

## Return Assistance in Practice

### Tunisia

In late summer 2012, Mr. B. decided to return to his home country, Tunisia. After consultation with his cantonal return counsellor, he applied for reintegration assistance with the Federal Office for Migration (FOM). The FOM approved financial assistance for the implementation of a business project and Mr. B. finally returned home in September 2012.

Following his arrival in Tunis, Mr. B. contacted the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in order to work out a business plan for his reintegration project. As Mr. B. could rely on his previous experience as a sales professional, he decided to open a bridal trousseau store in his home town. He implemented this project in



collaboration with two members of his local community. After Mr. B. and his business partners submitted all the required supporting documents to IOM Tunis, the reintegration assistance could be used for direct payments to the supplier of goods and services. With the money from the reintegration assistance, Mr. B. could acquire suitable premises for his store, remodel its interior and acquire a stock of goods to sell.

In March 2013, IOM Tunis visited Mr. B. and his two business partners in their newly opened store. Mr. B. is very satisfied with his current situation and he is highly motivated to expand his business. Mr. B. can count on his family's support in his endeavour to increase his sales and to specialize in wholesale trade.

*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.*

