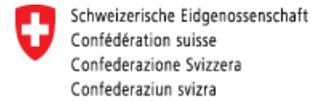


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A methodology for a longitudinal study on reintegration outcomes for returnees

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A methodology for a longitudinal study on reintegration outcomes for returnees*

Arezo Malakooti and Helene Syed Zwick[†]

The objective of this paper is to design a methodology for a longitudinal study on reintegration outcomes for returnees. A longitudinal study involves a methodology that allows the same variables to be observed over time, thereby allowing a window into the effect of time on the dynamic being studied. This report presents a proposed methodology for a longitudinal study that will measure reintegration outcomes in the long term, utilizing the RSS as its tool for measurement.

As part of this design process, a series of key informant interviews were conducted with experts in the field in order to understand the gaps in knowledge, the challenges in measuring sustainability and in order to ensure that the realities on the ground are adequately represented in the methodology. A thorough literature review was also conducted in order to supplement the information coming from these interviews.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AVRR	Assisted voluntary return and reintegration
CPM	Community-based protection measures
DiREC	Displacement and Return Executive Committee
EC	Encashment Centres
EU	European Union
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
AVRR	Assisted voluntary return and reintegration
CPM	Community-based protection measures
DFID	Department for International Development
DIIS	Danish Institute of International Studies
DiREC	Displacement and Return Executive Committee
DRC	Danish Red Cross
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EC	Encashment Centres
EU	European Union
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KII	Key informant interview
MoRR	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
PARR	Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration
RADA	Reintegration Assistance and Development for Afghanistan
REMAP	Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy
RIC	Reintegration Information Centre
RLS	Regional returnee longitudinal study
RSS	Reintegration Sustainability Survey
SSAR	Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

This paper aims to design a methodology for a longitudinal study on reintegration outcomes for returnees. A longitudinal study involves a methodology that allows the same variables to be observed over time, allowing a window into the effect of time on the dynamic being studied.

Return migration, a relatively new area of migration that does not have a standard meaning in national or international policy or law, is an integral and significant element in the cycle of international migration, yet it remains the least studied part. There are no accurate global estimates due to a general lack of data and a lack of agreement on definitions (Samual Hall & IOM, 2017). It has received increased attention in recent years from host and origin countries interested in leveraging return migration to their economic advantage (Debanth, 2016). There is a consensus among policymakers and practitioners that sound return and sustainable reintegration policies can contribute to positive development outcomes for returning migrants, their communities, and their governments of origin and strengthen progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Understanding the reintegration outcomes of returnees is critical to informing return and reintegration policies and program action. However, monitoring of return and reintegration is not always systematically carried out, creating a gap in the evidence required. Moreover, the monitoring of reintegration to date has been conducted over a short timeline, spanning 6-12 months from the return at maximum, which has provided a limited understanding of reintegration outcomes.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Reintegration Sustainability survey (RSS)¹ to standardize the monitoring of return and reintegration. The RSS was designed to measure reintegration sustainability at the individual level across economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions. IOM is also further developing indicators to measure the contribution of community level activities to the sustainability of reintegration at the individual level.

What is needed now is a longitudinal study that will allow a window into reintegration in the longer term and builds on the indicators already developed. This report presents a proposed methodology for a longitudinal study that will measure reintegration outcomes in the long term, utilizing the RSS as its tool for measurement.

As part of this design process, a series of key informant interviews were conducted with experts in the field to understand the gaps in knowledge and the challenges in measuring sustainability, and ensure that realities on the ground are adequately represented in the methodology. A thorough literature review was also conducted to supplement the information from these interviews.

¹ Through funding from the Government of the United Kingdom, Department for International Development (DFID).

BACKGROUND

Historically, the complexity in defining return migration, reintegration, and sustainability made it difficult to settle on a common definition and challenged the ability to measure safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration. As there is still no general agreement among practitioners on how these terms should be defined, the methodology will rely on the definitions created by IOM, as outlined in Table 1. However, the proceeding subsections will outline some of the different definitions and their evolution over time.

Table 1: Definitions

Return	In a general sense, return refers to the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure. It is also often associated with the process of going back to one's own culture, family, and home. This could be within the territorial boundaries of a country, as in the case of returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) and demobilized combatants; or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin, as in the case of migrant workers, refugees or asylum seekers (IOM 2019).
Voluntary return	The assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee (IOM 2019).
Forced return	The act of returning an individual, against his or her will, to the country of origin, transit or to a third country that agrees to receive the person, generally carried out on the basis of an administrative or judicial act or decision (IOM 2019).
Reintegration	The process which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity and inclusion in civic life (IOM 2019)
Economic dimension of reintegration	Covers aspects of reintegration which contribute to re-entering the economic life and sustained livelihoods (IOM 2019).
Psychological dimension of reintegration	Encompasses the reinsertion of returning migrants into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbors) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups and other organizations). This also includes the re-engagement with the values, way of living, language, moral principles and traditions of the country of origin's society (IOM 2019).
Social dimension of reintegration	Reflects the access of returning migrants to public services and infrastructure in their countries of origin, including access to health, education, housing, justice and social protection schemes (IOM 2019).
Sustainable reintegration	Returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice rather than necessity (IOM 2017).
Assisted voluntary return & reintegration	Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin (IOM 2019).

DEFINITIONS

RETURN

Historically, there was a tendency to oversimplify the idea of return. Return was broadly defined as the act or process of going back to one's country of origin. Today, however, the definition of return aims to reflect the multiple ways and conditions within which return can take place. For example, IOM (2019) defines return as a process of going back to one's culture, family, and home.

The vast majority of returns are voluntary. Voluntary returns can be spontaneous, which means they are initiated by the migrant for economic, social or family-related reasons and undertaken without the involvement of states or other national or international actors. Voluntary returns can also be assisted; for example, in the case of assisted voluntary return and reintegration programs conducted by IOM or other actors. Return can also be forced. Forced return is the act of returning an individual, against his or her will, to the country of origin, transit or to a third country that agrees to receive the person, generally carried out on the basis of an administrative or judicial act or decision.

Motivations for returning home can vary from one returnee to another. Some examples may include the desire to reunite with family, changed conditions in home or host country, lack of legal status, and the desire to start a new life back home. The returnee may also belong to a vulnerable group such as refugees; the elderly; unaccompanied and separated children (UASC); people with serious health conditions; victims and potential victims of trafficking, violence, exploitation, and abuse. All of these factors can then influence the migrant's experiences in terms of reintegration.²

REINTEGRATION

The definition of reintegration has gone through several iterations over time (RCM, 2014; Kuschminder, 2017). In 2017, the IOM adopted an integrated approach to reintegration that views reintegration as a complex and multidimensional process of re-inclusion and re-incorporation of migrants into their countries of origin. Reintegration is therefore defined as: *"the process which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity and inclusion in civic life"* (IOM 2017).

SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION

According to IOM's integrated approach to reintegration (IOM 2017), reintegration is considered sustainable when: *"Returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity."*

² This methodology will not be focusing on refugees or IDPs.

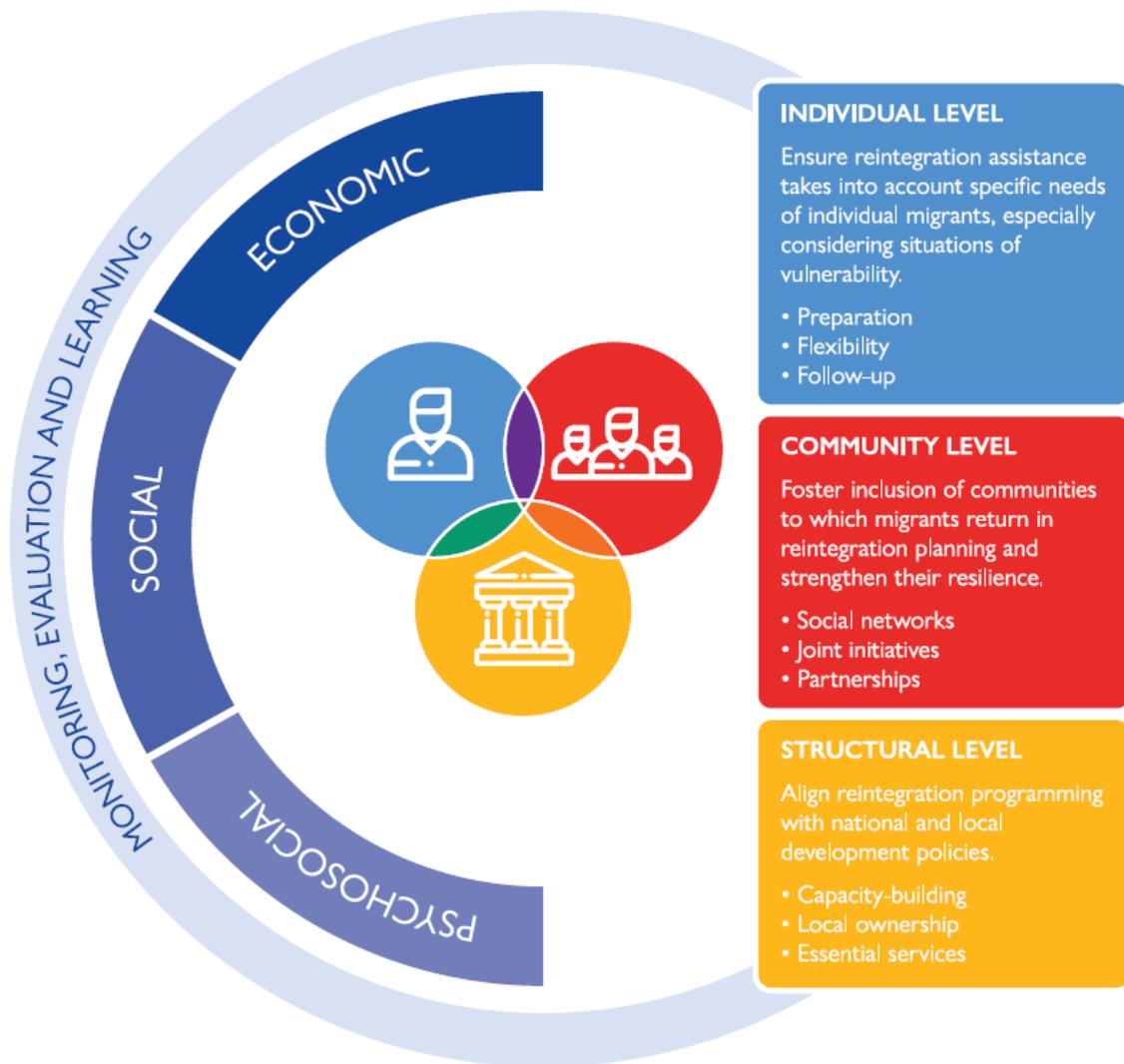


Figure 1: Integrated approach to reintegration

Source: IOM Reintegration Handbook, page 14

This definition highlights the importance of multidimensionality in the concept of reintegration (economic, social, and psychosocial), incorporates a multilevel approach (individual, community, and structural), and poses that sustainable reintegration does not rule out remigration, nor is it linear (Majidi and Nozarian, 2019). It responds to the needs of individual returnees and the communities to which they return in a mutually beneficial way while also addressing the structural factors at play (IOM 2019).

In terms of how the different levels function (IOM 2019):

- **The individual level** has initiatives to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of returnees;
- **The community level** encompasses initiatives that respond to the needs, vulnerabilities, and concerns of communities to which migrants return, including returnee families and the non-migrant population;

- **The structural level** initiatives promote good governance of migration through engagement with local and national authorities and stakeholders and support continuity of assistance through adequate local public services.

Within each of these levels, IOM's integrated approach addresses three dimensions of reintegration (IOM 2019):

- **The Economic dimension** covers reinsertion into the economic life of the country of origin and sustained livelihoods.
- **The Social dimension** relates to access to public services and infrastructure in the country of origin, including health, education, housing, justice, and social protection schemes.
- **The Psychosocial dimension** covers reinsertion into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbors) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups, other organizations, and civic life generally). This also includes re-engagement with the values, ways of living, language, moral principles, and traditions of the country of origin's society.

The link between sustainable reintegration and remigration, or the intention to remigrate, has been widely discussed in the literature and among practitioners (Kuschminder, 2017; RCM, 2014, among others). Until 2015, the lack of remigration or remigration intentions were used as proxies to determine whether AVRR programs had been successful (ICMPD, 2015; CBSA, 2014). This was based on the premise that a lack of remigration implies that the root causes of migration have been addressed. In 2015, however, IOM posited that measuring the sustainability of return only through an absence of migration would seem narrow and impractical for a world increasingly on the move, especially given that migration is a viable choice for millions of people around the world because of the better opportunities it often creates. For example, if a returnee regularly moves to another country for a job or business opportunity with the help of skills and experience acquired as a result of reintegration assistance, then that assistance has resulted in a sustainable solution for the migrant, even if the migrant did not stay in the country of origin. On the contrary, if the returning migrant remains in their country of origin but is not feeling integrated and perceives their reintegration as unsuccessful, can this be considered a sustainable reintegration? Therefore, IOM has taken the position that making further migration decisions as a matter of choice rather than necessity can be viewed as a positive outcome of a sustainable reintegration process (IOM 2017).

IOM's efforts to conceptualize reintegration sustainability allowed for the better operationalization of concepts such as return, reintegration, and sustainability. In 2017, as part of the MEASURE project funded by DFID, a new scale of objective and subjective indicators to measure reintegration sustainability at the individual level were established by Samuel Hall and IOM, along with a scoring system. After being field-tested, these indicators were incorporated into the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS) and IOM missions began implementing the RSS in 2018. This survey produces a reintegration score that allows individual reintegration outcomes to be tracked, measured, and compared across the three dimensions of reintegration—economic, social, and psychosocial—and across countries. The RSS data is available and accessible for analysis on the Migrant Management and Operational Systems Applications (MiMOSA) of the IOM.

Thanks to the RSS data, different applications and evaluations of activities assisting return migrants have emerged. For instance, in 2020, a beneficiary-level monitoring exercise that combines the RSS with ORION (project to Operationalize an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Framework of AVRR) was established by IOM, Samuel Hall, and the University of Sussex. It examines the impact of mentorship for return migrants on their reintegration outcomes in three pilot countries: Guinea, Morocco, and Senegal. The RSS indicators are progressively being embedded in all IOM programs and can serve as a basis for research that moves beyond the mid-term. The methodology presented in this report will also adopt the RSS as its tool for measuring sustainable reintegration.

GERMANY

In collaboration with IOM, the German Federal Ministry Office for Migration and Refugees Research Central launched an ad-hoc longitudinal study on returnees to evaluate the StarthilfePlus program. Established in 2017, the study—entering its second phase—collects quantitative and qualitative data for up to two to three years after the return of beneficiaries from Germany to 12 origin countries.

The first data collection period ran for six months, from February 2018 until October 2018, and involved a self-administered questionnaire to remove social desirability bias.³ Approximately 2,000 returnee respondents participated. In addition to the survey with returnees, qualitative interviews were conducted with return counselors, reintegration experts, IOM staff, and other reintegration agencies to contextualize the quantitative data. Qualitative interviews will also be conducted with the returnees in the second phase, which is now being launched. In the analysis, additional data covering development and financial indicators will be incorporated from other databases to assist contextualization.

REGIONAL (ASIA)

IOM Bangladesh: A regional returnee longitudinal study (RLS) was piloted in Bangladesh under the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project before being rolled out in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran (Islamic Republic of). The study aims to measure the sustainability of assistance programs. It targets 2019 and 2020 returnees who returned from host countries of high return in Europe and from Libya, which is the main transit country for Bangladeshi migrants headed to Europe. The RLS seeks to understand the medium-term progress of vulnerable Bangladeshi returnees after receiving reintegration support from the IOM to identify additional needs and track their mobility (remigration). Data will be collected every six months for four rounds. The first round of data collection was completed at the end of 2020 and focused on areas around Dhaka. While the study adopts the RSS tools, some questions were restructured by the Bangladesh mission to make it easier for enumerators and respondents to understand.

IOM Iraq has also begun implementing the RLS in a study that samples 450 respondent returnees from four host countries. The first round of data collection was conducted before survey implementation to identify participants. This involved explaining the purpose of the survey, the requirements for respondents, and asking for consent. This investment in participant identification has helped manage attrition. While the full survey is conducted every six months, a subset of questions is asked every three months.

IOM Afghanistan is in the process of launching its own RLS, which will run for two years, involving data collection every two months. Data collection frequency was increased in Afghanistan, partly in response to higher attrition rates. The study will begin with 1,200 respondents and the mission is

³ A tendency of survey respondents to answer questions in a manner that will be viewed favorably by others. It can take the form of over-reporting "good behavior" or under-reporting "bad", or undesirable behavior.

aiming for a sample of 400 by the completion of the study. The study will be implemented in eight provinces with high return rates: Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Kunar, and Laghman, with the aim to have all provinces running the survey at the same time. All indicators are aligned with other assessments, such as those for IDPs, so that the different data sets can be triangulated and cross-analyzed.

KEY PARAMETERS OF THE METHODOLOGY

This methodology is designed to measure reintegration sustainability in the long term. The RSS will be embedded within this methodology as the tool for measurement. The methodology is structured in a way that allows the study to be implemented by various stakeholders, including government agencies, national statistics offices, international organizations, universities, think tanks, etc. The study will generate valuable longitudinal evidence base on reintegration outcomes that will assist governments and practitioners in designing new policies and improving programs for future returnees and their communities. Below, the key parameters of this methodology are presented.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the longitudinal study is as follows: **"To what extent have returnees achieved sustainable reintegration in communities to which they have returned *in the long term*?"**

For this methodology, sustainable reintegration is defined as follows:

"Returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity" (IOM 2017).



A key question needs to be defined for the methodology: **does the study aim to measure reintegration sustainability at the individual, community, or structural level?** That is, will the methodology measure the factors that contribute to an individual's reintegration, or will it measure how a community has transformed due to the reintegration of its returnees? Will it analyze a country's national mechanisms and systems and how they allow a person to reintegrate, or will it measure the sustainability of programming?

This question is important because the RSS has already been created for measuring reintegration at the individual level. There are also several longitudinal studies within IOM that aim to do the same and/or measure the sustainability of programming, such as the studies being conducted by IOM Germany, IOM Bangladesh, IOM Iraq, and IOM Afghanistan (see background section for more details). Deep investigations into reintegration at the community and structural levels have yet to be conducted, such as studies exploring **the role of the returnee as part of a wider community or society**. Those assisting returnees are increasingly aware of this, but it remains under-researched. To what extent are returnees seen, or should be seen, as separate from the communities they are returning to, and should available assistance be directed towards the returnee or the place they are returning to? While much work is underway to incorporate community-level indicators into the RSS, what about the national mechanisms in place? How are national governments approaching the reintegration of their nationals, and what does sustainability look like in this regard?

Three possible scenarios can be considered:

#	Options	Implications to consider
1	The methodology focuses on reintegration at the individual level over	The methodology is comprehensive in design, meaning that everything required is built-in rather than requiring

	<p>time while also exploring the other two dimensions (community and structural) from the lens of understanding how they impact sustainable reintegration at the individual level. Then the methodology adopts the RSS as its tool and specific indicators and specific profiles of respondents are defined for the community and structural levels.</p>	<p>some triangulation in analysis. This also means that the study needs more resources and a bigger budget because it aims to achieve everything on its own.</p> <p>In the scenario that IOM offices implement the study, it can also be resource-intensive for these IOM missions which will have to implement a heavy methodology in parallel to all of their other activities.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>The methodology adopts the RSS as its tool and specific indicators are developed for the community level. The structural level is not included in the longitudinal study. However, it is gauged by the implementing country through a series of KIIs annually.</p>	<p>The longitudinal study requires a smaller budget but this scenario can still be heavy for IOM missions that will be required to carry out a series of KIIs annually.</p> <p>More work is required in analysis. Further, comparing qualitative data over time is challenging because it presents an attempt to standardize subjective information.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>The methodology aims to complement the RSS (rather than incorporating it) and focuses on understanding sustainable reintegration through the community layer. These findings can then be combined with those from the RSS to create a comprehensive picture in analysis.</p>	<p>It allows the RSS to grow, evolve and be refined over time. If the RSS is adopted by the longitudinal methodology, it cannot be changed between data collection rounds because the same questionnaire will need to be used each time. That means that if the RSS becomes modified and improved over time within IOM, which it will most likely do, it will require adjustments to the longitudinal methodology, which may compromise the rigor of the data.</p> <p>It places a lot of the effort during the analysis phase, which is less resource-intensive than placing the emphasis on the fieldwork phase.</p>

In terms of research themes to be explored (specific sub-objectives), the following can be considered, which have been born out of discussions with practitioners on gaps that exist in our current knowledge base:

Factors that influence reintegration: To identify the factors that support and hinder reintegration for returnees and how these are impacted by the community and the structural environment around them, particularly taking note of unique bottlenecks in each location (for example, gang violence in Central and South America). Including a deeper investigation of reintegration at the community level and new indicators of what reintegration into the community looks like. For example, participation in civic life as an indicator of community participation beyond personal and family events.

W-model: This model assumes that reintegration is objectively measurable. That is, levels of reintegration fluctuate naturally and there is some regularity as opposed to random occurrences. Current data suggests otherwise, but it may be because we have not been looking at reintegration for a long enough timeline. Thus, the longitudinal study can allow us to test the validity and accuracy of this model, thereby deepening our understanding of reintegration sustainability.

Repeat migration: A longitudinal methodology allows us to understand repeat migration better. Did the repeat migration happen because the original migration was not successful, or did repeat migration happen because the initial migration was successful and migrants learned to rely on migration as a safety net? We will be able to understand these dynamics better when we look at repeat migration within the context of one migrant's journey over 10 years. Without this trajectory, much of the discussion with returnees about remigration is theoretical. For example, IOM Bangladesh explained that when migrants are asked if they will remigrate, they often say they have no intention of doing so, but then contact with the returnee is lost after 18 months, indicating a probability that they did remigrate. This could be a major contribution of this new body of research because repeat migration is not yet well understood, it is under-researched, and the RSS does not yet allow a deep exploration of it.

An essential aspect of remigration that has not yet been studied comprehensively is remigration aspirations versus remigration plans or steps taken. Many studies show that among migrants who state that they wish to remigrate, few actually do. The long-term trajectory will allow us to gauge how long a migrant thinks about remigrating before taking steps to do so, whether the actual remigration comes after a planning process, or if it happens suddenly due to a trigger event, etc. That is, it will allow us a better understanding of whether remigration is a necessity or a choice.

Migration history (retrospective follow up): An individual's migration history can affect their reintegration process and their propensity for remigration. Research around reintegration tends to look at future migration patterns as an indicator of levels of integration but does not look at previous migration as an indicator of reintegration. Is there any pattern in terms of how many times a migrant repeats a migration until they stop? Is that end point different in the context of successful migration versus unsuccessful migration?

DURATION OF STUDY AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION

A longitudinal study, unlike other research, involves a sample of respondents overlapped with occasions for data collection. That is, **the methodology must propose a design for selecting respondents and the occasions at which these respondents will be surveyed**. Deciding on a frequency for data collection must consider the type of causes and consequences being investigated and the way they are placed on a timeline. What we have learned about reintegration thus far shows that it develops over time and is not linear. The W-shaped adjustment model of reintegration (Gullahorn and Gullahorn, 1963) is a theoretical model that assumes that return migrants experience common and predictable phases during the process of reintegrating into their origin country, even if the trajectory is non-linear and involves several fluctuations. Yet, current data shows that the trajectory of reintegration for return migrants is random.

From a theoretical perspective, **if time intervals are too frequent, factors may not have time to affect reintegration outcomes**. Although more frequent waves of data collection help minimize the information lost and more frequent communication helps keep attrition low, there is also a risk of recording random and on-the-spot variations that do not mature into actual change (white noise concept). On the contrary, if the time lag between two rounds is too large, the effects of factors on reintegration outcomes may have disappeared. Experts interviewed to design this methodology intimated that surveying return migrants every six months is too frequent to produce any interesting changes and that one year would be a more suitable interval.



The pertinent questions when deciding on the duration of the study are:

- What window of time is required to properly assess whether reintegration has been sustainable?
- At which point do we think the differences between returnees and non-returnee community members begin to disappear?
- For how many years post-return do we currently have information, and at which point does our knowledge end in terms of the trajectory of a returnee?
- What is achievable and pragmatic in terms of the resources at our disposal?
- Does much change for a returnee in six months? Or do the changes occur within longer intervals, such as two-year periods?

Another key question is, from which moment do we start tracing the individuals and what do we take into account? Do we begin before the migrant has left their home country for the migration, at pre-departure for the return home from host country, or on arrival in the home country?

There are two possible approaches:

#	Options	Implications
1	The duration of the entire study is kept below five years and data collection is frequent; for example, somewhere between six months to a year.	This kind of study is already quite common within IOM. All four returnee longitudinal studies currently being implemented by IOM (Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Germany) collect data every six months over four rounds (two years).

If this study also follows a similar format, careful thought would need to be put into how to make it complementary to what already exists. That is, if this longitudinal study is not implemented over a longer timeline than the others, then it would need to be differentiated in some other way, such as looking at different objectives or focusing on a different level (such as community or structural).

While the study duration is shorter in this option, it is more resource-intensive because data collection will be more frequent. Some aspects of the study management may be less challenging over a shorter timeline, however, such as managing attrition.

A shorter duration will be better suited to exploring the effects of programming on reintegration outcomes.

- 2 The duration of the study extends to 10+ years and data collection is conducted at larger intervals; for example, annually or every two years.

We do not have any information on the trajectory of a returnee two years after return. It is an entirely unresearched area and therefore fills a knowledge gap. Even if the objective stays the same as the other longitudinal studies on returnee outcomes—that is, analyzing the factors that affect an individual returnees reintegration across the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions—the study will still generate a new set of knowledge because it will allow us to understand these factors on a longer timeline. It will also enable the revelation of new factors we have not yet understood or identified. For example, the role of stigma over time on reintegration outcomes.

While the study duration is longer in this option, data collection rounds are less frequent. The total number of data collection rounds will likely be the same or very similar to Option 1, but spread out over a longer timeframe.

A longer duration will be better suited to determining the effects of time on reintegration, which is what the sector has been asking for. Time also affects other factors that influence one's reintegration process, but little is known about this influence.

SAMPLING

Approaches to sampling and sample sizes are very much related to the project priorities and the context. They involve a series of decisions that **balance the need for a sample size that allows for robust statistical analysis on one hand, and the survey resources required, on the other**. Deciding how to sample is key but the process is challenged by the lack of available, accurate and up-to-date sampling frames for return migrants.

It is necessary to plan for the eventual sample size required for longitudinal analysis by taking account of any population births and deaths reflected in the sample and **taking into account the expected attrition during the life of the survey**. In the case of a returnee longitudinal study, while births and deaths may not be relevant, certain events could influence our sample the same way deaths do. For example, when migrants remigrate, have we lost those sample members permanently? What about those that immediately remigrate? We would not be able to continue tracking them because the tools the survey adopts would be irrelevant to a migrant (as opposed to a returnee).

Movers are another challenge to the sample size. They create two types of problems in longitudinal surveys. First, there is a need to collect new contact information, which presents an associated increased risk of failure to contact the sample unit. Second, there are additional costs. Most social surveys that employ face-to-face interviewing use some form of cluster sampling or multi-stage sampling to control costs, and following a mover to a new address may incur considerable extra costs if the new address is not in one of the original sample areas.

PROFILES

During the inception phase of this project, it was decided that the study would focus on the following profiles: **'returnee' will refer to all migrants who could not or did not want to remain in their host country and returned to their country of origin either forcibly or voluntarily but with assistance (through IOM or others). This scope does not include refugees or IDPs**. This definition has three key components: the host country, forcible or voluntary return, and assistance through IOM or others.

Defining forcible or voluntary return is nuanced. The discourse around forced return is generally centered on the role of state authorities in forcing people to return to their country of origin. There is **less exploration of internal family or other relational dynamics and how they might make people feel forced to return** – for example, when a household returns to its country of origin, do all household members have an equal say in the decision? If they do not, what effect might this have on differential reintegration experiences? Conversely, in some situations of voluntary return, migrants may feel compelled to return because of adverse external circumstances that cause them to feel they have no other choice, rather than returning because of a successful migration. For example, migrants who decide to return home from detention centers in Libya.

Treating the host country as a socio-demographic marker of the returnee to be sampled also needs to be considered. More precisely, returnees will be returning from a range of host countries and depending on the country they are returning from, not only will their migration experience vary accordingly, but so will the reintegration package that they receive, which has an even more direct impact on reintegration outcomes.

Finally, the identification of returnees who did not receive assistance from IOM needs to be considered carefully. The main consideration in this regard is whether these returnees will be selected in advance through methods such as exploring government databases or embassies in the host countries, or if the IOM-assisted returnees will introduce them through a snowballing technique.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES



The first key question for the methodology in terms of sampling is whether it will rely on pooled or panel data. The panel method can be further divided into fixed, rotating or repeated panels. They are detailed in the table below:

#	Options	Implications
	Pooled sample: we go to the same location year by year but survey different individuals during each round of data collection and then bring all of the samples together in data analysis to assess the situation at different points in time.	This technique is most desirable when we have high attrition rates. It focuses on the effect of time more than the effect of events or programs. It is less resource intensive because the research team does not have to trace the original respondents and stay in touch with them.
1	Fixed panel: collecting survey data from the same units on multiple occasions. No additions to the sample are permitted.	<p>This method tracks variation over time at the level of the individual sample member. In other words, it provides information on how the behavior of individual sample members changes over time in response to changes in the context due to background characteristics or other factors.</p> <p>It is the most resource-intensive method because it requires methods, systems, and teams to maintain contact with sample members. Managing attrition is a key component, and in addition to the non-financial resources required for that, financial incentives often need to be provided to sample members to elicit their long-term and repeated cooperation.</p>
2	Rotating panel: Data is collected on the same sample for some specified number of measurement periods. Portions of the sample are then gradually dropped from the panel and replaced with new but comparable samples drawn from the current population. The process of retiring portions of the existing sample and adding new members to the sample continues until the original panel is completely replaced. The new sample members are retained in the survey for some specified number of measurement periods and then gradually replaced with a comparable but more current sample and so on. The survey may	The rotating panels allow for short-term analysis of individual or household change and long-term analysis of population and subgroup change. Like panel surveys, they provide direct information on change at the individual or household level over the period in which the sample member is retained in the survey. Like repeated cross-sectional designs, they provide information on change at the population level by periodically drawing comparable samples from the current population and obtaining similar measurements on them.

<p>continue indefinitely or be limited to a certain number of replacement samples (Tourangeau 1997)</p>	<p>A rotating panel design could also be adopted to create different cohorts of returnees and thereby assess reintegration outcomes in different decades.</p> <p>Or it could be adopted to assess different typologies of returnees, each constituting a separate cohort. Existing research has shown that there is no standard trajectory for the reintegration of a returnee but that specific profiles go through identifiable stages. This has also been the experience of IOM Bangladesh. Typologies could include normal return, distressed return, or return for remigration. Or the different typologies could be based on the different reintegration support provided to allow for nuanced analysis of the effects of reintegration support.</p>
<p>3 Repeated panel: The repeated panel design acts the same way as the rotating panel but portions of a sample are retired from the survey for some specified number of time periods and then returned to the survey for additional measurement periods.</p>	<p>In addition to the benefits of the rotating panel design, this method also allows for longer-term aspects to be checked against each panel.</p>

Once the type of sample has been decided upon, a sampling strategy needs to be adopted for the selection of panel members. As the total population of returnees is unknown, we cannot create a random sample. Instead, we opt for non-random sampling strategies. The options for non-random sampling strategies are presented in the table below:

#	Options	Implications
1	<p>Area-based approach involves sampling from a map, an aerial photograph, or a similar area frame. It is where you divide the area into equal-sized blocks, from which random samples can be drawn. The samples drawn from an area frame are often referred to as clusters. These clusters may be subsampled several more times.</p> <p>To sample within the clusters, stratified random sampling can be adopted. This is the division of the population based on a maximum of four strata (or characteristics). These could include gender, age, education level, host country.</p> <p>Snowball sampling can also be used to sample within the clusters. This is</p>	<p>Area-based sampling is often the sampling method of choice when a sampling frame isn't available. The advantage of an area frame is that it can allow the study to collect data on multiple variables at the same time. For example, in addition to data on the reintegration of the returnee, it can also collect data on the community and the structural environment, thereby allowing for the data's contextualization. This is particularly important in a study on returnees and reintegration outcomes because the context is the community, not the country as a whole. So broad development indicators on the national level are not sufficient for contextualization.</p> <p>Adopting a snowballing approach for sampling within the area frame can allow the study to identify returnees who are assisted by organizations other than IOM. This approach can also allow for the identification of non-assisted returnees that could be used as a control group. That is, through a snowballing technique, assisted returnees can introduce the research team to non-assisted returnees or returnees assisted by other organizations.</p>

<p>where each respondent introduces further respondents from among their network and the sample group grows like a rolling snowball.</p>	<p>Moreover, for the control group of non-assisted returnees to be reliable, it should not be too closely located to the returnees' locations. This is because assistance given to returnees might have an impact on the local population. Through an area-based approach, the control group would be selected from the district closest to where the returnees are located but not from the same district.</p>
<p>2 Case-study approach (household sampling): Here, the entire household of the returnee is surveyed, not just the individual returnee.</p>	<p>Reintegration of the individual migrant is intimately linked to their family's experience. Therefore, a case study approach helps us target the different dimensions of reintegration – economic, social, and psychosocial. It also allows us to take stock of the social cost of migration, which is currently under-researched in terms of migration and return migration dynamics.</p> <p>A household approach will also allow us to keep in touch with the returnee even when they decide to remigrate, as we can continue to survey the rest of the household and thereby understand remigration within the context of a long-term reintegration process.</p> <p>A household approach also makes it easier to manage attrition because there are several ways to contact the returnee, namely through the various household members.</p> <p>Finally, a household approach allows the survey to capture households that migrated and returned together, creating a window into how demographic markers can affect reintegration. This is particularly useful for introducing a gender-sensitive approach.</p>

MANAGING ATTRITION

Managing attrition is an important issue with respect to sample size for longitudinal studies. Attrition results in the reduction of the sample size and if the sample is a fixed panel, there is no way to replace the respondents lost. **IOM Bangladesh has had a 45% attrition rate and the Kerala study loses 10-15% of respondents on each round of data collection.** Therefore, it is essential to put tracking activities in place to keep in touch with respondents and account for their mobility. Tracking strategies may change from one country to another due to logistical and financial constraints.

Information could be collected during the first round of data collection to estimate the likelihood of migrants remigrating or the possibility they will change location within the country of origin (survey country). With this information, we can try to predict attrition in future rounds of data collection and **set a target that the attrition rate should not exceed.**

One key strategy for managing attrition relates to providing incentives for repeat participation. It is essential to incentivize the returnee to not only participate in enumeration across the various rounds of data collection, but also to keep in touch with the study team and inform them of changes in contact details and locations (tracking). The various options for this are detailed in the table below.

#	Options	Implications
1	Financial contributions that can be paid on enumeration and between data collection rounds.	<p>For example, IOM Germany provided a cash incentive of 15 euros during the first round of data collection and 20 euros during the second round and found that it worked well.</p> <p>The most significant limitation of such an approach is the implications for budget. Depending on the sample size and the duration of the entire study, cash incentives can become a strain on the budget.</p> <p>If the same donor does not provide the budget over the entirety of the study (i.e., If different donors fund different years), then the dollar value of the incentive might need to change over data collection rounds and this can affect motivation among respondents and ultimately, attrition rates.</p> <p>Some biases can potentially be introduced through financial incentives. Controversy over providing financial incentives to research participants has a long history and remains an issue of contention.</p>
2	In-kind contributions: such as providing phone credit instead of cash payments; or attaching the follow-up of returnees over the long term to the provision of reintegration support.	<p>This method might be easier to manage vis-a-vis direct cash payments and in some locations, will be received with the same interest as cash payments by respondents.</p> <p>Attaching the provision of reintegration support to participation in the study, while potentially motivating, is limited in its impact. Ideally, the study should track returnees even after reintegration support has ceased, as this is where our biggest knowledge gap exists.</p>
3	Non-financial contributions: such as sending regular text messages with information that is useful to the returnee.	<p>This method could reduce the overall budget required, as incentives are not in the form of payment. However, it can still require a significant budget and resources, both in terms of the operating costs for such a messaging system and in determining the kind of information considered useful enough by returnees to elicit their long-term participation. Selecting the type of information to provide could be almost like a project on its own in terms of resources required. It would require a determination and monitoring exercise to ensure that changing information needs are reflected over time.</p>
4	Capitalizing on relationships created with enumerators	<p>In some studies, it has been found that relationships are formed between the enumerator and the respondent when the same enumerators collect data across the various rounds. This encourages the respondent to stay in touch and share changes in contact details. In order to rely on this method of incentivization, systems need to be put in place for the retention of enumerators. IOM Iraq did this by focusing heavily on enumerators in the first year of their study. They conducted training for the enumerators three times in the first year and then dropped to once a year. However, they also provided financial incentives.</p>

5 Mixed methods involving an online component

Research on incentives in web surveys and surveys using mixed methods suggests that the typically lower response rates found in these methods (Patrick 2018) can be ameliorated by the use of incentives (Bianchi et al 2016) and that incentives can be more effective in online versus offline surveys (Göritz 2006; 2010; 2015).

In such a case, the fieldwork costs saved through an online survey could be redirected to the incentives to minimize the overall effect on the budget.

Online surveys can also be a great solution in contexts where security challenges the movements of enumerators and respondents alike (for example, post-conflict or conflict settings). But it does necessitate a robust telecommunications infrastructure in the country. Finally, online self-administered surveys can remove social desirability bias.

TRACKING AND TRACING RESPONDENTS

Systems for tracking and tracing respondents can involve:

Collecting as much contact information as possible in the beginning: for example, phone numbers, social media accounts, messaging applications such as Whatsapp and Viber (and whatever is relevant in the said country), and contact details for family members or other people intimately related to the respondent.

Increasing enumeration in the first year to avoid attrition in the short term, in the hope that this will limit attrition in the long term. That is, building the relationship in the first year can be an investment for the future years of the study. This could look like three rounds of enumeration in the first year instead of one in later years, for example.

Household-based sampling: as detailed earlier, conducting the survey with multiple household members makes it easier to manage attrition because there are several ways to contact the returnee through various household members. It also allows for keeping in touch with the returnee if or when they decide to remigrate, as the survey can continue with the rest of the household and allow us to understand and analyze remigration within the context of a long-term reintegration process.

Asking regularly for changes in details: in IOM Iraq's IDP longitudinal study enumerators send an SMS every month asking respondents if they are still in the same place as last month. If they answer no, an SMS is sent to say, 'Thank you very much. We will call you now to verify your new location.'

CONTROL GROUP

Control groups serve as a comparison group in the longitudinal survey and are used as a benchmark to measure the results coming from the sample.



The key question that arises in creating a control group is: does the migration experience change an individual too much to allow returnees to be comparable to individuals that never migrated?

If we assume that the answer to the above questions is a yes, then **our control group must also be comprised of returnees**. As our sample of returnees will be formed only of assisted returnees, the control group could be comprised of non-assisted returnees, thereby providing insight into the effect of assistance on reintegration outcomes. Assistance to returnees can then be seen as the treatment that is being tested. The returnees in the control group would need to be comparable to those in the sample (of the same profile) so that any differences between them and their reintegration experience can be attributed to the impact of assistance. **The control group could include returnees that were assisted to return but were not provided with reintegration assistance, and returnees that had received no assistance, thereby providing information on all three groups.** It would be necessary for the study to include returnees only assisted to return without reintegration assistance in some way.

The challenges in building such a control group are as follows:

Comparability: how comparable are the non-assisted returnees to the assisted returnees in the sample? To ensure comparability, the assisted and non-assisted returnees would need to have come back from the same country at roughly the same time and have roughly the same profile. One can also assume that there was a reason why the returnees in the control group were not assisted (for example, in some European countries, migrants who acquire a criminal record are forced to return home), and that further affects how comparable they are to the sample.

Location: a reliable control group should not be too close to the area where the returnees in the sample are located. This is because assistance given to returnees might have an impact on the local population that lives in the same community as the assisted returnee. As discussed in the sampling section, in an area-based approach, the control group would be selected from the district closest to the district of the assisted returnees.

How to identify them: assisted returnees are generally easy to identify because they are in regular communication and frequently interact with the organization providing assistance. Tracking non-assisted returnees to join a control group is much more challenging because there are generally no systems for registration of such returnees and no data kept on them.

CALIBRATION GROUP



What if we would like to test more than the impact of assistance? Since we assume that migration changes people and returnees are no longer comparable to their community of origin, we tend to observe the reintegration outcomes of returnees and compare them

against a threshold. Our thresholds are arbitrary and therefore not robust. There have been many calls from IOM offices, during interviews conducted for this mission, for greater contextualization of the RSS data. What this request encapsulates is a way to understand the reintegration of a returnee within the context of their community and location. If we never compare the returnees with another population strata of interest, how can we understand how they are faring in their reintegration?

Another approach would be to **create a calibration group instead of a control group**, as has been the case in the EU-IOM Joint Initiative,⁴ comprised of non-returnee residents. They would be demographically matched respondents residing in the same or similar locations as the returnees. The assumptions underpinning this are that returnees are not comparable to their host community but the host community does provide an example of integrated residents. The threshold is placed at the community level instead of the individual level, making it more objective. In concrete terms, as the differences between the community members and the returnee disappear (equal access to services, productive assets, and opportunities), the closer the returnee is moving towards sustainable reintegration. This does not mean that the calibration group allows us to determine whether reintegration has been successful. Still, it does provide an example of what some of the more intangible aspects of integration look like.

The RSS is currently rooted in the individual rather than the community and in the self-perception that the migrant has of their condition. They are not objective indicators. Therefore, it needs to be triangulated with objective data to demonstrate how ready the community is for reintegration.

⁴ Eager, R. et al (2020) Methodological Report: Impact Evaluation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa region (IMPACT), ITAD, page 75.

OTHER METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

STUDY LOCATIONS



One of the key questions for the methodology is whether it should be developed as a general one that can be applied to any country or whether it should be built as a country-specific methodology.

The methodology could involve a core module that is always the same and thereby enables comparison across countries. This core component could then be combined with country-specific components that the concerned countries could develop. This method allows the methodology to be replicated relatively quickly and for country missions to weigh in on the country-specific modules, thereby ensuring the feasibility of implementation. Another option would be to select a basket of countries representative of the cross-section of experiences (for example, a country in each continent) where the survey would run simultaneously.

CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THE DATA

A common feedback on the RSS has been that there is a need to develop methods for the contextualization of data coming out of it.



The key question in this regard is how do we define contextualization? Does it involve comparing the returnees to the inhabitants of the community they are integrating into? Or do we wish to compare the returnees against broad development indicators?

Some options are presented in the table below:

#	Options	Implications to consider
1	A calibration group also allows data to be contextualized.	This allows contextualization to be built into the study's design but makes it more resource-intensive (see section on control group for more detail). The contextualization comes from comparing returnees to local residents and judging their reintegration according to how the gap between them disappears.
2	Matching data in the context to the data on the returnees in analysis.	In this approach, data collection remains focused on the returnees and existing data in relation to the context is brought in during analysis. It presupposes that such data exists. As described earlier, the context data needs to be at the community level, not at the national level, and this may not exist in all countries. There are existing household surveys conducted by the World Bank that could be used for this purpose, but it would require the survey locations to be matched to where such household data exists, thereby creating a limitation.
3	Conducting a survey of the general population where returnees are a subset of the sample.	This approach would involve one random sample of the entire population where returnees are oversampled.

	Then the final sample can be weighted to adjust for this. By surveying the entire population, the context is built in.
<p>4 Adopting an area-based approach where multiple variables are assessed at the same time.</p>	<p>The REMAP project at IOM provides an interesting example in this regard where the study rests on five components, one of which involves interviews with returnees. The other components relate to development indicators, flow monitoring, drivers of migration, and mobility assessments. This study could do the same, where a survey is conducted with returnees and another survey is conducted with community members to assess the development indicators in the area. The two surveys do not have to follow the same frequency of data collection; they can act independently but feed into each other.</p>

PERCEPTION ANALYSIS

Another way of gauging reintegration sustainability is through a subjective perception analysis. This involves scoping how integrated the returnee feels and tracing shifts in perception over time. IOM El Salvador experienced more success in measuring reintegration when using subjective indicators. A perception analysis could also gauge how the returnee sees the community they have returned to and scope the propensity for remigration through their subjective perception of the community rather than an objective reality.

A perception analysis is usually conducted qualitatively but a series of questions can be developed to build a quantitative analysis, thereby making data collection, analysis, and comparison of results between different rounds easier. A qualitative follow-up could then be conducted to understand the nuances.

The governance of the study has broad implications for its funding, sustainability, efficiency, and government buy-in. Ideally, it would be participatory and inclusive and contribute to wider ownership of what is collected and how it is used. Government involvement and buy-in essential to ensure that the study's results can inform policy, not just programming. Funding stability is also strongly related to how the study is governed. By that, we mean that the partnerships formed with the local community, local authorities, and civil society will impact the continuity of funding and personnel.

Broader partnerships can also be developed with academic institutions and research firms that will be responsible for overseeing the technical aspects of the study. Given that IOM research is generally more rapid, producing quick results in a less complex study structure, such a partnership may prove beneficial. IOM would bring local and global field knowledge and the partner would contribute the technical know-how. The role of the World Bank will also influence this landscape, given that the Bank has both technical expertise and experience in complex research.

Both the EU-IOM Joint Initiative and the returnee longitudinal study implemented by IOM Germany involve partnerships. EU-IOM partnered with ITAD, the consulting firm that designed the study, and IOM conducts that data collection for ITAD. IOM Germany partnered with an academic institution embedded within the Ministry responsible for funding the study. IOM is responsible for all aspects of the study's implementation, but the research firm oversees the technical aspects. Other experiences from the field indicate that research centers often make for better partners when compared to universities because they tend to be more connected to the context and understand the aid sector better.

CONCLUSION

This report sets out a number of options for all of the key parameters of the methodology, with a clear analysis of the risks and benefits of each option. This is because there is no one way to approach the study; the approach depends on the research's priorities and the resources available. In this conclusion, the author sets out an approach that is recommended as most suitable to the objectives stipulated, to the needs of the sector, and that allows for increased understanding of sustainable reintegration in the long term. However, this is only a suggestion. By presenting the different options, this report enables the user to consider all the other possibilities and follow them through from beginning to end.

First, a reminder of the key terms and definitions:

The study's objective is "to what extent have returnees achieved sustainable reintegration in communities to which they have returned, in the long term?"

Sustainable reintegration is defined as "Returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity."

Returnee is defined as all migrants who could not or did not want to remain in their host country and returned to their country of origin either forcibly or voluntarily but with assistance (through IOM or others). It does not include refugees or IDPs.

In terms of the scope of the study, it is recommended that the methodology be fully comprehensive in design rather than requiring some triangulation in analysis. That is, the methodology focuses on reintegration at the individual level over time but also explores the other two dimensions (community and structural) through the lens of understanding how they impact sustainable reintegration at the individual level. Then the methodology adopts the RSS as its tool and specific indicators and specific profiles of respondents are defined for the community and structural levels. While this approach requires more effort during fieldwork, it is the least complicated structure out of all of those proposed because everything is built-in.

It is recommended that the duration of the study be set at a minimum of five years, but ideally at ten, and that data collection is conducted annually. We do not have any information on the trajectory of a returnee two years after return and all existing longitudinal research on returnee reintegration within IOM runs for two years at maximum. The longer duration will be better suited to determining the effects of time on reintegration, which is what the sector has been asking for and where our knowledge gaps exist.

It is recommended that a fixed panel approach be adopted, where survey data is collected from the same units on multiple occasions, with no additions made to the sample over the life of the study. This approach will allow the study to test not only the effects of time on reintegration but also provide information on how the behavior of individual sample members changes over time in response to changes in context or conditions, thereby increasing our understanding of reintegration dynamics on multiple levels.

It is also recommended that different typologies of returnees be built into the sample. Existing research has shown that there is no standard trajectory for the reintegration of a returnee but that specific profiles do go through identifiable stages. Typologies could include normal return, distressed return, or return for remigration. We thereby create another dimension for our analysis and resulting knowledge base.

It is recommended that an area-based approach combined with stratified random sampling be adopted. By snowballing within clusters, different typologies of returnees can be identified, including returnees assisted by organizations other than IOM. Adopting the area-based approach will allow the study to collect data on multiple variables at the same time, such as RSS and data on the community and the structural environment. This allows for contextualization at the community level since reintegration occurs at the community level and is impacted and influenced by the community context, less so by the national context.

To manage attrition, a combination of interventions is required. The following are recommended: in-kind incentives on enumeration, such as phone credit or similar; capitalizing on relationships created between respondents and enumerators by investing in enumerators (regular training) and promoting long-term job security for them; collecting as much information as possible from each respondent from the outset (phone numbers, social media accounts, messaging applications such as Whatsapp and Viber, etc., contact details for family members or other people intimately related to the respondent); increasing enumeration in the first year to avoid attrition in the short term, in the hope that this will limit attrition in the long term. Finally, it is recommended that respondents are regularly asked if there have been any changes in their details, as done by IOM Iraq in their IDP longitudinal study. That is, enumerators send an SMS every month asking respondents if they are still at the same address as last month. If they answer no, an SMS is sent to say, 'Thank you very much. We will call you now to verify your new location.'

Contextualization becomes built into the study through the area-based approach that facilitates the exploration of reintegration at the individual level through the RSS and at the community and structural levels. Additionally, it is recommended that a calibration group be created (over a control group, given the issues related to comparability, as discussed in the body of the report) comprised of non-returnee residents. As the differences between the community members and the returnee disappear (equal access to services, productive assets, and opportunities), the *closer* the returnee is moving towards sustainable reintegration, thereby creating a more objective standard of reintegration to complement the subjective standard of the RSS, which is rooted in the self-perception that the migrant has of their condition. In the same vein, it is recommended that the study also include a perception analysis to scope how integrated the returnee feels and trace shifts in perception over time.

It is recommended that the study be organized around a basket of countries representing a good cross-section of geographies, cultures, contexts, levels of development, education, stability, etc. Finally, it is suggested that IOM partner with a research center or consulting firm to manage the study in its entirety. IOM staff will conduct the fieldwork but the overall management will belong to an organization that specializes in complex research, in order to ensure absolute rigor in the resulting data.

ANNEX 1: LITERATURE REVIEWED

Table 2: Literature reviewed

Literature				
#	Name	Author	Date	Content Description
1	Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration	EU-IOM	2020	Third thematic report on reintegration assistance in the Sahel and Lake Chad region. First indicators on the sustainability of the reintegration assistance through a scoring model
2	World Migration Report	IOM	2020	Data on international migration trends
3	Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2019	IOM AVRR	2020	Key data
4	Methodological Report IMPACT - Impact Evaluation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa region	R. Eager, A. Pinney, M. Loevinsohn, E. Sandri, L. Evans-Gutierrez, B. Kindler, R. Williams, C. Barnett	2020	Analysis and thinking around evaluating the impact of sustainable reintegration programmes and testing of the RSS in order to identify strengths and weakness and provide recommendations on improvements.
5	Reintegration Handbook. Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance	IOM	2019	Focus on assistance, in the context of migration management, provided to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries
6	Distant dreams – understanding the aspirations of Afghan returnees	MMC	2019	Address gaps in the evidence base on return and reintegration in Afghanistan
7	Glossary on Migration	IOM	2019	Definitions of key concepts
8	Measuring sustainable reintegration	Majidi, N. and Nozarian, N.	2019	Setting standards for sustainable reintegration in the context of return, sustainability reintegration survey
9	IOM Egypt Annual Report 2019	IOM Egypt	2019	Key data
10	The Quagmire of Return and Reintegration: Challenges to Multi-Stakeholder Co-ordination of Involuntary Returns	Kandilige & Adiku	2019	Institutional challenges to multi-stakeholder coordination, involuntary returnees
11	Ethnic minorities and sustainable refugee return and reintegration in Kosovo	Ozerdem and Payne	2019	Reintegration sustainability in post conflict settings

12	Recent Developments and Outlook – Transit Migration	World Bank & KNOMAD	2018	Data on international migration and policy developments
13	A framework for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration	IOM	2018	Road map to address voluntary return and reintegration in a holistic way (three-level approach: individual, community, society)
14	Voluntary Return and Reintegration: Community-Based Approaches	IOM	2017	Analysis of AVRR through a community-based approach carried out in Guinea, Sri Lanka and Tunisia
15	Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Context of Return	IOM	2017	Presentation of a holistic and need-based approach including economic, social and psychosocial factors across individuals, community and structural dimensions
16	Interrogating the relationship between remigration and sustainable return	Kuschminder	2017	Discussion on the definition of sustainability
17	Setting Standards for an Integrated Approach to Reintegration	Samuel Hall and IOM	2017	Findings for an operationalisation of AVRR following the revision of the definition of sustainable reintegration
18	Methodological note	IOM	2017	User-friendly, practical guidance to reintegration practitioners on the use of IOM’s reintegration sustainability scoring system
19	Access to Microcredit Opportunities for Returned Migrants During and Beyond IOM Support	IOM	2016	Opportunities and challenges for returnees wishing to apply for a microcredit in five countries: Iran, Mongolia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sri Lanka
20	Leveraging Return Migration for Development: The Role of Countries of Origin, (KNOMAD Working Paper 17)	Debanth	2016	A literature review exploring contributions of returnees to countries of origin and showcasing ways in which countries of origin are facilitation return migration and reintegration.
21	Reintegration. Effective Approaches	IOM	2015	Focus on past and current frameworks to develop sustainable, balanced, complementary, measurable and innovative reintegration schemes
22	Monitoring Returned Minors	HIT Foundation	2014	Monitoring and evaluation methodology carried out for returned minors

23	Half way home	Terre des Hommes	2014	Monitoring the reintegration of children returned from EU countries to South-East European countries
24	Guiding Principles for the Development of Migration Policies on Integration, Return and Reintegration of the Regional Conference on Migration	Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)	2014	Guide to enable governments to develop and adjust national public policy on integration, return and reintegration
25	Return Migration	European Migration Network	2007	Summarises and compares, within a European perspective, the policy and practice of return migration amongst eleven Member States of the EU.
26	Sustainable Return in Post-Conflict Contexts	Black and Gent	2006	Overview of recent policy interest in returns, tentative definition of sustainability
27	An extension of the U-curve hypothesis	Gullahorn & Gullahorn	1963	Proposes a w-model of reintegration.

Websites

#	Organisation	Address	Content Description
28	KNOMAD	https://www.knomad.org/	Useful resources on return migration and development
29	Knowledge Management Hub, IOM	https://returnandreintegration.iom.int/en/spotlight/study/eu-iom-knowledge-management-hubs-research-fund-issues-two-requests-proposals	Useful resources on sustainability reintegration and return migration
30	UNHCR	https://www.unhcr.org/data.html	Data on return migration

ANNEX 2: KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEWED

#	Name	Organisation	Role
1	Nicola Graviano	IOM HQ	Head of AVRR Unit
2	Karolina Krelinova	IOM Georgia	Programme Development & Support Officer
3	Vivianne Van Der Voorst	IOM Asia Pacific	Snr Regional Project Manager (DTM REMAP project)
4	Davide Bruscoli	IOM Kenya	Regional Information Management Officer
5	Andrea Rodriguez	IOM El Salvador	Information Management and Research Analyst
6	Salvador Gutierrez	IOM El Salvador	Senior Regional Programme Coordinator
7	Andrea Dabizzi	IOM Cairo	Senior Program Manager (R&R)
8	Bernard el Doueihi	IOM Cairo	Head of Assistance and AVRR
9	Lorenza Rossi	IOM MENA	DTM Regional Coordinator
10	Olga Aymerich Franch	IOM Iraq	Research Officer
11	Zeffira Zanfagna	IOM Iraq	Migration Information & Analysis Officer
12	Phineas Jasi	IOM Bangladesh	Head of M&E
13	Ishita Shruti	IOM Bangladesh	Migration Data Analysis Officer
14	Adrian Gnagi	Gestalt & Vector	Managing Director
15	Martin Schmitt	IOM Germany	Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
16	Nazanine Nozarian	MPA Geneva	Knowledge Management and Data Officer (R&R)
17	Tobias Van Treeck	IOM Finland	Program Officer (AVRR and resettlement)
18	Anu Pippo	IOM Finland	Assistant Project Coordinator, AVRR
19	Julia Evans	IOM Finland	Project Coordinator, AVRR
20	Sonenaly Phetsiriseng	SDC, Lao PDR	Head of socio-economic integration
21	Peter Neelan	ERRIN	Senior Program Manager
22	Jasper Dag Tjaden	Uni. of Potsdam	Professor for Social Research and Public Policy
23	Alpha Diallo	Independent	National consultant, Guinea
24	Professor Rajan	KNOMAD	Chair, KNOMAD group on internal migration
25	Sebastiaan Boonstra	IOM Afg.	Research and Reporting Officer (DTM)
26	Corantine Groccia	IOM West Africa	Programme Officer (Reintegration)
27	Valeria Falaschi	IOM Senegal	Project Manager

