Factsheet on Lebanon

The civil war in Syria have produced tragic statistics, with more than a quarter of a million dead and over 13.5 million forced to flee from their homes in Syria. Among those displaced have sought refuge beyond Syria’s borders, the majority in neighbouring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Lebanon, a country of 6 million, today hosts around 1.5 million displaced Syrians. Statistics indicate that the country has the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide, where one person out of four is a refugee. With poverty rates already high prior to the refugee influx, the situation in the country continues to be precarious, pressuring all sectors from education and health to housing, water and electricity supply. Among many other challenges, unemployment—particularly youth unemployment, which is 3-4 times higher than overall unemployment rate in the country, places considerable strain on host communities, pressuring the competition for jobs and access to resources and services between Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees.

Qudra: Europe’s response

Together, the EU and the German Government are responding this situation by jointly providing support for projects that aim to mitigate the realities of the region. One of them is ‘Qudra - Resilience for Syrian Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in Response to the Syrian and Iraqi Crises’.

Qudra, an Arabic word meaning ‘strength’, ‘ability’ or ‘resilience’, is funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the ‘Madad’ Fund and the German Government and implemented in programme partner countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and (North) Iraq.

Qudra aims to strengthen the resilience of host communities, refugees and displaced persons in five key areas:

- Improving school infrastructure and access to extracurricular activities (e.g. sports)
- Expanding and improving basic vocational skills
- Strengthening social stability through community-based services
- Strengthening the capacities of local administrations
- Promoting dialogue and exchange of experience among the key stakeholders of the action.

In all these areas, the programme draws on the experience of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), Expertise France and Hungarian Interchurch Aid (Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet, HIA) in order to develop and implement shared European solutions.
Qudra in Lebanon

According to UNHCR, in July 2018, 976,002 persons from Syria were registered as refugees in Lebanon. In the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (LCRP), the total number of people living in Lebanon is estimated at 5.9 million, with 3.3 million people in need. Among the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, which today comprises over 1.5 million people, the Bekaa Valley contains the highest concentration of refugees, with over 350,000 registered with UNHCR. Figures on refugees in Lebanon are always to be analysed with care, for the UNHCR registration of new refugees has officially stopped in May 2015.

Qudra activities take place at local and national level and are designed to strengthen resilience by improving service delivery, supporting livelihoods and increasing employment opportunities for vulnerable men, women, young people and children. Working in compliance with national laws and regulations, Qudra aims to assist all stakeholders in Lebanon in the following areas:

Improving school infrastructure and access to extracurricular activities (GIZ)

Qudra seeks to increase access to good quality education services for Syrian and Lebanese students by rehabilitating 10 public schools, providing 5 schools with facilities for extra-curricular activities (e.g., sports, playgrounds,) and offering capacity development for teaching staff, parents and community workers in close cooperation with its partner Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Modules on how to use extra-curricular activities to develop social and personal competencies are jointly developed and being implemented.

Expanding and improving basic vocational skills (GIZ)

The overarching objective of this component is to enhance educational and economic opportunities for host communities and Syrian refugees through skills training, in particular for youth and women in Lebanon. Activities focus on formal and non-formal short-term measures for target groups. Tailor-made trainings are being offered in construction, services and agriculture-related skills which correspond to the demands of the labour market. In this endeavour, training-of-trainers programmes are conducted and an awareness-campaign on vocational and short-term training opportunities have been launched.

Strengthening social stability through community-based services (EF)

To foster social stability between refugees and local populations in four host communities in Bekaa-Lebanon, Qudra provides basic services through four semi-permanent community centres. In doing so, this component seeks to prevent children marginalisation through activities reflecting a positive engagement in their communities. Activities will also focus on improving opportunities for adults from both communities to develop life skills. Community-based awareness sessions as well as psychosocial support will be essential parts of this component, which also aims to improve exchange and ensure the access of refugee and host communities to information on their rights and duties in Lebanon.

All photographs: @GIZ
Promoting regional and national dialogue (GIZ)

Qudra brings refugees, IDPs, host communities and local, national and regional stakeholders together to define new options for action and prospects for the future. Various constructive dialogue formats are being utilized for interactive knowledge sharing, best practices exchange and collaborative learning in a participatory approach. This plays an essential role in developing strategies and possible measures for an appropriate response to the region's refugee crisis.

‘EU Madad Labs’ provide a forum for such encounters: refugees and other stakeholders work together to identify key issues and jointly develop sustainable innovative solutions and initiatives. Through Labs, workshops, expert meetings, national and regional conferences, progressive policies conducive to enhanced economic resilience and future perspectives for Syrian refugees and host communities are developed, different dimensions of the refugee crisis are analysed, and best practices are communicated to relevant stakeholder.

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Qudra - Resilience for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises

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