



International
Labour
Organization

PROSPECTS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



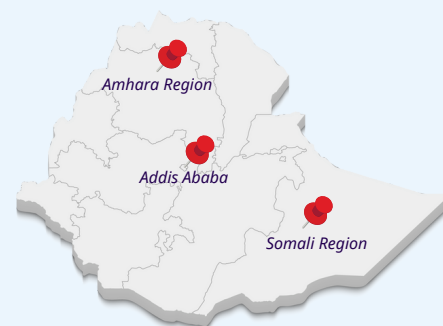
► ILO PROSPECTS in Ethiopia at a glance

May 2024 to April 2025

► The refugee context in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has a long-standing history of hosting refugees and maintains an open-door policy for those seeking protection in its territory. The country hosts over one million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily originating from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea. Refugees predominantly originate from low-income agro-pastoralist backgrounds, exhibit low literacy levels, and possess limited modern technical skills. Children, women, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly constitute approximately 80 percent of the population and are classified as vulnerable groups.

The humanitarian landscape of Ethiopia continues to be dominated by challenges posed by intercommunal violence and the resultant mass internal displacements (IDPs). There is a triple challenge of drought impact, localized flooding and the still significant humanitarian and recovery needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities.



PROSPECTS in Ethiopia

► About PROSPECTS

Partnership for improving prospects of forcibly displaced and host communities (PROSPECTS) operationalizes the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, creating strong partnerships between humanitarian and development actors to leverage comparative advantages, and improve coordination and efficiency to boost their overall impact for forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities (HCs), as envisioned in the outcomes of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit under the New Way of Working.

Spearheaded by the Government of the Netherlands, this initiative unites the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank to enhance the responses of governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to crises arising from forced displacement.

Since 2019, the PROSPECTS partnership has been engaged in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda) and MENA (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon) regions. This initiative aims to operationalize the humanitarian-development nexus by establishing robust connections among humanitarian and development actors, as well as governments. The goal is to leverage comparative advantages and national systems to enhance coordination and efficiency, thereby increasing the likelihood of impactful outcomes.

► In figures (Since 2019)



Education and Learning: Increased access to quality education, skills and learning opportunities.

927

Enrolled in TVET & Skills development programs, including **345** refugees and **96** IDPs

48

Trainers trained to deliver skills training

30

Work-based learning opportunities



Economic Inclusion: Improved livelihoods and expanded economic opportunities through access to entrepreneurship and employment with dignity.

2,474

New wage employment and/or self-employment opportunities supported

4,729

FDPs/HCs who received BDS services or trained in entrepreneurship business skills



Critical Infrastructure: Improved services, facilities, and information systems.

26,413

Workdays created through increased public and/or private investment

2,925

FDPs/HC members provided with improved infrastructure (water detention ponds)

500

Number of FDPs/HCs with improved access to digital connectivity services

Key interventions

Digital and gig economy

In response to the evolving world of work, the ILO is advancing digital inclusion and youth empowerment through innovative, inclusive programming. From establishing a Digital Innovation Hub in Jigjiga to supporting Ethiopia's National Digital Inclusion Strategy, PROSPECTS is equipping young people, especially from refugee and host communities, with the skills and platforms needed to thrive in the digital and gig economy.

1 Policy solutions

Support the National Five Years Digital Inclusion Strategy to bring policy solutions for the inclusion of refugees in the National Digital Inclusion Strategy.



MoU signing between the ILO & MINT to enhance inclusion of refugees & host communities to promote decent work & social justice in the Gig Economy

2 Digital Innovation Hub

The ILO established a Digital Innovation Hub to enhance digital skills and jobs. In collaboration with the Somali Region Innovation and Technology Bureau, ILO developed basic and advanced digital skills training.



The Digital Innovation Hub is constructed in collaboration with Somali Regional State Innovation and Technology Bureau in Jigjiga town, Somali Region.

To sustain the digital skills program, the ILO provided institutional support to the Somali Region Bureau of Innovation and Technology, Jigjiga University, and TVET, and TOT training for training facilitators. Through the Innovation Hub, ILO offered basic and advanced digital skills training to 250 host communities and refugees and established a coworking space to promote digital-enabled livelihoods.

3 Work-based learning and steppingstone jobs for digital-enabled livelihoods

Enhancing ILO designed a work-based learning program to provide apprenticeship and promote digitally enabled livelihoods in the Information Technology Park. To enhance partners' capacity, the Information Technology Park and Ministry of Innovation & Technology (MINT) received capacity building support on Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation, 2023 (No. 208).



Meaningful Youth Engagement

Youth-to-Youth Fund (Y2Yf)



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The ILO, in partnership with Edukans Foundation, is implementing the Youth-to-Youth Fund (Y2Yf) programme in Ethiopia.

Y2Yf is a competitive grant scheme designed to support youth-led organizations with funding, capacity building, and direct technical assistance to implement innovative, small-scale projects on youth entrepreneurship as a means to create decent employments for youths.

10 youth-led organizations were selected through a rigorous process and they are now implementing their business ideas in Addis Ababa and the Somali region, empowering 1,000 youths from both refugee and host communities.

Youth Network Committee

Establish a Youth Network Committee which is serving as a youth coordination platform for the meaningful engagement of young people to provide input in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the PROSPECTS program.

ILO Youth Leadership Academy:

ILO designed and delivered the ILO Leadership Academy for meaningful youth engagement and employment. The Academy is designed to build the capacity of the youth and create champions of youth employment.

Youth rights at work

ILO contextualized the global Right at Work Youth Guide to the Ethiopian context and tailored it to the needs of young refugees and youth in host communities, and integrated it into training offers of PROSPECT partners at the country level. This allows the ILO to provide capacity building for the ILO social partners and young people on meaningful youth engagement and youth rights at work

Vocational skills

The ILO, through the PROSPECTS partnership, is investing in inclusive, demand-driven vocational training for youth, persons with disabilities, and displaced populations, enhancing employability while fostering social inclusion and resilience in Forced displacement context.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training

▶ As part of the PROSPECTS Partnership, the ILO supports skills training, labour market integration, and disability inclusion. Through an agreement with partners, ILO PROSPECTS initiated 90 days of short-term skills training, followed by 20 days of cooperative sessions.



▶ To date, 927 youth and adults (including 364 refugees and 96 IDPs) have completed 90 days of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and skills training programs. This was achieved through a partnership between the ILO, Jigjiga Polytechnic College (JPTC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Dabat TVET College and the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD). Notably, 178 of these trainees were persons with disabilities (PWDs).

▶ The programs focused on in-demand skills such as building electrical installations, construction finishing, aluminum works, furniture making, metal works, tailoring, food preparation and beauty.

▶ In this partnership, JPTC provided essential training materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), facilities, and accommodation. The ILO constructed a new Satellite TVET Centre in Kebribeyah, near the refugee site, for easier access. JPTC is managing this center, with trainers commuting from Jigjiga. ILO PROSPECTS also provided a minivan to help with trainer transportation.

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Work- based learning (WBL)

To enhance JPTC trainers' skills in high-demand vocational areas, the ILO implemented a Work-Based Learning (WBL) program. This initiative involved trainers collaborating with private enterprises to update their expertise. Upon completing the WBL program, trainers returned to JPTC to lead a three-month training for selected trainees.



After this initial training, trainees at JPTC were placed in six suitable private enterprises in Jigjiga, facilitated by the Confederation of Ethiopian Employers Federation (CEEF), for 45 days of hands-on experience in the fields like aluminum works, construction finishing, and woodwork. During this practical period, trainees received supervision from both private enterprise trainers and JPTC instructors.

Training persons with disabilities

The ILO collaborated with ECDD to implement a project aimed at enhancing the livelihood of PWDs among IDPs, refugees, and host communities through inclusive skill development and employment opportunities (ENHANCE). As part of the project, 200 PWDs from the Kebribeyah and Qoloji were identified, oriented, and enrolled in two rounds of training at Community-Based Skills Training Centers (CBTs) in Kebribeyah and at Jigjiga Polytechnic College.

To ensure the successful implementation of facilitate the training, JPTC trainers were oriented to sign languages, assistive devices were distributed to PWDs, and Disability Inclusion Awareness Training (DIAT) was conducted for trainers by ECDD. Of the 200 trainees, 178 graduated from JPTC and CBTs in occupations of metalwork, furniture making, beauty salon services, and tailoring.



To watch a video



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Accessibility work at JPTC



An accessible compound is essential for the training of persons with disabilities. The ILO with ECDD and JPTC modified the existing walkways and ramps at JPTC campus to make them disability inclusive. These modifications improved access to key areas such as workshops, classrooms, and dormitories. JPTC has become the first disability-inclusive institution in the region, with the capacity to provide technical and vocational skills training for persons with disabilities.

Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP)

Infrastructure development

The ILO uses labor-based methods in public infrastructure projects. This approach aims to maximize local employment and income generation for vulnerable groups, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, and youth, while also creating vital community assets.

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Jigjiga Polytechnic College Kebribeyah Vocational Training Satellite Center



- ▶ The centre has workshops, a shed, well-equipped six classrooms, water and sanitation facilities, a cafeteria, a guardhouse, walking and parking lots, perimeter fence and green area.
- ▶ Created over 22,000 workdays of employment for refugees and host communities.
- ▶ Trained two local contractors who were selected for the construction of the Center as part of the contractor's capacity development.

Water retention ponds



- ▶ To date, two geomembrane-lined water detention ponds, with the capacity to store over 5 million litres of water each, were constructed in Guyaw and Garbi Kebeles in Kebribeyah.
- ▶ The construction benefited 147 community members through Cash for Work initiatives and skills training, generating 6,344 person-days of employment.
- ▶ These ponds are serving 85 households with an estimated 8,900 herd of animals to have access to water as a result of this intervention.

Milk collection and cooling facility



- ▶ The ILO is also constructing milk collection and cooling facility in Guyaw Kebeles in Kebribeyah.
- ▶ This initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen the dairy value chain and improve livelihoods in the area.
- ▶ The construction of the facility, built by local Somali contractors employing both refugees and host communities, is expected to be operational by 2025.

Feeder and cobblestone roads



- ▶ Rehabilitated 1.07km cobblestone road employing seven local contractors generating 1,765 working days to 437 youths from refugee and host communities.
- ▶ 25 youths trained in cobblestone works

Capacity building and skills development

The ILO, in partnership with public and private partners such as the Ethiopian Roads Administration (ERA), provided technical training and capacity building to various partners. Here are few:

- ▶ **Labour-based road construction-** for 18 supervisors in 22 competencies, including road design, material testing, and safety.
- ▶ **TOT in road construction and maintenance-** for 13 engineers from public sector.
- ▶ **Road rehabilitation-** 19 engineers from public and private sector.
- ▶ **WASH & building-** for 26 engineers from public and private.
- ▶ **Nature-based solutions-** for 38 participants from government & international organizations.

Policy & institutional support

- ▶ Supported the development of the road sector policy in Ethiopia.
- ▶ In partnership with ERA, our work involves developing and implementing policies and strategies for employment-intensive infrastructure and environmental projects, alongside creating and integrating a national curriculum for labor-based road construction and maintenance into technical and higher education institutions, and preparing guidelines for green works and climate-proofing road networks.

Enterprise and social protection

To foster sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience, the ILO is strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems and expanding access to social protection. Through business plan competitions, financial inclusion initiatives, and institutional partnerships, PROSPECTS is supporting aspiring entrepreneurs from refugee and host communities to start and improve businesses.

Empowering entrepreneurs and businesses

Business plan competition

The ILO is fostering entrepreneurship and economic development in Ethiopia through two Business Plan Competitions (BPCs). In the Somali Region, the ILO partnered with HASI Consulting to deliver a BPC that provided top 50 refugee and host community winners with business development training, mentorship, and seed funding. Recently, the ILO and Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Ethiopia have jointly implemented a BPC in and around the Alemwach refugee site, where the top 60 winners from both refugee and host communities receive mentorship and seed funding to implement their business ideas.



Supporting business development service providers

The ILO supported the establishment of Business Development Service Providers Association (BDSPA) in Ethiopia to bolster the business development services, thereby nurturing entrepreneurship and supporting the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises. This partnership focuses on capacity building for BDSPA members, enabling them to deliver effective training and mentorship.



Institutionalization of ILO tools

The ILO and Jigjiga University are collaborating to institutionalize the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) program within the university. This initiative aims to empower youth from refugee and host communities to become self-employed job creators. The project provides entrepreneurship training to youth in a Business Incubation Center, established with the support of the ILO, to support the practical application of entrepreneurial skills.



Strengthening value chains and livelihoods

The ILO, in collaboration with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF Suisse) through the PROSPECTS programme, has revitalized the dairy value chain in Ethiopia's Fafan zone by addressing challenges like low productivity, poor milk quality, and limited market access.



This partnership empowers communities through capacity building, cooperative development and strengthening, and technical training in milk production, preservation, and marketing. Key achievements include training cooperative members and Community-Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), establishing a cooperative-run commercial animal feed production that utilizes mainly local ingredients and creates new economic opportunities, and constructing large water retention ponds to combat scarcity, ultimately enhancing livelihoods and food security for both refugee and host communities.

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Promoting financial inclusion

Access to financial services: The ILO and Shabelle Bank have partnered to pilot "Aisha," an innovative, Sharia-compliant financial product aimed at improving financial inclusion for refugees and host communities.

Strengthening the microfinance: The ILO and Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI) collaborate to strengthen the microfinance sector and expand financial inclusion, with a particular focus on developing and promoting microinsurance products.



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Success stories and publications

Digital and meaningful youth engagement



Article: ILO supported Kulehe project to boost youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion

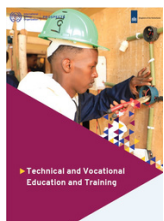


Article: Mentoring host and refugee youth in Ethiopia to become future leaders

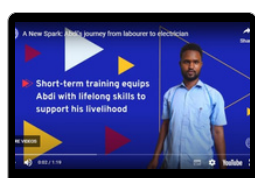


Article: ILO's Youth-to-Youth Fund to tackle youth unemployment in Ethiopia

Vocational skills



Factsheet: Technical & Vocational Education & Training to empower refugee & host communities in Ethiopia



Article: New Spark: Abdi's journey from labourer to electrician



Article: ILO champions disability-friendly technical education in Ethiopia's Somali Region

Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP)



Article: Satellite vocational training center brings hope to displaced and local communities in Ethiopia



Article: ILO's Nature-Based Solutions training empowers African stakeholders to tackle climate and employment challenges



Article: ILO promotes labour intensive methods to improve livelihoods of host and refugee communities in Ethiopia

Enterprise and Social protection



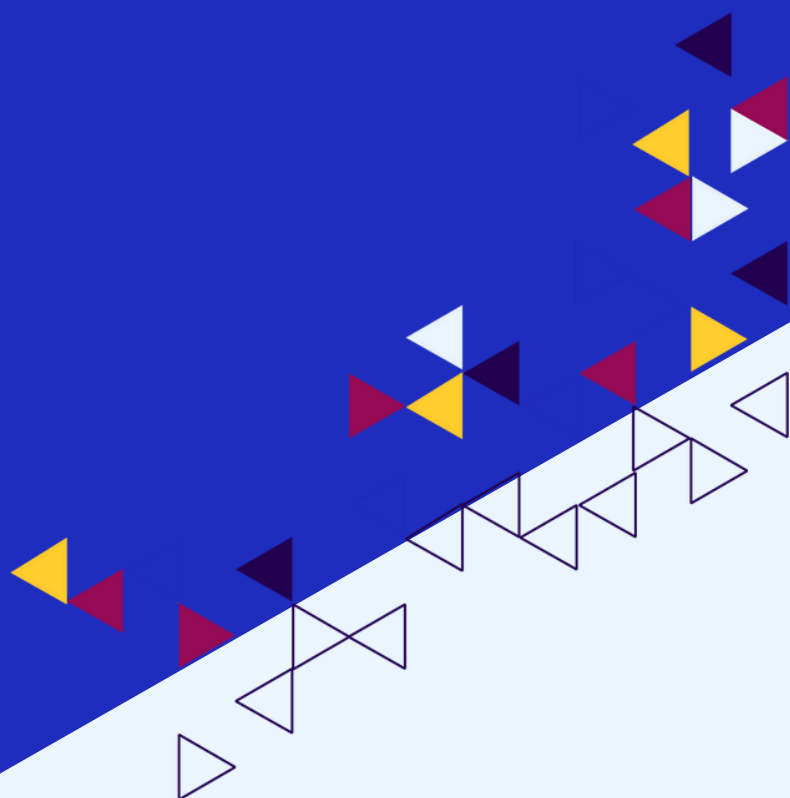
Factsheet: Approach to Integrated Market Systems: Dairy value chain in the Somali Region, Ethiopia



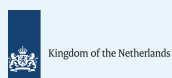
Article: Trader to a visionary leader: Story of Habiba who aims to launch a livestock cooperative



Article: The ILO trains a new cohort of Financial Education Trainers in Ethiopia



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