



PROSPECTS Partnership

Sudan: Strengthening Protection, Economic and Social Inclusion in the Midst of Crisis

Country Context

Since April 2023, Sudan has become the epicenter of the world's largest displacement crisis, with over 10 million people internally displaced, including 7.7 million uprooted during the current conflict. The country also hosts nearly 900,000 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and other countries. Violence has severely disrupted access to employment and income-generating activities, forced families from their homes and interrupted schooling for millions of children. At the same time, collapsing public services and a struggling economy have left communities with few resources to cope.

The destruction of markets, schools and hospitals has created conditions where food, water and shelter are scarce. Many displaced families now live in overcrowded settlements or urban neighborhoods that lack adequate services. For children and young people, the consequences are especially severe: long gaps in education, little access to skills development, and greater risks of exploitation or recruitment.

While conflict persists in many areas, states such as White Nile and Kassala are comparatively more stable, offering an entry point for longer-term solutions. Supporting resilience within Sudan is not only a humanitarian priority, but also a stabilizing factor for the wider region, helping to create local economic opportunities and prospects for recovery.



In the Al Jabalain secondary school for girls in White Nile State, more than 700 children are returning to school after two years of conflict. Photo: © UNHCR/Antonia Vadala

PROSPECTS in Sudan

The PROSPECTS Partnership – financed by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by ILO, UNHCR and UNICEF in Sudan – aims to transform responses to forced displacement crises, in line with the ILO Decent Work Agenda and relevant International Labour Standards. PROSPECTS seeks to go beyond emergency assistance by strengthening inclusive systems and fostering resilience by complementing humanitarian approaches with developmental ones, focused on medium- and long- term durable solutions. In collaboration with line ministries, civil society and the private sector, the partnership is facilitating refugee and host community access to:



Protection and Social Protection systems to support issuance of civil documentation, mobile registration teams and legal aid, alongside community-based child protection and psychosocial assistance. PROSPECTS is also strengthening gender-based violence prevention and response and access to social protection services to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.



Education and Training, initiatives that sustain inclusive learning by rehabilitating schools, building teacher capacity and ensuring access for refugee children. Beyond primary and secondary schooling, PROSPECTS expands access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), apprenticeships and youth engagement programmes, equipping young people with market-relevant skills that facilitate access to decent work.



Employment and Access to Decent Work to address widespread unemployment and economic fragility, through the creation of wage employment and self-employment, entrepreneurship development and access to financial services. Initiatives link refugees and host community members to local value chains and markets, so families not only earn incomes but also contribute to local growth and resilience.



Critical Infrastructure such as climate-sensitive water and sanitation facilities, renewable energy solutions, sustainable housing, and digital connectivity, while using employment-intensive investment approaches to generate decent work while improving living conditions for refugees and host communities.

Outcomes and Impact

In Sudan, PROSPECTS has translated its integrated approach into tangible results for refugees, IDPs and host communities. Schools have been rehabilitated and furnished, teachers trained, and refugee students supported to access national curricula and exams, while children and youth continue their education via formal and vocational pathways. Families have received legal documentation, child protection services, psychosocial support, and benefit from functioning social protection systems that reduce vulnerability and strengthen dignity.

Protection and Social Protection

- **58,623 refugees and asylum-seekers** have gained legal status
- **82,175 individuals** have benefited from mental health, psychosocial support and case management services
- **67,456 people** have received partner-led social protection assistance including basic non-food items and health services

Education and Training

- **51,603 children and youth** have completed formal and non-formal education programmes
- **52,849 children** have received in-kind and cash support
- **2,630 teachers, facilitators, and technical and vocational staff** have been trained

Economic Inclusion

- **2,984 new wage-employment and self-employment opportunities** have been supported
- **1,197 employed or self-employed people** are increasing their income or improving their working conditions.
- **5,664 individuals** are gaining entrepreneurship and business skills
- **12 Inclusive** cooperatives formed and registered
- **1,259 individuals** gained access to financial services

Critical Infrastructure

- **185,986 community members** now have access to basic clean water

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

“PROSPECTS youth initiatives prove that investing in young people creates real opportunities. By supporting youth to develop solutions for their communities, these initiatives strengthen teamwork, reduce unemployment, and open pathways for sustainable livelihoods.

Eng. Adam Mohammed Jarnous, Secretary General, Higher Council for Youth and Sports – Kassala State, Sudan

Shaimaa's Story



Photo: UNICEF/Ahmed Elfatih Mohamdeen

“This is my Makanna – my safe space.”

At 14, Shaimaa fled the violence engulfing Khartoum with her family and found refuge in White Nile State. At the UNICEF-supported *Makanna* centre in El Goz, she now has access to a safe space where she can learn, play and receive psychosocial support alongside children from displaced and host communities. For Shaimaa, the centre is more than a classroom – it is a place of healing and hope amid the upheaval of conflict.