



EUROPEAN UNION



The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

IRAQ

Iraq has suffered years of conflict, since 2003 and before. The country is trying to recover from Daesh which committed the most gruesome acts of violence to date.

The conflict in Syria has triggered the world largest humanitarian crisis and 5.5 million had to flee the country. Iraq hosts almost 250,000 registered Syrian refugees¹ on top of the estimated 1.41 million internally displaced persons.²

The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis supports more than 25 projects in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and beyond, benefiting both Syrians and Iraqis.



Sectors covered by the EU Regional Trust Fund (current values²):



WATER & SANITATION

40,413 Syrians & Iraqis have access to improved water services & infrastructure



LIVELIHOODS & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

19,071 Syrians & Iraqis are benefiting from livelihoods & resilience support



HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

906 young women & men have access to higher education or vocational training



HEALTH SERVICES

182,104 Syrians and Iraqis have access to medical care & health services



SOCIAL COHESION

22,781 Syrians and Iraqis have access to social cohesion services



PROTECTION

98,429 Syrians & Iraqis are benefiting from protection services

1 Source - UNHCR latest 2019 data

2 [Seventh Results Reporting – EUTF Syria & Region – September 2020](#)

IMPACT



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Henna, a 28-year-old Yazidi-Kurdish woman, is the head of a mine and explosive action team, Team 108, in charge of clearing unexploded devices left behind by Daesh in the area surrounding Sinjar, north of Mosul, Iraq.

“Our job is not an easy one,” she explains. “But we try to put up with

everything. We work outdoors, there is wind, rain, sun, and heat. The only thing about this job that keeps us going is the humanitarian side.”

Unexploded devices and booby traps are amongst the most threatening and dangerous leftovers of Daesh in this region. Team 108’s job is of fundamental importance: people’s lives are at risk every day as undetonated mines are not easy to identify for non-experts. “Our people are still living in fear, even after they [Daesh] have left,” she explains.

Some of the northern areas of Sinjar have been cleared, but given the scale of contamination in the region, return to normalcy will take time. People do not feel safe yet. Houses are still in ruins and unexploded devices are spread everywhere, in people’s farms, in landfills, and in rubles.

When asked about fear that Daesh could return, Henna explains that “since their invasion, there is always the anxiety. Their attacks left a traumatic fear in us.” Local communities, and the Yazidis in particular, have gone through an unspeakable ordeal during Daesh’s occupation.

Thanks to the Mining Advisory Group (MAG) and the financial support of the European Union through the EU Trust Fund, Henna and her team of experts are rebuilding this region’s future.



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Seiran is 20 years old and she is from Derik city in Syria. She now lives in Shaklawa, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Before the Syrian crisis, life was beautiful in Derik, a small town offering many opportunities to its citizens, including education.

At the end of 2015, however, with the security situation continuously deteriorating, Seiran and her family moved to Iraq, where her father had already been working for a couple of years as a civil engineer. “When we first arrived, everything was different. It was a new country and a different language,” says Seiran. “But we got used to it with time.”

Because of continuous shelling and the increasingly worsening situation back in Derik, Seiran was forced to drop out of university, but never gave up her dream of finishing her studies. Soon after she moved to Shaklawa, some relatives told her about the Trust Fund supported SPARK scholarships for Syrian refugees: she applied and was amongst the first students to benefit from it during the first year of SPARK’s inception.

This project provides access to higher education and scholarships to Syrian refugees and internally displaced people so they can continue their academic journey and have better socio-economic perspectives. SPARK reaches out to students in Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria.



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Dr. Quader is a paediatric surgeon at Heevi teaching hospital in Dohuk city. Thanks to the financial support of the EU through the Trust Fund and the work of Italian NGO AISPO, the hospital now has a new surgical ward which includes more operation theatres. The neonatal intensive care unit, in particular, is of vital importance for the hospital as it helps respond to the needs of newly born babies with serious medical conditions. The ward is equipped with very sophisticated machines, like ventilators, which have a tremendous impact on the survival rate of little patients. Older children’s needs are also addressed: the ward has been planned so that patients in similar age spectrums are dealt with in common areas.

250 is the average number of surgeries taking place at Heevi hospital every month. “Before, this was not possible,” explains Dr. Quader. Increasing the number of operation rooms to three and having a higher number of surgeons and doctors mean that waiting lists are also dramatically shortened. The waiting period for surgeries does not normally exceed three months. All new operation rooms are now equipped with very advanced machines and all operating staff has been trained to use them properly and to provide assistance in case of need. An engineering department has also been trained for their general maintenance.

SOME OF OUR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



THE TRUST FUND: <https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/>