



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance - in practice

### Somalia, Mogadishu

Ms. H. voluntarily returned to her home country Somalia in May 2017. She was reunited with her family which lived in the Medina district of Mogadishu. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) granted her financial support for the implementation of her reintegration project and additional support for her sick child. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was commissioned to coordinate implementation on the ground.

She managed to implement her business plans with the reintegration assistance and opened a corner shop. She had previously gained experience in this field and thought that it would help her in the long run to earn an income for her family. With the support of her family, she now runs a corner shop in this neighborhood.

Despite the growing competition in the market, the security challenges and the lack of sufficient capital, the project has continued to run. When IOM asked her about the project in March 2018, Ms. H. replied: "As a woman, such types of projects keep us competitive with the rest and ensure that we earn our living for our family." She is satisfied with her current situation and can earn a living for herself and her daughter from this business. In the future she wants to stay in the place of return, and hopes to expand her existing business or perhaps open a second one.



*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.*

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