



RETURN COUNSELLING AND ASSISTANCE FOR VOLUNTARY RETURN FROM THE SWISS FEDERAL ASYLUM CENTERS (RAZ)

In 2007 IOM Switzerland was requested by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) to carry out return counselling in the asylum reception centres, and since 2009 in Geneva and Zurich airport. IOM return counsellors are present in the federal asylum centers with a procedural function (Perreux, Chiasso, Altstätten, Basel and Bern) and in some centers without a procedural function (Kreuzlingen, Glaubenberg, Kappelen, Giffers and Brugg), as well as the airports.



Duration: ongoing since 2007, under a new phase since 2019

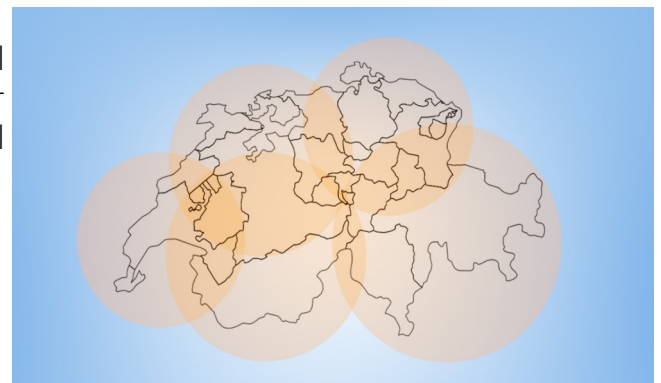
Budget: CHF 1,101,565.00

Donor: State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)

Beneficiaries: potential returnees from the Federal Asylum Centers

The main focus of IOM Switzerland's activities at the centers is to provide asylum seekers targeted counselling and comprehensive information on the possibility of voluntary return, support them with all steps in the preparation process, and where possible, their reintegration assistance.

The return counsellors are well connected with all partners in the centers: the State Secretariat for Migration, legal representatives, security, medical personnel, pastoral care, etc.



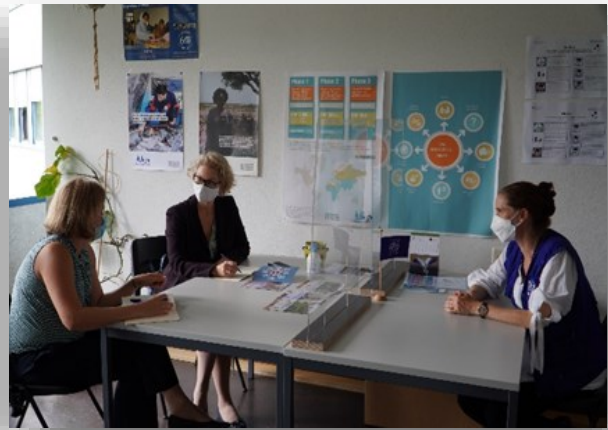
BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE:

Return counselling

1. Organization of voluntary return including support in obtaining travel documents and travel organisation)
2. Financial support (the degressive system was lifted in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic);
3. Tailored reintegration assistance, depending on the country of return;
4. Medical assistance, if needed.

2021 Highlights

- IOM Switzerland's return counsellors, in cooperation with RO Brussels, organized a regional exchange with all return counsellors from the EEA missions on 23rd June 2021, and identified the need for more exchanges in the future.
- IOM Switzerland's return counsellors were actively involved in the Return Counselling Toolkit project and contributed with their many years of experience and expertise in this field.



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