

## TEAMWORK MAKES DREAM WORK

The story of Nazek I., 26 years, a voluntary returnee who expanded the family-owned sheep farming business under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Nazek I. purchasing sheep for her sheep farming business

“Through the dual role as a house - and businesswoman, I have gained a new self-image.”

Nazek I., 26 years

Born in 1990, Nazek I. arrived in Germany in January 2016 with her two little sons in search for job opportunities. Her husband remained in Dohuk to take care of the few remaining family owned sheep. After five months in Germany – without her husband or any work prospects, Nazek decided to return to the area of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and applied for return and reintegration assistance through IOM at a return counselling center.

With the help of the project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”, the young mother was able to purchase 34 sheep with the assistance amounting to EUR 4,000. This enabled her to enter into her husband’s sheep raising business. The trade in animals and selling of sheep dairy products provided the family business the necessary push-forward. As a result, the returnee was able to contribute considerably to the family income.

During monitoring visits by IOM staff, Nazek expresses her gratitude to her husband for supporting her. It is difficult for her to handle the household and the sheep at the same time; she begins her day by finishing the household tasks and afterwards helps her husband with the animals. With about EUR 1,000 income per month generated by her sheep, the young woman has gained a new self-confidence: “I play a vital role in my family. I am not only responsible for the household, but can also take financial care of my family. “

Nazek is confident and does not consider migrating to Europe again since she and her husband have built a successful and well running sheep-raising business. Although the returnee has resettled in her home it was not easy for her after the time spent in Germany, she reported. In the long run, Nazek set herself the goal to learn how to read and write whilst simultaneously expanding her flock of sheep.