



With this issue of our newsletter, IOM Georgia presents to you our most important accomplishments and latest publications in the first quarter of 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

IOM Event Explores **Migrant Women** Reintegration Challenges and Opportunities in Georgia

[Read more](#)



In recognition of International Women's Day, the event brought together key stakeholders from various sectors, including the Government of Georgia, embassies, diplomatic representations, UN agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and women migrants themselves, to address crucial issues concerning women returnees in Georgia.



REINTEGRATION STORIES



Natia is a single mother from Imereti region. After migrating to Belgium in search of better opportunities, she returned to Georgia to support her 11-year-old son. With the help of IOM's reintegration approach and funding from multiple stakeholders, Natia invested in several sewing machines and attended workshops to enhance her skills. Now, Natia runs her own successful sewing business from home.

PROJECT UPDATES



Georgian law enforcement officials trained in pro-active practices to combat **child trafficking through social media** by Dutch police officials who introduced theoretical and practical aspects of how traffickers use digital platforms to exploit vulnerable children.

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Under the EU-funded project, IOM continues delivering trainings for **border control officers** to bolster border security and risk analysis capabilities of Georgian officials, further contributing to the effective border management practices.

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Service Hubs are strategically established in collaboration with local governments and serve as direct reference centers for individuals with migration histories, offering tailored counseling to address the diverse needs of the local population.

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IOM's workshop on diaspora engagement for the officials from the executive and legislative branches of government explored tools, methods, and best practices for maximizing **diaspora engagement and accelerating progress towards the SDGs**.

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the US State Department's Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program to enhance Georgia's border security skills with **an objective of combating criminal networks** involved in migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of goods and other forms of transnational crime.

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Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia visited IOM Georgia to study the **Georgian policies and practical approaches** concerning voluntary return and reintegration.

CONFERENCES



2nd Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration, focused on the **Regular Labour Migration Pathways**, attended by the representatives of Government of Georgia, Embassies and diplomatic representations, UN agencies and International Organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and labour migrants.

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ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN & REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

IOM helped **463 Georgians** (male 41%, female 59%) return from Greece, Poland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Germany, Finland and the Netherlands between January-March 2024. **73** of them had health-related needs.

In the same period, **74 families** got various types of assistance after arrival. This includes setting up small businesses, medical help, vocational training, employment support, accommodation assistance, livelihood support, financial help for immediate needs, as well as reception/ secondary transportation assistance.

IOM assisted **19** persons with pre-departure assistance and voluntary return to Azerbaijan, Jordan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Uzbekistan. Among the people assisted were 9 women, 7 children among which one unaccompanied minor and one person who required a medical escort due to serious health problems.

IOM continues to use its "["Visa-Free to EU"](#)" Facebook group to provide updates and comprehensive information to Georgian nationals on safe migration and visa-free travel.

That's it for this issue. We will be back with more updates in three months.

— IOM Georgia Team

IOM Georgia activities are funded by:



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