



Private Sector
Solutions
in Forced
Displacement

A joint initiative of



© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

Private sector solutions in forced displacement

The IFC UNHCR joint initiative

The IFC UNHCR Joint Initiative is a **strategic partnership** between IFC and UNHCR to enable private sector business engagement to **accelerate economic opportunities for refugees and host communities**. The partnership is aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, which calls for private sector to promote refugees' **self-reliance, local economic development, and improved access to services**. Launched in 2023, the Joint Initiative is based in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Our Vision

Forced displacement crises are increasingly **protracted and complex**. They are affecting previously spared ground, urban settings, overlapping with pre-existing humanitarian challenges. As of end of 2023, 117 million people were forcibly displaced due to war, persecution, violence, and human rights violations, according to UNHCR estimations. Over 70% of them live in low or middle-income countries, and most of them remain in displacement for decades. **Often unable to work**, refugees can become dependent on humanitarian assistance, losing professional skills and networks, and straining public services, which can create **tensions with local communities**.

Private Sector Solutions in Forced Displacement

To address these challenges and seize opportunities, a **whole-of-society approach** is needed, including the participation of businesses beyond corporate social responsibility and procurement services. There is **growing evidence of a business case for the private sector in FDP contexts**, but pilot initiatives often lack impact, scalability, sustainability or commercial viability.

Building on IFC and UNHCR **additionalities, expertise and institutional focus**, the Joint Initiative mobilizes the private sector to create innovative solutions in forced displacement contexts, while advocating for the socio-economic and financial inclusion of refugees and improving their self-reliance and access to services.

How the Joint Initiative Operates

For the private sector to sustainably engage in forced displacement settings, **market gaps need to be assessed and bottlenecks need to be addressed**. The Joint Initiative builds on previous ad hoc work taken forward by the two organizations to create an enabling environment where sustainable private sector is systematically rolled out globally.

It is a hub of innovative ideas and connections and provides **operational technical support and advice**, as well as strategic seed funding to unlock the potential of private sector engagement in FDP areas. Additionally, the Joint Initiative seeks to promote knowledge exchange among key stakeholders and create a **knowledge base of operational lessons** to establish thought leadership on private sector development in forced displacement context.

→ Strategic focus areas



→ More about private sector in Forced Displacement

IFC and UNHCR have been collaborating since 2016, in different geographies and across various sectors to improve the lives of those forcibly displaced and their hosts.

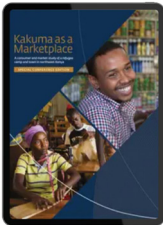
Visit the Joint Initiative's website to explore the interactive map featuring projects that leverage private sector engagements in forced displacement contexts, including financial inclusion, tailored services, employment, and entrepreneurship.



<https://psfd.org>



→ Related Reports



[Kakuma as a Marketplace: A consumer and market study of a refugee camp and town in northwest Kenya - International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#)



[Private Sector & Refugees - Pathways to Scale - International Finance Corporation \(IFC\)](#)

→ Our donors

The Joint Initiative is funded by the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States of America.



As of February 2024

→ More about the Joint Initiative



[Scan the QR code to access the slide deck](#)

New Business Pulse

Based on research surveying 59 companies across 32 countries, this stocktaking pulse highlights how private sector engagement has evolved in the last years, and how it can be accelerated in the future. The pulse is forthcoming.

