



## IOM SWITZERLAND'S STRATEGY IN COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Switzerland is a destination and transit country for victims of human trafficking. Every year, about 500 victims are identified and receive assistance in Switzerland. The precise number of people affected could be even higher, as identification remains difficult due to the hidden nature of this crime and human rights violation.

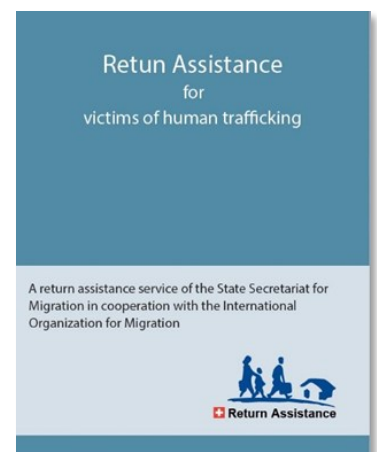
### Return assistance for victims of human trafficking

Return and reintegration assistance for trafficked persons has been funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) since 2010 and is aimed at persons in Switzerland, who are victims of or witnesses to human trafficking; or have been affected by attempted human trafficking.



The aim is to support their voluntary return to their home countries and to promote their reintegration in order to minimize the risk of being trafficked again. The project provides beneficiaries with shelter in safe places, medical and psychosocial assistance, reintegration support, the possibility of voluntary, safe and dignified return to their countries of origin, or, if necessary, resettlement in third countries.

Reintegration assistance can be used to implement various projects in the areas of vocational training, education or housing to repay debts that were not incurred in connection with an exploitative situation, to cover legal fees or to meet other specific needs. Beneficiaries also receive financial assistance in the form of cash for daily needs and have access to medical assistance for six months, if needed. Once all the reintegration assistance has been disbursed a monitoring visit is carried out by IOM or one of its partner organizations.



#### KEY FIGURES

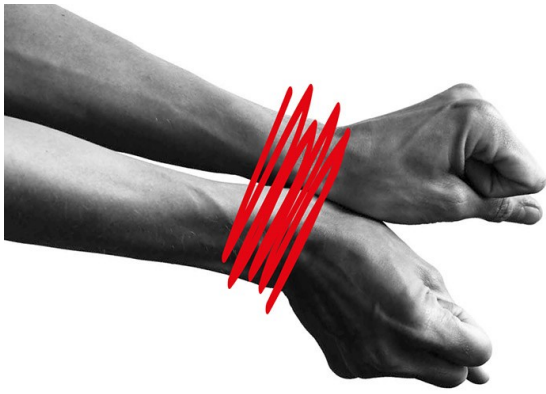
Dates: Ongoing since 2010

2021 budget: USD 196'120.30

Donor: State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)

Partners involved: SEM, specialized NGO FIZ, return counsellors and IOM office in Bern and in the countries of return

Beneficiaries: victims or witnesses of human trafficking and prostitutes who have been victim of an offense in Switzerland.



Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel  
La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains  
La Svizzera contro la tratta di esseri umani

## Raising awareness of human trafficking

IOM Switzerland takes the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings on 18. October as an opportunity to organize regular events and activities. Depending on the ongoing project, this may be a single event or a series of events, organized together with partners. The activities are promoted under the label "Switzerland against Human Trafficking" and IOM remains active throughout the year on the website ([www.18oktober.ch](http://www.18oktober.ch)) and social media channels. Between 2013 and 2021, more than 17,000 people participated in the various events and a much larger number of people were reached through various podcasts, social media campaigns and radio broadcasts.

### KEY FIGURES 2021

Dates: March until November 2021

2021 budget: CHF 67,062

Donor: Fedpol

Steering committee in 2021: fedpol, ACT212, Astrée, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Fachstelle für Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration in Zürich (FIZ), Fondation Au Coeur des Grottes, Fondation neuchâteloise pour la coordination de l'action sociale (FAS), Plateforme Traite, Plateforme Traite, Unia, Foreign Police of the City of Bern

Beneficiaries: General public and stakeholders in the field of labour exploitation of VoTs (labour inspectors etc.)

## LA SUISSE CONTRE LA TRAITE DES ÊTRES HUMAINS.



## Action Weeks against human trafficking

Action Weeks is a series of events that has been taking place every other year, since 2015. The Action Weeks offer the public the opportunity to receive information on the violation of human rights and to learn or better understand how human trafficking works. A wide range of events are organized throughout Switzerland in coordination with various partner organizations, the Swiss authorities and NGOs. This combination of online events and on-site actions, public events and events for specific target groups leads to an ideal balance between raising awareness among people from the general public and actors who could take an active role in combatting human trafficking.



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