

COUNTRY UPDATE: EUTF'S CONTRIBUTION TO IRAQ AT A GLANCE

MAY 2023

IRAQ

Twenty years after the Iraq war, the security situation in the country remains unstable, in a challenging context of political and economic uncertainty, high unemployment and weak public services. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), the poverty rate in Iraq has reached 29.5% in 2021 (Iraq annual report, WFP 2022). The lack of jobs and livelihoods continues to be one of the key challenges in the country in addition to insecurity and destruction of housing and public infrastructure. As a consequence, 1.2 million Iraqis are still internally displaced, with some families reporting secondary displacements due to unstable security conditions or lack of jobs and livelihoods. Furthermore, over 260,000 Syrian refugees live currently in Iraq (UNHCR February 2023)¹, mainly in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI), displaced from the Syrian war. Iraq is already experiencing adverse impact of climate change, with decreased rainfall and water levels affecting, for example, agricultural productivity and economic growth in Ninewa, where Internally Displaced Iraqis are mostly concentrated.

EUTF IN IRAQ

Since 2015, the 'EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis' (EUTF) has supported Iraq with 24 actions, investing more than 161 million EUR in different sectors, such as Basic and Higher Education, Livelihoods, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection and Social Cohesion.²

Support is given to strengthen local capacities, provide access to services and/or improve local infrastructure. The EUTF portfolio has focused on three main governorates hosting the large majority of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees: Ninewa, Dohuk and Erbil. Currently, five actions are still in implementation (see Table) on livelihoods in

- 1. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/99721>.
- 2. EUTF key implementing partners that implemented actions that are now closed include: ACF, ACTED, AFD, AISPO, DAAD, DRC, EFI, FAO GIZ, MAG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, SEARCH, SPARK, UNDP, UN Women, VNG International, World Vision, among others.

the cultural sector with UNESCO -also implemented in Jordan (T04.185)-, on livelihoods and protection with GIZ, (T04.200), on higher education with SPARK (T04.218), on health with La Chaîne de

l'Espoir (T04.237) and on municipal development, protection and livelihoods with UN Habitat (T04.247).

PROJECT LIST:

Table 1

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
70.	UNESCO	T04.185	Support to livelihoods through cultural heritage development	Jordan, Iraq	€ 4,500,000
77.	GIZ	T04.200	Qudra II – Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises	Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq	€ 22,000,000
81.	SPARK	T04.218	Support to Higher Education for Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs and vulnerable Iraqi host community youth – Phase 3	Iraq	€ 5,000,000
86.	La Chaîne de l'Espoir	T04.237	Equipment of the Sinjar French Medical Center (SFMC)	Iraq	€ 999,999
85.	UN Habitat	T04.247	Support for Urban Recovery and Iraq Peacebuilding in western Ninewa	Iraq	€ 10,000,000

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The average overall progress towards planned output targets is at 98%. Most Key Performance Indicators (KPI)³ of access to services, local capacities' strengthening, and local infrastructure improvements are achieved or exceeded (EUTF Database December 2022), with two exceptions: access to safely managed drinking water (at 67%) and access to primary health consultations and essential medicines (83%). In both cases, actions are now closed. In two other KPIs, on municipal infrastructure improvements (at 53%) and on the number of higher education certificates (88%), targets are not achieved yet, but can be still increased since actions are still ongoing.

According to available disaggregated information by sex, slightly more women have accessed services compared to men, particularly protection related services. Refugee and host communities have been reached to a similar extent. Regarding local capacity strengthening, men from host communities have been reached more, particularly in WASH and social cohesion.

This country update uses the recent outcome evaluation (April 2023) as the main source to summarise sector results in Iraq. In some sectors, other sources, such as portfolio evaluations, final reports and/or QINs complement this country review.

→ 3. The EUTF Results Framework can be consulted at: https://trustfund-syria-region.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/EUTF_Results_Framework_02.07.21.pdf.

The outcome evaluation assessed (using the EUTF Strategic Outcome Framework⁴) the extent to which outcomes were achieved by interventions from 2014-2021 and identified lessons learned. This summary focuses on key sector outcomes, grouped in three areas:

1. Behavioural changes of refugees or host community members towards specific services that are provided to them;
2. Changes in intervention strategies of local organisations, providing services related to specific sectors; and
3. Changes in national strategy, policy or regulation, promoted by national institutions.

The recent Outcome evaluation highlights the protection related outcomes in the country as having been *"the most successful sector, especially compared to other sectors' relative performance"*. This is especially visible in the area of strengthening local capacities. The work on economic empowerment of women, women protection, peace and safety have also been specifically highlighted in the evaluation.

→ 4. The EUTF outcome framework can be found at: https://trustfund-syria-region.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-12/1_eutf_madad_strategic_outcome_framework_2021.pdf.

EUTF'S CONTRIBUTION BY SECTOR

BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION

EUTF has primarily supported the higher education sector in Iraq through the implementing partners SPARK (T04.26 and T04.218) and DAAD (T04.11). Currently, one SPARK project (T04.218) is still ongoing. As part of one regional project with AFD/AICS on livelihoods, EUTF had facilitated training of educational personnel (T04.40) which contributes to the basic education sector.

Output achievement for education projects in Iraq is high. Two targets, one for training of educational personnel and the other on access to higher and technical education, are overachieved, while one, on the number of certificates awarded, shows a high level of achievement. 388 education certificates that include bachelor, master and vocational education

have been awarded to date, achieving 89% of the planned targets, including women (42%), men (58%) Syrians (69%) and host community members (31%).

Information about **outcomes** resulting from higher education interventions at **individual level** in Iraq, such as improved self-esteem, access to further education opportunities or job placements, among others, is still very limited. Outreach from the main implementing partner, SPARK, has been improved over the years in the country. In the second phase of the same action, SPARK has included career orientation, psychosocial support, counselling and entrepreneurship training to assist students facing wider barriers when enrolling into a higher education journey.

PROJECT LIST:

Table 2

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
27.	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	T04.11	HOPES - Higher and further education opportunities and perspectives for Syrians	Egypt. Iraq. Jordan. Lebanon and Turkey	€ 1,150,660
30.	AFD/AICS	T04.40/50	Resilience & Social Cohesion Programme (RSCP)	Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq	€ 4,409,100
34.	SPARK	T04.26	Access to Higher Education for Syrian Refugees and IDP's to prepare for post-conflict Reconstruction of Syria and Integration in Host Communities	Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq	€ 2,586,000
▶ 81.	SPARK	T04.218	Support to Higher Education for Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs and vulnerable Iraqi host community youth – Phase 3	Iraq	€ 5,000,000

▶ Projects are still being implemented.

● Projects have been assessed by the outcome evaluation.

BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION

A good example is the collaboration with a Syrian student union to undertake outreach activities and support prospective students with the application process. SPARK has also introduced labour market measures, cooperating with NGOs and local chambers of commerce in Duhok and Erbil to promote job placements. These strategies are leading to positive changes in behaviours towards higher education. However, it is still early to assess the extent of potential outcomes.

At the **level of local institutions and organisations**, such as universities and technical institutes, changes in their collaboration are reported by the implementing partner. Not only are they widening support activities, such as employability training or psychosocial support, but SPARK has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate with five partners: three universities (Salahaddin University, Mosul University and Northern Technical University) and two institutes (Ararat Institute, Duhok, and Noble Institute, Erbil). The aim is to provide capacity building, execute infrastructure improvements and provide technical assistance on how to build career development centres. Recently, SPARK has signed two further MoUs with the chambers of commerce in Erbil and Duhok to work on the internships, job placements, and job fair activities, as well as starting talks with both chambers of commerce and industry

in Mosul. A collaboration with the university of Baghdad will be also part of the strategic milestones and provide technical assistance, equipment and capacity strengthening.

According to the outcome evaluation, the EU Regional Network of Alumni and Young Professionals is *“a potential point of convergence from the most relevant higher education interventions in the region, which includes the DAAD and SPARK programmes in Iraq”*. It recently organised a study and career opportunities virtual job fair with participation of students and graduates from all countries in the region, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. Some stakeholders interviewed as part of the recent evaluation stated that *“national alumni networks might be more effective and relevant in the future”*.

Very limited **policy work at national or regulatory level** has been incorporated in higher education interventions in Iraq. However, the recent outcome evaluation did highlight a positive approach towards the integration of Syrian students into universities in Iraq. Furthermore, some stakeholders reported that the network of partner educational institutions *“has the potential to become a sustainable association of institutions that work with Syrian refugees, and can contribute, in the future, to policy debates on the education and integration of vulnerable groups”*.



Local capacities

04.

Number of educational personnel, including teachers, volunteers and administrative staff trained.

Contributors: 1

>100%



196

(Aggregated current value)

150

(Target)

Cut off date: **December 2022**

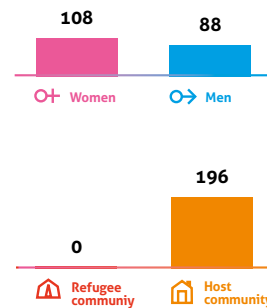


Figure 1.

BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION



Access to services

06.

Number of higher education certificates awarded.

Contributors: **1**

88%



388

(aggregated current value)

441

(target)

Cut off date: **December 2022**

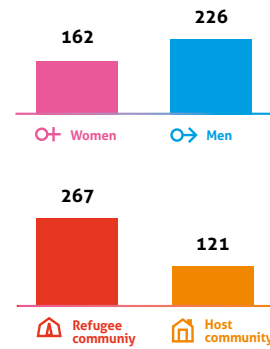


Figure 2.



Access to services

07.

Number of youths, adolescents and adults accessing higher education with Trust Fund support.

Contributors: **2**

>100%



583

(aggregated current value)

487

(target)

Cut off date: **December 2022**

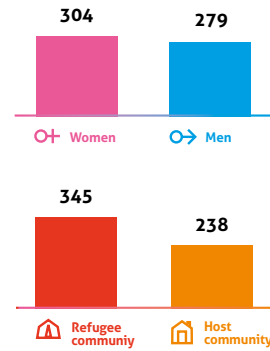


Figure 3.

LIVELIHOODS

EUTF has funded 17 actions -most of them completed - to promote livelihoods opportunities and resilience in Iraq and KRI through cash for work approaches, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) training and support, municipal development projects, higher education and/or social protection measures. The EUTF portfolio has a focus on employability training which is included in most livelihood projects.

Two actions have recently completed implementation in December 2022 (Dealing with Displacement – resilient subnational government in communities in the region affected by the Syrian crisis, implemented by VNG International, T04.136, and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) II, T04.164, with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), while four are still ongoing: One on cultural heritage with UNESCO (T04.185), one multisector action with a cash for work component led by GIZ (T04.200), one on strengthening municipal services with UN Habitat (T04.247), and one on higher education implemented by SPARK that includes jobs and internships (T04.218).

In terms of **outputs**, targets referring to access to services, i.e. employability training and cash assistance, are achieved. The upgrade and training of local MSMEs target is also exceeded. The targets in relation to work opportunities -encompassing cash for work, self-employment, MSME establishment, internships or job placements, show an achievement of 92%. All four ongoing actions are contributing to this indicator.

Regarding **outcomes**, the livelihood sector has been *“less successful, especially compared to other sectors’ relative performance”* within Iraq. The country is facing a very high inflation rate due to a devaluation of its currency in 2021 and high unemployment rates which poses serious challenges for projects trying to improve livelihood strategies.

At **individual level**, the main outcome relates to access to job opportunities and related income. Various actions have reported about access to jobs. T04.200 (GIZ), with cash for work schemes, has delivered 1,780 jobs to date jointly with employment centres; RDPP (Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), promoted through other partners, 233 jobs with focus on young people, and VNG International supported 162 jobs in various sectors -waste collection, recycling, agriculture- and some related to local markets’ improvements. Currently, UNESCO has reported the creation of 245 jobs to do improvement works in the cultural heritage site in the Citadel, while SPARK has already facilitated 80 internships and job placements (e.g., in media and NGOs, among others) for students.

Outcomes are related to additional access to short term jobs and income, as well as self-employment opportunities, rather than more sustainable, formal jobs. While the UN Habitat led action on Urban Recovery and Peacebuilding in Western Ninewa (T04.247) expects job creation as a direct effect from infrastructure improvements in municipal services, it is still early since people are now enrolled in vocational training as trainees.⁵ With the delivery of 1,300 housing units, an effect on livelihoods can be expected in terms of better perception about their family economic situation. No information on the perception of the own economic situation is specifically reported yet.

It is relevant to highlight the legacy of the project “Integrated mine action to enhance resilience of conflict-affected communities in Northern Iraq” (T04.52) implemented by MAG. Although it was an integrated mine action, contributing to the protection sector, it has led to improved livelihoods. Apart from allowing return to some areas in Sinjar, shepherds and farmers have begun to use again land for agricultural purposes.

- 5. Other actions, such as T04.121 and T04.17, analysed by the outcome evaluation had a more limited effect on sustainable employment, due to small grants in the first case, and to structural barriers for youth employment, in the second.

LIVELIHOODS

PROJECT LIST:

Table 3

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
25.	World Vision	T04.17	Youth RESOLVE: Resilience, Education, Social Cohesion, Opportunities for Livelihoods and reduced Violence	Lebanon. Jordan and Iraq	€ 2,506,500
26.	Acted	T04.121	Supporting resilience for host communities, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq	Iraq	€ 7,919,420
31.	UN WOMEN	T04.72	Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey	Turkey, Jordan, Iraq	€ 4,000,000
36.	Mine Advisory Group (MAG)	T04.52	Integrated mine action to enhance resilience of conflict-affected communities in Northern Iraq	Iraq	€ 9,000,000
53.	FAO	T04.53	Restoring the Water Supply for Food Production and Livelihoods in Post Conflict Areas	Iraq	€ 6,000,000
62.	VNG	T04.136	Maintaining Strength and Resilience for Local Governments in Lebanon and Iraq (MASAR)	Lebanon, Iraq	€ 6,650,000
▶ 70.	UNESCO	T04.185	Support to livelihoods through cultural heritage development	Jordan. Iraq	€ 4,500,000
72.	Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	T04.164	Regional Development and Protection Programme for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq (RDPP II)	Lebanon. Jordan. Iraq	€ 3,000,000
▶ 77.	GIZ	T04.200	Qudra II – Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises	Lebanon. Jordan. Iraq	€ 22,000,000
▶ 81.	SPARK	T04.218	Support to Higher Education for Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs and vulnerable Iraqi host community youth – Phase 3	Iraq	€ 5,000,000
▶ 85.	UN Habitat	T04.247	Support for Urban Recovery and Iraq Peacebuilding in western Ninewa	Iraq	€ 10,000,000

▶ Projects are still being implemented.

● Projects have been assessed by the outcome evaluation.

VNG International (T04.136) has closed its implementation in December 2022.

LIVELIHOODS

In terms of **local institutions and organisations**, the recent outcome evaluation highlights the work of women centres in Iraq, supported by the UN women and EUTF (T04.72). These centres combined improved access to livelihoods opportunities with comprehensive protection services, supporting national justice structures to address violence against women. The intervention led by MAG (T04.52) had attracted some local investment to implement additional agriculture and electricity projects. Across all of the current actions, the effects of the support on MSMEs are still uncertain as it

is too soon to see evidence of outcome or impact. For example, GIZ has provided MSMEs with training and grants in collaboration with local organisations; SPARK is now supporting student led start-ups; and UNESCO's project aims at creating a framework for a Cultural Resources Management in the cultural heritage sector. Regarding effects on municipalities, UN Habitat (T04.247) continues to deliver training to local authorities on housing, land and property, but it is also early to assess impact. Another example is VNG International that has provided institutional support to the Directorate of Investment and

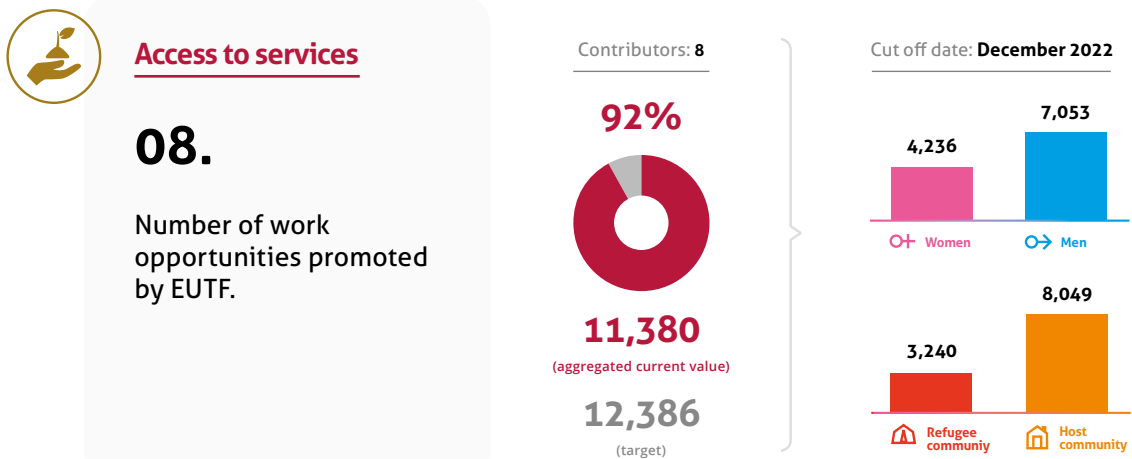


Figure 4.

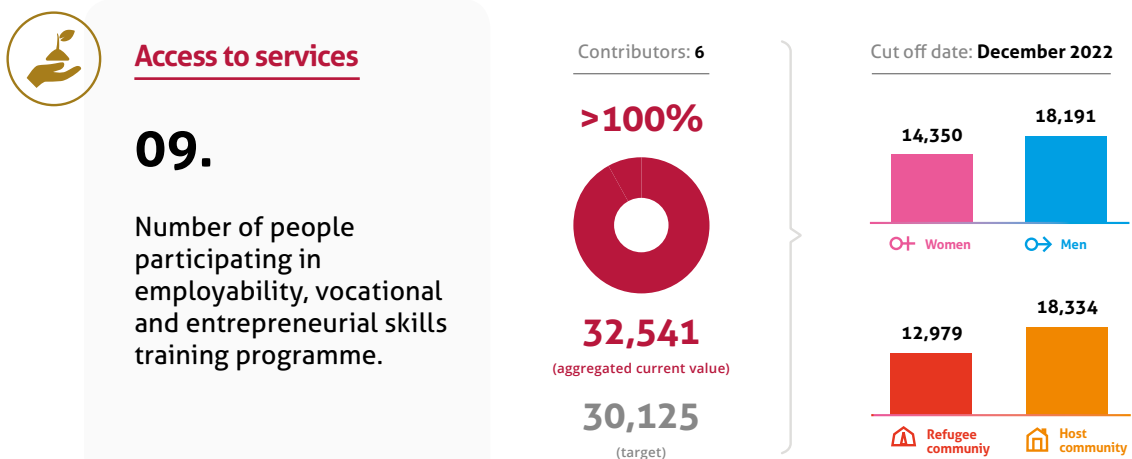


Figure 5.

LIVELIHOODS

the Shingal Organisation for Social Development, generating a sustainable waste recycling model. Whilst this is expected to promote local economic development in the area, actual outcome evidence is pending.

Regarding **national policy or regulatory effects** most of the EUTF actions did not include specific activities at this level. The exception was the UN Women project which focused more on violence against women. Although the government has allowed Syrians to establish and regularise their businesses, integration in the formal labour market remains a sensitive issue. Syrians are now eligible to apply for citizenship (law No.46, 1963) after being in the country for ten years.

The evaluation also highlights that interviewees report that the country has changed national employment and social protection policy to facilitate refugee's access to jobs and social protection services "to some extent". However, both Syrian refugees and Iraqis are struggling to find decent jobs in KRI due to the continued conflict within the country, disagreements over budgetary arrangements with the federal government and the previously mentioned inflation since 2021. UNESCO's project also aims at producing some positive effects in the touristic sector, but it is early to assess any potential economic effects.



Local infrastructure

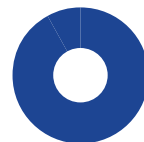
10.

Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises supported with coaching and training.

Contributors: **4**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

>100%



4.841

(aggregated current value)

4.783

(target)

Figure 6.



Access to services

11.

Number of people receiving cash assistance (and/or food vouchers) from EUTF.

Contributors: **1**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

>100%



2,749

(aggregated current value)

1,430

(target)

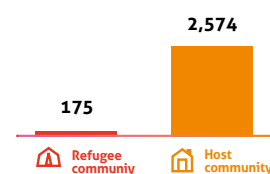
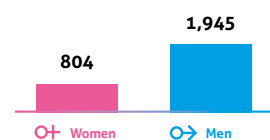


Figure 7.

HEALTH

PROJECT LIST:

Table 4

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
7.	Associazione Italiana per la solidarietà tra i popoli (AISPO)	T04.18	Support to the Emergency / Critical care Services and Maternal and Child Health in Duhok Governorate to respond to the Syrian Crisis	Iraq	€ 5,300,543
30.	AFD/AICS	T04.40/50	Resilience & Social Cohesion Programme (RSCP)	Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq	€ 4,409,100
37.	AISPO	T04.181	Support to mother and child and critical care services in Duhok province (phase 2)	Iraq	€ 4,906,578
69.	ACF France	T04.183	Mental Health and Psychosocial services	Iraq	€ 6,975,012
▶ 86.	La Chaîne de l'Espoir	T04.237	Equipment of the Sinjar French Medical Center (SFMC)	Iraq	€ 999,999

▶ Projects are still being implemented.

● Projects have been included in the outcome evaluation, but in this case, the assessment is based on review of secondary sources, such as the EUTF health portfolio evaluation, final reports and QINs. AFD/AICS has closed implementation of T04.40/50 in December 2022.

In the health sector, EUTF has supported seven actions.⁶ AISPO, in Duhok, implemented a project to improve mother and child critical care in two phases (T04.18 and T04.181), while ACF, focused on mental health in several governorates (T04.183), and AICS/AFD (T04.40), included a component of health personnel training in a multisector action. Currently, only one health project is being implemented by Chaîne de l'Espoir (T04.237) that aims at refurbishing and equipping Sinjar medical centre as well as strengthening its capacities. Construction works in the context of this project are progressing, and, according to the Quarterly Information Note (QIN 12/22), 20% has been achieved to date.

In Iraq, recent results from the QINs **reflect very good outputs achievement** and in all three categories. While targets have been overachieved in the case of local health capacities strengthening; and local health infrastructure, 83% of the target on access to health consultations has been reached.

In terms of **outcomes, at individual level**, according to various assessments (ROM T04.18 02/18; health evaluation, 05/2020; final report T04.181: 01/2022), health interventions have improved access to quality secondary and tertiary healthcare services for refugee, IDP and host communities. This is particularly relevant for mother and child critical care in Duhok (KRI) and primary

→ 6. The 2,077 children have been removed from labour in the three countries where RDPP has been working, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

HEALTH

mental health services in selected governorates. More patients have accessed improved services – as measured in births, surgeries and referrals - at the Duhok Maternity and Paediatric Teaching Hospital, the Duhok Emergency and Trauma Hospital and Akre Emergency Hospital of Duhok. In addition, maternal and child health and mental health services improved after the intervention in the network of primary health centres. Health authorities had also suggested reduction of morbidity after surgeries and reduction of neonatal mortality, and recent evidence highlights reduced new-born suffocation and improved detection, referrals and treatment of disability in children. Regarding mental health, beneficiaries reported a change of attitude towards

mental health and psychosocial services, feeling more comfortable while having accessed them, increased service quality and improved mental health related quality of life.

Regarding changes in **local institutions and organisations**, the **Duhok** Maternity Hospital; Duhok Hevi Pediatric Hospital; Akre Emergency and Maternity Hospital, the Emergency and Trauma Hospital of Duhok and the General Hospital of Amedy -all supported by T04.18 and T04.181, after benefitting from rehabilitated infrastructure, equipment and training, had shown improved quality of **service provision to mothers and children**. Skills of their staff had been strengthened in terms



Access to services

12.

Number of people receiving primary health care consultations and essential medicines.

Contributors: **1**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

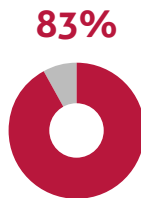


Figure 8.



Local capacities

17.

Number of professional staff trained in primary, secondary and tertiary health care services.

Contributors: **5**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

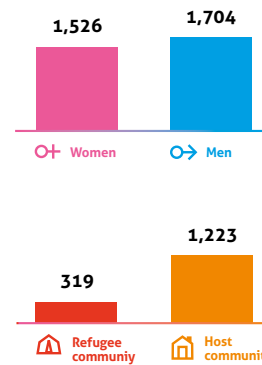
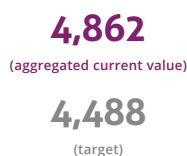
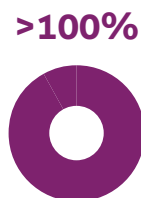


Figure 9.

HEALTH

of management, collecting and using data, treating infection and detecting disability, teamwork, using new medical equipment, and communication with the patients. Nurses are now widely respected, according to reports, and awareness on prevention had been integrated. In relation to the pandemic, the capacities of Duhok governorate have been strengthened with trained staff, a PCR laboratory and reinforced tracing of cases. Regarding **mental health** (ACF, T04.183), it has been reported that personnel of Ministry of Health and Directorate of health, as well as primary health care centres from improved their overall knowledge and skills (QIN 03/22) on Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Community based organisations were also trained to improve collaboration and integration

of mental health services in primary health care centres. It is still early to assess outcomes in Sinjar, where support from T04.247 is incipient.

No changes in the level of **national policy, strategy or regulation** have been reported. The integration of mental health services in the primary health care system of the country requires sustained government support, additional resources and comprehensive local adherence to policy, which were not given at that time. An action plan resulting from this project had been shared with the Ministry of Health and other key actors to inform the design and strengthening of existing policies and strategies across Iraq.

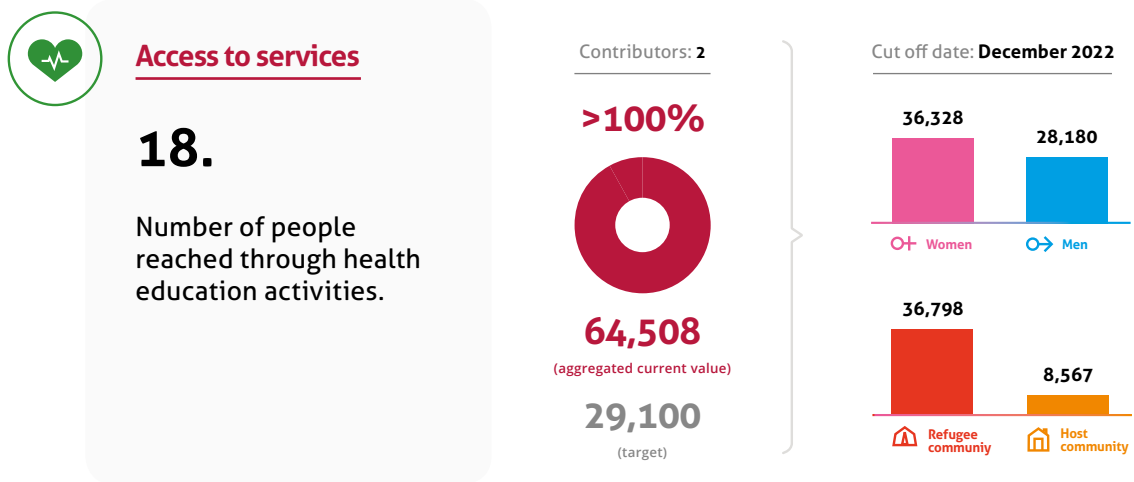


Figure 10.

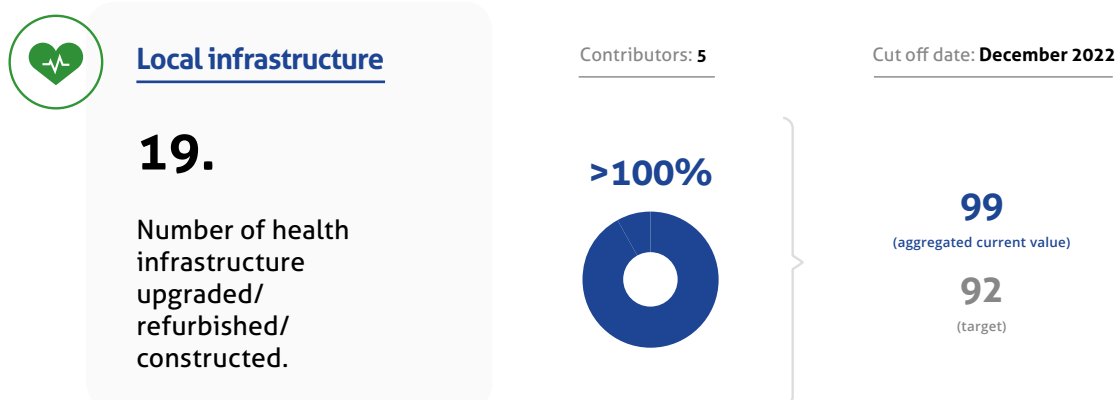


Figure 11.

WASH

PROJECT LIST:

Table 5

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
26.	Acted	T04.121	Supporting resilience for host communities, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq	Iraq	€ 7,919,420
46.	AICS	T04.40/50	Resilience & Social Cohesion Programme (RSCP)	Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq	€ 4,409,100
53.	FAO	T04.53	Restoring the Water Supply for Food Production and Livelihoods in Post Conflict Areas	Iraq	€ 6,000,000
▶ 61.	UNDP	T04.132	Strengthen the long-term resilience of targeted subnational authorities and their host/refugee populations in countries affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises	Lebanon, Iraq	€ 9,999,999
62.	VNG	T04.136	Maintaining Strength and Resilience for Local Governments in Lebanon and Iraq (MASAR)	Lebanon, Iraq	€ 6,650,000
▶ 85.	UN Habitat	T04.247	Support for Urban Recovery and Iraq Peacebuilding in western Ninewa	Iraq	€ 10,000,000

▶ Projects are still being implemented.

● Projects have been included in the outcome evaluation, but in this case, the assessment is based on review of secondary sources, mainly the EUTF WASH portfolio evaluation. AFD/AICS and VNG International have closed implementation of T04.40/50 and T04.136, respectively, in December 2022.

EUTF has supported various implementing partners (see Table), strengthen the WASH sector and improve access to WASH services in Iraq with particular focus on three governorates, Ninewa, Duhok and Erbil, more specifically in the northern governorate of Ninewa, including Mosul and on the north-western districts, Sinjar, Tel Afar and Baaj, where large scale displacement and destruction of key infrastructure occurred.⁷ The four projects included improvement of municipal WASH infrastructure - including pipes, bridges, pumping

stations -, hygiene awareness sessions, solid waste management, Geographical Information System mapping centres and capacity building of water authorities, including the Directorate of Water at governorate level, and WASH committees. Most of the supported actions included livelihoods strategies linked to better access to WASH services, and FAO's action in particular, included a link to food security. Currently, one action is still being implemented by UN Habitat (T04.247).

→ 7. VNG International (T04.136) also included a WASH related component on strengthening capacities in Iraq that trained the Directorate of Sewerage and the Directorate of Water of Ninewa Governorate in project planning and design.

WASH

When assessing **outputs**, the outcome evaluation underlines that “WASH projects in Iraq have better results than in other countries. The country shows positive achievements in WASH related training, meaning local capacities of WASH authorities, including governorate and municipal level, but also communities. As with capacity building, planned targets for infrastructure improvements, have been also exceeded. The targets for access to safely managed water -although they have not been fully attained yet, 67% have been achieved. This reflects better results than Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey. The currently ongoing action in Ninewa still needs to deliver some WASH infrastructure improvements that might increase the mentioned target on access.

The main **WASH outcome** in Iraq and KRI at **individual level** is improved access to water and sanitation services, which has been delivered by various actions with focus on refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities (T04.121, T04.132 and T04.247). In neighbourhoods of Mosul, Sinjar, Tel Afar and other villages (Ninewa) there is now access to safely managed water. These neighbourhoods, and others, such as Erbil, Duhok and Sumel, have a high influx of Syrian refugees and are benefitting from the extension of water networks. Access to water in schools is also mentioned in the EUTF WASH evaluation and two schools have recently benefitted from WASH installations (T04.247) in Tel Afar. The rehabilitation and extension of storm



Access to services

20.

Number of people with access to safely managed drinking water.

Contributors: 2

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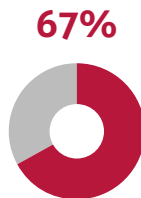


Figure 12.



Local capacities

21.

Number of people trained in the WASH sector.

Contributors: 2

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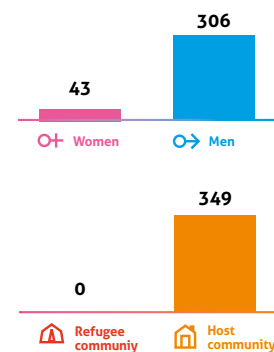
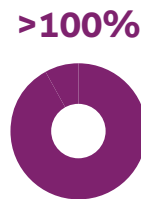


Figure 13.

WASH

water network in Mosul (T04.132) is expected to have effects in terms of flood prevention, while the replacement of currently cracked potable water networks will lead to waste reduction.

Apart from direct access to water and other WASH related services, the construction of these infrastructures in wider rehabilitation-oriented actions (T04.247) is leading to accommodating returnees. Another effect in this context has been explicit improvements in the perception of the community on the responsiveness of WASH institutions to the community (T04.121). There is some information about how improvements in irrigation have led women to engage in gardening (T04.53) in their backyards, or how agricultural skills were improved to get access to additional livelihood opportunities (T04.121).

The EUTF evaluation underlines that the capacity of **local institutions and organisations**, such as the Directorates of Water (DoW), in charge of operations and maintenance of WASH infrastructure was sufficient in terms of skills and organisation. Some actions enhanced the operations and maintenance capacities, not only from the DoW (T04.132), but from the Directorate of Sewage (T04.247). The DoWs, at governorate level, had improved some decision-making instruments, such as community engagement tools or Geographical Information Systems centres (T04.136). However, the main limitation for municipalities and directorate is the lack of financial resources to: cover the immediate needs; and plan for operations, maintenance and asset management for the longer term. A WASH committee in East Mosul was also able to get its network repair after receiving training and advice in the context of one EUTF project (T04.121). There



Local infrastructure

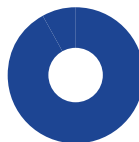
22.

Number of municipal/ regional water and wastewater facilities constructed/rehabilitated or equipped.

Contributors: **3**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

>100%



121

(aggregated current value)

119

(target)

Figure 14.



Access to services

23.

Metres of transmission and distribution lines installed.

Contributors: **1**

Cut off date: **December 2022**

>100%



84,600

(aggregated current value)

80,000

(target)

Figure 15.

WASH

is some evidence that due to EUTF actions, WASH committees at schools have been strengthened to take care of maintenance. The evaluation also highlights that mukhtars and other esteemed members of the communities were linked with the WASH authorities (T04.121).

Results at **national policy level** in the WASH sector continues to be limited in Iraq. Water governance reforms still faces structural challenges, such as lack of funding, recruitment of personnel and other wider socio-economic factors, such as currency devaluation and inflation. There is no evidence suggesting that the EUTF WASH portfolio has contributed to the EU policy dialogue for reforms in the country.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

EUTF has supported seven actions with protection related strategic objectives or with protection related components. While RDPP II ended its implementation in December 2022 (T04.164), most of them -four- have closed their implementation. Only two projects that include protection elements, such as psychosocial support (GIZ, T04.200; SPARK, T04.218) and training in gender-based violence (GIZ, T04.200) are still ongoing. Additionally, eight further projects incorporate social cohesion related components, such as training of municipal/subnational governments and local organisations, investment in municipal services, improvements in community centres or youth led activities. Of these fifteen actions (see Table), three are still ongoing (T04.200, T04.218, T04.247) with some components of protection and cohesion. Awareness activities, that are included in the area of social cohesion, can be found in most projects in Iraq.

In Iraq, all **protection and social cohesion** related **outputs** have been overachieved. According to the outcome evaluation, when assessing outputs, underlines that *“the protection sector has been the most successful sector, especially compared to other sectors’ relative performance in this country”*. Targets on **access to protection services**, which include psychosocial support and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services; access to outreach and peer to peer activities; as have **local capacity strengthening goals**, particularly on training on child protection and GBV services. The same applies to training of local authorities and organisations on social cohesion and to improved local community infrastructure. There is also an output defined on cleared land, part of the one integral mining action, that also has been exceeded.

PROJECT LIST:

Table 6 (1/2)

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
4.	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	T04.15	Regional Resilience & Local development Programme for Syrian refugees and host communities	Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey	€ 11,936,000
25.	World Vision	T04.17	Youth RESOLVE: Resilience, Education, Social Cohesion, Opportunities for Livelihoods and reduced Violence	Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq	€ 2,506,500
31.	UN WOMEN	T04.72	Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey	Turkey, Jordan, Iraq	€ 4,000,000
32.	EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)	T04.130	Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities	Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq	€ 2,300,000
35.	Danish Red Cross	T04.30	Addressing Vulnerabilities of Refugees and Host Communities in Five Countries Affected by the Syria Crisis	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey	€ 3,932,307

● Projects been assessed by the outcome evaluation.
AFD/AICS and VNG International have closed implementation of T04.40/50 and T04.136, respectively, in December 2022.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

PROJECT LIST:

Table 6 (2/2)

NO.	PROJECT PARTNER	PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION	EUTF CONTRIBUTION
36.	Mine Advisory Group (MAG)	T04.52	Integrated mine action to enhance resilience of conflict-affected communities in Northern Iraq	Iraq	€ 9,000,000
53.	FAO	T04.53	Restoring the Water Supply for Food Production and Livelihoods in Post Conflict Areas	Iraq	€ 6,000,000
46.	AICS	T04.40/ T04.50	Resilience & Social Cohesion Programme (RSCP)	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon	€ 4,409,100
▶ 61.	UNDP/UN Habitat	T04.132	Strengthen the long-term resilience of targeted subnational authorities and their host/refugee populations in countries affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises	Lebanon, Iraq	€ 9,999,999
62.	VNG	T04.136	Maintaining Strength and Resilience for Local Governments in Lebanon and Iraq (MASAR)	Lebanon, Iraq	€ 6,650,000
69.	ACF France	T04.183	Mental Health and Psychosocial services	Iraq	€ 6,975,012
72.	Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	T04.164	Regional Development and Protection Programme for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq (RDPP II)	Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq	€ 3,000,000
▶ 77.	GIZ	T04.200	Qudra II – Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises	Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq	€ 22,000,000
▶ 81.	SPARK	T04.218	Support to Higher Education for Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs and vulnerable Iraqi host community youth – Phase 3	Iraq	€ 5,000,000
▶ 85.	UN Habitat	T04.247	Support for Urban Recovery and Iraq Peacebuilding in western Ninewa	Iraq	€ 10,000,000

▶ Projects are still being implemented.

● Projects been assessed by the outcome evaluation. AFD/AICS and VNG International have closed implementation of T04.40/50 and T04.136, respectively, in December 2022.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

In terms of **outcomes** at **individual level**, the most evident one in this sector, is increased access to protection related services, such as counselling, legal advice, psychosocial support and GBV services and, to a lesser extent to cash assistance, for refugees, IDPs and host communities. In relation to the closed project T04.72, 'remarkable' work from women centres and shelters supported by UN Women has led to increased women's self-esteem and improved psychological and social wellbeing. The evaluation underlines that *"71% of women reported an increase in their protection from violence, of these 86% reported that protection increased to*

a large extent". The action T04.130, implemented by EFI, has delivered 377 referral cases of women survivors for IDP women and women from host and refugee communities. Numerous outreach activities, including specific work with men to promote gender equality and prevent GBV has been positively underlined by the evaluation leading to increased awareness about the existence of referral systems that deal with GBV cases. The work with local networks and mobile teams helped to create referrals to the centres of partner organisations. A survey and focal groups organised by Qudra II (T04.200) revealed that Syrian and Lebanese



Access to services

24.

Number of people receiving psychosocial support.

Contributors: **3**

>100%



18,434
(aggregated current value)

16,200
(target)

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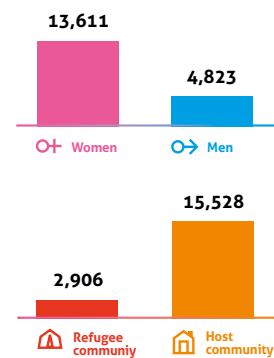


Figure 16.



Access to services

25.

Number of women accessing Gender Based Violence related services.

Contributors: **1**

>100%



26,673
(aggregated current value)

20,500
(target)

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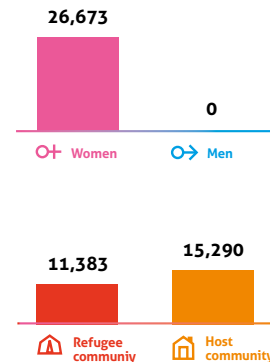


Figure 17.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

female participants are applying new behavioural skills to improve communication with their children, reflecting upon and better managing their emotions – particularly anger and frustrations, and experiencing positive psychological outcomes.

Regarding **changes in local institutions and organisations**, a previous ROM assessment (11/2021) had praised the “localised” approach of RDPP II (T04.164) to support grassroots organisations so that they can provide improved protection services and spaces to refugees, IDPs and host communities. In reference to T04.72 and according to the outcome evaluation, the women centres, contributed to establish seven women’s committees, that provided *“a space for*

women to share their thoughts on women’s needs and experiences and a strong network to enhance women’s rights advocacy efforts”. Strengthened social fabric from community work, mobilisation of local organisations and a peer-to-peer approach promoted by the action has helped to identify women at risk. Women centres in Iraq have provided a network of “one-stop shop” services ranging from psychological support, mental health and GBV protection services and employability and livelihoods support. The recent outcome evaluation has positively underlined the capacity building on GBV for line ministries and national NGOs, as well as the advocacy work on GBV and child protection. The capacities to deal with GBV and child protection cases, have been strengthened in the case of



Local capacities

26.

Number of people trained on child protection and gender based violence.

Contributors: **2**

>100%



4,511

(aggregated current value)

2,155

(target)

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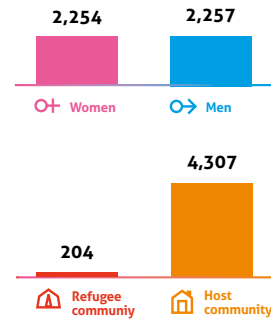


Figure 18.



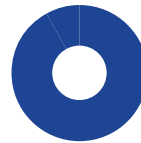
Local infrastructure

27.

Number of m2 cleared.

Contributors: **1**

>100%



Cut off date: **December 2022**



Figure 19.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

i) service providers and staff; ii) line Ministries and justice professionals, female police officers, and iii) university students and pupils, leading to increased knowledge (T04.72; T04.130, T04.164, T04.200). Organisational links between experienced national implementing partners, e.g. Baghdad Women Association (BWA), Women Empowerment Organisation (WEO) and other government stakeholders in KRI and the federal government have been promoted (T04.130). The two mentioned NGOs have been pivotal in, service provision and increased capacities in gender awareness, GBV and management skills.

At **national policy and regulatory level**, the outcome evaluation highlights some challenging factors to achieve policy reform outcomes: The legal framework is *“more focused on protecting the family than in prosecuting the abusers”* and, *“combatting gender-based violence is not endorsed with a strong political will”*. Although more work needs to be done to enable longer term changes, the ROM mission of project T04.130 (03/2020) noted a contribution to the Iraq’s second National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security as well as advocating for the endorsement of the anti-domestic violence. The project also enhanced the role of the civil society in monitoring the work on the

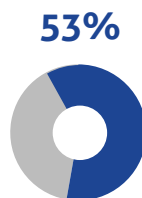


Local infrastructure

30.

Number of municipalities benefitting from improved infrastructure.

Contributors: **3**



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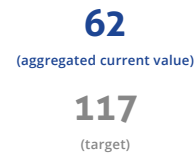


Figure 20.



Local capacities

31.

Number of public sector officers trained.

Contributors: **2**



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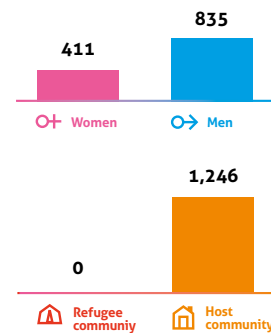


Figure 21.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

second NAP for UNSCR 1325. The project, however, *“had limited influence on legislation and on speeding up the procedures to adopt the 2nd NAP, due to disorganised and dysfunctional federal authorities in Baghdad, especially since the 2021 parliamentary elections”*. Although local organisations and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Iraqi Kurdistan showed clear engagement to continue protection services in community centres, there was limited ownership from relevant ministries at federal level. No financial resources had been allocated for implementing the 2nd NAP. The Anti-Domestic Violence Law has not yet been ratified at this stage.

Under RDPP II in Iraq, ILO partnered with two local NGOs to establish very first Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS) that engage local government and relevant institutional actors and feed into referral systems for children at risk of and/or engaged in child labour and their caretakers. ILO supported the development of the NAP against Child Labour in KRI engaging with local partners, ministries and civil society actors that has also contributed to improve referrals of children in child labour.⁹ The NAP against Child Labour needs still to be approved.

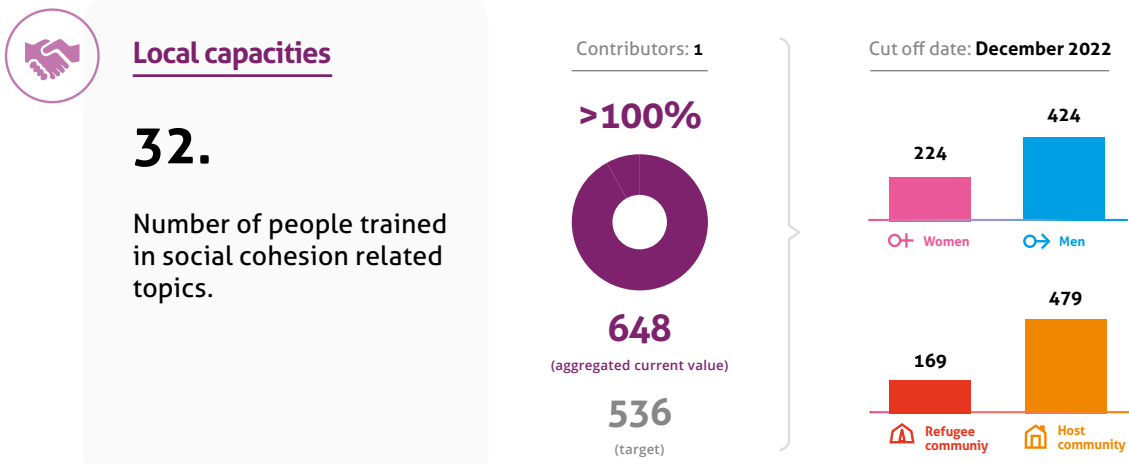


Figure 22.

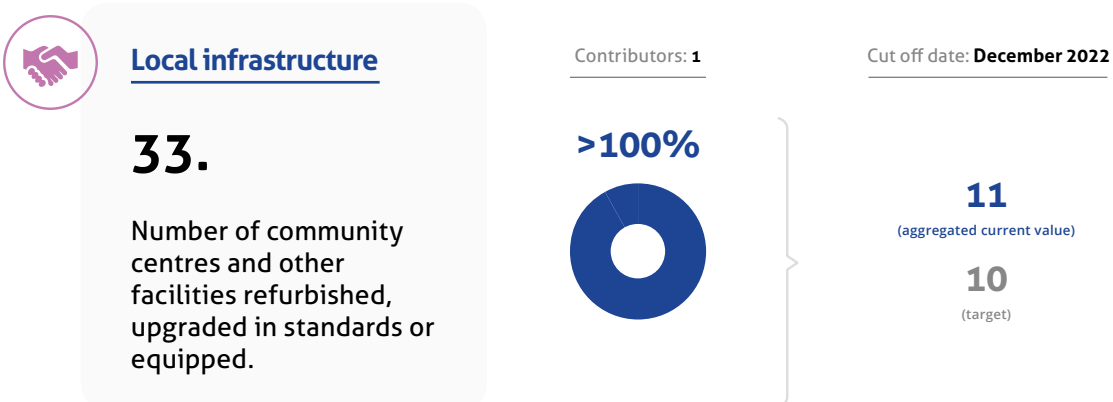


Figure 23.

→ 9. The 2,077 children have been removed from labour in the three countries where RDPP has been working, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION

According to the outcome evaluation, GIZ support through 'Qudra II' (T04.200) contributed to develop a national strategy and roadmap to expand social security coverage to include informal workers, while supporting the most vulnerable workers in the informal economy and alleviating the effects of COVID-19.

From the currently ongoing actions, UN Habitat (T04.247) has delivered training on subnational governments on housing, land and rights, however outcomes at national, policy level, have not been measured yet. SPARK (T04.218), more focused on service provision, including psychosocial support to students and peer to peer activities, is not expected to generate outcomes at policy level on protection.

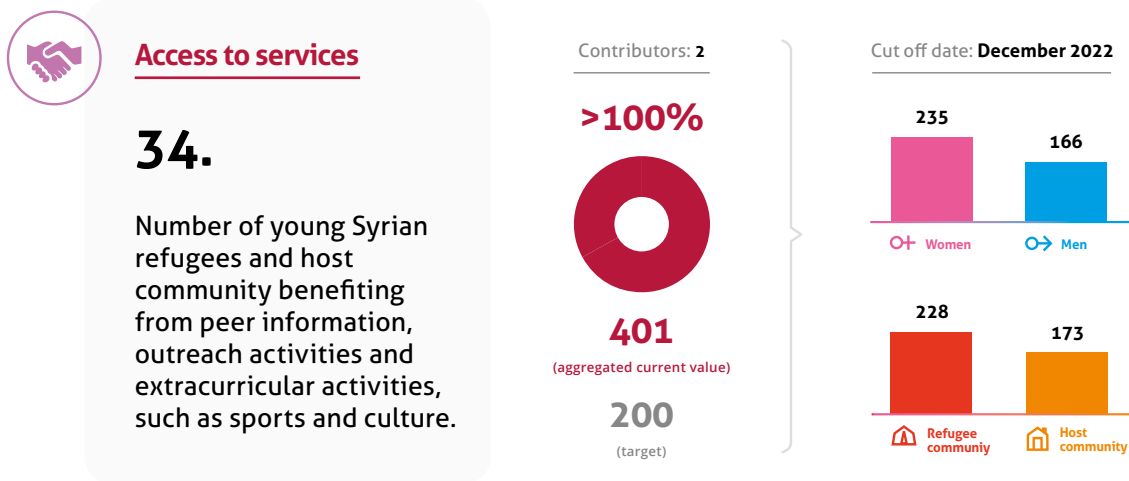


Figure 24.

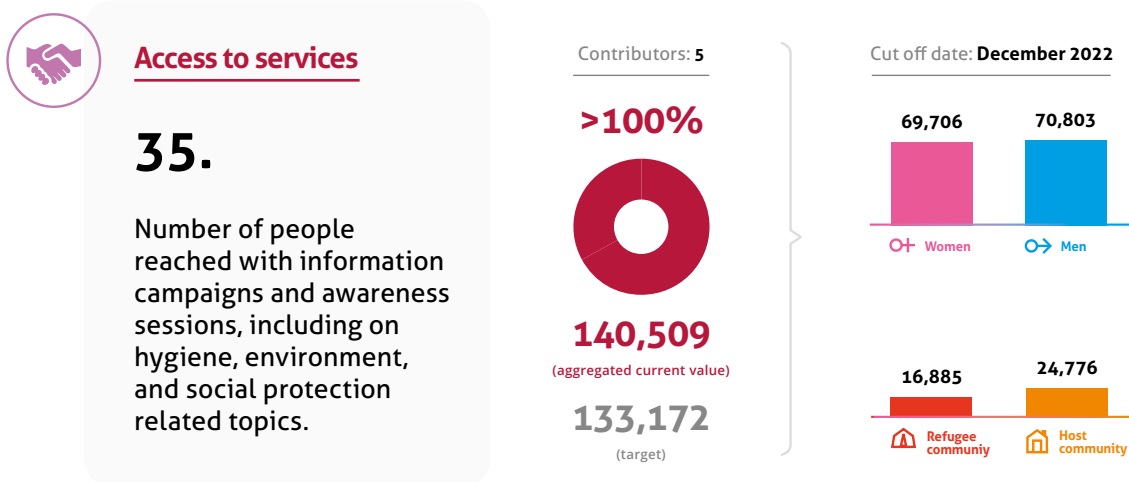


Figure 25.