

## **Financial strategies deployed by forcibly displaced persons: research and policy influence**

### **Objective:**

This pledge aims to expand the evidence base on strategies deployed by displaced populations to achieve financial inclusion. The research, which will be finalized by the end of December 2021, will inform policy influencing and programming in Jordan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda as well as global advocacy. The research is funded by Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Open Society Foundation. Partnering with The Fletcher School of Tufts University, USA and Catholic University (KU) Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany.

### **Updates:**

Despite challenges and some delays with the implementation of the study due to COVID-19 related lockdowns, the research was finalized in all countries: Jordan, Kenya, Uganda and Mexico. A final joint lesson report will be published in December 2021. There will also be a compendium of financial biographies, one for each country. Tufts University [published the final report](#) for Mexico and Uganda in January 2021, and final reports for [Kenya](#) and [Jordan](#) were published in November 2021.

The research partners have disseminated the findings and used them for policy influencing throughout the implementation of the project, through various events and publications.

- In November 2020 a policy briefing on “[COVID-19 and refugees' economic opportunities, financial services and digital inclusion](#) – analyzing the policy context in Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and to some extent Mexico was published, [featured by an op-ed in Euronews](#) on November 24rd, and launched at the European Microfinance Week.
- On April 20 and 21, 2021 the partners organized a FIND Symposium “[Finance in Displacement: Refugee Integration in Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda](#)”, which gathered a range of key national and global stakeholders to present and discuss the findings. Information and recordings available on the [website](#); and a paper was published summarizing the main findings from the research project “[Reckoning with Reality](#) - Five Key Findings from the Finance in Displacement Studies”.
- In July 2021, research partners organised a virtual workshop with Jordanian stakeholders to present findings and discuss key policy and programmatic recommendations. Over 40 Jordanian stakeholders participated, representatives from local NGOs and INGOs, UN organisations, donors and private sector. The discussions are incorporated in a final report on the Jordan findings.
- The research was also presented at various events and meetings, including the Centre for Financial Inclusion ‘Financial Inclusion Week’ in November 2021, and meetings from the NGO Committee Financing For Development and the GIZ’s Digi#ances project.
- The research was featured in various publications, such as [AFI’s guideline note](#) on integrating Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) into National Financial Inclusion Strategies (NFIS).
- Various essays and a podcast were also published, which are all featured in the monthly Newsletters the project produced and can be found here <https://find.substack.com/> as well as on Tufts Uni [Journeys Project](#) website.
- The Netherlands are supporting this pledge, providing political support for the financial inclusion of forcibly displaced person and considering the research results for their PROSPECTS programme.

Finally, based on the research findings, the IRC is implementing two pilots. One with refugee and host community farmers in rural Uganda which started in May 2020, which brought together 600 refugees and host community members who then formed 20 farmers groups of mixed refugee-to-host ratios. The program provides farmer-based financial literacy training, Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) training for

sunflower production, and support with tools, inputs, market, post-harvest handling equipment, access to farmlands, and acquiring agricultural loans. IRC was able to support the farmers' group pilot for an additional season and is planning endline data collection for February 2022, pending Ugandan ethics approval. The research team successfully secured Ugandan ethics approval for the Kampala pilot, which will focus on a new model of apprenticeship training that incorporates more comprehensive mentorship training for apprenticeship hosts and financial literacy training for refugees.