

# I will RETURN

## Editorial

We welcome new and existing readers to this edition of the CRI Newsletter. The Newsletters aim to inform professionals who are interested in voluntary return issues about the activities of the CRI project and its results so far.

There's a saying "Information is everywhere, but knowledge is hard to get by". As NGOs seeking facts on sustainable reintegration possibilities for potential returnees, we learned this to be true. The information highway is paved with fragmentary records and dubious documents, caused by political or other interests and fertile imagination. Thus making it the strength of the CRI project that we are able to evaluate this information by local partners and to make our research results as reliable and practical as possible for a potential returnee.

As you will see, this issue concentrates on migratory flows as an introduction to our target countries.

And we present the outcome of our discussion on what the elements of a good query should be like to ensure the most relevant response.

The CRI project - with its country sheets and helpdesk activities - is sending "messages from home", remembering people that where we have come from and where it is we are headed may be the same place.

We hope this Newsletter will inspire your thinking and lead to discussion and action. If you would like to make a contribution to the next issue, however small or large, do not hesitate to contact the editor at [return@vluchtelingenwerk.be](mailto:return@vluchtelingenwerk.be)

Enjoy your reading!

**HENAU Stephan**  
Project Manager



*Ndary Lo, La longue marche du changement (detail), Senegal*

### OVERVIEW

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# Recent migratory flows

## Albania



When the hermetically closed state of Albania finally opened its borders, a massive flow of Albanians left the country. At first, most of them left for other European countries in an illegal and uncontrolled way, Greece and Italy being the most popular destinations. Since 1990, about 900.000 nationals of Albania emigrated, leaving the country in a demographic upset. This number corresponds to more than 35% of the labour force<sup>1</sup>.

From 1998, when the economic, political, and social conditions in Albania started to improve gradually and immigration policies in the receiving countries became more favourable, the share of legal migration increased, reducing illegal flows.

However, opportunities to obtain (better) jobs and education abroad are still attracting Albanians and remain major pull factors.

Albania's current migration policies are aimed at discouraging real and potential migration flows by creating employment opportunities. Another path is extending channels of legal migration through signing seasonal employment agreements with neighbouring countries, especially Greece and Italy<sup>2</sup>.

## Algeria



Algeria has multiple migration statuses: it is a transit and immigration country for sub-Saharan migrants as well as an emigration country towards Europe.

Clandestine immigration from Algeria towards Europe has increased over the past years. During the first ten months of 2006, 532 prospective clandestine migrants have been intercepted by the Algerian naval forces alone. Another 146 persons have been detained for illegal embarkation during the same period<sup>3</sup>.

A new tendency is also the growing importance of sub-Saharan migrants. Some 5.000 clandestine immigrants, mostly sub-Saharan, are arrested each year in Algeria. Currently, 25.000 up to 50.000 foreigners, coming from about forty different countries, are illegally residing in Algeria<sup>4</sup>.

Experts consider different categories of Algerian returnees<sup>5</sup>.

First, there are those who were formerly residing abroad. These persons have left the country in the seventies. Some of them decided to return after having worked in Europe, and in most cases they have some savings. Among these persons it seems that there is a growing tendency to return.

Secondly, there are those who immigrated only recently and who live in an unstable situation (jobless, even undocumented) in Europe. Many of them are forced by circumstances to return.

## Armenia



Over the last years, Armenia has known several migration streams.

The catastrophic earthquake of 1988 in the north of the country caused the death of 25.000 people, several ten thousands of houses and buildings were destroyed and half a million people remained without shelter. As a result about 70.000 people left the country<sup>6</sup>.

1 European Community, Cards Programme, Albania: Country Strategy Paper 2002 -2006, 2001, [http://www.delalb.ec.europa.eu/al/eu\\_and\\_albania/CARDS%20program.doc](http://www.delalb.ec.europa.eu/al/eu_and_albania/CARDS%20program.doc)

2 Migration Policy Institute, Barjaba Kosta, Albania: Looking Beyond Borders, August 2004, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=239>

3 Alger (El Jazā'ir) (AP) Article published on November 26, 2006, <http://listes.rezo.net/archives/migreurop/2006-11/msg00207.html>

4 La voix de l'Oranie - 14 June 2006 - Asma G - « Algérie : Les algériens de retour au bercail » [http://actualite.el-annabi.com/article.php3?id\\_article=1127](http://actualite.el-annabi.com/article.php3?id_article=1127) which refers to the following document : Centre National des Recherches en Économie Appliquée (CREAD) - Action collective de soutien à la réintégration des migrants de retour dans leur pays d'origine - May 2006 - « Statistiques sur les migrants de retour en Algérie » - Musette Mohamed Saïb (mscread@wissal.dz)

5 MIREM Project (Migrations de Retour au Maghreb) [http://www.mirem.eu/donnees/statistiques/avant-propos#\\_ftn1](http://www.mirem.eu/donnees/statistiques/avant-propos#_ftn1)

6 Armenian Sociological Association, Migration in Armenia: case study, <http://www.asa.am/surveys/study.pdf>, or <http://64.233.183.104/search?q=cache:tE6ZTDInmAgJ:www.asa.am/surveys/study.pdf+%22Armenian+Sociological+Association%22+%22Migration+in+Armenia%22&hl=nl&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=be> (HTML-version)

The second migration stream was a result of the Karabakh conflict – also in 1988 - which caused the Armenian-Azerbaijani war. Hundreds of thousands ethnic Armenians, living in Azerbaijan, fled to Armenia and Russia. The figures of that period show a mass migration: 360.000 refugees from Azerbaijan, 75.000 from Nagorno-Karabakh and 6.000 from Abkhazia, victims of the conflict on Georgian territory. Meanwhile, in the period 1989-1990, about 160.000 Azeris left Armenia.

Armenia's third migration stream followed the hard winter of 1990-1991. Armenia was in a blockade by Azerbaijan, and no petrol, gas or fuel was entering the republic. Several hundred thousand of people became unemployed and the country was experiencing a hard economic crisis. According to independent experts approximately 700.000 Armenians left the country during the years to follow. 66 % among them were men and 74% were in the age of 17-60 years. Economically active and enterprising people left the country in a general job hunt<sup>7</sup>. Most of them went to Russia, 15% made to Europe and the USA.

## Cameroon



Geographically located at the junction between West and Central Africa, Cameroon is a stable country and considered to be prosperous because of its ideal geographical position and favourable climate.

Despite this, over the last 30 years its economic situation has constantly declined, ranking the country from a developing country among those of the heavily indebted poor countries.

While the country enjoys a remarkable political stability, there has always been an undercurrent of social unrest of which nobody can predict the possible outcome in the long run<sup>8</sup>.

While the USA is the most popular destination for Cameroon refugees, most of the refugees in Cameroon come from Chad. It is clear that the country also has a pull factor in the region. Approximately 30.000 refugees belonging to the Bororo ethnic group from the north-western part of the Central African Republic<sup>9</sup> arrived in Cameroon last year.

In the year 2006, UNHCR also assisted some 10.000 Nigerian refugees from Cameroon in their return.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo



Since the beginning of the nineties until today, millions of Congolese fled their houses to escape the fights between rebel groups and governmental forces, due to a very complex conflict in which also neighbouring countries were implied.

The instalment of a non-democratic political regime as well as the degradation of the socio-economic situation, dissuaded more than one to leave the country. Among these millions of uprooted people, several hundreds of thousands took refuge outside the borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly in Tanzania, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Zambia, Burundi and Rwanda.

According to IOM, Western Europe accommodates more than 45% of the Congolese Diaspora, North America 30% and Africa 15%<sup>10</sup>.

The net migration ratio is of 1,28 migrant(s)/1.000 population<sup>11</sup>.

In spite of the success of the 2006 elections and an overall improvement of the level of stability, more than one million people remained displaced in the east of the country in March 2007.

Military operations carried out to disarm the militias, as well as severe human rights violations, continue in the Eastern provinces to result into internal displacements.

However, generally spoken, the extent and the intensity of the conflict decreased and those returning are now more numerous than those who flee. On their return, these "personnes déplacées" or "déplacés" often find their villages completely destroyed and the majority of them receive little or no assistance to reconstruct their life<sup>12</sup>.

## Ecuador

Ecuador has been the first Latin American country to make the transition from military rule to a democratic regime (1978-79). However, recent history proves that the majority of the population has a high level of mistrust towards the democratic institu-

7 Ibidem

8 UNHCR, UNHCR Country Operations Plans 2006, Cameroon, 2005, <http://www.unhcr.org/home/RSDCOI/4321921f2.pdf>

9 UNHCR, UNHCR Global Appeal 2007, West Africa regional overview, 2006, <http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/455443a12a.pdf>

10 Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM), Stratégie sectorielle de la République Démocratique du Congo, mai 2005, [http://www.belgium.iom.int/mida2/mediapress/strategie%20%20RDC\(6\).doc](http://www.belgium.iom.int/mida2/mediapress/strategie%20%20RDC(6).doc)

11 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the World Factbook, Democratic Republic of the Congo, May 2007, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cg.html#People>

12 More detailed and up to date information on the different regions can be found at the website of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) [http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpEnvelopes\)/3733BF84801C4F1DC12572D00056FBDF?OpenDocument](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpEnvelopes)/3733BF84801C4F1DC12572D00056FBDF?OpenDocument)



tion<sup>13</sup>, a sentiment emphasized by the fact that Ecuador has known 6 Presidents over just 10 years.

The migration phenomenon in Ecuador had an increasing impact during the last decade. In 1999, 385.655 Ecuadorians left the country, a number rising sharply to 519.974 in 2000<sup>14</sup>, mainly due to the banking crisis (bank bail-out) when thousands of people saw their deposits frozen. Still, this trend has not yet been reversed. In 2006, 520.551 citizens left.

Migration is one of the three main keys that support the Ecuadorian economy. To this end, the former President, Rafael Correa, has created a new ministry for the Ecuadorians living abroad. Its main objective being to canalize the use of remittances towards investments for the development of the country.

## Georgia



Complete and reliable statistics on migration from Georgia are lacking, yet judging from the increasing number of asylum applications by citizens of Georgia abroad, outward migration appears to be high.

The high outward migration from Georgia is due to lack of local economic opportunities. There are significant remittance flows of labour migrants sending money back home.

Being strategically located between Europe and Asia, the country serves as the transport link between the Caspian Sea basin and Turkey, making it a well-known transit corridor for migration. Therefore, international institutions demand special efforts and a continued engagement on the issue of trafficking in persons and the development of an asylum and immigration policy<sup>15</sup>.

Beside that, most of the internal displacement originates from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Georgia also knows an internal labour migration.

## Ghana



In 2006, 20.964 people were granted residence in Ghana<sup>16</sup>.

At the end of 2006, the total population of concern to UNHCR in Ghana stood at 50.700 refugees and asylum seekers<sup>17</sup>.

Also in the same year the Ghana Immigration Service figured that 168.457 people emigrated, while 193.844 immigrated.

The causes of internal displacements around the world are numerous, being both conflict and instability as well as economic constraints. This disparity makes a general assessment difficult. As for Ghana, in general, there are no tendencies of internal displacement<sup>18</sup>.

## the Russian Federation



The recent migration developments in the Russian Federation are accompanied by growing immigration to Russia, most of them illegal. Many countries of the former Soviet Union have remained the major suppliers of migrant labour to Russia. Estimations suggest there are up to 5 or even 10 million illegal migrants in Russia. An increasing presence and perceived influence of immigrants in Russian cities is an important cause for the rise of xenophobia<sup>19</sup>.

Recently, the Federal Migration Service announced that over 800.000 work permits will be issued to labour migrants in 2007. At the same time, the rules for illegal labour migrants became more strict<sup>20</sup>.

13 CEDATOS (Centre for studies and information) - 9 December 2005- "Bajó índice de Bienestar General"- <http://www.cedatos.com.ec/contenido.asp?id=321>

14 UNFPA-FLACSO, Ecuador: Las cifras de la migración internacional, Quito, UNFPA-FLACSO, 2006, page 16.

15 International Organisation for Migration, July 2007, <http://www.iom.int/jahia/page781.html>

16 CIR, interview with the Director of Immigration, J. Dzokoto, COI / Migration Management Bureau, Accra, 15.05.2007

17 UNHCR, UNHCR Global Report 2006, Ghana, <http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/4666d23d0.pdf>

18 CIR, interview with Mr. George Isaac Amoo and Alhaji Sulemana Yirimej, National Co-ordinator and Deputy of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Accra, 07.05.2007

19 Amnesty International, Annual Report 2006; <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/rus-summary-eng>

20 Workpermit.com. Number of work permits issued in Russia quadrupled. May 2007 <http://www.workpermit.com/news/2007-05-24/russia/work-permit-increase.htm>

In terms of immigration, many Russians seek (both legally and illegally) work in western Europe, occupying often unsafe and labour-intensive jobs. Also, trafficking in Russian women for sex exploitation remains a major concern.

In July 2006, the Russian government approved a new program towards the Russian communities abroad, dealing with the assistance of Russians and ex-Soviet citizens who want to re-migrate to their country of origin. The program stimulates the process of voluntary return, both by facilitating the practical return arrangements as by improving the economic stronghold of several Russian regions.

But also the number of internal migrants is substantial. According to the CIA, there were in 2006 about 25.000 to 180.000 IDPs<sup>21</sup> from Chechnya and North-Ossetia<sup>22</sup>.

In January 2007, the Danish Refugee Council registered 17.492 IDP's (4.073 households) in Engushetia from people leaving Chechnya during the second conflict with Russia. About 27% of them reside in temporary settlements<sup>23</sup>.

## Serbia



Germany, Austria and France have always been traditional receiving countries for Serbian migrants. But since the 90's, this list has been extended to countries of the former Soviet-Bloc - such as Hungary and the Czech Republic, as well as to the USA, Canada and Australia.

The 1991-2002 intercensal period was characterised by mass migration. About 700.000 refugees arrived in Serbia (excluding Kosovo and Metohija). At the same time there was a parallel emigration of several hundred thousands of people, mostly for economic reasons or political motivations.

Furthermore, a considerable number of people left Kosovo and Metohija, most of them Serbs, Montenegrins and Roma. They settled mainly in Serbia's central part<sup>24</sup>.

In 2006, the Republic of Serbia adopted the integrated border management strategy, outlining its long-term vision for more effective migration management.

## Kosovo

Unofficially, the international community assumes that - mainly due to the bad economic situation in Kosovo - there are more people leaving Kosovo than returning. However, there are no reliable statistics on this.

When taking the example of Germany, from the several hundreds of asylum requests received from Serbia and Montenegro per year, 80% are usually submitted by ethnic Albanians. Since a full statistical coverage of Serbia's migratory movements is not available, we do not know if this proportion counts for other western European countries as well<sup>25</sup>.

## Sierra Leone



On a total population of 5,52 million, UNHCR figured out that about 40.447 people are recognised as a refugee elsewhere.

Sierra Leone is not a popular host country for asylum seekers. Only 193 asylum claims were registered for the whole of 2006. The main receiving countries for Sierra Leone's refugees are Gambia, Guinea and the USA<sup>26</sup>.

Over the last years Sierra Leone has made considerable progress as to post-conflict reconstruction, including the re-establishment of civil administration throughout the country.

The National IDP Resettlement Programme had been officially completed in December 2002, after over 225,000 IDPs had returned within the framework of the government's resettlement strategy and a further 245,000 IDPs returned home spontaneously without assistance. However, several thousand people, generally referred to as "homeless" or "squatters", who had been displaced by the conflict continued to live in Freetown and other urban centres without permanent shelter<sup>27</sup>.

21 IDP is short for "internally displaced person". Some 25 million people worldwide currently live in situations of internal displacement as a result of conflicts or human rights violations. They were forced to flee their homes because their lives were at danger, but unlike refugees they did not cross international borders. Although internally displaced people now outnumber refugees by two to one, their plight receives far less international attention.

22 CIA, The World Factbook, Russia, last updated March 2007, <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rs.html>

23 Danish Refugee Council (DRC), North Caucasus Mission Report, January 2007, [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2007.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/KH11-6YL4QE-Full\\_Report.pdf/\\$File/Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFFiles2007.nsf/FilesByRWDUnidFilename/KH11-6YL4QE-Full_Report.pdf/$File/Full_Report.pdf)

24 Yugoslav Survey, 1997-2007, Democratic changes in Serbia, Survey S&M 2/2004, <http://www.yusurvey.co.yu/products/ys/showSummaryArticle.php?pr odId=2040&groupId=5510>

25 Alice Thomas, OSCE Special Advisor at the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, Unpublished Report, 7 February 2007.

26 UNHCR, UNHCR Global appeal 2007, Sierra Leone, 2006, <http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/455443a411.pdf>

27 Norwegian Refugee Council, The global IDP project, Sierra Leone, 2004; [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/000E70E903897307C125712D003913E0/\\$file/Sierra%20Leone%20Exit%20paper.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/000E70E903897307C125712D003913E0/$file/Sierra%20Leone%20Exit%20paper.pdf)

# Publications

Until now, we have published 7 out of the 11 country sheets and gathered a lot of useful information on the way. Next to the aspects of “Access to the territory of return” and “Physical security in the return area”, all attention goes to social security and reintegration issues, such as : housing, (un)employment, education, starting a business, social security and healthcare. Since our primary focus is on practical information, it was decided upon to leave out general information on politics, demographics and socio-economics.

The country reports are consultable on the operational partners’ websites (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, Caritas Interational Belgium, Consiglio Italiano Per I Rifugiati and Coordination et Initiatives pour les Réfugiés et Étrangers) as well as on ecoi.net through the following links:

- Albania: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189774266\\_country-sheet-albania.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189774266_country-sheet-albania.pdf)
- Algeria: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189697110\\_csalgeria.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189697110_csalgeria.pdf)
- Armenia: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189759092\\_armenia-country-sheet-with-corrections-03-09-07.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189759092_armenia-country-sheet-with-corrections-03-09-07.pdf)
- DR Congo: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189696211\\_cs-congo-sept07.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189696211_cs-congo-sept07.pdf)
- Georgia: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189758641\\_countrysheetgeorgia-revised-by-moon-eka-and-wvisionfinal.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189758641_countrysheetgeorgia-revised-by-moon-eka-and-wvisionfinal.pdf)
- Russia: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189591455\\_country-sheet-russia.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189591455_country-sheet-russia.pdf)
- Serbia: [http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1189758303\\_serbia-country-sheet.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189758303_serbia-country-sheet.pdf)

The easiest way to retrieve the information on ecoi.net is through the advanced search [choose Country of Return Information Project as source in advanced search and run search]. All country sheets are also retrievable through the full text search.

Those who need extra copies of our leaflet, can find a printable version when clicking on:

- [http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI_Eng.pdf) (English language)
- [http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI\\_Fr.pdf](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI_Fr.pdf) (French language)
- [http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI\\_Nl.pdf](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI_Nl.pdf) (Dutch language)

An Italian version of the flyer is now also available at:

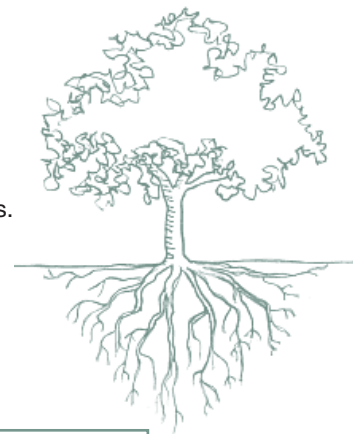
- [http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI\\_It.pdf](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/bestanden/publicaties/CRI_It.pdf)



# Helpdesk activities

Today, our information desks are fully operational.

To ensure the quality of our responses, the CRI project formulated some general outlines for queries. Starting from COI formats we made a list of characteristics and conditions for good CRI questions.



## CRI QUERY

The query should:

*example*

- not require any assessment or advise, just information
- be specific, not too general

*What does it cost to transport goods from Idiofa to Kikwit?*

- be precise, with enough details (but not too specialised as well)

*What does it cost to transport 100 big sacs of maize from Idiofa to Kikwit?*

- include a definition of the concepts used (bringing in the necessary nuances)

*What does it cost to transport 100 sacs of maize (50 kgs.) from Idiofa to Kikwit?*

- be geographically defined

*What does it cost to transport 100 sacs of maize (50 kgs.) from Kalo (in the Sedzo sector, territory of Idiofa, in the Kwilu district, province of Bandundu) to Kikwit?*

- be understandable (pointing out why the question is relevant)

*I want to make a business plan for the agricultural activities I'm considering to undertake upon return. The best market to sell my maize is in Kikwit. Since the evacuation of agricultural products from Kalo was not always assured before, I want to know if it is profitable for me to organize the transport from Kalo to Kikwit, a distance of 154 kilometres. Therefore, I want to know what it will cost to transport 100 sacs of maize (50 kgs.) from Kalo (in the Sedzo sector, territory of Idiofa, in the Kwilu district, province of Bandundu) to Kikwit?*

- have a clear time limit for response I want to make a business plan for the agricultural activities

*I'm considering to undertake upon return. I'm planning to finalize this document before February. The best market to sell my maize is in Kikwit. Since the evacuation of agricultural products from Kalo was not always assured before, I want to know if it is profitable for me to organize the transport from Kalo to Kikwit, a distance of 154 kilometres. Therefore, I want to know what it will cost to transport 100 sacs of maize (50 kgs.) from Kalo (in the Sedzo sector, territory of Idiofa, in the Kwilu district, province of Bandundu) to Kikwit? Is it possible to answer upon this question within 2 weeks time (before December, the 1st)?*

In order to have qualitative queries we foresee a continuous communication with the customers, sometimes asking a reformulation of the initial question if necessary.

COI-questions (for building the asylum file) fall outside the scope of CRI, but sometimes the difference between both is hard to draw (e.g. Somebody wants to know if he can get the appropriate medicines to treat his illness in his home country. Upon a positive answer this is a CRI-question, upon a negative answer this can become a COI-question).

The responses are prepared after desk research of publicly accessible information and a fact-finding mission conducted by our local partner, all within time constraints.

People having specific questions on their personal return or reintegration possibilities can contact the helpdesk to find answers locally: [return@vluchtelingenwerk.be](mailto:return@vluchtelingenwerk.be)

To illustrate the characteristics of a good CRI query, we present here a case as it has been treated by us, step by step.

**QUESTION of client**

*"My client suffers from diabetes, type 1. He needs a daily insulin treatment. How is the health care in Algeria? Is this treatment available and accessible?"*

**ANSWER of the helpdesk**

*"In order to answer to your question, we would like to know the region of origin of your client, since health care in Algiers is quite different from that in other parts of the country."*

**ANSWER of client**

*"My client originates from the village of Bordj."*

**ANSWER of the helpdesk**

*"Our local partner indicates that several villages in Algeria start with the denomination 'Bordj', which means 'fort'. Could you please complete the name of the village, and indicate as well the name of the region (Wilaya)?"*

**ANSWER of client**

*"The name of the village is 'Bordj Ghedir', however, I don't know the region."*

**ANSWER of the helpdesk**

Our local partner **CISP** (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) states that :

*"BORDJ-GHEDIR is the capital of a Daïra (Under-Prefecture) located at about 35 Km. south of the capital of the Wilaya of Bordj-Bou-Argeridj, which is located at about 240 Km. east of Algiers, on the road to Constantine.*

*The city of Bordj-Ghedir, which obtained the status of capital of a Daïra only a few years ago, counts 25.000 inhabitants. The following health facilities are present:*

- an outpatients clinic, with a limited number of beds, but able to treat all common pathologies. Special pathologies are treated at the hospital of Bordj-Bou-Argeridj;*
- 6 pharmaceutical dispensaries;*
- 20 private medical practices (general practitioners).*

*Concerning the client suffering from type 1 diabetes, as the country has a large number of insulin dependant diabetes patients all pharmacies in Algeria permanently have insulin in stock.*

*The only problem that might occur may be the financial means to obtain them.*

*The insulin is sold in the form of pens for pre-dosed self-administered injections. One set of 5 pens, equal to 1.500 units, costs between 4.000 and 6.000 Dinars (between 45 and 65 Euro), depending on the brand or the laboratory of production. If your client is not covered by a health insurance, he is not entitled to any reimbursements by the CNAS (the National Social Insurance for employees and pensioners)."*

**References:**

- The Wilaya of Bordj-Bou-Argeridj – Health and Population Administration.
- The Daïra of Bordj-Ghedir
- The Supervisor of the outpatients clinic of Bordj-Ghedir
- SAIDAL (Pharmaceutical laboratory) - Algiers
- DIGROMED (Wholesaler in pharmaceutical products) - Algiers

In an article of December 2006, the National Federation of Diabetes Societies states that :

*"Grand désarroi chez les personnes diabétiques non assurées sociales et sans ressources. Les associations ne sont plus en mesure de leur procurer de l'insuline et les prix affichés dans les pharmacies sont hors de portée. "Nous n'avons plus de dons. Les laboratoires ne nous ont rien donné encore", affirme M. Djebbari Abdellah, membre de la Fédération nationale des associations des diabétiques.*

*Difficile d'avoir son médicament: Plusieurs personnes se sont présentées au siège de la fédération pour demander un flacon d'insuline qu'elles n'ont pu acheter dans les pharmacies. Non pour manque de ce produit mais pour sa cherté. "L'insuline est disponible en grande quantité dans les pharmacies mais trop chère, pratiquement inaccessible aux malades. Le problème ne se pose pas pour les diabétiques assurés sociaux mais pour les non assurés et les personnes sans ressources, les jeunes chômeurs en particulier. Les premiers récupèrent la totalité de leur argent, quel que soit le prix du produit. Ce n'est pas du tout le cas pour les seconds", indique le représentant de la fédération. Pourtant, la loi stipule que les personnes démunies bénéficient d'une aide sociale de l'Etat, via le ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité nationale, d'une assurance sociale qui leur permet de bénéficier gratuitement des médicaments. Pour ce faire, la personne démunie doit se rapprocher de la direction de l'action sociale de la wilaya où elle réside et établir une carte de démunie ou une carte de diabétique. Sur le terrain, les malades se plaignent des lenteurs administratives. Pas moins de neuf mois pour avoir sa carte, selon certains témoignages. Ce qui n'arrange nullement les insulinodépendants qui ne peuvent se passer fût-ce un jour, de prendre l'insuline."*

**References:**

Fédération nationale des associations des diabétiques/ Article of 20.12.2006 on the website of BRTV, the Berber Television Station.

The organisation ReMeD - an international solidarity organization defending development countries' rights for a better access to medicines ( <http://www.remed.org> ) - states that:

*"At the time of our inquiries, there was not any problem finding insulin in pharmaceutical dispensaries in Algeria. Costs are reimbursed by the social security system."*

**References:**

ReMeD / E-mail send on 13 September 2007.

# storyboard - people's talk

Another Question and Answer case, as a demonstration of our helpdesk activities. The following chronicle has been collected by Ciré (Belgium), only the names are fictitious.

Khalil Hammouche (°1973) is a father of 2 children, living in Germany, together with his wife. His asylum request has been declined and he and his family are considering a return to Algeria (El-Harrach region, nearby Algiers). Khalil is a turner-milling machine operator. He used to run a family business in El-Harrach, but it has been closed down.



**Q: Which are the opportunities nowadays to find work in El-Harrach as a turner-milling operator?**

A:

The region of El-Harrach, suburb of Algiers, has a big number of precision mechanic workshops.

From El-Harrach there are public transport possibilities, allowing people to work in Mohammadia (ex-Lavigerie), Pins Maritimes, Bordj-El-Kiffane, Bab-Ezzouar, Dar-El-Beïda, Oued-Smar, Cherarba, Eucalyptus, Baraki, Semmar, Bachdjarah, Bourouba, or in Hussein-Dey.

In this whole area, there are about 60 turner-milling machine workshops, going from small family workshops - with 4 to 5 machine tools - up to ultramodern workshops with 10 or more computerised machines.

Mr. Hammouche can choose among any of the mentioned categories of workshops, depending on his expertise and experience. Given the fact that there is a high demand for qualified workers in this branch, it should not be too difficult to find an employment, even more as he may be known already, since he used to have his own workshop.

In this type of activities, salaries are more and more based on productivity and performance. This profession pays reasonably well for Algerian standards.

## References:

- Interview of ANEFA (Association Nationale des Etablissements de Formation Agréés) with different turner workshop owners in Algiers.
- Interview of CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) with X, Precision mechanic workshop owner, Oued Smar, Industrial Zone (Alger).
- Interview of CISP with SPSRS sarl (Société de panneaux de signalisation routière et de sérigraphie), Alger - BP 33 M, Oued Smar 16270., Tél : 213 021 51 52 54 / 021 51 60 57.



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