

HUMAN STORY LIVELIHOOD UNIT

Only in the darkness can you see the stars.

Madaba's central location could not be better for exploring Jordan. It's the perfect location to take in some of Jordan's best known sites the city is famous for its mosaics, which are found at some of its most famous landmarks including St. George's Church with its impressive 6th century mosaic of the holy land. Let that sink in- the map was built between 542 and 570 AD!! Also, not to be missed is the nearby Archaeological Park, which contains well preserved roads, buildings, and churches from the Roman era. A mosaic in the Church of the Virgin Mary dates back to 767 AD. As you can see Madaba has been around a long time!

Alaa Marzina story is one of the influential stories of the Iraqis residing in Jordan. Alaa is 37th years old. He lives with his family his wife and three children's. Back to Iraq days, darkness settled on the land where death and fear became the most common words among Iraqis. His family was one of the Iraqi families that was impressed negatively by the war that's why they immigrate to Jordan looking for peace and safety.

Since their arrival to Jordan, they faced many life challenges; they started their life from zero, and as a first step they began searching for a place to live in while covering other needs such as food. After finding a good-state rented house in Madaba, The situation is generally uncomfortable, because he cannot be able to pay the rent because of the high cost of the rented houses there, they started searching for a job opportunity. During their stay in Jordan and as Caritas association was known to them since Iraqi days, they went to one of Caritas centers in Jordan to get benefit from the provided services that will help them surviving for longer period, at least until finding a job. The family received coupons and health services. As well, the availability of job opportunities that Caritas Jordan provides through its livelihood projects was the greatest provided service. From that time he was lucky to join some project which was implemented by Caritas Jordan, it allowed Iraqis to have job opportunities in areas that belong to church without the need for work permissions. His work journey started since he attended the Mosaic making training for about one month and received cash for work service for 50 days. After finishing the cash for work period, he was chosen to continue working in the Mercy Garden at Madaba for longer periods of time as he proved his hard work in Mosaic making, painting and He has worked to stone the church and restore a group of other beneficiaries which is the greatest thing for him the opportunity of making that make him so happy and turned the light in his life he felt great joy when changing the shape of the church because he is part of this achievement.

Because of this great job opportunity, Alaa's psychological and financial conditions changed positively; he found new friends and a great work atmosphere at Madaba Mercy Garden that made him feel psychologically better. Also, he and his family were capable to cover their own expenses as they see fit instead of receiving specific services.

Nowadays, although the family is looking forward to travel to Australia where it can find settlement, it is very thankful and satisfied with this job opportunity inside Jordan because I always remembered that My property in Iraq was large and was stolen by terrorist groups. As for here in Jordan, I have nothing but the grace of my Lord and that what made me stronger. I was always worried and afraid before Caritas because of the situation surrounding me and my family, but now I feel great psychological comfort and fear has faded. Moreover, Alaa mentioned that if they travelled to Australia and besides being a Maintenance man, he will get benefit from his experience inside the church and the mercy garden workshops in Australia in many different ways and he can be able to get more money and working on his situation and Having another great children and being strong and to see the stars even if its darkness.

Lastly, Alaa sends his thanks for everyone contributed and worked in any aspect in Caritas projects. Furthermore, he wishes that such projects will be developed and implemented to help larger number of people who are facing life challenges and looking for job opportunities specially the Iraqis who don't have job permissions.