

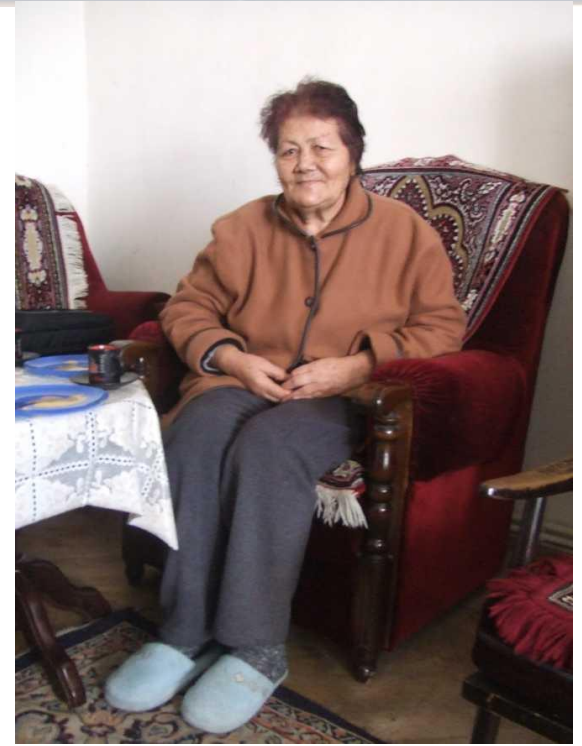


International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) of persons with medical needs

National EMN conference Brussels – 4 December 2015





How to organize a medically responsible return?

- 1 – Introducing a medical AVRR application
- 2 – Needed documentation
- 3 – Medical needs identification & evaluation
- 4 – Opportunities in country of origin: background check
- 5 – Organization/coordination of the Return
- 6 – Reintegration Assistance: follow up & monitoring

Process will be explained on the basis of a specific case





1 – Introducing a medical AVR R application

- The case of Mr. Diallo (Guinea)
 - Arrived in Belgium in 2012. Partial paralysis due to stroke
 - Resided in Fedasil Arendonk, but transferred to hospital for revalidation
 - Expressed his desire to return voluntarily during the course of his procedures
- IOM AVR R counsellor focal point for medical cases
 - First assessment of the case
- Medical considerations:
 - migrant's ability to make a competent decision
 - fitness to travel
 - travel health needs (e.g. need for escort?)
 - reintegration health needs





2 – Collect necessary information and documents

- The case of Mr. Diallo
 - Medical report from the attending physician (in English) including diagnosis, stretcher needs, list of medicines and medical equipment needed.
 - Fit-to-fly form for the airline company (SN Brussels) mentioning special equipment and medical requirements during the travel and in transit.
 - Attestations stipulate that Mr. Diallo has to lie down during the flight
- AVRR registration documents
 - General: REAB form, travel documents, reintegration form, etc.
 - Specific: medical report, fit-to-fly, etc.
- For psychiatric cases
 - Confirming capacity to decide or discharge attestation from psychiatrist doctor
- Background information
 - Situation in Belgium and in country of origin



3 – Medical needs identification & evaluation

- The case of Mr. Diallo
 - SN Brussels airlines accepted Mr. Diallo on board but under the condition of two escorts (one medical, one social) and a stretcher (occupying four seats) as he had to lie down during travel
 - IOM Brussels also needs to make arrangements for the transport in Belgium and upon arrival in Guinea
 - Preparations for medical and social escorts
- Medical considerations:
 - Health state: degree of severity in relation to travel
 - Indication of the most probable evolution of the state of health
 - Check with airport / airline company / transit country / country of destination on travel arrangements and requirements (basis: fit-to-fly form).
 - Airline company: three options, i.e. acceptance, acceptance under conditions, refusal to board flight
 - Departure-transit-arrival: specific arrangements may also be required (e.g. transport to and from airport)
 - Medical escorts: duties and responsibilities (medical kit, handover, etc.)

4 – Opportunities in country of origin: background check

- The case of Mr. Diallo
 - Confirmation of the availability and accessibility of needed treatment in Guinea
 - IOM Conakry was in direct contact with Mr. Diallo's son who agreed to take care of him upon return (consent letter)



- Medical considerations:
 - access and cost of medication or equivalences available locally
 - local partners contact details (hospitals, pharmacies, specialized doctors, reception structures)
 - the available network support (relatives, friends, NGOs, local government initiatives) and their capacity and willingness to assist



5 – Organization/coordination of the return

- meeting with medical escort in hospital
- transfer to Brussels airport by special ambulance
- authorization for the ambulance to enter the tarmac
- during travel: use of stretcher, four seats used for lying position, medical escort also had to give medical assistance during the travel
- arrival assistance in Conakry airport
- Mr. Diallo was also met by his relatives, the reunification was very emotional
- transfer from Conakry airport with ambulance (Clinic Pasteur) to his final destination in the suburbs of Conakry (Commune Ratoma)





6 – Reintegration assistance: follow-up & monitoring

- Reintegration support: EUR 2200 (EU-fund enhanced reintegration)
- Reintegration plan in Belgium: how to meet needs on short and long term.
- Development of plans in Guinea: local context, family situation, etc.
- Several contacts and field visits to understand challenges





6 – Reintegration assistance: follow-up & monitoring cont.

- Support from son and daughter crucial for reintegration
Development of business plan: family business African dresses (“commerce de pagnes”)
- Support with medical follow-up (hospital, medicines)
- Monitoring and follow-up: “the humane and professional follow-up has helped us to use the support wisely and to build a new future”
- Building “resilience”





Conclusive remarks

- Medical cases are often complex, many actors involved
- The case processing timeframe may take longer
- Every case has its own particularities
- Very close follow up at every stage is needed
- Return decision is made on an informed basis
- Flexibility to adapt reintegration plans



Further information / contact details



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