

Return Assistance in Practice

Tunisia

In spring 2012, Mr. A. decided to return voluntarily to his home country, Tunisia. His decision to start a fishing business gave him hope and perspectives and paved his reintegration in his home country. Therefore, the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) granted him a financial return assistance for the realization of his business project. Mr. A. returned home in March 2012 and contacted the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tunis for further assistance.



Mr. A. could implement his project idea in his home town after he submitted all the necessary documents. The realization of his project was supported by IOM Tunis. Thanks to the financial assistance, Mr. A. was able to purchase a refrigerator to display the fish, an electronic scale and another refrigerator. IOM Tunis made the payment directly to the suppliers.



Thereafter, Mr. A. started his professional activity and did not have any problems with the implementation of his fishing business. In December 2012, IOM Tunis staff visited Mr. A. in his shop. He is very satisfied with his actual situation because he is now financially independent and reached certain stability in life. Furthermore Mr. A. informs that he plans to expand his business in the near future.

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.

