



# ▶ ILO PROSPECTS in Sudan *at a glance*

## ▶ Forced displacement in Sudan

In December 2018, mass unrest forced the 30-year-old government of President Omar al-Bashir in Sudan to step down. A transitional government was put in place in 2019, which initiated socio-economic reforms leading to development and improving Sudan’s relationships with the international community.

However, this progressive run was short-lived, as in October 2021, a military coup destabilized the political situation again. Today, plagued by civil unrest and internal conflicts, Sudan’s political future remains uncertain, and the country continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis with an internally displaced population of 3.03 million (UNHCR, 2022).

In addition, Sudan hosts 1.1 million refugees – the majority from neighbouring South Sudan (814,127), followed by Eritrea (132,588) and Syria (93,480). Ethiopian refugees (73,880) fleeing the Tigray conflict arrive in Kassala and Gedaref states (UNHCR, 2022). Sudan is also a transit country for many migrants from the Horn of Africa en route to Europe.

The recurrence of intercommunal clashes across Sudan calls for prompt international support in the promotion of peaceful co-existence among the different ethnic communities.




▶ Women collect water in El Sereif, North Darfur. © UNAMID/Farran

## ▶ PROSPECTS Partnership in Sudan

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, bringing together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). 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><b>1</b></p>  <p><b>Education and training</b> Improving access to education and learning opportunities</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p><b>Decent work</b> Strengthening employment and livelihoods</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>Protection and inclusion</b> Expanding protection for refugees and communities hosting them</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>New ways of working</b> Developing new ways of working to respond to forced displacement in the country</p>
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In Sudan, the interventions accelerate the establishment of sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced persons (FDPs), as well as the communities that host them. Through the ILO’s upstream activities, local governance and monitoring functions are being enhanced by capacitating Local Economic Development Committees (LEDCs).

Downstream interventions are directed at the revitalization of rural and agricultural skills training service delivery, the establishment of agro-cooperatives, the promotion of financial inclusion and entrepreneurship opportunities and the rehabilitation of healthcare facilities and water access points through employment-intensive works for FDPs and host communities.

The country faces numerous challenges at national and community levels. The political instability at national and state levels, the competition between pastoralist and small plot farming communities over land allocations and the hostility between refugee populations in and around the host communities are among the most critical. In this context, the mainstreaming of good practices for social cohesion into technical assistance streams is a vital element of the ILO's programming under PROSPECTS.

## ▶ Target areas

The PROSPECTS Partnership operates in East Darfur and West Kordofan states. Target areas are remote localities, largely cut off during the rainy season and increasingly impacted by social friction and instability.

East Darfur: Assalaya locality, Adeela

West Kordofan: Keilak and Al-Meiram localities, Ghubaysh and Babanusa



## ▶ Key results



### Education and learning

**The ILO supports the strengthening of skills training programmes aimed at expanding rural and agricultural livelihoods through the capacity development of skills trainers and the provision of training infrastructure. It promotes community skills training and investments in technology for improving access to skills development. The ILO works closely with UNICEF in the execution of activities under this pillar.**

#### Activities

- Building capacity of education and training personnel.
- Improving instructional and facility infrastructure in schools and training centres.
- Building organizational skills of government counterparts to monitor and report on programming.
- Providing locally appropriate skills training for rural and agriculturally dependent livelihoods.
- Partnering with trades workshops on technology and training investments.

#### Progress



Following the technical and capacity assessment of 11 training centres, Ed Daein Technical Secondary School in East Darfur was selected for improved training delivery support. This centre has been provided with training equipment and instructional aides and will be capacitated to develop a market-oriented business plan to improve the financial sustainability of the centre.



Surveys of 39 mechanics, welding and woodworking workshop operators were conducted to strengthen activities from their skills training curricula, training equipment packages and beneficiary toolkit components.



The ILO and UNICEF identified 11 potential schools for infrastructure rehabilitation. In the second half of 2022, rehabilitation work will be undertaken in four schools using the ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) approach.



Personnel from the Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reform benefited from a 30-week communications training with the British Council. The initiative will improve the organizational capacity of the ILO's ministerial counterparts in terms of managerial competencies, communications protocols, monitoring and reporting.

**23** personnel trained



## Decent work

The ILO aims to increase the number of forcibly displaced and host community members with enhanced and sustainable rural and/or agricultural livelihoods. While reducing decent work deficits in its target locations, it aims to maximize employment and self-employment opportunities for women and young people, including persons with disabilities (PWDs).

### Activities

- Capacitating local institutions to better organize and support the transition of rural households into formalized economic activities.
- Promoting value chain development and public and private investment through EIIP.
- Expanding access to financial literacy and entrepreneurship development services.

## Progress



LEDCs have been established in Assalaya, East Darfur, and in Keilak and Al-Meiram localities in West Kordofan. With the ILO's technical assistance, the committees have produced action plans and placed requests for resources with the local administration to conduct their operations. These committees will form a critical feedback mechanism to guide and track progress made by the Partnership to coordinate programming in PROSPECTS targeted localities.



The ILO, together with its implementing partner, Hope and Friendship for Development Organization (HOPE), is establishing agro-cooperatives to improve income flows and food security for refugee and host community members. Twenty-one trainers capacitated through the ILO's [Think.COOP](#) and [Start.COOP](#) training programmes are now facilitating the formation of agro-cooperatives, providing them with improved production inputs and assisting the expansion of production capacity. They are promoting contract farming agreements, capital and technology transfers and initiatives to reduce post-harvest losses. The ILO aims to strengthen the groundnut value chain in East Darfur and West Kordofan states by organizing more than 1,000 small plot farmers into a large agro-cooperative.

**21** trainers trained





The ILO initiated the rehabilitation of eight water access sites (four in East Darfur and four in West Kordofan) and two healthcare facilities (one in East Darfur and one in West Kordofan) through the EIIP approach. Local communities are supported in the planning, management and monitoring of work sites. For refugee and host community members, the EIIP activities support the development of necessary skills and provide access to emerging employment opportunities in the local construction trades. Through the EIIP approach, the ILO supported the creation of:



Engaging the 13 trainers trained in [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#) and 20 in [financial education](#), the ILO and implementation partner [LEEN](#) are encouraging entrepreneurship and demand for financial services among refugee and host communities. Improved access to financial services can play an important role in sustaining the gains of the ILO’s integrated approach to rural livelihoods development.



**13** SIYB trainers trained

**33%**



**67%**



**20** financial education trainers trained

**25%**



**75%**

### Highlight

#### Using ILO’s Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training to promote entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship and financial education training activities have the potential to generate more and better job opportunities, promote new technology, introduce new products to the market, enhance economic growth and promote socio-economic development for both forcibly displaced and host community households. The ILO has committed to building up a cadre of trainers working on SIYB and rural entrepreneurship initiatives in Sudan.



[Read more >](#)



The ILO has initiated discussions with micro-finance institutions (MFI) to identify the resources, incentives and technical assistance required to develop financial products and services that are suitable for refugee and host communities. The ILO’s inclusive market systems assessments provided better articulation of the risks for MFIs in expanding their markets in the areas and supported the shaping of their work plans and risk mitigation strategies.



The ILO conducted a [legal baseline assessment reviewing the national policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks and practice](#) structuring the access of FDPs to employment, self-employment and rights at work. The findings from this assessment corrected the programme’s implementation and strengthened future activity design.



## Protection and inclusion

The ILO focuses on ensuring the inclusion of refugee and host communities in national social health protection systems by reviewing the gaps in the implementation and quality of services. Through research, it aims to advise the government on improving coverage of refugee and host communities to health services.

### Activities

- Identifying avenues to expand social protection, including social health protection, to workers in the informal economy, including FDPs and migrants.
- Identifying concrete plans to improve coverage rates of insurance, including for forcibly displaced and rural populations, through discussions with stakeholders.

### Progress



The ILO PROSPECTS Sudan team works in close collaboration with an ILO/European Union project to strengthen the capacity of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). By conducting an institutional capacity assessment, gathering beneficiaries' views on the accessibility and quality of health services and by conducting an actuarial study of the organization's portfolio, the ILO aims to support the NHIF in achieving its goal of improving coverage rates of refugee and host community households.



A study has been conducted on possible avenues to expand social protection to workers in the informal economy, collecting geospatial data of available social protection services in eight southern states of Sudan.



## 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](#).**



In March 2020, the ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR conducted joint field visits to West Kordofan and East Darfur to assess opportunities for local economic development. [Read more](#)



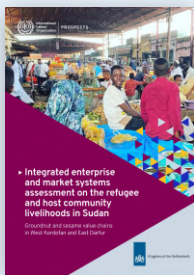
The ILO and UNHCR have jointly undertaken engineering assessments to identify boreholes, hafirs (artificial water catchments) and other water access points to better map, link, select and pool resources. The organizations have collaborated to align rehabilitation works and to improve services at the Al Nimir Healthcare Centre in Assalaya locality, East Darfur. The rehabilitation work includes expansion of the existing healthcare centre, rehabilitation of the laboratory building and construction of an isolation ward. [Read more](#)

## ► Sustainability

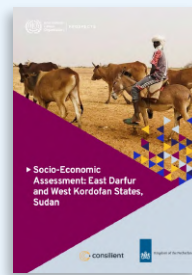
Programme operational areas are remote and largely dislocated from state capital service providers. Even for large humanitarian organizations, the ability to be operationally present is a challenge.

In this context, the ILO works with federal, state and government counterparts to identify LEDC members, including officials, ministerial counterparts and stakeholders. The ILO and its partner agencies in PROSPECTS will benefit from LEDCs which can ensure strong community ownership of programme interventions and a fairer representation of women, youth and other marginalized groups in planned activities. [Read more](#)

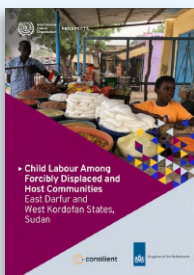
## ► Publications



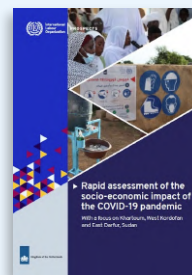
- Integrated enterprise and market systems assessment on the refugee and host community livelihoods in Sudan >



- Socio-Economic Assessments East Darfur and West Kordofan States, Sudan >



- Addressing child labour among forcibly displaced and host communities in East Darfur and West Kordofan States, Sudan >



- Rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on Khartoum, West Kordofan and East Darfur, Sudan >

## ► Video



- Interviews with members of the Local Economic Development Committees (LEDCs) >

## ► Contacts

**Sean Paterson**  
PROSPECTS Programme Manager

✉ patersond@ilo.org  
🐦 @DSeanPaterson

**Helen Kirsch**  
PROSPECTS Opportunity Fund Manager

✉ kirsch@ilo.org  
🐦 @HelenKirsch3

**Ahmed Atia**  
National EIIP Officer

✉ ahmedkhalfallah@ilo.org

**Fatima Elsanoussi Sirelkhathim**  
National Officer for Enterprise

✉ Sirelkhathim@ilo.org

**Khatir Nahar**  
National EIIP Officer

✉ nahar@ilo.org

**Sarra Adil Mohamed**  
Communications Officer

✉ mohamedelamin@ilo.org

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