

ALL IN ALL A GREAT RECEPTION

The story of Hadir M., 19 years, a voluntary returnee who opened a mobile phone shop in an IDP camp in Zakho under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Hadir M. in his mobile phone shop

“Through my mobile store, I can make a good contribution to the family’s income.”

Hadir M., 19 years

19 year-old Hadir M. lived in Germany for about nine months before he decided to return to his family in Iraq in March 2016. He applied for assistance under IOM’s return and reintegration programme. His family (including his parents and four of his siblings) waited for him in the “Bersive 2 Camp”, a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Zakho – which is a three hour drive from Sinjar, where his family used to live.

Before and after his return, Hadir was counseled by the IOM Iraq office in Dohuk regarding his economic and social needs. At the time of his return, his family had to survive on the pension of the father which averaged USD 300 a month. To support the family along with his father, the young man decided to open a shop selling and repairing mobile phones in the camp where the family lives. Hadir did not possess business experience, however did have sound IT-knowledge.

Once his business plan was accepted after further elaboration by reintegration experts from IOM Iraq, the returnee could invest his reintegration package amounting to EUR 4,000 in mobile phones and other sales accessories.

The management of the IDP camp provided him with a tent, which Hadir used as a store. Although a second mobile phone store already existed in the camp, the camp’s population of 9,000 inhabitants would provide enough business for both stores and did not pose a competition for his business. During the monitoring visits by IOM staff, Hadir reported serving around 30 clients a day and his turnover amounted to around EUR 1,500 a month.

Through his income and the profitable business, Hadir is able to contribute around USD 300 to the family’s income. The rest of the money he invests in purchasing new products. Aside from the reintegration assistance he received from IOM personally, Hadir says that the most important aspect for his successful reintegration is the support provided by his family and friends. Hadir’s goal is to finish school which he had to leave after the 9th grade. To achieve this goal, he wants to return to his hometown Sinjar which unfortunately seems impossible in the near future due to the destruction there. Regarding his shop, he said that he would like to “take it there, rebuild it and maybe expand the business.”