



Brief description of the concept for an integrated approach concerning the return and reintegration of unaccompanied minors to Morocco

Overall objective

Creating structures to admit and take care of street children in Morocco and unaccompanied minors returning from Germany

Project management

Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) / Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Project partners

- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)
- Ministry for Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sport of North Rhine-Westphalia (MFKJKS)
- Ministry of the Interior and Local Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia (MIK)
- other federal states, where appropriate
- other EU member states, where appropriate
- EU Commission, where appropriate

Duration

3 years (2017-2020)

Implementation of the project

Service provider (NGO)

Target groups

Minor Moroccan citizens who

- are in a **vulnerable** situation in Morocco (homeless, orphaned, difficult family circumstances);
- reside unlawfully in the Federal Republic of Germany (unaccompanied minors) and wish to return **voluntarily** to their country of origin;
- reside unlawfully in the Federal Republic of Germany (unaccompanied minors) and, according to youth welfare authorities, should be **returned** and taken care of in their countries of origin (this applies in particular to offenders).

Detailed list of the objectives

- Fighting root causes of flight / preventing irregular migration
 - Creating a long-term perspective for young homeless persons by providing admission and care facilities in Morocco

- Consistently returning young offenders to send a clear signal to human smuggling organizations who deliberately smuggle to Germany minor / non-vulnerable unaccompanied minors from third countries
- Improving the living conditions of families and children in Morocco and establishing and expanding a functioning youth welfare system
- Reintegration/rehabilitation measures in conjunction with existing return/reintegration programmes (e.g. REAG/GARP, ERIN)
 - Helping unaccompanied minors returning voluntarily from Germany to Morocco with social and economic reintegration
 - Helping minor unaccompanied offenders who are forcibly returned from Germany to Morocco with rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration
- Harmonization at EU level
 - Identifying best practices in the field of voluntary/forced return of unaccompanied minors and coordinating approaches among EU member states in this area

Components of the project

- Establishing two admission and care facilities (for a start) in different regions in Morocco each offering 100 places for children and teenagers up to the age of 18 in a vulnerable situation that are also open to persons returning from Germany (voluntary and forced returns).
- Providing not only accommodation and food, but also social-educational assistance, access to school education and vocational training, other forms of support (notably medical/psychological/remedial measures) and, in the case of young offenders, places in social rehabilitation programmes; making use of the projects carried out by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in the field of vocational training and job promotion, as far as possible.
- Examining whether it is a good idea to reintegrate young persons into their families or find them foster families. In this case, the goal is to guarantee the well-being of the child in the long run by providing social-educational assistance and family support.
- Giving persons having reached the age of 18 the chance to share accommodation with others (under supervision) to ensure that these young adults are not left alone.
- Helping Moroccan authorities implement existing initiatives and programmes to improve the living conditions of children and young persons and ensure access to these initiatives and programmes.

European dimension of the project

- Rapid increase in the number of unaccompanied minor refugees who have applied for asylum in the European Union (increase from 11,000 - 13,000 between 2008 to 2013 to approx. 90,000 in 2015)
- All affected EU member states are aware of the need to find long-term solutions in line with the Return Directive 2008/115/EC of 16 December 2008

- Pilot project ERPUM (European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors): first attempt to organize orderly and safe return operations for unaccompanied minors whose asylum requests were denied

Implementation of the project, organization

- The project will be implemented by appropriate NGOs in close cooperation with the responsible local authorities, institutions and services in Morocco.
- The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (division 212) will be responsible for examining funding applications.
- For each child or young person that is taken care of an aid plan will be developed in coordination with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- The service provider will be required to report regularly on the implementation of the aid plan and the use of funding
- A steering group will be set up to manage and coordinate the project
- All relevant aspects will be monitored and evaluated during and after the project (including statement on whether this approach can also be adopted in other countries of origin)

Costs and financing of the project

- It is possible to apply for EU funds from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (monopoly project).
- Estimated costs (non-binding) per admission facility accommodating 100 children: €960,000 a year (if one child costs €800 per month including staff costs, rent and additional rental costs)

After the project – outlook

- The project will be handed over to the Moroccan government once it has been concluded and incorporated into existing structures.

