

## Return Assistance in Practice

### Sri Lanka, Colombo

In January 2010, Mr. A. returned voluntarily to his pregnant wife in Sri Lanka. Before he left Switzerland, M. A. submitted request for reintegration assistance to the Federal Office for Migration (FOM). He was planning to work as school bus driver upon return, and asked for financial assistance for his business project.

After his return, Mr. A. contacted the local office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka in order to implement his project. However, he realised that a second-hand bus was more expensive than expected. Thus, he decided to adapt his project and to purchase a Tuk-tuk in order to work as a taxi driver.

IOM submitted this new project proposal to FOM who approved it thereafter. Several days later, Mr. A. could purchase the desired Tuk-tuk and start his taxi business.



Six months later, the revenue of his business enabled him to cover his family's daily needs.

*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.*

