



BUSINESS IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT CONTEXTS

NEW WAYS OF ENGAGING AND DEVELOPING THE PRIVATE
SECTOR IN THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

KAMPALA, UGANDA, 17 - 19 OCTOBER 2023

Information note



International
Labour
Organization

PROSPECTS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



International Training Centre

BACKGROUND

More than 100 million people are forcibly displaced. Millions find themselves in protracted situations with limited livelihoods options available to them. An estimated 74% of the global refugee population is living in low- and middle- income countries, where host communities themselves also lack employment opportunities. Despite some signs of progress, the speed and scale of forced displacement is outpacing that of solutions available for refugees, internally displaced populations and hosting communities.

The private sector has an important role in providing economic opportunities for both forcibly displaced persons and their host communities. Particularly when forcibly displaced persons are hosted in remote places characterized by thin markets, private sector engagement and development is key to developing markets and creating opportunities for both displaced persons and marginalized hosting communities. While the focus on market-based approaches in forced displacement contexts is still new, initiatives in several countries have demonstrated the important role such an approach can play in bringing jobs and opportunities to refugee-hosting areas.

In the context of the multi-agency PROSPECTS programme funded by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented in eight countries, the ILO and other partners are supporting private sector development and engagement in forced displacement contexts with the objective of creating decent work opportunities for forcibly displaced and host communities. PROSPECTS thus provides a unique opportunity for the ILO and its partners to analyse private sector initiatives so far, and jointly generate knowledge on the success factors for mutually beneficial private sector engagement in forced displacement settings.

THE PROGRAMME

This event provides practitioners with the opportunity to come together around the shared objective of enhancing private sector development and engagement in forced displacement settings. Through presentations, panel discussions and in-depth break-out sessions, this 3-day learning event will share lessons learnt from different countries. The event seeks to provide a platform for technical discussions on practical experiences in business development, financial inclusion, market-based approaches and private sector engagement to improve refugees' and host communities' access to livelihoods and employment.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The first half of the event will focus on private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts and discuss the role that development cooperation actors can play in engaging existing private sector actors to strengthen market linkages with refugee businesses and activities. Engagement with existing private sector suppliers, off-takers, traders and/or financing entities is of crucial importance to help businesses thrive and connect refugees to surrounding markets, both as producers and consumers. Sessions will focus on how, practically and realistically, mutually beneficial private sector engagement can be achieved in order to forge win-win situations between private sector actors and

refugee and hosting communities.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The second part of the event will focus on private sector development in forced displacement contexts and discuss initiatives that seek to promote the creation and growth of small enterprises and income-generating activities by refugees and vulnerable host communities. Practitioners will present and discuss ways to strengthen legal frameworks and business support for refugee enterprises and income-generating activities. Sessions will focus on lessons learnt in strengthening refugees' access to business development services, financial education and loans as well as in promoting cooperatives and formalization of small businesses in forced displacement contexts.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ?

The event will equip participants with the knowledge and skills they need to support decent work opportunities for forcibly displaced people and host communities through private sector development and engagement. Topics covered include:

- The role of the private sector in addressing the needs of forced displacement
- What does it take for refugees to start and grow a business?
- Innovative solutions for private sector development in forced displacement contexts
- Market-based approaches for refugee and host community livelihoods
- How to work with the private sector in forced displacement settings
- Lessons learnt on private sector engagement in forced displacement contexts
- Understanding how cooperatives can play a pivotal role in enhancing the livelihoods of forcibly displaced individuals and host communities
- Strategies and mechanisms to foster financial inclusion among forcibly displaced populations and host communities

WHAT CAN I CONTRIBUTE ?

Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences in private sector development and engagement in forced displacement settings. Participants can propose a slot for a short presentation of their experience or case study during one of the break-out sessions. Participants who are interested to share their experience can indicate their intention in the registration form, which will prompt participants to share a short proposal.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The meeting is specifically targeting:

- Practitioners working on private sector development and private sector engagement in forced displacement settings, including decision-makers and technical staff from projects and NGOs working on enterprise development, access to finance, cooperative development and market-based livelihoods approaches
- Private sector partners engaged in forced displacement settings either as value chain actors, as providers of finance and business development services or as representatives of cooperatives, workers or business associations

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The meeting will be organized in Kampala, Uganda on 17-19 October from 9:00 - 17:30 hrs. The meeting will be in English.

REGISTRATIONS

You can register your interest to participate in the meeting by filling the online application form available here <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/SHN/E1516640/en> before the 15th of September.

The meeting secretariat will inform successful applicants about their enrolment in the meeting. Closer to the dates, enrolled participants will receive a detailed agenda and logistics note. Participants who have indicated their interest to share their experience will be contacted by the technical team.

ORGANIZERS

The event is organized and sponsored by:



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The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and decent work. The ILO is an implementing partner of the Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)

The Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS), set up by the Netherlands with five international organisations in eight host countries, is a major instrument for investment in refugees' and host communities' prospects.

The International Training Centre of the ILO is the training arm of the International Labour Organization. It runs training, learning and capacity development services on all aspects of the ILO mandate. The ITCILO provides secretarial and methodological services to the Kampala meeting.

The Government of the Netherlands spearheads the inter-regional partnership that aims to improve the access of host communities and forcibly displaced people to employment and livelihood opportunities, known as the PROSPECTS Programme.