

EVEN SMALL STEPS ARE EFFECTIVE

The story of Saadon H., 47 years, a voluntary returnee who opened his own cattle raising business and received housing materials under the IOM project “Integrated Reintegration in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq”



Saadon H. in his house together with some of his eleven family members

“I am very grateful to IOM for the support. We use the provided equipment and utensils every day.”

Saadon H., 47 years

At the end of 2015 Mr. Saadon H. came to Germany with his nine children and two wives. Previously the family lived in Erbil in the area of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) since they had to flee their hometown Sinjar (close to the KRG) after it was occupied by the IS-militia.

Due to problems with their legal status in Germany, the family decided in the beginning of 2016, after a two-month stay, to return to Erbil under assistance of IOM. Since the family was forced to leave all of their belongings behind when fleeing from ISIS, there was an urgent need for household appliances for their home – an unfinished house which the returnee was able to purchase with borrowed money from family and friends. With the assistance from the reintegration project, Mr. Saadon H. received cows worth EUR 4,000 for his cattle raising business and an additional installment of EUR 1,000 to buy the urgently-needed equipment for their household, including a washing machine, a stove and

a fridge. The cattle raising has yielded enough profit to provide for the family of twelve. The house still lacks some doors, windows and flooring, however the returnee is thankful to have been supported by the reintegration assistance in order to make a fresh start.

Moreover, he is optimistic about shaping his own future again in a sustainable way, step by step. Next, Mr. Saadon H. plans to build a shed for his cattle, as he faced difficulties in bringing up his calves through the cold winter months.

According to him, his cattle breeding business yields on average USD 400 per month, of which USD 300 are spent on family necessities. The remaining USD 100 flow back to his cows to keep the business running.

As soon as his hometown Sinjar finally becomes livable again, the father wishes to move back there and to send all his children to school.