



▶ ILO PROSPECTS in Ethiopia *at a glance*

▶ Forced displacement in Ethiopia

Ethiopia maintains an open-door policy for refugees seeking protection within its territory and has a long-standing history of hosting them.

According to the latest data, Ethiopia is host to 837,533 refugees. The majority are from South Sudan (47 per cent), while the remainder originate from Somalia (27 per cent), Eritrea (19 per cent), Sudan (6 per cent), Yemen (0.3 per cent) and elsewhere (1.2 per cent) (UNHCR, 2022). Children, women, persons with disabilities (PWD) and the elderly constitute around 80 per cent of the overall refugee population.

As a result of local conflicts, inter-communal violence, natural disasters and impacts of climate change, there are also 4,239,636 internally displaced people (IDP) in Ethiopia, which is an emerging challenge in addition to the refugee response (IOM, 2021).

In efforts to alleviate the additional pressure on host communities and to reinforce inclusion, the government is beginning to roll out the Refugee Proclamation revised in 2019. The new Act, described as one of Africa’s most progressive refugee laws, allows refugees to obtain work permits, access primary education and financial services, such as banking.







▶ Woman in Kebribeyah camp, Somali Regional State. ©ILO/Marina Humblot

▶ PROSPECTS Partnership in Ethiopia

The [Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities \(PROSPECTS\) Partnership](#) 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 support the transition from humanitarian to development-centred assistance, which can address long-term challenges and the combined needs of the host and refugee communities and accelerate sustainable solutions to build more inclusive, cohesive and productive societies.

The Partnership focuses on four pillars of intervention:

<p>1 </p> <p>Education and training Improving access to education and training</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Decent work Supporting the creation of decent employment and livelihoods opportunities</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>Protection and inclusion Strengthening protection for refugees and communities hosting them, including social health protection</p>	<p>4 </p> <p>New ways of working Developing new ways of working between humanitarian and development actors to respond to forced displacement scenarios</p>
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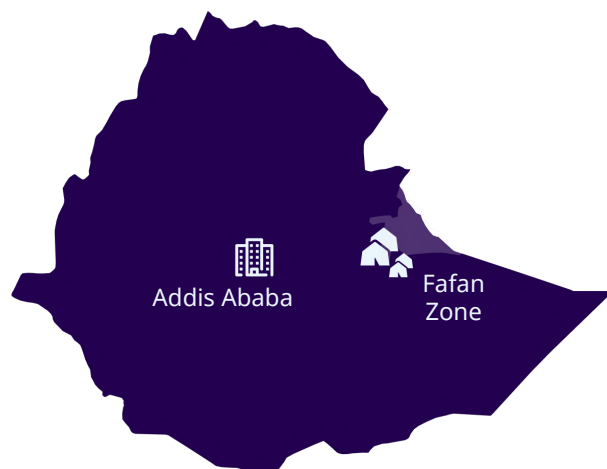
Within this partnership, the ILO in Ethiopia works closely with its tripartite constituents, the government and employers’ and workers’ organizations. It plays a key role in the promotion of decent work and strengthening local economic development.

It also focuses on improving the employability of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and host communities by equipping them with better and more relevant skills aligned with local labour market needs and on accessing enterprise development opportunities.

▶ Target areas

The PROSPECTS Partnership in Ethiopia is targeting areas impacted by displacement in the Fafan Zone of the Somali Regional State (SRS), as well as urban refugees in Addis Ababa.

Fafan, with 42,926 persons of concern in three refugee camps (Aw-Barre, Sheder and Kebribeyah), is the second largest zone to host refugees from Somalia (UNHCR, 2022).



▶ Key results



Education and learning

The ILO aims to enhance the quality and relevance of training, ensuring more effective school-to-work transition for refugee and host communities by supporting the introduction of demand-driven vocational and transitional skills.

Activities

- Enhance the vocational training system to offer market-relevant vocational skills.
- Develop and pilot work-based learning programmes to support the transition from training to work.

Progress



Based on a review of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems in the Somali and Tigray Regional States and focusing on the capacity gaps of labour market institutions, including vulnerable groups, the ILO supported the below achievements.

- Equipping a training hall of the Jigjiga Polytechnic College (JPTC), the only public TVET centre in the Fafan Zone, with learning materials (IT equipment, furniture and personal protective equipment) to enhance the centre's training capacity.
- Providing training to staff of 14 vocational training institutions on the "Role of skills development policies and programmes in peace-building efforts", using inclusive learning methodologies and core skills development approaches. The training piloted the ILO's Guide on [Promoting Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence in Fragile Contexts through TVET](#).



- Carrying out a rapid assessment to design a comprehensive programme to increase access to training and livelihoods for PWDs from refugee, IDP and host communities in Kebribeyah and Qoloji camp areas of Somali Regional State. The assessment also identified informal and alternative training opportunities for PWDs, including community-based training through which students are attached to a craftsman for on-the-job training.
- Training experts from four labour market institutions – TVET Bureau, Certificate of Competence Agency, Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs, and the JPTC – on skills needs anticipation and matching.



In partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), support is being provided for the establishment of the first-ever vocational centre for refugees and the host community in Kebribeyah district, which will serve as a satellite to the JPTC. The centre, expected to be operational by mid-2022, will accommodate 200 young women and men to acquire market-relevant skills in construction, metal fabrication and aluminum works, sanitary installation, electrical installation, irrigation technology, cobblestone laying and entrepreneurship.

200 Youth trained on



Construction



Metal and aluminium works



Sanitary installations



Electrical installations



Irrigation



Cobblestone



Entrepreneurship

Highlight

New centre to provide integrated skills development services to the youth of Kebribeyah, Somali Regional State

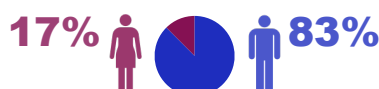
The centre will bring skills development facilities closer to the local population and will also extend learning opportunities to forcibly displaced persons and vulnerable groups.

[Read more here >](#)



To strengthen the capacities of TVET trainers and partnerships between the private sector and TVET institutions, the ILO, with the Ethiopian Employers' Federation and its member companies, put in place a pilot workplace learning initiative for TVET trainers to gain relevant work experience and upgrade their practical skills in construction, aluminum manufacturing and installment sectors, and which in turn benefit their trainees.

8 trainers trained





Decent work

The ILO aims to stimulate the creation of decent work opportunities for refugees and host communities by supporting local labour markets and increasing opportunities for jobs and businesses in identified value chains in the Somali Regional State.

Activities

- Support school-to-work transition through work-based learning, as well as labour market intermediation, via the establishment of an Employment Services Facilitation (ESF) centre.
- Strengthen labour market governance by generating awareness of international and national labour standards among government and non-government partners.
- Improve the institutional and operational capacity of local government and private construction contractors to address unemployment and underemployment through the ILO's Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) methodology.
- Increase the capacities of local government and civil society organizations to stimulate enterprise development by improving working conditions and enhancing access to business development, financial services and cooperatives.

Progress



To support the host and refugee communities, an ESF centre is being developed in the Somali Regional State. The ILO is engaged in sensitization and capacity building of ESF staff and stakeholders on job intermediation, career counseling and provision of labour market information.



To inform and engage ILO constituents on issues related to forced displacement, visits to refugee-hosting areas in Jigjiga were arranged involving representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Skills and employers' and workers' organizations. In addition, government and non-government representatives involved in programme activities were sensitized on international labour standards and [ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience](#). Through programme supported technical discussions, the ILO constituents explored ways to extend social health protection to FDPs. They examined ways to promote fundamental principles and rights at work, and social dialogue to support these communities.

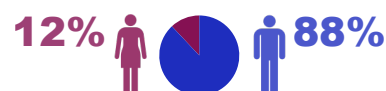


Training programmes on EIIP were organized for public and private contractors from Jigjiga that are engaged in road rehabilitation and upgrade of water and sanitation facilities. The ILO, the Somali Rural Roads and Transport Bureau and the municipalities of Jigjiga and Kebribeyah jointly launched a pilot EIIP programme with trained contractors to carry out routine road maintenance, offering employment opportunities for refugees, IDPs and host communities.

97 contractors trained on EIIP

4,111 workdays created

1,014 refugees **238** IDPs



2,859 host community members



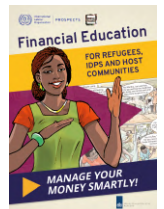
A partnership with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF) and regional cooperative and livestock development bureaus was formed to develop a dairy value chain in Fafan Zone, Somali Regional State. The programme will train 600 women and youth in animal husbandry; 200 youth in commercial fodder production and processing; 50 youth in the fabrication of metal cans used as storage containers to improve milk preservation; and will link six milk production cooperatives to private sector markets and processors operating in the Kebribeyah area.



A cadre of 54 business development service (BDS) providers was trained and certified on the ILO's enterprise development tools, including [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#), [Gender and Entrepreneurship Together \(GET Ahead\)](#) and cooperative development ([Start.COOP](#) and [Think.COOP](#)). They further trained 448 refugee and host community entrepreneurs on BDS tools in the Somali Regional State and Addis Ababa. These interventions are expected to boost new economic activities and improve livelihood and income opportunities for both host and refugee communities.



The trainers capacitated on the [ILO financial education toolkit](#) further educated 187 enterprise owners and leaders and members of cooperatives on making informed choices about how to use and manage their money.



Protection and inclusion

The ILO focuses on ensuring the inclusion of refugees 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.

Activities

- Provide technical assistance and strengthen capacities of government to ensure inclusion of refugees in national social health protection systems.

Progress



A joint ILO and UNHCR study is underway, in collaboration with the Addis Ababa Health Insurance Agency, the Urban Jobs Creation Agency and workers' and employers' organizations to identify opportunities to extend social health protection to refugees and host communities.

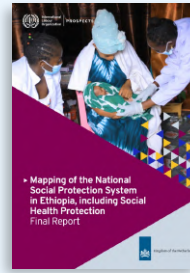
► Sustainability

The drive to ensure sustainability of outcomes underpins all efforts throughout the PROSPECTS partnership in Ethiopia. A key focus for the ILO is on mobilizing ownership at all levels, including through developing the capacities of national and local stakeholders – a central element of the strategy to strengthen the enabling environment through technical advice and support to the operationalization of the 2019 Refugee Proclamation.

► Publications



► Integrated enterprise, cooperative and financial services assessment on refugees and host communities around Jigjiga, Somali Region, and Shire, Tigray Region, Ethiopia



► Mapping of the national social protection system in Ethiopia, including social health protection



► TVET system assessment in Somali and Tigray regional states, Ethiopia, with a focus on inclusiveness



► Integrated labour market assessment in Jigjiga and Kebribeyah – A marketplace in between resilience and integration



► Assessment of employment-intensive investment strategies in refugee-hosting communities in Ethiopia

► Videos



Rapid assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on displacement-affected labour markets in Somali region >



Rapid assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on displacement-affected labour markets in the Tigray region >



ILO-ZOA SIYB training support to young entrepreneurs from refugee and host communities >

► Contacts

Jean-Yves Barba
Chief Technical Advisor

✉ barba@ilo.org
🐦 @jybarba14

Eirmyas Kaase
Enterprise Development and Social Protection

✉ kaase@ilo.org
🐦 @Eirmyas3

Luladay Aragaw
Skills and Employability

✉ aragaw@ilo.org
🐦 @JodatLula

Chekole Moges Habtu
Employment Intensive Investment Approaches

✉ habtu@ilo.org
🐦 @chekole_moges

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ilo.org/prospects



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