home country and restart my ex-business (vehicle painting).





Story of Return (1) (Cont..)

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Now that I resettled in my country, I started back to my vehicle painting business and moreover, I invested and utilized the reintegration assistance that I received it from IOM AVR Program. The total amount of reintegration assistance which I received is EUR 4,000.00.

I was not expecting that once again I could be standing on my own feet and make my business successful for the second time but when I arrived back home, I was able to restart my business with the help of the reintegration assistance from IOM.

I can feel a tangible result and see the improvement in my personal life as well as in my work career in business shop. So a big thanks to IOM for the support given to me after arrival.





Story of Return (2)

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Mr. A used to drive a taxi car before he migrated to Europe. Upon his return to Afghanistan, he approached the IOM office in Kabul to enquire about the in-kind assistance. After counseling with IOM Reintegration staff, he opted to start a grocery business in partnership with one of his closest friends in Kabul city in his already operational grocery business. The shop was already licensed for the business running and he only signed the partnership agreement. IOM assisted the returnee to purchase his requested grocery products which were needed for the shop.





Story of Return (2) (Cont..)

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By investing the 1st installment of the in-kind reintegration assistance and an amount from his own savings, the returnee got 50% share of the business and started the business.

IOM staff conducted a monitoring visit of the returnee and his business site. During the monitoring visit, it was confirmed that his business is operational and was progressing successfully. According to the returnee, he was earning an amount equivalent to USD 275 per month through which he can afford the expenses of his three family members. Based on that his 2nd and final installment of the in-kind assistance was also released for purchasing more grocery items for his business.

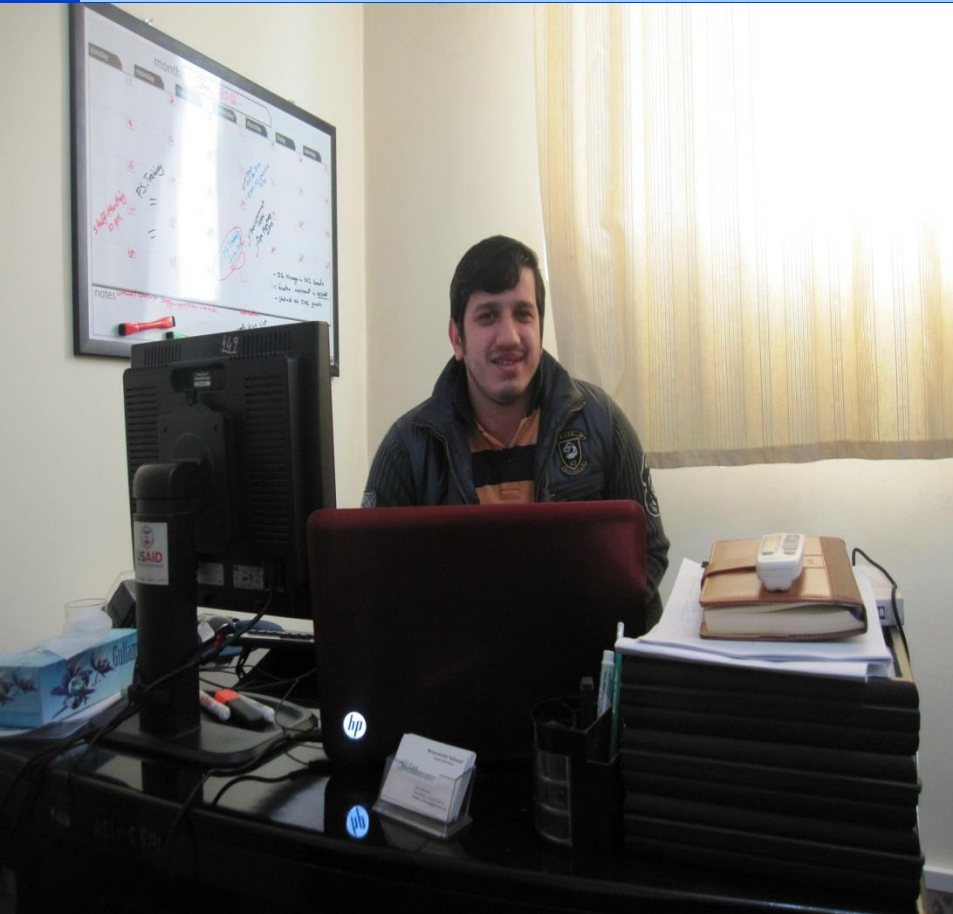
Mr. A is very enthusiastic about his project and feels that IOM's assistance has been beneficial for him and his family as he can meet his family needs from the income of his current business. He is very happy to be reunited with his family in his homeland.





Story of Return (3)

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Mr. H grew up in Pakistan and studied high school, English Language and computer programs there. He returned with his family to Afghanistan in 2002 when the Taliban regime was already collapsed and he started his first job with an NGO namely IACD as Admin Assistant and then worked for DACAAR as a Database Developer.

In 2004 he got admission in the night shift of Science Faculty in Kabul University and meanwhile he was working with FEFA as a Legal Assistant. However, due to some problems, he had to quit his job and left to Norway. He stayed in Norway for two years, but as a result of no employment opportunities there, he finally decided to return home voluntarily with the help of IOM.





Story of Return (3) (Cont...)

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During the counseling session, he showed interest in Job Placement. Based on his previous employment experience, he found a job with USAID/DAI-ASI as a Grants Development Officer. IOM Kabul visited the employer to assess the authenticity of the job, know about the assigned ToR of the beneficiary and to explain the reintegration assistance provided by IOM. Mr. H worked there for 8 months, however due to closure of the project in USAID/DAI-ASI, he joined State Corps Inc. as a Business Development Expert and later on he joined EUPM in Afghanistan as communication Officer. Mr. H received his reintegration assistance as a salary subsidy and his employers were visited before each payment for the monitoring purpose. He is still on job and very glad from the decision of his return.





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