



International
Labour
Organization

PROSPECTS

PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR HOST COMMUNITIES AND FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS



**THE ROLE OF THE ILO
IN SUPPORTING ACCESS TO
RESILIENT LABOUR MARKETS
THROUGH DECENT WORK AND
INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Supported by



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

Egypt • Ethiopia • Iraq • Jordan • Kenya • Lebanon • Sudan • Uganda



The global reality of protracted displacement

The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. In recent years, forced displacement has increased in scale and complexity. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in 2018 there were over **70.8 million** forcibly displaced persons, of whom **29.4 million were refugees and asylum-seekers**. **Eighty-four percent** of the world's displaced are in developing countries; more than half are women.

While forcibly displaced persons face specific vulnerabilities, including psychological trauma, lack of opportunity and protection risks, host communities struggle to pursue their own development efforts in an environment that has been transformed by a large influx of newcomers.

As displacement has become increasingly **protracted**, responses are focusing more on durable solutions backed by more dignified, inclusive and comprehensive programmes for refugees and the communities that host them. The aim is to enhance self-reliance, facilitate **empowerment** and strengthen **social cohesion**.

These responses need to be rapidly consolidated through significant international support built on a foundation of robust and effective partnerships that maximize synergies and leverage comparative advantages. With this in mind, a new Partnership initiative has been launched, spearheaded by the Government of the Netherlands and 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.



A Partnership that places people at the core of its mission

The Partnership is the concrete expression of the consensus that has emerged around the need for displaced persons and host communities to enjoy enhanced economic opportunities and for children on the move to have effective and inclusive access to protection and education (**New York Declaration**, 2016).

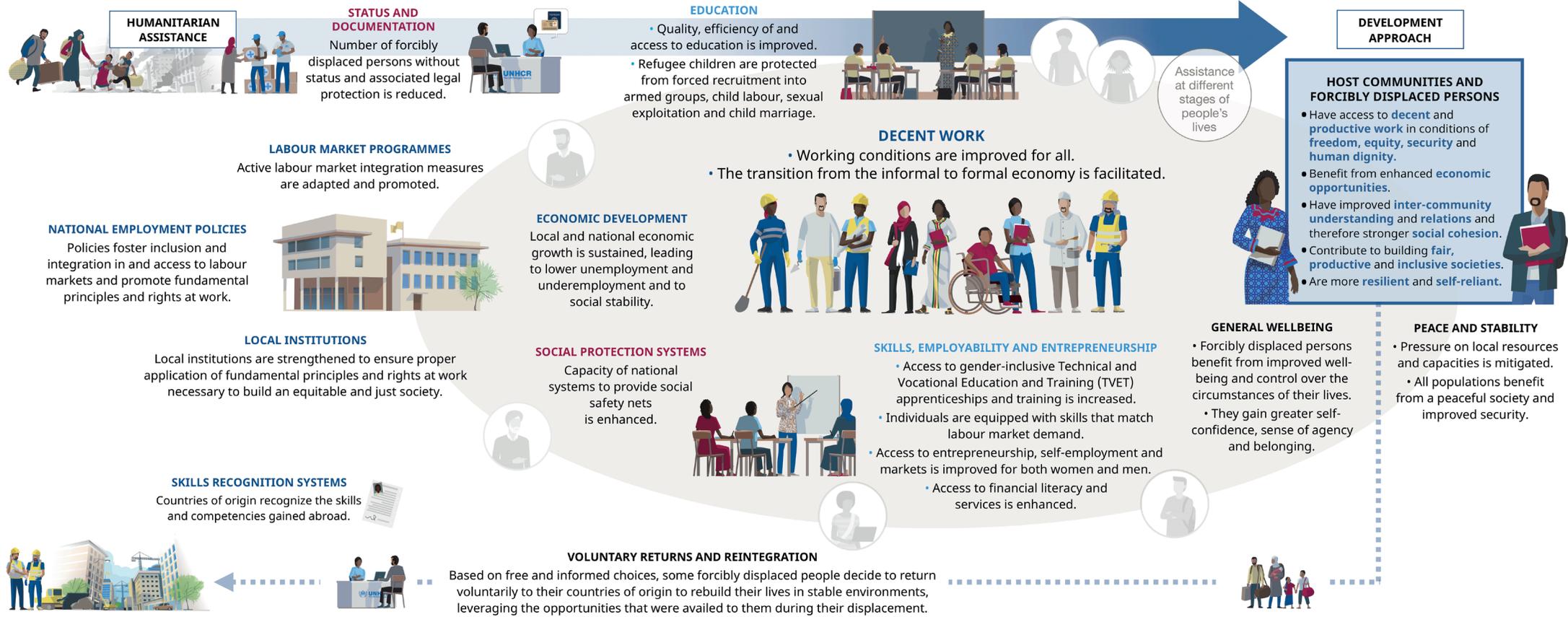
Benefiting from a four-year time horizon (2019–2023) and financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Partners, together with national and local institutions*, will join efforts to develop a **new paradigm in responding to forced displacement crises**, particularly through the involvement of development actors. The Partnership hopes to transform the way governments and other stakeholders, including the social partners and the private sector, respond to forced displacement crises, by:

- fostering an enabling environment for **socio-economic inclusion**;
- improving access to **education and protection** for vulnerable children on the move; and
- strengthening the **resilience** of host communities.

The Partnership will also be grounded in results-based and country-led approaches. It aims to develop and implement evidence-based solutions, tailored to each context, as well as to test and learn from innovative operational solutions.

* National institutions include governments, employers' organizations and workers' organizations.

Expected outcomes



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



STATUS AND DOCUMENTATION

Number of forcibly displaced persons without status and associated legal protection is reduced.



EDUCATION

- Quality, efficiency of and access to education is improved.
- Refugee children are protected from forced recruitment into armed groups, child labour, sexual exploitation and child marriage.



Assistance at different stages of people's lives

DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

HOST COMMUNITIES AND FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- Have access to **decent** and **productive work** in conditions of **freedom, equity, security** and **human dignity**.
- Benefit from enhanced **economic opportunities**.
- Have improved **inter-community understanding** and **relations** and therefore stronger **social cohesion**.
- Contribute to building **fair, productive** and **inclusive societies**.
- Are more **resilient** and **self-reliant**.



LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMMES

Active labour market integration measures are adapted and promoted.



DECENT WORK

- Working conditions are improved for all.
- The transition from the informal to formal economy is facilitated.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local and national economic growth is sustained, leading to lower unemployment and underemployment and to social stability.



SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Capacity of national systems to provide social safety nets is enhanced.



SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Access to gender-inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) apprenticeships and training is increased.
- Individuals are equipped with skills that match labour market demand.
- Access to entrepreneurship, self-employment and markets is improved for both women and men.
- Access to financial literacy and services is enhanced.



GENERAL WELLBEING

- Forcibly displaced persons benefit from improved well-being and control over the circumstances of their lives.
- They gain greater self-confidence, sense of agency and belonging.

PEACE AND STABILITY

- Pressure on local resources and capacities is mitigated.
- All populations benefit from a peaceful society and improved security.

LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

Local institutions are strengthened to ensure proper application of fundamental principles and rights at work necessary to build an equitable and just society.

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

Policies foster inclusion and integration in and access to labour markets and promote fundamental principles and rights at work.



SKILLS RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

Countries of origin recognize the skills and competencies gained abroad.

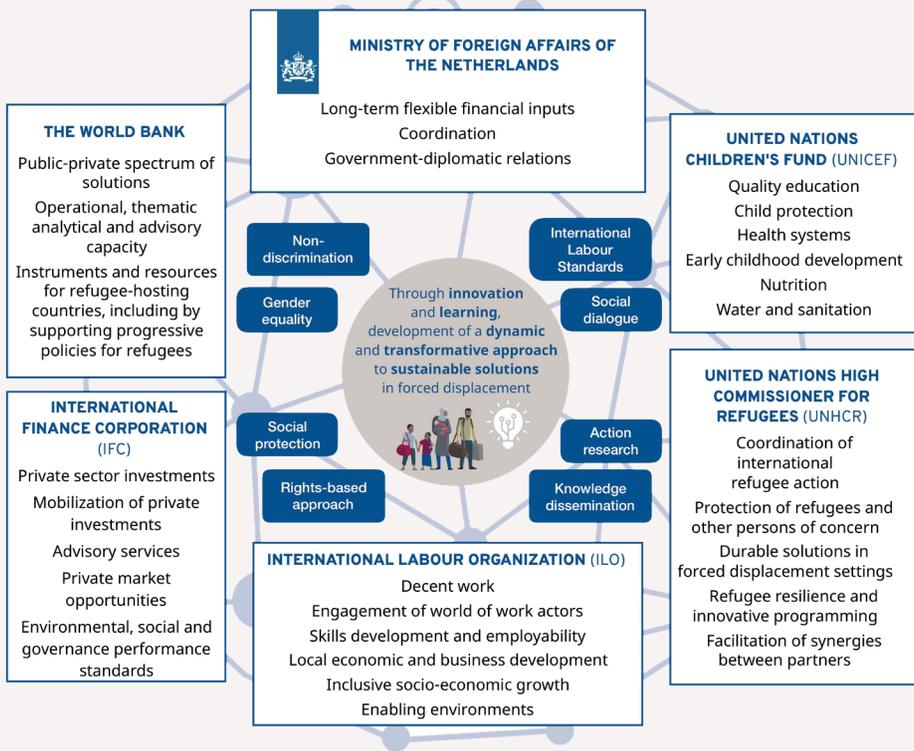


VOLUNTARY RETURNS AND REINTEGRATION

Based on free and informed choices, some forcibly displaced people decide to return voluntarily to their countries of origin to rebuild their lives in stable environments, leveraging the opportunities that were availed to them during their displacement.



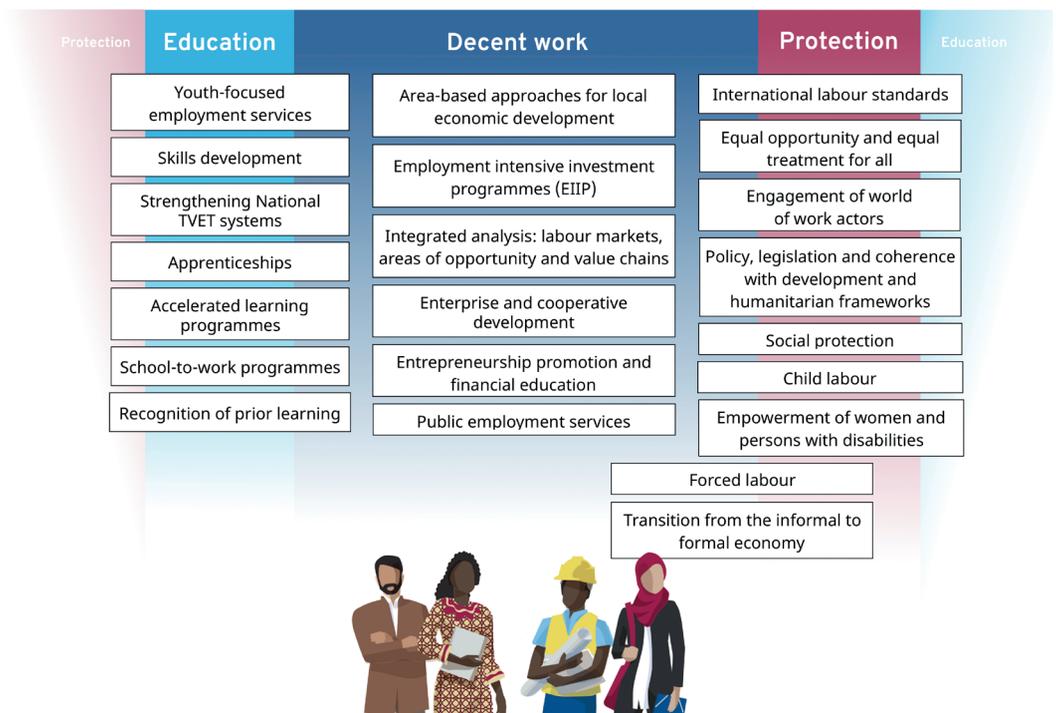
A partnership to maximize synergies and leverage comparative advantages



Three pillars of the Partnership: Protection, Education and Work

The Partnership focuses on three critical areas of intervention that enable forcibly displaced persons to overcome their specific vulnerabilities and host communities to pursue their own development efforts in transformed environments. These are: **education and learning**; **jobs and social protection**; and **protection and legal status**. To ensure coherent and mutually reinforcing action, the ILO connects its work under each of these pillars through cross-cutting interventions implemented in close coordination, collaboration and complementarity with the other Partners.

The **“One ILO” integrated approach** is reflected in the graphic below, showing how different technical interventions cut across the individual pillars, underscoring the importance of internal coordination and external partnership. The approach highlights how decent work crosses the divide between humanitarian and development action, with protection embedded at its core.



A targeted set of priority countries

The programme will coordinate activities in two regions, encompassing eight countries.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Egypt: Egypt remains a transit and destination country for refugees. It continues to host a diverse refugee and asylum-seeker population, composed of 58 different nationalities. Of these, Syrian refugees remain the largest group. As there are no camps, refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban areas alongside local communities.

[249,449 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) (UNHCR, June 2019)



Iraq: During decades of conflict and violence, 1.6 million Iraqis have been forced to abandon their homes but have remained within the country (internally displaced persons – IDPs). In addition, approximately 4.3 million returned IDPs are in need of protection and support. Refugees have also entered Iraq from neighbouring countries, with the vast majority of these escaping violence and persecution in Syria.

[1,607,148 IDPs • 271,673 refugees](#) (UNHCR, August 2019)



Jordan: Hosting the second highest share of refugees per capita in the world, Jordan is one of the countries most affected by the Syrian crisis. One in 14 people in the country is a refugee. Public institutions are under considerable pressure as refugees live primarily in urban areas, with about 20 per cent residing in camps.

[747,080 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) (UNHCR, September 2019)



Lebanon: Lebanon has the world's highest number of refugees per capita. One in four persons is a refugee. The Syrian crisis has had a profound humanitarian, socio-economic and political impact on the country. As the crisis becomes increasingly protracted, social tension is rising, driven primarily by perceived job competition.

[965,291 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) (UNHCR, February 2019)

EAST AFRICA



Ethiopia: Ethiopia is the second largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and a pilot country for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). In January 2019, it adopted a new Refugee Proclamation which represents a significant milestone in the country's long history of welcoming and hosting refugees from across the region. Additionally, more than 3.2 million IDPs have been driven out of their places of residence by conflicts and disasters, including climate change, across the country.

[905,831 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) (UNHCR, May 2019) • [3,216,248 IDPs](#) (OCHA, June 2019)



Kenya: Kenya maintains an open-door policy for refugees and is the fifth largest asylum country in Africa. Since 2017, the country has been one of the CRRF pilots and is a major stakeholder in the regional response to the Somali refugee situation. Refugees are mostly located in camps and settlements in Dadaab and Kakuma, accounting for 44 and 40 per cent of refugees in the entire country.

[476,695 refugees](#) (UNHCR, May 2019)



Uganda: Uganda is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, with refugees making up 3.7 per cent of the country's total population. It maintains an open-door policy for refugees, most of whom live in designated refugee settlements. Having launched the CRRF in Uganda in 2017, the government has assumed full leadership of the process. It allows freedom of movement and provides land to refugees settling in designated areas, as well as affording them the right to work and access to national services.

[1,362,269 refugees](#) (UNHCR, October 2019)



Sudan: Sudan has a long-standing tradition of hosting refugees. For decades, it has opened its doors to people fleeing war, hunger and hardship. It continues to host refugees from Chad, Eritrea, Syria, Yemen and other countries and is one of the major hosting countries for refugees fleeing the conflict in South Sudan. As the political dimension of the South Sudan crisis remains unresolved, it has become Africa's largest displacement crisis.

[1,864,195 IDPs • 1,109,986 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) (UNHCR, July 2019)



Considering the **Global Compact for Refugees (GCR)** as a milestone for global solidarity and refugee protection at this time of unprecedented displacement, the Partnership aims to turn the goals of the GCR into reality. It contributes to realizing the **four key objectives of the GCR**: to ease the pressures on host countries; to enhance refugee self-reliance; to expand access to third-country solutions; and to support conditions in countries of origin for the return of refugees in safety and dignity. The Partnership represents the practical implementation of the political will and ambition of the international community to strengthen cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries as expressed in the GCR.



The Partnership embraces the GCR's **multi-stakeholder, whole-of-society approach** involving governments, social and civil society partners, academia, the media, the private sector, host communities and forcibly displaced persons, as well as donors and multilateral and international organizations. The provision of international protection and durable solutions for refugees is a global and collective responsibility.



This approach is consistent with the pledge in the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development to **"leave no one behind"**. Within these frameworks, the ILO's approach is premised on **comprehensive, holistic, gender-responsive and integrated programmes of support** to strengthen labour markets, business development, protection, and policy and legislative environments.



Interventions are rooted in **international labour standards**, with a strong normative agenda and **tripartite** approach, within which social dialogue among real economy actors drives the organization's work.

«We need to make sure that when the ILO for example intervenes to provide market access for refugees, that we also have very much in our minds the needs of host communities, which are already suffering from frequently difficult labour market conditions and high levels of unemployment.»

Guy Ryder,
ILO Director-General

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