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SIR SUCCESS STORIES

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## When a foreigner's skills can make a difference

by Federica Ferracini

Chinedu's story is quite special. Finding a qualified camel farmer in Bavaria was challenging for the employer since locals do not have much experience with camels. Chinedu was a camel farmer in Nigeria and he could benefit from his working experience here in Bavaria. Read about Chinedu and his experience working with Bavarian camels!

**Dear Chinedu, when did you arrive in Germany?**

I arrived in November 2015. Unlikely many other refugees, I arrived by plane. It was the first time traveling for me: I've never taken a plane before! I initially had a tourist visa and then I applied for asylum.

**What did you know about Germany before coming here and how did you imagine it?**

I imagined Germany to be a tolerant country where all humans are treated equally, no matter their race or religion. I'm a Christian and wished to be in a country where I can practice my religion freely without being discriminated or persecuted. I imagined Germany to be the best country for this.

**Are you currently studying German?**

Yes, I'm currently studying German and my level is A2. I didn't speak any German when I arrived, I've really started with the basics like "Hallo", "Guten Morgen". Now I can communicate better!

**Where do you live at the moment?**

I currently live in an accommodation provided by the Government. I previously

lived in a camp in Munich and then at the camel farm where I used to work.

**Tell us something more about you, your interests, your family ...**

Part of my family lives in Nigeria; I have a brother, a sister and 3 children. The children are currently living in Ghana with my sister. I'd love to bring them to Europe with me!

I like soccer and I love music, especially hip hop and samba.

**Can you tell us something about your job and how a day in the camel farm looks like?**

I love my job! I take care of the camels in a farm in Bavaria. Back in Nigeria I was a camel farmer too, but I had to sell my animals due to the political situation. I was very lucky to be

able to benefit from my working experience here.

I usually wake up at 7 am and I work till 7 pm. My tasks consist of feeding the animals, cleaning them and accompanying the guests during camel rides. During the weekend I usually go back to Munich.

Unfortunately my contract has expired. My asylum request was unfortunately rejected and I have appealed this decision. . I'm currently waiting for the final decision from the government before being able to work again.

**How was your first day?  
Were you nervous?**

I really enjoyed my first day at work, because I felt I could really benefit from my previous work experience. I was not nervous because I knew I could do the job, but obviously I had to prove that I'm qualified. .

**How did you hear about SIR?**

I heard about SIR from a friend and I decided to attend SIR's CV Workshop at Eine Welt Haus. I'm very grateful for the help I received!

**Tell us something about your new life and friends in Germany**

I went on well with the owners of the farm and I was spending most of my time with them. They were really kind to me!

Due to the fact that I was not living in the city and that I didn't have my own apartment, I didn't make many other friends outside of work.

**What are your dreams for the future?**

I dream to stay in Germany and to have my family with me.

**What do you wish to other newcomers who are looking for a job?**

Unfortunately the situation is very difficult for refugees coming from Nigeria. Therefore I would recommend to evaluate well if Bavaria is a good place for them. It's very difficult to get a job/work permit at the moment.