

# Sustainable Urban Development Programme, Syria (UDP)

In the Syrian cities of Aleppo and Damascus, the Rehabilitation of the Old City of Aleppo project and the UDP have set standards for innovative urban planning and development, in particular with regards to the conservation and development of historic city centres.

The population of Aleppo has grown tenfold over the past 50 years: today, Syria's historic trading centre is also an industrial centre. The programme to rehabilitate the Old City was aimed at reviving urban life in the traditionally constructed homes in the historic central districts. Earlier misjudgements in urban planning, social migration and the shift of usage patterns in inner city areas had left their mark, not only with regards to the architecture, but also to the social environment and habitat of the city.

On the basis of the success achieved in Aleppo and ongoing support to the rehabilitation process there, the UDP is now turning its attention to the Syrian capital Damascus too. The historic centre of one of the oldest cities in the world was in danger of becoming a trendy new district and losing its authenticity. The UDP is helping to ensure that the cultural and urban uniqueness of the heart of Damascus is preserved.



## Findings and results for the UDP:

- Renovating technical infrastructure and redesigning traffic management while at the same time improving social and environmental conditions and economic viability;
- Improving the urban living environment for the population;
- Preserving the historic fabric, drawing on the structural, historical and socio-cultural authenticity and identity of the cities;
- Strategy development and urban planning, focusing on strengthening local urban management capacity;
- Introducing new tools to enable the local authorities to pursue urban development on a sustainable basis;
- Providing financial and technical services for the population and initiating public-private partnerships with a view to paving the way for restoration measures;
- Promoting sustainable tourism.

The project is implemented by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Duration: Urban Rehabilitation Project in Aleppo since 1994, Urban Development Programme since 2007.

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