

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods among Displacement Affected Populations

Sustainable livelihoods refer to a way of life that provides individuals with access to basic needs, the opportunity to thrive, a sense of identity and belonging, and the means to produce and distribute resources and services. However, Displacement-Affected Populations (DAPs) face persistent challenges in achieving sustainable livelihoods due to limited access to economic opportunities, resources, and social capital.

This research study conducted in Uganda and South Sudan found four key strategies that foster economic resilience among DAPs in Uganda and South Sudan.

1. Diversification of livelihood opportunities
2. Vocational training and skill development
3. Strengthening agricultural support and innovation
4. Promoting access to credit services

Background

DAPs), including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host communities, face significant economic challenges which undermine their ability to achieve sustainable livelihoods. These challenges often stem from loss of assets, disruption of social networks, limited access to markets, and restricted economic rights in host countries. Despite international efforts to address their immediate needs through humanitarian aid, achieving long-term economic self-reliance and resilience remains a persistent issue.



Members of a knitting business group supported by COMPASS display their materials for sale

About the COMPASS Project

As part of learning on the [COMPASS project](#), we explored what innovative, context-sensitive approaches can be implemented in humanitarian settings to promote sustainable livelihoods for DAPs.

Refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees from Uganda and South Sudan were supported in a range of activities across the listed four strategies between 2022 – 2024.



A maize garden owned by a COMPASS-supported farmer group in Uganda

Expected Outcomes

The *Cross-border Opportunities for Migration, Peace and Self-Sustenance* (COMPASS) project aimed at exploring strategies for promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities among displacement-affected persons. These outcomes included:

- A clear understanding of effective interventions (e.g., vocational training, microfinance, market linkages) that have successfully fostered sustainable livelihoods for DAP's in Uganda and South Sudan.
- Guide policymakers to create enabling environments that promote self sustenance and access to economic resources among DAPs.
- Generate a replicable framework for designing and implementing livelihood programs which prioritize sustainability.

The Team

Implemented by LWF (Uganda, South Sudan) and CDSS, CHASE-i was the learning partner on this project. Funded by EU/UNOPS and Brot, the COMPASS project run from July 2022 to December 2024.

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