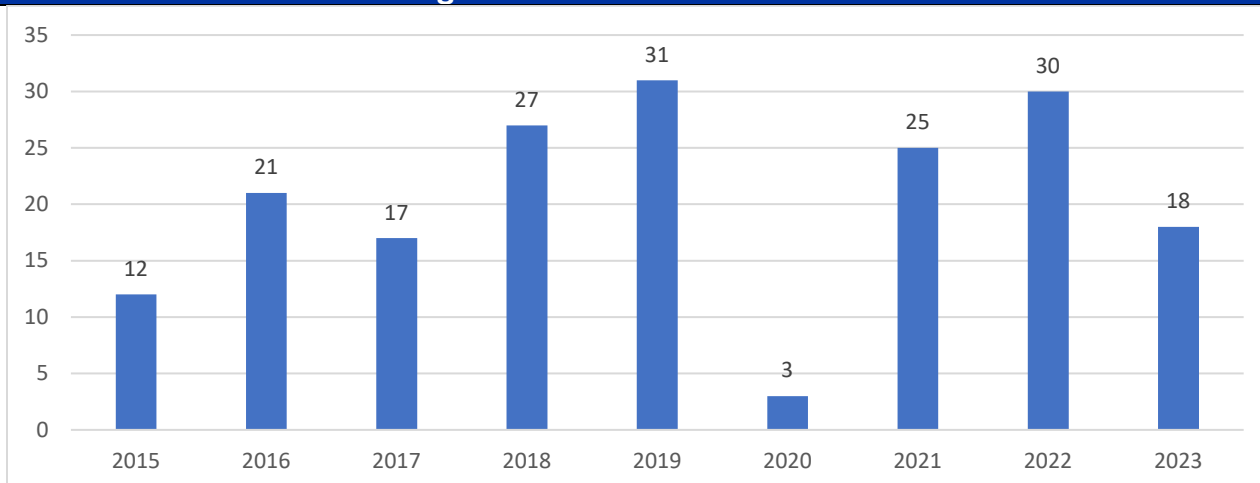




Reintegration Assistance – Flat Funding 2023 – Sri Lanka

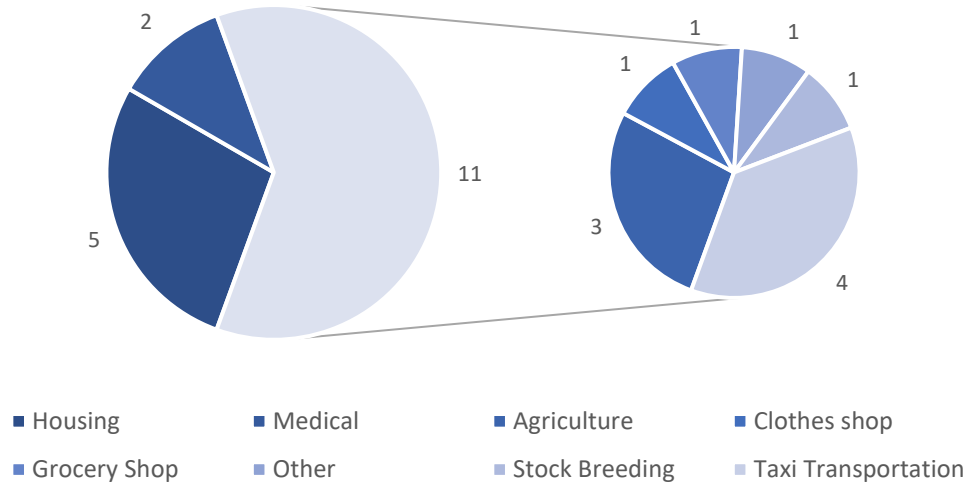
- **Implementation support for 18 reintegration projects** in 2023 (for a total of USD 65'488) for **18 beneficiaries (15 male and 3 female)**.
- **Return operations for 7 cases** (3 Men and 4 Women)
- IOM Sri Lanka was supported through a **Swiss flat funding** of USD 48'748 in 2023
- **Two Business Development Training** sessions with 13 returnees from Switzerland (2 women and 11 men) was conducted in 2023. 8 participants (1 woman, 7 men) of this training also took part in an **Advance Business Development Training**.
In addition, **19 returnees from other countries were supported** with the Business Development Training and 15 of them in the subsequent Advance Business Development Training
- **12 returnees** (3 women, 9 men) **were supported with psychosocial reintegration assistance** in the framework of **two group sessions** together with family members to foster understanding of **difficulties faced by returning migrants**.
- The country was undergoing a **severe economic crisis** in 2022 leading to challenges (e.g. power cuts, fuel shortages, lack of essentials and medicine, public transport failure). The situation stabilized at a low level in 2023, but still has a large **impact on the reintegration** from returning migrants.. IOM tries to support returnees before return with **actual information** and virtual counselling, in case need be.

Reintegration Cases from 2015 to 2023



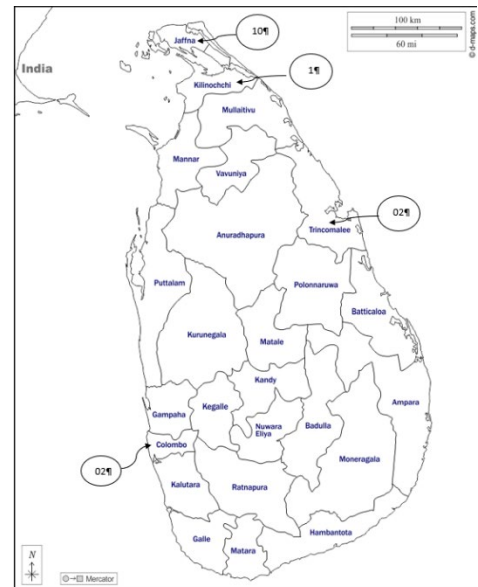


Reintegration Projects in 2023



Geographic Distribution of RAS Mandates

- The graphic on the right showcases the **geographic distribution** of Swiss reintegration mandates in Sri Lanka.
- Similar to previous years, the majority (56%) of all beneficiaries in 2023 returned to **Jaffna**, 11% to **Trincomalee**, 11% to Colombo and 6% to **Kilinochchi** districts. Three returnees did not contact IOM or are still to contact IOM.
- The activities include individual reintegration projects in the fields of accommodation, agriculture/fishing transport services, shops, or.

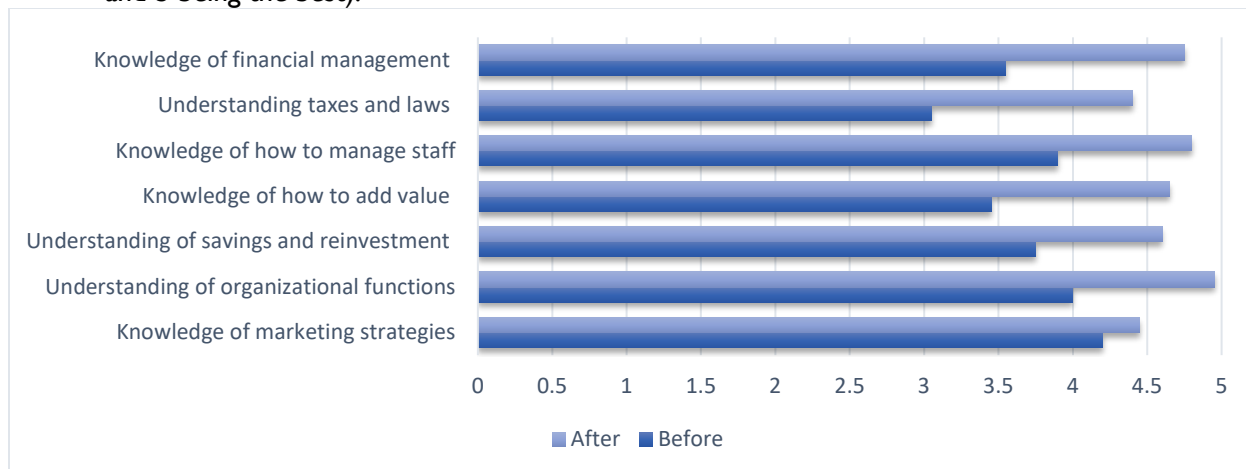


Business Training Results

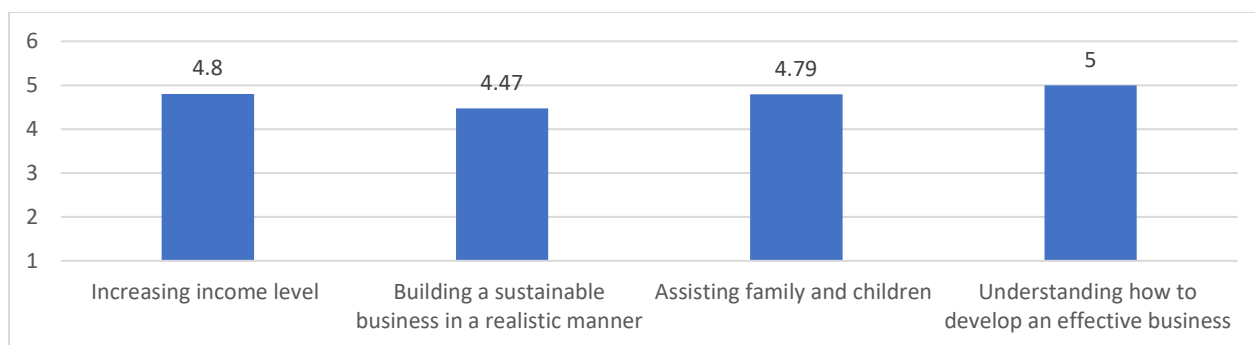
- A total of **13 beneficiaries** having returned from Switzerland took part in **Business Development Training** in 2023 and 8 persons completed the **Advanced Business Training** thereafter. Additionally, **19 people** having returned from other countries were able to benefit from the Business Development Training.
- Before and after the training returnees were asked to answer a short questionnaire.



The graph below shows the **knowledge and abilities as entrepreneur** of a small business, as perceived by the beneficiaries. This is based on a rating scale of 0-5 (with 0 being the worst score and 5 being the best).



- Beneficiaries confirm to have improved their knowledge after the business training, for instance their understanding financial management or how to add value.
- The overall satisfaction of the training was also very well rated by the participants. (5,0)
- When asked about concrete results through what was learned during the business training, beneficiaries confirm that the business training had a good impact on their business, because it allowed them for instance to understand how to develop an effective business or assist their family.





Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

- **A stable mental well-being is a significant requirement for sustainable reintegration.** In this process, the support from family members is crucial. In 2023, psycho-education sessions were planned for returnees who returned from 2021 to 2023, selected based on the records of the MHPSS screening assessments conducted after their arrival. This new component aimed at (a) Awareness creation of psychosocial support among the returnees and their family members and introduction of coping mechanisms. (b) Creating networks/ linkages with the local MHPSS resources and systems.
- **2 sessions for 6 persons each** were organized in Jaffna and Kilinochchi
- **Raised topics:** discrimination as “unsuccessful returnee” within society, low self-esteem and feeling of guilt linked to dept, financial difficulties due to economic crises, and prevention of withdrawal from misuse of alcohol and drugs. Existing supporting mechanisms and coping strategies were discussed as well as acceptance by the family and non-discrimination.
- Feedback was very positive, from returnees as well as their family members



Monitoring visit

A **monitoring trip** to Sri Lanka was organized between 02 and 05 October 2023. The delegation of the RAS Project Manager at IOM Bern (Sonja Kyburz) together with the SEM Focal Point for returns to Sri Lanka (Selina Matter) travelled to Colombo and then to the Northern Province (Jaffna, Kilinochchi)

- **11 returnees** (2 female, 9 male) were met: 1 focus group discussion took place with 5 beneficiaries, 6 returnees were visited at their residence or business site.
- Improved **understanding of the challenges** of return and reintegration was reached to advance return counselling and programming:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

- **Difficult setting** for sustainable reintegration with strong effects by the **economic situation in the country** (inflation, high fuel costs), individual economic issues (debt repayment), as well as socio-cultural aspects (stigma of return, acceptance in community and family)
- The **support from the family** is often key to a successful and sustainable solution
- The newly introduced component of **psychosocial support** and referral to local institutions is highly appreciated and has positive effects on the social cohesion within the receiving community



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