



Return assistance: a change of perspective

Return assistance - in practice

Senegal, Region Tambacounda



In January 2016, Mr. D voluntarily returned to Senegal. Before his return, he had elaborated a reintegration project with the support of the return counseling. He requested to invest the project assistance in a cattle breeding, since he already had relevant working experience in that field. After the examination of his request, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) approved his reintegration assistance.

Shortly after his return, Mr. D. visited the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on-site in order to start with the implementation of his project. A few days later, Mr. D. could buy eleven cows and one bull with the return assistance approved by the SEM.



One staff employee from the IOM visited Mr. D's cattle breeding project in order to evaluate his project on site. Mr. D. stated that the project facilitated his reintegration. During the implementation of his project, no difficulties whatsoever were encountered. The profit of his cattle breeding enables him to cover all his living costs. Furthermore, Mr. D. hired one employee.

Mr. D. is particularly satisfied with his current situation and thus sees his future in Senegal, where he wants to expand his cattle breeding. The only challenge he is facing is the decreasing rainfall, which has a negative impact on his agriculture.



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, July 2016