



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

# IRAQ: COUNTRY FACTSHEET

The conflict in Syria, which has now entered its 12th year, continues to drive the world's largest refugee crisis. According to UNCHR, at current an estimated **260,000 Syrian refugees** live in Iraq, predominantly in its Kurdish Region. The EUTF has supported **24 projects in Iraq**, committing more than **161 million EUR**. As of today, **5 actions** are still ongoing.

### 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. **Over 120 interventions** have been carried out in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and, to a lesser extent, in the Western Balkans, Armenia and Egypt. The EUTF Syria **benefited over 9.5 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?

**113**

**municipalities** benefitting from improved infrastructure

**99**

**health facilities** upgraded, refurbished or equipped

**121**

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

**11,000+**

**work opportunities** promoted



- **35,000+ youths and adults** accessed higher education and training programs;
- **140,000+ people receiving primary health care** consultations and essential medicines;
- **165,000+ people** with access to safely managed drinking water;
- **11,000+ professionals** in the sectors of education, health, protection and WASH were offered specialised trainings toward improved basic services.



## VOICES OF THE EUTF SYRIA IN IRAQ: MEET THE PROTAGONISTS



***“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.



***“Contributing to the Citadel project and assisting engineers in the field, fuels my ambition to become an engineer. Each day is a step closer to my dream: shaping my future with hands-on experience and determination.”***

Abdul is a 24-year-old Iraqi who works as an unskilled laborer in the Erbil Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that receives support from the European Union. Abdul has been actively contributing to the maintenance of the site since October 2022, gaining valuable knowledge as well as means to provide for his large family.



***“After the rehabilitation of the marketplace, I began working in a barbershop. This allowed me to improve the living conditions for my family.”***

Elias and his family were displaced for approximately seven years before they returned to Tel Qasab, in Sinjar. In 2022, he opened a barbershop in a marketplace rehabilitated by UN-Habitat to assist the returning residents in revitalizing their livelihoods.

## 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).