



**Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)
Pilot Programme from Canada**

Reintegration Guide for Returnees



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)



**Funding for the AVRR programme
is being provided by
the Government of Canada
through a partnership between the
Canada Border Services Agency and
International Organization for Migration**

1. What is the reintegration assistance provided by the programme?

Reintegration assistance is provided to help you as an AVRR participant to re-establish yourself in your home country and restore family and community linkages. Reintegration support aims at strengthening your self-sufficiency and making your return more sustainable.

2. Who decides on the amount of reintegration assistance?

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is solely responsible for confirming eligibility for AVRR pilot programme participation and the amount of in-kind reintegration assistance. The CBSA has defined three levels of support and the applicable amount depends on at which stage in the process you apply.

If the individual received a negative decision on his or her claim for refugee protection prior to December 15, 2012, the following reintegration assistance amounts apply:

- Up to CAN\$2000 if the individual applies before filing an Application for Leave and Judicial Review at Federal Court (FC) (or if the application is discontinued);
- Up to CAN\$1500 if the individual applies after receiving a decision from FC, but before submitting an



an application for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) (or if the application is discontinued);

- Up to CAN\$1,000 if the individual applies after concluding PRRA and FC.

If the individual received a negative decision on his or her claim for refugee protection on or after December 15, 2012, the following reintegration assistance amounts apply:

- Up to CAN\$2000 if the individual applies before filing an application to the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) (or if the application is discontinued);
- Up to CAN\$1500 if the individual applies after receiving a concluded RAD but before an Application for Leave and Judicial Review at Federal Court (FC) is submitted (or if the application is discontinued);
- Up to CAN\$1,000 if the individual applies after concluding RAD and FC.

Please also note that if you are from any of the Designated Countries of Origin (DCO) you may only qualify for support of CAN\$500 as a single and primary participant and CAN\$200 for each subsequent family member up to a maximum of CAN\$1500 for a family of six or more. This amount is to cover costs that may include ground transportation to your destination and food while in transit and/or upon arrival in the country of origin; this is not considered reintegration assistance. For details on DCO, visit this web-site: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp>



3. What do you mean by in-kind reintegration assistance?

In-kind reintegration assistance means that no cash is given to beneficiaries of the AVRR pilot programme. Once you return to your home country, IOM staff will help you finalize a reintegration plan which is tailored to your needs. All payments associated with reintegration activities are made directly by IOM to the relevant third party upon receipt of satisfactory documentary evidence.

For example, if you want assistance with your vocational training costs, the IOM office or an IOM partner in your country of return will request proof of registration prior to making a payment directly to the institute. If you want to set-up a small business and you have to purchase any necessary tools or equipment, you would need to provide quotations for IOM's review and approval before payment is made directly to the selected vendor. Where necessary, for the set-up of a business you may have to acquire a relevant permit to fulfil any regulatory requirements set by your country of return.



4. What does the in-kind reintegration assistance in countries of return cover?

The in-kind reintegration assistance can cover the following diverse set of activities as explained below:

Type of Assistance	Description
Onward Transportation	Onward land transportation from the airport to the final destination (if arranged prior to departure).
Additional baggage allowance	Paying for one extra baggage.
Job search assistance	Costs relating to accessing information on employment opportunities, for example, through employment agencies.
Legal Assistance	Referral to legal counselling / guidance and family tracing.
Material Assistance	Costs relating to the purchasing of essential goods necessary for the migrant to reintegrate. Examples of eligible items include: oven, stove, fridge, microwave, tables, armchairs, beds (or sofas), clothes, landline phone (not cell phone). Examples of non-eligible items include: TV, DVD players, washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers, hair straighteners, vacuum cleaners and videogames.
Medical Assistance	Referral to health care and psychological counselling. Direct medical assistance and medicines.
Micro business assistance	Implementation of income generating activities, including purchase of tools/equipment to facilitate the set-up of a small business.
Temporary accommodation & housing	Costs relating to accommodation, rent.
Training & schooling	Paying for vocational training courses (computing, hairdressing, plumbing, etc.). Paying education fees for children.

Please note that no payments can be made to you while you are still in Canada (e.g. inoculation, apartment rent, etc.) except for excess baggage at the airport.



5. What does the in-kind reintegration assistance in countries of return not cover?

- Cash, unless you are from a designated country of origin;
- The purchase of personal goods which do not have a univocal and demonstrable relationship with your socio-economic reintegration;
- Expenses related to services ensured by public authorities in the country of return (such as training and schooling, medical care, administrative and legal services) unless the quality and/or the availability of the public services cannot be satisfactorily ensured;
- The purchase of shares (on the stock market);
- The purchase of private vehicles unless related to a revenue-generating activity such as taxi service;
- Private events such as weddings;
- Payment of debts or fines of any sort;
- Food.

6. Who provides the in-kind reintegration assistance?

In-kind Reintegration assistance is provided by the local IOM office in the country of return or through cooperation with a trusted, contracted local service partner.



7. What should be done to receive in-kind reintegration assistance?

The following steps will have to be followed to ensure smooth delivery of reintegration assistance:

- **Contact** the IOM office or IOM partner within one month of return to remain eligible for reintegration support. Contact can be made over the phone or through a visit in person, and all contact details are provided prior to departure.
- **Discuss, finalize and implement** the reintegration plan.
- **Provide** the IOM office or partner with documentary evidence supporting execution of the reintegration plan. All payments associated with the reintegration activity will be made by the IOM office or partner directly to the supplier, vendor or service provider.
- **Cooperate** with the IOM office or partner to ensure all funds are disbursed within six months of return.
- **Cooperate** with the IOM office or partner in completing the Reintegration Report within seven months of return and after receiving all reintegration assistance.



8. What is a reintegration plan?

The reintegration plan outlines how you plan to use the reintegration assistance provided by IOM once you return to your home country. It is initially discussed in Canada during the pre-departure counselling session and can be modified after assessing the circumstances, local socio-economic environment, and financial situation in the country of return. This gives you the chance to determine the most effective use of support in order to be productive and self-sufficient as soon as possible.

9. Is reintegration assistance mandatory? Can I change my mind about receiving reintegration assistance?

Like other components of the AVRR pilot programme, reintegration assistance is optional and you can decide not to avail yourself of this specific component of the programme.

Once you are enrolled in the AVRR pilot programme, you can change your mind about receiving reintegration assistance any time before leaving Canada and/or after contacting the IOM office or IOM partner in your home country. Note that you are automatically ineligible to receive any assistance if you do not contact the IOM local office within one month of your return.



10. Can reintegration assistance affect my ability to return to Canada?

No, your ability to return to Canada will not be affected if you receive reintegration support.

11. Is my personal information shared with anyone?

Any information collected by IOM will be used to assist in your safe return and successful reintegration in your home country. For example, the reintegration plan includes collection of basic information on your needs in terms of reintegration assistance and the actions to be taken by you to implement the plan.

12. If I decide to come back to Canada, will I need to repay the reintegration assistance?

No. Reintegration support is being provided as in-kind support to assist in the re-establishment of failed refugee claimants in their home country, thus, repayment is not required.





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