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

CASE MANAGER
RETURN COUNSELLOR

RESSOURCES

ASYLUM SEEKER

PROJECT
IOM services for Switzerland

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

**Goals**

- Contribute ameliorating structural conditions in country of origin
- Promote voluntary return
- Contribute Preventing irregular migration
- Avoid tensions and discrimination between returnees and local population
- Facilitate dialogue with country of origins (readmission)
- Help internal political acceptance in country of destination
Programme Angola


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

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