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# QUDRA 2

**qudra** /kud.ra/ /arabic/ noun  
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 most significant displacement emergency. According to the UNHCR (2021<sup>1</sup>), 6.7 million people have been displaced within Syria, and 5.6 million Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq. The effects of this protracted crisis continue to be experienced by individuals, communities, and government institutions across the region. Many refugees have been in their host countries for five or more years. A large-scale return of refugees to Syria is unlikely in the short term.

Prolonged conflict in Iraq has caused large-scale internal displacement, with the UNHCR registering approximately 1.2 million internally displaced persons and 4.9 million returnees. As of June 2021, 250 000 Syrian refugees had been registered in Iraq alone (UNHCR<sup>2</sup>). Approximately 6.5 million people, more than 18% of the total population, need humanitarian assistance.



Most refugees, internally displaced people (IDP), and returnees live amongst their host communities, and only a small percentage live in dedicated camps. Despite the considerable efforts made by governments and communities to support these displaced individuals and families, real and perceived competition over access to education, jobs and other essential services is placing considerable strain on the social fabric. Many of those affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises require specific support to overcome the trauma of displacement and re-establish their lives and livelihoods. Those returning home face the challenge of rebuilding lives in the context of extensive destruction of infrastructure and disruption of the social order.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Iraq%20fact%20sheet-June%202021.pdf>

Implemented by



## Qudra 2: A European Response

The European Union (EU), the German Government and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) joined forces via the Qudra programme to support the crisis-affected communities in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

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

The Qudra programme combines the collective expertise of five European implementing agencies, including AECID (Spain), Enabel (Belgium), Expertise France, GIZ (Germany) and HIA (Hungary). Now, in its second phase (2019 – 2022), Qudra 2 continues to work with government, civil society, and private sector partners to strengthen the resilience of refugees, displaced people, returnees, and host communities.

In response to the varied and diverse challenges precipitated by the crises, Qudra 2 collaborates with key stakeholders to provide support in the following critical domains:

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

Protracted conflict in Iraq has caused large-scale internal displacement, with the UNHCR registering approximately 1,200,000 internally displaced persons, 4,900,000 returnees and 250,000 Syrian refugees (as of June 2021). 13% of IDPs and returnee households are female-headed and face a high risk of gender-based violence.

In Iraq, the Qudra 2 programme promotes the wellbeing and self-development of children and vulnerable adults, employment and income opportunities, and transparent and inclusive services. Throughout all its components, the programme promotes community cohesion among refugees, IDPs, and returnees. Its priority is to assist children, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups.

Qudra 2 is implemented in Central Iraq (Anbar, Nineveh, and Salah Al-Din) and all four governorates of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq-KRI (Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Halabja).

### 1. Promoting self-development and the well-being of children and vulnerable adults

Qudra 2 supports specialist and community-based care for those who need expert help to overcome their experiences. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, health personnel receive specialised training in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to enable them to provide the support required by Iraqi returnees, IDPs, Syrian refugees and host communities. Community-based psychosocial care is supported for the heavily conflict-affected communities of West-Mosul.

### 2. Employment and income opportunities for the most vulnerable

Despite its oil wealth, Iraq lacks economic and employment opportunities, especially for young people and women. The consequences of violent conflict and a weak private sector make it difficult for people to find jobs or set up a business. Qudra 2 provides vulnerable community members looking to enter the labour market with training, and start-up support, small grants, and infrastructure investments for entrepreneurs wishing to start their own businesses. Public-private sector cooperation is facilitated to align the needs of job-seekers and small to medium businesses with the requirements of the labour market and economy.

In KRI, cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs resulted in 1 000 youths participating in on-site, on-the-job training organised by private companies. This collaboration effectively resulted in the employment of more than 500 youths.

In the agricultural sector, Qudra 2 rehabilitates infrastructure, such as irrigation canals, to catalyse economic activity and employment. Equipment and training are provided to ensure that productivity is increased, and in Central Iraq, local NGO partners train resident youth seeking employment in this sector.



### 3. Transparent and Inclusive Basic Services

Electricity, clean water, safe roads, and other basic services provide a sound foundation for productive economies, personal dignity, and social cohesion. Qudra 2's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) support local governments to address the most critical gaps in public services. A rigorous and transparent selection process is used to identify the priorities of local communities.

The programme also strengthens the capacity of local governments to deliver transparent and inclusive services to local communities. Civil society organisations are supported to promote social cohesion through community-based action, which has resulted in local communities setting up community gardens or small libraries.

### 4. Fostering dialogue for exchange and innovation

Action-oriented dialogue among different groups, seeking to foster social cohesion, complements other programme activities.

#### Note: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges faced in all aspects of life in Iraq. The Qudra 2 programme adapted to incorporate flexible and relevant interventions to assist people affected by the virus. Qudra 2 and its partners facilitated health, hygiene, psychosocial support (PSS), protection and awareness-raising activities, and access to employment and essential services that directly address the pandemic and its long-term effects.

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