



Policy Brief: The Economics of Reinsertion

Enforcement pays for the same problem again with every cycle. Supported voluntary return pays once, and its capital is repaid. The Global Human Capital Reinsertion Initiative (GHCRI) turns a person’s years of work abroad into certified skills, a written plan and a startup enterprise at home, financed by a revolving fund. Returnees come home as **founders**, not labourers: **a launch, not a restart**. This brief condenses the GHCRI white paper, *The Reinsertion Dividend*. Registration for our first participant group is open.

The model

1 Explore anonymously No name, no account, no tracking.	2 Check your options A private calculator estimates pathway and loan range.	3 Enrol voluntarily Only after consulting an attorney, whom we help find.
4 Train and certify Work experience becomes credentials and a business plan.	5 Relocate with dignity Travel, housing and a coordinator waiting on arrival.	6 Launch, hire and repay A startup loan of \$2,000 – \$12,000 and a mentor.

Around the pathway sit the elements that make a return endure: **cohorts** grouped by trade that register together and guarantee each other; **anchor sectors** where returnee skills meet real demand (agro-processing, aquaculture, construction, cold chain, modern retail, solar energy), so raw materials are processed where they are grown; **four weeks of coaching** at no cost; **coordinators** on the ground; a plan for the **whole family**; diaspora networks as **first customers**; and local **apprentices** in every enterprise. Repayments flow into a **revolving fund**: each repayment funds the next returnee’s rise.

The cost comparison

Public enforcement costs	Figure	GHCRI, per participant	Estimate
Arrest, detention and removal of one person (stated minimum)	\$17,121	Training and certification	\$1,500 – 2,500
Full cost per deportation (transport, detention, legal, administration)	~\$70,236	Relocation and arrival support	\$2,000 – 3,500
Detention, per person per day	~\$152	Coaching and coordinator share	\$500 – 1,000
Medical care in detention, per person per day	~\$34	Startup micro-loan (repaid into the fund)	\$2,000 – 12,000
Alternatives to Detention, per person per day	~\$4.20	Net cost per participant, once	\$4,000 – 7,000

Sources: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 2025 (\$17,121; Alternatives to Detention); Penn Wharton Budget Model, 2025 (~\$70,236); ICE, 2025, as reported by NPR, March 2025 (detention per day); DHS, 2024 (medical care). GHCRI figures are programme estimates (2026), to be replaced by measured costs.

About \$4,000 – \$7,000 net, once, against \$17,000 (ICE’s stated minimum) to about \$70,000 (Penn Wharton) per enforcement cycle. A person who re-migrates after removal can trigger that cost again. A person who succeeds at home does not.

The three multipliers

1 · The person who does not return north

Returnees with viable livelihoods are far less likely to migrate again. Each prevented re-migration avoids a full enforcement cycle, and the revolving loan means GHCRI pays its share approximately once.

2 · The people who never leave

This is the dam. Enterprises that employ local workers and train apprentices give families a livelihood where they are. Each would-be migrant who finds work at home is an enforcement cycle never funded.

3 · The fund that does not stop

A \$150,000 revolving fund, lending \$5,000 on average at 80% repayment, finances more than 100 businesses over a decade from the same capital. A grant is spent once; the dam keeps standing.

Illustrative ten-year scenario model

Scale scenario	Enforcement cycles avoided	Avoided public cost at \$17,121 per cycle	GHCRI net cost
Pilot: 20 participants	~80	~\$1.4 million	\$80,000 – \$140,000
1,000 participants	~4,000	~\$68 million	\$4 – \$7 million
25,000 participants	~100,000	~\$1.7 billion	\$100 – \$175 million

Illustrative model, not a forecast; every assumption is shown and open to scrutiny. (1) Each participant’s supported return stands in for one enforcement cycle over ten years; (2) a conservative 3:1 community multiplier (three would-be migrants per participant remain at home), modelled pending pilot data; (3) \$17,121 per cycle, ICE’s stated minimum (ICE, 2025); (4) 80% loan repayment. Undiscounted; excludes courts, litigation and border operations. At the Penn Wharton estimate (~\$70,236), avoided costs are roughly four times higher.

Safeguards

- **Voluntary, always.** No one is reported, pressured or rushed.
- **Anonymous exploration.** No name, no account, no tracking.
- **Attorney first.** Immigration counsel before any decision; we help find free legal aid.
- **Never shared.** GHCRI never shares individual participant information with enforcement agencies.
- **Consent-based storytelling.** No story published without informed, revocable consent.
- **Responsible lending.** Loans sized to a plan; difficulty brings restructuring, not abandonment.
- **Published results.** Targets in advance; results quarterly, shortfalls included.
- **Complementary to the IOM.** Where another agency fits better, we refer.

Honest caveats. Migration has many drivers (violence, climate, governance); jobs address the largest lever, not every lever. The 3:1 multiplier is an assumption the pilot will test and publish. Public cost figures reflect 2024–2025 conditions and are updated each fiscal year.

How to partner

Partner	Role
Host-country agencies	Co-fund per-participant support as a dignified, voluntary complement to enforcement.
Home-country ministries	Reception, anchor-sector access and business registration; gain employers, tax revenue, exports.
Foundations and donors	Capitalise the \$150,000 revolving fund or match diaspora contributions: capital lent again and again.
European return agencies	Co-measured pilots on shared indicators, with joint publication of results.

The pilot: 20 participants, one home region, two or three anchor sectors, independent evaluation at 24 months. Worldwide scope: Latin America and the Caribbean (including Haiti), Africa, South and Southeast Asia, West Asia. The IOM, training, microfinance and legal-aid partners each work within their mandates; where we overlap, we coordinate.

Book a 30-minute briefing or request the full white paper: info@ghcri.com · +1 (310) 701-6852 · ghcri.com · Los Angeles, California

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Every person is capital. This is how a return becomes a rise.

Global Human Capital Reinsertion Initiative: we turn challenges into opportunities.