RRF
RETURN AND REINTEGRATION FACILITY
TWG R&D

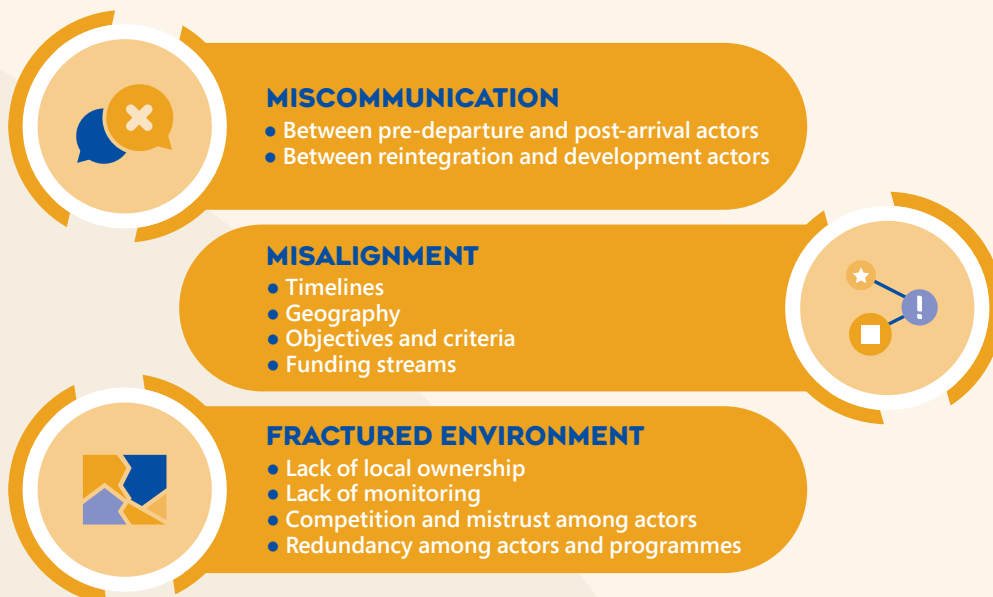# OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK REINTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN A NUTSHELL

❓ WHAT IS THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK REINTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT?

The **Operational Framework Reintegration & Development** (OF) is the **main deliverable** of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Reintegration and Development (R&D).

Designed to offer practitioners **actionable and directly applicable guidance**, it presents practical ways on how the reintegration and development sectors could work together. Specifically, it describes how to connect returning migrants with relevant services available in their country of origin (CoO), whilst **assisting** EU Member States (MS) in aligning their planning and activities, from pre-departure to post-arrival.

KEY DILEMMAS ADDRESSED IN THE OF

Three main dilemmas were raised from the TWG R&D meetings and interviews with members and stakeholders:

MISCOMMUNICATION
- Between pre-departure and post-arrival actors
- Between reintegration and development actors

MISALIGNMENT
- Timelines
- Geography
- Objectives and criteria
- Funding streams

FRACTURED ENVIRONMENT
- Lack of local ownership
- Lack of monitoring
- Competition and mistrust among actors
- Redundancy among actors and programmes

They address the following challenges:

- How can R&D actors work better together vis-à-vis referral mechanisms?

- What is the framework where development and migration/return agencies could work together in a complementary manner, for stronger referral mechanisms and thus better reintegration outcomes?

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS: SETTING THE STAGES

The **OF** moves from the geographical phases of return and reintegration (pre-departure and post-arrival) to implementing activities covering the full spectrum of the return and reintegration process. It focuses on **four stages** of operational planning.

PRE-DESIGN → **DESIGN** → **IMPLEMENTATION** → **MONITORING**

TWG R&D Members can use the **OF** as a framework for planning each of these phases of **referral mechanisms**. These stages ensure a **holistic design and implementation process**, as well as adequate and independent **monitoring** of the mechanism.

REFERRAL MECHANISMS

Referral mechanisms are central to the Operational Framework Reintegration & Development and they are a key practical links connecting R&D fields. They aim at:

1 ENABLING ACCESS TO DECENT WORK AND LIVELIHOODS

2 SUPPORTING THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL NEEDS OF RETURNEES BY GRANTING THEM ACCESS TO A CONTINUUM OF MULTIPLE SERVICES

3 FOSTERING OWNERSHIP BY COO ACTORS

Referral mechanisms need to meet four requirements:

1.
Written agreements,
with a focus on standard operating procedures.

2.
Coordination
across an ecosystem of actors, with a focus on local ownership.

3.
Pre-departure and post-arrival linkages,
with a focus on planning and eligibility guidelines.

4.
Multi-dimensional programming,
with an emphasis on monitoring.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK REINTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

1. **OPERATIONAL STANDARDS** to establish effective referrals between R&D initiatives, besides strengthening practical and operational links between the R&D sectors.

2. **ECOSYSTEM OF VARIOUS ACTORS** to allow for stronger connections between R&D and to bolster coherence and synergy between them:
   - R&D actors;
   - International, national and local stakeholders;
   - Returnees and their communities;
   - Specialists of targeted sectors (e.g. education, health, livelihood) and sub-groups.

3. **STANDARD PROCESSES SUGGESTED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE OF** to learn from and examples of good practices, lessons learnt and recommendations that can serve as a baseline for key indicators.

STANDARD PROCESSES SUGGESTED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE OF

1. PRE-DESIGN	2. DESIGN	3. IMPLEMENTATION	4. MONITORING
STEP 1 Programme mapping	**STEP 3** Validating priority areas and streamlining eligibility criteria	**STEP 6** Identifying referral systems that can be considered as "development referrals"	**STEP 8** Establishing a quality monitoring framework
STEP 2 Scenario planning	**STEP 4** Developing government to government initiatives	**STEP 7** Promoting national and hub-based referral systems	**STEP 9** Agreeing on common and key performance indicators
	STEP 5 Establishing a cooperation model with local cooperation and sub-mechanisms		**STEP 10** Ensuring independent evaluation and learning throughout

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK REINTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE RRF

- The **OF** is a common framework on which future referral mechanisms can build, and where reintegration actors can further contextualise their interventions for effective interaction with countries of origin and with support from development actors;
- The **OF** sets out common standards from which R&D actors can base their cooperation and collaboration, across time (from pre-departure to post-arrival) and space (from countries of destination to countries of origin);
- Under the umbrella of the **RRF**, the **TWG R&D** will continue its work and mission to foster synergies between the two sectors, as well as enriching sustainable reintegration opportunities for returnees.