



Return Assistance: a change in one's perspectives

Return Assistance in Practice

Mongolia, Ulaan Bator



The family P. returned to Mongolia in the beginning of 2012. Their first idea was to invest the return assistance in a housing project. But as they could eventually stay with some relatives after their return, the couple worked on a new project idea with the help of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). They decided to open a business project instead: a dry cleaner's shop.

The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) approved the new project idea in September 2012. The family could thus rent an appropriate shop and purchase the equipment. IOM made the payment for the machines and the equipment directly to the vendors in China.

After some months, IOM visited the family and their business. The equipment had just arrived. Everything had already been installed and the shop looked really nice and professional. The family was satisfied with its current situation. The return assistance was useful for the implementation of their business and their reintegration in Mongolia. At the time of the visit, the revenue was still quite low but this was because the shop had opened very recently. The family was already planning to expand it in the near future as they were clearly seeing their future in Mongolia. Moreover, the couple was thankful for the time spent in Switzerland. They could learn a lot from their work as cleaners and could benefit from this experience upon return.



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.

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