Forced displacement crises have increased in scale and complexity in recent years and have become more protracted. Refugee-hosting countries need to be supported through joint initiatives for responsibility-sharing, following the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees. To rapidly consolidate these efforts, the Netherlands spearheaded a strategic multi-year partnership - PROSPECTS - bringing together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank (WB).

PROSPECTS operationalizes the humanitarian-development nexus, creating strong partnerships between humanitarian and development actors to leverage comparative advantages, and improve coordination and efficiency to boost their overall impact for refugees and host communities, as envisioned in the outcomes of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit under the New Way of Working.

PROSPECTS partners work collectively to provide quality education and training, decent work and livelihood opportunities, and protection services for refugees and their host communities. In close collaboration with refugee-hosting countries, and aligned with national policies and priorities, the partnership is being implemented in eight countries in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda) and the MENA region (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon) for a period of over 4 years (2019-2023), and with a total budget of 500 million euros.

Pillars of intervention

The Partnership focuses on three areas of intervention to sustainably improve living conditions for refugees and their host communities, and strives to do that through advanced cooperation between PROSPECTS partners under the New Way of Working.
Inclusion of refugees into national education systems of refugee-hosting countries

- In response to COVID-19, PROSPECTS partners quickly adjusted their interventions to support national responses, including remote learning, which ensured continuity of learning during school closures, and also supported safe school re-opening, student re-entry and capacity building for resilience.
- The WB-UNHCR study ‘The Global Cost of Inclusive Refugee Education’ estimated the cost of educating refugee children and youth for each refugee-hosting country, catalysing the development of country-level costed inclusive education plans.

Learning to earning

- Accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, PROSPECTS partners have supported refugees and host communities in the transition from school-to-work, with a focus on the use of digital technologies, and in line with national strategies for digitalization.
- PROSPECTS enabled children and adolescents to develop the relevant skills by strengthening distance learning modalities and providing more flexible learning pathways. UNICEF and the ILO’s learning event ‘Digital acceleration in the context of learning and skills development’ examined digital solutions to learning and skills development to support refugee children and youth as well as host communities in response to COVID-19.
- The report ‘Talent on the Move’ reflects the aspirations of young people to learn and earn, and barriers hindering their access to the labour market. The findings help PROSPECTS partners understand the barriers and opportunities youth face on their ‘learning-to-earning’ pathways, and address them together with national governments.

Role of the labour market governance actors and institutions in supporting the access of refugees to decent work opportunities

- PROSPECTS partners have supported refugee-hosting countries to improve working conditions through joint efforts of all relevant world-of-work actors, including national governments, employers and their associations, as well as trade unions, relevant civil society organizations of the host community, and the refugees themselves.
Role of Employment Intensive Investment Programmes in providing long-term employment opportunities for refugees and host communities

- The ILO’s Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes promotes social cohesion between refugees and their host communities through labour-intensive infrastructural development, creating equal employment opportunities, developing technical and occupational skills for all, and using local resources as key to improving self-reliance and social stability.

Access to entrepreneurship

- Under the lead of IFC, UNICEF and the WB collaborated with national governments and the private sector in the MENA region (Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) to create entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for refugees and host communities under the StartMashreq programme.

Role of the private sector to enhance the inclusion of refugees in the labor force and to offer decent work opportunities

- IFC, in collaboration with UNHCR and other stakeholders, has been unlocking the private sector’s role in supporting refugees, for example through the Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund. This fund aims to enable better economic integration and self-reliance of displaced populations and their host communities.

Pillar 3
Protection and Inclusion

Legal Protection

- In response to the COVID-19 induced national lockdowns, UNHCR continued to facilitate refugee registration and verification by introducing additional remote registration and self-service solutions using mobile applications and self-service kiosks.

Social Protection

- Lessons learned from the ‘ILO-UNHCR partnership: Extending Social Protection’ (since 2014) informs PROSPECTS’ social protection strategy in eight intervention countries. It calls for consultations with national governments for the inclusion of refugees into national social protection schemes with tailored strategies ensuring improvement of their livelihoods and economic inclusion.

Child Protection Systems

- UNICEF and UNHCR engaged with national government counterparts to improve the protection environment for refugee children and to eventually include them in quality national Child Protection services.
Ethiopia
- UNHCR and the ILO conducted a joint feasibility study to evaluate options for the inclusion of refugees into the community-based health insurance scheme. PROSPECTS partners helped strengthen the Government of Ethiopia’s National Child Protection Case Management Framework at federal level, including the development and roll-out of a training manual.
- The ILO and UNICEF identified new areas of joint programming such as deploying ILO’s Employment-Intensive Investment Programme with a focus on skills building for local low-skilled labourers in parallel to UNICEF’s school construction and expansion works in Somali region.

Kenya
- IFC and UNHCR are collaborating in the operationalization of the Biashara centre. This is done in close collaboration with the Turkana County Government and with support from the ILO.
- UNHCR and the ILO signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on financial inclusion of refugees, “paving the way” for refugees engaging in business to access financial solutions.

Uganda
- All PROSPECTS partners have provided technical support and coordination to relevant line ministries for the development and roll-out of the comprehensive refugee response plans, supporting inclusion of the refugees in national development plans on employment, education and private sector promotion.
Sudan

- UNICEF, UNHCR and the ILO have initiated collaborative efforts providing access to quality education and smooth transition to work and entrepreneurship opportunities. Steps are being taken to link UNICEF and the ILO entrepreneurship platforms to enhance their reach and effectiveness.
- UNHCR and the ILO undertook joint engineering missions in West Kordofan and East Darfur to implement Employment Intensive Investment Programmes, which will support in local employment creation and social development. IFC and UNHCR conducted a joint scoping mission to West Kordofan to explore opportunities for refugee employment in specific agricultural value chains.

Egypt

- The IFC-ILO assessment on financial inclusion for refugees will identify potential opportunities to improve their financial education and access to financial services.
- The ILO, UNHCR and IFC are conducting a joint study on identifying value chains that are open to refugees and have the potential to increase employment and improve livelihoods.

Iraq

- UNICEF and the ILO are collaborating to support youth to transition from learning and skills development to decent work through a range of self-employment and wage employment interventions, in close consultation with the national government.
- All PROSPECTS partners are conducting a joint market assessment for Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) programmes to support and facilitate the entry of private TVET institutes and build their capacity. This will increase the employability and employment opportunities for youth and host communities, including refugees.
**Lebanon**

- The WB, the ILO and UNHCR support decent employment for vulnerable Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees in high-value agricultural chains, such as livestock, poultry and horticulture, to promote improved livelihoods.

- The WB and the ILO are supporting the national government in framing the new by-law implementing decent working conditions for agricultural workers, which will improve working conditions in the sector. Similarly, the WB and UNHCR are working to improve regulatory frameworks for issuance of flexible work permits for Syrians.

**Jordan**

- UNICEF and the ILO are supporting government institutions in ensuring the quality of child protection services, including the prevention of and responses to children engaged in worst forms of child labour.

- The WB and the ILO are supporting the national government in framing the new by-law implementing decent working conditions for agricultural workers, which will improve working conditions in the sector. Similarly, the WB and UNHCR are working to improve regulatory frameworks for issuance of flexible work permits for Syrians.

**Partners**

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- The World Bank (WB)

**Donor**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**Countries**

- 8

**Years**

- 4
  - 2019—2023

**Funding**

- €500 million