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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 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 (2019–2023), 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	31.08.2023
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 :: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)
Commissioned by	EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, BMZ, AECID
Project Duration	48 months
Total budget	80,900,000 EUR

Qudra 2 is jointly implemented by five European agencies, including AECID, Enabel, Expertise France, 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



in cooperation with



Qudra 2 in Turkey

Turkey is currently hosting 3.6 million registered Syrian refugees, which accounts for nearly two thirds of all refugees registered in the region. Over 90% of these refugees live in local communities. As a result, the local government units (LGUs) which provide services such as health, education and social services are facing significant challenges in meeting the increasing demands of the population.

Qudra's work with refugees and Turkish host communities focuses mainly on strengthening the capacities of local governmental institutions to deliver their services in a transparent and inclusive manner through:

1. Providing a grant scheme for participatory and inclusive community support projects

Qudra 2 will provide small grants to at least 10 Turkish municipalities which host the largest number of refugees, who in some cases, account for over 25% of the population. At least 100,000 individuals will directly benefit from improvements in basic services and infrastructure, which will contribute to enhanced living conditions and social cohesion amongst approximately five million community members. Inclusion as a guiding principle will ensure that refugees and host community representatives will be involved throughout the assessment, planning and implementation of these projects.

2. Strengthening exchange amongst and between local governmental units (LGUs) and other stakeholders

The programme will support exchange between local government units to foster peer to peer learning. Exchange with community members will ensure their inclusion in the planning and implementation of support projects. Best practices will be

identified and shared between LGUs, civil society actors and academia. This exchange of experiences and innovations for improved service delivery will be shared at the provincial, national, cross-regional and even international level.

3. Strengthening the capacities of governmental organisations

Qudra 2 will provide tailored technical support to selected municipalities such as trainings in needs assessment, strategic and goal-oriented planning, the implementation of investment and the provision of services which will enhance the capacities of at least 250 local government officials and other community stakeholders.

4. Fostering dialogue for social cohesion exchange and innovation

A growing challenge in the mainly urban context of refugees is rising social tension, which weakens social cohesion and reduces the resilience of communities in the face of crisis. Qudra 2 will directly address this challenge by facilitating dialogue and providing safe spaces where open exchange between groups of stakeholders and participants will promote community cohesion.

Qudra will give special attention throughout the programme to children, youth, women and other highly vulnerable population groups, such as the elderly and the disabled.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Date : January 2022