



8 July 2021

Diagnosis on informality in targeted intervention areas of the PROSPECTS programme in Uganda

Validation workshop

Globally, 6 out of 10 workers and 8 out of 10 economic units are considered informal. The informal economy is where most jobs have been created in recent years, but it is also where the greatest decent work deficits and problems with regard to workers' rights are found. Fundamental rights at work are as relevant in the informal as they are in the formal economy. With respect to contexts of forced displacement, informality aggravates the existing challenges and the numbers of forcibly displaced people to access employment in the formal economy remains limited. Moreover, the explicit and implicit exclusion of forcibly displaced people from labour and social security law or specific regulations in particular occupational groups increase the formal barriers to facilitate fair working conditions for both dependent and independent workers.

In 1976, Uganda ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Later, in 1987 the country ratified the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees. Over the years, Uganda has taken on a leading role in promoting the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (also known as the Kampala Convention). In 2009, the convention was adopted in Kampala and Uganda was the first country to ratify it.

The situation of refugees in the labour market in Uganda is dominated by high levels of unemployment, with 72 per cent being unemployed. Moreover, the type of employment is characterized by vulnerable forms of employment which is manifested by inadequate earnings, low productivity and unsatisfying working conditions. Not only forcibly displaced persons but also individuals and households in the host communities in Uganda experience the deficiencies of low socioeconomic development that govern most of the remote rural areas where they reside. These deficiencies are of a structural nature and limit the access of both groups to decent employment.

The principal purpose of the study "*Diagnosis on informality in targeted intervention areas of the PROSPECTS programme in Uganda*" as commissioned by the ILO, is to develop an understanding of what causes and drives informality in refugee settlements and host communities in Uganda and what are possible support services and interventions that can facilitate the transition of jobs and enterprises from the informal to the formal economy. The study was carried out in targeted regions of [the PROSPECTS programme in Uganda](#), i.e. refugees living in Nakivale settlement and Rhino Camp as well as the respective host communities.

Against this background, you are kindly invited to participate in a virtual validation workshop will take place on **Thursday, 8 July 2021, between 09:00 – 12:30 (GMT+3)**. We would appreciate it if you can confirm your participation by sending an e-mail latest by July 7 to rwomushana@ilo.org

The validation workshop will involve a variety of stakeholders, some of which were already actively engaged in the research phase. The main objectives of the workshop are:

- ▶ To familiarize participants with issues related to the informal economy and suitable ways to address these issues;
- ▶ To present the key findings from the diagnostic report on informality in Uganda;
- ▶ To collect feedback and inputs from participants and validate the diagnostic report;
- ▶ To obtain an agreement and commitment on the way forward and next steps.

The validation workshop will start with a brief introduction of concepts and drivers of informality. This will be followed by the presentation of the key findings of the study. Subsequently, a discussion on the main policy recommendations that are derived from the research will be moderated, including inputs and feedback from the audience. The session will conclude with a discussion on the way forward and statements by tripartite constituents.

Several weeks after this validation workshop, the ILO will organise a technical meeting. The subsequent technical meeting will serve as a platform to engage in a more detailed discussion on the subjects that the report addresses and to exchange and identify suitable ways forward to operationalize and implement some of the proposed recommendations.

The meeting link has been created. Please register here:

https://ilo-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdOivazopGNGkAi8BpnmSmXyidsID_Wk4

Programme

Time	Agenda item	
09:00 - 09:15	Welcoming and introduction	ILO Uganda
09:15 - 10:40	Presentations	
	I. Introduction of concepts and drivers of informality	ILO Geneva
	II. Presentation of the research methodology, key findings of the study and draft recommendations	Ben Naturinda & Doreen Adong
	III. Questions & Answers session on presentations and sharing of inputs by the audience	Mr. Stephen Opio, ILO Kampala
10:45 - 11:15	Expert panel on key thematic areas to support the transition to formality in forced displacement contexts	Ms Annamarie Kiaga ILO Harare
	Theme 1: Support to the formalization of economic units, including own-account workers, cooperatives Speaker: Mr. John Walugembe, ED, Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Uganda (FSME)	
	Theme 2: Support to the formalization of employment for dependent workers and extension of social protection to all informal workers Speaker: Mr. Stephen Kasaija, Head Programme Management Unit, Expanding Social Protection Programme, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development	

	<p>Theme 3: Local (economic) development interventions that address some of the drivers of informality or create the necessary conditions for job/enterprise formalization in the future</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Aloysius Gumisiriza, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Isingiro District Local Government</p>	
	<p>Theme 4: The particular situation of refugees/ host communities</p> <p>Speaker: Ms Lilian Achieng Otiego, Senior Development Officer, Resilience and Solutions Unit, UNHCR</p>	
	Followed by a moderated Questions and Answers session	Mr. Stephen Opio, ILO Kampala
11:45 – 12:15	Discussion and agreement on the way forward and next steps	ILO Kampala ILO Geneva
12:15 – 12:30	Closing remarks by FUE, NOTU and MGSLD	
12:30	Closing	ILO Kampala

