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EXPERTISE
FRANCE
GROUPE AFD



Expertise France in Syria

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17 projects

implemented
since 2013

63 Million EUR

3.8 M

beneficiaries of projects

Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria since 2013 within the framework of stabilization programming, focusing on regions outside the control of the Syrian regime. In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, Expertise France's action seeks to create the conditions for a sustainable end to the crisis. The overall objective is to strengthen human security and support the resilience of affected communities

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Context

Twelve years since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, communities, both within and outside the country, continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. Hostilities have claimed thousands of lives, leaving more than, as of February 2023, 15.3 million of people in need of humanitarian assistance, and forcing millions to flee their homes.

While livelihoods continue to be severely disrupted as a result of the conflict, human capital has also been impacted, with increased injuries, disabilities, displacements and a significant brain drain. This directly affects vulnerable communities' access to essential services, including health. This is compounded by the fact that training opportunities for service providers are scarce, creating pressing needs in terms of skills development.

While providing emergency humanitarian relief during protracted crisis remains necessary to alleviate suffering, more sustainable approaches are also required to improve vulnerable populations' livelihoods, but also to enhance and sustain their access to more resilient essential services.

15,3M of people

in need of assistance in 2023 according to OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview



Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria since 2013 within the framework of stabilization programs, focusing on regions outside of direct control from the Syrian regime. In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, Expertise France's action seeks to create the conditions for a sustainable end to the crisis. The overall objective of Expertise France's program in Syria is to strengthen human security and affected communities' resilience by improving livelihoods and preparedness. Expertise France's interventions are also designed to facilitate the peaceful and voluntary return, as well as sustainable reintegration, of formerly displaced communities.

Expertise France's approach in Syria:

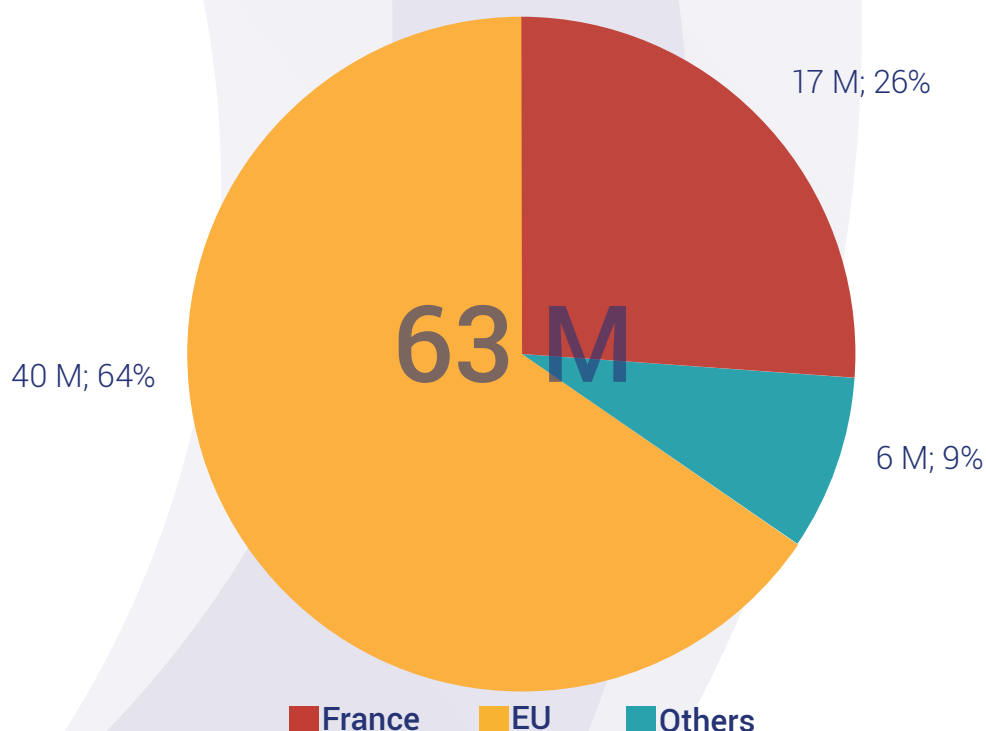
- Providing direct support to Syrian populations
- Working with trusted local implementing partners
- Developing local actors' capacities
- Monitoring systems with field teams on the ground

Expertise France's interventions are based on three mutually-reinforcing pillars:

- Strengthening vulnerable communities' access to essential services (i.e. health, education, electricity and water, waste management).
- Supporting economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods, with a specific focus on food security and agriculture.
- Contributing to the structuring of an organized civil society, able to defend Syrian citizens' interest.

Since 2013, Expertise France has implemented 17 projects in areas outside the control of the Syrian regime, with support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and international donors such as the European Union (EU), UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) or Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

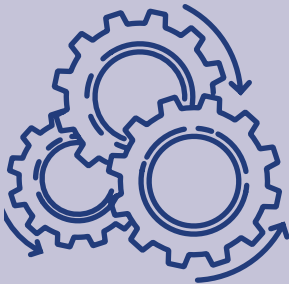
Total amount funded per donor (EUR)





63.1M €

Total volume of activity in Syria since 2013



130

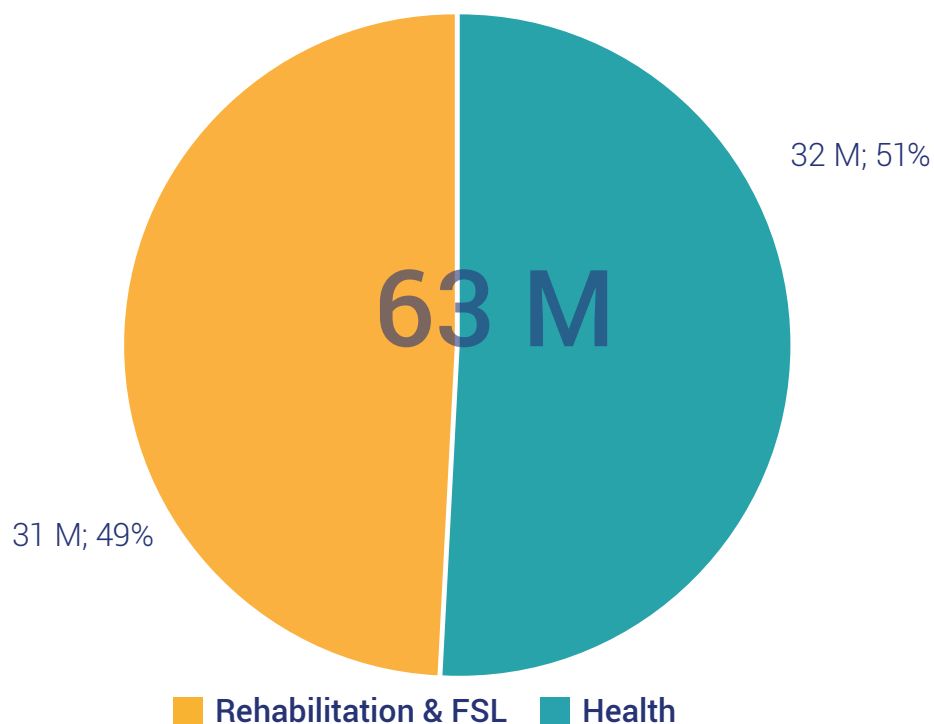
Grants awarded to Syrian CSOs



65

Different Syrian CSOs supported

Total amount funded per main sector (EUR)



Expertise France in Northwest Syria



Zoom on two Expertise France's projects in Northwest Syria



HEALTH

Primary Health Care-Mat
Phase I and II PHCs

Support primary health care, drug control, health information systems and capacity building for Syrian health providers and the Idlib Health Directorate.



REHAB and FSL

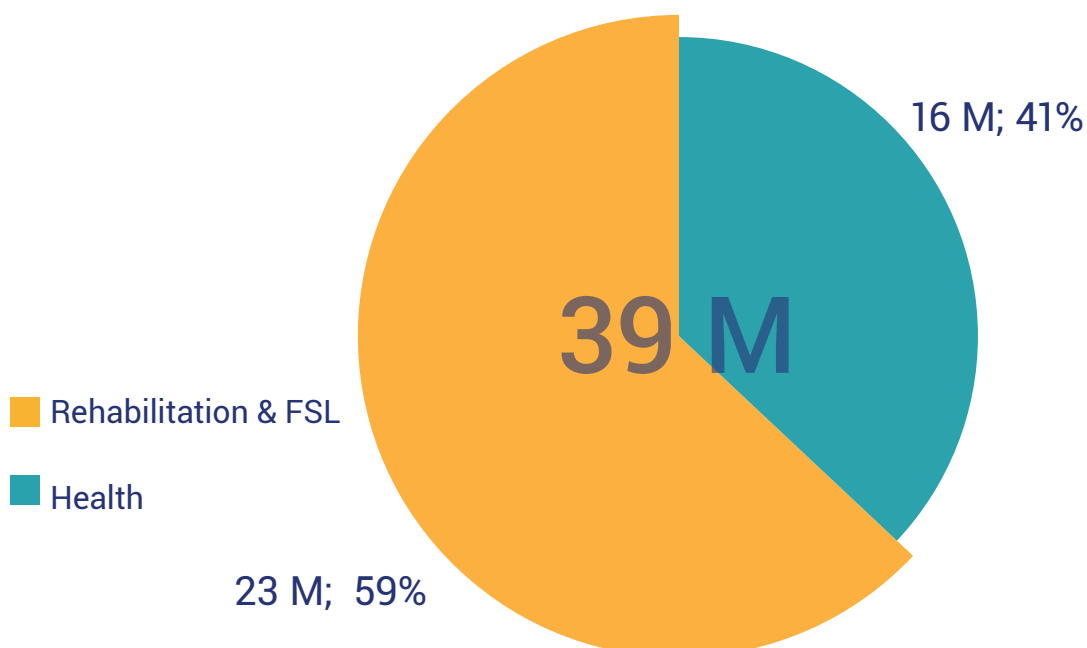
Initiative Gaziantep
Phase I and II
DFID- Livelihoods project

Support local CSOs in restoring essential public services, rehabilitation of productive assets and support to livelihoods including agriculture and food security activities.

Between 2013 and 2020, Expertise France focused its response in the Northwest (and initially the South) of Syria, in pockets outside the control of the Syrian regime by supporting access to essential services while seeking to lay the groundwork for capacity building of national (the Syrian Interim Government) and local governance bodies. Expertise France awarded more than 90 different projects in the form of granting to local civil society actors. Projects focused on restoring livelihoods and productive assets while delivering health services to the population.



Total amount funded per sector in NWS (EUR)



Expertise France in Northeast Syria



From 2013 to 2017, the north-eastern region of Syria has largely been occupied by ISIS before being progressively retaken by the Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by the international coalition. The high level of destruction caused by the anti-ISIS war has negatively impacted the economic activity and access to basic services such as health, education, water or electricity.

There is an important need to restore and support the livelihoods of population in NES, and increase food security in areas formerly known as the bread basket of Syria, where people rely heavily on agriculture as their main source of income. Drought and climate change are also increasingly impacting livelihoods requiring adaptation to the modes of production, a transition that Expertise France is accompanying through its projects.

Expertise France's projects in NES



HEALTH

HERNES Program:

Support health recovery in northeast Syria, with a focus on primary health, maternity and child health and capacity building of health providers.



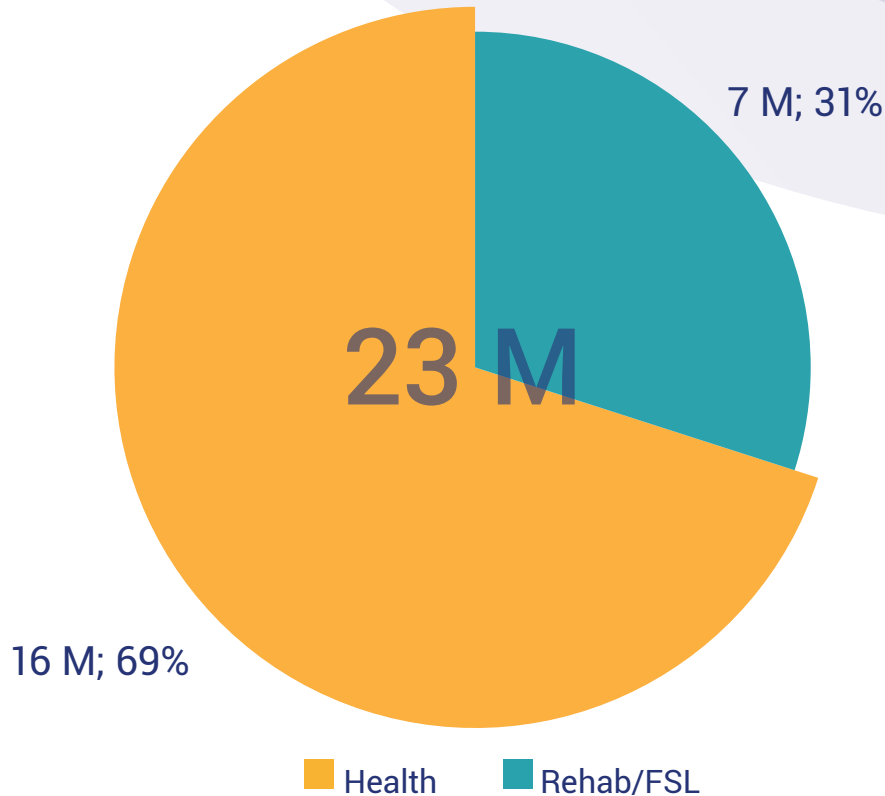
REHAB and FSL

INES Program

SABIR Program

Support local CSOs in restoring essential public and productive assets and support to livelihoods including agriculture and food security activities.

Total amount funded per sector in NES (EUR)



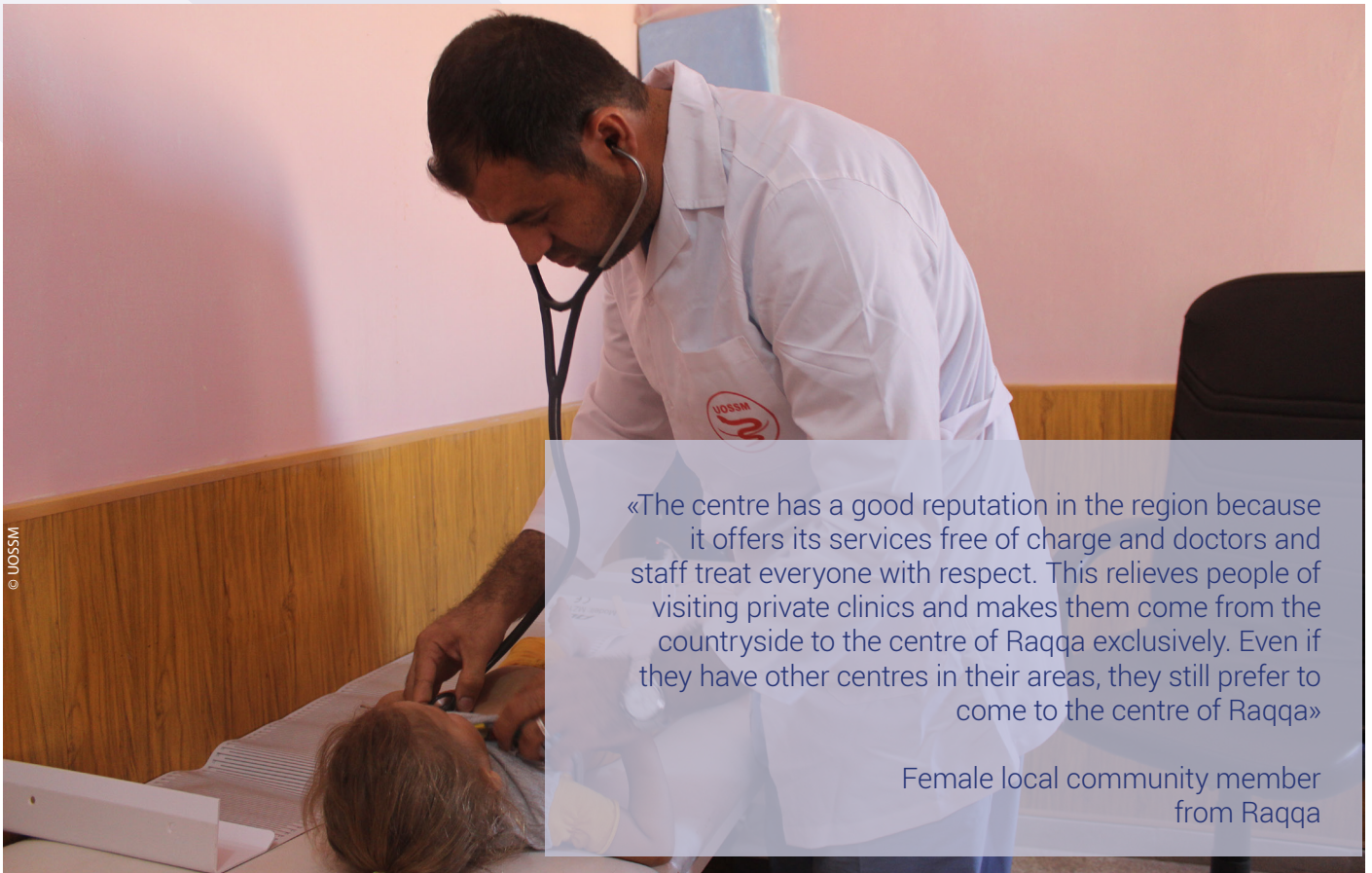
THE AREA-BASED APPROACH FOLLOWED UNDER SABIR PROJECTS

The area-based approach can be defined as “targeting specific geographical areas in a country, characterised by a particular complex development problem, through an integrated, inclusive, participatory and flexible approach » (UNDP). Targeting one location with a multi-sectorial activities (rehabilitation of essential services such as water and electricity, vocational training, agricultural support, etc.) is a way to maximize the impact of the intervention benefitting to sectors that are not directly targeted by the projects (education and child labor, growth of local private sector, etc.). The integrated approach will emphasize the links between rehabilitation, access to livelihood opportunities and reinforcement of local committees, CBOs and CSOs. The approach facilitates the early recovery of the targeted territory and enhances sustainability of the projects. This approach was used under the SABIR projects, targeting specific communities present within a sub-district (Al Kesra in Der-ez-Zor, Mansoura in Raqqqa, Markadah and Shaddadi in al Hassakeh).

Health interventions

To strengthen the provision of essential services to conflict-affected populations, Expertise France has been, since 2015, expanding delivery of quality health services, increasing medical staff's capacities and paving the way for a more resilient health system through coordination and research across the North of Syria.

Services delivery is ensured by trusted Syrian medical organizations, while Expertise France is accompanying these local organizations in the development of their technical and organizational capacities. EF is also training medical staff and reinforcing coordination between health actors.



Key achievements since 2013



2,961,779 consultations provided



21,023 babies delivered in supported maternities



22 health facilities supported



16 health facilities rehabilitated



3,756 medical staff trained

2013

Health Projects in Syria

PHC Programme

Pilot Project
Non humanitarian
support

Dates: Feb 2013– July 2015
 Budget: 2,222,698 €
 BEN: 337,188
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: UOSSM

PHC-MAT 1

Dates: Aug 2015 – Jan 2017
 Budget: 3,951,183 €
 BEN: 293,240
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: UOSSM

PHCS

Dates: Sep 2017- Mar 2020
 Budget: 12,577,102 €
 BEN: 1,233,069 consultations
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: UOSSM

HERNES Programme

HERNES 1

Dates: Aug 2019 – Aug 2021
 Budget: 8,216,611 €
 BEN: 572,999
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

HERNES 2

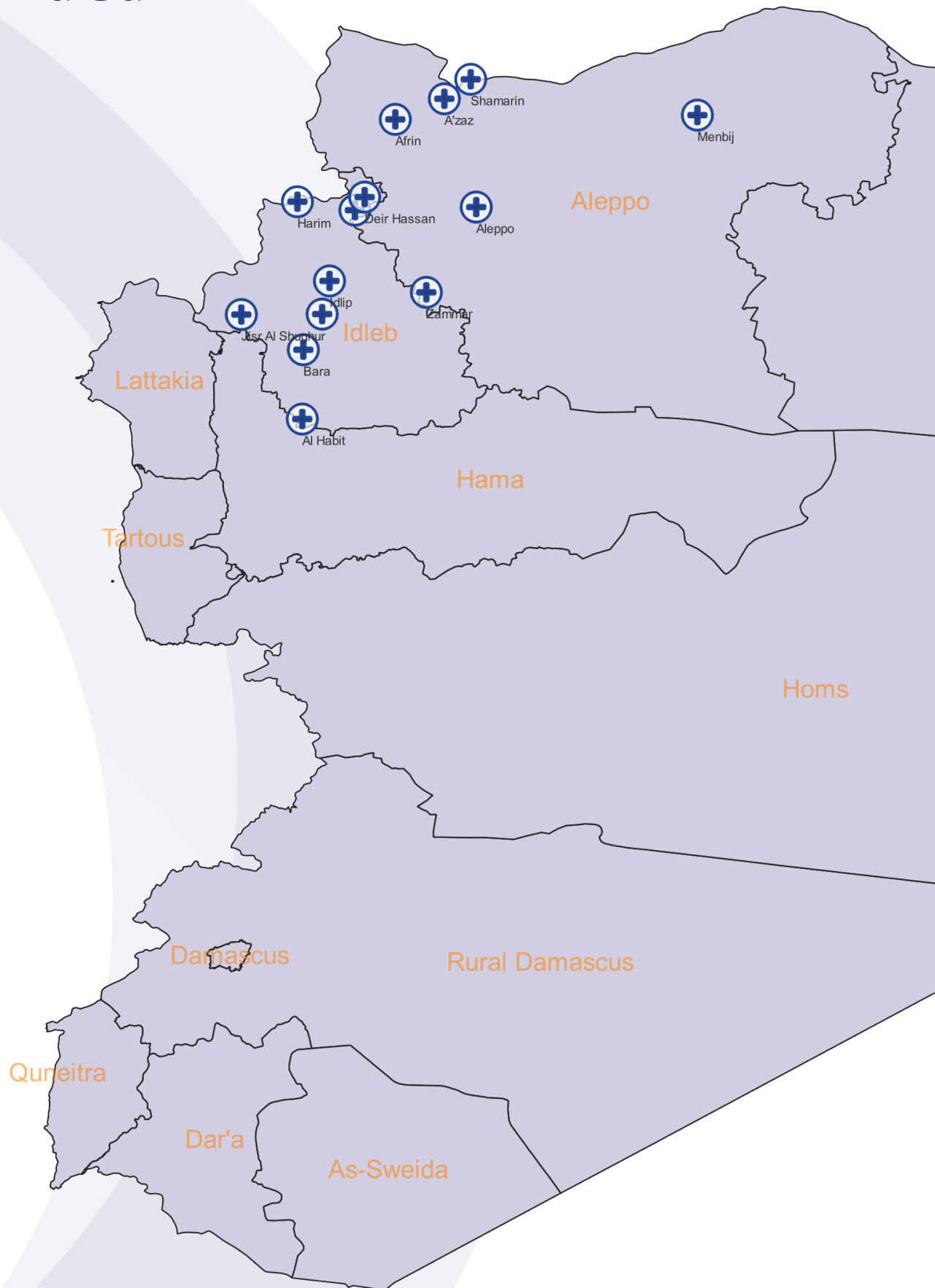
Dates: Aug 2021 – Jan 2023
 Budget: 6,500,000 €
 BEN: 484,046 Consultations
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

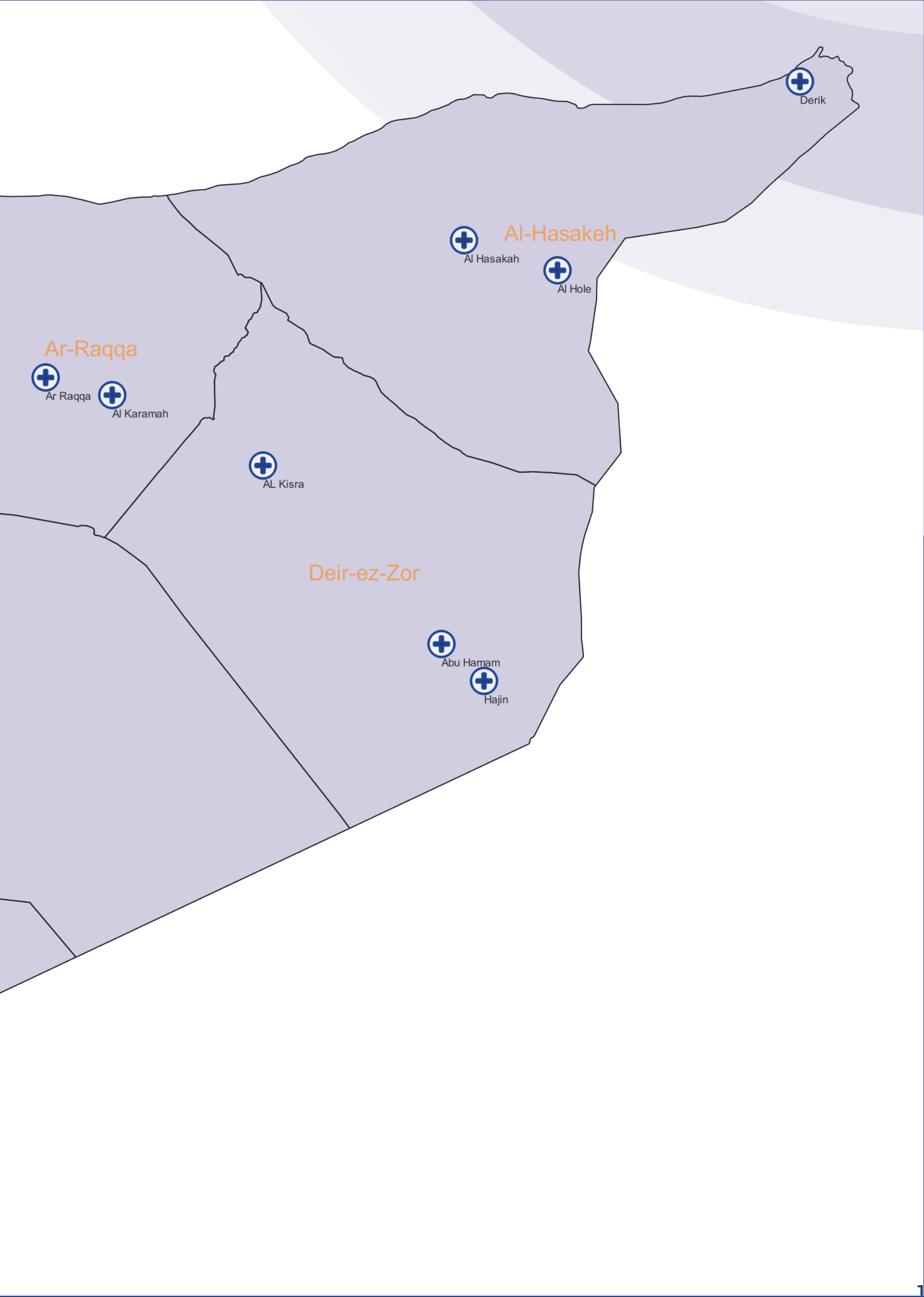
HERNES 3

Dates: Feb 2023 – Jan 2024
 Budget: 2,000,000 €
 BEN: 18,127 (Apr 2023)
 Donors: France
 Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

2024

Locations of health services provided





Rehabilitation of public infrastructures

During ISIS occupation and liberation war, public infrastructures have been severely damaged causing a disruption in the delivery of basic services, such as water or electricity. Public spaces such as schools, parks and other public buildings were also out of service. In response to this crucial issue, EF designs projects to restore access to: (i) water supply for domestic and irrigation purposes (ii) electricity and (iii) schools. While households are the first beneficiaries of these rehabilitation works, local enterprises, businesses and farms also benefit from an improved economic environment. Finally, such rehabilitation contribute to cope with the climate change as they contribute to reduce the waste of water, and rationalize the use of public energy as opposed to costly and inefficient private fuel generators.



Rehabilitation of Public Assets in Syria

Examples of Rehab Projects funded in NES

School Rehabilitation	Electricity Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of water stations
ENMAAT	ogether for Al JarnyaT	otol
Dates: Feb 2020 – Apr 2020 Budget: 50,858 USD BEN: 1,405 Location: Al Karama, Raqqa	Dates: Feb 2020 – Apr 2020 Budget: 45,182 USD BEN: 1,405 Location: Kisra, Deir ez-Zor	Dates: June 2022 – Dec 2022 Budget: 127,510.96 USD BEN: 77,030 Location: Mansoura and Hammam, Raqqa



Key achievements since 2013



7 electrical rehabilitation projects supported



4 water rehabilitation projects supported



7 schools rehabilitated



7 irrigation infrastructures rehabilitated



© Together for Aljaniya

371,801

Beneficiaries reached through rehabilitation projects

16

Rehabilitation projects funded

1,055,129
USD

Overall budget for rehabilitation projects

Food Security and Livelihoods Interventions

As part of its economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods pillar, Expertise France supports projects that ensure local households and small-scale producers/breeders have improved access to food and income-generating opportunities. Taking climate change and extreme weather-related events into account, Expertise France also works with local communities to develop climate-resilient agricultural techniques. Agriculture is a key focus for Expertise France as it represents the main source of employment and guarantees food security for vulnerable communities in Northern Syria. Expertise France also provides supports to non-agricultural livelihoods by providing cash-for-work opportunities, technical and vocational education and trainings (TVET).



2013

FSL Projects in Syria

Examples of FSL Projects funded in NWS

Empowering young people through specialized vocational training leading to job opportunities	Afaq Organization	Dates: July 2018 – Dec 2018 Budget: 32.571 EUR BEN: 209, Location: Atmeh, Harim, Idlib
Supporting host communities and IDPs through livelihood inputs, including hygiene campaign, winter corps" harvesting services, olive tree pruning, and rehabilitation of agriculture roads	IYD	Dates: Dec 2019 – May 2020 Budget: 211,096.06 EUR BEN: 800 Location: Atareb, Aleppo
Improving resilience and food security through livestock investment system, access to market, and access to service assets in western rural of Aleppo	Ihsan	Dates: Sep 2018 – Apr 2019 Budget: 296,702.74 EUR BEN: 1595 Location: Ar-Rastan, Homs

Examples of FSL Projects funded in NES

Establishing a training center with necessary equipment and child-friendly environment	WPF	Dates: July 2021 – Dec 2021 Budget: 83,236 EUR BEN: 120 location: Al Kisra, Deir ez-Zor
Supporting cow breeders through reducing costs on breeders through provision of livestock vaccination and inputs	Oxygen Youth	Dates: Oct 2020 – Apr 2021 Budget: 95,711 EUR BEN: 687 Location: Al Kisra, Deir ez-Zor
Empowering farmers in Markada: Farmers and livestock breeders benefitted from drilled wells in Marakada district	DAN	Dates: Aug 2022 – Dec 2022 Budget: 137,000 EUR BEN: 277 Location: Markada, Al Hasakah

2024



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Key achievements since 2013



1,045,340 total beneficiaries reached



4,202 beneficiaries of vocational trainings



3,894 farmers supported with inputs or trained



5,207 head of livestock vaccinated



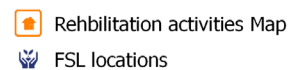
65 grants provided to small businesses



82 FSL projects funded

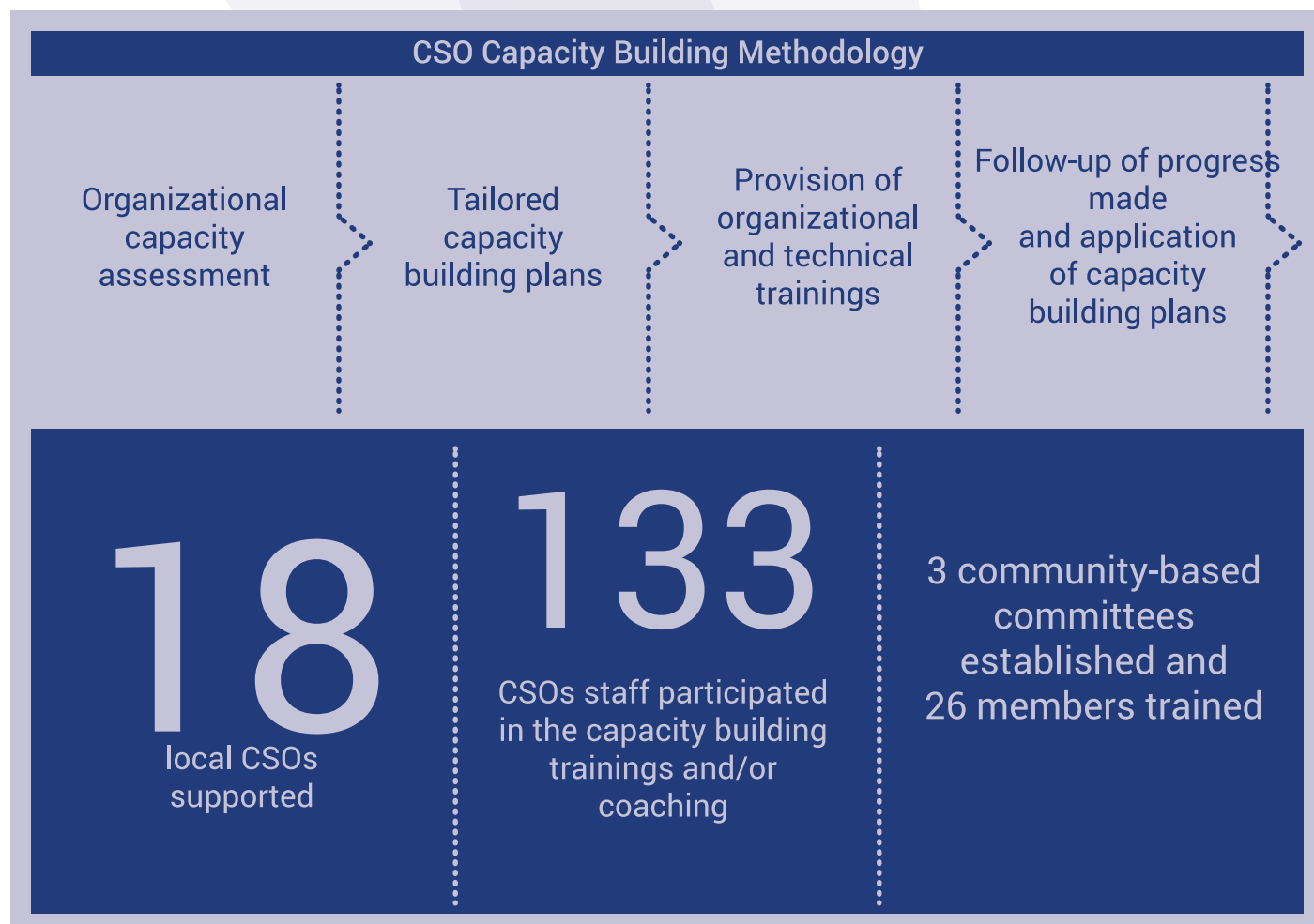


18 districts covered by FSL interventions



Strengthening Local Civil Society Organizations

Support to civil society organizations (CSOs) has been a key feature of Expertise France's intervention in Syria. CSOs are a constitutive component of the Syrian social fabric and can therefore actively identify and voice communities' concerns and needs, including in terms of inclusive governance, dialogue, support for reconciliation and social cohesion. To support local actors, Expertise France has been strengthening their technical and organizational capacities, including those of civil society actors, professional associations, trade unions, and economic agents. Expertise France's objective is to contribute to the establishment of a civil society that outlives the current humanitarian crisis and that can sustain its role as an agent of change in the future. Expertise France provides local partner organizations with tools that enable them to propose, and implement, result-oriented projects designed to enhance community resilience. This is done through collectively agreed upon in-situ tailored capacity building programs and coaching sessions.





The training is distinctive and unique, through which financial policies and procedures were developed, and the financial and accountant team was provided with the QuickBooks programme to be worked on.” CSO staff member

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

Expertise France follows an community-based approach, involving community members and stakeholders at all stages of the projects’ cycle. Within this framework, Community Based Committees (CBCs) have been set-up to foster exchanges, and provide accountability mechanisms, between community members, local CSOs and Expertise France. CBCs are composed of influential community stakeholders, such as religious and tribal, schools’ heads, women activists, etc. They ensure close coordination, outreach and communication with communities, and are mobilized on a needs-basis to manage conflicts. CBCs are the link between community members and implementing partners, and play a key role in facilitating community-led project designs, implementation and monitoring, fostering a local ownership and sustainability of supported initiatives.



Community-based committee meeting in Al Hassakah

Cross cutting issues

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The humanitarian situation in Syria has changed gender norms and roles of women, when in addition to continue being the caretakers for the family and the community, women have become heads of households and the breadwinners. Given the key functions women carry out in maintaining livelihoods of rural communities, inside and outside their homes, they are expected to make essential contributions in communities' stabilization process. In the context of its Syrian intervention, Expertise France is investing in women's ability to safeguard their livelihoods at this stage of the crisis. This investment is expected to indirectly promote peace-building and reconciliation efforts in the country. As such, gender considerations are systematically taken into account in the intervention strategy and the project gender sensitivity will be reflected in the beneficiary selection criteria.

2.5 million women beneficiaries



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental safeguarding is a key feature of Expertise France programs in Syria, which increasingly seek to improve communities' coping mechanisms and adaptation strategies to climate change and extreme weather-related events. Expertise France's projects promote a more resilient agriculture and use clean technologies such as solar panels or sustainable waste management practices.

Expertise France's water-focused interventions are designed, for example, to foster more resilient and inclusive water management practices and reduce overexploitation. The use of drought-resistant seeds and fodder also helps to rationalize water consumption for irrigation and soil protection.

Furthermore, the rehabilitation of damaged electricity infrastructures would reduce the population's dependence on heavy use of generators that have recently become the source of energy in the wake of the inability of local actors to intervene to enhance the electricity sector. This would eventually contribute to reducing harmful pollution emitted.

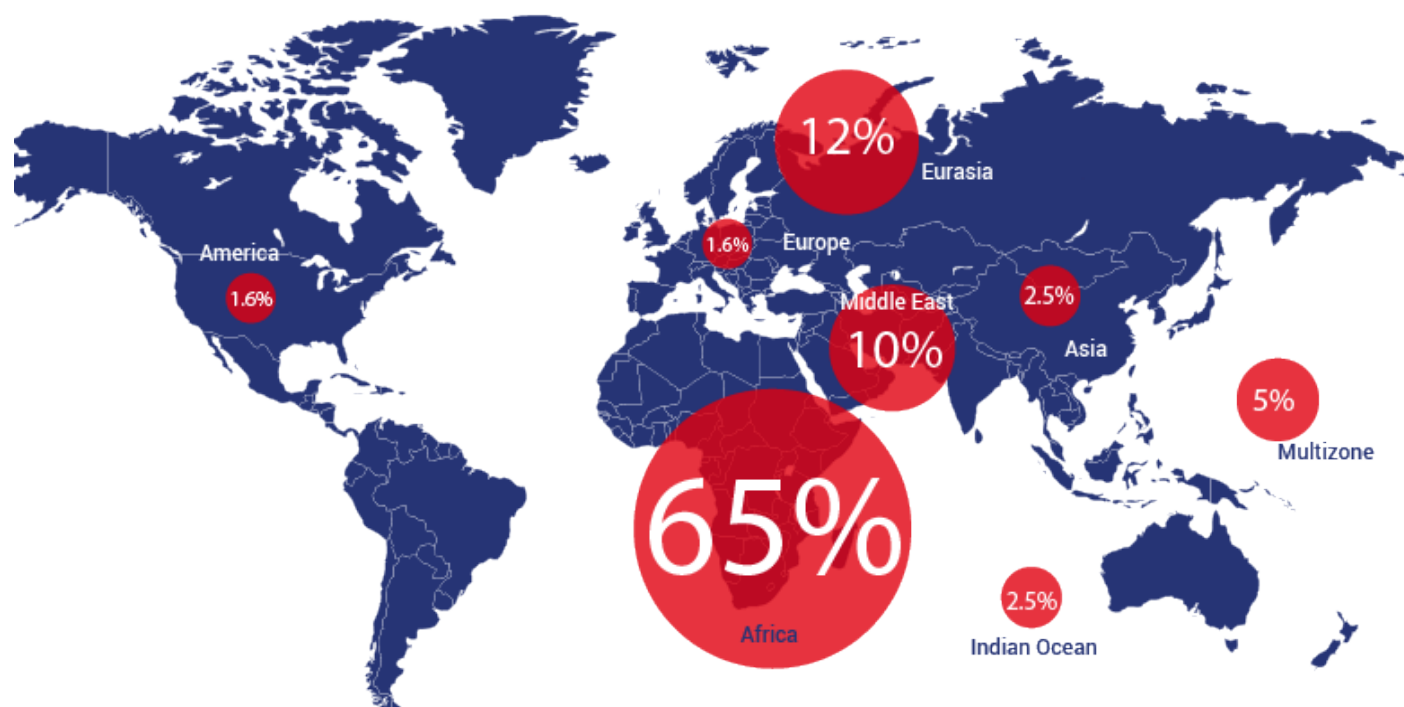


About Expertise France

Expertise France is the French public agency for the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects. It is the second largest technical cooperation agency in Europe. It designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. It operates in key areas of development, such as governance, security, climate, health, education and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) alongside its partners.

As the French interministerial agency for international technical cooperation, Expertise France's action is in line with France's external policy for development cooperation, influence and economic diplomacy.

Expertise France has been part of the AFD group since 2022.



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