

### The overall goal of the project

To contribute to the implementation of the National Policy of the Republic of Armenia on Migration through sustainable reintegration of returnees and the decrease of irregular migration from the Republic of Armenia.

### The project objectives

- To contribute to the socio-economic reintegration of returnee RA citizens (voluntary and/or forced) from the EU+ countries and to decreasing the level of irregular migration
- To contribute to building community resilience and to decreasing the level of irregular migration
- To increase awareness on the risks related to irregular migration and the options for safe migration

### The project target groups

- Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who returned voluntarily or forced from the European Union countries, Principality of Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland
- Potential migrants
- Communities with high rates of emigration
- Syrian Armenian refugees
- General public

### The social reintegration component of the "Migration and Development" project serves those Armenian returnee migrants from the EU+ countries, who:

- ▶ Have been living in the above mentioned countries for at least 6 months
- ▶ Have been asylum seekers, refugees or have had other legal statuses
- ▶ Have applied to the Armenian Caritas within 6 months after their arrival in Armenia

### During beneficiaries' selection, the priority is given to:

- ▶ Elderly
- ▶ Persons with disabilities and/or chronic diseases
- ▶ Families with many children (large families)
- ▶ Single-parent headed families

Only socially vulnerable families can benefit from the project social reintegration component, based on the needs assessments results.

### Within the framework of the project, the selected families can benefit from the following assistance:

- Social assistance (including financial aid)
- Legal consultation
- Employment and entrepreneurial support

### Within the social assistance component the beneficiaries are provided with the following support according to the identified needs:

- Rental and utility subsidies
- Reimbursement of costs for health care and medical services and medicines
- Purchase of household appliances, construction materials and necessary furniture
- Creation of income sources by using predetermined amount of money for business purposes
- Referral to partners for vocational trainings and provision of essential tools or equipment within the MD project

289 returnee families (672 individuals) from the EU+ countries have benefited from the project social reintegration component during 2010-2018.

### Within the project business support component the following services are provided:

- ▶ Business consultations, guidance in business plan development and coaching
- ▶ Non-interest loans from the Migration and Development Revolving Fund - to persons with business skills and competitive business ideas for establishment or development of small and medium businesses

Non-interest loans are provided upon approval of the business plans by the Selection Committee.

### Who can apply to the business support component?

- Returnees from the EU+ countries
- Potential migrants (young people, vulnerable families from the communities with high rates of emigration who have business skills)
- Syrian Armenians

86 business initiatives were supported through the MDRF during 2010-2018.