

PROSPECTS Partnership

Uganda: Expanding Opportunities for Refugees and Host Communities

Supported by



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Country Context

Uganda is home to more than 1.9 million refugees and asylum seekers – the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and among the top five worldwide. Most have fled conflict and instability in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia, and Rwanda. While the majority live in rural settlements across northern and western Uganda, a growing number are also making their lives in Kampala (157,000) and other urban centers.

Uganda's progressive refugee policy is often hailed as a global model. It grants freedom of movement, the right to work and access to national services such as health and education. In some settlements, refugees have land allocation to promote economic self-reliance and socioeconomic integration.

However, with humanitarian funding in decline, Uganda faces the challenge of maintaining its inclusive approach while ensuring stability and opportunity for both refugees and host communities.

The PROSPECTS Partnership strengthens Uganda's progressive refugee response by reinforcing the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), bridging humanitarian assistance with long-term development.



RLO Hope Foundation runs a digital skills session at a PROSPECTS-supported community centre at Imvepi Refugee Settlement. © UNHCR/Caitlin Kelly

PROSPECTS in Uganda

What sets PROSPECTS apart in Uganda is its ability not only to strengthen an enabling and inclusive policy environment, but also to move beyond policy commitments and drive practical, sustainable change. It tackles the everyday barriers that keep inclusion out of reach, such as gaps in documentation, limited access to employment services, and pressure on schools and clinics in hosting areas.

Funded by the Netherlands and implemented by IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank, PROSPECTS works alongside the Government of Uganda to turn progressive refugee policies into practice through interconnected pillars:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection to enhance access to essential services, including birth registration, national identification and civil documentation. PROSPECTS also helps families in vulnerable situations access Uganda's social protection programmes, reinforcing the country's inclusive approach.



Expanding Education and Learning to support refugee integration in public schools, upgrade facilities in hosting districts and expand vocational and work-based learning models, digital training and strengthening certification systems to prepare youth for the labor market.



Promoting Employment and Decent Work to connect refugees and those in host communities to jobs, support entrepreneurship and expand financial inclusion. By linking skills training to market demand and strengthening market-system development, PROSPECTS helps vulnerable people find sustainable work in key sectors such as agriculture, hospitality and tourism, and renewable energy.



Investing in Critical Infrastructure such as water, sanitation, energy, and connectivity in hosting districts, easing pressure on overstretched services.

Outcomes and Impact

Since 2019, PROSPECTS has delivered wide-ranging results across Uganda, including helping secure legal status for refugees and asylum-seekers. Children and youth are benefitting from education and training programs that prepare them for brighter futures, and families are finding pathways to self-reliance through new jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities supported by strengthened labour market systems. Investments in clean water and sanitation are also strengthening the resilience of communities that host displaced populations.

The work of PROSPECTS matters now more than ever. With nearly 2 million refugees expected in Uganda by the end of 2025, growing climate pressures and tighter budgets, the risk is that gains in inclusion could falter. PROSPECTS bridges the gap between emergency aid and sustainable investment, helping ensure that both refugees and Ugandan communities can move toward lasting dignity and opportunity.

Protection and Social Protection

- **270,888 refugees and asylum seekers** refugees and asylum-seekers supported to access or maintain legal documentation and status
- **136,000 individuals** have benefited from mental health, psychosocial support and case management services

Education and Training

- **56,753 children** completed formal and non-formal education programs
- **33,797 youth** have completed professional or skills training courses

Economic Inclusion

- **12,813 individuals** supported into wage employment and self-employment initiatives
- **17,399 individuals** have gained entrepreneurship and business skills

Critical Infrastructure

- **22,200 people** are now accessing sanitation services
- **16,214 individuals** have gained access to clean water

Note: Some activities have relied on multi-donor contributions.

“The PROSPECTS Partnership (has) played a catalytic role in the development and institutionalization of innovative skills training programmes for most vulnerable groups for young people in Uganda, in particular refugee youth.”

– Barno Mukhamadieva, UNICEF Chief of Basic Education and Adolescent Development

Olivius's Story



“My teaching methods are improving. I am now applying a lot of critical thinking and I see my learners' comprehension is improving as well.”

Olivius lives in the host community near Nakivale refugee settlement. She has been teaching at Kashojwa Nursery and Primary School for the past five years. Despite her experience, she has always worried about keeping up to date with teaching methods to engage eager young minds in her classroom. However, since participating in a teacher's training supported by the PROSPECTS, her confidence while interacting with refugee children and host community children has greatly improved.