



Return assistance: a change of perspective

Return assistance - in practice

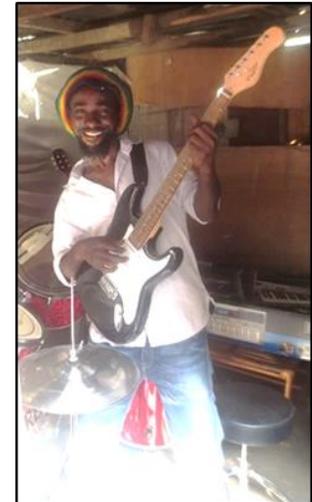
Nigeria, Lagos

Mr. D. decided to return voluntarily to Nigeria in 2014. The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) granted him reintegration assistance for the set-up of a “music studio” in Lagos.

After his return, Mr. D. contacted the local office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Lagos in January 2015 for assistance in the realization of his reintegration project. He was very motivated and passionate for the music business.

IOM paid thereafter the rent of the studio directly to the landlord and the basic equipment (drums, keyboard, guitar, speakers, amplifier, microphones, cables, etc.) directly to the vendor.

Mr. D. launched a musical band and registered his professional activity with the respective authority under the name «MAGICAL ROOTMAN & THE BLACK BAND». The band with 8 members plays concerts on demand in bars, clubs and private events.



One and a half years after his return, Mr. D. is satisfied with his actual situation as he can live from the earnings of his business. Although, the biggest difficulties he experienced were the economic situation and the price increase, he advises friends to return and start a business.

“The assistance should keep running because it’s very encouraging and the business training is an eye opener, I appreciate IOM for the assistance”, he concludes.

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, Juli 2016