



Return assistance: a change of perspective

Return assistance – in practice

Shiraz, Iran

Mr. D. decided to return voluntarily to his home country Iran in spring 2012. He contacted the cantonal return counsellor who assisted him with the organization of his return. In order to facilitate his reintegration, Mr. D. needed housing assistance, namely furniture for an apartment in Shiraz. The Federal Office for Migration (FOM) granted him financial assistance to set up this project.



Shortly after his arrival, Mr. D. contacted the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Teheran. The local IOM staff counselled him and explained him the procedure to set up his project. Once Mr. D. had submitted a quotation for the furniture (a fridge, a cooking stove, and various other items), and all the necessary documents, IOM Teheran made the payment directly to the vendors.

A few months after his return, IOM staff visited him. Mr. D. was satisfied with his personal situation and he was thankful for the support that was offered to him. At the time of the visit he was trying to find a job. Even though he experienced some difficulties in this regard, he was not planning to leave Iran again because he could see his future in Shiraz.

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.