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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.

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

Implemented by



Qudra 2 in Jordan

Jordan currently hosts 1.3 million Syrians, only half of whom are officially registered with UNHCR (670,238). 80% of refugee households live below the poverty line, and 48% of refugees are children. This has heavily impacted Jordan's ability to deliver quality services to everyone in the host communities, and especially for ensuring access to key public services such as education and municipal amenities. The countries' labour market is struggling to absorb this surge in the workforce and the resultant increase in competition, especially in the informal sector, which is escalating social tensions.

The programme pays special attention to children, youth, women and other population groups that are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly and disabled, and aims to achieve its objectives while assisting all Jordanian stakeholders.

1. Promoting improvements in facility management and the provision of transport to educational facilities, and supporting learning and exchange formats for children and youth

Structural barriers in Jordan's educational system include children doing double shifts in schools, language barriers, vandalism, and the lack of secure and affordable school transport. Qudra 2 will target major challenges in the education sector and increase access to quality education services by developing an improved school transport system and a sustainable facility management system to enhance the learning environment for everyone. Children and youth will be offered structured extracurricular sports and cultural activities to foster quality education and social cohesion.



2. Providing access to employment opportunities and skills development for semi-skilled workers

Qudra 2 will focus on employment promotion to increase the number of youth and adults who acquire demand-driven vocational and technical skills, and support them with improved access to employment opportunities. In this regard, Syrian refugees and vulnerable members of host communities will be supported in obtaining certification as skilled workers or craftsmen, and will also benefit from labour market services aimed at supporting and promoting effective job matching. As part of providing skills development, Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian youth will be enrolled in VET-WBL (Work-Based Learning) initiatives at the semi-skilled level, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in practical skills.

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

Qudra 2 will focus on service-related community support projects that directly address people's needs and improve the living conditions of vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian members of the community. A participatory grant scheme will be established to provide funding for service-related community support projects that are proposed and initiated through partnerships between municipalities and civil society organisations. Municipalities with strong planning and management systems will be awarded direct funding, while grants to weaker municipalities will be linked to capacity development measures. Since civil society actors are both stakeholders and agents of change, they will be supported through trainings that include topics relating to social cohesion.

4. Fostering dialogue for exchange and innovation, promoting production, and disseminating accurate information

One of the challenges of the protracted displacement is how to foster community cohesion and mitigate rising social tensions between refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities, especially in urban contexts. Qudra 2 supports activities to promote dialogue by providing safe spaces for exchange and innovation that involve diverse groups of stakeholders and participants. The programme's target groups and other stakeholders will be engaged in dialogue tables, exchange formats and working group sessions to enhance community cohesion, to build the future of Syria.

Accurate information will be produced and disseminated to the target audience through outreach programs, information campaigns, and/or awareness-raising sessions.

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