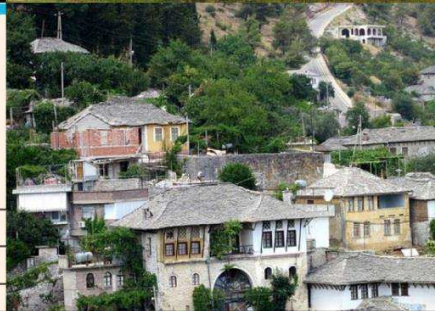


IOM • OIM



POSTCARDS OF RETURN

“I AM FROM GALYCO FAR AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL, SO IOM PAID MY TICKET & EVEN GAVE ME POCKET MONEY. AGAIN AND AGAIN THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WITHOUT YOU I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE.”



The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the migrants and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. IOM and the interviewed migrants do not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may arise from the reliance on information contained in this publication.

All migrants featured in this booklet have given their consent for the publication. When requested, fictitious names have been used to protect their privacy.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration
Skippergata 33
Oslo Norway 0154
Tel: +47 23 10 53 20
E-mail: iomoslovarp@iom.int
Internet: www.iom.no

ISBN-13: 978-1501052972 ISBN-10: 1501052977

© 2014 International Organization for Migration (IOM) <http://www.iom.no>

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



iomstoriesofreturnnorway.com

Dear friend,

Going into your future is never easy, preparations help.

When you left home, things looked differently. Your old life might have had many difficulties to overcome and you made a decision to travel to regions never seen before. It was a life-changing moment. You heard stories from friends and family who are living in Norway and seemed to have made it. You were told all this and saw it in pictures.

Being told by the authorities to return home is another life-changing moment. Uncertainties you had about building a new life in Norway before arrival, even after trying very hard, have been confirmed. These doubts probably never went away. Then comes the time to make a decision and choose the best option for you and your family's future. You might have preferred another outcome.

You understand it is time to go home. This booklet contains a collection of the emotions, difficulties, strengths and gains of the many other returnees who went before you and their experiences encountered upon return. Through these experiences, some of which are not perfect, you might develop a clearer picture on what can be the next step in your life. You will see that most need at least some kind of assistance with their return and reintegration. Even if it is home, it might be a place changed beyond memory that presents challenges and opportunities that did not exist before.

IOM is here to assist you as you prepare to go into your future. Your journey will be your story. Going into your future is a part of that journey. We gratefully thank those who gave their stories and we look forward to hearing yours. It might not be easy, but IOM can make your return organized and dignified. IOM wishes those who returned and those who will return the very best future.



*Joost van der Aalst
Chief of Mission
IOM Norway*



IOM CAN HELP YOU!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

DECIDE TO RETURN



- MANY DIFFERENT SITUATIONS CAN LEAD TO THE DECISION OF LEAVING NORWAY AND RETURNING TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY: IRREGULAR STATUS, ILLNESS OF A FAMILY MEMBER, REJECTED ASYLUM APPLICATION, DETENTION, OR SIMPLY THE WISH TO RETURN HOME.
- IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING RETURN, YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH IOM AND DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS WITHOUT ANY OBLIGATIONS.

PREPARE



- YOU CAN CALL IOM AT +47 23 10 53 20 AND MEET AN IOM COUNSELLOR TO EXPLAIN YOUR PERSONAL SITUATION.
- IOM WILL GIVE YOU ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR RETURN.
- IOM WILL HELP YOU STEP BY STEP TO PREPARE FOR YOUR DEPARTURE.
- DEPENDING ON YOUR PERSONAL SITUATION, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN IOM REINTEGRATION GRANT.
- IOM NORWAY WILL CONTACT THE IOM OFFICE IN YOUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN TO MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE HELP AFTER ARRIVAL.

TRAVEL



- AIRPORT ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED TO ALL MIGRANTS TRAVELLING WITH IOM.
- WE ASSIST WITH CHECK-IN AND BOARDING PROCEDURES, AND WITH THE EXIT FORMALITIES AT THE BORDER.
- YOU CAN ALSO RECEIVE SOCIAL OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLIGHT AND UPON ARRIVAL.
- IF NECESSARY, SPECIAL TRANSPORT AND ESCORTS CAN BE ARRANGED.

BUILD A NEW LIFE



- THE ASSISTANCE YOU RECEIVE UPON RETURN TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSONAL SITUATION.
- IOM CAN ARRANGE ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE, IN-KIND ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.
- YOU CAN DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS WITH IOM.

Afghanistan

My name is Otis.

I live in Afghanistan.

I'd been away for such a long time that I'd lost touch with Afghan culture, but my family helped me adjust.



I left the Helmand province many years ago. Like many migrants before me, my goal was to find peace and security. My journey took me to Iran - where I lived for many years, to Pakistan - where I stayed for just 15 days, and then finally on to Norway where I lived and worked for several years.

The journey to Europe from Pakistan took two and a half months and cost 14,000 dollars. Life in Norway was financially stable. I worked for a construction company and even managed to learn Norwegian. Despite being financially independent, my asylum claim and subsequent unsuccessful appeals left me in an uncertain and illegal situation. Threatened with imminent deportation I turned to IOM.

I qualified for the IRRANA project in addition to having all travel costs covered. I received the full re-integration package of a business start-up grant, one-off cash payment and housing allowance. With the help of the business start-up grant I am now a partner in an auto-engine oil business.

Having lived outside of Afghanistan for two decades, returning to Kabul was challenging. I'd been away for such a long time that I'd lost touch with Afghan culture, but my family helped me adjust. IOM provided me with detailed information that helped me rebuild my life.

IOM Afghanistan's exemplary dedication and perseverance includes assisting internally-displaced persons (IDP), counter-trafficking, humanitarian assistance, reintegration and disaster relief.

<http://www.iom.int/cms/afghanistan>

قصه اول – بابر

من باید زندگی ام را از صفر آغاز میکردم ولی نتیجه عالی بود.

بابر در ولایت کنر افغانستان بزرگ شد و بعد از فراغت از مکتب همراه با پدرش در دوکان چوب فرشی کار میکرد. درست زمانی که در اواسط بیست ساله گی خود رسیده بود به یک مشکل امنیتی مواجه شد و از آنجایی که نتوانست به این مشکل فایق آید تصمیم گرفت به کشور ناروی مهاجرت کند.

بعد از حدود شش ماه سفر طولانی سرانجام بابر به ناروی رسید و درخواست پناهنده گی داد. بابر دو سال اول را در کمپ مهاجرین بسر برد که بعداً به اوسلو رفت و دو سال دیگر در آنجا زندگی کرد.

طی چهار سال زندگی در ناروی بابر اجازه کار قانون نداشت و او تمام وقتش را صرف آموزش لسان کرده بود.

درخواست پناهنده گی بابر پس از شش ماه رد شد، در حالیکه 29 ماه بعد، دومین یادداشت مبنی بر رد درخواست پناهنده گی اش را نیز دریافت کرد.

بعد از اینکه درخواست پناهنده گی بابر دوبار رد شد او نسبت به آینده اش دچار ابهام شد و تصمیم گرفت که به افغانستان باز گردد IOM داوطلبانه از طریق دفتر.

بابر در نوامبر سال به کابل برگشت و با فامیلش یکجا شد. درست بعد از آنکه بابر به کابل رسید یک مقدار کمک نقد مالی دریافت کرد تا نیاز های جدی و اولیه اش را مرفوع سازد. بعداً یک مقدار پول جهت آغاز کار، مصارف دریافت کرد IOM خانه و تعلیمات مسلکی نیز از جانب دفتر.

اکنون بابر در افغانستان بسر میبرد و از کمک نقدی که بعد از برگشت داوطلبانه از ناروی به افغانستان از دفتر دریافت کرد با یک دوستش در تجارت مبایل شریک شده است IOM.

او میگوید: قبل از برگشت متیقن نبود که بتواند یک کار و بار ثابت و پایدار آغاز کند؛ ولی پول کمی را که از دریافت کرد هم برای خودش و هم برای فامیلش بسیار مفید و کارا واقع شد. بابر میگوید: با آنکه IOM جانب دفتر زندگی ام را از صفر باید آغاز میکردم ولی در نتیجه همه چیز بسیار عالی پیش رفت و اکنون از زندگی شخصی و کاری خوبی برخوردار ام.

برای او بازگشت به افغانستان اصلاً مشکل نبوده است و پلان برای مهاجرت غیر قانونی دوباره نیز ندارد.

Kthimi më IOM është udhëtim me dinjitet.

Emri im është Esmeralda. Unë jetoj në Shqipëri.

Ikëm nga Shqipëria në Greqi. Aty isha e abuzuar nga bashkëshorti dhe bashkë me fëmijet ikëm nga ai në erdhem në Norvegji. Aty qëndruam në një qendër të rrefugjatëve për 10 muaj, por nuk ndjehemi të qetësuar. Unë nuk mund të qëndrojmë në një strehimore me shumë njerëz të panjohur.

Vendosa të kthehem në Shqipëri me ndihmën e projektit të IOM Oslo -Vulnerable Groups Project, (“Projekti për grupe të rrezikuara”) që ofron ndihmë personave që gjenden në situata veçanërisht të vështira. Shfrytezova mbështetjen e kthimit dhe ri-integritimit për trajnim profesional, punësim, pagesën e qirasë dhe mbulimin e nevojave të fëmijëve, sikurse librat shkollore, etj. Tani jam duke vijuar trajnim të avancuar në aftësitë e kuzhinës dhe pas përfundimit të trajnimit do të marrë një certifikatë.

Në Shqipëri pagat që merr janë më të ulëta sesa në vendet e tjera ku kam punuar dhe kjo ishte e vështirë për tu pranuar. Kthimi nuk ishte pa sfida, por bashkëpunimi dhe ndihma nga ana e IOM-it ishte e shkëlqyer. Vendosa të kthehem në Tiranë e jo në qytetin e lindjes meqë mundësit ishin më të mëdha në Tiranë. Nga koha e kthimit e deri tani, gjërat janë përmirësuar, dhe une jam duke punuar dhe përfituar nga kontakti me familjen time. Këtu fëmijët janë integruar në sistemin shkollor. Edhe pse kemi vështirësi, jeta është më e mirë në Shqipëri sesa në Norvegji. Mbeshtetja ekonomike nga Norvegjia më ndihmoi shumë për të kapërcyer vështirësitë fillestare. Kjo mbështetje ka mbuluar për dy qirat, si dhe vendpunimin tim dhe trajnimin në furra dhe bizneset e kuzhinës, të gjitha këto ishin një ndihmesë e madhe dhe aq vitale për një fillim të ri në vendlindje.

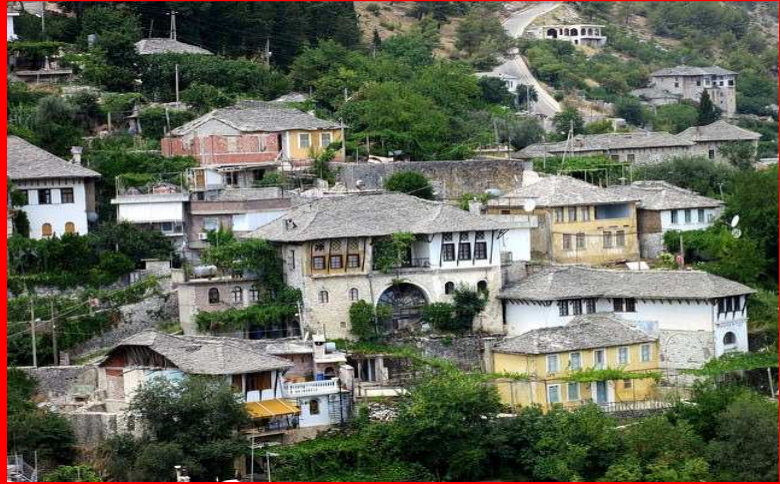
Albania

My name is

Esmeralda.

I live in Albania.

*To go back with IOM is
to travel with dignity.*



We left Albania and went to Greece. My husband was abusive and I left him and came to Norway with my children. I stayed in a reception centre for ten months but did not feel at ease. I could not stay in a shelter with lots of unknown people. I decided to return to Albania with assistance from IOM Oslo's Vulnerable Groups project, which provides assistance to returnees in particularly difficult situations. I used the reintegration support for vocational training, job placement, payment of rental fees and covering basic needs. I am learning advanced culinary skills and will receive a certificate upon completion.

My wages are lower in Albania than in other countries I have worked and that was difficult to accept. The return was not without challenges but the cooperation and assistance with IOM was excellent. I decided to return to Tirana instead of my home city in order to have more opportunities. Since returning, things have improved, and I am working and regained contact with my family. My children have integrated into the school system. Even with the difficulties, my life is better in Albania than in Norway. The initial cash grant from Norway helped me a lot to overcome the initial difficulties. The grant to cover rent for the house for a couple of months and my job placement and training at a bakery and culinary businesses, all these were so much of a great help and so vital for my restart in my home country.

IOM Albania has been a member of IOM since 1993 and has done substantial work on counter-trafficking, EU integration, reintegration and raising awareness in schools.

<http://www.albania.iom.int/index.php/en/>

Argentina

*Please come and visit
me and see how
beautiful this place is!*



I returned to Argentina with support from IOM's Financial Support to Return (FSR) project after having spent only a few months in Norway. Originally a citizen of Ukraine, I chose to return to Argentina where my daughters are living and where I have a residence permit. Upon arrival, I received the equivalent to 20,000 NOK by IOM Buenos Aires in reintegration support. I spent 2000 USD of this money on my daughters and put the rest in a savings account.

I am working as a carpenter in La Pedrera in Uruguay. La Pedrera is a town close to the Argentinian border that attracts a lot of tourists, and we are currently constructing houses to be sold to tourists. I miss the tranquility of Norway, but I am happy and plan to buy land in Uruguay where I foresee myself living in the future. For me, there is more work in Uruguay and the economy there is more stable compared to Argentina. I am grateful for the support I received from IOM and I was really pleased with the experience of returning with IOM. Please come and visit me and see how beautiful this place is!

IOM Argentina has dedicated work in the field of health, HIV prevention and counter-trafficking.
<http://www.iom.edu.ar/>

Por favor, ven a visitarme y ver lo hermosa que es este lugar!

Me llamo Laurenti. Yo vivo en Argentina.

Volví a la Argentina con el apoyo de OIM proyecto retorno de apoyo financiero (FSR) para después de haber pasado sólo unos meses en Noruega. Originalmente un ciudadano de Ucrania , que optó por regresar a la Argentina, donde mis hijas están viviendo y donde tienen un permiso de residencia. Recibí el equivalente a 20.000 coronas noruegas por la OIM Buenos Aires en apoyo a la reintegración. Pasé 2.000 dólares de este dinero en mis hijas y poner el resto en una cuenta de ahorros.

Estoy trabajando como carpintero en La Pedrera en Uruguay. La Pedrera es un pueblo cerca de la frontera con Argentina que atrae a una gran cantidad de turistas, y en este momento estamos construyendo casas para ser vendidas a los turistas. Echo de menos la tranquilidad de Noruega, pero estoy contento y tengo planes de comprar tierra en Uruguay , donde preveo yo vivir en el futuro. Para mí, hay más trabajo en el Uruguay y la economía no es más estable en comparación con Argentina. Estoy muy agradecido por el apoyo que he recibido de la OIM y yo estaba muy contento con la experiencia de volver con la OIM. Por favor, venir a visitarme y ver lo hermoso es este lugar!

Bangladesh

My name is Atiq.
I live in Bangladesh.
All the staff of IOM
is very much
cooperative in
coordination and
communication in any
aspect.



I was struggling with eyesight problems and returned to Bangladesh with IOM's Oslo Vulnerable Group (VG) project, which provides assistance to returnees in particularly difficult situations. I could not see with my right eye. I was not able to do my business properly so my partner was taking care of my business. I needed to go for treatment, and had surgery on my left eye. After the recovery of my left eye, I will look after my partnership business I started with reintegration money from IOM.

To a very large extent, the reintegration plan prepared by me and IOM Oslo was possible given the conditions in Bangladesh. IOM Oslo counselled and prepared me very well prior to my return. I had realistic expectations with regards to what assistance IOM Bangladesh could offer. I live very far from Dhaka and Sylhet but IOM was still able to reach me by telephone.

IOM Bangladesh has been a very active member of IOM since 1990 and provides (among many other things) expertise on health, counter-trafficking and repatriation in Southeast Asia. <http://www.iom.org.bd/>

আই ও এম (আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসন সংস্থা) এর সব কর্মচারী সমন্বয় এবং যোগাযোগের যে কোন ক্ষেত্রে খুবই সহযোগী।

বাংলাদেশ – আতিক চৌধুরী

আতিক দৃষ্টিশক্তির সমস্যার সঙ্গে লড়াই করছিলেন এবং বাংলাদেশে ফিরে গিয়েছিলেন অসলো আই ও এম সংগঠনের পরিকল্পনায় জেয় গ্রুপ প্রজেক্ট বা (জেয় গ্রুপ পরিকল্পনায়) – যেটা বিশেষত প্রত্যাবর্তনকারীদের কঠিন পরিস্থিতিতে সাহায্য করে বা দেয়। সে তার ডান চোখে দেখতে পেতনা। সে তার কাজকর্ম বা ব্যবসা ঠিকমতো দেখাশোনা করতে পারতনা। সেহেতু তার অংশীদার দেখাশোনা করত। আতিকের চিকিৎসার প্রয়োজন ছিল এবং ওর বাম চোখে অস্ত্রোপচার হয়েছিল। বাম চোখ ভালো হয়ে যাবার পর আতিক তার সেই অংশীদারি কারবার দেখবে যেটা সে শুরু করেছিল আই ও এম-এর পুনর্বাসন বা পুনর্মিলন-এর (প্রদত্ত) অর্থ দিয়ে।

বাংলাদেশের অবস্থা অনুযায়ী আতিক ও অসলো আই ও এম-এর প্রস্তুতীকৃত পুনর্মিলনের পরিকল্পনা করা বিস্মৃতভাবেই সম্ভব হয়েছিল। আতিকের দেশে প্রত্যাবর্তনের আগে থেকেই আই ও এম পরামর্শ দিয়ে আতিককে ভালোভাবে প্রস্তুত করতে পেরেছিল।

বাংলাদেশ আই ও এম কী ধরনের সাহায্য দিতে পারে সে সম্বন্ধে আতিকের বাস্তবভিত্তিক ধারণা বা আশা আকাঙ্ক্ষা ছিল। আতিক ঢাকা থেকে বহুদূরে সিলেটে বাস করে কিন্তু তার সঙ্গে আই ও এম টেলিফোনে যোগাযোগ রাখতে বা পৌঁছতে সমর্থ হয়েছিল।

La OIM entendió mi situación vulnerable.

Me llamo Xenia. Yo vivo en Chile.

Emigré de Chile a España, donde empecé a trabajar como criada y niñera para una familia española. Cuando la familia se trasladó a Noruega me mudé con ellos. Pero las cosas no funcionaron y dejé de trabajar para la familia. Traté de encontrar un trabajo, pero la barrera del idioma y mi situación ilegal hizo imposible para mí encontrar suficiente trabajo para sobrevivir.

No tenía idea de lo que haría cuando volví a Chile, pero el personal de la OIM explicó los pros y los contras de los paquetes de reinserción, y juntos hicimos un plan. El dinero no influyó en mi decisión, pero sí ayudó a cubrir mis gastos básicos cuando llegué a Santiago. Gasté el dinero en una máquina de coser, licencia de conducir y colegiatura de mi hija.

Me quedaré en Chile, mis hijos están aquí y tengo el apoyo de mi familia.

Chile

My name is Xenia.

I live in Chile.

IOM understood

my vulnerable

situation.



I migrated from Chile to Spain, where I started to work as a housekeeper and nanny for a Spanish family. When the family moved to Norway, I moved with them. But things didn't work out and I stopped working for the family. I tried to find work, but the language barrier and my illegal status made it impossible for me to find enough work to survive.

I had no idea what I would do when I returned to Chile, but the staff at IOM explained the pros and cons of the reintegration packages, and together we made a plan. The money didn't influence my decision, but it did help cover my basic costs when I arrived in Santiago. I spent the money on a sewing machine, driver's license and my daughter's school fees.

I will stay in Chile, my children are here and I have the support of my family.

IOM Chile has been a member of IOM since 1993 and provides education and reintegration assistance, counter-trafficking projects and considerable health initiatives. <http://www.oimchile.cl/>

Ethiopia

My name is Asrat.

I live in Ethiopia.

*I am happy to be
reunited with my wife
and children after
returning to Ethiopia.*



I left Ethiopia and came to Norway in search of a better life. My wife and two small children remained at home when I left Ethiopia. I lived in Norway for many years without a permit to stay and worked at a fish-processing company. After many years in Norway I decided to return to Ethiopia. I contacted the IOM office in Oslo to get information regarding the process of voluntary return.

In dialogue with IOM, I was informed of how the return with IOM would be organized and the possibility of organizing transportation to my final destination. I also received in-depth information about the reintegration assistance for returnees to Ethiopia.

I returned to Addis Ababa where I received the equivalent of 45,000 NOK in reintegration support. I used the reintegration assistance to renovate my house in Dilla town. I also developed a business plan and opened a restaurant and cafe on the first floor of the building. Another part of the building is rented out to an Ethiopian commercial bank.

I am happy to be reunited with my wife and children and grateful that I am once again living with my family in Ethiopia. I invested the reintegration support from IOM wisely and am currently earning enough money to support my family.

IOM Ethiopia has been a member of IOM since 2011 and does considerable work on migrant health, repatriation, settlement and assistance to the African union. <http://iomethiopia.org/>

ኖርዌይ በሚገኘው በዓለም አቀፍ የስደተኞች ድርጅት (አይኤም) ጽ/ቤት እርዳታ ወደ ኢትዮጵያ አገሬ በመመለስ ከባለቤቱና ከሁለት ልጆቿ ጋር በመገናኘቱ በጣም ደሥታ ይሰማኛል።

ስሜ አስራት ይባላል፤ የምኖረው በኢትዮጵያ ነው።

አስራት የተሻለ ኑሮ ፍለጋ ውድ ባለቤቱንና እንዲሁም ሁለት ልጆቿን በኢትዮጵያ በመተው ወደ ኖርዌይ አገር መጣ ። አስራት ለብዙ አመታት በኖርዌይ ቆይታው ይስራ የነበረው በአሳ ማከፋፈያ ድርጅት ሲሆን ቢሆንም ግን የኖርዌይ ሕጋዊ የመኖሪያ ፈቃድ አልነበረውም።

በኖርዌይ ከብዙ ዓመታት ቆይታ በኋላ ወደ ሐገሩ ኢትዮጵያ ለመመለስ ስለወሰነ በሰብዓዊ መንገድ የሚመለስበትን በቂ ግንዛቤ እና መረጃ ከዓለም አቀፍ የስደተኞች ድርጅት (አይኤም) ጽ/ቤት ለማግኘት ቻለ ። ከአይኤም ጽ/ቤት ጋር ባደረገው ውይይት ድርጅቱ ለሥደተኞች በግል ፍቃዳኝነት ላይ የተመሰረተ ወደ ትውልድ አገር የመመለሥ ተግባራዊ ዕርዳታ መለገስና ለጉዞ የሚያስፈልገውን ወጪ መሸፈን እንደሆነም ተብራራለት። በተጨማሪም ድርጅቱ ለተመላሽ ስደተኞች የሚሰጥ የጥሬ ገንዘብና የመቋቋሚያ ዕርዳታ እንደሚሰጠው ተገነዘበ።

አስራት ወደ አዲስ አበባ በአይኤም ዕርዳታ ከተመለሰ በኋላ እንደዚሁም ለመቋቋሚያ የሚሆነውን 45,000 የኖርዌጅያን ክሮነር ከአይኤም ተረከበ። በተደረገለት የገንዘብ ዕርዳታ በኢትዮጵያ የንግድ ፈቃድ በማውጣት በዲላ ከተማ የነበረውን ፎቅና ምድር ቤቱን በማሳደስ፤ ምድር ቤቱን ምግብ ቤት በመክፈት እንዲሁም ሁለተኛውን ፎቅ ለኢትዮጵያ የንግድ ባንክ ለማከራየት ቻለ።

አስራት ወደ አገሩ ተመልሶ ከባለቤቱና ልጆቿ ጋር ኑሮውን ለመቀጠል በመብቃቱ እጅግ ደስተኛ ነው እንደዚሁም ከአይኤም የተሰጠውን ዕርዳታ በአግባቡ ፍሬያማ ውጤት ላይ በማዋሉ በአሁን ሰአት እራሱንና ቤተሰቦቹን ለማስተዳደር የሚያስችል በቂ ገቢ ለማግኘት ችሏል።

Iraq

My name is Nisbar.
I live in Iraq.
Surely one day will come
and you will decide to
return back home,
because nothing is more
valuable than family, and
there is no life without
them.



I left Iraq because I was lacking stability in my life and had several personal problems. First, I arrived in Turkey and from there continued to Norway where I stayed for several years. In Norway, I started going to school and then joined a Norwegian cleaning company for which I worked for years. In Norway, I forgot about my personal problems and managed to adapt to the Norwegian way of life.

After not having my work permit in Norway renewed, however, I decided to apply for voluntary return to Iraq with IOM. Despite feeling settled in Norway, I felt that the time had come for me to leave. With the support of IOM, I arrived in Erbil from where I went back to my hometown in northern Iraq. Upon arrival, I received a cash grant from IOM and was then further assisted with post-arrival counselling and reintegration support by IOM's Duhok office.

I chose job placement as my in-kind project and am currently working as a clerk at a car outlet. In addition, I got support for training which I used to attend a course in English in order to improve my language skills. After settling into my new life in Iraq, I also resumed my studies by taking evening classes after work. I am happy about my new life and opportunities back in Iraq.

IOM Iraq has been a member of IOM since 2003 and provides assistance to internally-displaced persons (IDP), emergency assistance, integrated capacity building and sustainable livelihood programmes.

<http://iomiraq.net/>

ناوم نىبارە - لە ئىراق دەژىم

من ئىراقم جېھىشت، ئەو دەمانەى ھەستەم بە جىگىرى نەدەکرد لە ژيانى خۆمدا، كاتتىك چەند كىشەيەكى كەسى و تايبەتەيم ھەبوو. يەكەمجار گەيشتمە توركيا لەوئىشەو بەردەوام بووم تا گەيشتمە نەروىچ، ئەو جىگايەى كە چەند سالىكى تەمەنم تيايدا مامەو. لەم ولاتەدا دەستەمکرد بەوئى بچم بۆ خویندن و دواتریش چوومە كۆمپانىيەكى پاكردەنەووە و چەند سال كارم لەگەڵياندا كرد. من لەولاتى نەروىچ، كىشە و گرافتە تايبەتییە كەسىيەكانى خۆم لە بىركرد و ھىدى ھىدى لەگەڵ گوزەران و ژيانى ولاتەكەدا لىراھاتم.

پاش ئەوئى ئىدى مۆلەتى كارمەكەم لە ولاتەكە نوئ نەكرایەو، بىرپارمدا كە داواى گەرانەوئى خۆبەخشانە بۆ ئىراق بكم لەپىگاي ئاى ئۆ ئىمەو (IOM). ئەگەرچى، ھەستەم دەكرد تازە لە ولاتى نەروىچ نىشتەجئ بووم، بەلام لەھەمان كاتادا ئەو بىروايەم بۆ درووست بووبوو كە كاتى پوشتن و گەرانەوئى ھاتووە. بەھۆى ھاوكارى ئاى ئۆ ئىمەو (IOM) گەيشتمەو ھەولئىر و دواتر بەرەو شارى نىشتەجئ بوونى خۆم بەرپىكەوتم. لەگەڵ گەيشتندا، بىرە پارەيەكى كاشم لە ئاى ئۆ ئىم (IOM) وەرگرت و دواتریش ھاوكارى و پىنمايى پىويستەم لە پىگەى نووسىنگەى پىكخراومكەو لە دەوك وەرگرت.

ھەركەس دەبوو داواى گەيشتن پىوژەيەكى تايبەتى ھەبىت بۆ ئەوئى ھاوكارىيەكانى تىر ئاى ئۆ ئىم (IOM) وەرەگىرت. منىش كارپىكەم دۆزىەو و بوومە كارمەند لە پىشانگايەكى فروشتنى ئۆتۆمبىلدا. ھەروەھا، كۆمەكى راھىنانى زمانى ئىنگلىزىشم وەرگرت تا بتوانم تونا زمانەوئىيەكانم باشتر بكم. پاش راھاتن و گەرانەوئى بۆ ژيانىكى نوئ لە ئىراق، گەرامەو بۆ خویندن و ئىستا ئىواران خەرىكى خویندنم. زۆر دلم خۆشە بەم ژيان و دەرەفەتە نوئە لە ولاتەكەمدا.

Nepal

My name is Poudel.

I live in Nepal.

*I would really like
to suggest to come
through IOM.*



I came to Norway for security and human rights. After four years in Norway, I decided to return to Nepal. While I was financially independent in Norway and my life was good enough, my political and legal status in Norway was not acceptable. I received financial support to return and re-establish my life in Nepal. The financial support to return was my main source of income upon return, but I used the time to work on a plan for establishing a mineral water production plant.

I thought the amount of the cash grant was not enough to start a business in Nepal, but I consider the assistance programme very much helpful and important to the returnee like me. For people in Norway thinking of returning home, I would really like to suggest them to come through IOM.

IOM Nepal has been a member of IOM since 2006 and has done extensive work with counter-trafficking, a severe problem in Nepal. IOM Nepal also works with one of Nepal's biggest challenges, migration due to climatic hazards and climate change. <http://nepal.iom.int/>

म आइओएम मार्फत फर्कने सुझाव दिन्छु

म सुरक्षा र मानवअधिकारका लागि नर्वे गएको थिए। मैले नर्वेमा ४ वर्ष विताए पछि नेपाल फर्कने निर्णय गरे। म नर्वेमा आर्थिकरूपमा आत्मनिर्भर थिए। नर्वेमा जीवन राम्रोसँग चले पनि मलाइ मेरो अवस्था कारण त्यहाँको राजनीतिक र कानुनी हैसियत स्वीकार्य भएन। मैले नेपाल फर्कन र आफ्नो नयाँ जीवन सुरु गर्नका लागि आर्थिक सहयोग पाए। सुरुमा उक्त आर्थिक सहयोगनै मेरो मुख्य आयस्रोत भएपनि मैले आफ्नो समय मीनीरल वाटर उत्पादनको व्यवसाय स्थापना गर्ने योजनामा प्रयोग गरे।

नेपालमा व्यापार सुरु गर्न उक्त नगद अनुदान पर्याप्त भने छैन, तैपनि म र मेरो जस्तै गरि प्रवाशबाट फर्कनेका लागि आइओएमको स्वैच्छिक फिर्ती कार्यक्रम मार्फत दिइने आर्थिक सहयोग धेरै उपयोगी र महत्वपूर्ण छ। म नर्वेमा रहेका र घर फर्कन चाहनेहरुलाई आइओएम मार्फत घर फर्कने सुझाव दिन्छु।

आइओएम नेपाल सन् २००६ देखि विश्व आप्रवासी संगठनको सदस्य रहि आएको छ। नेपालको गम्भीर समस्याका रूपमा रहेका मानव बेचबिखन रोक्न र जलवायु परिवर्तनका कारणले निम्ताएको बसाइँ सराईको चुनौती सामना गर्न यस संस्थाले व्यापक सहयोग गर्दै आएको छ।

Hindi ko inaalís ang pagkakataon na makabalik sa Norway para magtrabaho dahil mayroon parin akong mga kakilala doon.

Ang pangalan ko ay Michelle. Aking buhay sa Pilipinas.

Nagtrabaho si Michelle bilang au pair sa Norway subalit ang kaniyang work permit ay binawi dahil sa paghintó niya sa pagtrabaho dahil sa eksploytasyon at abuso. Dahil wala siyang kontrata sa pagtrabaho, pinayuhan siya ng abogado na sumangguni sa IOM para kusang-loob na makabalik sa Pilipinas. Pagkatapos ng aplikasyon niya sa Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP), bumalik si Michelle sa Pilipinas ng makamit niya ang “reintegration support”, isang tulong pinansyal na handog ng Financial Support to Return (FSR) project. Sa pagdating ni Michelle sa Pilipinas, siya ay sinalubong ng IOM sa Manila International Airport at binigyan ng cheke na nagkakahalagang 20,000 NOK.

Tatlong buwan mula ng siya ay makabalik, si Michelle ay naninirahan kasama ang labing dalawang miyembro ng pamilya at siya ay nag-aaral para maging nars. Kahit na siya ay nag-aaral, patuloy parin siyang nag-aadjust sa bagong buhay sa Pilipinas. Hangarin ni Michelle makapagtrabaho upang kumita ngunit nahihirapan siyang maghanap ng trabaho sa Pilipinas. Ang natanggap niyang “reintegration support” ay nagamit sa araw-araw na pangastos at hindi niya inaalís ang pagkakataon makabalik sa Norway para magtrabaho dahil mayroon parin siyang mga kakilala doon.

Philippines

My name is Michelle.

I live in the Philippines.

I do not rule out the option

of returning to Norway to

find employment as I still

have connections.



I was working as an au pair in Norway but my work permit was withdrawn when I quit my job due to exploitation and abuse. Without a job contract my lawyer advised me to contact IOM in order to be assisted with voluntary return back to the Philippines. Following my application to the Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP), I returned to the Philippines having been granted reintegration support under the Financial Support to Return (FSR) project. Upon arrival, I was met by IOM at Manila International Airport and provided with a check worth 20,000 NOK.

I live with twelve family members and I am studying to become a nurse. Even though I am studying, I am still adjusting to my new life in the Philippines. I want to have a job in order to have an income but I find it difficult to find employment in the Philippines right now. The reintegration support has been spent on daily costs and I have not ruled out the option of coming back to Norway to find employment as I still have connections.

IOM Philippines provides IOM administrative support, reintegration services, extensive humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and counter-trafficking services. <http://www.iom.int/cms/philippines>

Russia

*my name is jusup. i
live in russia.
security is the most
important thing to
me and my family.*



I decided to migrate with my wife and newborn son to Norway as we no longer felt that it was safe for us in Russia. After receiving two rejections to our claim for asylum in Norway, however, my wife and I started considering the option of returning because we did not want to stay in Norway without legal status. As our relatives and friends back home also assured us that it was safe enough for us to come back, my family and I applied for voluntary return with IOM and departed for Russia with support from the Financial Support for Return (FSR) project.

After arrival, I utilized the reintegration grant I received from IOM to build a house for myself and my family. I also managed to get a temporary job but I would not be able to manage without IOM's support. Without having a permanent job, I have not made any further plans for the future. Job opportunities are very limited in Russia, but I still consider the improved security situation to be the most important thing for me and my family. At the moment, I do not have any plans of migrating abroad again.

IOM Russia has been a member of IOM since 1992 and provides resettlement support and counter-trafficking expertise. <http://moscow.iom.int/index.html>

Безопасность является очень важной для меня и моей семьи.

Меня зовут Юсуп и я живу в России.

Я решил уехать вместе с женой и новорожденным сыном в Норвегию, так как мы больше не чувствовали себя в безопасности в России. После получения двух отказов в своем ходатайстве о предоставлении убежища в Норвегии, я и моя жена начали рассматривать вариант о возвращении домой, потому что мы больше не хотели находиться в Норвегии нелегально. Так как родственники и друзья дома заверили нас в том, что уже было достаточно безопасно для нас вернуться, то я и моя семья подали заявки на добровольное возвращение с помощью MOM. Мы вернулись в Россию при поддержке проекта Финансовой помощи при возвращении (FSR).

После возвращения, я воспользовался реинтеграционным грантом, который я получил от MOM для того, чтобы построить дом для себя и своей семьи. Я также смог получить временную работу, но мне бы все это не удалось без поддержки MOM. Хотя не имея постоянной работы в данный момент, я не могу делать никаких дальнейших планов на будущее. Возможности трудоустройства в России очень ограничены, но я по-прежнему считаю, что улучшение ситуации связанной с безопасностью является важной для меня и моей семьи. В настоящее время, у меня нет никаких планов снова уехать за границу.

Waxaan dareemayaa qof dhexdhexaad ah dhaqaale ahaan xor ah laakiin rajeynayaa in mustaqbalka fog, waxaan awood u yeelan doonaa in aan horumariyo ganacsigeyga oo uu dakhli ka badan iga soo geli doono.

Ka dib markii uu ku noolaa Norway muddo ku dhow laba sano, wuxuu Cilmi ku laabtay Somaliland isagoo taageero ka helaya IOM Oslo lagana caawiyey mashruuca dib u laabashadda xorta ah iyo dib udhexgalka bulshada Somaliland (ARRSO) bishii Nofember 2012 Waxaa uu ku faraxsan yahay in ay helo gargaarka IOM, safarkiisii laga bilaabo garoonka diyaaradaha ee Norway, iyada oo uu sii maray Kenya ilaa uu ka degey Somaliland. IOM Hargeisa ay Cilmi kula kulantey garoonka diyaaradaha ee Berbera Somaliland, ayna ku caawiyeen gaadiid ilaa meeshuu u socdey.

Cilmi wuxuu u isticmaaley Qaybtii ugu horeeysey ee deeqda uu uheley dhexgalka bulshada in uu ku daboolo kharashaadka maalinlaha ah, ka dib soo noqoshada iyo inteeda kale uu maalgashtey ka ganacsiga xoolaha iyo iibinta riyaha.

Waxa uu dareensan yahay in uu dhaqaalihiiisa uu dhexdhexaad yahay lakiin uu dhaqaale ahaan xor ah, waxa uu rajeynayaa in mustaqbalka fog inuu awood u yeelan doono in uu horumariyo ganacsiisa, dakhli intaan ka badana ka soo geli doono mustaqbalka. Si kasdtaba ha ahaatee, hadeer wuxuu awoodaainuu daboolo kharashaadka xaaskiisa iyo siddeed carruur ahoo uu dhaley. Cilmi sidoo kale wuxuu helay taageerada kaalmada kirada si loogu daboolo kharashyada kirada guriga, muddada ugu horeysa ka dib intuu soo laabtay..

Cilmi ayaa sheegay inuu ku faraxsan yahay inuu dibugu soo laabto Somaliland iyo in uu dib ula xiriiro qoyska iyo saaxiibadiisa intuu dib ugu soo laabtey wadanka. Wuxu ku faraxsan yahay in uula midoobo xaaskiisa iyo carruurtiisaba, wuxuuna sheegay in uusan qorshaha ugu jirin inuu ka tago Somaliland. Marka ay timaado xaaladda ammaanka, Cilmi ayaa sheegay in uu dareensan yahay ammaan ku filan.

Somaliland

My name is Ahmed.

I live in Somaliland.

*Now, I am better, I
have improved and want
to expand my business.*



After living in Norway for years, I returned to Somaliland with support from IOM Oslo's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration to Somaliland (ARRSO) project. I was happy to receive IOM assistance throughout my journey from the airport in Norway, through transit in Kenya and upon arrival in Somaliland. IOM Hargeisa met me at Bebera airport in Somaliland and assisted me with transportation until my final destination.

I used the first installment of my reintegration grant to cover my daily expenses after return and invested the rest in a livestock business buying and selling goats. I feel moderately economically independent but hope that in the long run, I will be able to develop my business and generate more income. I am, however, able to provide for my wife and eight children for now. I also received housing allowance support to cover my housing expenses in the first period after return.

I am happy to be back in Somaliland and I have been able to reestablish contact with family and friends after return. I am pleased to be reunited with my wife and children and I have no plans of leaving Somaliland again. When it comes to the security situation, I feel safe enough.

IOM Hargeisa provides coordination, reception, reintegration and transportation assistance. It is estimated that thousands of migrant adults and children attempting to cross African desert to reach Europe have died since 2000. www.mmp.iom.int

Sri Lanka

*My name is Ruwan
I live in Sri Lanka.
I appreciate that
returning with IOM
allowed me to travel as
a regular passenger.*



I returned with IOM's Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP) from Norway to Sri Lanka. I am very happy with the support I received and appreciate that returning with IOM allowed me to travel as a regular passenger to my home country. I visited the IOM office in Oslo and was provided with information and assistance in order to organize my return. IOM accompanied me to the Sri Lankan Embassy and assisted me in getting the necessary documents for travel.

Upon arrival in Sri Lanka, I was met by IOM staff at the airport. I received the equivalent 10,000 NOK in reintegration assistance. The journey back home went according to plan without any disturbances.

I spent my reintegration assistance on treatment of a medical condition. The condition makes it difficult for me to get a job at the moment. My family supports me and we have a small business that helps me and my two children cope in a challenging situation. I am determined to do my best to manage and build a future for myself and my children. I am happy to be back with my family and relatives.

IOM Sri Lanka has been a member of IOM since 1990 and provides language training assistance, counter-trafficking expertise and climate change and disaster risk reduction. <http://www.iomsrilanka.org/iom/>

கதை: றுவானின் மருத்துவச் சிகிச்சை

அகதிக் கோரிக்கையாளர்களுக்கான அனைத்துலக அமைப்பின் (IOM) மூலம் தாயகம் திரும்பியமை ஒரு சாதாரண பயணி போல இலபுவாக என்னால் பயணிக்க முடிந்தமையையிட்டு நான் மிகழ்வடைகின்றேன்.

றுவான் அவர்கள் நவம்பர் மாதம் IOM-அமைப்பின் அனுசரணையுடன் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டுவரும் 'சுயவிருப்பு அடிப்படையில் தாயகம் திரும்பும் நிகழ்ச்சித் திட்டத்தின்' மூலம் நோர்வேயிலிருந்து இலங்கைக்கு திரும்பினார். தனக்குக் கிடைத்த உதவியையிட்டு அவர் மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியை வெளிப்படுத்தியுள்ளதோடு, IOM-அமைப்பின் மூலம் தாயகம் திரும்பியமை சிக்கல்களுக்கு முகம் கொடுக்காத வகையில் ஒரு சாதாரண பயணி போலத் தன்னால் தாயகம் திரும்ப முடிந்ததாகவும் கூறுகின்றார்.

அவர் ஒஸ்லோவில் IOM -அலுவலகத்தை நாடிய போது, தாயகம் திரும்புவதற்குரிய தகவல்கள் மற்றும் உதவிகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு அவருடைய பயணம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டது. IOM-அமைப்பானது அவரை நோர்வேயிலுள்ள சிறிலங்கா தூதரகத்திற்கு அழைத்துச் சென்று, பயணத்திற்கு அவசியமான ஆவணங்களைப் பெற ஏற்பாடு செய்தது.

சிறிலங்கா விமான நிலையத்தில் றுவான் சென்று இறங்கிய போது, விமான நிலையத்தில் IOM-பணியாளர்கள் அவரைச் சந்தித்தனர். அவருக்குரிய மீள் இணைவாக்க உதவித்தொகையாக 10 000 குரோனர்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டது. அவருடைய பயணம் எந்தவித இடையூறுகளும் இல்லாது திட்டமிட்டபடி அமைந்தது. மீள் இணைவாக்க உதவித்தொகையினை றுவான் தனது மருத்துவப் பரிசோதனைக்குச் செலவளித்துள்ளார். றுவானுடைய தற்போதைய உடல்நிலை வாழ்வாதாரத்திற்கான வேலை ஒன்றினைத் தேடிப்பெறுவதில் அவருக்குத் தடையாக உள்ளது. இந்தச் சவாலான சூழலைச் சமாளிப்பதற்கு, சிறிய வியாபாரத்தில் ஈடுபட்டிருக்கும் அவரது குடும்பத்தினர் அவருக்கும் அவருடைய இரண்டு பிள்ளைகளுக்கும் பொருளாதார ரீதியில் உதவுகின்றனர்.

இந்தச் சூழலைச் சமாளித்து தனக்கும் தனது பிள்ளைகளுக்குமான எதிர்காலத்தைக் கட்டியமைப்பதில் றுவான் உறுதியாக உள்ளார். தனது குடும்பத்தினர் மற்றும் உறவினர்களுடனும் மீள் இணைந்ததில் றுவான் மகிழ்ச்சியடைந்துள்ளார்.

IOM offers private, tailored and dignified voluntary return for qualifying migrants to their country of origin after confidential consultation, and where possible, with reintegration support.

For more information or to speak with an IOM counsellor,
please call:

+47 23 10 53 20

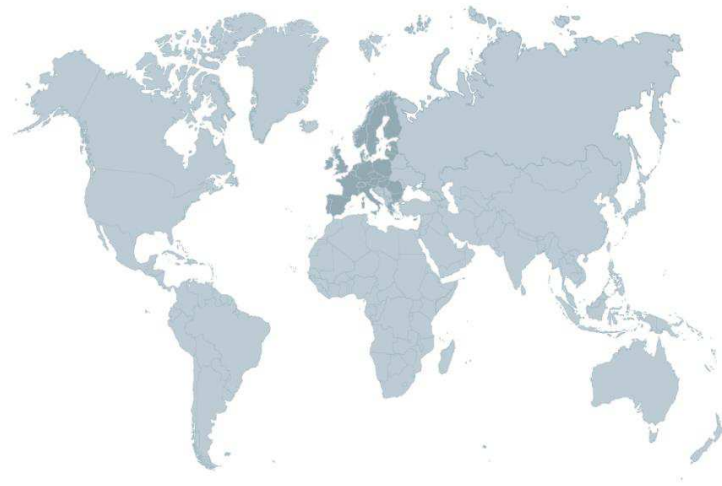
or E-mail us at iomoslovarp@iom.int

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes of IOM Norway are open to asylum seekers and irregular migrants from outside of Norway and the European Union who would like to return home.

Information is available on our website:

<http://www.iom.no>

IOM NORWAY
STORIES OF RETURN
CHOOSE A COUNTRY FROM THE MAP



CHOOSE A COUNTRY

Argentina	Philippines	Iraq
Afghanistan	Somaliand	Ethiopia
Albania	Sri Lanka	Russia
Nepal	Bangladesh	Chile

More stories to be told soon

Copyright IOM Norway © 2012. All rights reserved.
Website by Cron Design **Disclaimer**

ABOUT US | CONTACT US



iomstoriesofreturnnorway.com



IOM • OIM