



Return assistance: a change of perspective

## Return assistance - in practice

### Mongolia, Bulgan Aimag



After a three years' stay in Switzerland, Mr. P. returned to Mongolia at the beginning of 2016. Prior to his return, he had elaborated a reintegration project with support of the cantonal return counselling services. He wanted to invest in a sheep breeding project. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) examined Mr. P.'s project idea and subsequently approved return assistance for him.

Shortly upon his arrival in Mongolia, Mr. P. visited the office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ulaanbaatar. The office immediately began to support him with the implementation of his agricultural project. With the return assistance approved by the SEM, Mr. P. was able to acquire 60 sheep. Mr. P. already had relevant work experience as a cattle breeder and could thus start with the implementation of the project right away.

Mr. P.'s place of return is situated far away from Ulaanbaatar. Since he happened to be in the capital in summer 2016, he visited the IOM office on-site. Mr. P. was manifestly happy both with the implementation of his project as well as with his overall situation. With respect to the latter, he declared that, due to the return assistance he received, he deems it now better and more liveable than before his migration experience. With the income earned from his sheep breeding project, Mr. P. is now able to cover all his living costs. This is the main reason why Mr. P. sees his future in Mongolia and wants to further devote himself entirely to his cattle breeding. Mr. P. has every reason to be positive about the future: the 60 sheep he bought in spring 2016 have become more than 100 in spring 2016. Furthermore, he could add other species to his flock. Mr. P. explicitly thanked the IOM and the SEM, who allowed him to start a new life in Mongolia. Since Mr. P. is very proud of his animals, he sent a photo of himself and his flock to IOM Ulaanbaatar.



*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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