

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN LIFE

The story of Mohammed A., 29 years, a voluntary returnee who started off as a business partner in a Dohuk bakery under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Mohammed A. in his bakery with freshly baked bread

“In addition to securing the income of my own family, the families of our employees also benefit from the reintegration assistance.”

Mohammed A., 29 years

Mr. Mohammed A. is a skilled baker originally from the city of Mosul. He was living in the area of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) with his wife and one and a half year-old son, when he decided to seek a better life in Germany. After six months of his stay however, his lack of prospects in getting into the bakery trade prompted him to return to the KRG.

His return counselor in Germany informed him about the assistance available under the project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”. With the help of his counselor, he applied for reintegration assistance. Upon their return, Mohammed further developed a promising reintegration business plan with the assistance of the IOM office in Dohuk. He gathered all the documents necessary to enter as a business partner into the bakery where he was employed prior to his journey to Europe. With the help of the reintegration package with the value of EUR 4,000, Mohammed was able to purchase a vast amount of flour, oil, yeast and plastic bags – goods needed for his baking

business. The investment paid off in many ways: the bakery is open six days a week and serves up to 180 customers per day. The largest share of the revenue flows back into the bakery and to the employee’s wages. Mohammed requires USD 400 to sustain his family. His next aim is to find a small house for his family as their current rented apartment is too small and too expensive.

The story of Mohammed demonstrates an ideal side effect of reintegration assistance: currently, the bakery employs three additional workers, which means that aside from Mohammed’s family’s income, three more families benefit from the success of the bakery business.

According to Mohammed, it is very likely that the bakery will continue to run and hopefully expand within the next few years. In the long-term, the father of the family wishes to “further develop his skills and craft, to save some money and to open his own bakery someday.”