

SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Category
ERRIN Facility

Timeline
November 2019 - November 2020

Countries of implementation
Afghanistan

Project lead
Swedish Migration Agency

Increasing the acceptance for returns in the countries of origin and improving the quality of reintegration process has long been a core focus for the Swedish Migration Agency and the ERRIN Management Team. Building up on years of experience in the region and numerous discussions, a pilot project on Sustainable Reintegration in Afghanistan (SRA) came to light in November 2019.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Every year, Afghanistan welcomes more returnees coming back home from Europe than any other country of origin. Yet people who take a decision to return are still struggling with a number of obstacles that significantly impede their reintegration process. Our work on the ground has helped us to **identify major challenges faced by returning Afghans** and establish **a new pilot approach to reintegration**, based on two key pillars: **a sustainable training programme for returnees** and **a campaign for increased acceptance of returns targeting host communities**.

Firstly, we will provide a number of returnees with **thorough business training** shortly after their arrival to Kabul. Unlike similar activities, the training programme features group sessions and sustained psychosocial support. The sessions are complementary to reintegration assistance received - with all costs related to the training covered by the project. We believe that this method can inspire a greater variety among the returnees' business ideas, fostering income generation at a grassroots level, and consequently help to decrease the dropout rates from reintegration programmes we have witnessed in the past.

Secondly, we believe that the key for sustainable reintegration is not only equipping the returnees with practical tools to start a new life in their country of origin, but also **tackling the issue of stigmatisation they often face back home**. To this end, we will be exploring the potential of increasing the acceptance for returns among families and local communities. By better understanding the social dynamics that prevent people from coming back to their home country, we also aim at equipping counsellors in Europe with relevant information and tools that can potentially help them support the prospective returnees.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Organisation of **post-arrival business training sessions** for 100 returnees coming from ERRIN partner countries.

Creation of a **local civil society ecosystem** to develop and implement **alternative models of reintegration**.

Implementation of an **information campaign** targeting local communities.

Launch of **joint seminar series**, bringing together EU Member States and local partners in Afghanistan.

ABOUT ERRIN

The European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) is a joint initiative of 15 EU Member States and Schengen countries, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Commission. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development supports the programme as an implementing partner. ERRIN enhances European cooperation to improve both the return process, and the quality of support offered to migrants.

ABOUT ERRIN FACILITY

Beyond the core activity of facilitating post-arrival support to returnees, ERRIN Facility offers its Members a unique space and funding for developing projects that address return-related challenges. With a budget of €2 million, ERRIN encourages its Members to test innovative approaches towards reintegration, foster cooperation between EU and third country governments, improve counselling, or look into integrated return management.