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Resilience for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi Crises

QUDRA MATTERS

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The SO5 Team

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foreword

Dear Readers,

The refugee crisis in the Middle East is one of the major tragedies of our times. 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 WW2. The civil war in Syria alone has resulted in more than a quarter of a million dead and over 13.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

Together, the EU and the German Government are responding this situation by providing support for projects that aim at mitigating impact of this crisis in the region. One of these 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 Qudra Programme works with refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in four countries bordering Syria: Jordan, Lebanon, North Iraq and Turkey. Roughly 80-90% of Syrian and Iraqi refugees and IDPs in these countries are not living in camp, but in host communities. Qudra aims at strengthening their resilience by improving school infrastructure and access to extracurricular activities (e.g. sports); expanding and improving basic vocational skills; fostering social cohesion through community-based services; improving the capacities of local administrations; and promoting dialogue and exchange of experiences.

The Qudra Programme is proud to share with you the first issue of a newsletter which we intend to prepare on a quarterly basis from now on. The newsletter will inform you about the Qudra Programme activities and achievements, and it will present views of stakeholders and beneficiaries. This first issue starts by presenting you snapshots of our work in each of the programme modules, including a preview on special events in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, on school sports related to the upcoming men’s soccer world championship cup, vocational skills training activities in the garment sector implemented with our Jordanian partner JEFE, social cohesion activities in Turkey, the implementation of quick-impact livelihood projects in KRI/North Iraq, and Qudra’s innovative EU Madad Innovation Lab dialogue events. There is also a preview on our outreach event with our partner Artolution, planned for Berlin, Germany at end-April 2018. Finally, we present Qudra’s new implementing partner, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA).

Our newsletter intends to trigger reactions, discussions, exchange and dialogue. We therefore very much welcome your feedback and suggestions for contributions!

Please enjoy the reading.

Dr. Günther Taube
Qudra Programme Director

An Important Milestone for QUDRA

Agreement with HIA (Hungarian Interchurch Aid) as a new implementing partner

We are proud to introduce our new implementing partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid (Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet/ HIA). HIA, member of ACT Alliance, has an objective of not only to provide temporary assistance to those in crises but also to show them a way out of poverty, has joined the Qudra Programme in North Iraq/ KRI.

Last details have been tied up on March 2018 and the process is concluded with an important milestone to put in place a joint force for strengthening the resilience in the region. The agreement with HIA as an implementing partner will strengthen the Programme's resilience support for refugees, IDPs and host communities in North Iraq. On regional priorities for collaboration, this agreement will address host communities, refugees, and IDPs by promoting resilience and employment opportunities with the aim of reducing destabilizing effects of the refugee crisis in KRI.

Under The Qudra Programme's module SO4 – Supporting Local Administrations, the main objective of the activities will concentrate on knowledge transfer and provision of tools to the administrative structures at the level of governorates strengthening their capacities in such way that they will be able to provide better services for refugees and IDPs and also for the local population.

The main elements of the partnership target 7800 direct beneficiaries

The implementing partnership with HIA takes place in three governorates of KRI: Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah. An objected number of 7800 direct beneficiaries will be reached out with several activities among others capacity building, agricultural and animal husbandry development and support to existing and start-up enterprises.

With regards to The Qudra Programme's SO4 module, the agreement will in particular:

- Offer capacity building activities for local governmental and non-governmental organisations to promote better coordination and more effective care for refugees, IDPs
- Enhance employment opportunities for IDPs, refugees, and local population of hosting communities by organising vocational training, retraining activities,
- Ensure horticultural and animal resource development under the title of "livelihood programmes",
- Address small and medium-sized organisations by providing support with tools and equipment and start-up training, making business plan, marketing plan, provision of tools and equipment.

An exciting portrait of Hungarian Interchurch Aid

Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) is an NGO founded in Hungary in 1991. HIA assists those in distress and deprivation through its expanding community of experts, volunteers, donors and corporate partners. HIA provides assistance to those in need regardless of nationality, religion and ideology, in accordance with the strictest professional and transparency rules in Hungary as well as in the international arena as a member of the international community.



In addition to helping vulnerable people through a wide network of social institutions around the country, HIA has been implementing humanitarian and development programmes in 39 countries since its foundation. HIA's international activities focus on humanitarian assistance, education, agriculture and rural development, empowerment of local communities, capacity development for civil society stakeholders and on cooperation of NGOs with the state.

HIA in North Iraq



Hungarian Interchurch Aid has launched its first aid program in North Iraq in 2003. Later on, since 2014, assistance was provided by HIA to IDPs, Syrian refugees and local communities. Particular attention was given to beneficiary groups from various minorities that were forced to leave their homes.

HIA opened its Erbil-based representation in June 2016, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, with the aim to assist IDPs and refugees through the implementation of humanitarian and development programmes. HIA performs its activities in North Iraq as a member of the international community of ACT Alliance.

HIA is carrying out its activities in North Iraq through delegating Hungarian expatriates to the country and with a local team of experts and in cooperation with local partners. The task of the HIA representation is to promote implementation of humanitarian and development programmes to provide sustainable care and resilience for IDPs, refugees and host communities.

Qudra supporting local entities in North Iraq

Qudra provides support in strengthening the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) and its governorates' offices. The Qudra Programme's institutional and human capacity development efforts target essentially the strategic and operational levels in the priority areas of administration, management and leadership. This support is also provided to other government entities at the governorate level that work on strengthening resilience and sustainable development.

In cooperation with the regional government and strong support from its implementing and political partners in North Iraq/KRI, the Qudra Programme has set up a facility to provide funding and technical support for community-based projects benefiting refugees, IDPs and local population in host communities in order to improve access to and provision of basic services.



As a part of the Quick-Impact Projects benefiting refugees, IDPs and local population in host communities, Qudra has recently deepened its access by signing six new projects worth around 300,000 € to improve living conditions in Sulaymaniyah. This new achievement will ensure access to electricity and clean water for more than 50.000 persons as well as improving care and treatment services for more than 50.000 children with disabilities yearly.

This action supporting local administration, guided by community participation and ownership as the essential principles, will improve the living conditions of the local and displaced populations residing in host communities of North Iraq/ KRI with the joint forces of GIZ and HIA.

“One Ball, One World” = Empowered People

Qudra embraces football’s capacity to unite people with “The Ball” events

The Qudra Programme is excited to announce that “The Ball” will be hosted on its 2018 journey in Turkey and in Lebanon in May with the kind support of the relating political authorities and ministries in each country.

“One Ball, One World” is a unique methodology to empower people. Every four years, “The Ball” - similar to the Olympic torch – takes on a journey starting in the UK as motherland of football, making its journey through numerous countries until finally reaching its destination in the country hosting the football world championship: Russia in 2018!

The “Spirit of Football” for social change

Spirit of Football (SoF) has developed “One Ball, One World”. SoF is a German non-profit organisation harnessing the power of football, to drive social change through carrying the philosophy of fair play and global learning into classrooms. Football is understood as a world language with the power to transport social values and celebrate football’s capacity to unite people from all over the world. In 2015, SoF started the “Welcome Initiative” to integrate refugees actively throughout their projects.

“One Ball, One World” 2018

This year “The Ball” – specifically manufactured for this journey – is supported by many actors like for e.g. the German Football League Foundation (DFL Stiftung) and collects signatures in each country with the first prominent signature by the Federal President of Germany Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier.



“The Ball” on its journey to Turkey and Lebanon

Before reaching its final destination Russia, in May 2018, a colourful week of activities and events throughout different locations in the Qudra Programme countries Turkey and Lebanon will excite children and youth from both host and refugee communities as well as adults with the magic of the game and its power to unite!

Sport, art and more will provide joy, fun and hope to people living under challenging circumstances in daily programs. A training of trainers (ToT) on transporting social values through extracurricular activities will be open to trainers offering such activities at schools before the week of events that they will then participate.



“I believe that my work helps to create positive social change. We at SoF are making our world friendlier and more open, one person and one community at a time. One Ball, One World.”
Andrew Aris, Spirit of Football e.V., CEO

Qudra trusts in sports as a key to wellbeing

Sports can play a particularly important and healing role when it comes to integration. Understanding the contribution of sports to a healthy, active, sustainable, socially involved and safe society, the Qudra Programme focuses on building capacity aspects of sports to ensure ownership, cultural relevance, and long-term sustainability in the communities.

In this direction, in cooperation with GIZ Sport for Development Programme, Qudra already conducted recently a “Coach Training” in Jordan, where two teachers each from 23 schools were trained in coaching and leadership. Based on that previous experience, the Programme strongly trusts in sport activities, promoting physical and mental wellbeing such as coaching, to ensure a positive community integration for refugees, IDPs as well as host communities.

Qudra’s “Visiting Arts Programme” for public schools in Jordan

Music, dance, graffiti, story-telling and cartoons – to name just a few – were represented by Jordanian artists meeting Qudra staff of SO1 – Education Infrastructure - and SO5 – Facilitating Dialogue and Dissemination - in Amman to plant the seeds of a ‘Visiting Artist Programme’ for public schools in Jordan.



The objective of this initiative is to bring the arts in all its diversity to underprivileged schoolchildren who would otherwise not have the opportunity to be exposed to such an ample array of artistic disciplines.

Making Your Community A Better Place With Art

A Visiting Artist Programme is an affordable alternative to field trips, which require much more effort, time and funds. It will provide children spaces to explore their creativity and talents while complementing their academic education. Furthermore, this programme offers an ideal opportunity to reduce tension and vandalism and create more harmony at schools with multinational students and two-shift systems.

Drawing as a way to express and to believe in yourself

For the Jordanian artists, many of whom grew up in public schools, this programme offers the opportunity to give back to their community in a meaningful way, by addressing the current lack of access they once experienced themselves. One of the participating artists stated: *“During my childhood drawing was fought as a futile or bad activity. Now I share with children that drawing is a way to express yourself, to believe in yourself and a way how you can make your community a better place.”*



With the support of Qudra, the “Visiting Artist Programme” will be developed in detail for activities during the summer break and shared with the Ministry of Education in order to finish the legal process. After an evaluation of the experience, we expect the program to become a sustainable Jordanian initiative offering continued activities with a growing number of artists covering a geographical expansion.





Arts for social change

Participatory events in arts with community-engaged approaches are increasingly recognised as core elements in social change and development. In this regard, on August 2017, GIZ Qudra SO1 team in Jordan, through the “Happy Walls, Happy Schools” project, carried the Qudra programme one step further and contributed to the realisation of one of the main objectives: improving school infrastructures and providing access to good quality formal and non-formal education services for host communities and the Syrian refugees.

The “Happy Walls, Happy Schools” project, through the support and guidance of Artolution facilitators, enabled the translation of students’ ideas for murals into one cohesive composition, which then resulted in collaborative paintings on the walls of schools. ‘Jordan as a safe haven’ for refugees and a ‘resilient traditional woman’ with hope for a better future had become the main themes of the murals.

The “Happy Walls, Happy Schools” project aimed giving children a platform to express themselves in a positive manner, channelling the attention of local community towards schools in disadvantaged areas and create more child-friendly environments for the children.

As an intensifying development, Max Frieder, co-founder of Artolution has been nominated as the Honouree of World of Children Crisis Award 2018 for “his luminous, larger-than-life personality combined with an eccentric artistic talent are a testament to art as a modality for communication, expression, and friendship—as a way to express optimism even when hope seems lost”.



Community Art Goes to Berlin

Qudra brings community art to Berlin to foster cohesion among students

Art is considered around the world as a very powerful tool for community participation in efforts to build peace and cohesion and to bring positive social change. Cohesion is a fundamental need to allow diverse communities to live peaceful with each other not only abroad, but also in Germany.

On its biannual Steering Committee Meeting “Qudra”, a programme incepted to strengthen the “Resilience for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises” brings one of its project partners, the Jordan Artist Group Artolution, to Berlin.

To highlight its previous influential project of “Happy Walls Happy Schools”, the Qudra Programme will be putting forward this very event in Germany as a public activity. A community mural will be created with a group of school kids from Germany, Syria and Iraq in Berlin parallel to the Qudra Steering Committee Meeting. A symbolic handing-over ceremony is also planned on the 27th of April when the mural art will be finalised.



An overview of the Programme

Seven years of civil war in Syria have produced tragic statistics: more than a quarter of a million dead and 13.5 million people displaced, around half of them within their own country. Others have sought refuge beyond Syria's borders, the majority (around five million) in neighbouring countries – North Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Together, the EU and the German Government are responding by jointly providing support for projects that aim to mitigate the situation. One of them is ‘Qudra – Resilience for refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian crisis’, funded by the EU Madad Trust Fund and the German Government. The Programme works with refugees, displaced persons and host communities in four countries bordering Syria: North Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.





Art as a social change tool

Cultural diversity can be a tool for addressing the roots of conflict and for promoting social cohesion. In November 2015, Member States' Culture Ministers agreed that, beyond providing humanitarian support to meet migrants and refugees' immediate needs, attention had to be paid to their social and culture integration¹.

Existing studies do note that painting, drama, dance, music, literature, photography, film and other art forms provide immigrants and refugees a creative space for exploration and expression of identities, for challenging discrimination and social exclusion and for fostering intercultural dialogue².

On this regard, GIZ Qudra SO1 team in Jordan, through the "Happy Walls, Happy Schools" project, carried the Qudra Programme one step further and contributed to the very objective of promoting non-discriminatory access to quality education and enhance conditions at schools for host communities and Syrian refugees in collaboration with the Artolution team.

Community-based public art to strengthen resilience

Artolution believes that through the process of creating collaborative art, diverse communities can come together in times of conflict and social turmoil to address the challenges they face together. Their projects engage youth and communities that have faced social exclusion and trauma, including refugees, street youth, the incarcerated, people with physical and mental disabilities, and young people living in areas of violent conflict or extreme poverty.

In this respect, on 3 August 2017, students of "Arqam Bin Abi Al Arqam" public school, aged between 8 and 13 years, used collaborative art-making for a duration of one week to address issues important to their lives and co-existence, which they proudly presented to their parents and local community. Through the support and guidance of Artolution facilitators, students' ideas for murals were translated into one cohesive composition, which then resulted in collaborative paintings on the walls of schools. 'Jordan as a safe haven' for refugees and a 'resilient traditional woman' with hope for a better future had become the main themes of the murals.

Artolution has convinced the world one more time on their expertise when Max Frieder, co-founder, has been nominated as the Honouree of World of Children Crisis Award 2018 for "his luminous, larger-than-life personality combined with an eccentric artistic talent are a testament to art as a modality for communication, expression, and friendship—as a way to express optimism even when hope seems lost".

¹ Coordination, M. S. (2014). The Role of Public Arts and Cultural Institutions in the Promotion of Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue. European Union.

Module SO5: Perfecting the knowledge to perform as a voice

The module SO5 – Facilitating Dialogue and Dissemination aims to provide opportunities and platforms for refugees, IDPs and host community members as well as all other key stakeholders to enter into constructive dialogue and make their voices heard. It fosters mutual learning and exchange of information and experiences on policies conducive to enhanced resilience and future perspectives for refugees and members of host communities.

Due to the powerful impact of "Happy Walls Happy Schools" experiment, the Programme decided to highlight this work in Germany as a public event. The mural will be painted with the involvement of a group of school kids under the leadership of Artolution.

² McGregor, E., & Ragab, N. (2016). The Role of Culture and the Arts in the Integration of Refugees and Migrants. Brussel: European Expert Network on Culture and Audiovisual.



The agenda of the event

Throughout the event, children, teachers and parents will actively participate in the painting act. On the 26th of April, a preparatory workshop will be conducted, discussing the narrative of the mural and preparing sketches. The next day the entire group will paint the overall mural together.

In between there will be reflective discussions rounds, while having fun and sharing food and drinks. Everybody will have the opportunity to participate and add his or her own creativity to the mural, which will last hopefully long and will remind everybody that peaceful coexistence is possible.

On the 27th of April, the members of the Qudra Programme Steering Committee will travel together to the school, to meet the professional and little artists and to join the symbolical hand over of the mural to a representative of the BMZ.

Overall, the Qudra Programme will play a key role on fostering integration by getting children from the host country and from refugee communities to work together. The Programme will also favour the role of participatory art activities in social cohesion by exchanging with local artists and schools hosting refugee children.

Skills Development: Made in Jordan!

Empowering women in Jordan through garment work

Today Jordan is home to an estimated 9.5 million people, including over 655,000 registered Syrian refugees, over 500,000 of whom live within Jordanian urban communities. According to most current data of UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), the number of female international migrants is equivalent to around 1.6 million. In this scope, one of the major socio-economic factors affecting Jordan is the rate of unemployment, especially when the high rates are concentrated amongst youth and women.

Resilience in communities through expertise

Garment manufacturing is considered as a contribution to the transformation of gender relationship in communities by providing women skills trainings that creates autonomy and morale through self-confidence. More skill training programmes are recently proactive in Jordan to help softening the effects of unemployment in the interests of maintaining resilience and social cohesion.



In order to address youth and women unemployment and alleviate poverty in Jordan, in partnership with JEFE (Jordan Education for Employment), the Qudra Programme conducted demand-driven training programs for 30 Jordanian and 30 Syrian women. With the cooperation of Qudra's module SO2 – Skills Development customized soft skills and vocational training programme in garment manufacturing industry were explicitly designed for unemployed women residing in Amman and Irbid.

The overall objective of the project was to provide women with income generating opportunities through job placement, and to promote positive change in the attitudes and self-esteem of the women beneficiaries over time.

Striking important facts and figures

After a successful four months training, 23 women in Amman and 33 women in Irbid graduated from the training programme. And already 20 of these graduates were employed afterwards in the private garment manufacturing sector.

One of the beneficiaries, Donya Ahmad from Amman, summarized the benefit of this programme: *"I believe that the training was useful and helped me in getting this job at Mai Al Habarneh Workshop I have been working there since October 2017. It is satisfying and close to my home which is very convenient."*

The programme also included additionally a total of further 2 months training in regard to conducting a market assessment and identifying partners for each sector, "Workplace Success", "Health & Safety" and further "Technical (OJT)" skills.

Enhancing educational and economic opportunities

The Qudra Programme's module SO2 – Skills Development activities in Jordan focus on enhancing economic opportunities for both Jordanians and Syrians, through vocational trainings that respond to the demands of the labour market. Vocational training courses particularly target young people, and seek to cater to women's needs.

In all programme countries, Qudra ensures that the selection of training programmes corresponds to the labour market needs. Taking into consideration the specific needs of women and men by providing training programmes in both, traditionally male and female occupations, (such as garment production, food production and refrigerator maintenance), Qudra also focuses on new fields that can easily be accessed by all (such as sales and marketing, and mobile phone maintenance).

In this respect, the Programme has conducted short-term vocational trainings for youth in real settings, targeting future line cooks, kitchen helpers, construction carpenters, and waiter and runners. Furthermore, the Programme provided a basic nursing training, refrigerator and air condition maintenance, and culinary arts and food production in order to improve the employability and job prospects of refugees, IDPs and host communities.

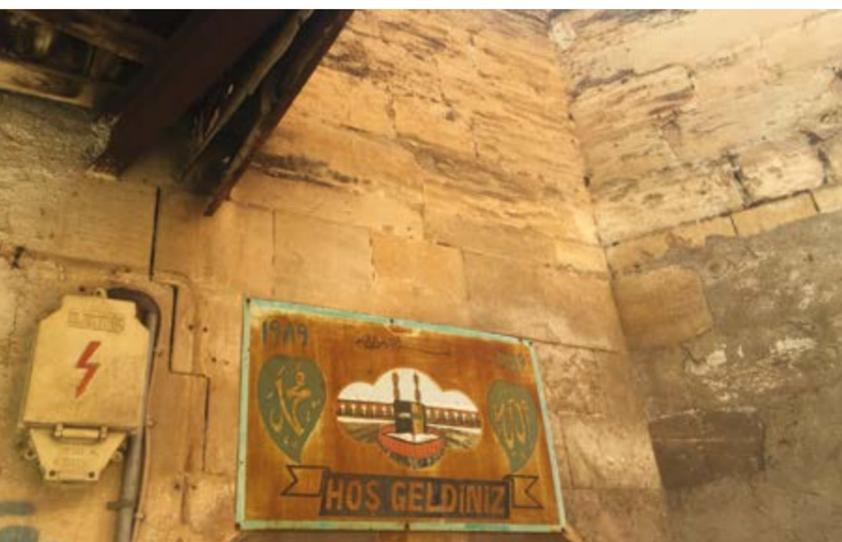


Laying the Groundwork for Social Cohesion

Creating safe spaces for the Turkish and Syrian populations in Kilis, Adana and Mersin

“Social cohesion” has become a buzzword that seems to have permeated the entire development community in recent months. It signifies a positive state of being that arguably most societies would aim to arrive at. But for those of us working in development, we know that it can often be a mystical term, difficult to define and even more difficult to measure.

Under Module SO3 (“Social Cohesion”) we use the term “social cohesion” to refer to the sense of social solidarity within society. It refers both to material elements (reducing the competition for resources and services) as well as to the non-material “community spirit” and positive sense of togetherness. And it can be said that in Qudra social cohesion truly underlies the entire action. After all, a peaceful society in which different groups with various backgrounds can exist side by side is a crucial basis for the resilience necessary to respond to and recover from conflict.



But how does one achieve such a state of being? For SO 3 in Turkey, our approach is to focus on the creation of safe spaces in which the different groups can come together, in particular the youth and other vulnerable groups. Moreover, these spaces also provide crucial services to the community, both the local host population as well as the Syrians under temporary protection. They also help provide the types of trainings and activities that can also empower young people with the skills necessary to become active, contributing members of society.

In SO 3 in Turkey, GIZ has so far focused its activities on the cities of Kilis, Adana and Mersin.



Supporting community centres of the municipality in Kilis

In Kilis, we were very proud to finally conclude the renovation and rehabilitation work in three community centres of the municipality. Two of these were old historical buildings that underwent a profound renovation process covering many months of hard work, with a very impressive and beautiful result.



The other is a transitionally supported multi-story building, of which one floor has been renovated to include a bathroom to accommodate people with disabilities.

In addition, with the conclusion of these renovation works, we were also able to ship all the equipment and training materials that had been procured for the buildings. To get a better idea of the sheer size of the procurement.

Here are some figures:

- 3395 – the total quantity of items procured
- 264 – the number of different types of items procured
- 300 – the weight (in kg) of the heaviest item procured (a marble top table for rolling dough)
- 107 – the total number of pages of the item specifications documents
- 5 – the number of different suppliers that won the respective bids
- 2 – the number of large (18-wheeler) trucks needed for one supplier alone to bring the items from the warehouse
- 6 – the number of return trips needed for smaller trucks to transport items to the two renovated houses



Needless to say, the SO 3 GIZ team was more than relieved when all items arrived safely in their final destination. Now that the “hardware” component of our support to these centres in Kilis has been realized, in the coming months SO 3 will be focusing on resuming the previously piloted Youth Leadership Training and beginning intercultural activities initiated and supported by the trained youth leaders.



Laying the groundwork for social cohesion work of SO 3 in Adana and Mersin

In Adana and Mersin, Qudra SO 3 is working closely with the Provincial Directorates of National Education (PDNEs) in Adana and Mersin, respectively, and implementing activities in its buildings, in particular in the Public Education Centres (PECs).

To ensure the spaces provided to Qudra best meet the needs of the community, SO 3 carried out a range of assessments, beginning first with a construction review of the different renovation needs of the floors of one building each in Adana and Mersin assigned to Qudra.

To plan the floors, the different room uses and procurement requirements, a needs assessment of the different stakeholders was also carried out, first in Adana (Mersin to follow soon). In Adana, Qudra met with PDNE representatives, PEC administrators and trainers to discuss what they understand the activity interests of Turkish and Syrian youth in the area to be. Staff needs with regards to capacity development were also assessed so that Qudra SO 3 can identify what capabilities of administrators and trainers need to be enhanced to better ensure sustainability of the intervention.

SO 3 subsequently captured the needs of the beneficiaries by conducting focus group meetings with a total of nearly 60 Syrian and Turkish PEC trainees, with men and women separately to cater to their individual needs. The participants were asked about their professional/educational background, what trainings and activities they have taken part in, what their interests are, and what their level of interaction is with Syrians/Turkish people, respectively, in their community. Respondents overwhelmingly noted the limited exchange so far between the two communities, especially on a personal basis. But the interest is there. The challenge of SO 3 will therefore be to plan activities that would bring the two groups together in a manner that could contribute to forming personal bonds between each other.

Special Focus: North Iraq

Country overview

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 three years alone. North Iraq/KRI hosts an estimated 97% of Syrian refugees in Iraq; and there are approximately 3.2 million IDPs in over 3.700 locations in Iraq, with more than 1 million IDPs hosted in KRI.

With the economic downturn in KRI, social tensions over access to services and assistance are mounting in areas hosting high concentrations of IDPs and refugees. 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.

Qudra's response: Strengthening the capacities of local administrations

The objective of the action in North Iraq is to contribute to transparent, inclusive delivery capability of local administrations and other organisations with regard to basic services for IDPs, refugees and local populations in the four governorates of Erbil, Duhok, Halabja and Sulaymaniyah.

The impact of the action is twofold:

- Strengthening administrative structures at the level of the governorates
- Supporting quick impact projects with direct benefits to refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities.

Qudra provides supports in strengthening the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) and its governorates' offices. JCC operates as a coordination hub of the region's crisis response network. Qudra's institutional and human capacity development efforts target essentially the strategic and operational levels in the priority areas of administration, management and leadership. This support is also provided to other government entities at the governorate level that work on strengthening resilience and sustainable development. This contributes developing sustainable structures and capacities within the local administrations to cope with the short and long-term effects of the current and future crises.

Further, Qudra sets up a facility to provide funding and technical support for community-based projects benefiting refugees, IDPs and local population in host communities in order to improve access to and provision of basic services. Community participation and ownership are essential guiding principles. This action improves the living conditions of the local and displaced populations residing in the hosting communities.

Success Stories

Written and edited by Regina Tauschek



Photo by Regina Tauschek © GIZ

Support to Farmers

Sadrin Suleyman is one of the beneficiaries who was provided with a milking and a shearing machine. Her family makes their living from livestock and possess 4 cows, 60 sheep and 50 goats. Sadrin produces yoghurt, cheese and cream from the milk, which is sold at the local market. During the winter, she milks the cows, during the summer the sheep and goats. Each cow gives 15 to 20 litres of milk daily, and she produces roughly the same amount of yoghurt from it. The market price for one kilogramme of yoghurt is around 4,000 IQD in the winter. During the summer months, the price for sheep and goat yoghurt is cheaper and ranges at around 2,500 IQD. Since the quantity is much higher and no additional feed has to be purchased, the main business takes place during the summer months. Women particularly benefit from the milking machines, since they traditionally milk the animals. In total, the Qudra programme distributed 100 milking machines and 50 shearing machines to vulnerable farmers in the Erbil Governorate.



Photo by Regina Tauschek © GIZ

Wounded Peshmerga gets new hope

Diloven proudly presents his new shop, 15 km south of Erbil. He offers water, juice and cookies. A farmer selling fresh fruits and vegetable has set up a stand next to his; another one is lined up with gas bottles. All three offer their products to passing vehicles next to the main road leading to Erbil. Diloven is satisfied. After the first two days, he already earned 70,000 IQD and is excited about his own business. Diloven is one out of seven Peshmerga who benefit from QUDRA quick impact projects to improve their livelihoods. The Peshmerga were seriously injured during the fight against the so-called "Islamic State" when a car bomb hit their vehicle. Due to long-term impairment caused by his injury, Diloven's career as an active Peshmerga is over. With the new business, he and his family have new perspectives for their future.

Qudra brings electricity

A 24-hour electricity supply cannot be taken for granted by many people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. In the KRI hydropower and gas power stations generate the state-supplied electricity, and the supply has dropped to 5 to 6 hours per day since 2013 as a consequence of the economic crisis. Moreover, the allocated state budget was cut by 90 to 95 % and only allows the most essential maintenance work to be carried out, while necessary repair work or required new investments cannot be afforded due to financial constraints. The Qudra programme supports three directorates in Sulaymaniyah, Halabja and Dohuk with the installation of new transformers, a new network for electric power distribution, and rehabilitation services. After the second funding cycle is completed, approximately 77,500 people will benefit from an improved and more reliable electricity supply.



Photo by Fabian Schwan-Brandt © GIZ

EU Madad Labs Round II kicked off in March 2018

Tech professionals discussed best practices for “Youth and Digital Innovation” in the region

The EU Madad Innovation Labs (“Labs”) are part of a growing number of innovation labs, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to jointly learn and develop innovative solutions to local challenges in the context of the Syrian and Iraqi crises. Devised as a key element of the Qudra Programme each Lab round addresses a different guiding question in order to work on the link between humanitarian relief and development in Jordan, Lebanon, North Iraq and Turkey. Empowering the regional character of the Programme, the second round of EU Madad Labs in 2018 will be seeking answers to the following guiding question on a shared platform widely open to inter-dialogue:

“How can young people from refugee, IDP and host communities tackle their problems using digital innovations?”

On this aim, the first Stakeholder Workshops of EU Madad Innovation Labs II on Youth and Digital Innovation took place in March 2018 in implementing countries of the Programme. In Lebanon, North Iraq and Turkey, the workshops brought together senior experts on the subject to advance knowledge exchange and enhance creative design-thinking approach of the Labs across the Programme. Tech-passionate participants in different countries shared their best experiences and incorporated the lessons learned in order to formulate the best answer to this year’s guiding question.

The outputs of these fruitful events full of ambition and collaboration will provide a clear work plan approach for the next round of the Labs. Combining the expertise and background of the stakeholders, all coming from diverse backgrounds and institutions, will define the next steps to reach the aim of the Labs with a design thinking method approach. Detailed information on the terms of applications and deadlines will be soon announced via Qudra Programme’s online platforms.

The Labs have been devised as a key element of the Qudra Programme, which works on the link between humanitarian relief and development in Jordan, Lebanon, North Iraq/KRI and Turkey. The Labs are part of Specific Objective 5 (SO5) – Facilitating Dialogue and Dissemination and provide a safe space for experimental learning for and by stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries of the Qudra Programme, of which the outcomes can feed back into other Qudra Modules.



The Labs seek to provide a platform for exchanging experiences, learning participatory techniques, and developing innovative approaches (prototypes) to strengthen the resilience of refugees/ IDPs and host communities. SO5 aims at establishing platforms for dialogue and exchange in order to give a voice to refugees, members of host communities and IDPs through the Labs.



Facts and Figures

Astonishing numbers from Quick Impact Projects in North Iraq

1.7 Million Euros

in EUTF Madad and German Government funding has been allocated to improve the living conditions of refugees, IDPs, and local hosting communities in the governorates of Erbil, Duhok, Sulaymaniyah, and Halabja.

34

Quick-Impact Projects (QIPs) have been realised essentially addressing gaps in small-scale infrastructure in the sectors electricity, water, education, health, road rehabilitation, and agricultural livelihood reaching more than 180,000 beneficiaries in North Iraq.

47,000

Minimum number of persons who have access to clean water (24.537 women - 11.797 refugees, IDPs)

12,000

Minimum number of persons who have better access to education, health care and other social services through roads rehabilitation (6.260 women - 3.050 refugees, IDPs)

77,500

Approximate number of persons who have access to more reliable electricity (40.300 women - approx. 19.500 refugees, IDPs)

40,000

Number of students for whom Qudra improved learning environment at schools through renovation of school premises (includes water, sanitation, electricity), repair of school furniture.

6,000

Minimum number of persons in the agricultural sector who benefit through livelihood projects (essentially through mechanisation of work – increased income, reduced physical work load) (3.426 women - 1.557 refugees, IDPs)

1,000

Child patients approximately yearly receive improved intensive care through the rehabilitation and modernisation of the only paediatric ICU in Sulaymaniyah,

260

Children with disabilities at Duhok's institutes for educational, behavioural, vocational rehabilitation were supported by renovating their premises and provision of equipment, assistive devices in order to create a safe, enabling environment for 260 children with disabilities. Teachers of these institutes have received training.

In North Iraq we've reached at least

52% of woman

25% of refugees

The Qudra Programme is a regional action financed by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) seeking to strengthen resilience for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises. The programme is jointly implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Expertise France (EF), Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID) and Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in programme partner countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and North Iraq.