

PROSPECTS Partnership

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

Supported by



Government of
the Netherlands

Country Context

Since April 2023, Sudan has become the epicenter of the world's largest displacement crisis, with approximately 8.6 million internally displaced as of August 2026, including 6.4 million displaced since the outbreak of the current conflict. The country also hosts nearly 900,000 refugees and asylum-seekers as of July 2026, primarily from South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. At the same time, the country is experiencing significant return movements with more than 4 million people returning to their areas of origin from within Sudan and abroad.

The conflict has severely disrupted access to employment and income-generating activities, kept millions of children out of school and strained health care services. Children and young people are particularly affected, facing greater risks of exploitation and other forms of harm.

While conflict persists in much of the country, White Nile and Kassala States offer an entry point to achieve longer-term solutions for displaced people and their hosts. Supporting them helps expand livelihood opportunities and strengthen resilience for refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons, and host communities.

This fact sheet covers cumulative results from March 2019-April 2026.



With help from PROSPECTS, 18-year-old Nada is back in school after years of displacement. 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 improve the access of host communities and forcibly displaced people to education, social protection, decent work and critical infrastructure.

PROSPECTS seeks to strengthen systems to be more inclusive and foster 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 displaced and conflict-affected communities 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 displaced 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 can their education via formal and vocational pathways. Families have received legal documentation, child protection services and psychosocial support, and benefited from functioning social protection systems that reduce vulnerability and strengthen dignity.

Protection and Social Protection

- **141,192 refugees and asylum-seekers** benefitting from national civil status, identity or legal status documentation.
- **127,353 individuals** benefiting from legal support and case management services including mental health and psychosocial support.

Education and Training

- **67,064 children** enrolled in primary or secondary education programmes.
- **3,095 teachers, facilitators and TVET trainers** completed professional development training programmes.
- **60,922 children** received school support through cash and in-kind assistance.

Economic Inclusion

- **108,639 people** with increased awareness and capacity to addressing informality, rights at work and improving quality and conditions of work.
- **2,472 individuals** completed technical or vocational education or skills training programmes.
- **3,135 people** increased their income, enhanced their working conditions or maintained resilient livelihoods.

Critical Infrastructure

- **215,938 individuals** gained access to clean water.
- **134,880 people** reached with basic hygiene services.

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

Omar's Story



Photo: ILO/249Startup

“We identified a real problem facing livestock owners in the Dabousin area of Wad Al-Hilew, so we decided to change that.”

Omar Sabah, 30, is a member of Al-Amal Veterinary Pharmacy, a youth-led enterprise established by two young women and two young men in Kassala State. Through the PROSPECTS-supported i-UPSHIFT programme, the team turned a local challenge into a business opportunity, bringing essential veterinary medicines closer to livestock farmers and herders while creating livelihood opportunities.