



▶ PROSPECTS in Uganda *at a glance*

▶ Forced displacement in Uganda

Uganda is currently hosting more than 1,563,604 refugees, the largest refugee population in Africa and the third largest worldwide. The refugee situation is protracted and continues to intensify.

Among the refugee community, South Sudanese make up the largest population at 61 per cent (953,630), followed by Congolese 28.9 per cent (452,287), Burundian 3.3 per cent (51,775), Somali 3.3 per cent (51,321), Rwandan 1.6 per cent (25,578), and others 1.8 per cent (29,013). Children constitute 62 per cent of Uganda's refugees (UNHCR).

The Government of Uganda provides freedom of movement, allows refugees the right to work and establish businesses, and allocates land for shelter and agricultural use in designated areas in accordance with the Refugees Act (2006). Most refugees live in settlements alongside their hosting communities in the north, south and mid-west regions. These regions are among the most underdeveloped in the country.

Host communities in Uganda that welcome refugee populations face economic, environmental and development challenges that continue to require support. This also puts significant pressure on government service delivery. Equitable attention to the needs of both communities is essential to sustain peaceful coexistence and to mitigate shocks to the delivery of public services.



▶ Nakivale Settlement, Uganda.

▶ PROSPECTS Partnership in Uganda

The [Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\)](#) is a unique four-year partnership (2019–2023), spearheaded by the Government of the Netherlands, that brings together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank (WB). The Partnership aims to facilitate transitioning from humanitarian to development-centred assistance, which can address long-term challenges and needs of the host and refugee communities and accelerate sustainable solutions to build a more inclusive, cohesive and productive society.

The Partnership focuses on four pillars:

1



Education and training
Improving access to education and training

2



Decent work
Supporting the creation of decent employment and livelihoods opportunities

3



Protection and inclusion
Strengthening protection for refugees and communities hosting them

4





New ways of working
Developing new ways of working to respond to forced displacement

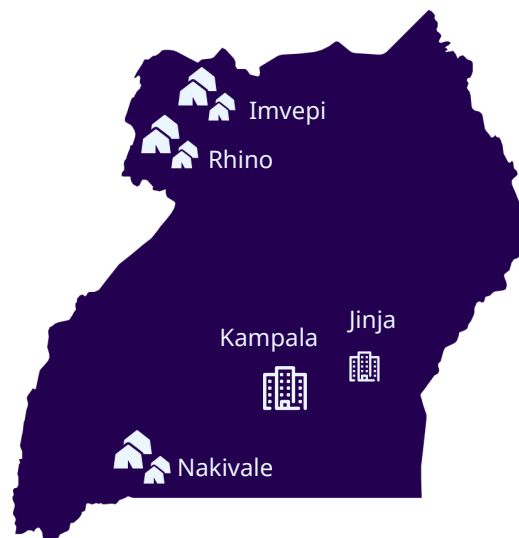
Within this Partnership, the ILO plays a key role in the promotion of decent work and focuses on strengthening local economic development and improving employability by equipping refugees and host communities with better and more relevant skills to enter local labour markets and to access enterprise development opportunities.

In Uganda, the ILO works closely with the government and employers' and workers' organizations to strengthen the policy, legislative and institutional environments for work-related protection and inclusion of refugee and host communities. These interventions are underpinned by efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming and arrangements for persons with disabilities. While addressing specific vulnerabilities, the ILO also pays close attention to fostering social cohesion between host communities and refugees by facilitating empowerment and enhancing self-reliance.

▶ Target areas

The PROSPECTS partnership in Uganda is targeting three settlements in four districts representing different socio-economic contexts:

-  **Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro** is a 60-year-old refugee-hosting district with the most diverse refugee population, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Ethiopia.
-  **Rhino Camp settlement in Terego and Madi-Okollo** hosts refugees mainly from South Sudan, DRC and Sudan.
-  **Imvepi settlement in Terego** is one of the most recent refugee settlements and is home to South Sudanese asylum seekers.



▶ Key results



Education and learning

The ILO aims to improve the employability of host and refugee community members in Uganda by enhancing access and delivery of skills development systems and work-based learning schemes and by supporting school-to-work transition and through recognition of prior learning.

Activities

- Enhance the vocational training system to offer demand-driven vocational skills
- Develop and pilot apprenticeship programmes to support the transition from training to work
- Strengthen systems for recognition of prior learning and skills

Progress

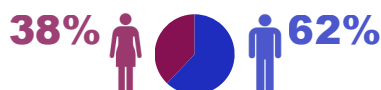


For the first time, an apprenticeship curriculum has been developed for four occupations of the hotel sector. The curriculum was drafted with technical support from the ILO and in cooperation with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Uganda Hotel Owners' Association (UHOA), Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) and the National Organization of Trade Unions (NOTU). It will standardize future apprenticeship programmes in the hotel sector.



A total of 116 refugee and host community members have been placed as apprentices in 40 member hotels of the UHOA for on-the-job training rolled out in cooperation with the MGLSD.

79 refugees
37 host community members



5 persons with disabilities 



Six vocational training providers have been supported to integrate the ILO's Guide on [Promoting Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence in Fragile Contexts through TVET](#) in their training programmes. This guide aims to assist TVET practitioners to strengthen the role of skills development policies and programmes in peacebuilding efforts through inclusive learning methodologies and the training of relevant core skills.



Awareness on the accreditation of academic and occupational qualifications of refugees is being generated through community engagement, radio and TV channels in association with the National Council for Higher Education.



Decent work

The ILO aims to stimulate decent work prospects for refugees and host community members in Uganda by improving employability through demand-driven skills development and working with local labour market actors to increase job and business opportunities in value chains identified for their growth potential.

Activities

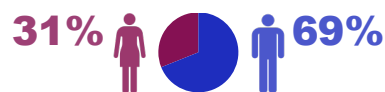
- Improving rural employment services and quality of job matching
- Engaging local government, social partners and the private sector on protection and the promotion of labour rights, decent work, formalization of work and enterprises and safe working conditions
- Improving business and employment opportunities in sesame and casava value chains by supporting their access to business development services and grants
- Engaging financial service providers to improve access to finance and financial services
- Strengthening the capacity of cooperatives to adapt their services to the needs and expectations of refugees

Progress



The Urban Cash for Work Programme of the ILO and MGLSD, being implemented together with Arua City, is supporting vulnerable refugee and host communities to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through labour-intensive projects. The programme has reached:

231 refugees
4,200 host community members



The ILO is supporting digitalization of the Employment Services Unit of MGLSD and enhancing coordination between government and private sector employers through an online job matching service. The ILO will also undertake training and capacity building for labour officers at the Ministry and in the target district local governments.



Value-chain development support to refugee and host community farmers engaged in cassava and sesame cultivation resulted in improved business practices and strengthened linkages to agricultural markets deriving better crop value. 1,631 refugee and host community farmers mobilized and supported to access the new high-yielding sesame seed variety named E107 on farms, resulting in better value for their produce.

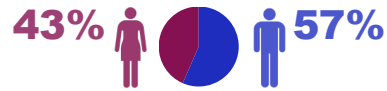
555 refugees
1,076 host community members





To strengthen the sesame value chain, four organizations were supported with grants. They have purchased 345 tons of sesame worth US\$ 423,639 from 1,150 refugee and host community farmers from the districts of Madi-Okollo and Terego.

805 refugees
345 host community members



The construction of six multipurpose community centres is underway to provide mental health and psycho-social support services to host and refugee communities. The centres will link communities with information on accessing training and employment opportunities.



Five financial institutions trained on [Making Finance Work for Refugees and Host Communities](#) to expand their services to refugees and support financial inclusion.



390 refugees and host community members received business development services through the ILO's [Start and Improve Your Business](#) (SIYB) programme. 141 were also trained as trainers under the ILO's [Gender and Entrepreneurship Together](#) (GET Ahead) programme and 39 under the SIYB, who will now further roll out training for other beneficiaries.

390 beneficiaries of SIYB services

10 persons with disabilities



141 GET Ahead trainers
23 refugees
157 host community members

39 SIYB trainers certified
5 refugees
34 host community members

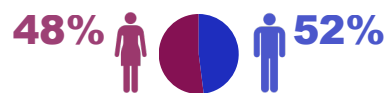


The ILO and the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) are holding roundtables with private sector representatives to promote investment opportunities in existing refugee-hosting districts. To recognize employers providing employment opportunities to refugees, the FUE has introduced a new category in their annual Employer of the Year Awards from year 2021/22.



A grant scheme for small businesses launched in cooperation with the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (FSME) has helped 200 micro-enterprises owned by refugees and host community members to recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

166 refugees
34 host community members



Highlight

The ILO implemented recovery grants for refugee and host community-owned micro-businesses

200 micro and small enterprises heavily affected by COVID-19 benefited from the small business grants scheme. With support from the FSME, those businesses most affected in Arua, Madi-Okollo and Isingiro districts were identified and provided with a cash grant of US\$200 each. Of the 2,000 members of FSME, 67% reported severe distress due to the impact of COVID-19.

These 200 businesses are also being sensitized to the benefits of formalization (becoming registered businesses) and are being trained to use digital skills for improving their operations. [Read more here >](#)





Protection and inclusion

The ILO focuses on ensuring the inclusion of refugee and host communities in social protection. It supports the development and implementation of inclusive policies and legislation and building institutional capacity to improve working conditions for all, through the promotion of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and International Labour Standards.

Activities

- Enhance access to social protection services
- Support inclusive jobs and livelihoods planning

Progress



As one of the members of the government's Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) for Refugees and Host Communities secretariat, the ILO is providing technical assistance in developing and operationalizing the plan. In turn, the JLIRP will support improved social, economic and financial inclusion of refugee and host communities.



Through NOTU, awareness on the protection of workers' rights will be enhanced using radio broadcasts and field training. More than 144 members, including leaders of refugee and host community farmers' groups engaged in sesame and casava production, representatives from local SMEs in the cassava and sesame value chains, and PROSPECTS implementation partners will be trained through this activity.

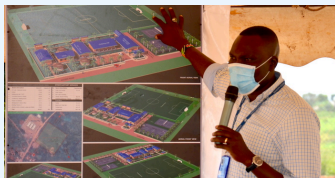


Field missions to refugee-hosting districts carried out with the participation of the ILO tripartite constituents – representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations – have helped them to familiarize with the context and realities of forced displacement and to explore opportunities to engage directly with refugees and host communities.



New ways of working

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](#).



▶ Community centres to bring new skills and employment opportunities for refugee and host communities in Uganda.



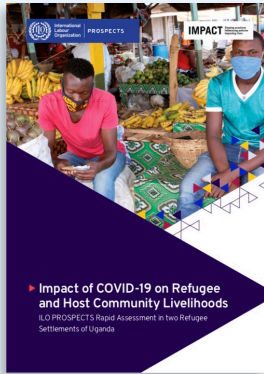
▶ Dutch envoy inspired by refugees in Nakivale Settlement.

▶ Sustainability

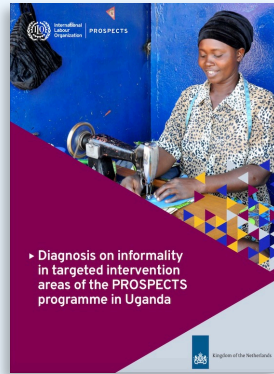
The ILO's approach to ensure the sustainability of the PROSPECTS programme is embedded in the principle of complementarity of government structures and initiatives in Uganda. It works closely with the MGLSD, other government institutions, employers' and workers' organizations by providing technical advice and support in the development and implementation of the JLIRP, which aims to enhance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

This ensures that existing systems and institutions are strengthened and supported in identifying the challenges and gaps that may hinder access to decent work, livelihoods and training, and takes appropriate steps to mitigate these.

► Publications



- Impact of COVID-19 on refugee and host community livelihoods - ILO PROSPECTS rapid assessment in two refugee settlements of Uganda



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



- Paving the way for better jobs and improving livelihoods for refugees and host communities in Arua, Uganda

► Videos



The ILO's support to SMEs in sesame and cassava value chain in Uganda >



PROSPECTS Uganda: Visit of Karin Boven, Ambassador of the Netherlands >

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