

Return Assistance

for victims of trafficking

**and victims according to the Victim Support Act within
the prostitution sector**



Information for beneficiaries

**A service offered by the State Secretariat for Migration
in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration**

Return Assistance

The State Secretariat for Migration offers return assistance to victims of trafficking and victims according to the Victim Support Act within the prostitution sector. The objective is to support persons who are without means and who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin (or to a third country), in their return and reintegration process. The assistance is provided in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Modalities of return assistance

- By signing the request for return assistance, you confirm your wish to leave Switzerland definitively and on a voluntary basis.
- Please note that return assistance can only be granted once.

What can you expect from return assistance? How does it work?



Travel assistance

The following services are available:

- Organization and funding of the return flight
- Transit assistance
- Reception at the airport
- Secondary transportation to the final destination
- Social or medical escort, if needed



Reintegration assistance in cash

- Financial reintegration assistance of CHF 1'000 per adult / CHF 500 per minor in cash.
- Payment at the airport when leaving Switzerland in CHF, USD or EUR or in several instalments after return.
- This money is meant to cover daily expenses during the first months after return (food, hygiene, transportation, etc.)



Reintegration assistance in kind for a project

- In addition to the amount in cash, you can receive assistance of up to CHF 5000 in kind for an individual reintegration project (one project per family).
- The project (with a budget) can be submitted before departure or within one year after return. You will be assisted in the elaboration of your project, either in Switzerland or after return.
- The reintegration assistance can be used for projects in the areas of work, education, housing or another area (e.g. cash-for-care).

Types of in-kind reintegration assistance:

(it is possible to combine the different types of assistance below within the limit of CHF 5000)

- **Self-employment**

Financial assistance for establishing a small business (restaurant, shop, market stall, agriculture, etc.). The business has to be legal and officially registered.

- **Job placement**

Instead of creating a business, the assistance can be used as temporary salary subsidy for a position in a local company. Thus, the employee gains a new professional experience and the employer benefits from reduced salary costs.

- **Education / professional training**

Financial assistance for education or vocational training to improve prospects in the local labor market.

- **Housing assistance**

Financial assistance for various options:

- rent of an apartment
- construction of an annex in the house of relatives
- house reconstruction or renovation
- basic household equipment / furniture for your house or apartment



Medical assistance

Financial assistance of up to three months for medicines, medical treatment or participation in a rehabilitation program for victims of trafficking. If needed, assistance can be extended for another three months. Medical assistance requests can be submitted before departure or shortly after return.

IOM or its partner organization will assist you to register in the national health care system, if available. Only costs that cannot be covered by the national health care system or an insurance can be covered under medical assistance.

Modalities of payment

- Payments for in-kind reintegration assistance or medical assistance are done through IOM or its partner organization in the country of return.
- IOM or its partner organization requires written evidence to make direct payments to suppliers, service providers, landlords, pharmacies or physicians.
- If direct payment is not possible, you will have to present invoices or receipts related to your expenditures in order to be reimbursed.
- The payment is usually done in local currency, never in CHF.
- The amount of reintegration assistance in USD is determined by the State Secretariat for Migration on an annual basis.
- The IOM exchange rate of the month in which the payment takes place will be used for the conversion USD => local currency (it often differs from usual bank exchange rates of the day!).

Contact after return

The local IOM office or its partner organization is your contact agency relating to all issues of return assistance and reintegration. It will refer you to local services depending on your needs.

Monitoring on a voluntary basis

If you agree, IOM or its partner organization will conduct a monitoring of your reintegration process. After payment of the reintegration assistance, an interview will be conducted. This interview should offer an insight into the effectiveness of the assistance provided on a longer-term basis and into the progress of the reintegration process.

Confidentiality

Information about you and your situation is treated with great care and confidentiality, and is only shared to the extent needed for the organization of your return and reintegration process.

State Secretariat for Migration, 2020



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency