



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance - in practice

### Iran, Kermanshah

Mr. R. returned voluntarily to his home country Iran in spring 2017. Together with the return counsellor in Switzerland, he planned to buy a tractor to support his father’s farm. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) approved the project and granted him financial assistance. The office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Teheran was mandated to assist Mr. R. with the implementation of his project.

After his return, he changed his mind about the project and decided to buy a pick-up truck to be employed at a supermarket to deliver goods to customers. The project change was approved and after having submitted all necessary documents the reintegration assistance was paid directly to the car seller.



Five months after Mr. R.’s return, IOM staff conducted a monitoring visit to evaluate his situation and the sustainability of his project. He was satisfied with his situation and informed that he was able to cover his daily needs with the income of his employment. He appreciated the support he received through the reintegration program: *“It has surely been helping me financially and inspirationally to start a new and decent life in my home country after return.”*

*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.*

SEM/IOM, March 2018

