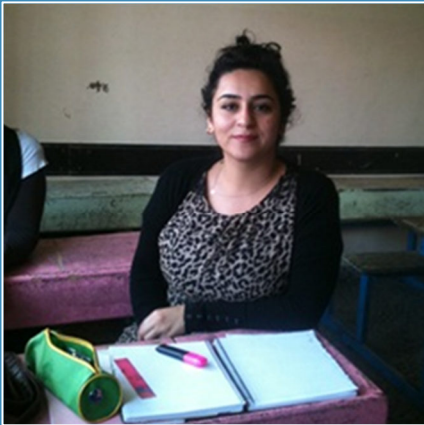




Life in Exile is Meaningless

The story of Peiman S., voluntary returnee under the IOM project "KRG Reintegration for Returnees from Germany"



30 year old Peiman S. decided to return to her family in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq.

She applied for assistance under the IOM project "KRG Reintegration for Returnees from Germany" before departure.

IOM Iraq has successfully assisted her with her social and economic reintegration. She is now completing her school education.

Peiman S. left her hometown in Iraq in 2003 to follow her husband to Germany. She planned to spend the rest of her life in exile in the hope of leading a better life.

She stayed in Germany for about 10 years. During this time, her relationship with her husband became difficult. She applied for asylum in Germany and learned to speak German. Due to her residency status, however, she was not allowed to study or work. When it became clear, that her asylum application would be

rejected, she decided to search for a way to return to the KRG.

She had heard from relatives that the Kurdistan region was becoming increasingly secure and prosperous; that people could easily find employment and provide for the basic needs of their families.

With the support of her return counseling center, she applied for assistance under the project "KRG Reintegration for Returnees from Germany".

A new phase in life for Peiman S.

"The assistance received from IOM was very fruitful and it has had an impact on my daily life and on my family. I would like to thank IOM and their entire staff for the support and encouragement they have given us."

IOM Germany carried out a personal interview prior to her departure. After her return in February 2013 the IOM Iraq office in Sulaymaniyah counseled her further.

She decided to establish a reliable source of income in form of a sheep farm together with a business partner. Additionally, she wished to successfully complete her school education, as she had dropped out of school at a young age. She therefore asked to receive a laptop, to support her in this venture.

She received a reintegration package with the value of EUR 5.000, allowing her to purchase 24 sheep and a laptop. She now attends school, specifically for adults, with the aim of receiving her school leaving certificate.

"I did not expect what I have achieved with IOM," Peiman remarked. "The beneficiary assistance is a very good start for someone who does not know where or how to restart their lives. It is a good encouragement to integrate into the local community. It is not everything, but it is a good step to begin a new phase in life."



Peiman S. with her flock of sheep.

"For me, life in Germany was full of difficulties [...] my asylum application was rejected. I couldn't get a chance to study [...] or get a job. I also started facing problems with my husband."



The proud new owner of a laptop.

"I am now doing better now because I am accustomed to the culture and social relations here in Iraqi Kurdistan."



Peiman S. at her school.



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