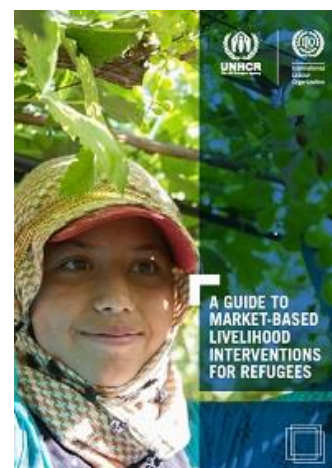


ILO-UNHCR Collaboration on market-based livelihoods interventions for refugees

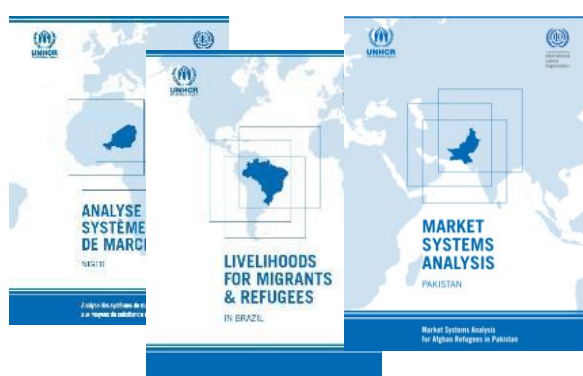
A summary

In the spirit of the New York Declaration, the UNHCR and the ILO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that paves the way for joint action to promote sustainable livelihoods of refugees and host communities. On a more technical level, the ILO's SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) Unit and the UNHCR Livelihoods Unit launched a cooperation in 2013 to promote livelihoods of refugees and host communities. More specifically, ILO has been working with UNHCR to conduct market assessments and value chain analyses in order to develop holistic and market-based livelihoods strategies that are adapted to the local context and market realities. The experience has led to the ILO-UNHCR publication [“Guide to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees”](#) as well as to a [training programme](#) under the same name that is offered to practitioners on a regular basis in cooperation with the ILO's International Training Center (ILO-ITC) in Turin, Italy.

In this context, the ILO has introduced the [“Approach to Inclusive Market Systems \(AIMS\)”](#) that foresees a push-pull approach as a framework to develop holistic and market-based livelihoods strategies. The push-pull approach foresees two sets of separate, but interlinked interventions. While pull interventions aim to develop the market and particularly sectors and value chains with potential to increase the quantity and quality of job opportunities available, push interventions focus on strengthening capacities and skills of the target group to enable them to exploit these opportunities.



It is therefore crucial to take a closer look at market trends and demand, and more specifically at sub-sectors and value chains with potential for employment creation, in order to a) better target any “push” interventions and in particular skills development interventions to ensure that the capacities and skills of the target group match those needed on the market, and b) identify possible constraints and bottlenecks in these sub-sectors and design targeted “pull” interventions to create additional employment.



To date, ILO has conducted [assessments](#) in 17 refugee-hosting countries¹ and has worked with the UNHCR to develop solid and sustainable livelihoods strategies based on results and recommendations of these assessments. ILO provides continuous advice and support for UNHCR and partners to implement these livelihoods strategies in various countries and a total of 12 trainings were conducted to strengthen implementation capacity of the UNHCR global and in-country livelihoods staff.²

¹ Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, DRC, Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey and Zambia

² In-country trainings were conducted for UNHCR staff in Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania and Uganda. Additionally, six global trainings were conducted in Geneva, Turin and Budapest for staff of UNHCR and partners from various countries

The ILO-UNHCR collaboration on market-based livelihoods interventions launched in 2013 on a global level has been institutionalized and led to close and intense collaboration between the two agencies in various regions and countries.

To name some examples, joint activities are in progress in Mauritania where the two agencies collaborate to promote livelihoods of Malian refugees in M’bera camp and surrounding host communities by offering relevant technical trainings, developing necessary infrastructure and better integrating the target group into dates, fruits and Arabic gum value chains.



In Zambia, an ILO-UNHCR analysis of different agricultural value chains conducted in 2015 has led to the joint implementation of a small project to develop the cassava value chain and strengthen entrepreneurial skills of refugees hosted in Zambia’s Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements, using the ILO’s entrepreneurship training programme [“Start and Improve your Business”](#).

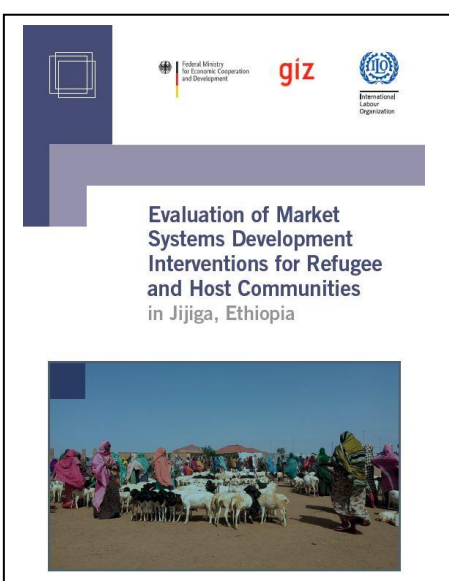
In Indonesia, ILO and UNHCR have launched a joint initiative to develop the [“Ready for Business” entrepreneurship promotion](#) tool to strengthen skills of both Indonesian and refugee youth. Joint projects to promote livelihoods of refugees and host communities are currently being developed in nine other countries.³

Most recently, ILO further tested and implemented the Approach to Inclusive Markets (AIMS) in Jijiga, Ethiopia. The project, funded by the German government, focuses on improving livelihoods in the livestock sector for Somali refugees and host communities. Following a [value chain analysis](#), project interventions focuses on improving the access of refugee and host community livestock herders to market information, regional trader networks, and a



newly opened

local slaughter house as well as on improving entrepreneurial and business skills through the Start and Improve Your Business Entrepreneurship (SIYB) Training Program.



An [evaluation of the project](#) was conducted in early 2019 to distill lessons learnt and results of the project. The evaluation found that project interventions contributed to improved linkages between refugee and host community’s livestock herders, improved information flow on market trends and opportunities as well as increased access of refugees and host communities to high-quality entrepreneurship trainings, thus ultimately enhancing access to economic opportunities and increased incomes.

³ Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan and Uganda