



# LEARN

## Greece - Case Study 2

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# Bilan - From Somalia to Greece on foot

Bilan's story is an example of how determination and self-esteem can help you overcome all obstacles in life.

## Introduction

Bilan's story has a lot of elements; abuse, home imprisonment, frustration, a lot of fear and abandonment but most of all it has courage and aim. It may seem like a heartbreaking story at first, but most of all it is an anthem to courage and self-love, a story of self-belief and determination. And it still, it is just one in a million.

## *Bilan's Story*

Different aspects of Bilan's life were present in her home country. She was unable to complete high school as a result of family obligations, and as a result, she only attended primary school. She had the opportunity to enroll in courses such as computer and English a few months prior to her departure. Upon finishing the courses, she secured her initial employment at the same institution, where she remained for a period of two years. Unfortunately, she was forced to quit employment for security and family reasons. Following that, she resolved to flee from her place of home.

She was compelled to leave her country due to a lack of security and freedom. She was deprived of any rights and was unable to make any decisions regarding her life. In her homeland, she was also subjected to discrimination, which unfortunately resembled imprisonment.

## Main Challenges

- Finishing education
- Security

## Main Opportunities

- Education
- Employment



## Bilan

Bilan is 35 years old. She is from Somalia, and she has been living in Greece for the last 8 years.



After fleeing Somalia and arriving in Greece through Turkey, this experience change me to my core as a person, it made me even stronger and more determined to achieve more in life. I stayed for 3 years in Karditsa and managed to go to high school and learn Greek. She had the chance to go to school, attend an interpreter seminar, take an English course, and prepare for the General Educational Development (GED) program.

Although each step has been challenging, the most challenging period was the transition to the capital city (in order to attend the interpreter seminar) and the subsequent homelessness. She encountered significant difficulty in locating a residence. At first, she secured a temporary shared flat. Ultimately, someone assisted me in finding a tiny flat.

The best thing is that I was recognized as a refugee, and I'm thankful to have graduated from school this year. I've improved my language skills, found a job, and secured a place to live. My life is better than it was before. I have a lot of dreams and hopes about the future. I am very optimistic and I believe it will unfold just as I am visualizing it now.

## Conclusions

Bilan aspires to study in higher education and graduate. Her ultimate dream is to become a successful person and build a better career. She hopes that one day her country will be peaceful, and she aspires to help others by providing free access to education and homes for orphans, in Africa especially in Somalia.

She wants to help and also encourage people to learn and grow; as she says help is not just needed in every situation, it is crucial. Providing assistance until immigrants and refugees can stand on their own is vital.

## Annexes

How and from whom to seek help in Greece, Enroll in Greek language lesson and find employment, support in Greece, access to services.



**Enroll in language lessons & find employment**

<https://metadrasi.org/>



**How to seek help**

<https://help.unhcr.org/greece/el/where-to-seek-help/>



**Support in Greece**

<https://hias.org/where/greece/>



**Access to services**

<https://rsaegean.org/en/refugee-camps-in-mainland-greece/>