

HUMAN STORY LIVELIHOOD UNIT

FAITH IN GOD'S WILL

One of the touching stories of the refugees in Jordan is Martin Kamel's story. Martin, a 27-year-old Iraqi man and a father of a baby, was living a stable life with his family in Iraq since his birth until ISIS entered Iraq and started threatening him and his family in 2014. Because of that, the family decided to leave all its possessions, work and even education with the hope of finding a secure and safe place in the North of Iraq. Unfortunately, they faced the challenge of lack of job opportunities in the North; that's why at the end they took a decision to immigrate to Jordan.

When the family arrived Jordan in 2016, all it they owned was an amount of money that helped in finding a rented house in Al-Hashmi area and covering the basic needs for a short period. As spending money without earning them leads to a point where finding a job is necessary to survive, Martin and his brother felt of their responsibility towards the family and started looking for any job opportunity. Unluckily, Iraqis in Jordan don't have work permissions, this made the family's status worse. They started economizing in the entertaining payments and looking for a house with lower rent. In parallel with these bad conditions, Martin and his family heard about Caritas from the friends and relatives, so they visited one of Caritas Jordan centers and applied to get services that help them in covering their needs; they received coupons, health care issues including baby delivery as Martin's wife was pregnant and some medicines for his father. But still these services were short term and finding a job is still required to handle the needs of the coming days.

After several searches, finally he found a job in a water factory. However, Long time work and low wages forced him to leave the work after three months. Despite of these miserable experiences, the faith in God never disappeared. Through Caritas Jordan announcements for life skills trainings opportunities, Martin was lucky to be part of "Supporting Iraqi Refugees and Vulnerable Jordanians with empowerment and livelihood skills" project which is donated by AMU* and implemented by Caritas Jordan.



Photos @ caritas Jordan 2019

This project opened job doors for the Iraqis and their wish for having a job is no more impossible as they can work under the church's responsibilities. As mentioned above, one of the luckiest Iraqis was Martin, he got the opportunity to join the project's training, and he proved himself in the upcycling workshop so he was chosen to be part of the cash for work period. Moreover, he is still working in the Mercy Garden – Our Lady of Peace Center until these days.

Martin mentioned that this opportunity affected his psychological status because he met new friends with great souls in the workplace who also benefited from this project after the living challenges they faced in Jordan. In addition, his financial status improved as they are working for moderate periods of working hours, transportation is available and they are paid enough cash. These work conditions enabled him covering his family's basic needs including house rent, electricity and water fees as well as food.

At last, Martin said: "Thanks for every person who donated and contributed in this project which helped the needy families to graduate from their bad psychological and financial conditions. He wishes that projects such as this will be always provided in order to help larger number of people."

Martin's story is a real proof that God puts his hand in the right time, and although they are still looking for the settlement in other countries, they are thankful for the situation they reached and wishing peace in each place.

*AUM- Azione per Mondo Unito/ Onlus



Martin Kamel at "Garden of Mercy" Carpentry workshop Center
Photos @ caritas Jordan 2019