

Assisted Voluntary Return to Nigeria: Short Return Stories

Sale of motor spare parts in Lagos

Duration of project implementation: 7 months

Upon his return to Lagos in August 2009, Mr. O contacted IOM Lagos in order to work out a business plan for the sale of motor spare parts. After his business plan was approved by FOM, he was able to rent a shop and to buy an initial stock of goods. During the implementation of his project, he took the opportunity to attend business training in Lagos and to learn the basics of entrepreneurship. His business has now been implemented as his shop is located in a busy area. Mr. O is satisfied with his situation to such an extent that he is planning to open a second shop for cosmetics. *"The program is a source to give people better future and hope."*



Grocery store in Lagos

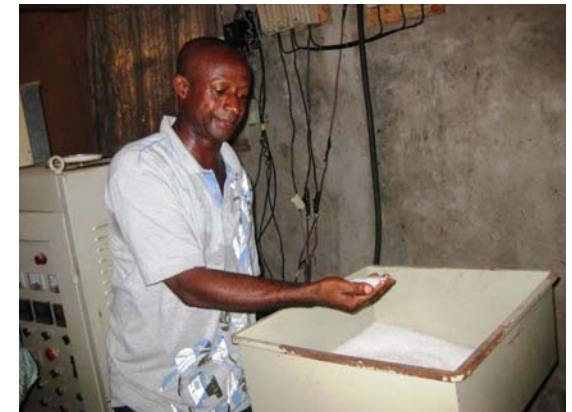
Duration of project implementation: 6 months

Mr. E returned to Nigeria with IOM in September 2009. With his reintegration assistance, he decided to open a grocery store as he used to work as a shop assistant before travelling to Europe. By the end of the year, he had attended business training in Lagos and he *"enjoyed the lectures a lot. I learnt how important it is to keep proper records in business and to set a goal for myself in my business."* Mr. E is satisfied with his project and he is not considering leaving the country again because *"there is no place like home where you are really accepted! The return assistance is very nice [...], because it is helping a lot of us to get back to their foot again."*

Production of plastic bags in Aba

Duration of project implementation: 4 months

Upon his return to Aba in April 2009, Mr. R decided to restart his work as a palm oil salesman. He benefited from his reintegration assistance and started to implement his project with the assistance of IOM. Mr. R used to travel to various parts of the county to source and sell his products. Unfortunately, however, he had to stop his project due to incessant kidnappings in the region. Thus, he decided to start a new business: production of plastic bags. He is now very pleased with his new venture, hoping to receive credit facilities to enable expansion.



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Sale of children's clothes in Lagos

Duration of project implementation: 8 months

Mr. A returned to Nigeria in July 2009. His intention was to settle down in Enugu, but instead he decided to stay in Lagos and to open a shop for children's clothes. With the help of IOM he devised a business plan and started his project. During the implementation of the project he attended business training in Lagos and particularly appreciated the business planning skills he gained. His shop has become a reality, although profitability is limited since his business is seasonal. However, Mr. A believes that his sales will increase in the future.

Barber salon in Owerri

Duration of project implementation: 7 months

Mr. N returned to Nigeria in September 2009 after spending one year in Switzerland. IOM employees met him at Lagos Airport, where he received reintegration assistance upon arrival and further assistance for his onward journey to Owerri. He decided to open up a barber salon and traveled back to Lagos to submit a business plan. After approval thereof by FOM, Mr. N received his first payment. In the following seven months, he received his whole reintegration assistance. He is now very happy with the progress of his project which nearly covers his entire living expenses. *"The program is very good because it has made it possible for me to settle down and to set up a business."*



Food store in Aba

Duration of project implementation: 3 months

Upon his return to Aba in August 2009, Mr. A planned to establish a transportation business. He submitted a business plan and proof of payment for a bus. As the bus cost more than his reintegration assistance, Mr. A would have had to pay the balance himself. But upon approval by FOM, he realized he was not able to raise the required funds. Therefore, he submitted a new business plan for a food store that allowed him to start his project in February 2010. He used his reintegration assistance for the purchase of goods and for the rent. Now he manages his own shop hoping to employ staff in the future.



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Haulage business in Port Harcourt

Duration of project implementation: 8 months

In April 2009, Mr. U returned to Port Harcourt, Nigeria. He wanted to start a business in supplying building sites with sand by buying a lorry. Soon after his return to Nigeria, Mr. U. was compassing his business plan with the help of IOM Lagos. He bought a lorry and arranged some contracts with constructing enterprises. In January 2010, Mr. U. reported that the income of his business covers most of his needs. Besides, he is selling second-hand cars. He is grateful for the assistance and will marry soon.



Trade in Construction Materials in Delta State

Duration of project implementation: 14 months

Mr. R. returned to Nigeria in April 2009. About one month after arrival, he decided to invest the project assistance granted by the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) in the trade of construction materials in Delta State. He started to implement his business thereafter. Although it took a while to organize the necessary material and documents, he succeeded in setting up a little workshop. He appreciated the possibility to participate in the business training organized by IOM and SMEDAN. In the meantime, he was even able to open a little restaurant next to his shop. He is married and became father of a son and is very happy with his situation.

Sale of Spare Parts in Lagos

Duration of project implementation: 5 months

In November 2009, Mr. M. returned to Lagos. With the help of the assistance granted by the FOM, he planned to open a shop for spare parts in a trade fair complex in Lagos and wanted to use one part of the assistance for the rental of an apartment. When IOM Lagos staff visited Mr. M. six months after his return, he informed that he is still living at the same place and appreciated the assistance that allowed him to implement his business successfully: *"I am very happy to have the opportunity to profit [from] this program. Without this program, I don't know how my condition would be today."*



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Sale of air conditioners and split units in Lagos

Duration of project implementation: 8 months

Mr. V. decided to return to his home country Nigeria in May 2010 and applied for return assistance. Three months later, IOM organized his return flight to Lagos. He had already discussed his business project with the return counselor in Switzerland and planned to sell air conditioners. Soon after his arrival, he submitted the business plan for the sale of air conditioners and split units. After approval from the FOM, Mr. V. started his project. In December 2010, he took part in the business training workshop organized by IOM and held by SMEDAN, a governmental agency for the development of small and medium enterprises. Seven months after the beginning of his project IOM visited Mr. V. in his shop. He informed that he is able to support five persons with the income generated through this business project.

Sale of Toyota spare in Lagos

Duration of project implementation: 6 months

Mr. N. returned to Nigeria in April 2010 and planned to open a motor spare parts store for Toyota cars in Lagos. He submitted his business plan that was accepted by FOM thereafter. He received the granted project assistance in three installments and registered his shop officially with the respective authority (CAC) in November 2010. In the meantime, he earns enough money to support three persons. Mr. N. is very grateful for the financial assistance he received from the Swiss government as well as the support of IOM and has now the opportunity to live on his business.



Sale of mobile phones and accessories

Duration of project implementation: 8 months

Mr. I. returned to Lagos, Nigeria in March 2010 and planned to open a business center to sell mobile phones and accessories. He submitted his business plan one month after return. Only a few days later his project was accepted by the FOM. Mr. I received the first installment and could start with his business project straight away. When IOM visited Mr. I. in his shop, he informed that he invested the income of his thriving sales project in the purchase of a bus. Thus, Mr. I. maintains a transportation project beside his main activity of selling mobile phones. He could hence register two successful activities under the name of “Fadanexton Enterprises” in November 2010.

