



# The International Organization for Migration (IOM)



**IOM/UNHCR Regional Conference on the Protection of Vulnerable  
Persons in Mixed Migration Flows – Promoting Cooperation &  
Identification of Good Practices – May 22-23 2013**



# AVRR & Migration Management

## Migrants:

- Decision maker
- Preparation
- Respect for human rights
- Avoids stigma of forced return
- Counselling, financial and/or logistical and reintegration support

## Governments:

- More cost effective for host countries
- Politically palatable to both countries
- Enhances international cooperation



# AVRR Glossary

- Return
- Voluntary Return
- Spontaneous Return
- **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR):**  
Provision of logistical and financial support by IOM to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in the host country and who volunteer to return to their countries of origin or another third country. Reintegration is the re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or process.



In implementing assisted voluntary return and reintegration programs, IOM's primary objective is the **sustainable reintegration** of the beneficiary.

Activities may include:

- pre-departure assistance
- Return/transit assistance
- post-arrival social and economic support.
- monitoring

AVR programs can also consider a wider social context by focusing on the needs of the communities into which the migrant is reintegrated.



# Advantages of AVRR

## For migrants;

- AVR is a more humane and dignified alternative to forced return that is conducive to legal migration in the future.
- Avoids the stigmatisation of deportation and its negative repercussions.
- Helps to reduce vulnerabilities

## For host governments

- AVR is more cost-effective than forced returns and can often be a quicker solution.

## For governments in countries of origin

- AVR can support development efforts through targeted return and reintegration, including job placements of qualified nationals.



# Principles of AVRR Assistance

- **Return must be voluntary**
- **Possibility for the migrant to change his/her mind**
- **No deportation procedures have been initiated**
- **Travel documents & immigration records devoid of any reference to deportation procedures**
- **Protection of Migrants Rights**



# Vulnerable Migrants

- Victims of Trafficking (VoTs)
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Individuals with medical needs
- Migrant victims of abuse and exploitation
- Elderly
- Single parents with children with no support mechanisms in countries of origin





# Chronological Stages of AVRR

## **GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

- Assessment, profiling, outreach/information dissemination,
- Initial return counseling and information etc.

## **PRE-DEPARTURE (Host Country)**

- Return Information & Counselling, incl. information on the country of origin for return and reintegration purposes
- Application processing
- Health assessment & health care provision;
- Travel preparation (passports, visa/stamps assistance, escort, temp. shelter)



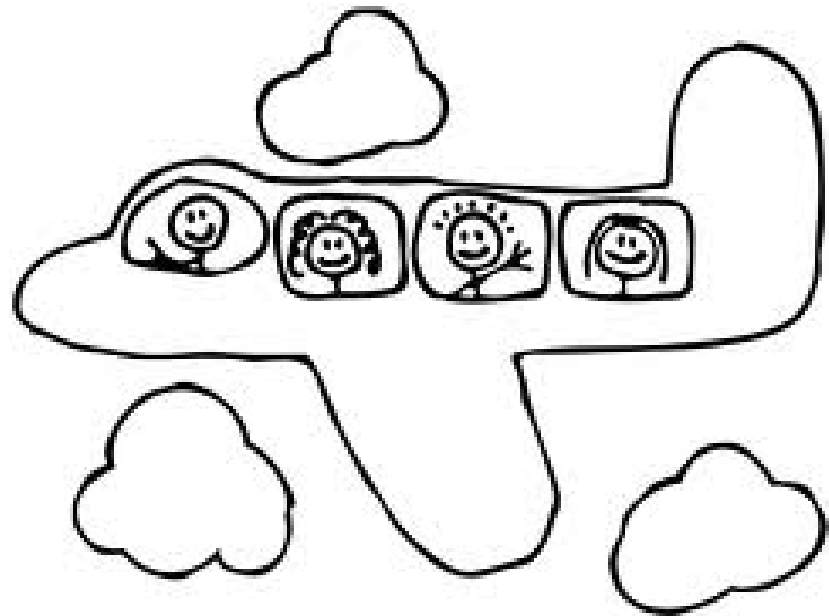




# Chronological Stages of AVRR

## RETURN-TRANSPORTATION

- Travel arrangements
- Payment of installation grant/pocket money
- Transfer assistance to the airport
- Transit assistance
- Escorts (particularly vulnerable cases)
- Temporary accommodation (if necessary)





# Chronological Stages of AVRR

## POST-RETURN (Country of Origin)

- Reception
- Information & Counselling
- Onward transportation,
- Temporary accommodation/shelter (if necessary)
- Socio-economic reinsertion & reintegration support
- Monitoring





# The Impact of Reintegration Assistance

Types of Assistance	Description
Reintegration Allowances	Cash grant (pre-departure/post arrival.
Temporary Reception Arrangements	Can range from a few weeks months accommodations
Micro/Small Business Development	Credits/grants to start small businesses
Community Assistance	Construction of schools/hospitals/training facilities, etc.
Institutional Approach	Promotion of self-employment/ on-the-job training
Socio-economic Assistance	Assistance in-kind (education, business set up, training



# Chronological Stages of AVRR

## POST-RETURN (Country of Origin)

### Monitoring

Measuring progress

- Identification of trends/needs/changes among the beneficiary population
- Recording successes and best practices and challenges encountered during project implementation

Assessment of:

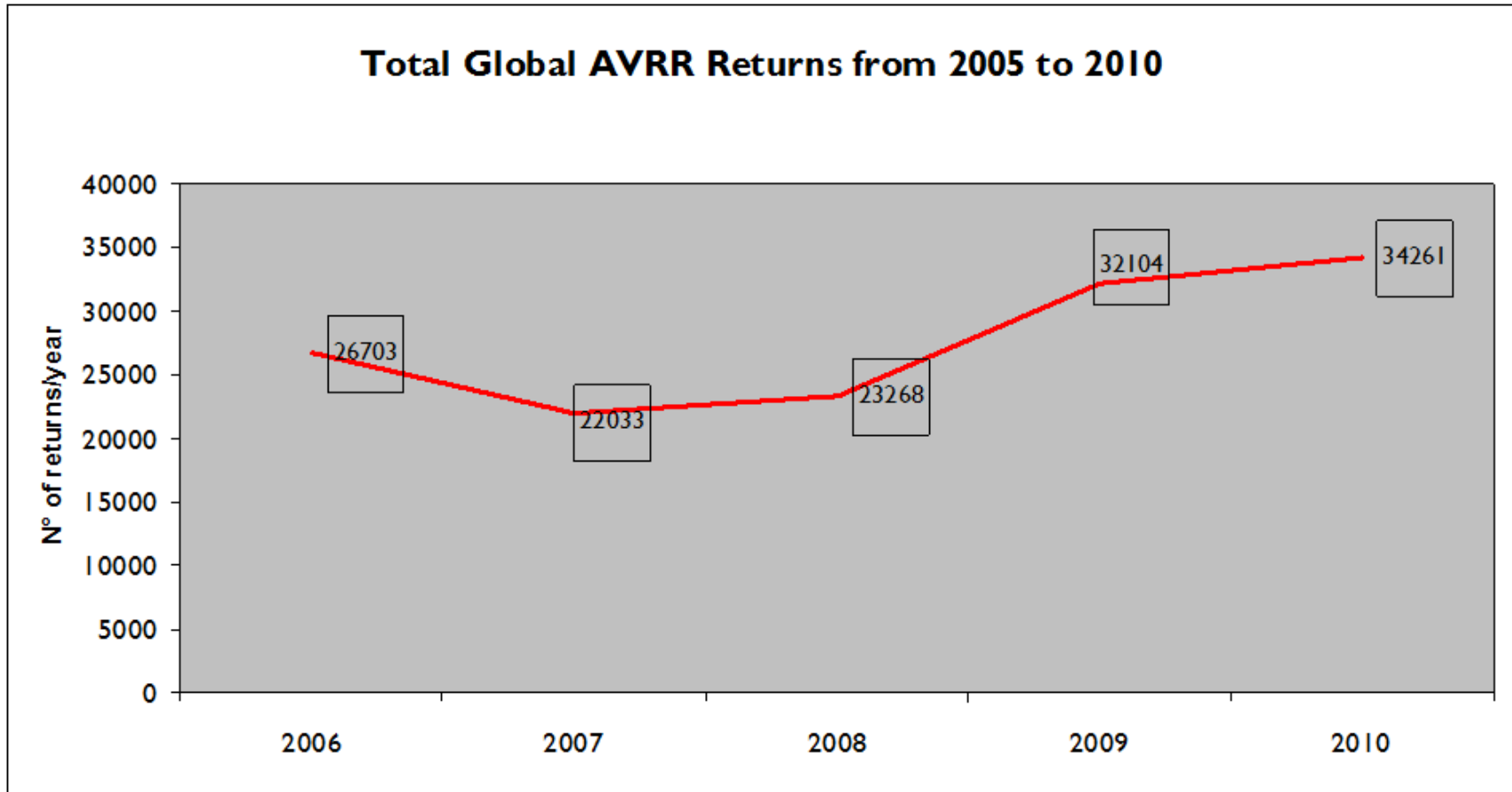
- Performance of reintegration programme
- Impact on beneficiaries
- Impact on local communities





# Global Statistics

**Total Global AVRR Returns from 2005 to 2010**





# Reintegration Assistance -Jamaica

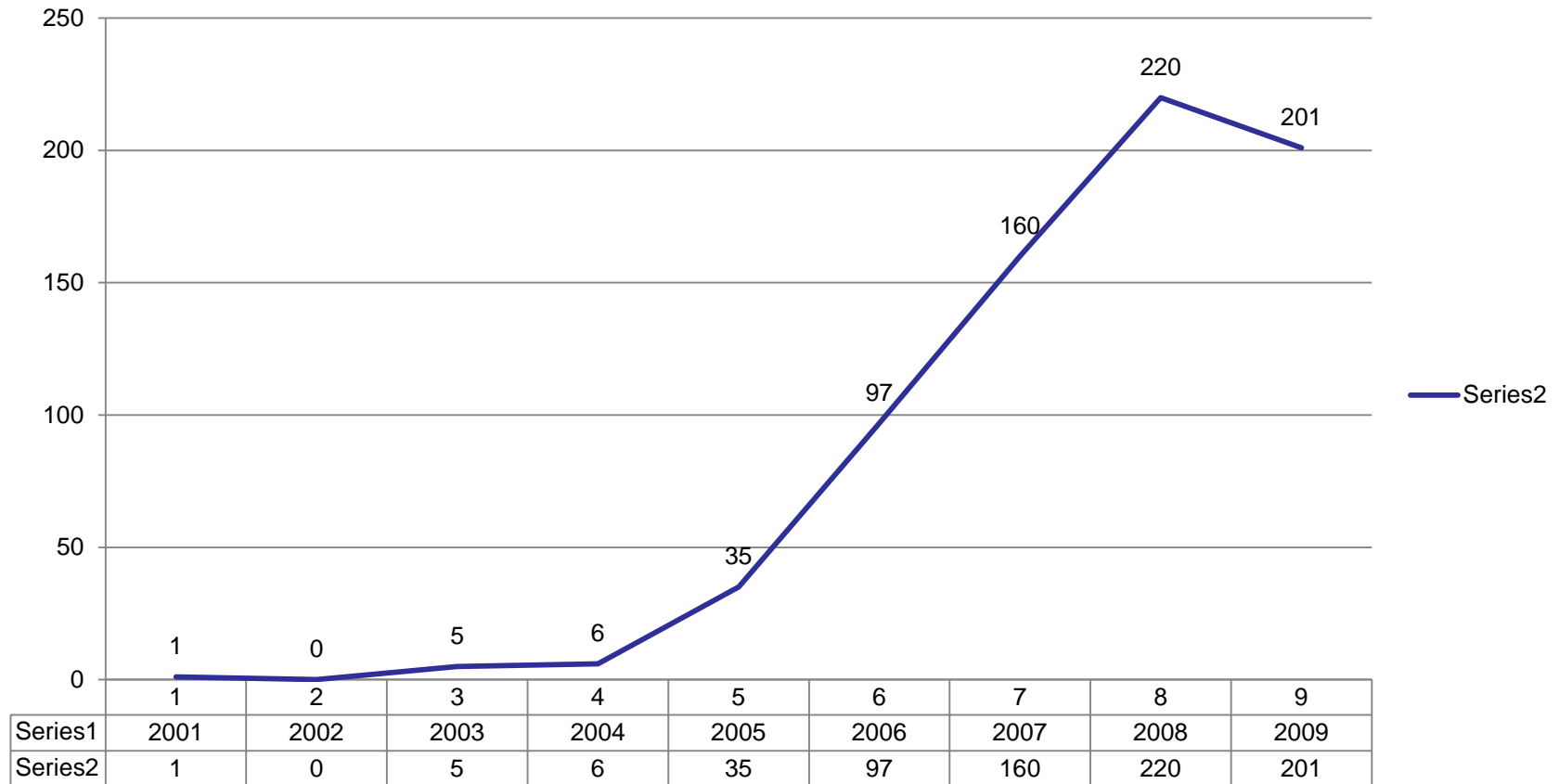
- Program began in 2001
- Funded by UK Government and ERF
- Provided to returnees
  - ❖ tailored reintegration assistance
- Major types of assistance
  - ❖ Business set up
  - ❖ Vocational Training
  - ❖ Education support
  - ❖ health and housing needs (case by case)
- Evaluation and monitoring





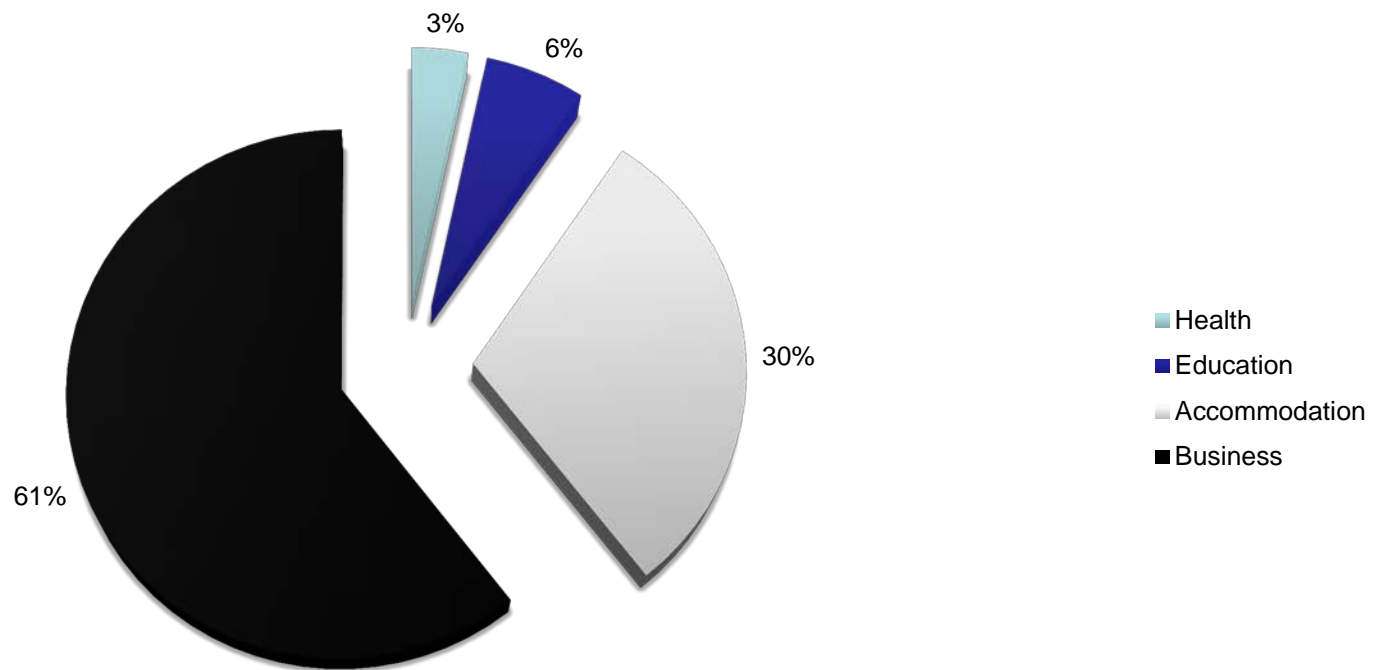
# AVRR - Jamaica

## Number of Returns Annually





## Reintegration Options







# AVRR - Conclusions

AVRR as an important tool in the overall management of migration which reinforces:

- Integrity of Migration and Asylum Systems
- Sustainability of the return process

AVRR Core principles:

- Voluntariness of return
- Protection of migrants' rights
- Sovereignty of the State

AVRR benefits:

- Returning migrants
- Countries of Origin
- Host Countries



# International Organization for Migration

*Managing Migration  
for the Benefit of All*

- [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)
- *Thank You!*

