



▶ ILO PROSPECTS in Egypt *at a glance*

▶ Forced displacement in Egypt

Egypt has a long history of being both a transit and destination country for forcibly displaced persons (FDPs). In recent years, a series of crises, conflicts and political unrest in Syria and across the African continent has led to an exponential rise in the number of FDPs seeking protection in the country.

There are 288,701 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt, over 37 per cent of whom are children. Half the refugee and asylum-seeker population arriving in the country is from Syria, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia and 58 other countries (UNHCR, 2022). There are no camps, and the refugees live alongside their host communities, mainly concentrated in and around the urban areas of Greater Cairo and on the north coast.

While FDPs face specific vulnerabilities, including limited livelihood opportunities and protection risks, host communities also struggle to pursue their own development due to challenging economic circumstances. In addition, without knowledge of Arabic, refugees and asylum-seekers from Sub-Saharan African countries face an additional obstacle limiting their access to education and socio-economic opportunities.



▶ A Syrian refugee registers at UNHCR's office in Cairo, Egypt, in September 2016. ©UNHCR/Scott Nelson

▶ PROSPECTS Partnership in Egypt

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 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>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 
<p>Education and training Improving access to education and learning opportunities</p>	<p>Decent work Strengthening employment and livelihoods</p>	<p>Protection and inclusion Expanding protection for refugees and communities hosting them</p>	<p>New ways of working Developing new ways of working to respond to forced displacement in the country</p>

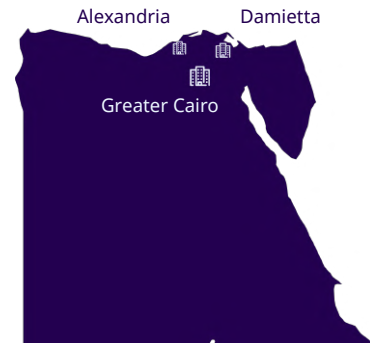
Within this Partnership, the ILO plays a key role in the promotion of decent work and focuses on strengthening local economic development and improving employability by equipping refugees and host communities with better and relevant skills to enter local labour markets and to access enterprise development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

In Egypt, the PROSPECTS Partnership aims to improve the living standards of refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. The programme contributes to national and international priorities and commitments, including the Government of Egypt's Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Partnership Development Framework, the Egypt Response Plan for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers from Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen (ERP) and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in response to the Syria crisis (Egypt chapter).

▶ Target areas

The PROSPECTS Partnership in Egypt focuses on refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities in three governorates:

- ▶ Greater Cairo,
- ▶ Alexandria, and
- ▶ Damietta.



▶ Key results



Education and learning

By contributing to improved access to and delivery of skills development programmes, promoting the recognition of prior learning and work-based learning schemes, the ILO aims to improve the employability of host and refugee community members. In coordination with the PROSPECTS Partners, the ILO supports school-to-work transition for youth.

Activities

- Enhancing capacities of vocational training institutions to offer in-demand vocational skills.
- Facilitating on-the-job training and apprenticeship programmes to improve occupation-relevant skills.
- Improving access to career guidance and counselling using the Job Search Clubs (JSC) approach.
- Developing employability skills through the Sports for Development (S4D) approach.
- Developing digital skills for improving access to the digital economy market.

Progress



Host and refugee community youth were supported to access public and certified private technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutes. They gained in-demand skills in the trades of automotive maintenance and repair, mobile phone maintenance and repair, air conditioning installation and maintenance, cooking, sewing, cake decoration and leatherwork. Post completion of training, the trainees are being supported for transition to work.

612 Youth accessing TVET



173 refugees
439 host community members

12  persons with disabilities

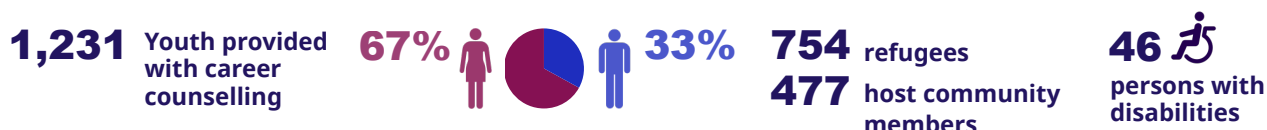


Working with the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) and Alexandria Business Association's Vocational Training and Education Centre (ABA-VTEC), the ILO offered apprenticeships to youth from refugee and host communities. The apprentices acquired occupation relevant skills in the trades of air conditioning maintenance, automotive maintenance and repair, appliance manufacturing and

maintenance, electrical maintenance, electronics maintenance, readymade garment manufacturing, plumbing, carpentry and tailoring. More than half of the apprentices found placements in the factories and enterprises training them. The enterprises were supported to offer inclusive apprenticeship and work-based learning schemes for both refugee and host community youth.



Through JSCs, young jobseekers benefited from skills profiling services, providing better understanding of their skills and career potential. In addition, youth were supported with career counselling and guidance enabling them to search for suitable jobs and make informed career choices.



Using the S4D approach, employability skills training was introduced for youth through football coaching. The training, involving both Egyptians and refugees, was implemented in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. It includes modules on decision-making, problem-solving and effective communication. In communities where participating in sports is uncommon for women, their engagement in this football programme has set a new norm, giving them confidence to explore their potential.



The ILO and Amazon Web Services entered a partnership to support refugees and host community members to make a career in the cloud-based service industry through the [“re/Start”](#) programme. The programme will provide technical and soft skills needed for an entry-level role in the cloud-based service sector and the ILO will support candidates with job-matching services. The first cohort of 40 young people participating in the programme will include 27 host and 13 refugee community candidates.

Highlight

Assisting refugees and host communities in Egypt to turn their skills into careers

The ILO, in collaboration with Skilllab, a social start-up based in the Netherlands, and ABA, is piloting a skills-profiling application allowing refugees and host communities to assess and communicate their skills to potential employers. [Read more >](#)



Decent work

The ILO seeks to increase the number of host and refugee community members with enhanced livelihoods and access to decent work. This pillar specifically aims to support their entry to employment and transition from informal to formal sectors by improving labour market governance. Additionally, the ILO focuses on enhancing digital skills and promotes innovation in learning to better meet the market needs of the future.

Activities

- Promoting value chain development in the selected sectors of furniture and woodwork, care services and food which present potential economic opportunities for refugees.
- Improving the financial management skills of entrepreneurs and business owners through relevant training programmes.
- Promoting e-commerce to provide economic opportunities for refugees and host communities.
- Developing freelancing skills to create self-employment opportunities in the digital economy.

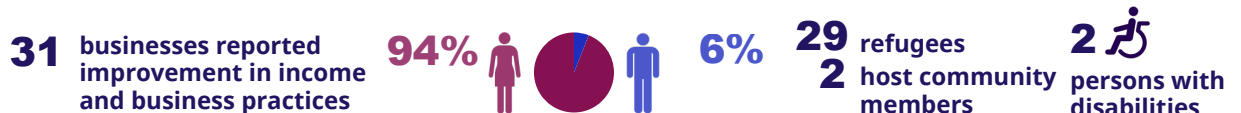
Progress



Trainers from 25 business development service providers, non-government and private sector organizations were trained on ILO's enterprise development toolkits ([Start and Improve Your Business](#) (SIYB), [Gender and Entrepreneurship Together](#) (GET Ahead) and [financial education](#)).



The SIYB trainers are building the capacities of refugee and host community entrepreneurs on business development and management, managing cash grants, accessing legal counselling, using trade exhibitions for product promotion, marketing and e-commerce for expanding and sustaining their businesses. On completion of training, the entrepreneurs have set up small businesses in trading, cooking, sewing and hairdressing services.



The ILO is in the process of developing an "e-commerce utilization toolkit" to enable refugees and host communities to start their e-commerce businesses and to gain knowledge on how to leverage the existing e-commerce platforms, as well as how to deal with the different digital payment platforms.



Protection and inclusion

The ILO aims at increasing social protection and inclusion for refugees and host communities by strengthening the legal and policy environment. In addition, the ILO is strengthening the capacity of its constituents and other stakeholders to better address the needs of refugees and host communities.

Activities

- Promoting safe and secure working conditions.
- Promoting universal health insurance coverage.
- Building awareness on social integration of refugees in host communities.
- Developing the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs and private sector to improve service delivery targeted to the specific needs of refugees and host communities.

Progress



Government, social partners, NGOs and private sector partners were made aware of their roles and responsibilities towards refugees and oriented on International Labour Standards (ILS) and Conventions related to FDPs, such as [the 1951 Refugee Convention](#), [the Global Compact on Refugees](#), [the ILO's Guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market \(2016\)](#) and ILO [Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience \(2017\)](#). Partners were encouraged to strengthen their outreach and organise inclusive activities targeting both host and refugee communities. As a result, the FEI, Egypt's largest employers' organization, extended apprenticeship opportunities to refugees inside selected factories.



To increase awareness on safe and secure working conditions, a generic training on practicing Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the workplace was included in the pre-apprenticeship orientations. At the same time, ABA and FEI were supported to deliver OSH training to enterprises preparing to take on apprentices. Post completion of the apprenticeship programme, both the apprentices and enterprises reported improvements in the application of safety measures in work places.

526 beneficiaries trained on OSH

36%



64%

112 refugees

414 host community members



The ILO, in collaboration with UNHCR, conducted a feasibility study on the enrolment of refugees in the Egyptian Universal Health Insurance Scheme. The study will provide recommendations for extending coverage to include refugees and improving their access to social security.



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 this partnership, the ILO works with other humanitarian and development partners to undertake joint planning and implementation to achieve the programme's goals.



The ILO and UNHCR have jointly developed a “referral mechanism” which lists different types of services offered by each agency. The field staff of both agencies refer beneficiaries to the most appropriate organization based on their requirements and services listed in the referral mechanism. This complements the efforts of both organizations and avoids duplication.



The ILO and UNICEF coordinated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to provide age-appropriate career support to refugee and host community youth. For children below 18 years of age, UNICEF’s Meshwary programme is providing life skills and entrepreneurship opportunities, while the youth above 18 are benefitting from the ILO’s Job Search Clubs.

► Sustainability

In Egypt, the efforts to sustain outcomes of programme activities are driven through capacity development of partners - government institutions, social partners, NGOs and INGOs. By integrating the ILO knowledge products and tools in the training and outreach activities of these partners, the refugee and host communities will continue to benefit from the programme’s inputs. By facilitating dialogue between partners, the programme aims to establish and strengthen referral pathways supporting access to education, employment and social protection services for both hosts and refugees.

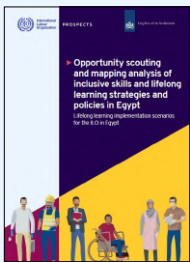
► Publications



► Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) mapping for refugees, asylum seekers and host communities in Egypt >



► Refugees and the Egyptian Labour Market: An analysis of the potential role of employers’ organizations >



► Opportunity scouting and mapping analysis of inclusive skills and lifelong learning strategies and policies in Egypt >



► Review of national policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks and practice in Egypt >

► ILO PROSPECTS Egypt 2021: A year in review >

► Humans of PROSPECTS: Mahmoud's journey >

► Videos



► Sports for development, and for all; teaching life skills through football and women setting a new social norm in Egypt >



► Refugee and host community apprentices graduate in Alexandria, Egypt >

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