



▶ ILO PROSPECTS in Kenya *at a glance*

▶ Forced displacement in Kenya

Kenya is currently hosting 568,325 refugees and asylum seekers, with the majority (84 per cent) living in the two refugee camps in Dadaab, Garissa County, and the Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement area in Turkana County. The largest refugee population is from Somalia (56 per cent), and the remainder originate from South Sudan (30 per cent), the Democratic Republic of Congo (7 per cent), Ethiopia (4 per cent), with other nationalities representing 3 per cent (UNHCR).

The refugee camps and settlements in Kenya are situated in relatively underdeveloped and underserved counties, characterized by food insecurity, limited access to basic social services and economic infrastructure, and limited livelihood opportunities. The two host counties are largely arid, and the inhabitants, the majority of whom are engaged in livestock keeping, are regularly affected by recurrent droughts. Both refugee and host communities struggle to find a sustainable route out of poverty.

While the government has maintained an open-door policy regarding the asylum of new arrivals, including from non-neighbouring countries, the encampment policy remains in effect with all asylum seekers and refugees required to live within the designated camps.



▶ Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya.
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▶ PROSPECTS Partnership in Kenya

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, bringing 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:

1



Education and training
Improving access to education and learning opportunities

2



Decent work
Strengthening employment and livelihoods

3



Protection and inclusion
Expanding protection for refugees and communities hosting them

4



New ways of working
Developing new ways of working to respond to forced displacement in the country

Within this Partnership, the ILO plays a key role in the promotion of decent work. It 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 Kenya, the PROSPECTS Partnership further builds on developing long-term development solutions with support from national and local government and by facilitating multi-agency cooperation.

It contributes to the realization of the government's commitments to promote greater self-reliance for refugees and to expand socio-economic opportunities for host communities, as set out in the Nairobi Action Plan, the Global Compact for Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. It is also designed to support the government's pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

▶ Target areas

The PROSPECTS Partnership targets two refugee-hosting counties:

Turkana County

Turkana is the largest county in Kenya by area and accommodates Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement, which host 233,726 refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Ethiopia and Uganda (UNHCR).

Garissa County

Garissa is the fifth largest county in Kenya by area and accommodates Dadaab Refugee Camp, which has a population of 244,286 refugees mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia (UNHCR).



▶ Key results



Education and training

Under this pillar, the ILO supports skills development efforts by ensuring that refugees and host community members have skills that are in demand in the labour market, and that these skills are recognized and certified in line with the Kenya National Qualifications Framework.

Activities

- Supporting skills development and work-based learning in partnership with local Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers and the private sector.
- Implementing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), following assessments of potential occupations and through capacity development of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority.
- Strengthening TVET systems to provide skills in demand in the labour market at national and county levels.
- Building the capacity of TVET trainers and institutions to provide skills training that is relevant to the labour market through the development of linkages with the private sector for skills anticipation and labour market information.
- Conducting integrated labour market assessments in the digital economy.

Progress

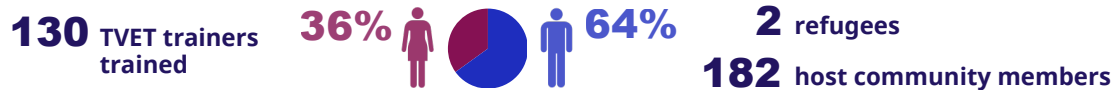


The ILO has supported the East African Institute of Welding in Lodwar and Garissa Vocational Training Centres to offer demand-driven training on industrial welding skills. Youth from host and refugee communities completing the training graduated with a National Qualification Award of the TVET Certification Development and Accreditation Council in Industrial Welding Skills, as well as an International Standard (ISO 9606) Certification.

Thirty youth were offered work-based learning opportunities with support from the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) in local industries. Out of these, 17 received placement from their employers.



To further strengthen links between TVET centres and the private sector, TVET trainers from ten institutions in Turkana and Garissa counties completed training, enabling them to provide industry-relevant and demand-driven skills as per up-to-date labour market information.



Based on the pilot RPL assessment, five occupations were identified in Turkana and Dadaab: textiles, welding and fabrication, automotive mechanics, hairdressing and beauty therapy, and agriculture. Candidates from host and refugee communities working in these selected trades were given support for undergoing RPL assessment and obtaining appropriate skills certification based on the national qualifications framework.



The ILO has supported policy reforms at national and county levels for the inclusion of refugees in RPL systems. The framework and guidelines for rolling out the RPL policy have been approved by the government. Training of RPL counsellors, assessors and verifiers is ongoing to facilitate implementation. Assessors and counsellors who have already been trained are conducting extended RPL assessments in eight counties to evaluate the competencies and skills of over 400 applicants (40 per cent refugees).



Decent work

PROSPECTS contributes to improving labour market governance and increasing the access of refugee and host community members to employment, as well as in the transition to formal jobs and livelihoods. By supporting access to financial and business development services and entrepreneurship, the ILO encourages private and public sector investment in the local economy to stimulate growth that would yield employment for refugees and host communities.

Activities

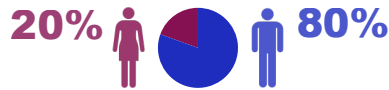
- Supporting the analysis and development of value chains through the ILO's Approach to Inclusive Market Systems (AIMS) methodology.
- Strengthening the provision of business development services (BDS) using a range of ILO tools, including [Start and Improve Your Business](#) (SIYB) and [Gender and Entrepreneurship Together](#) (GET Ahead).
- Supporting the establishment and strengthening of cooperatives.
- Contributing to the development and enhancement of public employment services.
- Supporting financial education and inclusion, enabling refugees and host communities to access financial services.
- Strengthening the capacity of county government departments on the ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP) approaches.

Progress



In Garissa and Turkana counties, 41 BDS providers have been trained using relevant ILO tools (SIYB and GET Ahead). The further outreach and training initiatives that they conduct are supporting entrepreneurs to establish new businesses or expand their existing ones.

24 BDS providers trained on SIYB and Get Ahead



1,834 Entrepreneurs trained on business development tools



889 refugees
945 host community members



The ILO is working with the Somali Lifeline Organization to improve productivity and market linkages of beekeeping and fodder value chains in Garissa County. The programme aims to demonstrate a sustainable method to improve livelihoods in these two value chains by applying the ILO's Approach to Inclusive Market Systems.



31 Groups supported to improve beekeeping activities



30 Groups supported to improve fodder production



In collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT), the ILO supported a labour-intensive road construction pilot site in Kakuma using EIIP methodology. This involved developing the capacity of the Turkana County Government and local contractors to use EIIP approaches, providing young workers from host and refugee communities with employment and skills training to access future opportunities.

60 Participants trained and employed



12 refugees
48 host community members



The ILO and UNHCR entered into a partnership with three micro-finance institutions (MFIs) to extend financial services to refugee and host communities. Entrepreneurs and businesses otherwise excluded from access to formal financial services will benefit from this collaboration. Having access to improved financial support will provide much-needed respite to entrepreneurs, helping them to sustain and even grow their businesses in the aftermath of losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.



PROSPECTS has launched an initiative to improve access to digital skills development for refugee and host communities, while stimulating demand and access to digital labour markets. An initial assessment has been completed to review existing digital skills curricula of the government and private institutions and to align them with demand-driven skills.

Highlight

Strengthening resilience of small businesses through access to knowledge and finance in Turkana County

Under the PROSPECTS programme, the ILO and its partners are imparting business management skills to upskill enterprises owned by refugee and host communities in Turkana County, Kenya. [Read more here >](#)





Protection and inclusion

PROSPECTS strives to enhance protection and inclusion of refugees by engaging with the government on the implementation of its pledges to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019. In this pillar, the role of the ILO is to support the government on the development of inclusive social protection schemes.

Activities

- Supporting government in developing and applying inclusive social protection policies.
- Providing technical and capacity support to expand social health protection.

Progress



Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the ILO is supporting the government in the development of a national strategy for the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy, including refugees and other vulnerable groups.



The ILO is supporting the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in the policy design of a new universal maternity income benefit. The scheme advocates for income for mothers who are members of the NHIF, especially those engaged in the informal economy, including refugees.



The ILO is providing technical advice and support to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to design a new unemployment income insurance benefit for workers in the formal sector. The ILO has commissioned a cost assessment of the unemployment insurance benefit to estimate the investments required for this scheme.

Highlight Seventy students graduate from the industrial welding skills programme in Turkana and Garissa, Kenya

The ILO collaborated with the East African Institute of Welding (EAIW), the KAM and the County governments of Turkana and Garissa to introduce a six-month welder training programme to empower youth, provide them with employment-relevant skills and address the mismatch between skills and jobs available in the labour market in these counties. [Read more here.](#)



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](#).



The ILO and the World Bank are collaborating on the roll-out of gendered business development training using the ILO's GET Ahead methodology.



To encourage the participation of local entrepreneurs in the IFC's [Kakuma Kalobeyei Challenge Fund](#), the ILO has rolled out business development training for refugee and host community entrepreneurs in Turkana. This will enable them to develop business plans and compete for their realization through the fund.

► Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of approaches and interventions, the ILO works with local actors, strengthening their capacities to deliver inclusive services. Examples of this are strengthening the ability of the TVET ecosystem to anticipate skills required by the labour market, and working with the local chambers of commerce and industry to provide business support services to enterprises.

► Publications



► [Assessment of Public Employment Services and Active Labor Market Policies in Kenya >](#)



► [Digitally empowering young people in refugee and host communities: What is possible? >](#)



► [Review of national policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, and practice in Kenya >](#)



► [Turkana County integrated labour market assessment >](#)

► Videos



[Bringing new opportunities in Kenya with welding skills >](#)



[Capacitating women entrepreneurs with apiculture skills in Kenya >](#)



[ILO's financial education training brings sustainability for refugee and host led businesses in Kenya >](#)

► [Graduation ceremony of Recognition of Prior Learning in Kenya >](#)

► [Recognition of Prior Learning turns a new leaf in the careers of Kenyan workers >>](#)

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