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QUDRA 2

qudra /kud.ra/ /arabic/ adj.
means 'strength, 'ability' or 'resilience'.

Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises

The Syrian and Iraqi Crises

The Syrian crisis has created the world's largest displacement emergency. According to the UNHCR (2020) 6.6 million people have been displaced within Syria and 5.6 million Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Many refugees have been in their host countries for five or more years and a large-scale return of refugees to Syria is unlikely in the short term. Those who return to their homes face the challenge of rebuilding their lives in the context of large-scale destruction of infrastructure and disruption of the social order.

Most refugees, internally displaced people (IDP) and returnees live in host communities; only a small percentage live in dedicated camps. And while host governments and communities have made considerable efforts to support them, the extensive duration of the crisis is placing a strain on the social fabric. Real and perceived competition over access to education, jobs and other basic services is increasing social tensions. Many of those affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises require specific support to overcome the trauma of displacement.



As the effects of the now protracted crises continue to be felt by individuals, communities and government institutions, substantial support is required. Qudra works with refugees, displaced people, returnees and host communities in four countries bordering Syria, namely Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Implemented by



Qudra 2: A European Response

The European Union (EU), the German Government and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation are responding to this situation by jointly supporting projects that are mitigating the challenges of the region. Qudra is an example of such cooperation. Now in its second phase (2019–2022), the programme constitutes a multi-partner action to provide a European response, offering the combined strength and capacities of the EU and its Member States` implementing agencies.

Country	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey
Starting date	01.09.2019
End date	31.08.2022
Implementing partner(s)	:: Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) :: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH :: Enabel - Belgian Development Agency :: Expertise France (EF) :: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)
Commissioned by	EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, BMZ, AECID
Project Duration	36 months
Total budget	65,500,000 EUR

Qudra 2 is jointly implemented by five European agencies, including AECID, Enabel, EF, GIZ and HIA from Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, and Hungary respectively.

The objective is to strengthen the resilience of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted crises in Syria and Iraq. This will be achieved by the programme through the following four components selected according to each respective country`s needs.

1. Education and Protection
2. Employment promotion and income generation
3. Local governmental institutions and civil society organisations
4. Social cohesion as a cross-cutting component

Qudra 2 in Iraq

According to UNHCR, approximately 250,000 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq in 2019, and ongoing violence has also caused extensive internal displacement. Approximately 6.7 million people, which is 18% of the total population, need humanitarian assistance. The people affected are concerned about protection for themselves and their families, with women and children in particular having limited access to essential services. Furthermore, 13% of IDPs and returnee households are female-headed and face a high risk of gender-based violence.

Employment opportunities are scarce by regional standards, and the ongoing economic and financial crisis is leading to a rise in unemployment.

The high influx of IDPs and Syrian refugees into the relatively safe Kurdistan Region of Iraq has left local governments and administrations there facing increasing pressure to provide infrastructure and services to vulnerable communities in poorer and remoter areas.

In Iraq, Qudra 2 focuses on the following components while paying special attention to children, youth, women and other highly vulnerable population groups.

1. Promoting protection measures for the self-development and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults

Qudra 2 recognises the importance of handling psychological trauma professionally and works in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide Iraqi health personnel with special training courses in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to strengthen their knowledge and skills and enable them to support Iraqi returnees, IDPs, Syrian refugees and host communities.

2. Enhancing access to employment opportunities for the target groups and generating income opportunities for the most vulnerable

One of the main challenges facing Iraq is a lack of economic and employment opportunities, which has a particularly strong impact on displaced people and returnees. Qudra 2 is facilitating access to and the provision of economic opportunities through skills development for employment promotion and small business start-ups, especially for youth and women, and supports public and private actors through training to promote job opportunities. This will strengthen resilience, increase self-sufficiency, and help to develop sustainable livelihoods.

Qudra 2 is planning a grant system to provide effective employment and income options such as training medium / small Enterprises in entrepreneurship, business development and marketing. These activities will be coordinated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Baghdad and Erbil.



3. Providing a grant scheme for participatory community support projects and strengthening capacities of governmental institutions & civil society actors

After a comprehensive analysis to establish priorities, community needs are addressed through small investment measures and quick impact projects (QIPs) to enhance the delivery of basic services and infrastructure and improve the living conditions of the target group.

As a guiding principle, target groups will play an active role in the assessment, planning and implementation of Qudra 2's investment measures.

The programme will also strengthen the capacity of governmental institutions and local civil society organisations to constantly improve service delivery to the target groups according to their core mandates, which will increase resilience.

4. Fostering dialogue for exchange and innovation

Alongside its specific interventions, Qudra 2 will integrate efforts to address social tensions and promote community cohesion among refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities throughout all components.

Facilitating dialogue and providing safe spaces for action-oriented exchange and innovation involving groups of stakeholders and participants are regarded as complementary actions.

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