



Return Assistance: a change of perspective

Return Assistance – in Practice

Ghana



Mr. Y heard about the possibility to return voluntarily to his home country from a friend. When he realized that his perspectives in Switzerland were limited, he visited a return counsellor to obtain information, and he eventually decided to return to Ghana in spring 2013. His idea was to set up a small grocery shop in partnership with his mother. This project idea was submitted to the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) who approved its funding.

Two months after his return to Ghana, he contacted the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to start his reintegration project. IOM staff explained the next steps, and helped him with the development of a detailed business plan.

After he registered his shop at the Municipal Assembly, and he submitted all required documents, IOM staff based in the Brong Ahafo region paid for the goods directly to the suppliers.

One year after his return, IOM Ghana visited Mr. Y who was very proud of his shop because the income it generated was sufficient for him and his mother. He was planning to expand his project in the future, and to increase his profit. He was very satisfied with the support he received from Switzerland and IOM.



As a humanitarian and, at the same time, reasonably-priced solution, the concept of Return Assistance has proved itself and gained acceptance in many European countries. The object of Return Assistance is to harmonize the justified interests of migrants with those of Switzerland and the countries of origin. Return Assistance makes valuable contribution to a sustainable and successful return. It is conceived so as to rule out undesired pull factors in the direction of Switzerland.

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