



IOM International Organization for Migration

**Agreement between  
the International Organization for Migration  
and  
the Swedish Migration Board  
for the payment of reintegration grants to voluntary returnees from  
Sweden to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries**

**1. Introduction**

Based on this Agreement and its accompanying annexes, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will, through its offices in Afghanistan, Iraq and other IOM offices as requested, and Finland, provide reintegration grants to eligible voluntary returnees from Sweden to Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries (hereinafter referred to as “beneficiaries”). The services are provided by IOM for beneficiaries for whom the Swedish Migration Board has forwarded to IOM a positive grant payment decision between 1 May 2008 and 31 October 2008 and based on the experiences and lessons learned during the pilot phase (1 August 2007 – 30 April 2008).

The services and costs under this agreement have been set down on the assumption of a total of 50 payments per month to beneficiaries returning from Sweden for the duration of the Agreement.

**2. Parties**

**International Organization for Migration  
(IOM)**

17, route des Morillons, PO Box 71, CH1211  
Geneva 19, Switzerland

*IOM Regional Office for the Nordic and Baltic  
States, and the European Neighbourhood  
countries (East)*  
Unioninkatu 13, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
P.O. Box 851  
00101 Helsinki  
Finland

**The Swedish Migration Board  
(SMB)**

Division for Asylum Reception  
Box 507  
169 29 Solna  
Sweden

### **3. Scope of the Agreement**

This Agreement defines the roles of each Party in the provision of reintegration grant to the beneficiaries referred to IOM by the SMB, as outlined in the implementation procedures attached as Annex I, which is an integral part of this Agreement.

Provision by IOM of the reintegration grant payment service is contingent on beneficiaries' eligibility under the SMB's grant eligibility rationale, IOM policy on voluntary return, and on the beneficiaries' formal admittance and entrance into the Republic of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or any other country for which the SMB and IOM may agree to provide grant payments.

### **4. Responsibilities of the Parties**

The Parties shall cooperate fully with each other in order to implement the activities outlined in Annex I of this Agreement. The Parties shall consult with each other with respect to any matters that might affect the successful delivery of the services.

4.1 IOM undertakes the following activities in accordance with Annex I of this Agreement:

#### **IOM Helsinki**

- To forward to IOM offices in Afghanistan, Iraq or any other country information on beneficiaries, copies of travel documents and payment notifications within 3 working days after the information is forwarded from the SMB;
- To keep records of the beneficiaries, effected payments, and any copies of beneficiaries' documents forwarded by the Swedish Migration Board;
- To act as regional focal point and coordinator for services delivered by IOM under this Agreement;
- To respond to enquiries regarding payment modalities from beneficiaries in Sweden or to refer callers to designated focal points at the SMB;
- To forward quarterly invoices for effected payments and IOM Service fee and other charges to the SMB until 31 March 2009 (see Annex 1);
- To request and coordinate with IOM missions grant payment services upon request by SMB in also other countries than in Iraq and Afghanistan. Provision of IOM grant payment services in additional countries are subject to IOM presence and security considerations and the payment modalities and fees shall be agreed in writing;
- To request from IOM missions cost estimates of any additional services related to grant payments on request by the SMB.

#### **IOM in Afghanistan**

- To effect payments of reintegration grants to the beneficiaries in US dollars in accordance with information forwarded by the Swedish Migration Board through IOM Helsinki;
- To effect payments only to beneficiaries who present original travel documents to IOM and upon confirmation that the original travel document matches to the copy of travel document and other information forwarded by the SMB prior to the return;

- To collect, keep records and forward to IOM Helsinki reports of effected payments.

#### **IOM Iraq**

- To effect payments of reintegration grants to the beneficiaries in US dollars in accordance with information forwarded by the Swedish Migration Board through IOM Helsinki;
- To effect payments only to beneficiaries who present original travel documents to IOM and upon confirmation that the original travel document matches to the copy of travel document and other information forwarded by the SMB prior to the return;
- To collect, keep records and forward to IOM Helsinki reports of effected payments.

4.2 IOM's performance of the activities stated in 4.1. is subject to security considerations in Afghanistan and Iraq or in other countries where IOM has been requested to provide grant payments by the SMB. IOM reserves the right to modify, suspend, or discontinue any such activities at any time in the interests of the security of the beneficiaries or IOM staff.

4.3 IOM shall not be liable in the event of its payment based on the provision of forged travel documents.

4.4 The SMB undertakes the following activities in accordance with Annex I of this Agreement:

- To forward to IOM Helsinki personal details of beneficiaries, grant amount, copies of travel documents and payment notifications
- To offer pre-departure information to beneficiaries in Sweden, this including eligibility conditions, payment modalities, IOM contact information in the country of return, and mention of IOM's limited role in the delivery of payment services, this including IOM not having responsibility for payment delays or cancellations related to eligibility procedures in Sweden.
- To inform IOM Helsinki without delay if there is a need to share IOM contact details in the country of return with a person for whom a payment decision has not yet been formally issued.
- To share with IOM Helsinki the contact details of designated SMB focal points;
- To inform IOM Helsinki immediately of any cancellations or changes to the eligibility of beneficiaries;
- To share with IOM any information that may have an impact on numbers of beneficiaries, payments or IOM's role as facilitator of payments.

4.5 The SMB shall not:

- Share with returnees IOM contact information in additional countries of payment before the SMB and IOM have agreed in writing on payment modalities and fees in the concerned country.

## **5. Funding**

5.1 The services under this agreement in Iraq and Afghanistan are provided against payment of a service fee of USD 200 (two hundred US dollars) for each payment to beneficiaries in addition to:

- 1% of the amount of the payment for in-country transfer charges
- 3% of the amount to be paid for foreign currency fluctuation costs

Service fees in additional countries in which the SMB requests IOM to carry out payments will be the same as above unless otherwise agreed.

5.2 The costs are all-inclusive and cover all IOM communication costs as well as costs for invoicing to the SMB and receiving and identifying returnees, financial arrangements to effect payments, and reporting.

The above mentioned costings and modalities may, as needed, be adjusted by mutual agreement of the Parties, once practical arrangements for payment have been initiated.

5.3 IOM shall, on a quarterly basis, send to SMB an invoice stating the total amount of the reintegration grants paid during the previous quarter and the Service fee, in-country transfer charges and fluctuation costs as described in 5.1. IOM shall deduct the amount of prepayment from the final invoice under this Agreement. In the event the amount of prepayment is higher than the total charge to SMB of the previous quarter, IOM shall return the balance within fourteen days from the date of the last invoice.

5.4 Upon receipt of invoice from IOM, payment shall be made by the SMB to the following bank account within fourteen days of the date of payment request:

Citibank, N.A.,  
399 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10043

5.5. The prepayment of total USD 10,000 (ten thousand US dollars) transferred by the SMB to IOM under the first grant payment agreement running from 1 August 2007 to 29 February 2008 will be transferred to and utilized under this agreement, being the equivalent of service fees for the estimated caseload of 50 beneficiaries.

## **6. Financial Records and Reports**

IOM shall maintain financial records, supporting documents, and all other records related to the delivery of the services covered by this Agreement, including funds received and disbursed, in accordance with IOM's Financial Regulations and Rules, as applicable.

## **7. Dispute Resolution**

Any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or in relation to this Agreement, or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof, shall be settled amicably by negotiation between the Parties. In the event that such negotiation is unsuccessful, either Party may submit the dispute to arbitration. The arbitration will be carried out in accordance with the UNCITRAL arbitration rules. The arbitral award will be final and binding.

## **8. Confidentiality**

All information, including personal information of beneficiaries which comes into the parties' possession or knowledge in connection with this Agreement or the Service, is to be treated as strictly confidential. The provisions of the relevant international instruments and of relevant national laws and regulations shall be applied with regard to collection, processing and use of personal data necessary for the implementation of the activities under this Agreement. Disclosure to third parties of personal data can only be made with the prior written consent of the person concerned. This obligation shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## **9. Force Majeure**

Neither party will be liable for any delay in performing or failure to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement if such delay or failure is caused by *force majeure*, such as civil disorder, military action, natural disaster and others which are beyond the control of the party in question. In such event, the party will give immediate notice in writing to the other party of existence of such cause or event and of the likelihood of a delay may take place.

## **10. Amendments and Termination**

The Parties shall have the right to supplement or amend the text of this Agreement by mutual agreement in writing. Either party may terminate this Agreement with one month's written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, the SMB will pay costs committed up to the date of termination of this Agreement and IOM shall return the unused amount of prepayment as stated in 5.5., unless otherwise agreed.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

Nothing in this Agreement affects the privileges and immunities enjoyed by IOM as an inter-governmental organization.

## **12. Final Clauses**

This Agreement shall enter in force on the date of signature by both parties and shall remain in force until completion of all the obligations of the parties under this Agreement.

Signed in two copies in English.

For: The International Organization  
for Migration

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Dr Thomas Lothar Weiss  
Regional Representative

In \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 2008

For: The Swedish Migration Board

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Mr Dan Eliasson  
Director-General

In \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 2008

Ref. no. 22-2008-18496



IOM International Organization for Migration

## **ANNEX 1: Service description**

The services described in this annex are provided under the Agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Swedish Migration Board for the payment of reintegration grants to beneficiaries from Sweden to Afghanistan and Iraq or any other country as agreed upon between the SMB and IOM.

### **Procedures:**

1. The Swedish Migration Boards forwards electronically the following information to the IOM Regional Office in Helsinki (hereinafter IOM Helsinki):
  - **Biodata lists** of beneficiaries and the amounts they are eligible to receive (Excel format). The lists contain all pertinent information on the beneficiaries, including:
    - Full name of the person eligible for payment, whether as individual or in representation of a family payment. Unless otherwise informed by the Swedish Migration Board, any adult in the family may receive the total grant for the family;
    - Date of birth;
    - Swedish government case number;
    - Travel document type and number;
    - Contact details of beneficiaries in the country of return (as available).
    - Payment notification number (see below)
    - City in country of return where payment should be effected, as applicable and in each case subject to further agreement between beneficiary and IOM.
  - **Copies of payment notification**
    - Each person to be paid or head of family to receive the total amount for his/her family will receive from the SMB a payment notification including:

1. The exact amount to be paid in SEK
2. Instructions on payment collection to the returnee
3. Payment notification number

- **Scanned Copies of travel documents**

- For identification purposes to carry out payment
2. IOM Helsinki keeps a record of all beneficiaries and shares aforementioned information and copies of payment notifications with the IOM paying mission within 3 working after the information is forwarded from the SMB.
  3. The SMB confirms actual departures/travel dates and possible cancellations/postponements to IOM Helsinki, which will facilitate IOM's overview of payments to be carried out.
  4. The beneficiary contacts the local IOM mission within 3 months after the information is forwarded from the SMB to agree in detail on when/ where to receive the grant.
  5. The IOM paying mission will commit the funds for payment of the grant/ initiate transfer of funds to the payment location, only after contact has been established with the returnee.
    - In Afghanistan, the place of payment will mainly be Kabul. Possible payments in other locations must be agreed upon with IOM before the payment notification is forwarded to IOM Helsinki.
    - In Iraq, the place of payment will mainly be Erbil or Baghdad. Possible payments in other locations must be agreed upon with IOM before the payment notification is forwarded to IOM Helsinki.
    - For other countries in which payments are to be carried out, place of payment and modalities are to be agreed upon by the SMB and IOM in writing.
    - IOM will affect the payment within 10 days after contact has been established with the returnee or as agreed upon with the returnee.
  6. The beneficiary receives the grant at the time and place agreed upon with IOM, either for him/herself or for the whole family. The grant is paid in one instalment only.
    - In order to receive payment, the beneficiary must present 1) a copy of the payment notification issued by the SMB 2) the original travel document as informed to IOM prior to return. The local IOM mission will check that the travel document and payment notification copy match the copies forwarded

by IOM Helsinki and effect payment

- Paying missions will use the IOM regular voucher payment procedure and payment receipt confirmation, signed by the beneficiary upon payment. A scanned copy of the IOM voucher will act as proof of payment.
  - Payment can be effected at the latest three months after information is forwarded from the SMB, after which date the IOM mission is no longer obliged to pay the reintegration grant. IOM will keep a record of beneficiaries who do not collect their payments within three months after information is forwarded from the SMB and forward information on the un-received payments to the SMB in the final invoice under the Agreement (see below). IOM and the SMB may agree to extend the payment deadline for individual beneficiaries if the need arises.
7. Paying missions will share information on effected payments with IOM Helsinki on a regular basis.
  8. IOM Helsinki will on the basis of information forwarded by paying missions send invoices and reports for payments to the SMB. The invoices contain information on the amounts paid to each person/ head of family as well as IOM service fees and other costs as set down in the Agreement. Invoices will be forwarded to the SMB as follows:
    - 30 April 2008: invoice for payments carried out in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008 (January-March 2008), including payments affected under the previous grant payment agreement;
    - 31 July 2008: invoice for payments carried out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 (April-June 2008);
    - 31 October 2008: invoice for payments carried out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008 (July-September 2008);
    - 28 February 2009: invoice for payments carried out in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 (October-December 2008);
    - 31 March 2009: as needed, final invoice for any payments carried out in January 2009 (within the three-month payment period)
      - ➔ Including information on all returnees who did not yet pick up their grants.
  9. For any requests for clarification of payments to individual beneficiaries in the country of return, IOM Helsinki will collect and submit relevant information to the

SMB in coordination with the local IOM mission.

The procedures set down in this Annex are at any time subject to revision by the Parties.