



Expertise France in Syria

2013-2026



21

Projects implemented since 2013

74.8

Million EUR

3.2

Million direct beneficiaries

Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria from 2013 to 2026 to support communities affected by conflict and displacement. Through an integrated humanitarian-development approach, Expertise France delivered assistance that addressed immediate needs while strengthening resilience and creating the foundations for sustainable recovery and long-term development. Its overall objective was to enhance human security, improve livelihoods, and build the resilience of vulnerable communities across Syria.

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Context

Despite significant political changes, including the formation of the transitional government in December 2024, Syria continues to face one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with approximately 70 per cent of the population requiring humanitarian assistance. Ongoing insecurity, climatic shocks, and the large-scale return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees continue to intensify existing vulnerabilities and generate new humanitarian needs.

Following the political transition in December 2024, Syria has experienced a significant increase in the return of displaced populations. However, many returnees encounter substantial obstacles to sustainable reintegration, including limited access to basic services, unresolved legal and civil documentation issues, damaged housing and infrastructure, and ongoing risks from explosive ordnance.

This transition marked a critical period for Expertise France to ensure the continuity of project implementation while adapting interventions to evolving humanitarian needs. Throughout this period, Expertise France remained committed to reaching the most vulnerable communities with timely and effective assistance. Expertise France has also been expanding its engagement to support Syria's recovery, transitional process and long-term development, contributing to more resilient communities and sustainable development pathways.

16.7M of people in need

Reported by OCHA's through Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, 2026



Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria from 2013 to 2026 to support vulnerable populations affected by conflict and protracted displacement. Building on its long-standing engagement, Expertise France adopted an integrated humanitarian-development approach that responded to urgent needs while laying the foundations for sustainable recovery and resilience.

Expertise France's programs aimed to strengthen human security and enhance the resilience of affected communities by restoring livelihoods, improving access to essential services, and supporting local capacities. As Syria entered a new phase of transition, Expertise France has been expanding its efforts to contribute to the country's reform and development, while facilitating the safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable return and reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees, in line with humanitarian and human rights.

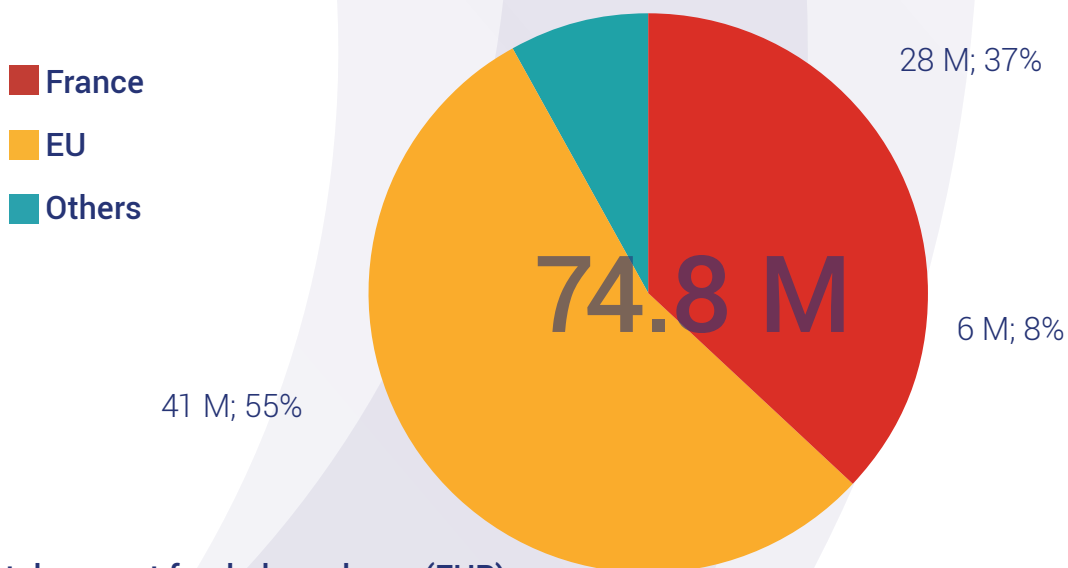
Expertise France's approach in Syria (2013-2026):

- **Providing support to Syrian vulnerable communities**
- **Developing local actors' capacities**

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

- **Strengthening vulnerable communities' access to essential services (i.e. health, education, electricity and water, waste management).**
- **Supporting early economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods, with a specific focus on food security and agriculture.**
- **Strengthening the Syrian local civil society to be more resilient and better prevent conflicts.**
- **Contributing to health recovery system through service provision and increasing the capacity of health workers.**

From 2013 to early 2026, Expertise France has implemented 21 projects in areas outside the control of the former Syrian regime, with support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and international donors such as the DG-MENA, FPI, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Total amount funded per donor (EUR)

**195**

Grants awarded to Syrian CSOs

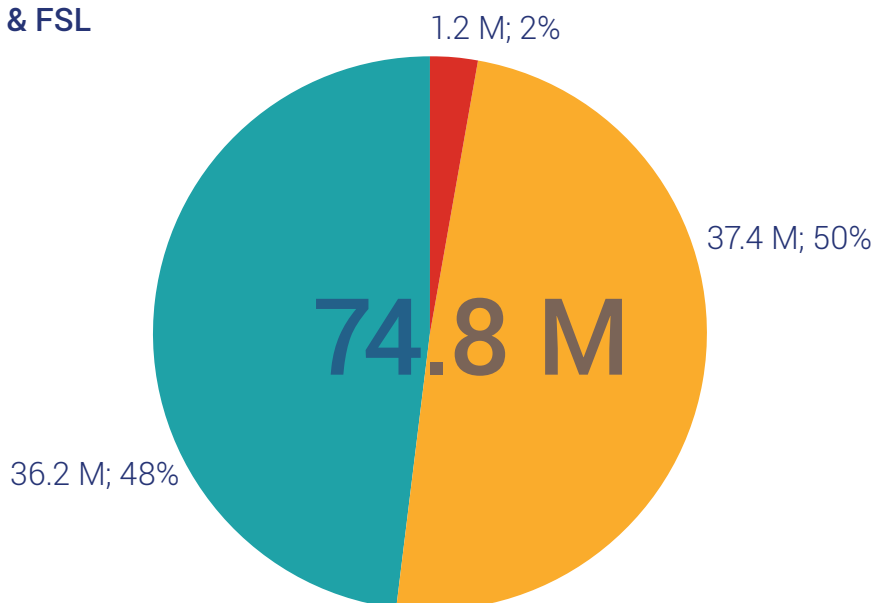
**39.9 M €**

Total volume of grants awarded in Syria from 2013-2026

**188**

Different Syrian CSOs supported

Total volume of activities per main sector (EUR)

 Rehabilitation & FSL Health Civil Society

Expertise France in Aleppo, Idlib, and Hama



Zoom on two Expertise France's projects



Health

*Primary Health Care-Mat
Phase I and II PHCs*



Rehabilitation and FSL

*Initiative Gaziantep
I & II*

DFID- Livelihoods project

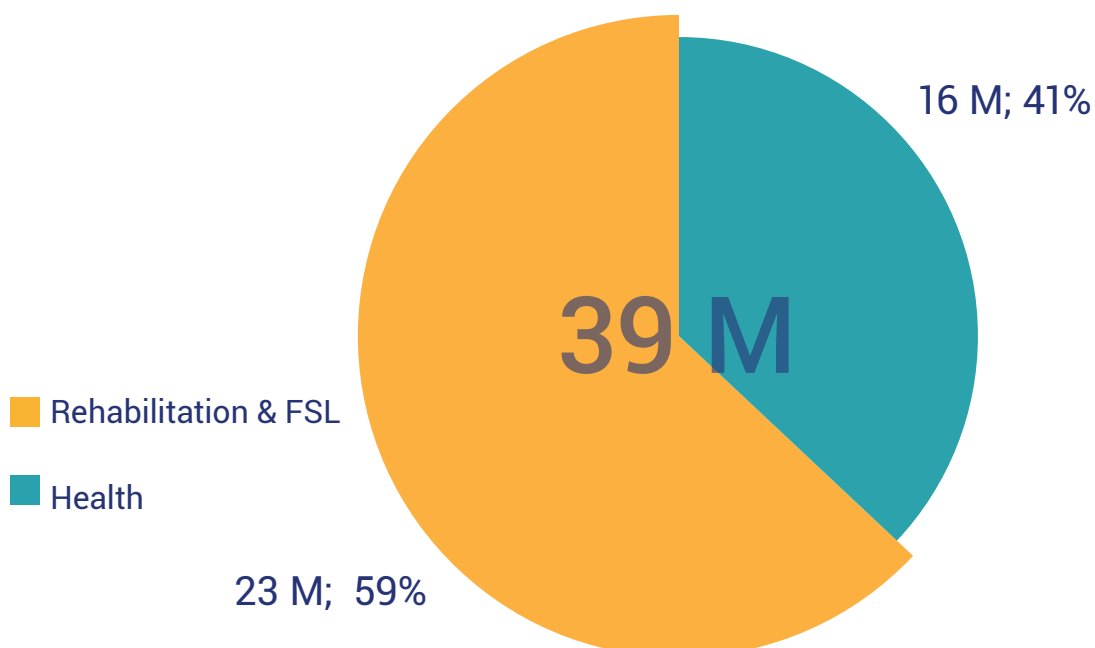
Support primary health care, drug control, health information systems and build capacities of Syrian health providers and the Idlib Health Directorate.

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

Between 2013 and 2020, Expertise France focused its response on Aelppo, Idlib, and Hama, 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 grants 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 north-western governorates of Syria (EUR)



Expertise France in Al-Hassakeh, Raqqa, and Deir ez-Zor



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

Expertise France's projects



Health

HERNES Program

Support health recovery in north-eastern governorates of Syria, with a focus on maternity and child health and capacity building of health providers.

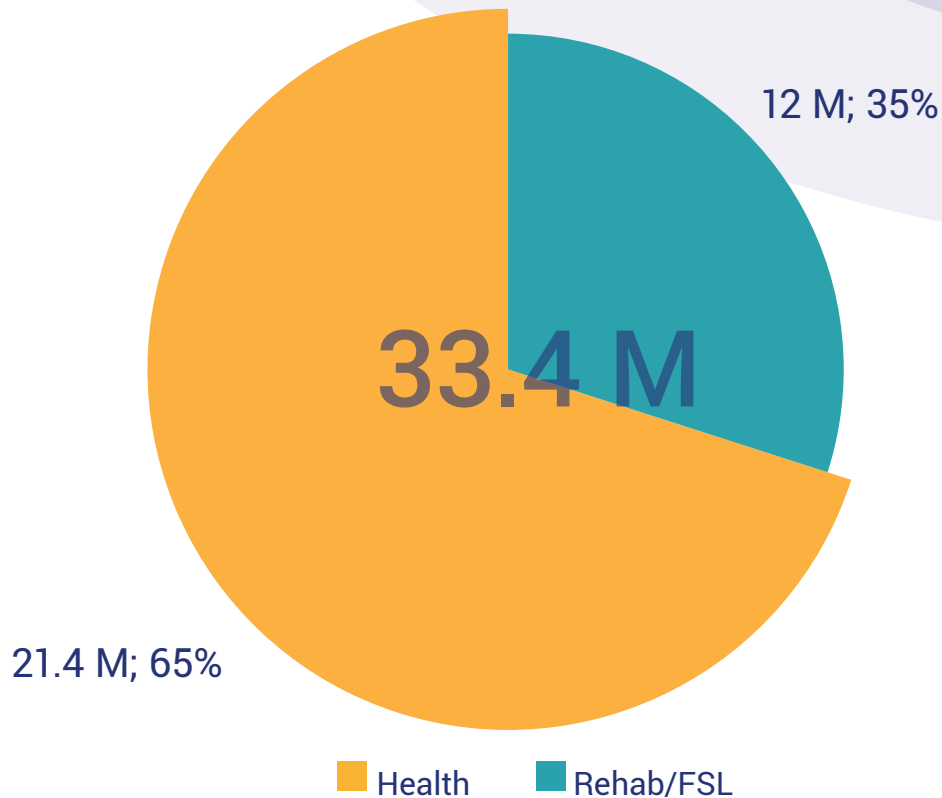


Rehabilitation and FSL

SABIR Program

Support local CSOs in restoring essential public and productive assets and strengthen food security through agriculture support and by providing a better access to sustainable livelihoods

Total amount funded per sector in north-eastern governorates of Syria (EUR)



THE AREA-BASED APPROACH

The area-based approach can be defined as providing multi-sectoral services in a defined area to better serve the needs of vulnerable communities (rehabilitation of essential services, vocational training, agriculture support, social cohesion, etc). It is particularly relevant in situations with multi-sectoral needs and geographical disparity and it is a way to maximize the impact of the intervention benefitting to sectors that are not directly targeted by the project. Synergies between rehabilitation, access to livelihood opportunities and reinforcement of local actors are encouraged in order to strengthen the impact and ownership of the project activities by the beneficiaries.

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 and Rweished in Der-ez-Zor, Mansoura and Raqqa city in Raqqa, 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 Al Hassakeh, Raqqqa, and Deir ez-Zor.

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



Key achievements (2013-2026)



3,274,269 consultations provided



26,635 babies delivered in supported maternities



23 health facilities supported



16 health facilities rehabilitated



4,035 medical staff trained



6 medical research papers carried out

2013

Health Projects in Syria

PHC Programme

Pilot Project
Non humanitarian
support

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

PHC-MAT 1

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

PHCS

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

HERNES Programme

HERNES 1

Dates: Aug 2019 – Aug 2021
 Beneficiaries: 572,999
 Donors: EU and France
 Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

HERNES 2

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

HERNES 3

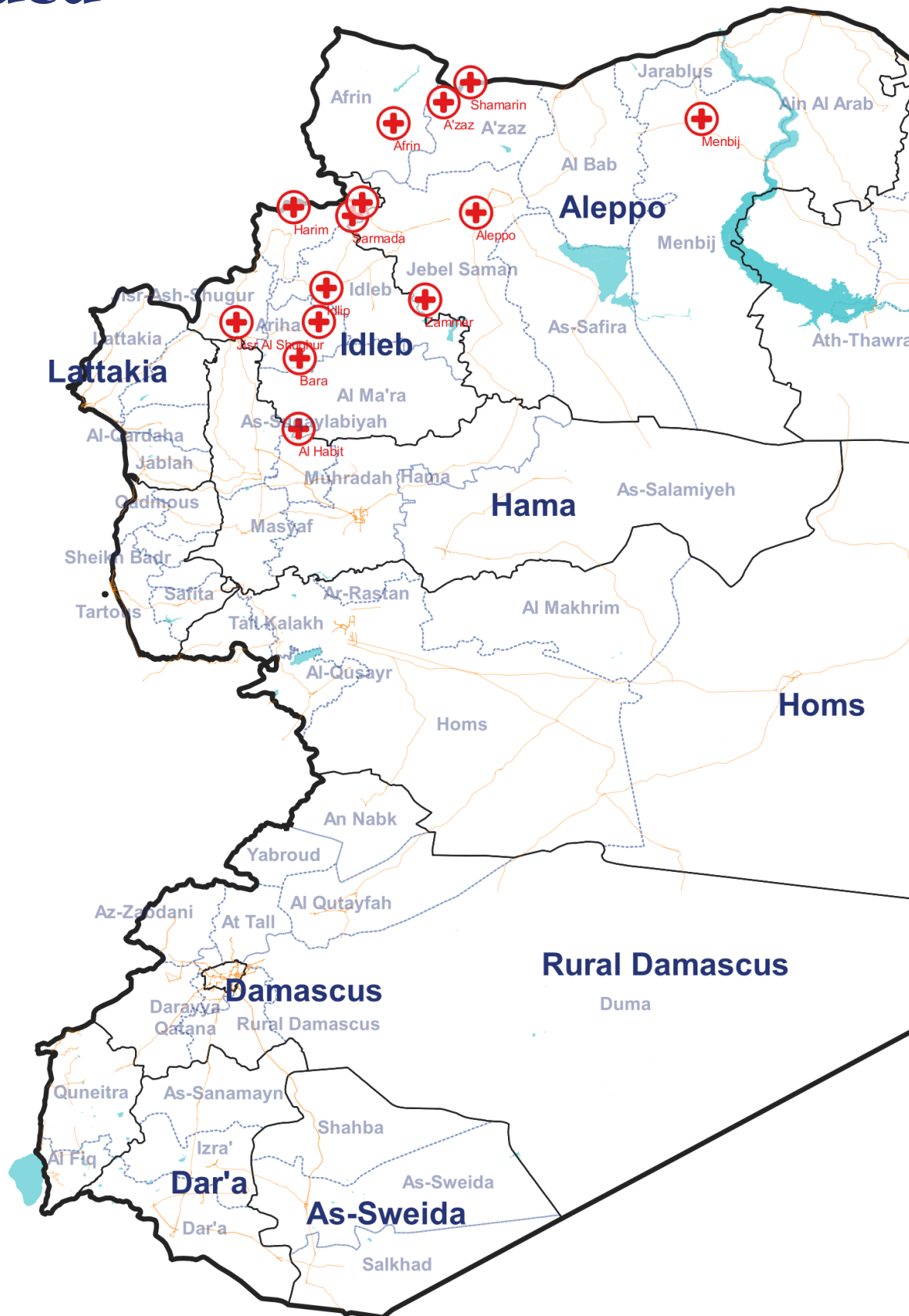
Dates: Feb 2023 – Jan 2024
 Budget: 2,000,000 €
 Beneficiaries: 18,127
 Donors: France
 Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

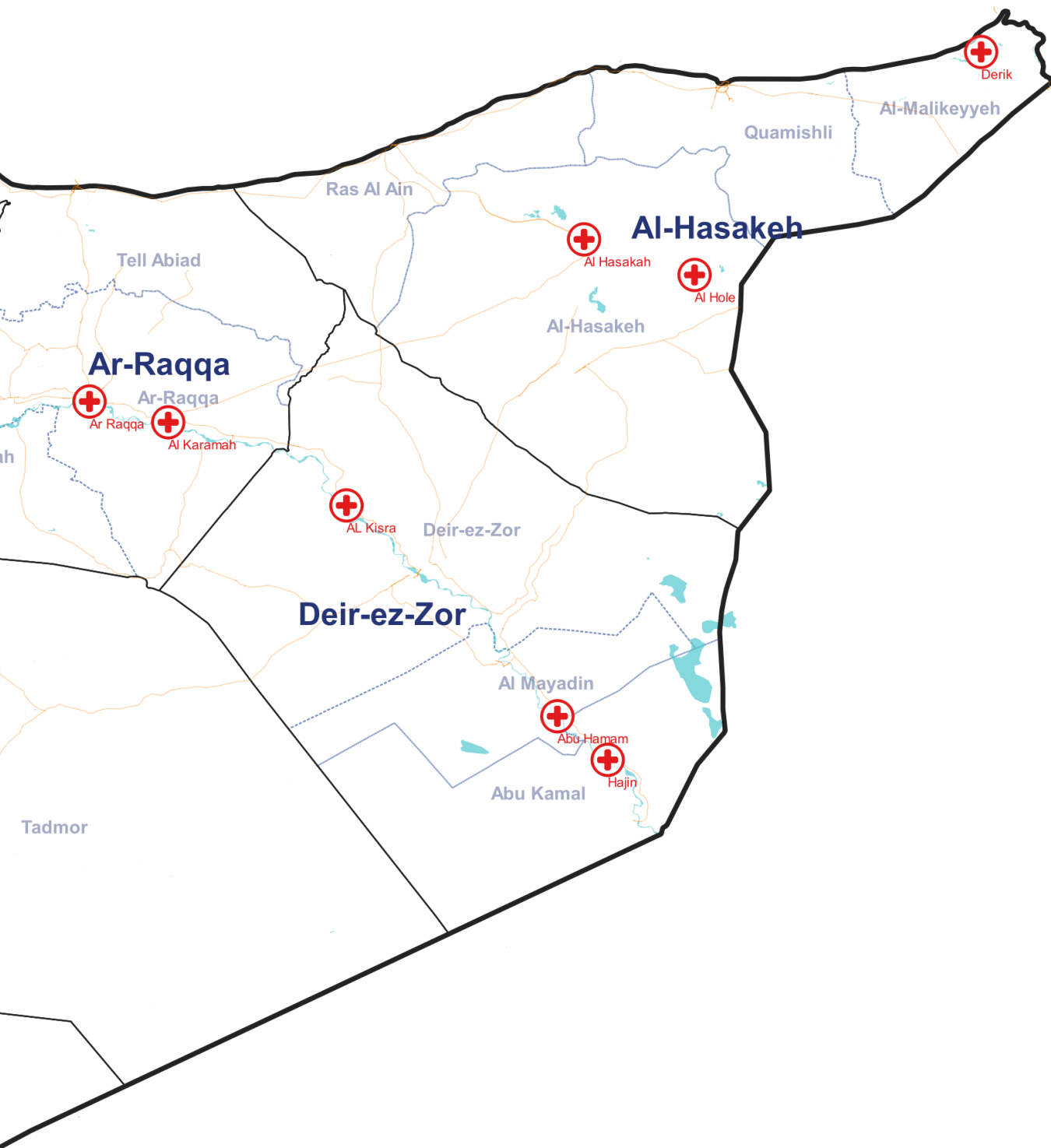
HERNES 4

Dates: Feb 2024 – March 2026
 Budget: 5,000,000 €
 Beneficiaries: 221,570
 Donors: France
 Implementing partners: Mehad & AFH

2026

Locations of health services provided





 Health facilities supported

Rehabilitation of public infrastructures

Expertise France contributed to the rehabilitation of public infrastructures that 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. EF designed projects to restore access to: (i) water supply for domestic and irrigation purposes (ii) electricity and (iii) schools. While households were the first beneficiaries of these rehabilitation works, local businesses and farmers also benefitted from an improved economic environment. Such rehabilitation contributed to better coping with climate change by reducing the waste of water and rationalizing the use of public energy as opposed to costly and inefficient private fuel generators.



Rehabilitation of Public Assets in Syria

Examples of Projects

School Rehabilitation	Electricity Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of water stations
ENMAA	New Horizons	Total
Dates: Feb 2020 – Apr 2020 Budget: 50,858 USD Beneficiaries: 1,405 Location: Al Karama, Raqqa	Dates: Oct 2024 – Aug 2025 Budget: 262761.72 USD Beneficiaries: 32,300 Location: Raqqa city, Raqqa	Dates: June 2022 – Dec 2022 Budget: 127,510.96 USD Beneficiaries: 77,030 Location: Mansoura and Hammam, Raqqa



Key achievements (2013-2026)



40 electrical rehabilitation projects supported



15 water rehabilitation projects supported



7 schools rehabilitated



10 irrigation infrastructures rehabilitated



541,368

Beneficiaries reached through rehabilitation projects

25

Rehabilitation projects funded

3,137,199
USD

Overall budget for rehabilitation projects

22

Communities or villages that benefitted from rehabilitation projects

Food Security and Livelihoods Interventions

As part of its economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods pillar, Expertise France supported projects that ensured that 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 worked with local communities to develop climate-resilient agricultural techniques. Agriculture was a key focus for Expertise France as it represented the main source of employment and guaranteed food security for vulnerable communities. Expertise France also provided support to non-agricultural livelihoods by providing cash-for-work opportunities, technical and vocational education and trainings (TVET).

«As for agriculture and livestock, the project provides a source of income for the beneficiary in addition to supplying the market with vegetables and dairy products, making them available at cheap prices»
Community leader

© Oxygen Shabab



2013

FSL Projects in Syria

Examples of FSL Projects funded in Syria

Empowering young people through specialized vocational training leading to job opportunities

New Horizons

Dates: July 2018 – Dec 2018
Budget: 32,571 EUR
Beneficiaries: 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

Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD)

Dates: Dec 2019 – May 2020
Budget: 211,096.06 EUR
Beneficiaries: 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 Relief and Development

Dates: Sep 2018 – Apr 2019
Budget: 296,702.74 EUR
Beneficiaries: 1595
Location: Ar-Rastan, Homs

Establishing a training center with necessary equipment and child-friendly environment

Women for Peace (WFP)

Dates: July 2021 – Dec 2021
Budget: 83,236 EUR
Beneficiaries: 120
location: Al Kisra, Deir ez-Zor

Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security for Livestock Breeders through Improved Veterinary Services and Community Empowerment in Shadadi Area

DOZ Organization

Dates: Aug 2024 – Jul 2025
Budget: 173,477 EUR
Beneficiaries: 11280
Location: Shadadi, Al Hassakeh

Mari Business Incubator

Mari for Development Organization

Dates: Aug 2024 – Sep 2025
Budget: 137,000 EUR
Beneficiaries: 300
Location: Raqqa City, Raqqa and Rweished, Deir ez-Zor

2026



Key achievements (2013-2026)



1,054,489 total beneficiaries reached



4,694 beneficiaries of vocational trainings



7,510 farmers supported with inputs or trained



7,023 heads of livestock vaccinated



65 grants provided to small businesses

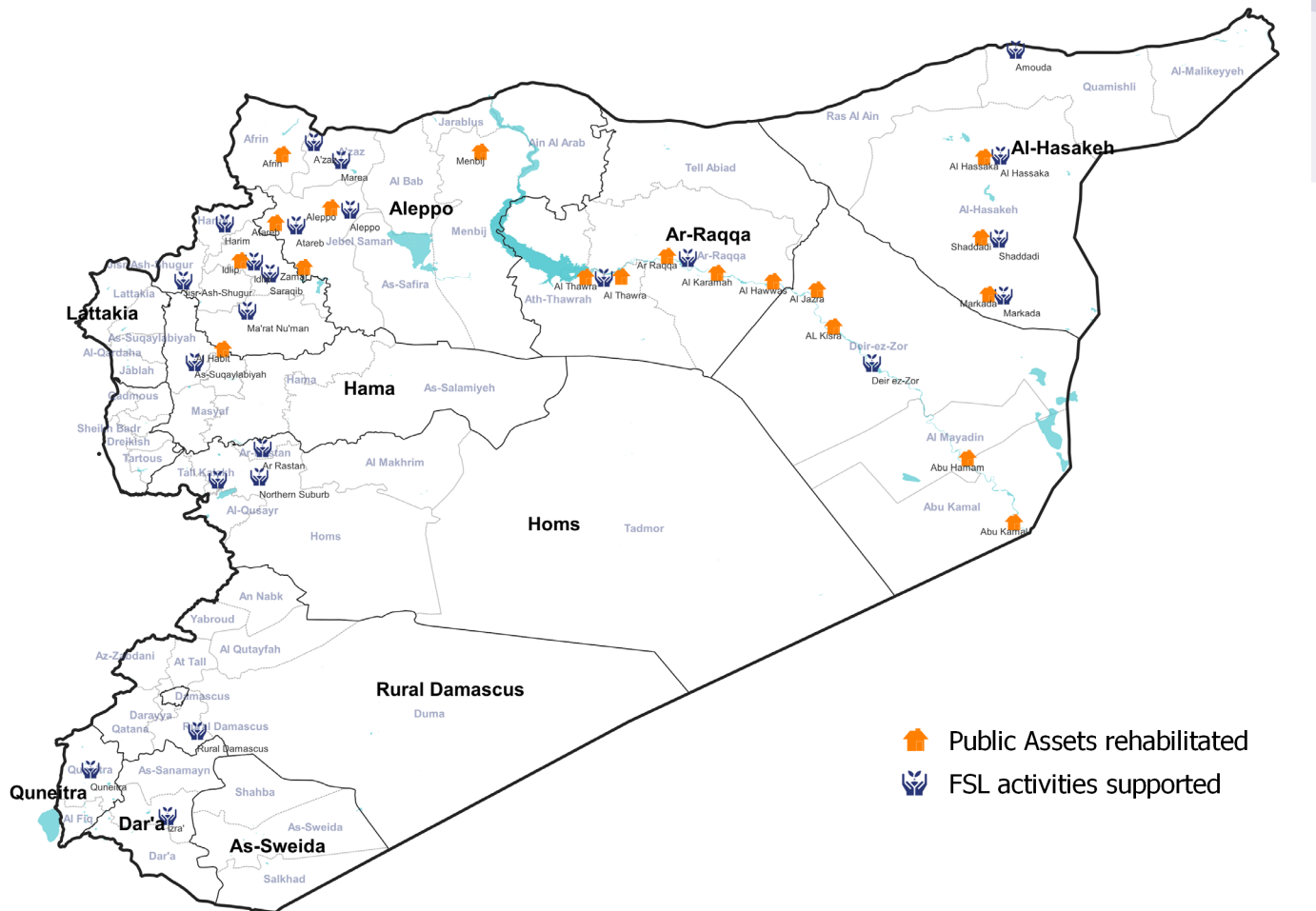


97 FSL projects funded



22 districts covered by FSL interventions

Locations of rehabilitation and food security and livelihoods projects



**11,920,613
USD**

Overall budget of FSL projects

1,054,489

**Total number of beneficiaries reached
through FSL projects**

97

Number of FSL projects funded

22

**Number of communities that benefitted from
FSL projects**

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 was to contribute to the establishment of a civil society that outlives the humanitarian crisis and that can sustain its role as an agent of change in the future. Expertise France provided local partner organizations with tools that enabled them to propose, and implement, result-oriented projects designed to enhance community resilience. This was done through collectively agreed upon in-situ tailored capacity building programs and coaching sessions.

In 2024, **Empowering Non-State Actors As Agents of Change (ENSAAC)** project was designed and implemented to enhance the capacity of non-state actors to contribute as effective change agents.. The project implementation started prior to Syria's political transition, in a context characterized by protracted conflict, fragmented governance, and limited civic space. While the original design focused on strengthening the capacities and resilience of Syrian non-state actors in a politically fragmented context, the transition reinforced the project's relevance and created new opportunities for civic engagement. Throughout this period, the project remained sufficiently flexible to adapt its implementation to the evolving context, ensuring that support responded to emerging needs while contributing to an inclusive and transition process. By maintaining its core objective of empowering civil society, the project accompanied Syrian non-state actors implement community-driven initiatives, connect among governorates and engage in public policy dialogue and advocacy with local and central authorities, contributing to shaping the country's transition and future.

ENSAAC at a Glance

26

Grassroot NSAs
Supported

36

Initiatives Funded

5

Governorates
Covered

5

Thematic Sectors

6

Cross-Regional
Initiatives

149

CSO Staff Trained

Overall CSO support achievements



COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

Expertise France followed a 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 were composed of influential community stakeholders, such as religious and tribal, schools' heads, women activists, etc. They ensured close coordination, outreach and communication with communities, and were mobilized on a needs-basis to manage conflicts. CBCs were the link between community members and implementing partners, and played a key role in facilitating community-led project designs, implementation and monitoring, fostering local ownership and sustainability of supported initiatives.

Cross-cutting themes

WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The humanitarian situation in Syria has exacerbated violence, discrimination, and inequalities against women and girls. To support the most vulnerable populations and promote human rights, Expertise France systematically incorporated gender equality into its intervention strategy. In the Syrian context, Expertise France ensured that gender sensitivity was reflected in beneficiary selection criteria and designed activities to enhance women's and girls' access to essential services and livelihoods. Through these efforts, all projects aimed to foster peace-building and women's empowerment.

In the future (2026 and beyond), Expertise France will further strengthen women participation in recovery, reconstruction social cohesion, and peace-building through the implementation of the "Facility 1325-Women, Peace, Security" in Syria, a program anchored in the UN Security Council Resolution, 1325 and the Broader WPS (Women, Peace, Security) agenda.

2.7 million women beneficiaries



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental safeguarding was a key feature of Expertise France programs in Syria, which increasingly sought 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 the use of clean technologies such as solar panels or sustainable waste management practices.

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

Furthermore, the rehabilitation of damaged electricity infrastructures reduced the population's dependence on heavy use of generators that often became the main source of electricity. This eventually contributed to reducing harmful pollution emitted.

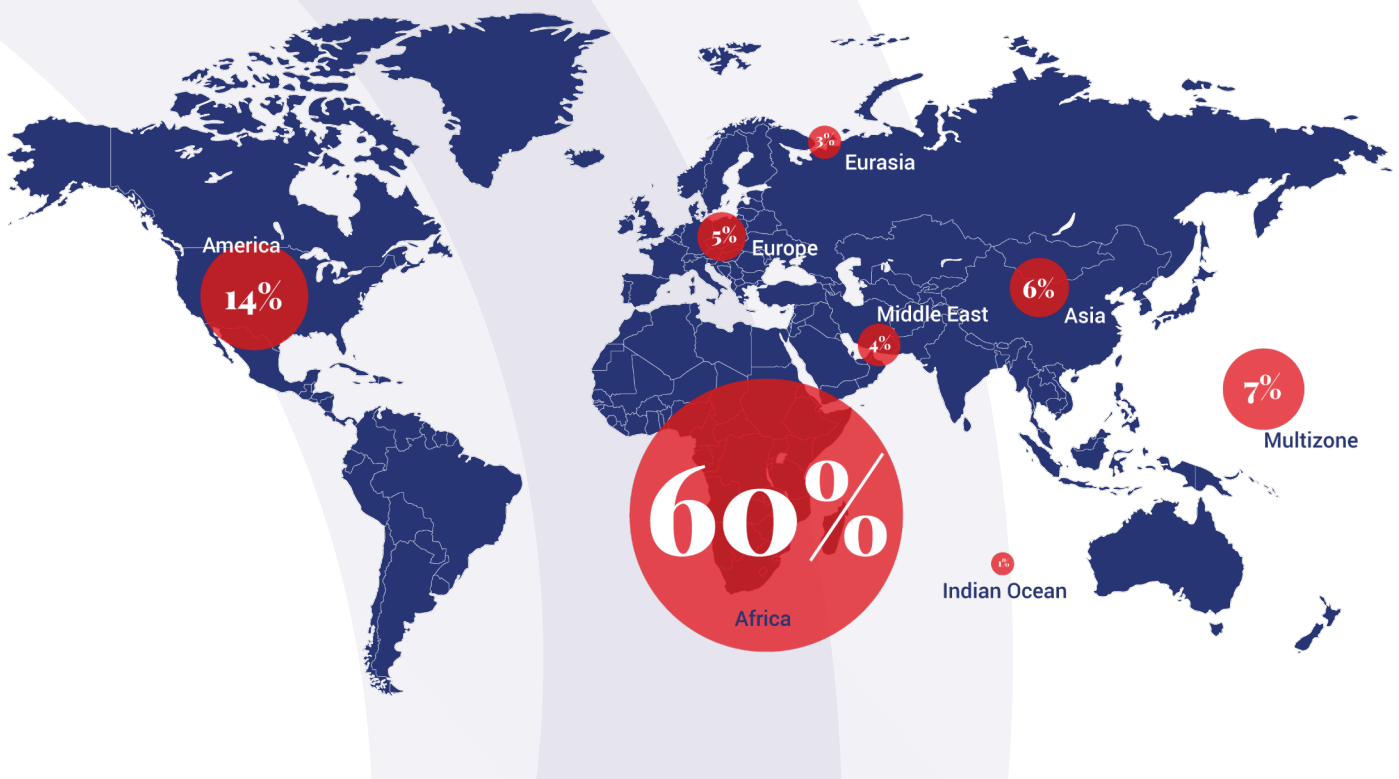
In early 2026, Expertise France conducted a study assessing the impact of climate change on agriculture and water resource management in Syria. The study provided evidence base for climate resilient recovery programming, strengthening EF's environment sensitive planning and the integration of climate related risks and sustainability factors in its projects



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.



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