



# RETURN ASSISTANCE POLICY IN SWITZERLAND



FEDERAL OFFICE FOR MIGRATION

Grégoire Crettaz  
Return Assistance

Metropolis conference – October 2006

# Return assistance

## **GOALS**

- Assist and facilitate reintegration
- Motivate to voluntary return

## **INSTRUMENTS**

- Return counseling offices
- Individual return assistance
- Country-specific return assistance programs
- REZ: return assistance from reception centers

# Beneficiaries

## **ASYLUM Article 93 Asylum Law, Article 64 OA2**

Asylum seekers

- Rejected Asylum seekers
- Temporary admission
- Refugee status

+ NEC (limited benefits)

+ Expired time limit to leave CH (limited benefits)

- Offenses committed (exclusion from return assistance)

# Entries and departures in Switzerland

## **ENTRIES in 2005**

- **Asylum claims** **10' 061**

**Top 10: Serbia & Montenegro, Turkey, Somalia, Iraq, Bulgarian, Georgia, Russia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Iran, DRC**

## **DEPARTURES in 2005**

- **Disappearances** **6'006**
- **Repatriations** **1'281**
- **Controlled returns** **1'745**
- Total** **9'032**

**About 89 % of controlled returns left with return assistance (1560 persons):**

- **5 % (refugee status, temporary admission)**
- **19 % (pending asylum procedure)**
- **76 % (negative asylum decision)**

# Main partners

- Federal office for migration (FOM)
- Cantonal return counseling Offices (RCO)
- International Organization for Migrations (IOM)
- Swiss agency for development and cooperation (SDC)
- Swiss representations



- 
- 
- 

# Individual Return Assistance

Reinstallation fee                      CHF 1000

Reintegration project                  CHF 3000 max.

- income-generating project
- training, capacity-building
- temporary accommodation
- vulnerable cases

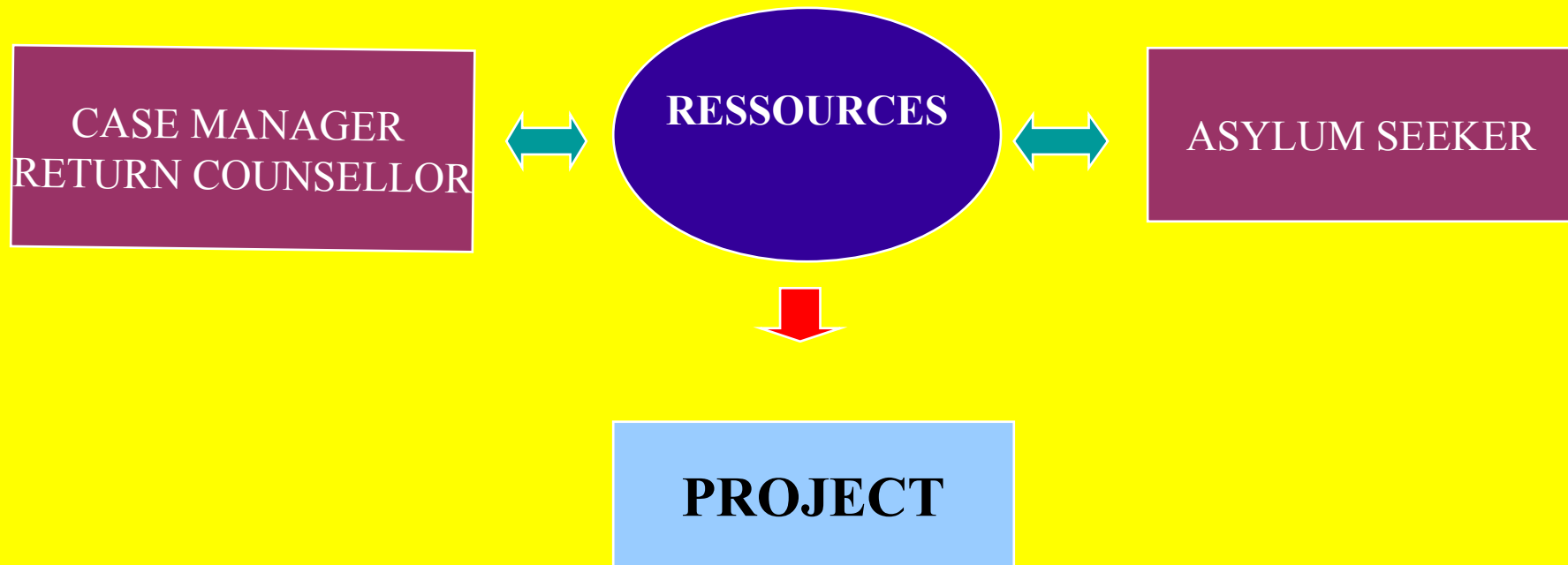
Medical assistance

Counseling and return organization



- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

# Case Management



# IOM services for Switzerland

- SwissREPAT – IOM Movements (SIM)
- Return Information Fund (RIF)
- Reintegration Assistance Switzerland (RAS)



# REZ

## Return assistance from reception centers

- Since March 2005 as a pilot-project
- 5 reception centers in Switzerland
- CHF 500/ CHF 250, medical return assistance, special cases
- 920 registrations, 718 departures
- 56% withdrawals, 44% NEC
- Mostly from European countries

# Country-specific return assistance program

- Create a dynamic for voluntary return
- More adequate individual measures
- Implementing partner
- Dialogue with country of origins
- Structural aid projects

# Country-specific programs

## TERMINATED

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Kosovo
- Serbia & Montenegro
- Ethiopia
- Somalia
- Kosovo minorities
- Macedonia
- Iran
- Sri Lanka
- Turkey

## RUNNING

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Angola
- Balkans vulnerable persons
- Nigeria
- Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso
- Iraq
- Armenia
- Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania
- Georgia
- Ethiopia
- Afghanistan

# Structural Aid as Return Assistance Policy



- 
- 
- 

## Programme Angola

Program launch in November 2002. Extended three times, presently until December 2006.

Target group: 2'821, including 2'198 temp.adm.

67 persons returned to Angola within the program (single persons, families, minors)

### **Structural-aid project:**

Financial support of Mulemba orphanage in Luanda



# Benefits from program

- counseling, return organization
- IOM support and monitoring
- financial assistance CHF 2'000 / CHF 1'000
- individual reintegration project up to CHF 5'000.-
- training in Luanda « small enterprise business management »
- case-to-case assistance for vulnerable persons
- medical assistance



# Some statistics

<b>Return assistance in 2005</b>	<b>1560</b>
Individual return assistance in 2005	764
Return assistance from reception centers REZ (since March 2005)	718
Angola (since November 2002)	67
Armenia (since July 2004)	55
Balkans vulnerable - Serbia & Montenegro (incl. Kosovo), Bosnia & Herzegovina (since July 2003)	176
Iraq (since July 2003)	385
Nigeria (since January 2005)	23
Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso (since June 2005)	23
Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya et Mauritania (since Nov. 2005)	39
Georgia (since January 2006)	16
Ethiopia (since June 2006)	3

# Perspectives

- extend access to return assistance to other categories (asylum law)
- extend access to return assistance to other categories (alien law)
  - vulnerable cases
  - human trafficking victims
- prevention of irregular migrations