

Return Assistance in Practice

Tunisia

In summer 2012 Mr. H. decided to return voluntarily to his country of origin, Tunisia. The Federal Office for Migration (FOM) had granted him reintegration assistance for the implementation of a business project. For Mr. H., the prospect of owning his own supermarket opened up new perspectives in his community. Finally, in July 2012, Mr. H. boarded a plane to his home country.



After his arrival in Tunisia, Mr. H. contacted the office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Tunis to discuss the implementation of his business project. In collaboration with four business partners from his local community, Mr. H. applied for a business license and submitted all the required supporting documents for the opening of a supermarket to IOM Tunis. With the money of the reintegration assistance, premises for the supermarket could be rented and remodelled and Mr. H. was able to purchase a stock of goods to sell. IOM Tunis made the payments directly to the supplier of the goods and the provider of services.



In March 2013, IOM Tunis visited Mr. H. and his business partners. Due to the wide range of goods on offer, Mr. H.'s supermarket is very popular with the local community. Mr. H. is very pleased with the success of his business. He and his partners intend to purchase some additional premises to increase the sales area of their supermarket and to expand their customer base by offering an attractive and innovative product range.

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.