

## SMALL SHOP, GREAT IMPACT

The story of Khalid A., 44 years, a voluntary returnee who opened a grocery shop in an IDP camp in Dohuk under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Khalid A. together with three of his seven children

“I could never have imagined, that an organization would ever do something for me.”

Khalid A., 44 years

When the 44 year old Khalid A. came to Germany with the intention of financially supporting his wife and seven kids living in Iraq, he hoped to soon be able to bring his family there too. Unfortunately, his chances for a residence permit were low and his financial resources became scarce after some months. The biologist graduate worked as a teacher in Iraq for twelve years and five years as a salesman.

When he filed his application for assistance under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”, he stated his wish to build upon his experiences as a salesman following his return to the area of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). With help of the reintegration package valued at EUR 4,000, Khalid A. was able to open a small grocery store in the “Sharia-Camp”, a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) near Dohuk where his family patiently waited for him. At the first monitoring visit of Khalid’s grocery store, he reported having a turnover of around USD 300 per month and that his eldest son works with him in the store. Positive developments, he said, but he

complained that the electricity in the camp often drops out and for that reason he was not yet able to offer refrigerated food and meat. “I would like to ask IOM for a second installment to buy a fridge and a small generator,” Khalid wrote in the questionnaire during the second monitoring visit. The 44 year old’s family of nine, including his two epileptic daughters, would not be the only ones to benefit from investing in a broader range of products, but also the rest of the camp’s residents. Khalid was therefore granted an additional installment of EUR 1,000 for a generator and a fridge. Within only a few months, the business-man has doubled his sales of up to USD 600 per month.

Khalid has no interest in emigrating again: “Since being able to open my own store with the help of the reintegration assistance, I will work hard with my sons to keep the business going.” As a long-term-goal, the family wishes to return to Sinjar once the area becomes habitable again after the liberation of ISIS and there Khalid wants to reopen the store.