



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance - in practice

### IRAQ, Suleymaniah

In August 2015, M.R. decided to return voluntarily back to his home country, Iraq.



The SEM (State Secretariat for Migration) granted a return assistance of 3000 CHF for his professional reintegration and mandated IOM to accompany M. R. in this process and to implement his reintegration project.

After his return, IOM Iraq discussed his plans with M. R: before leaving Switzerland, he had planned to open up a small toy shop. However, after having discussed his plans with his family as well as with IOM in Iraq, he changed his mind and

decided to open up a small sport shop. IOM helped M. A. to work out a new business plan and accompanied him to purchase the needed material for his shop.

In May 2016, IOM visited him in his shop in order to discuss with him his situation. M.R. explained to IOM that he sees his future in Iraq and that, despite the difficult economic and political situation, he manages to cover his daily needs. He also said to IOM:

*“Before I went abroad I felt that life there was easier than here, but now I understand that life needs challenging experiences and hard work everywhere. Now I want to live among my relatives and friends.”*



*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, August 2016