



► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq

Second Edition of the Brochure – May 2022



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► Reflections

- Shaza Al Jondi, Chief Technical Advisor for ILO PROSPECTS for Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq

The world of work continues to face challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prolonged lockdown periods, restrictions on movements and gatherings, and job loss experienced in 2020 and 2021 continue to impact the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions of people across the globe.

The impact of the pandemic has been particularly adverse on vulnerable groups, including refugees, Internally Displaced Populations and host communities.

At PROSPECTS, we are working with our partners – the Government of the Netherlands, UNICEF, UNHCR, IFC and the World Bank – to devise approaches that support better access to education, employment and protection for refugees and host community members in eight countries across East and North Africa and the Arab States.

The challenges imposed by forced displacement are complex and cannot be dealt with in a traditional manner. They need “out of the box” solutions that realise and acknowledge the strength of the multilateral system and its players. They require an approach that is different and transformative in nature, which truly operationalises the humanitarian-development nexus – a model in which PROSPECTS is built on.

In Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, we are doing exactly that. From working with the cooperative movement in Jordan to respond to the employment needs of refugees and host community members; to supporting the enhancement of productivity in Lebanon’s horticulture sector to unlock opportunities for decent job creation for the most vulnerable; and implementing a financial inclusion initiative in Iraq, to provide young women and men with access to much-needed financial services to help them set up businesses – to name but a few.

While the implementation of our activities continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, over the past year we have seen a gradual, yet cautious return to some normalcy in our operations and face-to-face activities and interventions.

This is not to say that the situation was homogeneous by any means in all three countries. Lebanon from where the ILO Regional Office for Arab States is based and from where I operate, continued to undergo compounded crises that affected the day-to-day operations of our work, such as having to endure electricity cuts, shortage of fuel, among other challenges.

Since we produced our first edition of the ILO PROSPECTS Arab States brochure, we have been able to meet most of our partners for the first time in person. We were able to organise face-to-face consultations and high-level events with our tripartite constituents, conduct field visits and meet some of the workers, women, men and youth who are being supported under the partnership, witnessing first-hand how our programme is making a difference in their lives.

The past year has been one where despite many challenges, we proved that we – as PROSPECTS partners - are truly able to think beyond our individual agencies’ mandates and produce better results together. Our work with UNICEF in Iraq on creating integrated career pathways for young people is a case in point and one in which we take a lot of pride in. The joint work with UNHCR across the three countries to ensure that refugees are provided with career guidance and employment services over and above the protection services is proving high in demand and is a true example of the move from the humanitarian to development path.

All these interventions have given us a chance to reflect, draw lessons, compile and share good practices not only amongst the three Arab States but also with other countries where PROSPECTS operates in Africa, and beyond.

Looking forward, I realise that we still have a lot more to do to enhance resilience, create decent work, and promote social cohesion amongst forcibly displaced people and host communities. But I am hopeful that within this great partnership and with the strong teams we have operating on the ground in all three countries, we will continue to witness more success stories that demonstrate that this model, which brings humanitarian and development actors together, is more needed and relevant today than ever before.

In this second edition of the ILO PROSPECTS Arab States brochure, we present some of our latest work and give space for workers, youth and partners to tell their stories on what matters most.

► PROSPECTS – JORDAN, LEBANON, IRAQ

Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities, also known as “PROSPECTS” is a four-year global partnership between the Government of the Netherlands, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank that seeks to devise approaches for inclusive job creation, education and protection in the context of forced displacement.

Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the programme operates in eight countries across the East and the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, covering Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

Together, the partners offer quality education, decent employment opportunities and protection to displaced and host communities by seeking to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus and tackle some of the most pressing and immediate needs of vulnerable groups and address the longer-term challenges and the development needs of the countries that host them.

In Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, the ILO under the PROSPECTS partnership is implementing interventions to address some of the critical decent work challenges facing both forcibly displaced persons and host communities, as part of efforts to enhance more sustainable livelihoods.





Jordan



Under the PROSPECTS Partnership in Jordan, the ILO is working to expand access and rights to decent and dignified work by supporting the improvement of working conditions for refugees and host community members, enhancing productivity at the sectoral level with a focus on agriculture; supporting workers and job seekers to gain skills and certification for better jobs; improving labour market governance; expanding social protection and promoting a smooth transition to formal employment.



Supporting refugees and host communities in Jordan: The Prospects Partnership

In Numbers (2020- present):

► SKILLS & EDUCATION



Around **3,700 youth** have received professional development and career counselling through one-on-one and small group sessions, focusing on technical and vocational training pathways to employment.




10 public schools were supported to improve career services for youth, including one school inside the Zaatari refugee camp.



Around **70 counsellors** from the Ministry of Education were trained to become trainers on two career counselling manuals for students.

- **3** Training of Trainers conducted to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education and public-school career counsellors
- **2** Training of Trainers conducted on ILO's Tool "How to Choose my Profession"



Around **280 workers** have enrolled in on-the-job training and up-skilling programmes in the agriculture sector, including  **26%** women workers.




Around **1,000 workers** have enrolled in the recognition of prior learning scheme covering **27** construction professions, with a test passing rate of




84.4% for those who sat the test so far

► EMPLOYMENT



Over **11,600 job-seekers** were placed in employment through ILO-supported Agriculture Guidance and Employment Units (**64%**) and ILO-Ministry of Labour employment service centers (**36%**)  **46% women.**



Over **5,500 work permits** were issued for agricultural workers facilitated through ILO-supported Agriculture Guidance and Employment Units  **14% women.**



Over **3,800 agricultural workers** were reached through awareness raising activities on issues related to the labour law, social protection and Occupational Safety and Health.



24 Workers' Management Committees have been set up on farms, representing around **115** workers of different nationalities and status to strengthen workers' voices and protection at work.



66 cooperatives members and cooperative service providers were trained on new tools to enhance productivity and decent work.

► PROTECTION



Over **400 children** of farm workers were supported through access to informal education.



350 children of farm workers were identified as either in or at risk of child labour and registered in a nationally coordinated case management system for referral to services.



Three local committees have been formed and trained at the district level to support the establishment of a referral mechanism.

In the Spotlight:

► Voices of PROSPECTS

Jordanian **Omar** Abu Noa'aj has struggled to find work for years due to his physical disability. An ILO employment centre helped him secure his first formal job at a garment factory, giving him a new sense of independence and purpose.

"Before I started working, I used to see people going to work in the morning and say: 'What a great feeling that must be.' Now, I know what this feeling is like."



Fatima Hussein Al Ahmad is from Syria. A farm worker and a mother, she and her husband Abdel Kahar and four young children live on a farm with 50 other farm workers in Sahba, Mafraq, in the north of Jordan. She tells the ILO about her determination to provide for her family despite of COVID-19.

"At the beginning of the outbreak, I stopped working for two months. But as a mother, I had to have an income to buy my baby daughter her milk. I would do any job just so I could secure the cost of the milk."



Sameh Obeidat, a 25-year-old Jordanian, who, through ILO PROSPECTS, found employment on a farm, shares his thoughts on the vital role youth play in society.

"The engagement of youth in society is very important because for me, they are the future and they play a key role in achieving the goals of society, in terms of change and development both on a general and personal level."



► Joint initiatives of the PROSPECTS partners



ILO and UNICEF join forces to support youth through job search activities in Jordan



Dutch delegation and partners visit PROSPECTS' activities in Jordan's Zaatari Camp



Dutch delegation and partners visit Jordanian and Syrian trainees being coached in construction occupations through Recognition of Prior Learning in Jordan

► Cooperatives and Decent Work



Jordan launches national strategy for the cooperative movement, with ILO support

The Jordan Cooperative Corporation, with the support of the International Labour Organization launched a national strategy for the cooperative movement in Jordan, which seeks to strengthen the role of cooperatives in enhancing decent work and productivity in different economic sectors in the country.



ILO supports Occupational Safety and Health across cooperatives in Jordan

A new ILO training tool made its global debut in Jordan, aiming to boost practical Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) across agricultural cooperatives, enhance their productivity, and create decent jobs for Jordanians and for Syrian refugees living and working in Jordanian host communities.



Cooperatives promote decent work in Jordan

An initiative by the ILO is supporting cooperatives to expand their role and provide career guidance and job placement services to workers in Jordan's agricultural sector.



ILO and cooperatives raise awareness, promote labour rights on farms in Jordan

The ILO and a number of agricultural cooperatives are working together to ensure that workers are well informed of their rights and responsibilities at work through awareness raising sessions held on farms.



Jordanian trainer embarks on cooperative management training initiative, supported by the ILO

Jordanian Ahlam Mahadeen took part in ILO's Trainers of Trainers programme on My.Coop and is now training cooperative members on the package, which focuses on the management of agricultural cooperatives.



Amaal Bani Awwad, National Project Coordinator at ILO Jordan

COOP Champions features ILO colleagues from around the world working on cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy enterprises. It highlights their contributions, and shares highlights of their experiences, current work, and future aspirations.

► Career Guidance for Youth



Equipping youth with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship is critical. Watch this animation video by ILO PROSPECTS, which explains how Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) contributes to a skilled workforce and decent job creation.



ILO, Madrasati and Ministry of Education celebrate the achievements of joint venture to strengthen career guidance services in Jordanian public schools

The initiative helped establish and equip career guidance centres at ten participating schools, including two schools in the Zaatari refugee camp to serve as a safe space for youth to receive individual and in-group career guidance services.

My Future Career Path

Career guidance and counselling are key in supporting youth in their transition from skills and education to decent employment. The ILO, together with the Ministries of Education and Labour, has developed a career guidance gaming app to help youth make informed decisions about future career options that are in demand in the labour market. The interactive application is based on information and content developed in a text book manual on career guidance by the ILO and the Ministries, that focus on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and practical skills training.



Gaming app encourages students to explore future career pathways in Jordan

► Small and Medium Enterprise Development



A new partnership to boost productivity and employment of small and medium enterprises in the agro-food sector

The ILO and the Jordan Chamber of Industry have partnered in an initiative to enhance the productivity and resilience of agro-food SMEs employing or serving refugees and host community members.

► Skills Development



Mobile station brings training closer to farm workers in Jordan

Workers who live and work on farms in remote areas in Jordan find it difficult to reach vocational skills and training centres. A mobile station is bringing training sessions to farm workers at their place of work and helping them apply their taught skills on the job, in various occupations, such as grafting and pruning.



ILO's Recognition of Prior Learning is supporting hundreds of Syrian and Jordanian workers to access formal employment and decent work

The RPL project is focused on making working skills among Jordanian and Syrian workers more relevant and giving people the opportunity to have their prior training and experiences recognized through a coaching series at workplaces, done by certified assessors, and a final exam run by Jordan Technical and Vocational Skills Development Commission. The worker's occupational license ensues upon passing this test.

► Social Protection



Opportunities for extending social security coverage in Jordan

A report issued by the ILO, in collaboration with the Social Security Corporation in Jordan, identifies key constraints to social security coverage in Jordan and outlines a range of policy approaches to support efforts to expand social security coverage in the country to all workers, including those in the informal economy.



Social Insurance Benefits in Jordan

In collaboration with the Social Security Corporation, the ILO is developing communication tools that can reach current and potential social security members, on their rights and entitlements.



Full report

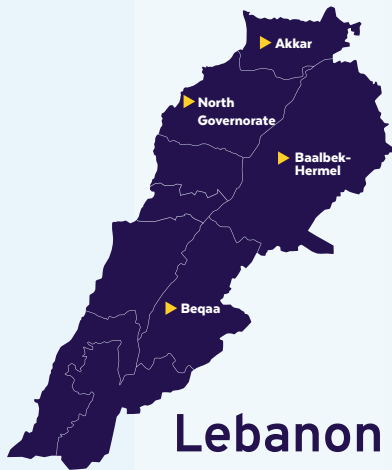
► Opportunities for extending social security coverage in Jordan

ILO Regional Office for the Arab States



Opportunities for Extending Social Security Coverage in Jordan

This video presents the main findings for the report "Opportunities for Extending Social Security Coverage in Jordan" published in 2021.




Lebanon



Under the PROSPECTS Partnership in Lebanon, ILO's focus is on enhancing the resilience of the country's labour market and creating better livelihoods for both Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees. This is being done through several activities, which focus on promoting the development of market relevant skills, enhancing employment placement services and labour market governance, promoting a more inclusive social protection schemes, and supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) as well as sectors, such as the agriculture and agri-food with potential for decent job creation.



 The PROSPECTS delegation in Lebanon: experiencing change first-hand

In Numbers (2020- present):

► SKILLS & EDUCATION



A total of **174** participants from **32** organizations have registered in the ILO's Skills Academy Lebanon which builds the capacity of partners in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector, covering seven courses.



- ▶ **205** certificates were issued across all 7 courses
- ▶ **74** participants have completed at least one course



8 public/private providers in agriculture have benefited from coaching to upgrade Work-Based Learning programmes.



4 competency-based assessment tools and **2** curricula were developed for programmes in agriculture, based on the Occupational Standards developed by the ILO and the Ministry of Agriculture.



2 agriculture technical schools were provided with training and classroom equipment to ensure proper implementation of in-class training.



103 Syrian and Lebanese women and men earned their certificates for completing a 10-week Competency-Based theoretical and on-the-job training in agricultural machinery repair and dairy livestock farming.



33 private sectors hosting the on-the-job training trainees have benefited from support kits. Dairy cow farms received veterinary medicine kits whilst agriculture machinery repair workshops received tool kits.

► EMPLOYMENT



691 young Syrian and Lebanese women and men were trained on the ILO “My First Business” entrepreneurship development programme.



58 income-generating initiatives were supported with coaching and seed funding.



8 social and solidarity initiatives are being supported financially and technically in North Lebanon and Akkar. This has benefited **24** people directly and is expected to benefit a further **302** people from the community indirectly.



20 small and medium agricultural and food processing enterprises in North Lebanon, Beqaa and Akkar have been provided with technical and financial support to strengthen their business continuity, resilience and decent job retention. **1,200 workers** (permanent and seasonal) have been retained and **56 permanent** jobs have been created.



12 horticulture farms in Akkar and the Beqaa were able to increase revenues by an average of 60-70% and improve working conditions for the **132 on-farm workers** in a pilot initiative to test modern greenhouses. In its upscaling phase, the initiative is expected to reach **over 100 farmers** with information and guidance as well as loans and subsidies to help them invest in high productivity greenhouses.



900 selected small-holder farmers have been provided with vouchers for agricultural inputs, in efforts to meet their agricultural needs, in collaboration with FAO and Ministry of Agriculture.



39 trainers from public and private business development providers have been trained in the newly developed “Improve your Agri-business” training and will now roll-out the training programme to farmers and agri-businesses.



254 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese have been supported with a range of career development and career guidance services through a Community Development Center in Akkar in collaboration with UNHCR and DRC.



Around 30 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, agriculture extension offices, agriculture technical schools and ILO implementing partners have been trained on ILO's career guidance tool.

In the Spotlight:

► Voices of PROSPECTS

Ayman Abu Shaheen is 40-year-old Syrian refugee specialized in veterinary health supervision who found sanctuary in Lebanon during his country's more-than-decade-long war. He started his own project dubbed "Ayman Center for Green Fodder" through the support of ILO's PROSPECTS and its implementing partner LEE Experience. The project consists of cultivating green barley, using hydroponics technology and was inspired by his previous employment at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in Syria.

"I faced many challenges. At the beginning, I didn't possess the financial capacities, which are currently available. Through this project, I am contributing to solving food insecurity-related problems, while ensuring fertile green lands for human development. The collaboration with supporting agencies has improved my skills in terms of business plan development techniques, covering market study, products, analysis, competitors' evaluation and customers' identification."



Ahmad Haj Hassan is a farmer who grows tomatoes and cucumbers in greenhouses. He recently took part in an ILO pilot intervention to test the impact of modern greenhouses on productivity and working conditions on selected farms in Lebanon.

"Before installing the modern greenhouses, we thought all greenhouses were the same. But after installing the new greenhouse, we can see that it is better, in terms of quality, work, and productivity."



Intissar Mohammad Amin is a Lebanese mother-of-two who took part in ILO's My First Business entrepreneurship training programme, aimed at promoting livelihoods and decent job creation in the agriculture and agro-food sectors. Intissar grows her own organic tomatoes to support her family.

"My aspiration is to have more than one greenhouse and for the level of production to be higher. As a woman, I want to prove our role in society; to prove that we can take on any role; whether in terms of farming, manufacturing or motherhood, or education and to show that we are as successful as men."



► Joint initiatives of the PROSPECTS partners



ILO supports key partners to deliver employment and career guidance in Lebanon



The PROSPECTS delegation visiting ILO & Partners activities in northern Lebanon

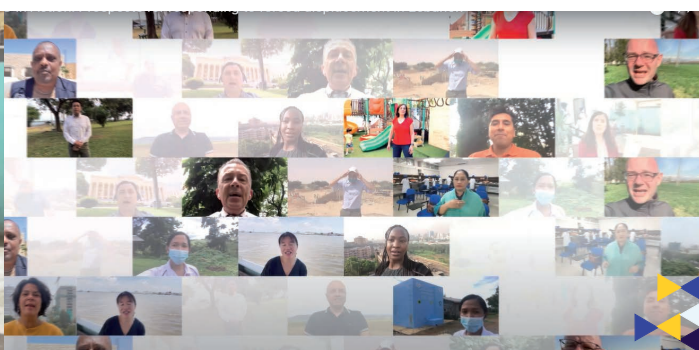


Shaza Al Jondi

ILO Lebanon



New initiative by ILO, UNHCR and DRC strengthens employment prospects for young Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese



ILO Chief Technical Advisor, Shaza Al Jondi, speaks from Lebanon about the collaboration between ILO, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council to support career guidance and job matching services for young Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese at a UNHCR-supported community development centre.

► Entrepreneurship and Business Creation

In Lebanon, PROSPECTS joined forces with ILO's Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme (EIIP), which is funded by Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), to provide financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises to ensure business continuity, resilience and job retention

Under PROSPECTS Lebanon, **20 SMEs** benefitted from technical support on business continuity management, occupational safety and health, as well as business and financial management.

Financial support from the EIIP Lebanon programme included mainly wage support to Syrian refugee and Lebanese workers employed on a permanent or seasonal basis in these SMEs operating in the agriculture and agro-food sectors.

Financial support also helped SMEs to buy equipment and inputs to ensure business continuity and job retention through the improvement of product quality, export capacity, working conditions, and obtain product certifications.

In total, wage support covered **439 workers** in **19 SMEs**, of which **60%** are permanent workers, 48% are Syrian refugees and **38%** are women.

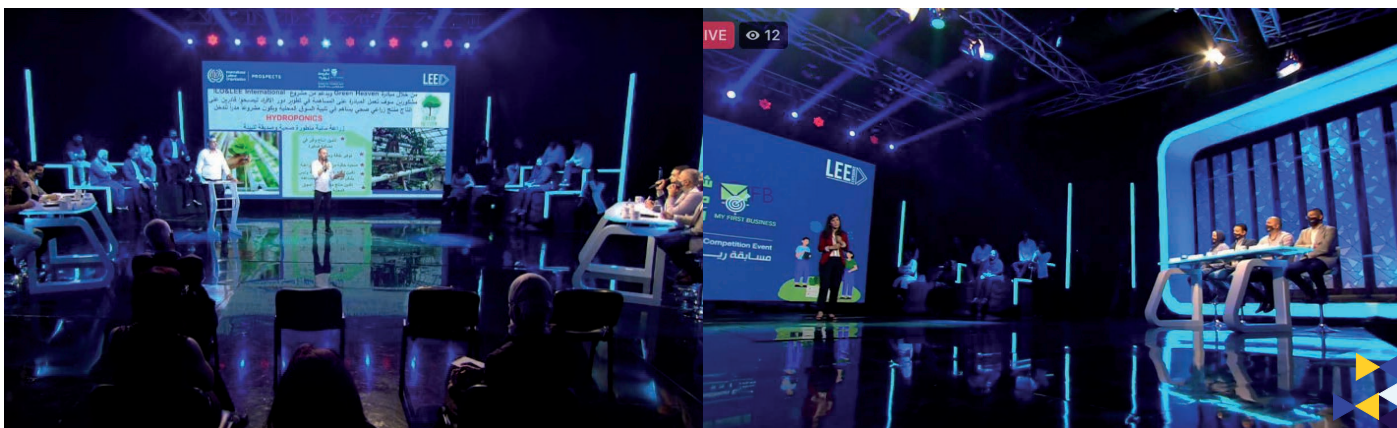


ILO promotes entrepreneurship among Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees in Lebanon

The ILO has trained 691 vulnerable women and men, the majority of whom are youth, on its My First Business entrepreneurship training programme, promoting livelihoods and decent job creation with a focus on the agriculture and agro-food sectors.

► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)

Lebanon



Lebanese and Syrian entrepreneurs showcase creativity during business plan competition

Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees stood in front of a jury of experts in Lebanon's capital Beirut, detailing their business plans for income-generating initiatives in the agriculture and agro-foods sectors. Owners of the best business ideas received seed funding and coaching that will see their business ideas come to life.

► Social and Solidarity Initiatives



Training by ILO, ACTED to promote social solidarity through joint income-generating activities in Lebanon's agriculture sector

بينين، سير الضنية، كفرحبو، وأكروم

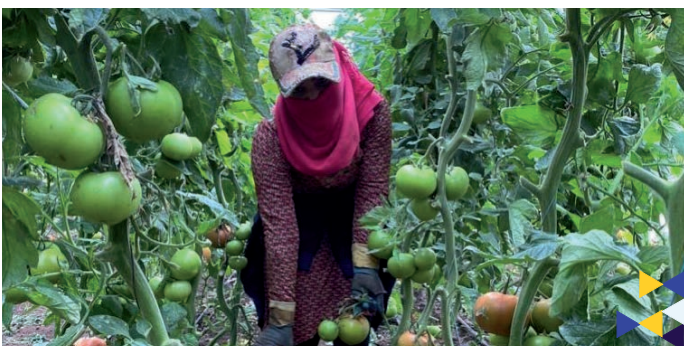


An initiative that aimed to foster social solidarity and promote decent work through the development of joint income-generating activities, launched its first training for vulnerable communities in Lebanon



Enabling social and solidarity initiatives in agriculture and agri-food sectors in North Lebanon and Akkar

► Supporting Farmers



ILO and FAO in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, join forces to support vulnerable farmers through agricultural inputs voucher scheme



ILO promotes productivity on Lebanon farms through modern greenhouse initiative

The collaboration supports small-scale farmers to meet their basic agricultural needs, contributing to safeguarding jobs and promoting decent employment for Lebanese host community members and Syrian refugees employed in the agricultural sector.

The ILO is piloting an initiative to test the impact of modern greenhouses on productivity and working conditions on selected farms in Lebanon, which have been affected by the financial and economic crisis in the country.

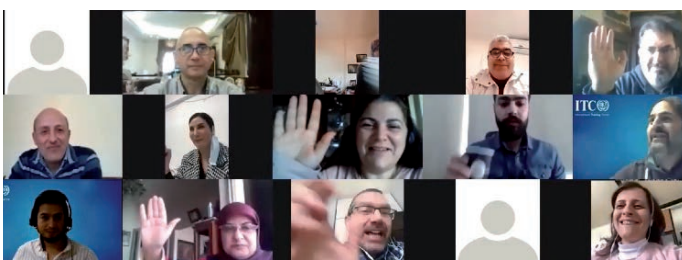
► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)

Lebanon



Helping farmers better manage their farms & small enterprises grow to increase income and create new jobs is ILO PROSPECTS' top goal in Lebanon

► Technical and Vocational Education and Training



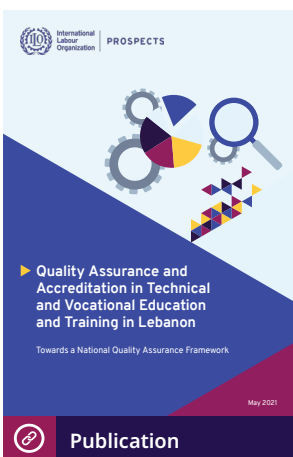
New academy builds capacity for effective and efficient skills development in Lebanon

The ILO and its International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), with contributions from PROSPECTS, UNICEF and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, has launched the Skills Academy Lebanon to build the capacity of partners in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, through a customised, online training programme and coaching services.



ILO and key stakeholders review and validate new reports on Lebanon's TVET system

The reports on the accreditation of private skills training providers and on testing and certification practices contribute to strengthening the governance of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training system in the country.



In Lebanon, host and refugee youth and adults are undertaking agriculture machinery repair and dairy livestock training

► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)

Lebanon



On-the-job trainings are taking place at the private agriculture machinery repairing and dairy livestock farming units in Akkar and Bekaa governorates in Lebanon.

► Skills and Youth

EMPOWERING PEOPLE
Our Application uses Artificial Intelligence to help people capture their skills, explore careers and apply to jobs

- Skill Profiling
- Career Orientation
- Job Application Support

STATE OF THE ART CAREER SUPPORT
Our partners use the information to better understand their clients and uncover pathways to education and employment

- Empowered Clients
- Informed Service Delivery
- Data Analytics

The ILO is working with the Skill Lab to pilot an innovative application for youth skills identification and support. The tool helps in capturing the skills of a trainee (whether formal or informal); and generates a digital CV. The initiative was piloted with three implementing partners who received training on the tool. At total of 351 individuals who attempted to fill their profiles using the tool, and 232 profiles were completed.

► Social Protection

Publication

The objective of this report is to support the documentation of the implementation of the NSSP and provide suggestions to improve the robustness of the programme, based on lessons learned from similar government-led cash-based social protection and emergency programmes in comparable countries. It focuses on the operations of the programme, and is intended to help implementers share the lessons of the NSSP experience with wider social protection stakeholders.

Publication

This study provides an overview of the vulnerability profile of the Lebanese population prior to the crisis with projections in 2020 for the estimated impact of the current economic crisis on different vulnerable groups. It also includes a detailed assessment of social protection coverage and adequacy gaps. The results of the study depict a pre-crisis social protection system suffering from large gaps in coverage and is grossly inadequate to respond to the needs of the population.

- Following a thorough consultation process, bringing together various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, a draft National Social Protection Strategy was submitted to the Inter-ministerial Committee for Social Affairs for revision and endorsement. ILO, in collaboration with UNICEF, continues to support the Government of Lebanon in the process of adopting and operationalizing the Strategy.
- Under PROSPECTS, the ILO continues to support the development of a disability-inclusive social protection system in Lebanon, from evidence generation and assessments on disability inclusion in current programmes and funds, to the development of disability targeted Social Protection schemes and policy proposals, such as the Disability Allowance. Continuous collaboration and consultations are in place with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.
- The ILO is also working on strengthening the main national social security and social assistance institutions, in particular the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Ministry of Labour (MoL) and Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), through technical assistance. Under Prospects, this has involved support in the creation of an unemployment insurance fund, including actuarial study and legal drafting. The draft legislation is now in discussion in the parliamentary committee.




Iraq



Under the PROSPECTS Partnership in Iraq, ILO's efforts focus on supporting thousands of forcibly displaced persons and host community members to access more and better livelihoods and decent job opportunities. It is doing so through an integrated approach which includes implementing labour intensive infrastructure projects; supporting market-driven skills training; promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, in addition to improving public employment services.




 ILO and PROSPECTS delegation visit projects that promote decent work in Iraq

In Numbers (2020- present):

► EMPLOYMENT



15,928 working days created for women and men from displaced and host communities through Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) interventions in water irrigation, waste management and afforestation. This is equivalent to **341 employment opportunities**.  **55% for women.**



61 trainers from 39 financial institutions, NGOs, governmental partners and the private sector have been trained as trainers on ILO's Start and Improve Your Business and Financial Education programme.



Over 1,100 women, men, youth, and forcibly displaced populations have benefited from trainings to improve their entrepreneurship and financial knowledge, through ILO's Start and Improve Your Business and Financial Education training programmes.



A total of **72 staff** from financial institutions, the Central Bank of Iraq, banks, MFIs and Iraqi Company for Banking Guarantees obtained trainings on various topics to enhance their service delivery of MSMEs for refugees, IDPs and host community members.



Around 300 loans in the value of 1.3 million USD were issued to support micro and small entrepreneurs access finance to start-develop their enterprises with the first loans issued for IDPs, refugees and host community members.



Between September 2020- February 2022

Over **8,000** job-seekers including women and Forcibly Displaced Persons have registered with the ILO-supported employment centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and SWEDO- The Swedish Development Aid Organization.



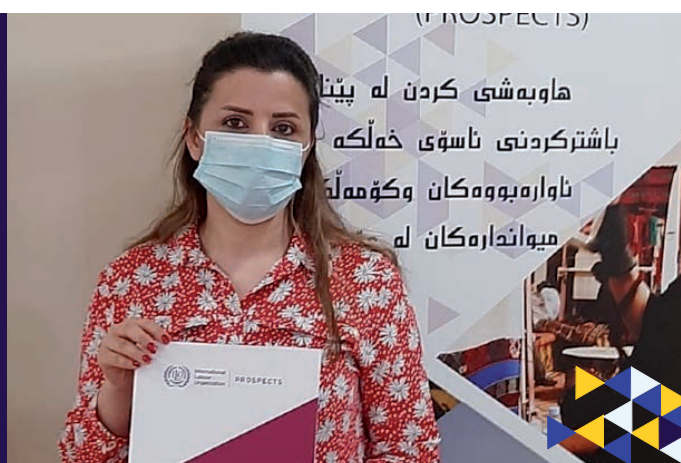
- Around **2,000** job-seekers referred and **800** job-seekers placed through the employment centres
- Around **1,300** new employers registered, and **2,000** vacancies registered

In the Spotlight:

► Voices of PROSPECTS

Sandra Garges is an Internally Displaced Person and owner of small business selling decorations for birthdays and other celebrations. She took part in ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training programme, designed to support small-scale entrepreneurs to start or grow their businesses. This is what she had to say:

"I started off by having an on-line service and running my business from home. After getting financial support from family members, I set up my business. Yet, my business requires lots of supplies and products. I have joined this three-day training to learn how to improve and develop my business. The training has been beneficial for owners of small businesses."



Abdel Qader Sinali is an Internally Displaced Person from Mosul. He found employment through ILO's EIIP interventions in water irrigation on a farm in Dohuk. He says he needs the income to support his young family but also wants to learn a new skill that will open up new employment opportunities in the future.

"I am happy working here and receiving a salary at the end of each month. I am helping my family and I am very comfortable working here. Now, I feel empowered and have gained self-confidence to work anywhere. I am happy that I have work experience now, so I can take on work in another place."




With the support of the ILO and the Kurdistan United Workers Unions, **Saleh** Ibrahim Ahmad was recently elected to represent his fellow workers at an afforestation project at the University of Dohuk, where they are planting olive trees on more than 35,000 square meters of land which has been bare for many years. In his 24 years of employment in various jobs, he has never taken on such a role before.

"This is a new experience for me and I like it. I help workers understand their rights and I help raise their awareness on issues such as those related to safety. I also listen to their challenges and try to help them solve any problems they may have at work."




► Joint initiatives of the PROSPECTS partners



 ILO and UNICEF joint initiative supports young engineers to play a key role in promoting Green Works in Iraq

The ILO and UNICEF are working together to build the capacities of selected youth to engage in Employment Intensive Investment Programme interventions aimed at improving the local environment and infrastructure.




 ILO and UNICEF collaborate to support vulnerable youth in Iraq to develop skills and transition from training to decent employment

Under this programme, some of the most vulnerable youth are taught life, digital and entrepreneurship skills that are in demand in today's employment market. They will then have access to employment services, and be referred to on-the-job training that will further boost their skills to access paid employment or self-employment.




 A delegation including PROSPECTS partners and ILO's Deputy Regional Director for Arab States paid visit to the programme's ongoing interventions in Dohuk



 Youth from refugee, internally displaced and host communities, have completed life skills training with UNICEF and are now undertaking ILO's financial education and entrepreneurship training. Some of the youth have received loans to start or expand their businesses

► Employment Intensive Interventions



 ILO employment-intensive interventions promote decent work in Iraq

In Dohuk, Iraq, the ILO and local authorities have launched employment-intensive interventions in water irrigation and waste management. The schemes support decent employment for Syrian refugees, internally displaced persons and host community members. The majority of participants are women.

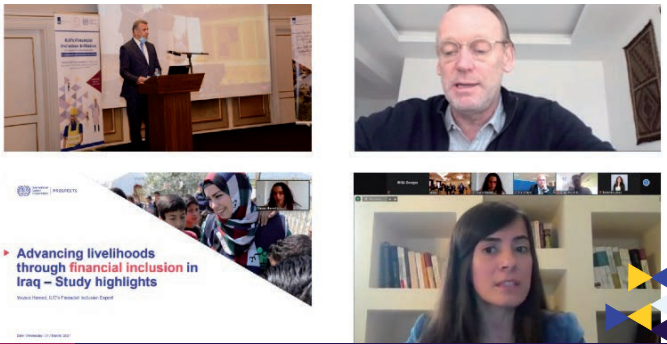
► Role of Unions in EIIP




 A new partnership boosts workers' voices and labour rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The ILO has embarked on the new partnership with the Kurdistan United Workers Unions to improve working conditions and address the needs of workers at Employment Intensive Investment Programme sites in Dohuk


► Entrepreneurship, Financial Education & Financial Inclusion



 ILO and the Central Bank of Iraq launch new financial initiative supporting youth and small and medium enterprises from host communities and displaced populations in Iraq


A financial inclusion initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Central Bank of Iraq, providing young women and men and small businesses with access to much-needed financial services that will help them start and develop their own businesses, while improving private sector capacity to address the needs of youth and MSMEs.



 The first batch of young entrepreneurs receive bank loans, in partnership with Iraqi Middle East Investment Bank

The ILO has partnered with the Central Bank of Iraq and partner banks to facilitate access to much-needed and affordable financial services for young internally displaced and host community members that will help them develop their enterprises in Dohuk and Ninewa.



 ILO trains trainers on financial education in Iraq


The training equips future trainers with knowledge in financial management topics so they can enhance the financial skills of young people and entrepreneurs, under an ILO initiative to improve livelihoods and self-employment of host communities and refugees in Iraq.



 ILO builds capacities of financial service providers to expand the scope and market of their services to forcibly displaced and host communities in Iraq

The initiative seeks to contribute to devising durable solutions for forcibly displaced and host communities in Iraq through improving their financial inclusion and opportunities for more and better employment opportunities.



 Young female entrepreneur strives to transform the medical sector in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq


Unable to pursue a degree in medical engineering, the IT graduate recently joined the ILO's Start Your Business (SYB) training programme in Iraq, aimed at giving her the knowledge and tools needed to set up her business.

► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS)


Iraq

► Employment Services



 ILO holds consultative and capacity building workshops to support employment services in Iraq




 ILO and Kurdistan Region of Iraq pledge to support formal employment for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

The events support on-going activities with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Government and of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq to enhance career guidance and job-matching services.

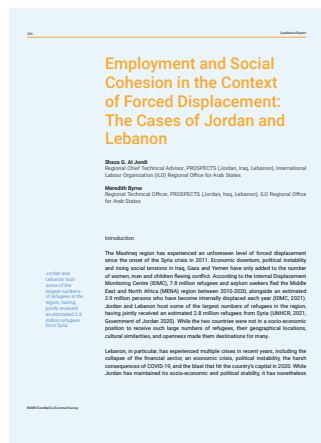
The ILO and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq sign an agreement to support job creation through the establishment and upscaling of Ministry-run employment service centres.

Publications



 Publication

Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities (PROSPECTS) - Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq



 Publication

Employment and Social Cohesion in the Context of Forced Displacement: The Cases of Jordan and Lebanon



 Publication

Fraught but Fruitful: Risks, Opportunities, and Shifting Gender Roles in Syrian Refugee Women's Pursuit of Livelihoods in Lebanon with Additional Observations from Jordan and Iraq

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