

Sustainable Reintegration Knowledge Bites Series

Knowledge Bite #3 | September 2021

Insights from the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration

Rationale of the Sustainable Reintegration Knowledge Bites Series

The Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS) was developed in 2017 with the aim of measuring reintegration sustainability. Designed to be easily deployed in IOM's reintegration programming, the RSS and related scoring system generate a composite reintegration score and three-dimensional scores measuring economic, social and psychosocial reintegration.

The Sustainable Reintegration Knowledge Bites Series aims to present findings pertaining to sustainable reintegration outcomes emerging from analyses based on RSS data and other monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data centrally available on the IOM's institutional case management system. This series is designed to bring such findings to the attention of reintegration practitioners and policymakers worldwide, as well as to inform and disseminate good practices, lessons learned and recommendations. The data presented in the series has been collected in the framework of the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#) and other [EU-IOM Actions](#) supporting migrant protection and sustainable reintegration.

Specifically, this series of Knowledge Bites attempts to: (i) empirically explain cross-country, cross-regional and cross-programme patterns on sustainable reintegration outcomes, (ii) assess the effectiveness of reintegration assistance in terms of achieving reintegration sustainability, (iii) determine which type(s) of reintegration support measures have proven to be the most impactful on each of the three dimensions of reintegration – economic, social and psychosocial, and (iv) investigate which are the external/structural factors affecting sustainable reintegration outcomes.

The [first Knowledge Bite](#) analysed the different factors influencing the sustainability of reintegration outcomes with the notable result that the provision of economic reintegration assistance contributes to returnees' higher average sustainable reintegration scores. The [second Knowledge Bite](#) explored additional factors that contribute to higher levels of sustainable reintegration and found that returnees who received at least one reintegration activity through referrals had lower reintegration sustainability scores and displayed lower levels of satisfaction with the reintegration assistance received.

Knowledge Management Hub

The development and production of this series is supported by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH), which was established in September 2017 under the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-based Reintegration, funded by the European Union. The KMH aims to strengthen learning across return and reintegration programmes, and support the harmonization of approaches, processes and tools under the EU-IOM Actions addressing migrant protection and sustainable reintegration in Africa and Asia and beyond.



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SUMMARY

This third Knowledge Bite explores the reintegration outcomes and satisfaction levels of migrants assisted to return from South Africa to Mozambique and Malawi under the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration¹ funded by the European Union and implemented by IOM. It analyses different reintegration outcomes between the two countries of origin and factors influencing them, including demographic characteristics and types of reintegration assistance received.²

The results of the statistical analysis suggest that satisfaction levels with the reintegration assistance received were lower in Mozambique than in Malawi, although similar levels of reintegration sustainability were achieved by returnees in both countries. Moreover, in Mozambique female returnees had overall higher levels of satisfaction and better reintegration outcomes across all dimensions than males, whereas in Malawi it was the reverse. While the composite reintegration sustainability scores between the two countries were similar, looking at the different dimensions reveals more important disparities in reintegration outcomes. Returnees to Mozambique achieved better scores in the economic and in the psychosocial dimensions, whereas returnees to Malawi achieved more sustainable reintegration outcomes in the social dimension.

¹ Hereinafter, Pilot Action.

² More detailed information on measuring sustainable reintegration information can be found in N. Nozarian and N. Majidi, "[Measuring sustainable reintegration](#)", Migration Policy Practice, IX(1): 30–39 (2019). The article provides the background of IOM's definition of sustainable reintegration as well as detailed information on the standardization of the measurement of reintegration.



1. BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

1.1 The Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration

Launched in March 2017 with funding from the European Union, the Pilot Action project was developed in the context of EU-IOM External Actions for Migrant Protection and Sustainable Reintegration³ with the aim to contribute to the development of voluntary return and sustainable community-based reintegration approaches in South Africa as a host country and Malawi and Mozambique as countries of origin. The Pilot Action has had three specific objectives with regards to the return and reintegration of Malawian and Mozambican nationals. First, to support targeted countries to enhance national structures and capacities to facilitate a safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration process. Second, to support national authorities of targeted countries in the provision of dignified voluntary return assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants. Third, to support targeted countries to enhance the sustainability of returnees' economic, social and psychosocial reintegration through tailored individual and community level assistance. Beyond activities in Southern Africa, the project includes a global component – the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH) that was established in late 2017.

1.2 Methodology

The third Knowledge Bite of the series explores reintegration outcomes of migrants who returned voluntarily from South Africa to Mozambique and Malawi under the Pilot Action between 2018 and 2020. It analyses trends and differences in reintegration satisfaction and reintegration sustainability within and across the two countries of origin. The analysis section of this report is divided into two parts presenting insights from Mozambique (Section 2.1) and Malawi (Section 2.2), which contain descriptive and statistical analyses of reintegration satisfaction and sustainability data for each respective country. These sections are followed by a comparative analysis of the reintegration outcomes (Section 3) that explores cross-country patterns, including through statistical analyses.

1.3 Data

The analysis presented in this report is based on monitoring data collected under the Pilot Action in the two target countries of origin, Malawi and Mozambique, and available centrally through IOM's institutional case management system "Migrant Management and Operational Systems Application" (MiMOSA). The data has been collected through the tools developed by the KMH and is in use under all EU-IOM Actions: the *Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programme Monitoring Survey* and the *AVR Programme Satisfaction Survey*, which measure the programme performance as well as the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the assistance; the *Reintegration Programme Monitoring Survey* and the *Reintegration Programme Satisfaction Survey*, which assess the performance of the different components of reintegration assistance as well as the beneficiaries' satisfaction with that assistance; and the *Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS)*, which measures reintegration sustainability of returnees along the three dimensions (economic, social and psychosocial).

In **Mozambique** the *AVR Programme Monitoring Survey* and the *AVR Programme Satisfaction Survey* were conducted with 177 migrants who voluntarily returned from South Africa to Mozambique. The *Reintegration Programme Satisfaction Survey* and the *Reintegration Programme Monitoring Survey* cover a total of 92 and 117 respondents respectively. Finally, a total of 117 beneficiaries were interviewed for the RSS.

³ Hereinafter EU-IOM Actions. In line with the European Union external policy and migration priorities, IOM and the European Union have jointly developed the following programmes focusing on migrant protection, dignified voluntary return and sustainable reintegration: the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Sahel and Lake Chad, North Africa and Horn of Africa, the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration, the Reintegration Assistance and Development in Afghanistan (RADA) and the Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha).



On the other hand, in **Malawi** the *AVR Programme Monitoring Survey* and the *AVR Programme Satisfaction Survey* for migrants who returned from South Africa to Malawi cover a total of 239 respondents and 252 respondents respectively. The *Reintegration Programme Satisfaction Survey* was conducted with 212 respondents, while the *Reintegration Programme Monitoring Survey* covers a total of 227 respondents. The RSS was conducted with 178 beneficiaries of reintegration assistance.

While the descriptive analyses fully take into account the individual datasets with all observations, it was necessary to exclude a number of observations in the process of merging the reintegration monitoring, satisfaction and sustainability data for the statistical analysis of variables across the surveys. The datasets were merged on the basis of the unique case number of beneficiaries and contains a total of 92 observations for Mozambique and 118 observations for Malawi.⁴

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 Insights from Mozambique

Assisted voluntary return

The analysis starts with an assessment of the AVR programme performance across its different phases (outreach, pre-departure, travel and reception)⁵ as well as the satisfaction with such assistance among migrants voluntarily returning to Mozambique. The respondents of the *AVR Programme Monitoring Survey* are aged between 18 and 64 years, with 63 per cent of them falling under the 31 to 49 years age bracket and 17 per cent being older than 50 years. The respondents' average age at departure was 39 years and slightly more than half are females. Returnees' average age at departure was 39 years and their average length of absence before returning to Mozambique was 10 years.

Overall, respondents reported to be very satisfied with the voluntary return assistance provided by IOM, with 100 per cent of them declaring that they have been able to **return in a safe and timely manner** (from the initial counselling to the travel). Moreover, all respondents were satisfied with **pre-departure counselling and pre-departure travel assistance** and reported that **they felt they could leave the programme at any time before return**. 100 per cent of beneficiaries were satisfied or very satisfied with their **travel arrangements** and confirmed that IOM staff treated them with **respect** and cared for their **well-being**.

In order to mitigate the potential effects of “demand bias” (beneficiaries deliberately voicing only positive feedback because they believe it will increase their chances of receiving future assistance) monitoring officers who were not involved in the provision of reintegration support interviewed beneficiaries. However, the very positive results above might still reflect a certain extent of “demand bias” among the respondents.

Reintegration

The analysis continues with an assessment of the performance of the reintegration assistance programme components as well as the beneficiaries' satisfaction with such assistance. The average age of respondents to the *Reintegration Programme Monitoring Survey* stands at 40 years (see Figure 1) and the share of female respondents is slightly higher than that of male respondents (see Figure 2).

⁴ The 92 and 118 observations for Mozambique and Malawi respectively correspond to those beneficiaries who took all three surveys. The merged dataset allows for a statistical analysis that takes into account a larger number of variables across different surveys in order to explore trends in the reintegration of those beneficiaries.

⁵ Please refer to IOM, [A Framework for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration](#) (2019) to get an overview over the different types of return and reintegration assistance provided during each phase of assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes.



Figure 1. Reintegration monitoring respondents by age group

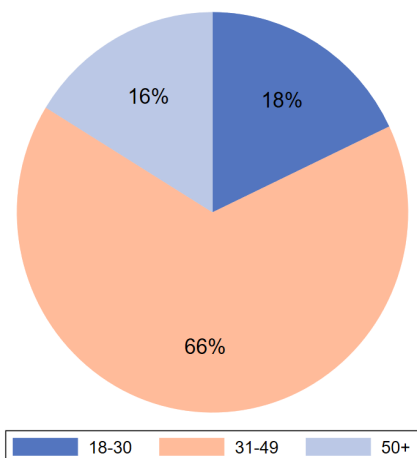
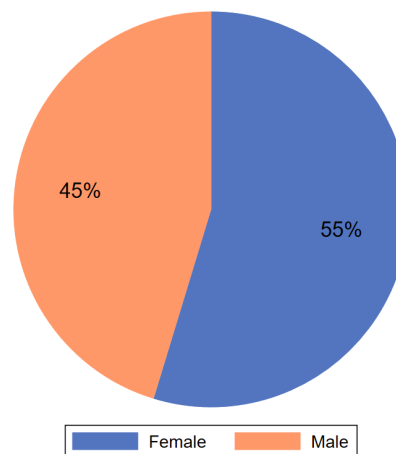


Figure 2. Reintegration monitoring respondents by sex



The types of reintegration assistance provided to beneficiaries can be split into three dimensions, based on the integrated approach to reintegration.⁶ 85 per cent of reintegration services provided in Mozambique under the Pilot Action addressed the economic dimension of reintegration in order to allow returnees to have a stable income and eventually reach economic self-sufficiency. This type of assistance consisted mainly of micro-business support on the individual level and was based on the needs of returnees who had clear preferences for receiving economic support. 14 per cent of the reintegration assistance was provided in the social dimension and a very limited number in the psychosocial dimension (see Figure 3). All respondents of the survey received reintegration counselling upon return from South Africa.

Figure 3. Reintegration assistance per dimension

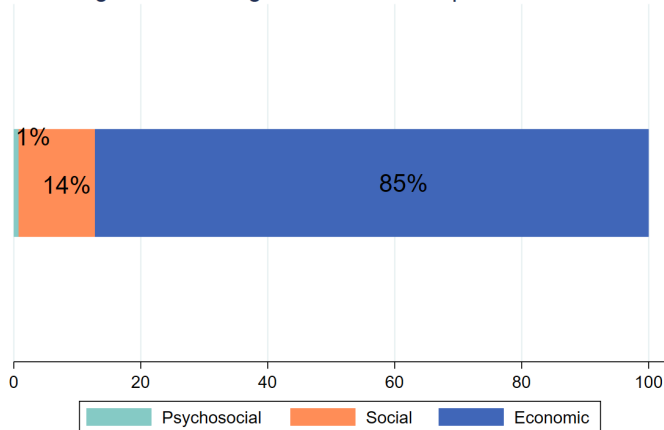
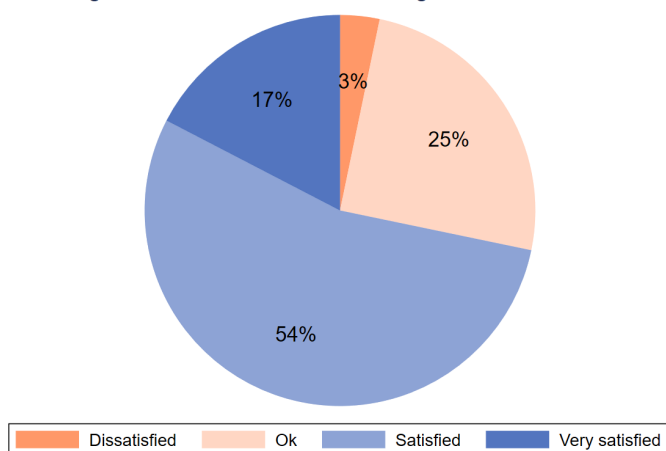


Figure 4. Satisfaction with reintegration assistance



⁶ See IOM, [Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Context of Return](#) (2016). IOM's integrated approach to reintegration addresses migrants' needs at the individual level, as part of their communities and within the overall structures of States in order to contribute to their sustainable reintegration. Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.



Overall, 71 per cent of beneficiaries were **satisfied with the reintegration assistance** they received, including 17 per cent who reported to be “very satisfied” (see Figure 4). The disaggregation of the data by age groups reveals that beneficiaries aged 50 years or older had the highest overall satisfaction levels (83%) while that share only stood at 50 per cent for the age group below 30 years (see Annex 2, Figure 12). Looking at sex-disaggregated data, satisfaction rates for female beneficiaries stand at 79 per cent as compared to 51 per cent for males (see Annex 2, Figure 13).

Overall, 66 per cent of respondents in Mozambique declared that the **reintegration assistance received met most or all of their needs** (see Annex 2, Figure 14). Responses from female returnees were again more positive with 75 per cent declaring that their needs have been mostly or fully met, compared to 53 per cent among their male counterparts. Disaggregating the data by age groups shows that only 33 per cent of respondents under the age of 31 declared that the reintegration assistance has met their needs mostly or fully. This value stands at 69 per cent for the age groups 31 to 49 and at 78 per cent for beneficiaries aged 50 years or older. Moreover, 66 per cent of respondents agreed that their **reintegration assistance has met their expectations** (see Annex 2, Figure 15). Looking at sex-disaggregated data shows that 75 per cent of females fully agree and another 25 per cent say that their expectations have been partly met. Among male respondents, on the other hand, only 53 per cent agree that their expectations have been fully met, 42 per cent say that this has only been the case to some extent and 5 per cent declare that their expectations have not been met.

In spite of the clear differences in the responses across demographic groups, a regression analysis revealed that only the indicator referring to whether respondents’ expectations regarding IOM’s reintegration assistance have been met or not displayed a statistically significant relationship with demographic factors.⁷ In fact, the share of male respondents agreeing that reintegration assistance has met their expectations was statistically significantly lower than that of females. Since there were no differences in the reintegration assistance provided to both sexes, this could indicate that female returnees had more realistic expectations regarding the reintegration assistance they would receive upon return to Mozambique. Apart from this, demographic factors do not sufficiently explain differences among returnees’ views on the reintegration assistance received.

Despite the overall positive outlook regarding the reintegration assistance received, the large majority of beneficiaries in Mozambique (85%) deemed that it was not delivered in a timely manner, flagging thus the weight of short-term reintegration needs after returning to the country of origin.

When looking at the relationship between the types of services received, especially in the social and psychosocial dimensions, and returnees’ views on their reintegration assistance, no statistically significant relationship is observed. Since all respondents received micro-business support, this type of assistance is likely the main determinant of their responses on whether they were satisfied, or their expectations and needs were met.

Reintegration sustainability

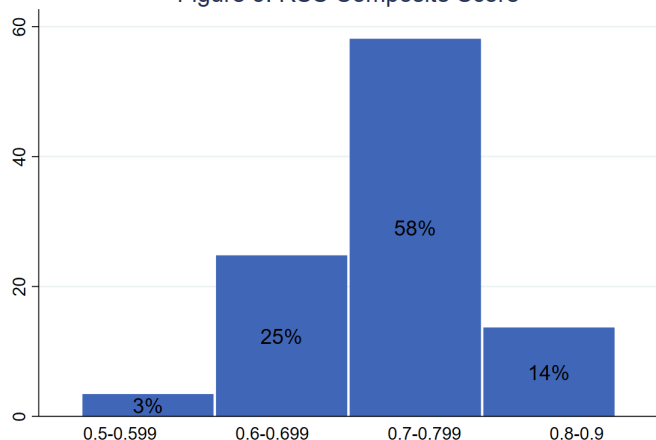
Overall sustainability

Overall, the reintegration sustainability outcomes of the respondents were positive as demonstrated by their composite RSS scores, which are computed from individual indicators in the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions. No beneficiary had a composite RSS score of lower than 0.50, indicating that their reintegration can be considered sustainable. The **average score for all respondents stands at 0.734** with the majority of respondents (83%) having achieved composite scores between 0.60 and 0.80 and 14 per cent of more than 0.80 (see Figure 5).

⁷ The demographic factors tested in the statistical analysis were sex, age and length of absence.



Figure 5. RSS Composite Score



Females have an average score of 0.75, with 86 per cent reaching a score of 0.70 or higher, compared to an average of 0.71 for males of whom only 55 per cent have a score equal or higher than 0.70. A statistical test of RSS scores by respondents' sex shows that there is a significant difference in the average composite scores of males and females. Female respondents who returned to Mozambique have achieved better overall reintegration sustainability outcomes than their male counterparts, particularly in the economic dimension.⁸

A regression analysis examining different demographic indicators shows that there is no statistically significant relationship between the respondents' age and their RSS scores. Instead, the sex and age variables correlate moderately, since females returning to Mozambique tend to be older than their male counterparts.⁹ This in turn means that the respondents' sex

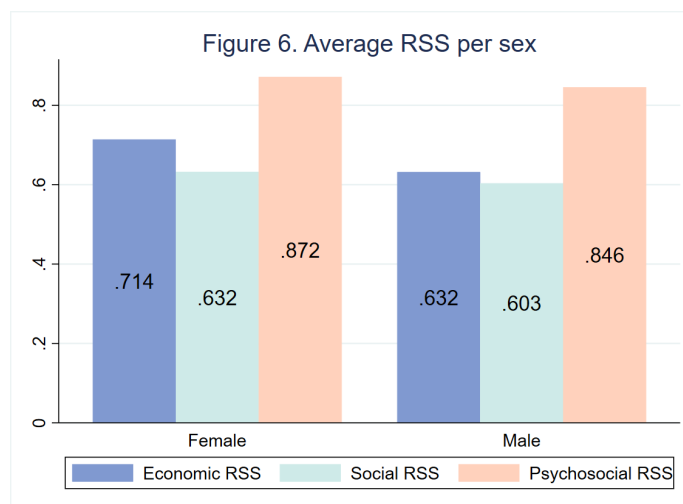
partly explains the better reintegration outcomes of the oldest age group (mean composite RSS score of 0.75) as compared to the youngest group (mean composite RSS score of 0.69).

As could be expected given the focus on economic reintegration assistance, there was a relatively strong statistically significant relationship between the returnees' satisfaction with the assistance received and their RSS score in the economic dimension: respondents who were satisfied with their reintegration assistance achieved consistently higher levels of economic reintegration sustainability. This relationship goes in both directions as respondents who have achieved a more sustainable reintegration in the economic dimension are more satisfied with the economic assistance received.¹⁰

Economic, social and psychosocial reintegration sustainability

In addition to the RSS composite score, there are three dimensional scores measuring economic, social and psychosocial reintegration sustainability. The **social dimension** reflects the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within their communities, including access to services relating to housing, education, justice, health and other public infrastructure services. The **economic dimension** covers aspects of reintegration which contribute to economic self-sufficiency. These include, among others, the ability to borrow money, the debt-to-spending ratio, need for food rationing,

Figure 6. Average RSS per sex



⁸ The model testing the effect of demographic indicators (age, sex, absence of length) on the *Reintegration Sustainability Survey* (RSS) scores explains 12 per cent of the variance of the RSS composite score, 15 per cent of the RSS economic score, 7 per cent of the RSS social score and 5 per cent of the RSS psychosocial score. The correlation coefficient, which shows the strength of association of two variables with values between +1 (positive) and -1 (negative), confirms this result. It reveals that the sex variable with female as the constant has a weak to moderate negative correlation with the RSS composite score (-0.327).

⁹ The sex and age variables have a correlation coefficient of -0.43 with the constant of the variable in the model being female.

¹⁰ Looking at the beta coefficient shows that a one unit increase of satisfaction rates with the reintegration assistance received (dissatisfied, ok, satisfied, very satisfied) among respondents increases their predicted economic RSS score by a value of 0.052.



adequacy of employment and ownership of productive assets. The **psychosocial dimension** of reintegration encompasses the emotional, mental, and psychological elements of reintegration.

When looking at the dimensional scores, the overall picture is still positive but more nuanced. They clearly reflect the sex differences in the sustainability of reintegration, with females achieving higher mean scores in the psychosocial and the economic dimensions, whereas there is no significant difference in the mean social RSS score (see Figure 6).¹¹

It is noteworthy that despite the relatively low number of psychosocial support activities carried out in Mozambique under the Pilot Action, beneficiaries reported high levels of psychosocial well-being with an **average psychosocial RSS score of 0.86**, which is the highest of the three categories (see Annex 3, Figure 20). No respondent scored lower than 0.50 and apart from several outliers, the range of psychosocial RSS scores achieved is relatively small, thus indicating consistently good reintegration results in this dimension (see Annex 3, Figure 22).

The **average RSS score for the economic dimension of reintegration stands at 0.68** with 91 per cent of beneficiaries having achieved a score equal or higher than 0.50 (see Annex 3, Figure 20) and relatively few beneficiaries who achieved only low economic RSS scores (see Annex 3, Figure 22). Among the respondents, 67 per cent are satisfied or very satisfied with their current economic situation, 30 per cent describe it as “ok” and 3 per cent are dissatisfied. While all respondents received reintegration assistance that allowed them to set up their own micro-business, additional micro-business training does not have a statistically significant positive effect on returnees’ economic reintegration sustainability.

Another noteworthy result of the analysis is the statistically significant negative relationship between psychosocial reintegration assistance and the returnees’ economic reintegration sustainability.¹² Respondents who received psychosocial assistance achieved lower average economic RSS scores. This finding hints at a reverse relationship due to additional psychosocial support needs of returnees who are facing difficulties in achieving economic self-sufficiency. A further analysis revealed that economic reintegration sustainability had a statistically significant relationship with two indicators for the individual psychosocial well-being of returnees: Those respondents who reported more frequent family conflicts as well as those who more often had symptoms of psychosocial distress have on average achieved lower economic RSS scores.¹³

The insertion of returnees into social support networks has a statistically significant positive effect on their economic reintegration sustainability. Returnees who reported that they have strong social networks in their communities of origin reached higher overall levels of economic reintegration sustainability as compared to those who were less well integrated.¹⁴ This may be the case because a better social integration into such networks gives returnees access to more information on economic opportunities in their communities and areas of return and thus better opportunities for developing and expanding their micro-businesses.

The RSS score in the **social dimension of beneficiaries had the lowest average value of 0.62**. While more than 98 per cent of respondents had a score of equal or more than 0.50, eight returnees were below this threshold and thus cannot be considered to have reached social stability within their communities. The respondents’ social reintegration sustainability was not influenced by any of the factors analysed in this Knowledge Bite. An explanation for this is that the indicators measuring returnees’ social reintegration sustainability relate to the availability, accessibility and quality of basic public services. This hints at a further need for interventions at the structural level aiming to improve the service delivery by local authorities, which in turn facilitates the returnees’ reintegration into their communities of origin.

¹¹ The correlation coefficient reveals a weak to moderate relationship between sex and the RSS economic score (-0.327) and the RSS psychosocial score (-0.229), *female* being the constant.

¹² The correlation coefficient between the psychosocial reintegration assistance and the economic RSS score indicates a weak negative relationship of -0.26. The beta coefficient of the regression analysis shows that the provision of psychosocial reintegration assistance (as a categorical variable denoting either its presence or absence) decreases the predicted economic RSS score by a value of 0.23.

¹³ The two variables *satisfaction with the individual economic situation* and *frequency of symptoms of psychosocial distress* have a statistically significant relationship, with a Cramer’s V value of 0.53 indicating a strong association.

¹⁴ The relationship between the dummy variable insertion into social support networks has a beta coefficient of 0.25.



2.2 Insights from Malawi

Assisted voluntary return

The second country of origin to which migrants were assisted to return voluntarily from South Africa under the Pilot Action was Malawi. The *AVR Programme Monitoring Survey* respondents are aged between 14 and 62 years with 5 per cent being children, 39 per cent of returnees falling under the 18 to 30 years age bracket and 52 per cent being aged between 31 and 49 years. 80 per cent of respondents are male. The average length of absence before returning to Malawi was 3.2 years and the average age of returnees at departure was 33 years.

Overall, the beneficiaries who took part in the survey were very satisfied with the return assistance provided under the Pilot Action, with 100 per cent declaring that they have been **able to return in a safe manner** and 99 per cent affirming that the **departure was timely** (from the initial counselling to the travel). Moreover, 95 per cent of beneficiaries were **satisfied or very satisfied with pre-departure counselling** and 90 per cent of **respondents felt like they could leave the programme at any time before return**. 98 per cent of beneficiaries were satisfied or very satisfied with the **travel arrangements** and 97 per cent agreed that they have been provided with **sufficient and useful information to take an informed decision** to return. 94 per cent of respondents declared that they felt that IOM staff cared about their **well-being** and 96 per cent confirmed that IOM staff treated them with **respect**.

Reintegration

Among the respondents of the *Reintegration Programme Monitoring Survey*, the largest two age groups were those aged between 31 and 49 years (50%) and those aged between 18 and 30 years (41%) (see Figure 7). The share of males stood at 83 per cent as compared to 17 per cent of female respondents (see Figure 8). Nine beneficiaries of reintegration assistance who participated in the surveys were unaccompanied and/or separated children.¹⁵

Figure 7. Reintegration monitoring respondents by age group

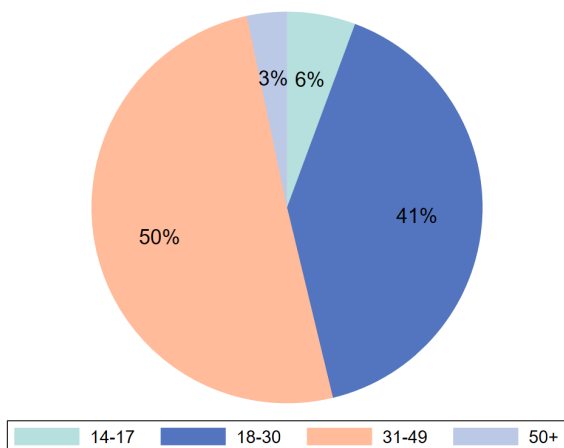
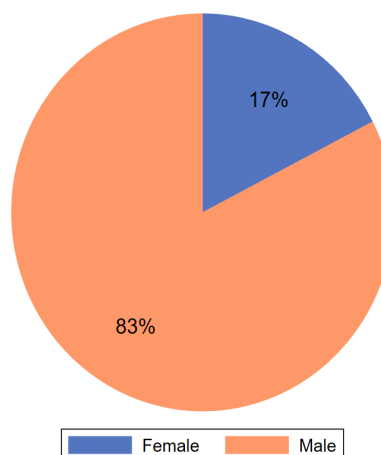


Figure 8. Reintegration monitoring respondents by sex



¹⁵ At the time the beneficiaries of the Pilot Action were surveyed there were no child-specific reintegration indicators in place. In cooperation with Samuel Hall and Save the Children and with funding from the European Union, the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub has [released](#) in late August 2021 a [Monitoring Toolkit for the Sustainable Reintegration of Child Returnees](#). It includes a number of additional RSS indicators to capture the experiences of children and more accurately measure their reintegration outcomes in the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions.



Reintegration assistance in Malawi was mainly provided in the economic (50%) and in the psychosocial dimensions (48%) in order to allow returnees to have access to income generating activities upon return and to reinsert themselves into personal support networks. Only 2 per cent of reintegration services provided were aimed at the social dimension (see Figure 9). The specific support measures consisted of reintegration counselling (158 respondents), psychosocial assistance (201 respondents), micro-business support (210 respondents) and cash grants (11 respondents), medical assistance (1 respondent), childcare (4 respondents), child education (3 respondents) and vocational training (1 respondent).

Figure 9. Reintegration assistance per dimension

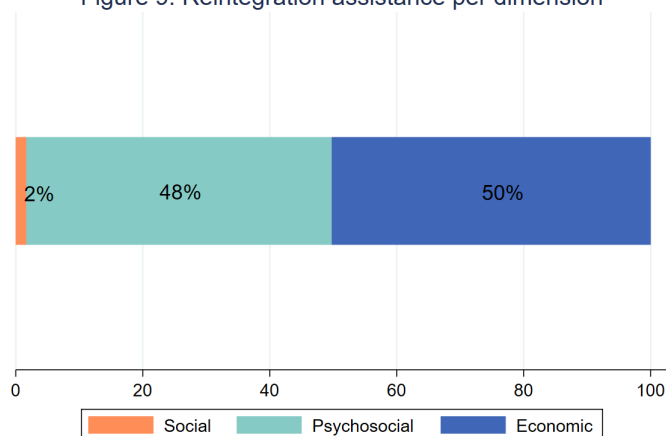
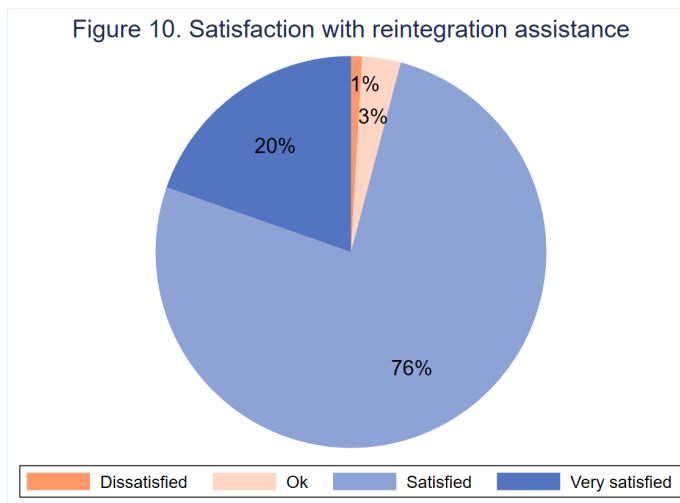


Figure 10. Satisfaction with reintegration assistance



Overall, 96 per cent of the returnees who participated in the Reintegration Programme Satisfaction Survey reported to be satisfied or very satisfied with the reintegration assistance they received (see Figure 10). There are only minor differences between age groups and the share of those who reported to be satisfied with the reintegration assistance was highest among the youngest and the oldest age groups (see Annex 2, Figure 16). When looking at sex-disaggregated data, the differences in responses are also only marginal (see Annex 2, Figure 17).

77 per cent of respondents agree that the reintegration assistance has met their expectations and 18 per cent say that it did so partly (see Annex 2, Figure 19). The share of males reporting that their expectations have been met (79%) is 12 points higher than that of females (67%). Looking at age-disaggregated data, there are only small differences with the notable exception of the over-50 age group, which displayed the lowest share of respondents agreeing that their expectations were fully met (63%).

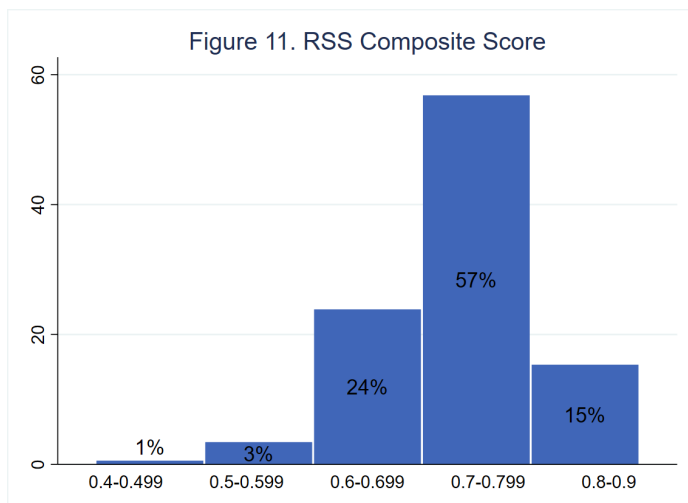
84 per cent of respondents reported that their needs have been fully or mostly met by the reintegration assistance received (see Annex 2, Figure 18). There is only a very small difference between male and female respondents. Looking at age-disaggregated data, the share of those agreeing that their needs have been met is lower among older age groups. While that value stands at 86 per cent for those aged between 18 and 30 years, it stands at 75 per cent those who are 50 years or older. A total of 79 per cent of respondents agreed that the reintegration assistance was provided in a timely manner. Overall, the differences between demographic groups across the reported satisfaction levels with the reintegration assistance received are only marginal and no demographic factor displayed a statistically significant relationship with one of the indicators presented above.



Reintegration sustainability

Overall sustainability

Overall, the reintegration sustainability outcomes of the respondents were positive (see Figure 11). Only one beneficiary had a composite RSS lower than 0.50, indicating that the surveyed beneficiaries' reintegration into their communities of origin can be considered sustainable. The **average score for all respondents stands at 0.73** with the majority having achieved scores between 0.60 and 0.80 (80%) and 16 per cent reaching scores above 0.80. Looking at sex-disaggregated data shows that male respondents reached more sustainable reintegration outcomes with an average score of 0.74 as compared to an average of 0.70 of their female counterparts. This difference in the average RSS composite scores between



males and females is statistically significant and shows that the relatively few female respondents have achieved lower levels of reintegration sustainability than their male counterparts.¹⁶ Apart from this, there were no other correlations between demographic factors, or the types of IOM assistance provided, and the reintegration outcomes of respondents.

Economic, social and psychosocial sustainability

Looking at dimensional RSS scores shows that the **economic dimension** has the lowest average score of 0.60. The average RSS score in the **social dimension**, on the other hand, stands at 0.68, and the psychosocial dimension at 0.80, thus having a noteworthy positive effect on the average composite RSS score (see Annex 3, Figures 20 – 21). Looking at age-disaggregated data, there are generally only minor differences in the scores across age groups. Exceptions are the comparatively low social RSS score of the 14 to 17 years age group as well as the low economic RSS score of respondents who are older than 50 years. Looking at sex-disaggregated data shows that females have overall lower average scores in the economic and psychosocial dimensions as compared to male respondents.

The statistical analysis revealed two noteworthy findings. First, the provision of micro-business training has a statistically significant, albeit weak, positive effect on Malawian returnees' reintegration sustainability in the psychosocial dimension, but not in the economic dimension.¹⁷ It would be worth further investigating what this relationship looks like and how micro-business training helps returnees achieve better psychosocial reintegration outcomes. Second, collective reintegration assistance,¹⁸ which was provided to 9 per cent of the respondents, has a positive effect on their economic and social reintegration sustainability.¹⁹

Another interesting finding is that respondents who indicated that their reintegration assistance was provided in a timely manner achieved higher mean RSS scores in the social and economic dimensions than those who did not deem their reintegration assistance timely. This shows the importance of satisfying short-term needs of beneficiaries in addition to allowing them to set up their micro-businesses as quickly as possible after returning to their countries of origin.

¹⁶ The respondents' sex and their RSS composite score has a correlation coefficient of 0.15 (with female as the constant), which indicates a weak relationship between the two variables.

¹⁷ Micro-business training and the psychosocial RSS score have a correlation coefficient of 0.15.

¹⁸ Collective reintegration assistance refers to assistance provided to several returning migrants as a group.

¹⁹ The beta coefficients of collective reintegration assistance stand at 0.08 for the social RSS score and 0.1 for the economic RSS score.



2.4 Limitations

The main limitation of this study is the availability of data on the central institutional information management system. The relatively small size of the datasets, that is, the low total number of observations, affects the extent to which the data is representative of reintegration outcomes of migrants assisted to return to Mozambique and Malawi under the Pilot Action. This in turn reduces the degree of generalizability of the results of the statistical analysis to all migrants assisted to return from South Africa to these two countries.²⁰ A further limitation is the data quality and completeness, specifically with regards to indicators that may be difficult to detect, such as vulnerabilities of migrants. Moreover, data for some variables has not been consistently gathered across observations, which left gaps in the datasets and made it necessary to drop observations from the analysis.

Finally, like most beneficiary monitoring tools, the *AVR Programme Surveys*, the *Reintegration Programme Surveys* and the *RSS* take the form of self-evaluations by the returnee. This type of assessment could be susceptible to *self-reporting bias*²¹ and *social desirability bias*.²²

3. CONCLUSIONS

The return monitoring data reveals some interesting demographic differences between returnees to Mozambique and returnees to Malawi. The former had a slightly higher share of female respondents, whereas the latter were largely composed of males. Moreover, there are striking differences in the average length of absence before return and the average age of returnees at departure. Those respondents to the *AVR Monitoring Survey* who returned to Mozambique had an average stay in South Africa of 10 years and an average age of 39 years. Returnees to Malawi, on the other hand, had a much shorter average length of absence of around 3 years and an average age of 33 years. Generally, both groups of returnees displayed very high satisfaction levels with the voluntary return assistance provided under the Pilot Action, which were consistently above 90 per cent and for most indicators close to 100 per cent.

The types of reintegration assistance provided under the Pilot Action for the two groups of returnees differed. In Mozambique, assistance was almost exclusively focused on the economic dimension and hardly comprised any additional reintegration support services. In Malawi, on the other hand, IOM delivered an equal amount of psychosocial support activities and economic reintegration assistance. The focus of economic assistance in both countries lies on micro-business support, which allows returnees to set up their own businesses as a way to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The accompanying micro-business trainings, however, did not seem to improve economic reintegration outcomes of respondents in either of the two countries.

There were clear differences between the respondents who returned to Mozambique and Malawi regarding the overall satisfaction with the reintegration assistance provided. While 96 per cent of respondents in Malawi reported being satisfied with the reintegration assistance received, this share was 17 points lower in Mozambique where 72 per cent of respondents reported to be satisfied or very satisfied. Moreover, analysing the reintegration satisfaction data reveals a noteworthy trend in relation to differences across demographic indicators in Mozambique. Although the satisfaction with the reintegration assistance among returnees to Mozambique is overall lower, female returnees have relatively higher satisfaction levels as compared to Malawi. In concrete numbers it means that in Mozambique 79 per cent of females and only 51 per cent of males were satisfied, whereas in Malawi those values for both sexes were relatively close (93% for females and 99% for males).

²⁰ A total of 486 migrants were assisted to return from South Africa to Malawi under the Pilot Action, of whom 446 received reintegration assistance. The number of returnees to Mozambique assisted under the Pilot Action stands at 284, of whom 255 received reintegration assistance.

²¹ A response bias that occurs when the participant's self-reported answers deviate from the truth.

²² A response bias that influences participants to choose responses that reflect what they believe is more socially desirable or acceptable rather than their true thoughts and feelings.



When interpreting the reintegration satisfaction outcomes, it is important to keep in mind the fundamentally different contexts of return and reintegration in Malawi and Mozambique. The latter has a history of circular migration with South Africa, making it affordable for migrants to move back and forth and thus enabling returnees to remigrate if they wish to do so. For those who return to Malawi, on the other hand, remigrating to South Africa is more difficult and costly. This may lead to lower expectations regarding the reintegration assistance among Malawians as compared to their counterparts in Mozambique who can more easily remigrate in case they are not satisfied with their reintegration (see Annex 2, Figure 15; Annex 3, Figure 19). In spite of these differences in reintegration satisfaction levels, looking at the composite RSS scores for both countries reveals similar levels of reintegration sustainability. The respondents from Mozambique had an average score of 0.734 and those from Malawi of 0.732 (see Annex 3, Figure 21). This means that the reintegration of both groups into their countries and communities of origin can be considered sustainable at the time of data collection. In both countries the differences in the mean composite RSS scores by sex are statistically significant, but in different directions. In Mozambique, female respondents have an average composite RSS score of 0.75 as compared to 0.71 for males. This picture changes when looking at Malawi where female respondents have an average score of 0.70 and males of 0.74 (see Table 1).

Looking at the RSS scores in the economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions reveals statistically significant differences in the mean scores between the two countries (see Annex 3, Figure 23). Although more **psychosocial reintegration** support was provided to returnees to Malawi, their average psychosocial reintegration sustainability score was lower (0.80) than that of their counterparts in Mozambique (0.86) who received almost no assistance in that dimension. This finding is confirmed by the regression analysis, which shows that psychosocial support activities had no statistically significant effect on the psychosocial RSS score in Malawi. In Mozambique, on the other hand, psychosocial assistance is negatively associated with sustainable reintegration outcomes in the economic dimensions. In addition to the negative association between psychosocial assistance and economic reintegration sustainability, this result hints at a *simultaneity bias*: returnees in need of and assisted with psychosocial support are more likely to have lower reintegration scores.²³

In Mozambique, returnees achieved an average score of 0.68 for their economic reintegration sustainability as compared to 0.65 among returnees to Malawi. Finally, the average RSS score in the **social dimension** for returnees to Malawi stands at 0.68 as compared to a score of 0.62 of those returning to Mozambique. A regression analysis confirms that, all other things being equal, returning to Malawi (as compared to Mozambique) has a statistically significant positive effect on the social RSS score of returnees. This indicates a more sustainable social reintegration of respondents who returned to Malawi, whereas their economic reintegration can be considered less sustainable than that of their counterparts in Mozambique.

Table 1. RSS scores by country of origin and sex

Country of origin	Sex	Average economic RSS	Average social RSS	Average psychosocial RSS	Average composite RSS
Mozambique	Female	0.71	0.63	0.87	0.75
	Male	0.63	0.6	0.85	0.71
	Total	0.68	0.62	0.86	0.734
Malawi	Female	0.61	0.68	0.76	0.71
	Male	0.66	0.68	0.81	0.74
	Total	0.65	0.68	0.80	0.732

²³ The results of a statistical analysis of 16 countries of origin in [Knowledge Bite #1](#) revealed a similar pattern with those returnees who received psychosocial support achieving on average lower reintegration sustainability scores.



It is important to keep in mind that all three dimensions are interrelated and cannot be analysed without considering this interrelationship. For example, economic success can equally influence the psychosocial well-being of individual returnees, which in turn explains the differences in psychosocial reintegration outcomes across countries. Furthermore, it is worth conducting further analysis to investigate the disparities in reintegration satisfaction and sustainability outcomes with a particular view to sex differences. Given the comparatively low social RSS scores in both countries and the fact that hardly any reintegration assistance was provided in the social dimension, further efforts are needed to readjust reintegration programming in that direction and to facilitate interventions at the structural level that contribute to the improvement of basic public services. Together this would help returnees reach higher levels of social stability within their communities and better access to public services.



ANNEX 1: DATASETS

Table 2. Dataset observation numbers per survey and country

Region of Origin	Country of Origin	No. of observations
AVR monitoring survey	Mozambique	177
	Malawi	239
AVR satisfaction survey	Mozambique	177
	Malawi	252
Reintegration monitoring survey	Mozambique	117
	Malawi	227
Reintegration satisfaction survey	Mozambique	92
	Malawi	212
RSS survey	Mozambique	117
	Malawi	178
Merged - Reintegration surveys (Monitoring, satisfaction, RSS)	Mozambique	92
	Malawi	118



ANNEX 2: REINTEGRATION SATISFACTION LEVELS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Figure 12. Satisfaction with reintegration assistance by age group

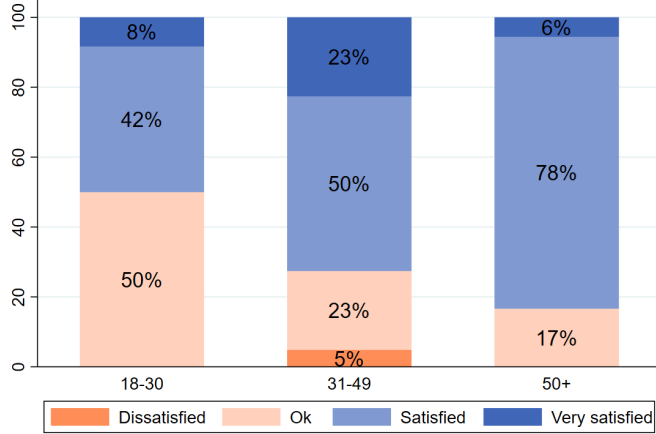


Figure 13. Satisfaction with reintegration assistance by sex

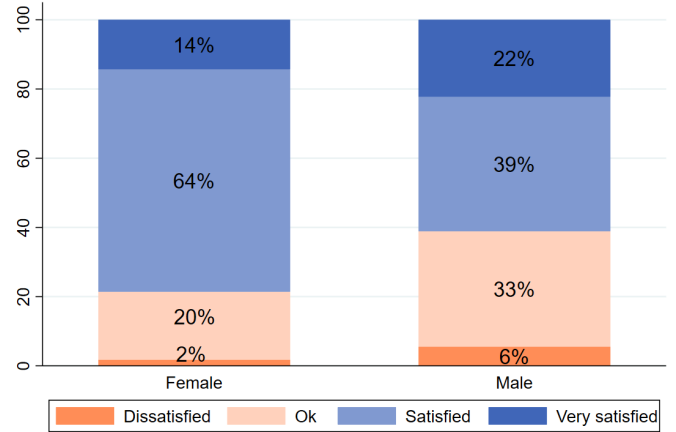


Figure 14. Reintegration assistance met returnees' needs

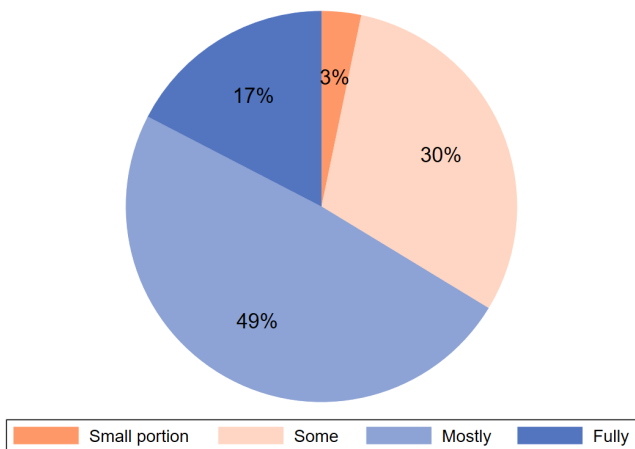
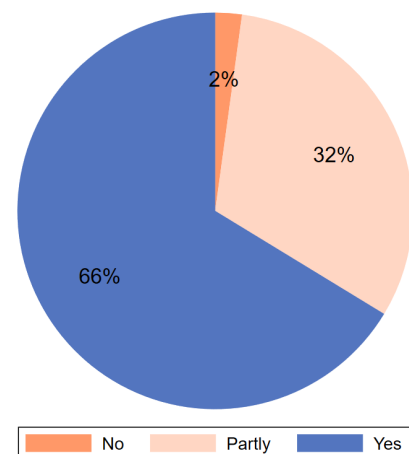
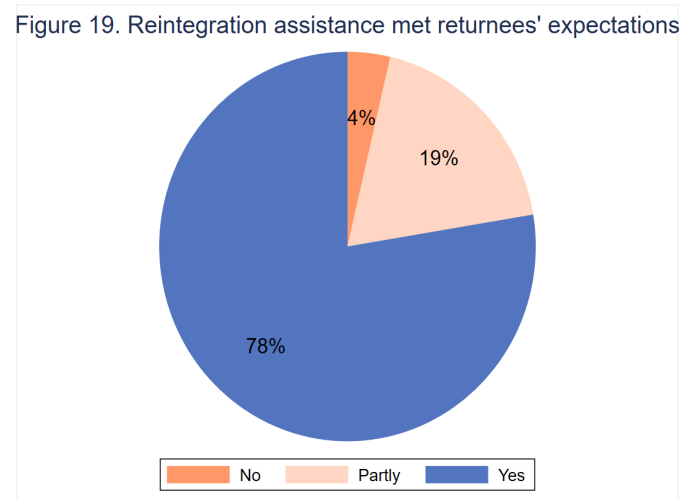
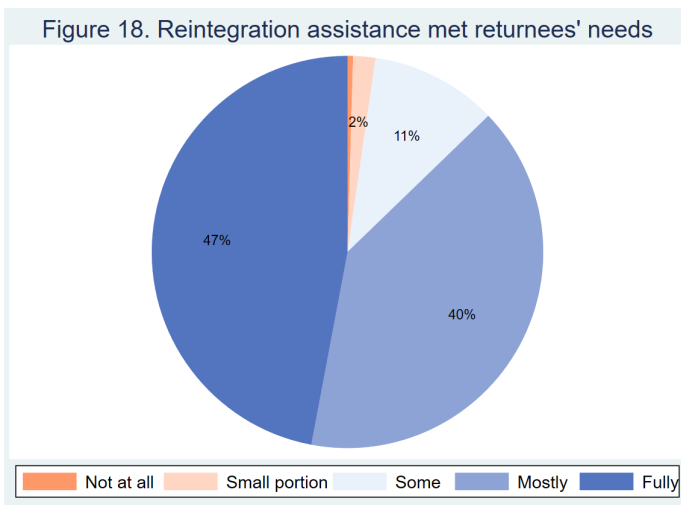
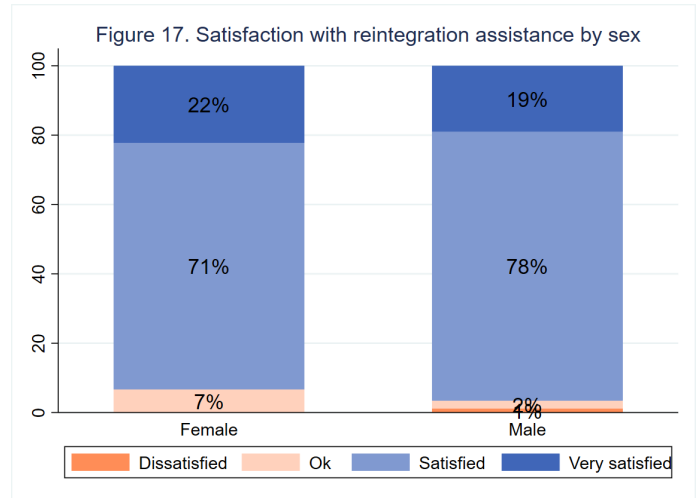
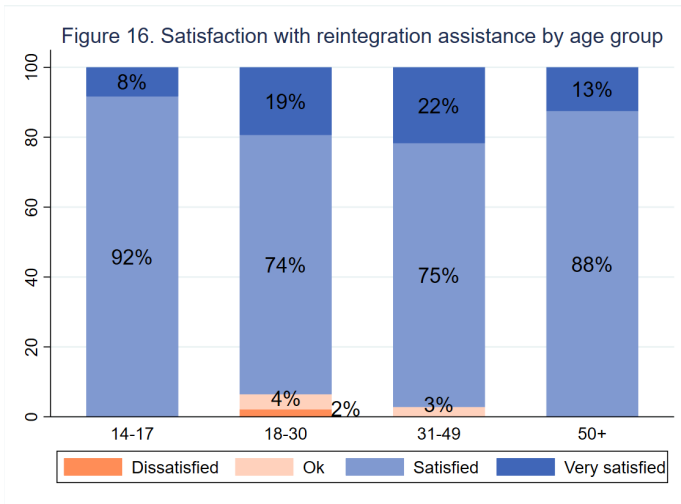


Figure 15. Reintegration assistance met returnees' expectations





ANNEX 3: REINTEGRATION SATISFACTION LEVELS IN MALAWI





ANNEX 4: RSS SCORES ACROSS MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE

Figure 20. RSS scores by dimension and country of origin

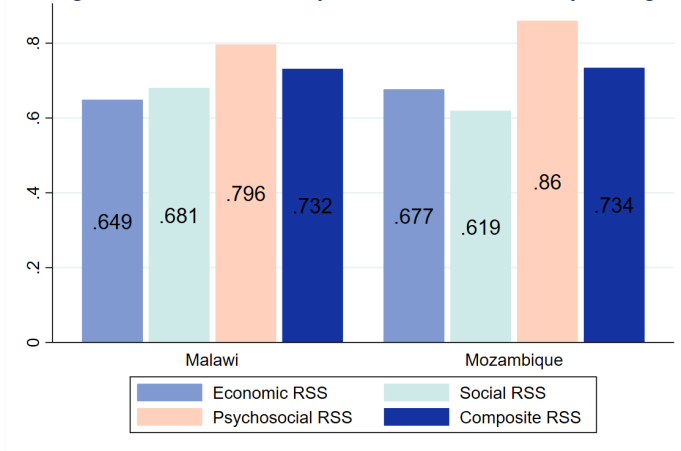


Figure 21. Total average RSS scores

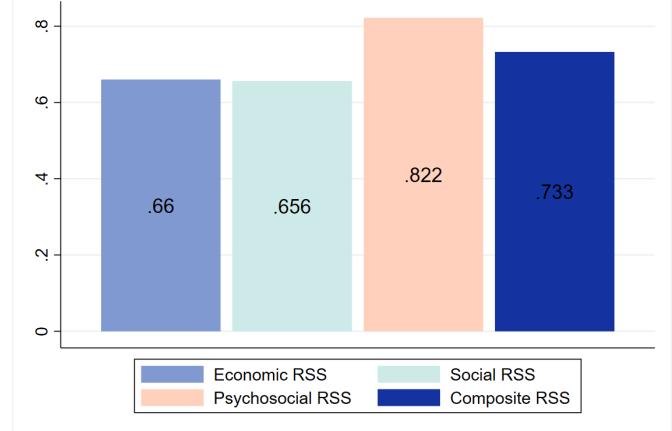


Figure 22. Average RSS scores

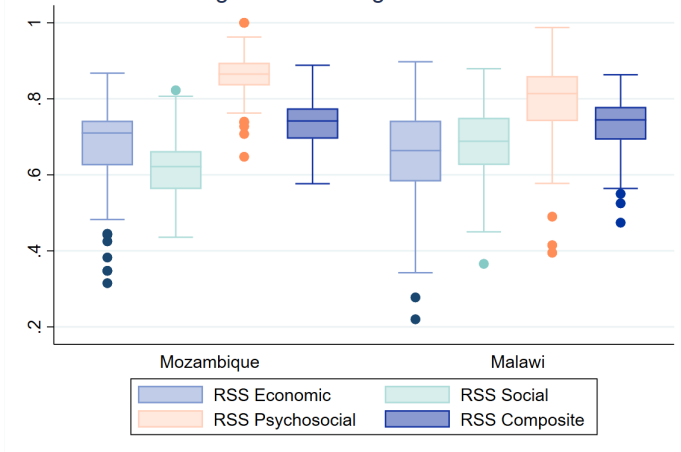


Figure 23. Average RSS scores

