



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance - in practice

### Iran, Shiraz

Mr. O. returned voluntarily to his home country Iran in winter 2016. Together with the return counsellor in Switzerland, he developed a project plan for a transportation business. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) approved the plan and granted him financial assistance. The office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Teheran was mandated to assist Mr. O. with the development and implementation of his business idea.

After his return, he contacted IOM Iran to discuss the next steps. After having submitted the necessary documents for the purchase of a car, IOM paid the whole reintegration assistance to cover parts of the costs for a pick-up.



Six months after Mr. O.'s return, IOM staff contacted him to evaluate his situation and the sustainability of his project. He was employed at a toy store to distribute goods to different sellers and stores. He was satisfied with his situation and informed that he was earning an income from his business which allowed him to cover his and his parent's daily needs. He described his situation as better and more stable than before he left the country. He expressed his deep satisfaction about the provided support in the framework of the reintegration program, as it paved the way for restarting his life, earning money and having a respectful life after the return. He saw his future in the country of return and planned to open a new business.

*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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