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

Factsheet on Turkey

The Context

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 their homes from Syria. Among those who were displaced have sought refuge beyond Syria’s borders, the majority in neighboring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Turkey is currently hosting more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, the largest number in any single country in the world. Half of them are children. Only 6% live in camps; most of the remaining 94% are out-of-camp refugees living in towns and cities. This presents the Government of Turkey, municipalities and public authorities with significant challenges in the provision of public services such as healthcare, education and social welfare.

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 in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq/KRI.

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 cohesion 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 experiences of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), Expertise France (EF) and Hungarian Interchurch Aid (Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet/ HIA) to develop and implement shared European solutions.
Qudra in Turkey

Qudra’s 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 and women and in particular youth. Working in compliance with national laws, the programme aims to assist all stakeholders in Turkey in following areas:

Improving school infrastructure and access to extracurricular activities

Qudra seeks to increase access to good quality education services for members of the host communities and Syrian refugees in Turkey by rehabilitating state schools, strengthening the language capacities of Syrian teachers and conducting extra-curricular cultural and sports activities for Turkish and Syrian students at state schools.

Enhancing skills training for host communities and Syrian refugees

This component aims to work with Public Education Centres or other training providers to offer tailor-made vocational training, mostly in the form of short-term training courses for targeted Syrian refugees and vulnerable Turkish youth. Activities include supporting the training providers with train-the-trainers programmes and provision of equipment.

Strengthening social cohesion through community-based services

To foster social cohesion between refugees and local populations in Turkish host communities, Qudra’s activities focus on improving and extending social services. Through multi-service centres, connected satellite centres (or subsidised transport to the multi-service centres) and a mobile unit, outreach will increasingly cover all the different groups living in the host communities. Needs-based services on offer range from non-formal education, health, livelihoods, sports and culture to specialises services such as psycho-social counseling, legal advice, skills training and certified language classes. The main aim is for all groups to have access to information and awareness raising on social services and cohesion, while intercultural activities addressing Syrian and Turkish youth, children and women in particular.

Promoting regional and national dialogue

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 stakeholders.