



EUROPEAN UNION



## EUROPE'S SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND THEIR HOST COUNTRIES

### EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

The conflict in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. **Over 5.6 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries** with the crisis going into its 8th year. Despite the move of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to Europe in 2015/2016, the primary burden of hosting the refugees continues to fall on the neighbouring countries in the region. Lebanon with close to 1 million registered Syrian refugees, and Jordan, with 650.000, host the largest numbers of registered refugees per capita in the world. In Lebanon, one in five people is a refugee, while one in 15 is a refugee in Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey continues to host the largest number of refugees in the world, 3.5 million. Iraq and Egypt continue to host large numbers of Syrian refugees along with refugees from many other countries. Many of the refugees have now been in these host countries for many years and struggle to make ends meet. They are increasingly vulnerable and face extremely high rates of poverty.

## THE TRUST FUND

Since its establishment in December 2014, an increasing share of the EU's non-humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees and their host countries is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund. With contributions and pledges from 22 EU Member States and Turkey, amounting now to more than €185 million, and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund **has reached a total volume of more than €1.8 billion to date.**

Large programmes focusing on education, livelihoods, health, socio-economic support, water and waste water infrastructure – benefitting both refugees and their host communities - have already been approved by the Fund's Board, for a total of more than €1.6 billion. Of this, more than **€1.4 billion have been contracted in over 67 projects** to the Trust Fund's implementing partners on the ground, now reaching 3 million beneficiaries.

## OBJECTIVES

In line with the priorities set out at the London Conference on Syria in 2016, the Brussels Conferences on the Future of Syria and the Region in 2017-2019, and the Global Compact on Refugees, the main objective of the Fund is to foster **more self-reliance of refugees**, helping them thrive, not just survive, by **bridging the funding gap and humanitarian-development nexus**. At the same time, the Fund **assists the countries and communities hosting the refugees** in coping with the additional economic and social burden of the crisis.

## HOW DOES IT FUNCTION?

- **Flexibility** through regional scale, enabling multi-country as well as local synergies.
- **Bridging** the humanitarian-development nexus with quick-impact as well as multi-year programmes.
- **Strategic partnerships** with donors, host countries, and implementing partners through inclusive governance in the Board and multi-partner actions.
- **Critical mass and efficiency** by maximising impact through pooling of funds from across the EU budget & donors, large programmes and low transaction cost (less than 1%).
- **Adaptable** with capability to respond timely to shifting needs and new developments in the region, including possible future use as post-crisis funding tool.

## IMPACT

The Trust Fund's results monitoring<sup>1</sup> of the first 52 projects shows substantial impact and progress:

- **271,003** refugee and host community children have access to **quality formal and non-formal basic education**
- **6,500** refugee and host community youth have access to **higher education and vocational training**
- **1,883,905** refugees and vulnerable people from local communities have access to health services including access to **medical examinations and essential medicines**
- **298,960** vulnerable people have access to **protection services** and **355,564** have access to **social cohesion activities**, including outreach and extracurricular activities, such as sports and culture
- **204,190** refugees and members of local communities currently benefit from **improved economic self-reliance** and livelihood opportunities
- **145,227** refugees and members of local communities have **access to water and sanitation services**, including access to safe water and hygiene promotion sessions

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

**Basic Education:** In cooperation with UNICEF, this project helps hundreds of thousands of children and youth affected by the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. It provides quality education for refugee children and a safe environment, and empowers youth to engage with society, as a cornerstone of strong communities.

The project **reaches 283,043 children**, youth and education professionals. The EU Trust Fund supports the project by providing €107.9 million in funding.



**Healthcare Services:** Through the project Reducing Economic Barriers to Accessing Health Services in Lebanon (REBAHS), funded by the Trust Fund, International Medical Corps, with several international and local partners and the Ministry of Public Health, has opened access to affordable and quality healthcare services throughout Lebanon to **501,930 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees**.

The EU Trust Fund supports the project by providing € 34.8 million in funding.

**Livelihoods and Local Development:** Through a truly European partnership including GIZ (Germany), Expertise France (France), Agence française de coopération médias (France), Agence española de cooperación internacional (Spain) and Cooperación Española (Spain), the QUDRA project helps youth in refugee camps and host communities in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey become more resilient and secure a better future. The project receives €74 million in funding from the EU Regional Trust Fund and **reaches some 600,000 Syrians and local communities**.

In Iraq alone, the project helps more than 50,000 people. Thanks to QUDRA, the Awat Institute and four other specialised schools in the Duhok Governorate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been welcoming more students with special needs, like Bitu.



<sup>1</sup> Fourth Results Reporting - EUTF Syria & Region - June 2019