



EU Regional Trust Fund In Response to the Syrian Crisis, the Madad

The conflict in Syria, which has now **entered its 13th year**, continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Today, **almost 5 million Syrian refugees** live in neighboring countries and more than **7.2 million people are internally displaced** inside Syria [UNHCR 2024]. Beyond the continuing humanitarian emergency, Syria and its bordering nations find themselves confronted with a multifaceted crisis, worsened by the **war in Ukraine and Gaza**, the **climate crisis**, and the consequences of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which have amplified the underlying inequalities within and between the countries in the region.

WHY THE EUTF SYRIA, THE MADAD?

Since December 2014, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis (EUTF Syria) has placed **the European Union** at the forefront of the international response to the Syrian crisis. The EUTF Syria mobilised **EUR 2.38 billion**, including contributions from 21 EU Member States, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom. **129 key interventions** have been carried out in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Türkiye and, to a lesser extent, in the Western Balkans, Armenia and Egypt. The EUTF Syria **benefited over 11 million people**, including refugees and host communities, with improved access to **Health, Basic & Higher Education, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Livelihood, Protection & Social Cohesion**.



WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

663

schools
constructed and/or
refurbished

1,176

health facilities
upgraded, refurbished and
equipped

429

**water & wastewater
systems** constructed
and/or rehabilitated

77,000+

**job
opportunities**
promoted

- **1 ML+ children and youth** gained access to formal and non formal education;
- **1,4 ML+ women, men and youth** improved their livelihoods through skills development, cash assistance and support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;
- **5,8 ML+ people** accessed quality primary healthcare services;
- **100,000+ professionals** in the sectors of education, health, protection and WASH were offered specialised trainings toward better services in the host countries;
- **257,000+** received employability, vocation and entrepreneurial skills training.





VOICES OF THE EUTF SYRIA: MEET SOME OF THE PROTAGONISTS



"When I work at full capacity, I recycle up to 9 tons of stones per month. This is possible thanks to ad hoc trainings, modern machineries, and the legal guidance I was offered."

Tamer is a Syrian social entrepreneur who specialized in transforming stones, either found in nature or re-used from construction leftovers, into precious artworks for interior design decorations. With EUTF support, Tamer keeps pursuing his art and profession in Lebanon.



"I used to think that having diabetes was dead-ended. By attending the information sessions, I learned that I could make simple changes to live a normal life with it."

Yasmeen has benefited from the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) clubs made available in Jordan by the EUTF-funded Reayah project. These clubs represent a safe space where NCD patients discuss ways to manage and adapt to their diseases and improve their life.



"I have a passion for law and studying it will give me a chance to make my voice heard. Yezidi women fight against all odds."

Gulshada Qasim, 22-year-old Yezidi student from Sinjar, Iraq, prepares her law exams from the Jamishko camp, in Duhok, home to 25,000 internally displaced Yezidis like her. Awarded a EUTF-funded scholarship through the SPARK project, Gulshada's determination prevails over all challenges.

WHAT IS NEXT?



While the EUTF formally came to an end **in December 2021**, with many projects being operational until 2025, **the EU commitment to the Syrian crisis remains solid**. For the years to come, continuity in support will be ensured through the **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument**, also known as **Global Europe** (NDICI-GE).