



IOM International Organization for Migration

Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC)

Update - September 2010

AVRFC was launched in April 2010 and take-up has been increasing monthly. In the first five months (April to August) 699 individuals applied to the programme and 193 have returned so far. The latter number was made up of 5 UAMs (Unaccompanied Minors) and 74 family groups.

[For a more detailed breakdown please see over].

Under this programme IOM offers assistance to non-EEA* families and children (under 18) who want to return permanently to their countries of origin – whether they have ever claimed asylum or have not.

IOM will make all arrangements and pay travel costs for parents and any number of their own children to return, with a £500 relocation grant per person given in cash at a UK airport. After their arrival in their home country each member of the family will receive a package of Reintegration Assistance.

Unaccompanied Minors (asylum seekers or irregular migrants) can also benefit, individually, under the AVRFC programme.

*[EEA = Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, plus Switzerland]

Reintegration Assistance

Reintegration Assistance is an additional component of the AVRFC which can help individuals after they return home. Apart from the relocation grant given at the airport in the UK, IOM does not usually provide cash grants to returnees. Normally, after discussion between the returnee and the IOM (or IOM agency) field officer, the assistance is given out in the form of targeted payments to suppliers of equipment or services. So, for example, payments will be made directly to a college which is offering computer or language courses; to a school which will be providing continuing education; or to a shop or supplier of the equipment required by the returnee to set up a business.

The total value of reintegration assistance available per person (adults and children) is £2000. This includes:

- A £500 relocation grant given in cash or cash-card at a UK airport
- £1500 as in-kind assistance to cover the following activities during travel or after arrival in the home country:
 - Excess luggage
 - Housing (as temporary accommodation or for repair work)
 - Medical and psycho-social support
 - Education (school, university)
 - Vocational Training
 - Business set-up
 - Job Placement

Some of the assistance can be used to cover temporary accommodation (for up to 6 months) and the repair of a house. This does not cover construction or purchase of new houses but may cover small extensions to existing properties. Medical and psycho-social costs can be covered as part of the assistance in the country of origin. No payments can be made pre-departure.

AVRFC (April- August 2010)

Applications (total individuals)	Departures (total individuals)
699	193

Among these there were 689 *applications* from families and 10 *applications* from unaccompanied minors.

AVRFC Applications (April - August 2010)	Families	UAMs
Individual Unaccompanied Minors		10
Families comprising 2 individuals	124	
Families comprising 3 individuals	87	
Families comprising 4 individuals	30	
Families comprising 5 individuals	8	
Families comprising 6 individuals	1	
Families comprising 7 individuals	2	
Total UAMs		10
Total Families	252	

Of the total 193 individual *departures*, 188 were of individuals within families and 5 were of unaccompanied minors.

AVRFC Departures (April - August 2010)	Families	UAMs
Individual Unaccompanied Minors		5
Families comprising 2 individuals	41	
Families comprising 3 individuals	27	
Families comprising 4 individuals	5	
Families comprising 5 individuals	1	
Total UAMs		5
Total Families	74	

The top ten countries of AVRFC applications and departures are presented in the tables below.

Top 10 countries by individual Application			Top 10 countries by individual Departure		
Nr	Country	App	Nr	Country	Dep
1	Pakistan	82	1	Pakistan	19
2	Brazil	75	2	Bolivia	18
3	Bolivia	66	3	Brazil	18
4	Malawi	62	4	Malawi	18
5	Mauritius	41	5	South Africa	18
6	India	40	6	India	12
7	South Africa	37	7	Mauritius	12
8	Nigeria	32	8	Albania	6
9	Zimbabwe	24	9	Bangladesh	6
10	Mongolia	22	10	Ghana	6