

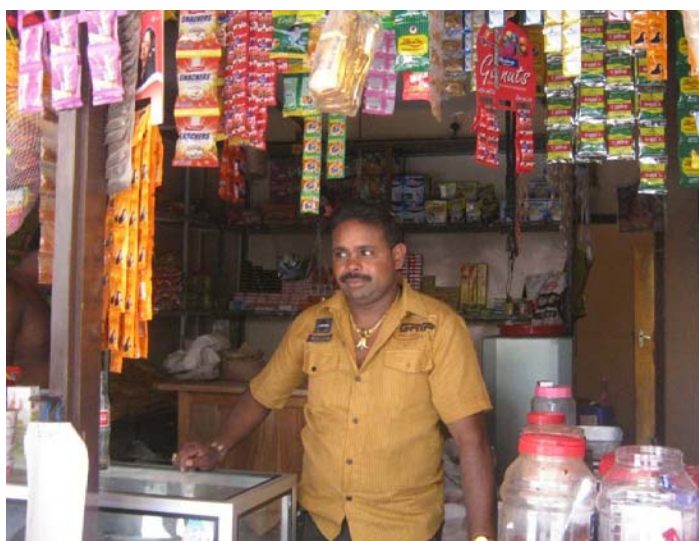
Return Assistance in Practice

Jaffna, Sri Lanka

After having spent 19 years in Switzerland, Mr. S. decided to return voluntarily to Sri Lanka in spring 2010. During his stay in Switzerland, he had the opportunity to work in a restaurant and gained general experience in goods supply. He decided to take advantage of this experience and planned to open a small grocery business upon return. The return counsellor assisted him with elaborating a detailed business plan that was then submitted to the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) for approval.

One month after his return, Mr. S. had found suitable premises for his shop and wanted to invest his reintegration grant in the purchase of goods to sell. Thus, he contacted the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka who advised him to register his business and get an official business license. After having received this document, IOM made the payment.

In July 2010, IOM Sri Lanka visited Mr. S. in his shop in Jaffna. His business is operational and he is earning an income with it. He could even hire an employee who is now able to financially support his family.



As a humanitarian and, at the same time, reasonably-priced solution, the concept of Return Assistance has proven successful 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 the migrant's sustainable and successful return. It is conceived so as to rule out undesired pull factors in the direction of Switzerland.