

PROSPECTS Partnership

Jordan: Promoting Resilience, Decent Work and Social Cohesion

Supported by



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Country Context

Jordan has long shown leadership and generosity in welcoming refugees, hosting one of the world's largest per-capita refugee populations. At the end of 2025, Jordan hosted around 440,000 registered refugees. While only a minority live in camps such as Za'atari and Azraq, the vast majority reside in towns and cities, especially in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, and Zarqa.

Refugees live alongside Jordanians in often-vulnerable host communities, where resources such as housing, health care and access to employment are limited. The Government of Jordan has maintained a progressive stance — granting Syrians access to public education, facilitating access to the labor market through the issuance of work permits and partnering with the international community to share responsibilities. However, economic stagnation, rising debt and high youth unemployment have placed enormous strain on Jordanian society.

With over half of Jordan's population under the age of 24, the stakes are high: creating real opportunities for young people, refugees and Jordanians alike, is essential for stability and growth.

PROSPECTS supports Jordan's efforts to strengthen resilience, foster social cohesion and ensure that both host communities and refugees can access opportunities in education, decent work, and protection.



Despite challenging circumstances, Dania – whose family was forced to flee Syria – was able to pass the Tawijhi (national high school completion exam). Photo: © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

PROSPECTS in Jordan

The PROSPECTS Partnership — funded by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by **IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank** — supports Jordan's dual challenge: upholding refugee protection while advancing sustainable development for all.

Working in close coordination with Jordanian authorities, employers' and workers' organizations, PROSPECTS combines support for national policy reforms with direct investments that strengthen services at the community level. Working across four integrated pillars, PROSPECTS is:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection Systems, ensuring refugees and vulnerable Jordanians can access documentation, case management and social protection systems.



Promoting Access to Decent Work and Livelihoods including principles of non-discrimination, equal remuneration for work of equal value, rights at work and safe and healthy working conditions. PROSPECTS works with the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, and the private sector to expand access to wage employment and self-employment, work permits, entrepreneurship support, cooperative development, employability support, and inclusive financial services.



Expanding Education and Learning, such as supporting schools to provide quality education to refugee and host-community children, while investing in teacher training and alternative learning pathways. Programmes also strengthen technical and vocational education and training systems to equip individuals with market-relevant skills and facilitate their transition into employment.



Investing in Critical Infrastructure, improving access to sustainable water and sanitation services while supporting employment-intensive investment approaches that advance decent work for some of the most vulnerable populations.

Outcomes and Impact

Since the beginning of the partnership's first phase in 2019, the PROSPECTS Partnership has moved beyond policy dialogue to deliver tangible benefits for both refugees and Jordanians. By investing in protection systems, strengthening education pathways and expanding access to wage employment and self-employment aligned with decent work principles, PROSPECTS is helping communities navigate immediate challenges while laying the foundations for long-term resilience.

These efforts have reached hundreds of thousands of people: from the registration and documentation of refugees to youth completing skills training and entrepreneurs building businesses of their own. The results reflect PROSPECTS' integrated approach – where protection, education and economic inclusion through productive employment and decent work reinforce each other to expand opportunity and hope across the country.

Protection and Social Protection

- **760,031 refugees and asylum-seekers** documented by UNHCR
- **135,336 individuals** benefiting from legal support and case management services including mental health and psychosocial support
- **43,785 people** benefiting from national social protection schemes (Etidama++)

Education and Training

- **59,074 youth** have completed professional or skills training programs
- **136 education and training institutions** have received support

Economic Inclusion

- **21,035 new job opportunities** supported through wage and self-employment
- **217,531 people** benefitted from employability trainings, employment and job matching services
- **29,755 individuals** have gained entrepreneurship and business skills.

Note: Some activities have relied on multi-donor contributions.

Eyad's Story



Photo: ILO/Issa Dahdal

"Every day when I go to my job, I feel safe, knowing that, even if something were to happen to me that would stop me from working, I know my family is protected through the programme."

Since he was forced to flee Syria in 2013, Eyad worked in informal, low-paying jobs in Jordan without any safety net. That began changing when he enrolled in the Etidama++ programme, an initiative supported by PROSPECTS aimed at helping vulnerable workers like him access social security benefits and health insurance.

The programme supports the transition from informal employment to formal employment arrangements that provide social protection and rights at work and helping people move from uncertainty to stability.