



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM in the UK

Voluntary Returns of Asylum Seekers & Irregular Migrants from the UK under IOM's AVR programmes

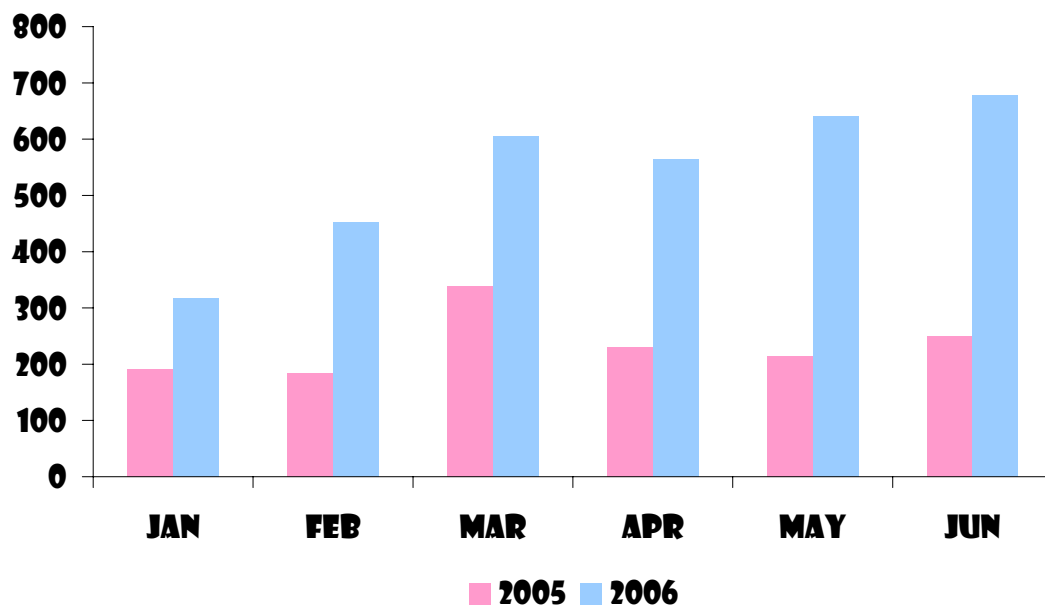
There is an ongoing increase in the number of asylum seekers who choose to return to their home countries with the help of IOM under its Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP).

In the six months to June 2006 this year, the number of voluntary returns from the UK has more than doubled compared to the corresponding period last year, ie an increase of **132%**.

There is no doubt that this unprecedented increase is largely attributable to the British Government's decision to enhance the overall reintegration assistance available to returnees, from its standard nominal value of £1,000 to £3,000 per family member. Since 1 January 2006, this increased package has been offered to any returning asylum seeker who fulfils IOM's voluntary return criteria.

Jan de Wilde, Chief of Mission for IOM in the UK, said: *"Increased reintegration assistance has clearly attracted more people to return home, and given them a much better chance to establish productive lives in their own countries."*

VOLUNTARY RETURNS - VARRP



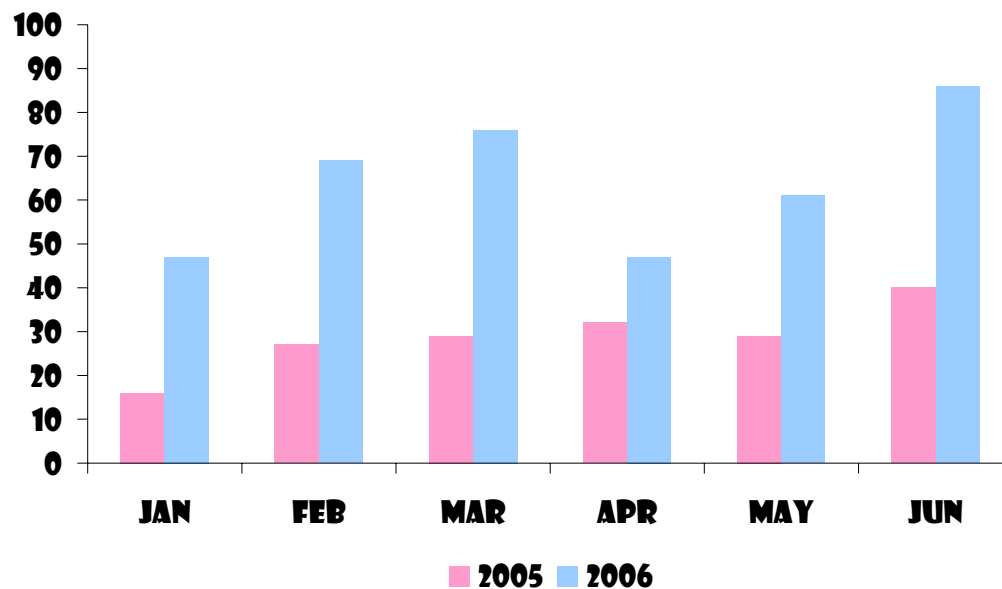


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Over the same six-month comparative period, there has also been a substantial increase – **123%** – in the number of irregular migrants who left the UK with IOM’s assistance. Under IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM), voluntary returnees receive the same package of assistance from IOM as asylum seekers except for Reintegration Assistance which returning asylum seekers can use to start a small business or do a vocational training course or pursue their education. The majority of beneficiaries tend to opt for a small business set up.

Under AVRIM, IOM assists irregular migrants (mainly visa overstayers) with the following: payment of full airfare ticket for travel in dignity on a commercial flight as any normal passenger, help with travel documents, assistance at the airport on departure and upon arrival in the home country. (Note: Since 1 April 2006, unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking and medical cases are eligible for some Reintegration Assistance).

VOLUNTARY RETURNS - AVRIM



Departures under VARRP & AVRIM (Jan-June 2006): Top 10 countries

Iraq	1334	Brazil	145
Afghanistan	276	Jamaica	31
Iran	175	Bolivia	17
Sri Lanka	169	Kosovo	14
Albania	160	South Africa	13
Pakistan	99	Colombia	12
Zimbabwe	74	Zimbabwe	12
Angola	71	Sri Lanka	10
Algeria	69	USA	9
Kosova	56	Mauritius	8



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IOM Worldwide – Key Facts and Figures as at July 2006

With its HQ in Geneva, IOM operates in much the way as any large international organisation. However, IOM is highly decentralised and project-based, which makes it extremely cost-conscious.

Thus, it has adopted a policy of assigning all costs to individual projects which are managed to ensure that delivery is timely and within budget and that reporting is transparent.

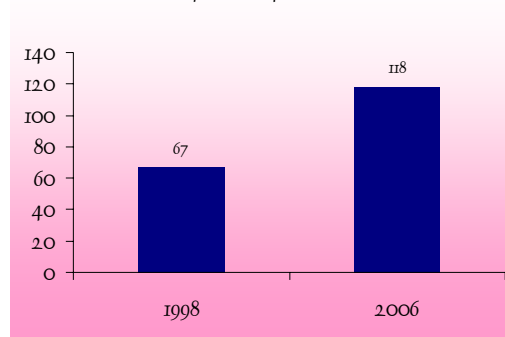
As a further measure to achieve cost efficiencies, IOM has embarked on an exercise to transfer certain functions from its Geneva headquarters to lower cost locations. The Manila Administrative Centre in the Philippines currently covers staff security co-ordination, project tracking, health claims, personnel file management and other labour-intensive functions.

IOM is at present thinking about establishing a second administrative centre outside of Geneva.

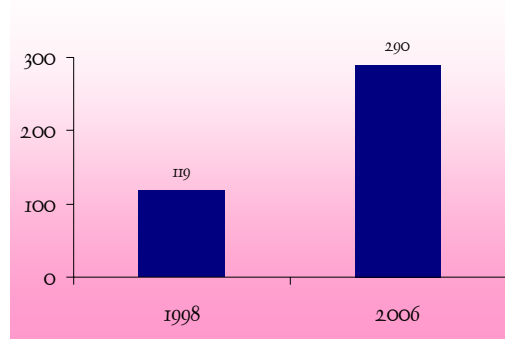
Headquarters' functions are supported by a 5% levy on direct costs for each programme. This levy rate is one of the lowest among international organisations.

IOM's total estimated budget for 2006 is well in excess of one billion US dollars. Over 30 million US dollars or 3% of this is the Administrative Budget assessed for all member states; the Operational Budget, which is the sum total of all programme activity for which IOM must seek funding, represents 95% of the total budget, ie about 1.1 billion US dollars.

Membership (No. of Member States)



Field Locations



Projects

