



Return assistance: a change of perspective

Return assistance - in practice

Somalia, Mogadishu

Mr. A. voluntarily returned to his home country Somalia in October 2017. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) provided him with financial support for the implementation of his reintegration project and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was commissioned to coordinate the implementation on the ground.



When he returned to Somalia, his long-term goal was to find a sustainable job that would enable him to make a living. Thanks to reintegration assistance, Mr. A. was able to set up a shop where he sells food and non-food daily articles. He is supported by his sister and mother. He was thankful for the opportunity to set up his business and would like to set up a wholesale business which would enable him to compete in the market. He earns an average of USD 400 per month with his business and plans to intensify his marketing efforts.

Mr. A. would also like to gain more experience in managing his business. Although security is an important issue for everyone in Mogadishu, Mr. A. is determined to expand his shop. When asked how he felt about the project, he replied: "It really helped me. Without the program I would not have been able to start my business and get this far. You are the ones who have helped me from the beginning."



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 a 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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