

Imagine becoming a refugee not just once, but three times.

Now, Brhane has secured a job in IT in Australia in less than 12 months!

Twenty-six-year-old Brhane has been in Australia for only 8 months. Born in Eritrea, he and his siblings had to escape to a refugee camp in Sudan after his father criticised the government. Due to safety he and his younger three siblings had to seek refuge in Saudi Arabia.




When life got dangerous there, he was able to seek asylum in India where he secured a student visa. Marginalised there too, for being Eritrean, Brhane managed to get to university and complete his Bachelor of Computer Application.

Yet at the same time, he found himself the head of his household at the age of only 16 – he was the primary caregiver to his two younger brothers and little sister.

Brhane was granted protection in Australia in 2018 and his goal was to secure a job in his field of IT.

Since he arrived in Australia, Brhane was forced to undertake unskilled jobs to make ends meet. This included picking and packing jobs, kitchen hand and even spent time working in a chicken factory feeding the livestock and packing eggs.

Based in Queensland, through his settlement provider, he was referred into a new **diversityworks** [®] program. After an intensive screening process, Brhane was selected for the program which recognised his overseas qualification, provided him with specialist pre-employment training, coaching and connected him with a local government employer for a work placement in IT.

After completing the pre-employment training, he said



This training with Community Corporate helped me to believe in myself, to be confident. It provided me with vital information and tools to be ready for my work placement and believe in my dreams again.



His workplace supervisor described Brhane as:

An extremely talented ICT professional, who has demonstrated a strong commitment to learning and adapting to the variety of tasks presented to him. He is a real team player who has connected well with staff at all levels of the organisation. His communication skills are very good, especially considering he has only been in Australia less than 12 months.

I think he is a great asset to our organisation, and I'm excited to see him develop his career. All he really needed was a bit of support to get to the starting line, and he's taken off from there.

Brhane describes his experience in the program as:

It is a unique opportunity opened to me to grow and help others. This was the best experience so far I had in this country to work with the diverse group of people and help my community. My work with the Council opened many opportunities not just to me but also became a huge support to my family.

You guys at Community Corporate helped me not just to get this job, but to be appropriately trained and inducted so I can achieve my dreams. You believed in me, trained me and it strengthened my confidence. So, thank you!

After his unpaid work placement, Brhane secured a full-time contract as a developer for three months working with the analytical business software that provides visualisation and business intelligence capabilities with an interface that helps end users to create their one reports and dashboards. Now he has secured a full-time contract with the same employer and will be working in the area of Internet of Things (IOT). IOT is an extension of Internet connectivity into physical devices and everyday objects.



Community Corporate's CEO, Carmen Garcia said

One of the most significant challenges for newly arrived refugees is the recognition of their overseas qualifications and being unable to use their skills and experience to contribute to working life in Australia. We have seen more and more recent newcomers to Australia having completed or partially completed tertiary studies (usually disrupted due to forced migration).

Regardless of these skills and qualifications, workforce participation continues to be a major obstacle in their effective settlement in Australia. Brhane is a shining example of someone who was prepared to do the hard work and jump through a few extra hurdles, but has ended up in a position that maximises his skills and kick started his career in IT.

With his new job, Brhane is again hopeful that one day he can sponsor his parents to Australia whom he has not seen for that last eight years.

"I want to tell other refugees to find these guys because Community Corporate's training and coaching will really help you and open many doors before you. If you have overseas qualification and you have high work ethics Community Corporate will equip you with necessary skills and to tools to excel".
- Brhane