



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance – in practice

### Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Prizren

In summer 2013 Mrs. S. decided to return voluntarily to Kosovo together with her daughter. To facilitate her reintegration, the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) granted her financial assistance to set up a business project.

At their arrival in Pristina, Mrs. S. and her daughter were welcomed by representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and escorted to their final destination 100 km south of Pristina.

Mrs. S. wished to open a little shop with her reintegration grant but she was not sure whether she would be able to implement this project on her own.

Thus, the representatives of IOM Pristina helped her with the development of a detailed business plan that complied with the standards of the FOM. When her project was approved, Mrs. S. located providers from whom she could purchase merchandise and IOM made the payments directly to the vendors.



A few months after her return, Mrs. S. opened her little shop in the center of Prizren. She has many customers and they highly appreciate the wide range of products that she offers. Mrs. S. is happy about her personal situation because her shop is developing well and she earns enough money to make a living from it.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> Kosovo refers to Kosovo as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.  
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