Transitory Mechanism for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration to Venezuela
(Aug 7, 2018-until further notice)

According to the instruction sent on April 30 of the current year, on suspension of returns / pre-approval, it is necessary to obtain the clearance of the Regional Office for the returns to Venezuela. This instruction applies both to assisted voluntary return and reintegration programs (AVRR), as well as voluntary returns of migrants in situations of vulnerability financed by other funds (GAF, HASM and others).

General Parameters

The economic and social context dominates the current Venezuelan scenario: extremely high levels of inflation persist, with the annualized inflation rate was 46.305% in 2017. Since 2015, oil production has systematically decreased, which means more than 40 consecutive months of negative variation. The cost of Normative Food Basket (CAN) has monthly expansions averaging 70%. Out that of the 50 basic items that cover food and personal hygiene products there is only very limited supply. Medical services are scared and availability of medicaments is constantly decreasing.

1. Returnees should confirm in the Voluntary Declaration Form that they are aware of current socio-economic situation in Venezuela before departure.

2. The request should be addressed to Agueda Marín (MPA RTS), with a copy to Gelcia Montoya (AVRR Focal Point in IOM Caracas), Paola Martinez and Chrystel Ocanto (RO Buenos Aires).

Specific parameters

3. Please note that the approval, made on a case by case basis, is granted by the Regional Director on a bi-weekly basis.

3.1 Approvals will favor potential returnees who have relatives back home who can provide safety net at the beginning stages of their reintegration.

3.2 Victims of trafficking or at risk of trafficking will be given priority for return. Please note the risk analysis must be done before departure and send it along with the trafficking form and the declaration of return form.

3.3 Applicant with acute medical needs cannot be returned because they will have limited access to medical care and medication. This is especially relevant for people with some medical conditions like diabetes, HIV / AIDS or cancer patients. However, terminally-ill cases will have priority for return for humanitarian reasons.

3.4 The return of Unaccompanied children will not be supported as neither IOM Caracas nor the local government are able to conduct a Best Interest Analysis.

4. Information on returnee(s) situation that can guide the approval process based on the criteria above must be mentioned in the request for approval.

5. Reception support: if the support is required and it is covered by the project, in lack of alternative viable options in the country, an amount of USD 40 must be sent with the returning migrant to pay for the transfer of the IOM Caracas colleague. This amount covers the cost of round trip to the airport. Additional costs for national air tickets or ground transportation tickets will apply if the transfer is required to the final destination of the returning migrant.
6. Reintegration support:

   a. The amount of reintegration must be given to the migrant in cash at the time of departure. It is not possible for IOM Caracas to make disbursements.
   b. If the person who returns wants to bring goods or items as part of their reintegration plan, the maximum amount allowed by Customs is the equivalent of 1000 USD. Sending money through to Venezuela through private companies or banks is at the moment extremely complicated and expensive.
   c. If the person has medical needs, returning migrant must bring the file, the medication prescriptions and a sufficient medication supply if they are not available in Venezuela.