When Belgian organisation Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen was looking for a young person to support them in their work with refugees, they found Mina who wanted to make a difference in the lives of others.

Across Europe, volunteers show empathy for the extreme hardships and choices made by refugees leaving their home countries.

Having fled Kurdistan and settled in Denmark as a refugee herself, Mina Jaf was determined to work for the community, which led to her researching the possibility of doing an EVS. When she applied for an EVS project, her background made her stand out to Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, an organisation giving refugee aid. “I’m learning a lot working for this EVS project. It gives me the chance to develop personal skills,” said Mina.

Els Keytsman from Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen was pleased with how easy it is to start up an EVS project and find a volunteer. Mina undertook her EVS in Belgium, where she helped to manage a team of volunteers at a refugee centre. Her work has proved invaluable to the organisation. She has so impressed staff at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen that they have submitted a request for funding for more EVS activities.