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EXTERNAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION
MECHANISM FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL
TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

10TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE
EU REGIONAL TRUST
FUND IN RESPONSE
TO THE SYRIA CRISIS

SUMMMARY

15 SEPTEMBER 2025

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIA CRISIS



CONTEXT

On 10 September, the European Union commemorated the 10th anniversary of the EU Trust Fund in response to the Syria crisis, also known as MADAD, at an event held in Amman, Jordan. The event aimed at showcasing the collective efforts, successes and key learnings of EUTF-funded initiatives to date, while reaffirming the European Union's ongoing commitment to supporting Syrian refugees and their host countries.



OPENING CEREMONY

15 SEPTEMBER 2025

PARTICIPANTS

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The European Commissioner for the Mediterranean

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Ibrahim Al Hariri

graduate from EDU-Syria

While the EU Commissioner for the Mediterranean introduced the EUTF MADAD as a collective success story, the Acting Director for the Middle East, DG MENA, reaffirmed further commitment to protect Syrian refugees and IDPs and to work with partner countries and Syrian authorities as key partners in the future. She also praised the spirit of collaboration and stated that the new EU strategy will honour the legacy of MADAD that promotes hope, resilience and humanity. The Minister of MoPIC in Jordan thanked EUTF for the investment to support Syrian refugees and host communities and reiterated the importance of the institutionalisation of this partnership for the future. The representative of the Syrian government highlighted the need for a Syrian development strategy -that includes a consultation process and is based on partnership- focusing on improving

material conditions and reconstruction in all sectors and that includes a consultation process. He also reported that the country needs decades of healing. The advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs in Lebanon emphasised how the EUTF and WFP fostered efficiency and planning capacities in the Ministry and the ownership of the National Social Protection Strategy. He reiterated the urgent need for humanitarian support, but also for development support in the context of the Syrian crisis and mentioned the plan of his government to support 150,000 Syrians to voluntarily return to their country. The keynote speech was given by a graduate from EDU-Syria, a higher education project supported by EUTF, Ibrahim Al Hariri, who put the accent on how MADAD changed his life offering him a way to continue his studies and work as a project counsellor.



PANEL
1

LIVELIHOODS, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING EMPLOYABILITY, LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION: PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE



MODERATOR

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In terms of social protection, all panellists highlighted the importance of working with the nexus approach to transit from the emergency response to develop national systems of social protection. The systemic approach, i.e., of supporting the whole social protection system and not partial elements only, has emerged as very relevant for future interventions. The EUTF's support has been important to foster the integration of the implementing partners' work into governmental structures and systems. This approach enhanced the ability to effectively reach both Syrians and Lebanese communities, while also increasing the value of the investment. Panellists also agreed on the role of MADAD of having facilitated coordination and partnerships of the international donor community with national institutions and local NGOs and social organisations to work collaboratively and flexibly. The partnership

approach needs to be consistently supported in the future, especially in the context of Syria's transition to more stability. More support is needed since protection and labour market needs will continue to transform. Lessons learned from interventions that did not work, such as the graduation system piloted in the ILO-UNICEF project, or from contextual limitations, such as labour market or legal constraints will be needed in the future. Regarding **livelihoods**, the linkage of livelihood programmes and other sectors, especially education, has been underlined as a positive feature in MADAD programmes in Lebanon. The social impact of livelihood programmes in communities has been highlighted as the importance to work with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon. In terms of **higher education**, EUTF helped to deliver innovations in the higher education sector in Jordan, helping to put the sector in the international development agenda programming and contributing to improve

the quality of higher education sector in the country. The support of national institutions -and alliances with private ones- to deliver higher education has been underlined. Regarding **future interventions to help Syria rebuild**, panellists highlighted the importance of Syria to lead those efforts in the three sectors mentioned and focus on local and national institutions at the same time, promoting a regional, flexible, partnership-based approach. It is also important to differentiate the support needed by refugee, IDP and returnee populations since they might not return to their home places, including during their transition. Graduation as a broad concept, from education to employment, and from aid to government programmes had been discussed too as a relevant approach for the future cooperation with Syria. A regional perspective will be relevant as it will be investment in the country and continuous support of Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye in the mid-term.



PANEL
2

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT
& CLIMATE CHANGE

ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR ALL:
ENSURING DIGNITY AND WELLBEING



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In general, the work of MADAD to support public primary **health** care systems and the promotion of the cooperation with other stakeholders to deliver public services has been praised. MADAD has been able to generate synergies among public actors, local NGOs and international implementing partners to support and strengthen local public primary health care centres and their network in Lebanon and Jordan. While in Lebanon MADAD has contributed to improve affordability, quality, accessibility and attainability of primary health care for Lebanese and Syrian communities, in Jordan, the Trust Fund has facilitated the strengthening of capacities of primary health care services, specifically on chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD). With a government-to-government approach

this has resulted in improved services and in new medical interventions (e.g., national colorectal screening programme), improved public health surveillance system (e.g., cancer register) and in the development of two large key health surveys on adult tobacco consumption and on the “STEPwise” approach to NCD risk factor surveillance (STEPS). In terms of health interventions in the **future**, the focus should be put on prevention, building on existent health systems, national strategies and of capacity strengthening, which includes the digitalisation of primary health care centres’ information systems. Regarding **WASH and environment**, the articulation of solid waste management with a livelihood perspective has been crucial to create jobs and improve living conditions in refugee camps in Jordan. The work has combined training and cash for work with institutional collaboration at municipal level. As a key

lesson, the importance of consulting with the community has been underlined. In WASH, a new governance approach -river management catchment plan- has been successfully piloted in Lebanon with MADAD support.

Water governance is even more important in countries, such as Lebanon, where there is richness of ground and surface water, but heat waves and erratic rains -climate stressors- are having a negative impact on availability.



PANEL
3

EMPOWERING THROUGH BASIC EDUCATION

BASIC EDUCATION SUPPORT IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT



MODERATOR

Marko Gashi
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Jordan River Foundation (JRF)

Panellists agree on the importance of continuing support to public **education** in host countries with financial resources to invest in infrastructure, capacity building and teachers' salaries. They also highlight the importance of strengthening national education systems and promote inclusive education. The relevance of working in partnerships has been praised as part of MADAD's approach in the education sector. They all underline current challenges, such as lack of funding to invest in inclusive education and infrastructure (Jordan), hire teachers or fund schools, to transit from NFE to formal education, or the politization of education in the national context in Lebanon –60,000 non-Lebanese children are currently excluded from formal education and opposition

forces are preventing their enrolment. For the future, various ideas emerge: Continue promoting a partnership approach and collectively commit to support education in the neighbour countries of Syria, including a multi-year financial package (that includes capacity building, funding for salaries and infrastructure) and a safe transition for those Syrian people who return; engage in the high level sub-regional policy dialogue with the participation of six countries, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye and Egypt. The main key areas of support, such as formal education, non-formal education, capacity building of teachers; as well as education of girls and children with disabilities, remain relevant.



LESSONS LEARNED

FROM 10 YEARS OF MADAD ACTIVITIES



Pierre Tanturier, Particip summarised some of the achievements and lessons learned after a decade of MADAD projects. The EUTF achieved fully or exceeded most aggregated **outputs** across sectors. At **outcome** level, important results have been briefly presented, such as increased use of health, protection and psychosocial services, improved referral systems and sense of safety in some communities and more trust in other, different communities, all at individual level. At institutional level, service provision has been improved in a wide range of sectors, such as health, education, WASH and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services, not only through training officers and strengthening government and non-governmental organisations, but also with supporting new infrastructures and investment in new tools. Regarding changes at systemic and policy level, Lebanon and Jordan, e.g., are taking steps towards universal health care. In other sectors, such as GBV, education and protection, new national strategies and policies have been facilitated with EUTF support -such as inclusive education or the 2020 anti sexual harassment law in Lebanon, the inclusive education policy and National Social Policy in

Jordan or the GBV Strategic plan in Iraq. The **positive impact of multi-sectoral and multi-modality interventions** and the importance of **partner country institutional commitment and ownership** are some of the EUTF lessons learned. Four elements of the EUTF have been highlighted: **Flexibility and ability to adapt**; use of **nexus approach**; **pooling of resources** for scale and neutrality and **rapid implementation**.





