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# Qudra – Resilience for Syrian Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in Response to the Syrian and Iraqi Crises

## The situation in and around Syria

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 neighbouring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Even before the outbreak of the Syrian conflict, some countries such as Jordan and Lebanon were already hosting large numbers of refugees from the Palestinian territories. It is currently estimated that more than 17 million people are in need of humanitarian relief in the region, making this the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War.

## 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', funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund and the German Government. Qudra is an Arabic word meaning 'strength, 'ability' or 'resilience.'

The programme works with refugees, displaced persons and host communities in four countries bordering Syria: Jordan, Lebanon, North Iraq and Turkey. Roughly 80–90% of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in these countries are living out-of-camp, and their circumstances and status vary considerably.

Programme name	Qudra – Resilience for Syrian Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities in Response to the Syrian and Iraqi Crises
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	EU (Madad Trust Fund)
Countries	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey
Implementing organisations	GIZ in cooperation with AECID and EF
Duration	June 2016 to June 2019
Budget	Total: EUR 78 million (EUR 7.8 million from the BMZ; EUR 70.6 million from the EU)

Qudra aims to build 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 experience of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) and Expertise France (EF) in order to develop and implement shared European solutions.



*Qudra brings refugees, IDPs, host communities and local, national and regional stakeholders together to define new opportunities for action and prospects for the future. This participatory approach plays an essential role in developing strategies and measures for an appropriate response to the region's refugee crisis.*

## Practical Actions

### *Iraq: Strengthening the Capacities of Local Administrations*

In Iraq, following several decades of multiple crises and complex emergencies, 10 million people are in need of assistance with 3.1 million people internally displaced in the past two years alone. Northern Iraq hosts the majority of refugees and IDPs, estimated to be more than 1.8 million of people. (Joint Crisis Coordination Centre, Ministry of Interior) Thus, today, the region is affected by a complex financial, political, security and humanitarian crisis that has turned protracted with new emergency peaks within the larger crisis.

The objective of Qudra's programme module in North-Iraq is to contribute to transparent inclusive delivery capability of local administrations and other organizations with regard to basic services provision for IDPs, refugees and local populations. In this endeavour, Qudra is working on strengthening administrative structures at the level of governorates – Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah – and supporting quick impact projects with direct benefits to target groups. One such example is Qudra's support to the KRG in strengthening the Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC) that operates as a coordination hub of the region's crisis response network. Also, jointly with KRG and with strong support from its political partner, the Ministry of Planning, Qudra has set up a facility to provide funding and technical support for community-based projects benefiting refugees, IDPs and local populations in host communities in order to improve access to, and provision of, basic services guided by community participation and ownership principles. This action improves the living conditions of the local and displaced populations residing in hosting communities.

The Programme's institutional and human capacity development efforts target essentially the strategic and operational levels in priority areas of administration, management and leadership. The overall aim is to contribute to strengthen sustainable structures and capacities within the local administrations to better cope with the short and long-term effects of crises.

### *Jordan and Lebanon:*

#### **Education and Employment**

Jordan (population: 9.7 million) is currently hosting 1.2 million Syrian refugees, 80% of whom are living out-of-camp. More than half are unregistered and lack sufficient access to the labour market and schooling. Social tensions are of concern due to increased labour market competition between refugees and the vulnerable Jordanians, in a country where unemployment levels are high as 18.2%, youth unemployment being over 30%.

Furthermore, many Syrian refugee children are out of school for various reasons: inadequate local transport, child labour, high costs of education, or lack of schools.

Lebanon (population: approximately 6 million) has a 'no camp' policy, hence the majority of Syrian refugees – of whom are estimated to be 1.5 million – live in the communities. As for their status, the refugees are tolerated temporarily and generally live in makeshift accommodation, often in overpopulated areas. Since the crisis began, competition between local residents and refugees for jobs has intensified. As in Jordan, very few Syrian refugee children are able to attend school: two thirds of them – more than 400,000 of the estimated 570,000 Syrian children of school age – have no access to education.

Qudra activities in Jordan and Lebanon mainly aim to strengthen the local and national level by strengthening service delivery, supporting livelihoods and increasing employment opportunities for vulnerable men, women and young people.



### **Improving School Infrastructure and Access to Extracurricular Activities**

In Jordan and Lebanon, Qudra seeks to increase access to good quality formal and non-formal education services for host communities and Syrian refugees through rehabilitation of public schools, providing schools with sanitary facilities and facilities for extra-curricular activities (sports, playgrounds, labs, theatres). In Lebanon, these activities are conducted in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and in Jordan with the Ministry of Education. In both of these countries, modules on how to use extra-curricular activities to develop social and personal competencies are jointly developed and implemented with respective governmental institutions and public authorities.

## Expanding and improving basic vocational skills

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



### Turkey: Social Cohesion

Turkey is currently hosting more than 3.2 million Syrian refugees, the largest number in any neighbouring country. Half of them are children. Only 10% of the refugees live in camps; most of the remaining 90% are out-of-camp refugees living in towns and cities. This presents the Government, municipalities and public authorities with significant challenges in the provision of public services such as healthcare, education and social welfare. Turkey offers refugees protection, residence permits and access to medical care and education.

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 specialized services such as psycho-social counselling, 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. '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.

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