



Governance

# Return Assistance Program for Armenian Nationals from Switzerland



## Background

Since 1988 population migration movement in Armenia has highly intensified. Part of Armenian nationals lives in foreign countries without legal status whatsoever due to violation of entry requirements, absence of residence or work permit. Therefore their return either forced or voluntary is imminent.

Armenia has entered into a negotiation process with different countries aimed at concluding agreements on return of persons without residence permit, this will lay a necessary legal foundation.

The respective Readmission Agreement between Armenia and Switzerland has been signed on 30 October 2003.

Current programme is aimed at reintegration of rejected Armenian asylum seekers from Switzerland and ensuring sustainability of provided services to returnees from other countries.

## General Information

Project region:  
Armenia  
2008

Total budget:  
SDC: CHF 70 000

Project partner:  
"State Migration Agency"

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## Objectives

1. The programme objective is to arrange, in conjunction with the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, return from Switzerland of rejected asylum seekers of Armenian nationality and their subsequent reintegration in Armenia.
2. Another programme objective is creation of all necessary prerequisites for effective use of investments made in the pilot phase. Investments should be directed not only to full and comprehensive reintegration of returnees from Switzerland, but also to establish a future base for return and reintegration assistance to Armenian nationals coming from different countries.

## Expected results and activities

The Return assistance Programme aims at facilitating the voluntary return and reintegration of Armenians from Switzerland through socio-professional and psychological reintegration measures.

SDC and the State Migration Agency of the Republic of Armenia are jointly establishing mechanisms for strengthening the local capacity created under the first two phases of the Programme to ensure the sustainability of existing services after the end of the Programme.