OUR PROGRAMME

Funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the (EU “Madad” Fund), and implemented by UN Women, the two-year programme, “Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey” is a multi-dimensional programme that supports women’s resilience and empowerment by addressing economic vulnerability and violence. This is done by increasing access to recovery and livelihood opportunities, paired with comprehensive protection services and support to national justice structures to promote accountability for violence against women.

This programme also works to engage men as partners, champions and advocates for women’s increased empowerment, including their engagement in the labour market. Our newsletter highlights stories of our beneficiaries as well as partners supporting our efforts to build resilience in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. The newsletter also includes some of the latest updates on the implementation of the programme. Read more on our website.

The EU Madad Fund supports women affected by the Syria crisis to stand on their own feet

To support Syrian refugee and host-community women become stronger in the face of hardships created by the Syria crisis, UN Women and the European Union (EU) have joined forces to offer them protection services, trainings and jobs. Thanks to the regional programme “Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey” funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, many women are now stronger and self-reliant. Watch the video to learn more.
Photo Essay: The story of Delal, an eight-year journey from Syria to Turkey

Escaping from the war in Syria, Delal Subek moved to Turkey eight years ago together with her husband and five children. This photo essay takes us back in time to explore her eight years in Gaziantep, Turkey.

Once in need, Sajida is now helping others

Sajida suffered from deep depression. But through psycho-social help at a local Iraqi NGO supported by UN Women and the EU, not only is she feeling better, she is also helping other vulnerable women start their tailoring businesses.

Upon arriving in Iraq to take refuge from the war in Syria, Madina was shocked by the misery and hardships in the refugee camps. Instead of sinking into despair, she decided to help out. Watch the video

Along with thousands of other Yazidi women in Iraq, Sajida Koti Saado was sexually enslaved by ISIL. After being sold so many times to different men, she was lucky to escape. To get over this ordeal and back on her own feet, Sajida now makes sweets for a living and provides for her family. Watch the Video
A small grant helps Najla bake to sustain her family

Conflict in Iraq took a toll on Najla and impoverished her family, especially after her husband’s death. But with support from UN Women and the EU, she has started a home-based bakery to support her family.

How Hio’s dream of going back to school was revived

Hio was only 14 when ISIL arrived in her town Sinjar, Iraq, putting an end to her dream of studying to become a doctor. But with support from UN Women and the EU, she is now back in school.

In the words of Ivan Bahri: "Work has helped me break the barrier of fear."

"Since I started working, my family's situation has improved. Work has helped me to live without help from anyone. I have regained my self-confidence and become self-reliant.” Said Ivan who now has a job thanks to help from UN Women Iraq and the EU.

Standing by Roaa to Obtain Justice for her Daughter

Roaa and her daughter were detained by ISIL in Mosul in 2014. While Roaa managed to escape, her daughter was killed by the extremist group. With support from the EU’s Madad Fund, a local NGO is now legally representing Roaa in seeking justice for her daughter.
Programme Updates

Turkey

Established by 50 Turkish, Syrian and Afghan women in Gaziantep, Turkey, the SADA Women’s Cooperative has been selected as one of the 10 scale-up projects by the Paris Peace Forum as an excellent example of a social cohesion and inclusive governance initiative. Initiated by the SADA Women’s Empowerment and Solidarity Center, the cooperative is a women-run democratic business model.

Co-hosted by the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and UN Women, "Orange Gaziantep" kicked off on 24 November at the Gaziantep Arts Center. On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, the Gaziantep Arts Center as well as many other landmarks around the city were lit orange.

Tomorrow’s Women’s Committee 17-18 December 2019.
The Tomorrow’s Women’s Committee was established by 50 Syrian women in Gaziantep who want to support each other while rebuilding their lives in a new country. The committee attended the preparatory event at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland via videoconference. Organized by UN Women and UNHCR, the event provided a platform for Syrian women to have their voice heard at an international forum.
Light the Dark Photography Workshops, 2-6 December, 2019

During the 16 Days of Activism, UN Women Turkey conducted photography workshops under the campaign’s theme; “Light the Dark”. Bringing Turkish and Syrian women together, the workshops aimed to enhance social cohesion among host and refugee communities and raise their awareness of violence against women by using photography as a learning tool. The photos have been already exhibited at a gallery in Gaziantep and will also be on display in Eskişehir, İzmir and Şanlıurfa.

Jordan

Arab Women’s Legal Network (AWLN) launches new guidelines to strengthen the justice sector response to cases of gender-based violence, 2 November-28 December 2019.

AWLN, in partnership with UN Women and with the generous support of the EU Madad Fund and the Governments of France and Japan, launched comprehensive guidelines to enhance the judicial sector’s response to cases of gender-based violence in Jordan.

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) supports community initiatives on women’s empowerment in Azraq and Za’atari 7 November 2019.

ARDD, in partnership with UN Women and with the generous support of the EU Madad Fund and the Governments of France and Japan, conducted a series of trainings for 49 Syrian women in the Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps to support refugees’ civic engagement initiatives aimed at raising awareness about women’s empowerment within their communities.
ARDD conducts a series of trainings for childcare providers in the Za’atari refugee Camp and in Mafraq, 8 November 2019.
ARDD, in partnership with UN Women, and with the generous support of the EU Madad Fund and the Governments of France and Japan, trained 33 childcare providers in the Za’atari Refugee Camp and in the Mafraq Governorate on how to establish safe and secure childcare centers to support women’s access to livelihood and job opportunities.

Mowgli Mentoring, in partnership with UN Women and with the generous support of the EU Madad Fund, organized a graduation ceremony which saw 68 women graduate from a six-month micro-entrepreneurial mentoring programme.

ARDD hosts interactive theatre productions across Jordan to raise awareness on gender-based violence, 17 November-5 December 2019.
ARDD, in partnership with UN Women, commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against gender-based violence through interactive theatre performances to raise awareness about economic violence against women. The ‘When She Works’ production addressed themes related to economic violence and fostered interactive dialogue among participants at the community level.

Iraq

The launch of the assessment on employment and working conditions of conflict-affected women in Iraq, 18 December 2019.
Held in Erbil, the event brought together over 50 representatives from the government, the EU, UN Agencies, I/NGOs and the private sector. Financially supported by the EU “Madad” Fund and conducted by REACH, the study provides an evidence-based understanding of the current working conditions and challenges facing women in accessing employment opportunities major employment sectors in Iraq.
WHAT IS THE EU MADAD FUND?

Five years into its creation, and with more than EUR 1.6 billion of approved projects, the EU Trust Fund has amply proven its added value beyond its economy of scale and the pooling of contributions from 22 EU Member States donors, and Turkey, as well as different EU financial instruments. It also offers a reinforced approach in Europe's response to the Syrian crisis, improving coordination and coherence, and addressing longer-term needs of both refugees and local communities.

To date, the EU Trust Fund provides support to more than 4.3 million refugees from Syria and local communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, the Western Balkans and Armenia. Providing access to education, livelihoods and socio-economic opportunities, health care, water and hygiene as well as providing more opportunities for a sustainable income generation are at the heart of the Trust Fund mandate. The EU Trust Fund has a particular focus on women and girls.

For more information on the EU Trust Fund, please visit the website and YouTube channel.