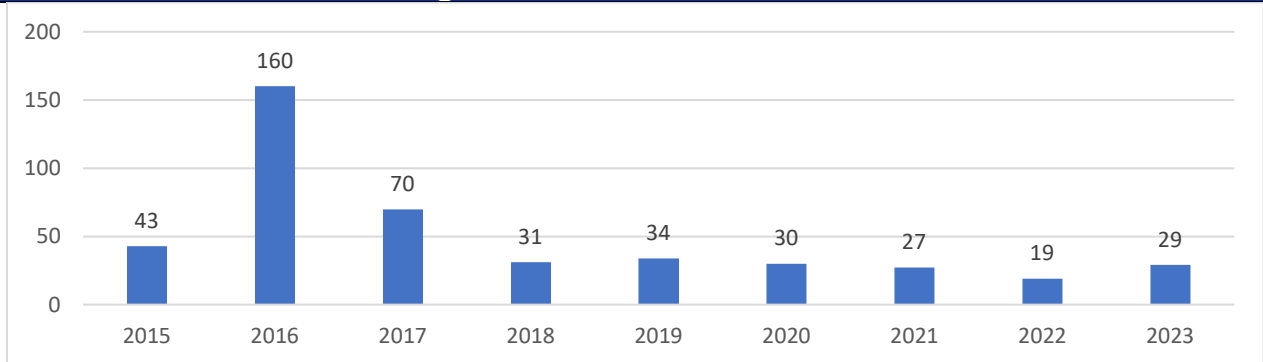




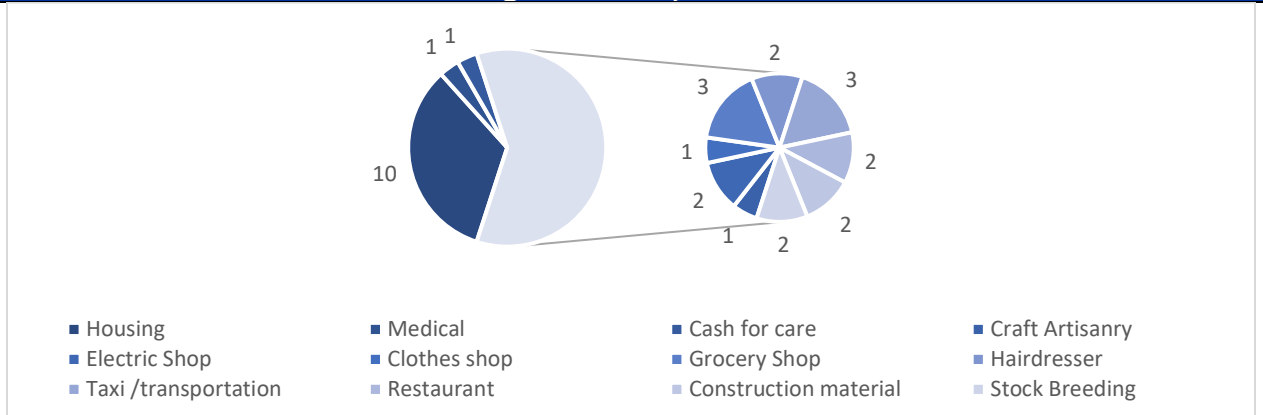
Reintegration Assistance – Flat Funding 2023 –Iraq

- **Implementation support for 29 reintegration projects** in 2023 (for a total of USD 87'368), for 29 men, 4 women, and 2 children.
- **Return operations for 5 cases** (4 men, 1 women, and 1 child)
- IOM Iraq was supported through a **Swiss flat funding** of USD 122,320 in 2023
- **Vocational training** for 25 returnees (3 female, 22 male) was conducted in the framework of the flat funding
- 34% of the beneficiaries returned to **Erbil Governorate**, while 24% returned to **Dohuk**, and another 42% to **Sulaymaniyah**.
- **Grocery shop** is one of the most common business adopted by returnees from Switzerland, but the rate of **changes of the initial business plan** is high This could be explained with false expectations about the situation in Iraq (only 8 requests of clarification before return to Iraq were received in 2023), but also through the influence of the family of Iraqi returnees who often have large say in the decision of the business project.

Reintegration Cases from 2015 to 2023



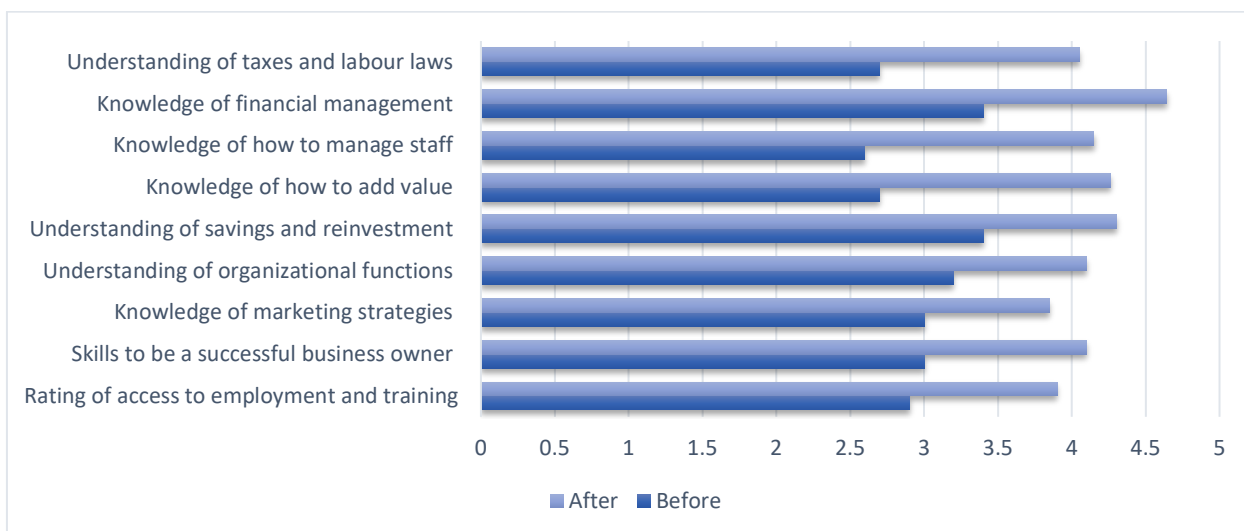
Reintegration Projects in 2023



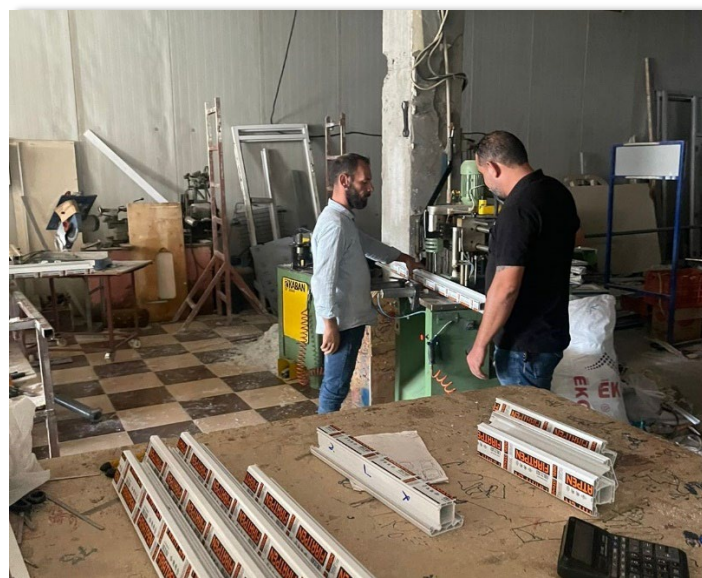
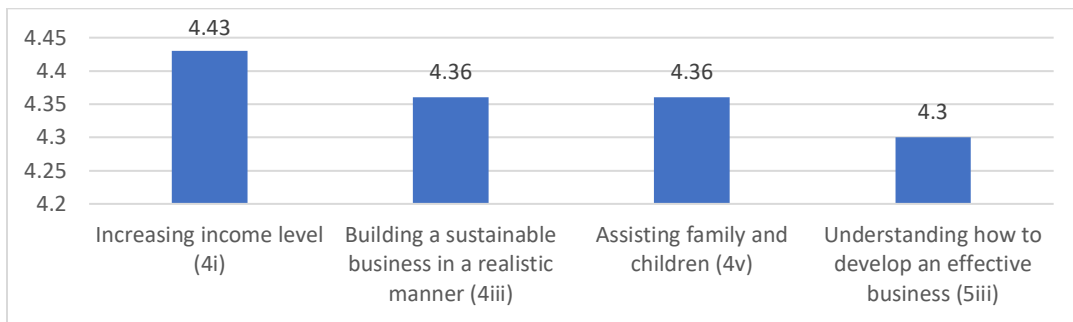


Business Training Results

- A total of 25 returnees (3 female, 22 male) **25 individual vocational training sessions** took place in 2023 with a high overall satisfaction of the training by the participants (3 female, 22 male; satisfaction score 4,6)
- Three participants were female and 22 were male, the majority of the persons were between 35 and 44 years old; while 6 beneficiaries were between 25 and 34 and only 3 beneficiaries were older than 45.
- The most common training was language training (English or Arab) for 13 persons active in sales projects with needs for relevant language skills. Four beneficiaries learned about hairdressing and/or barbing techniques, another four took technical courses (metal/PVC fabrication, installations or repair/maintenance). Two persons took driving lessons to add deliveries to their business projects and two were trained in tailoring. Cf. impressions below.
- Before and after the training returnees were asked to answer a short questionnaire. The graph below shows the knowledge and abilities as an 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).



- Most beneficiaries have improved their knowledge through business training, such as the understanding underlying structures as taxes/laws and reinvestment or their knowledge of business management including staff, and finances.
- Asking about concrete results through what was learned during the business training, results show that the business training had a good impact on beneficiaries' business, because it allowed them for instance to understand how to develop an effective business or assist their family.





Socio-economic Orientation & Psychosocial Support

- This component was added based on **recommendations from the monitoring trip** to Iraq in November 2022. In that context, it was stated that returnees are often confronted with discrimination as “unsuccessful returnees” within the family and society in general. Returnees to Iraq often face complex demands and high pressure, which requires adequate treatment.
- A total of **24 persons** (5 female, 19 male) benefitted from new activities towards orientation and psychosocial support in Iraq in 2023.
- The returned migrants were assisted by two specialized teams of IOM Iraq in **three different cities** (Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah) during one-day workshops comprising the following:
 1. Socio-economic orientation session and
 2. basic psychosocial support.
- The combined orientation adopted to bring together the past, the present and the future linking the effects of the past towards a positive perspective was highly appreciated by the returnees.
 1. The first part of the orientation part provided guidance for the beneficiaries on **preparation for job opportunities** in the current situation and business start-up induction to empower participants with practical insights and essentials of starting a small business. Through real-life examples and shared experiences, they also were taught about the fundamental aspects of entrepreneurship. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of how to initiate a small business or expand the current ones they have, including the requisite skills and financial considerations.
 2. In the second part of the session, different aspects related to **mental health** and how they relate to the experience of migration were discussed. This included talking about feelings when returning home and leading participants towards **strategies of coping with psychological reactions to return** (stress, anxiety, depression). The IOM MHPSS trainers encouraged participants to openly share their experiences and daily routines, as well as techniques they use to manage stress. Information about referral to psychologists and how to reach out to these professionals for expert support concluded the session.

