



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM IRAQ

المنظمة الدولية للهجرة - العراق

Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance: the perspective of a country of origin

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LAISVĖ, SAUGUMAS IR TEISINGUMAS

Presentation Outline

- Brief introduction of IOM Iraq.
- Main trends of migration from and return to Iraq.
- Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities.

Introduction of IOM Iraq



- ✓ Baghdad Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG);
- ✓ Ministry in charge of migration related issues: Ministry of Displacement and Migration (Bureau of Displacement and Migration in KRG);

Introduction of IOM Iraq

- ✓ 2003: evacuation of international staff from Iraq → relocation in Amman & operation through remote management.
- ✓ Nowadays more than 90 staff in Amman, more than 300 in Iraq. International staff in Iraq operates from the UN Compounds.
- ✓ 3 Hubs: Baghdad (central Governorates of Baghda, Diyala, Anbar, Babylon, Wassit, Najaf, Kerbala and Qadissiya), Erbil (Erbil, Suleymania, Duhok, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Tameem), Basra (Basra, Missan, Thi Qar and Muthanna);
- ✓ Satellite offices and mobile offices;
- ✓ Main areas of activity of the Joint Operation Cell (JOC): Emergency Assistance, Assisted Migration, Reintegration & Community Stabilization, Capacity Building and Information Management.

Introduction of IOM Iraq

Joint Operation Cell

**Movements and Assisted
Migration**

**Assisted Voluntary Return
and Reintegration**

Resettlement

**Assistance to
Third Country Nationals**

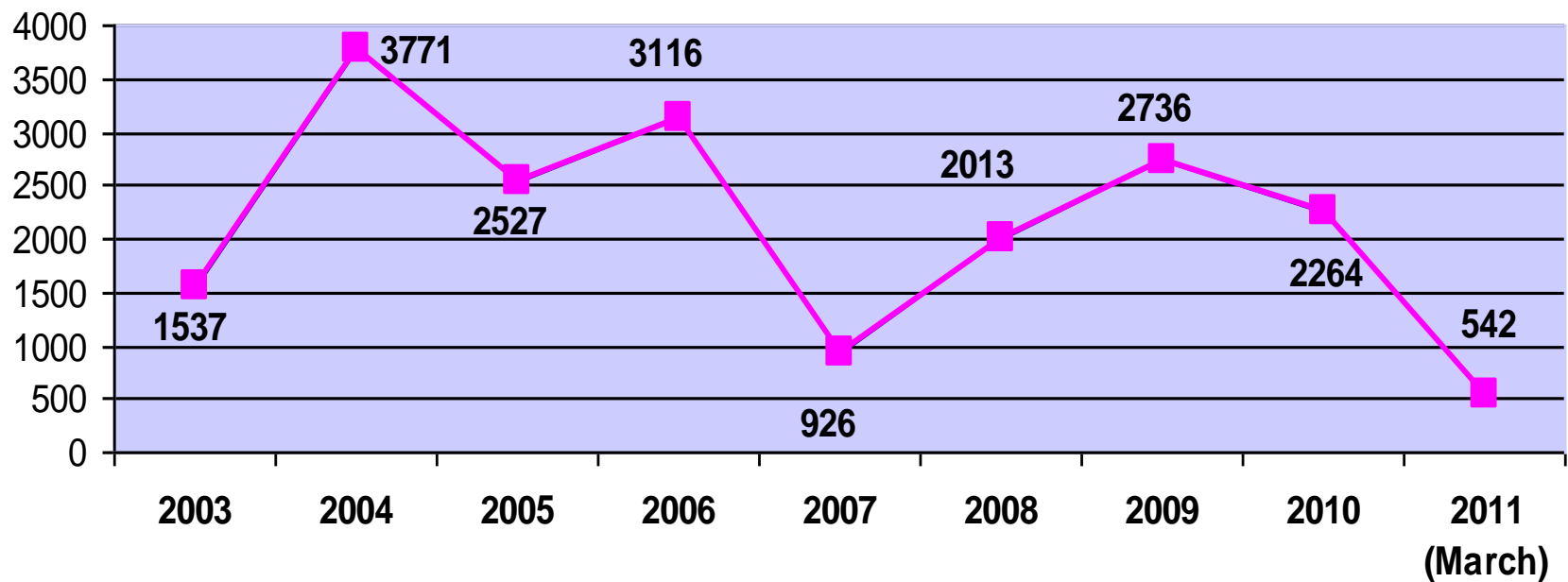
Main trends and figures

In Iraq, a mix of internal displacement, asylum seeking and return.

- ✓ Internal displacement: highest rate of displacement in Iraq in June 2006 (post-Samarra sectarian violence). Since that time, internal displacement decreased but in 2010 new displacement due to sectarian targeting after attacks on Baghdad's Saidat al-Najat church.
- ✓ Asylum seekers: Iraq was among the five top source countries of asylum seekers in the 44 industrialized countries in 2010, although it was among the major two source countries from 2005 to 2009 (UNHCR).
- ✓ Return (IOM): Iraq is the third country of origin among AVRers from European countries (EU + Norway and Switzerland).

Main trends and figures

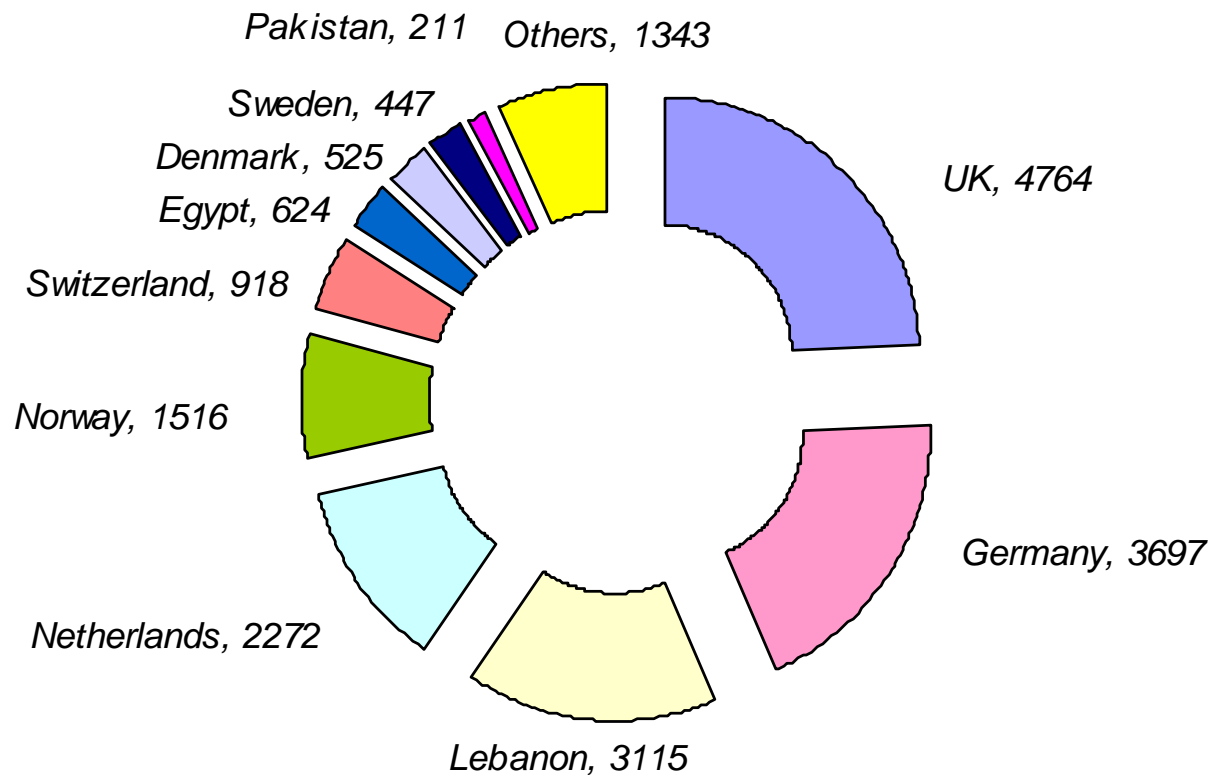
AVR to Iraq from 2003 to 2011 (March). Total 19432



Main trends and figures

Where do Iraqis return from?

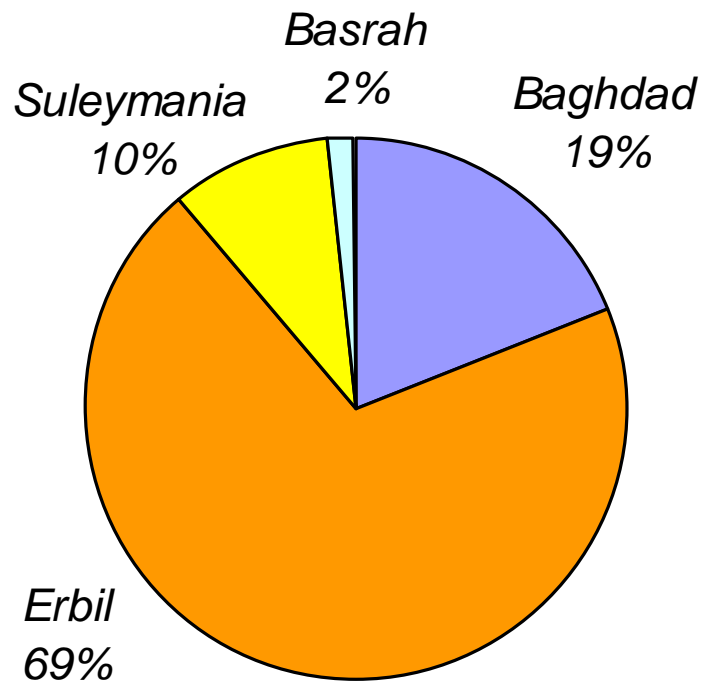
AVR to Iraq by sending country



Main trends and figures

Where do Iraqis return to?

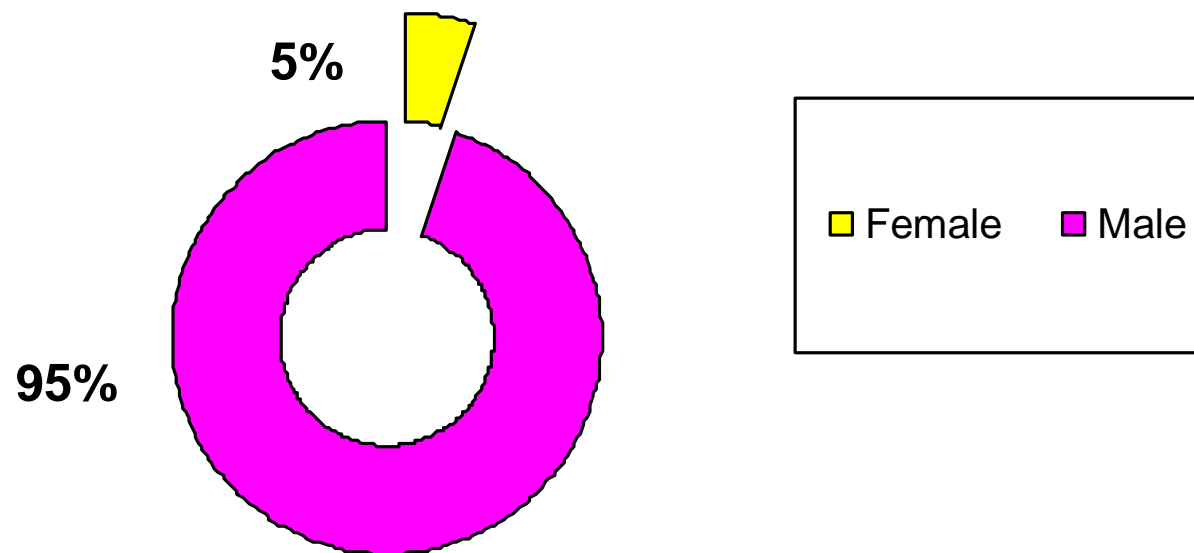
AVR to Iraq by Port of Entry



Main trends and figures

Who returns?

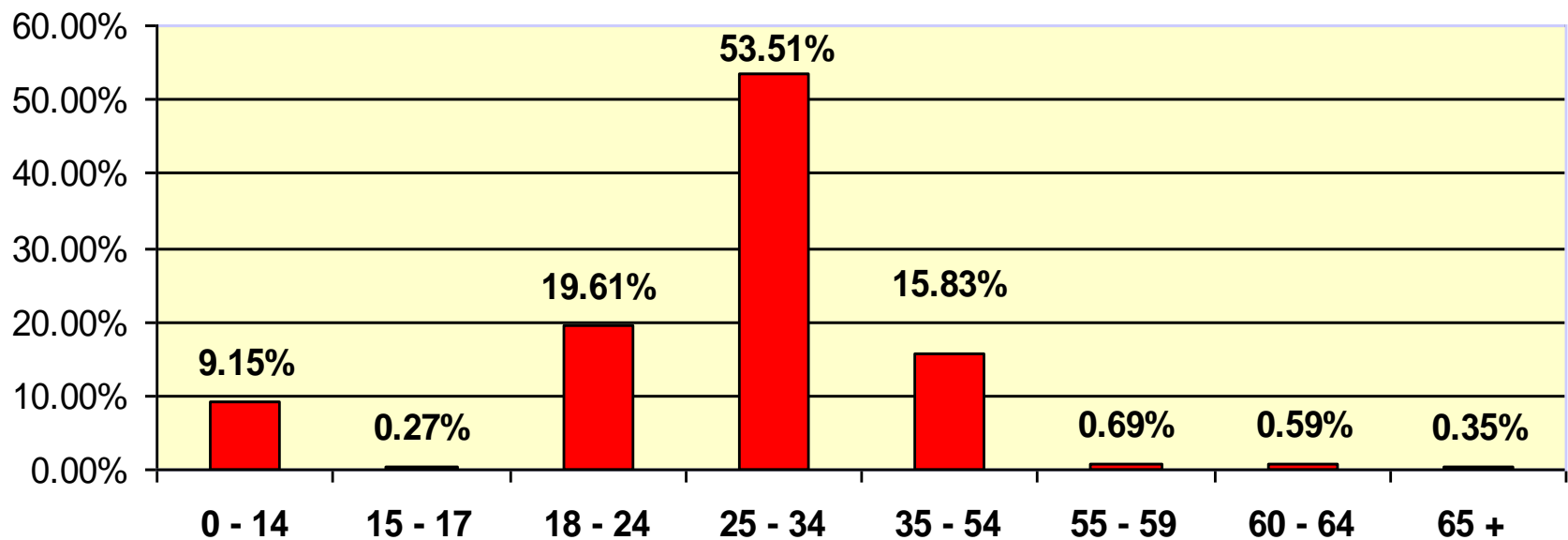
Returnees to Iraq per gender distribution



Main trends and figures

Who returns?

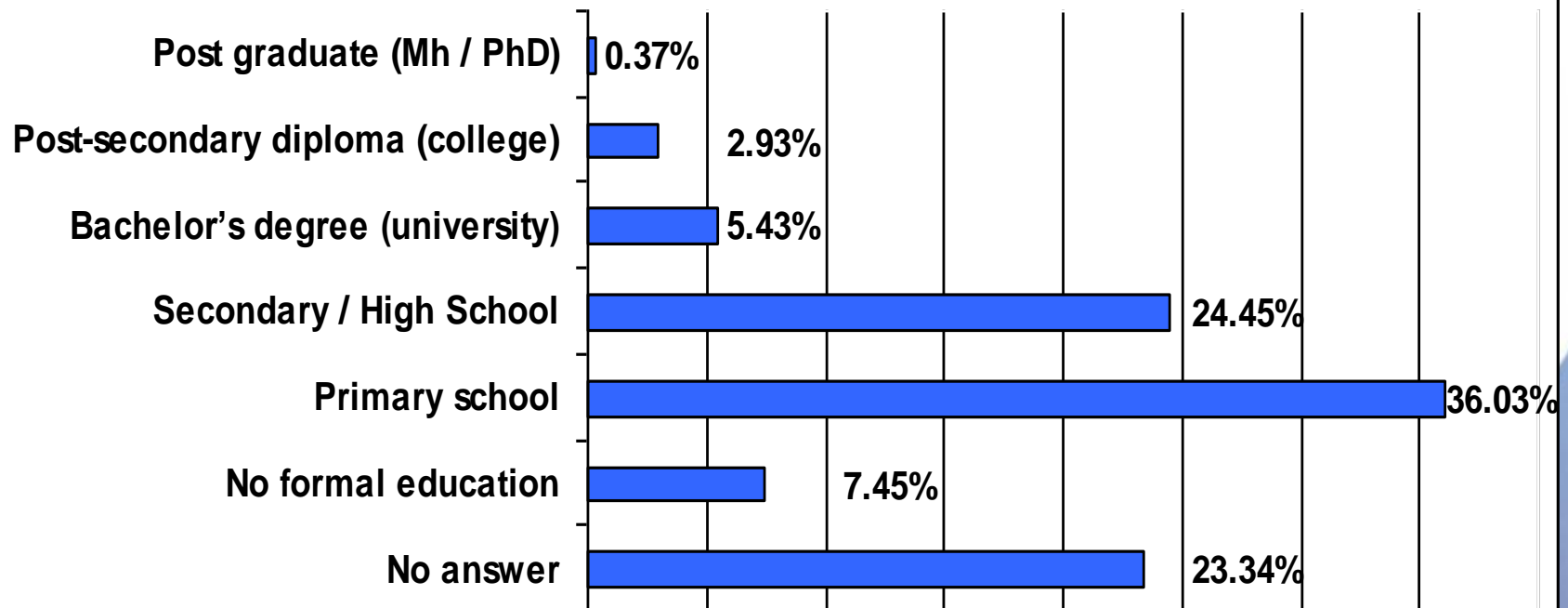
Returnees to Iraq per age distribution



Main trends and figures

Who returns?

Returnees to Iraq per level of education



Reintegration Assistance

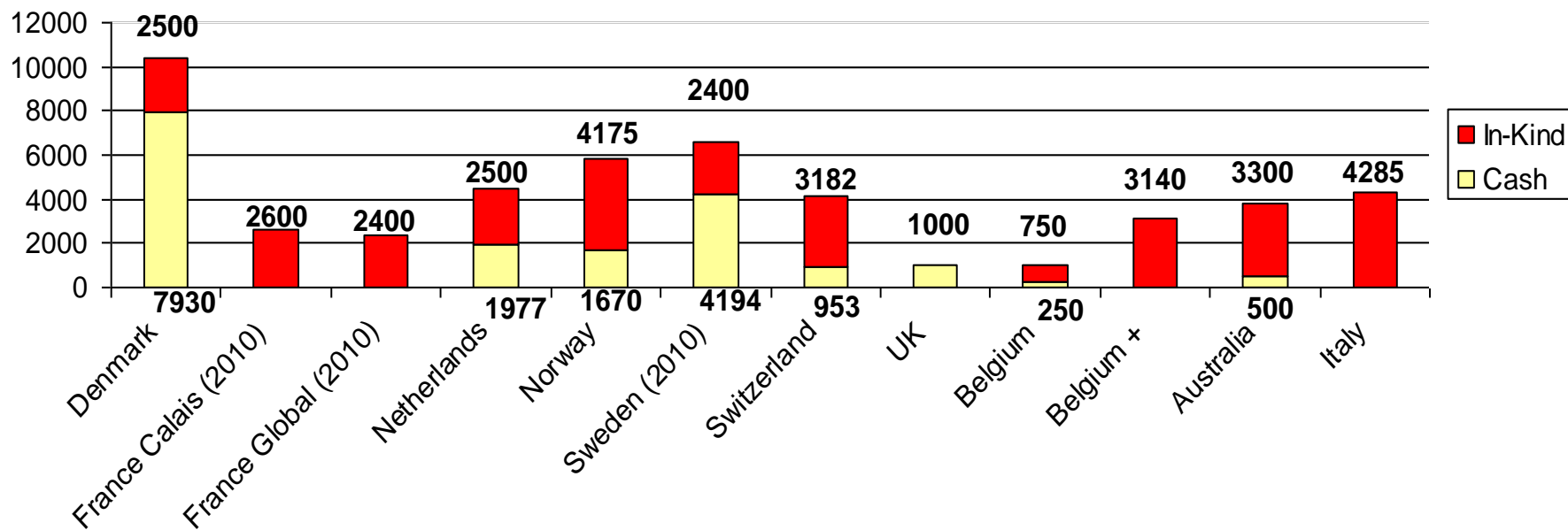
A similar approach...

- Mix of **cash** and **in kind**
- For micro business set up, job placement/salary subsidies, vocational training or education.
- Sometimes coupled with additional services like medical assistance or house allowance.

Reintegration process

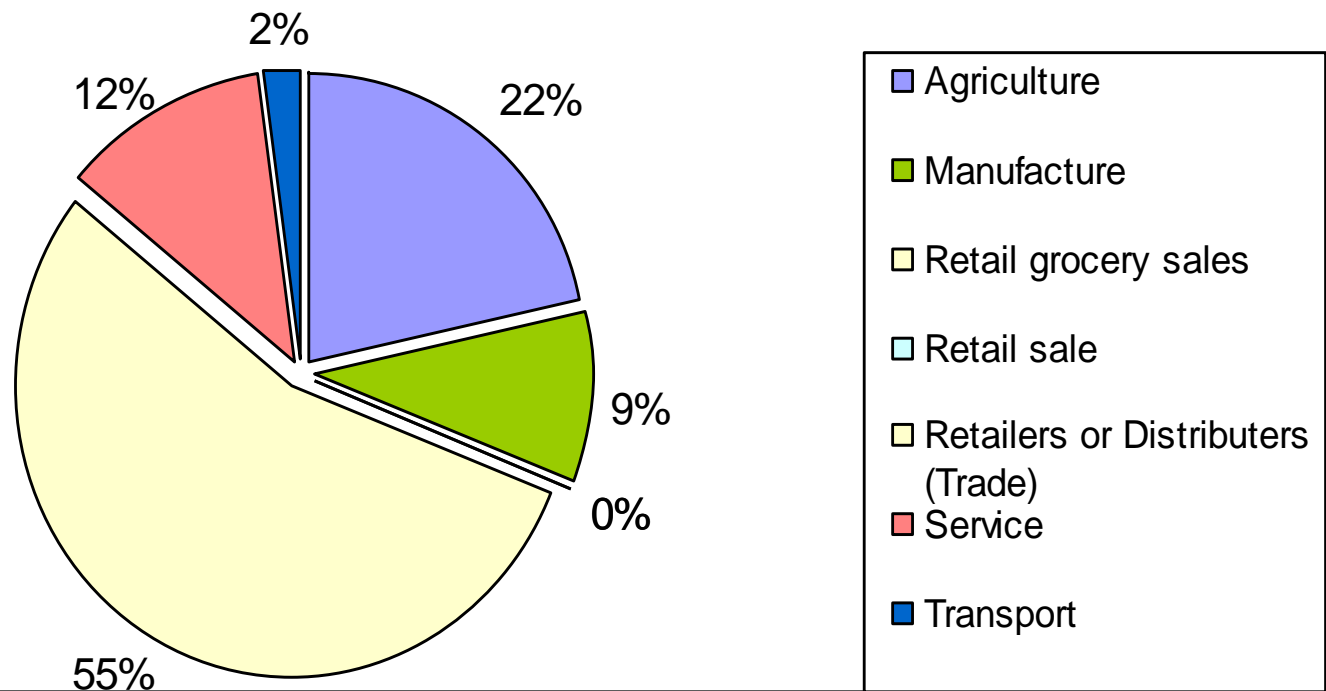
A variety of offers...

Reintegration Packages in USD



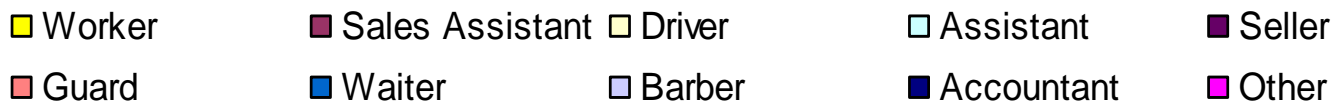
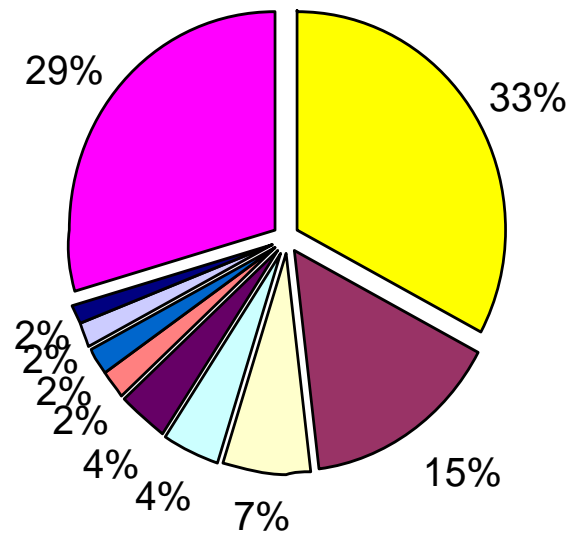
Reintegration process

Breakdown of business set-up sectors



Reintegration process

Breakdown of Job Placement



Linking individual reintegration with support to the community

- CAPs are small infrastructure projects in communities of return (range in USD 5000 to 50.000 USD);
- Their aim is to increase absorption capacity and ease stress on local communities by providing them with basic access to main services such as rehabilitation of schools, health centers, sewage system/water network etc;
- The key objective of CAPs is to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returnees, expand the absorption capacity of the communities and ultimately prevent further irregular migration;
- CAPs are selected, designed, implemented and delivered in close cooperation with local authorities.

Linking individual reintegration with support to the community

CAPs recently implemented within the AVRR from Netherlands

- Rehabilitation of a playground in Alaoush – Mosul:



Linking individual reintegration with support to the community

CAPs recently implemented within the AVRR from Netherlands

- Rehabilitation of the Thi Al Norain Primary School for Girls;



Linking individual reintegration with support to the community

CAPs recently implemented within the AVRR from Netherlands

- Supply of ultrasound machine for Health Center in Ainkawa – Erbil;
- Incubator for premature babies in Baghdad (under implementation).



What have we learnt...

- ✓ The full understanding and commitment of the returnees to the reintegration process and their willingness to engage in a profitable work activity;
- ✓ Importance of providing the right information to returnees and encourage planning in advance;
- ✓ The previous experience of the returnee in the area of business or employment;
- ✓ The know-how acquired during the migration process or after their return;

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

- ✓ The financial and social conditions of the family have a considerable impact on the reintegration process;
- ✓ The solidity of partnerships in case of partnership agreement;
- ✓ Monitoring and provision of reintegration assistance in cash and in kind, possibly in two installments;
- ✓ Training and Education are not generally very popular among returnees.
- ✓ Researching and analyzing data of the local socio-economic situation in the country of return.

What are the obstacles...

- ✓ Variations in security conditions have an impact on business development;
- ✓ Insecurity, lack of access to finance, corruption and lack of stable electricity are the main obstacle to business growth;
- ✓ The banking system is still under-developed (cash-based economy);
- ✓ Governmental jobs play a major role on the labor market;
- ✓ Recruitment methods are rarely formal, personal connections count the most.

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

- ✓ For a woman, finding a job is difficult. Women who return with men use their assistance with their partner's project. Women who have returned alone or without a male relative share their assistance with other relatives in existing activities;
- ✓ For children, although public education is free in Iraq, attending school in a different environment can be a difficult experience.
- ✓ The high fees of housing and medical treatment are also a challenge for many returnees and particularly for families with many children.

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

- ✓ AVRR is sometimes considered with a focus on the “sending” rather than on the “receiving” side;
- ✓ Lack of harmonization and very different provisions by sending countries makes the implementation of a AVRR programme challenging;
- ✓ Different funding sources and cycles, different approaches, different priorities that are also reflected in the migration management;
- ✓ Financial crisis, public opinions and forced returns.

What are the opportunities...

- ✓ IOM plays the role of an entry point for thousands of returnees. There is an opportunity for IOM to play a broader role in the Iraqi labour market and economy, to match supply and demand.
- ✓ There is a demand for certain skills, that companies have difficulties finding locally (ex. ICT and professional services, but also in manufacturing, construction, water supply & waste management);
- ✓ Companies hire immigrants (ex: accountants, tapestry workers, other specific construction skills, etc).

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

Governorate	Best sector for Small Business creation opportunities	Skills wanted for job placement
Diyala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agribusiness • Light manufacturing (carpentry, furniture, metal work, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural • Administrative skills • Sales
Anbar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial transportation • Light manufacturing (metal and woodworks) • Cement • Phosphate fertilizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural skills • Transportation
Sulaymaniyah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Light manufacturing for construction (doors and windows) • Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Construction specialties • Computer • Sales • Management • Accounting • Administrative • Geologists (oil and gas industry) • Engineering

Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities

Governorate	Best sector for Small Business creation opportunities	Skills wanted for job placement
Erbil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Tourism • Small manufacturing (furniture, doors and windows) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications • English • Construction specialties • Computer • Accounting • Management • Sales • Administrative
Dohuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Construction • Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Computer • Sales • Hospitality
Kirkuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer • Management • Administration
Ninewa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security (ex-military), police • IT • English

Quotes from the returnees...

"Now I am very much better comparing my circumstances abroad. Seeing my family everyday fade away my entire daily grieves, and I can tell you I am becoming much better day by day" (Hiwa).

"I am not advocating for the return of all Iraqi people, the security situation here is better than before but still very bad (Waseem)".

Quotes from the returnees... (cont.)

"We are really regretting about these years that we spent in European countries, we should have made this decision long ago, although we had great experiences during our travel to all these countries, and dealing with different cultures, we feel we wasted precious time without gaining any progressing in our life" (Karim).

"The security situation still not good 100% but it is better than the past time when I left Iraq. I'd like to ask all Iraqis outside the country to return back if they can't get the residency, but if they can I advice them to stay there (Marwa)".

Pictures!





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Questions ?



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Thank you