

PROSPECTS IN ACTION

VISION, MILESTONES AND IMPACT



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The world is confronting an unprecedented displacement crisis: over **123.2 million** forcibly displaced persons have fled because of conflict, violence, or persecution. This includes **42.7 million** refugees and over **73.5 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs). Nearly **50 million** of them are children.

Today, at least **one in every 67 people** worldwide is forcibly displaced – nearly double what it was a decade ago. Nearly 73 per cent of them live in low- and middle-income countries. About two thirds of all refugees find safety in neighboring countries, often leading to protracted situations where individuals and families are forced to put their lives on hold for years, or even decades. Children come of age in displacement. This places immense pressure on host governments and communities already facing significant challenges.

The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit identified that this unprecedented crisis requires a new paradigm, where the whole of society – development and humanitarian actors, governments, the private sector, and forcibly displaced persons, as well as host communities – partners to design and implement sustainable, inclusive solutions. This approach, known as the New Way of Working, calls for collaborative efforts toward collective outcomes that reduce need, risk, and vulnerability.

Within this context, it was clear that traditional humanitarian responses were no longer sufficient to meet the scope of the rapidly expanding displacement crisis – nor could development approaches operate in isolation. Governments require support to strengthen national systems, refugee-hosting communities deserve targeted investments, and displaced populations need more opportunities to gain experience, work and rebuild their futures with dignity. Area-based solutions, tailored to local contexts, can strengthen resilience, self-reliance, and social cohesion for both displaced and host populations.

This moment called for bold experimentation, new forms of partnership and innovative programming that could combine humanitarian and development action at scale.

It was time for PROSPECTS.

ABOUT PROSPECTS



PROSPECTS – the Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities – is a groundbreaking, multi-year initiative financed by the Government of the Netherlands, dedicated to improving the lives of millions of people forced to flee their homes and the communities that host them. The partnership focuses on enhancing living conditions, expanding economic opportunities, strengthening social cohesion, and fostering self-reliance.

The Partnership brings together two branches of the World Bank Group – the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank – and the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to transform the way in which governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, respond to forced displacement.

PROSPECTS is currently implemented in eight refugee-hosting countries – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan, and Uganda – and supported by country, regional and global teams, networks and projects, as well as collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders.

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HOW DOES PROSPECTS WORK?

PROSPECTS aims to ensure that both forcibly displaced persons and host communities have equitable access to rights and services by working toward:

- **Self-reliance** through strengthening of livelihoods including creating opportunities for more and better jobs, mitigating vulnerabilities, and reducing long-term dependency on external assistance.
- **Inclusion** of both forcibly displaced persons and host communities in national and local social protection systems and service delivery.
- **Resilience** of forcibly displaced persons, as well as for the communities that generously host them.

These efforts strengthen **social cohesion** by creating environments where displaced people and host communities build mutual trust, engage in meaningful dialogue and collaborate effectively also on the job market. This sustains public support for forcibly displaced persons while empowering them to contribute positively to their new communities.

PROSPECTS is working on four interconnected pillars, designed to reinforce each other and strengthen opportunities for refugees, host communities and the national systems that support them.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Strengthening inclusion and protection for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Expanding access to quality education and training for forcibly displaced persons and host community members

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Expanding access to decent work and sustainable economic opportunities for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving essential services, facilities, and information systems

CROSS CUTTING: Improved national-level policies on refugee hosting and /or their implementation and the capacity of national institutions to host

PROSPECTS operationalizes the humanitarian–development nexus by creating strong partnerships that leverage each organization’s unique strengths and experience, while improving coordination and efficiency to boost overall impact for forcibly displaced persons and host communities alike.



Phase 1 of PROSPECTS was implemented between 2019–2023. Now, in Phase 2 (2024–2027), partners continue to build self-reliance and resilience by expanding access to rights, services, and socio-economic opportunities – bridging the gap between humanitarian response and long-term development.

Phase 2 focuses on supporting systemic policy change, helping integrate forcibly displaced persons and other vulnerable groups into national systems, and implementing longer-term and sustainable development interventions in protracted displacement contexts.

Through collaboration on policy engagement, technical assistance, on-the-ground programming, and data-driven decision making, PROSPECTS partners aim to foster environments where everyone, regardless of status, can live with dignity, contribute meaningfully, and create lasting positive change.



PROTECTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Strengthening inclusion and protection for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

MORE THAN TWO MILLION refugees and asylum-seekers have been registered and/or received national civil status registration or documentation.

OVER 54,000 government and civil society staff were trained on social protection and protection issues.

MORE THAN 1.4 MILLION children and adults have received MHPSS or other case management services.

Through coordinated, collaborative, and evidence-based action, PROSPECTS has advanced both legal and social protection for refugees and host communities. Legal protection efforts have helped in obtaining registration and essential documentation for securing legal status by strengthening policy engagement, technical and operational support, protection monitoring, and capacity-building of national authorities.

A strong emphasis is placed on safeguarding children and vulnerable groups by enhancing their access to quality services within national systems. This includes strengthening national child protection systems as integral components of social protection and service delivery systems, enhancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) to address distress and anxiety, as well as scaling up Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response services to ensure safety, dignity and recovery for survivors – critical enablers for individuals to engage meaningfully in education, livelihoods and community life.

To promote inclusion, PROSPECTS supports the integration of displaced and host communities into national social protection systems providing health insurance, rights at work and safe workplace. Benefits like cash transfers, insurance, and pensions are increasingly provided through national welfare systems to enhance their coverage and long-term sustainability.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Expanding access to quality education and training for forcibly displaced persons and host community members

MORE THAN 590,000

children and youth have completed primary and secondary education programmes.

OVER 1.5 MILLION

children and youth have enrolled in primary and secondary education.

NEARLY 220,000

children and youth have received financial and material support to attend educational programmes.

OVER 13,000

people have been enrolled in formal and non-formal skills training activities and programmes, including recognition of prior learning.

MORE THAN 590,000

people completed skills development training, including life skills, digital skills and technical skills.

PROSPECTS takes a comprehensive approach to education and training, ensuring inclusion and coordination among stakeholders, including national and local authorities. The Partnership works to integrate displaced children and youth into national education systems rather than creating separate or parallel education systems.

With special attention to ensuring participation of girls, this approach broadens access to primary, secondary, and tertiary education, including non-formal learning programmes. In addition, it also supports youth to access technical and vocational education and training (TVET), which provides employment opportunities and guidance on post-secondary education pathways.

The Partnership has broadened access to market-relevant skills training for displaced and host populations alike, offering technical and vocational programmes, transferable skills development, apprenticeships, hands-on workplace learning, and pathways for transition to earning. PROSPECTS works systematically to improve training quality by assessing national systems and enhancing curriculum and trainers' capabilities, ensuring all programmes respond to real labour market demands. With support from the national governments, the existing experience and skills of refugees and community members are officially certified, opening pathways to decent work.

The education and skills training also facilitate meaningful youth engagement by providing opportunities for young people to actively develop skills, participate in decision-making, mentor peers, and take leadership roles.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Expanding access to decent work and sustainable economic opportunities for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

ALMOST 210,000

people have been able to develop earning and livelihoods opportunities with advice, education and other assistance from business development services and financial institutions.

NEARLY 270,000

people accessed employment services, and employability and life skills trainings.

By promoting inclusive economic growth, PROSPECTS enables individuals to move towards self-reliance, by providing access to decent jobs and business development opportunities, whether in host countries, through digital platforms, or in third countries and countries of origin.

This is achieved through policy dialogue, institutional capacity strengthening, private-sector engagement, and targeted investments, including business finance and advisory services. The Partnership also generates evidence and conducts research to inform programming and influence policy, while engaging stakeholders to address legal and practical barriers to employment and financial inclusion.

OVER 300,000

workdays were created for people through labour-intensive infrastructural development programmes.

To stimulate job creation, the Partnership supports the development of in-demand skills, short-term employment-intensive public works, local enterprise growth, and market linkages that foster meaningful participation in economic ecosystems and value chains. PROSPECTS partners with employment service providers, employers, workers' organizations, and communities to secure the right to work and uphold labour rights, with a strong focus on fair recruitment and decent working conditions.

**75,000**

people reached with basic sanitation services.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving essential services, facilities, and information systems

In 2024, PROSPECTS added critical infrastructure as a key pillar, strengthening essential services, such as water, sanitation, solid waste management, housing, and digital connectivity.

519,000

people reached with safe water services.

In many countries, forcibly displaced persons are only partially included in national services, with encampment and parallel humanitarian systems often remaining the default. PROSPECTS works to reverse this trend by promoting integrated and sustainable infrastructure that benefits both refugees and host communities. Labour-based approaches to infrastructure development reinforce the other pillars by providing skills development through training, immediate income-generation, promoting economic inclusion and enhancing protection through safer and resilient community infrastructure.

These interventions encompass both physical improvements and strengthening of national systems and institutional capacity. This comprehensive foundation is essential for improving access to rights, services, and economic opportunities while reinforcing the impact of interventions across all PROSPECTS pillars.

LEBANON



BRINGING BETTER JOBS THROUGH DIGITAL INCLUSION

The PROSPECTS Partnership is creating digital opportunities for young people from both refugees and host communities in Lebanon.

The World Bank and UNICEF, together with Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and other global tech companies, provide youth with industry-recognized digital skills and direct connections to employers. The Skilling Up Lebanon programme's platform, [NammiSkills](#), matches job-ready participants with hiring companies using mobile technology and cloud-based tools that reach remote and underserved areas. IFC is further strengthening NammiSkills by collaborating with CIS, Lebanon's largest private TVET institution. CIS is integrating NammiSkills within their training programmes and further contributing to it, strengthening its brand in the IT sector.

By involving educators, government agencies, technology companies, and local organizations, the programme is on a pathway to sustainability and scale. Post-training results are impressive – **74 per cent** of participants found employment or transitioned to better jobs, gaining both technical capabilities and confidence to succeed in the digital workforce.

ETHIOPIA



ADVANCING INCLUSION THROUGH DIGITAL IDENTITY

Led by the Government of Ethiopia and supported by **UNHCR and the World Bank** including through PROSPECTS, the National ID Programme (NIDP) is transforming how refugees access essential services and economic opportunities. By integrating refugees into the country's national digital identification system, each person now receives a lifelong Fayda number – a secure, verifiable digital ID recognized by both public and private institutions.

Working closely with Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and the National ID Program and using the PRIMES Interoperability Gateway (PING), the initiative enables safe data sharing and the issuance of trusted credentials. **More than 176,000 refugees** have already been verified and issued IDs, allowing access to banking, mobile registration, healthcare, education, business licenses and work permits. Through this inclusive approach, Ethiopia is building a stronger foundation for protection, self-reliance and national development – proving that digital innovation can open doors for refugees and host communities alike.

UGANDA



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DRIVING SOCIAL INNOVATION

The ILO and UNICEF partner with a number of youth-led NGOs to deliver i-UPSHIFT, an innovative initiative targeting 10- to 24-year-olds. i-UPSHIFT was developed based on UNICEF's UPSHIFT programme and ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) modules, bringing the comparative advantages of both organizations together and combining the content of the two in one common Integrated-UPSHIFT (i-UPSHIFT) module. Participants develop essential capabilities including creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and leadership while learning to transform their ideas into community solutions through human-centered designs, to become social entrepreneurs. Since its launch in 2022, i-UPSHIFT has **empowered 2,500 youth** across Uganda to lead initiatives that drive social and economic transformation from the ground up.

The successful pilot of UPSHIFT resulted in its institutionalization through certification by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) of the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda and development of a new vocational qualification of Social Innovator. Every young person who completes a modular Social Innovation training course provided by institutions of DIT, including a number of TVET institutions, receives a certification of qualification of Social Innovator.

The initiative has also served as a **point of collaboration across PROSPECTS countries**, including **Kenya and Ethiopia**, where partners are adapting and scaling the UPSHIFT model to strengthen youth engagement and entrepreneurship.

EGYPT



ADVANCING REFUGEE INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

In Egypt, **UNHCR and the ILO** – working through the PROSPECTS Partnership and in close collaboration with the Government of Egypt – are supporting refugee inclusion in the country's Universal Health Insurance System. This initiative builds on Egypt's 2018 Universal Health Insurance Law and leverages laws allowing enrolment of foreign residents, including refugees. This pilot, informed by a joint feasibility study, will include **1,500 refugees** in the cities of Port Said and Ismailia; the partners are helping to test legal, financial and operational mechanisms for nationwide scale-up. The effort aims to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare, reduce out-of-pocket spending and strengthen protection-sensitive national systems.

Through joint assessments, policy dialogue, and technical collaboration, the PROSPECTS Partnership has reframed refugee health inclusion as both a development and protection priority.

IRAQ



FROM LEARNING TO EARNING – A PATHWAY TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UNICEF and the ILO focus on helping displaced and host community youth transition successfully from schooling to the workforce through comprehensive life skills training, entrepreneurship development and employment services.

Innovation Labs, with Maharati model established within government-led youth centers, provide young people – especially young women – with necessary support in their journey to move from learning to earning, including transferable skills, hands-on business training, startup funding and customized support to either launch enterprise or secure job placements. This intervention also included strengthening vocational training in Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) TVET schools and introducing enterprise development support in youth centers, demonstrating strong collaboration with and capacity-building through national institutions.

By building capabilities and connecting youth to resources, the programme enables participants to launch social and business initiatives. On completion of training, **over 200 young people** are stepping into new roles as skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, business owners and agents of change for their communities.

KENYA



FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN REFUGEE-HOSTING REGIONS

In northern Kenya, the Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund (KKCF), supported by **IFC and UNHCR** through PROSPECTS Partnership, promotes inclusive economic development through Sub-Saharan Africa's first investment fund targeting both refugee and host populations.

Collaborating with the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) and Turkana County Government, KKCF supports private sector investment through four key approaches: attracting new businesses, scaling existing ones, developing local enterprises, and improving the business environment. Highlights include a new one-stop shop for entrepreneurs, strengthening county-level investment promotion and creating a supportive legal framework to enable sustainable growth. Together, these efforts are transforming the region into a hub of opportunity and building resilience for both host and refugee communities. To date, **KKCF has created over 1,900 direct and 7,800 indirect jobs**, facilitated access to improved services for more than 247,000 people, supported access to finance through **over 7,000 loans valued at over four million USD**.

TOGETHER FOR LASTING SOLUTIONS

COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

In a world where displacement is lasting longer and affecting more people, sustainable solutions must go beyond immediate relief to foster long-term self-reliance, resilience, and social cohesion. There is an urgent need to deliver more with less – by leveraging partnerships, aligning humanitarian and development approaches, and ensuring that every investment generates enduring impact. **PROSPECTS achieves this by strengthening national systems in host countries, enhancing their capacity to accommodate and serve both host communities and forcibly displaced persons**, thereby promoting inclusion and long-term resilience.

The PROSPECTS Partnership embodies this shift. By working across sectors and through joint, collaborative nexus-based programming, it demonstrates how collective action can transform systems and improve the lives of forcibly displaced persons and host communities through a sustainable response.

This is a critical moment to reflect on our shared responsibility. Each of us has a role to play in sustaining support for host communities, ensuring safety and dignity for displaced people, and driving forward the commitments of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The PROSPECTS Partnership, with support of the Government of the Netherlands, has successfully built a coalition of humanitarian-development partners to deliver long-term solutions in protracted refugee situations. Looking ahead, there is an opportunity – and a clear need – for other donors and partners to join this effort, co-investing in innovative, scalable solutions that address immediate needs while also building a more equitable and resilient future for displaced people and their host communities.



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