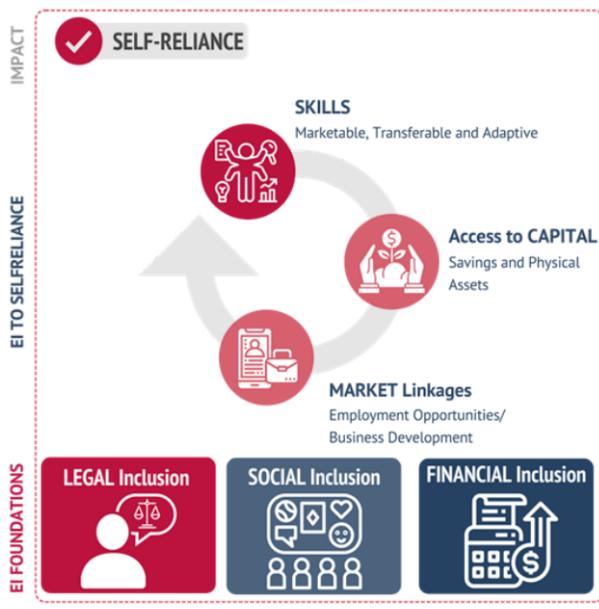


A Path to Self-Reliance for Displacement-Affected People

Economic Inclusion Barriers and Market Assessments in Kenya and South Sudan

Discover **NRC's Economic Inclusion (EI) Framework** and the recent **EI Barrier and Market Assessments**. Aiming to **empower displaced individuals towards self-reliance** through a holistic approach, with the ongoing pilot project in Kenya and South Sudan providing the implementation learnings and proof of concept.

I: Economic Inclusion Framework



What?

A conceptual framework paving the pathway towards self-reliance for displacement-affected people in protracted crisis.

Approach

A phased, bottom-up strategy for self-reliance.

Evidence

Now being piloted in Kenya and South Sudan, funded by IKEA Foundation.

Focus

Shifting from short-term to **sustainable solutions**, a practical approach.

Uniqueness

Tailored support packages **addressing barriers holistically**, multi-components including legal inclusion, dual practical/systemic approach.

II: Economic Inclusion as a Pathway to Self-Reliance Pilot Project

- 2-years** (Jan 2023 – Dec 2024)
- 2 million USD** in two countries
- Funded by** IKEA Foundation
- 1,100 households** (6,100 targeted individuals)
- Population types**: Refugees (Kenya), Returnees (South Sudan), and respective host communities
- Local actors**: In Kenya partnering with two local organizations, and in both countries working with government institutions, local representatives and other stakeholders
- Targeted Countries Context Back**
- 100,000 returnees**: Aweil, South Sudan: Hosts 100,000 returnees, grappling with economic challenges amid conflict and flooding.
- 339,000 refugees**: Dadaab, Kenya: Home to 339,000 refugees, facing challenges in basic services and food security.

III. Economic Inclusion Barrier Assessment Findings

Demographic Data

1,272 Total Respondents (South Sudan and Kenya)

- 79%** Female respondents
- 40 years old** Average age
- 1 in 3 households** Declared to have a disabled family member
- 60% lack formal education** (Women have lower levels than men)

645 Total in Aweil, S. Sudan	627 Total in Dadaab, Kenya
497 Returnees	409 Refugees
148 Host Community Members	218 Host Community Members

EI FOUNDATIONS

Legal Inclusion Barriers

- 73%** of refugees in Dadaab lack formal registration
- 96%** of refugees can't obtain work permits despite the 2021 Kenya Refugee Act
- 95%** of respondents (refugees, returnees and hosts) are unable to get a business licence.
- 70%** of all respondents experience movement restrictions.

Social Inclusion Barriers

Perceptions driving barriers and different in both locations:

- Aweil:** Lack of trust in community leadership in Aweil: 57% hosts, 60% returnees lack trust.
- In Dadaab:** Limited social integration, disparities in wages, and ambiguous host-refugee relationships

Financial Inclusion Barriers

- 92-99% no access to financial services** (Both host communities and displaced (in Aweil and Dadaab), reported not having access)
- 80% lack savings** (Majority of respondents lack any form of savings.)

EI TO SELF-RELIANCE

Skills Barriers

- Language a barrier in both locations
- 50%** never had a technical training. Those who did the qualification was not recognized
- 84%** of refugees do not feel confident in applying the knowledge acquired through technical training, 50% of hosts

Capital Barriers

- 90% of refugees no access to land** (90% of refugees do not have access to land, 26% of returnees in Aweil. Hosts are more likely to have access to land with 58% in Dadaab and 86% Aweil reporting access.)
- 70% do not own livestock** (67% of refugees in Dadaab do not own livestock, whereas most hosts (68%) do. In Aweil slightly more than 70% of both hosts and returnees do not own livestock.)

Main income casual daily work

- In Aweil,** all rely on wages from casual daily work or agriculture / fishing / herding.
- In Dadaab,** majority of refugees rely on aid or casual work. Hosts rely on wages from work or income from own business.

Market Linkage Barriers

- High unemployment rates linked to skill and capital deficiencies**
- In Aweil,** over 50% hosts and returnees are unemployed.
- In Dadaab,** 72% of refugees and 83% of hosts are unemployed.

Challenges at work

1 in 2 individuals in Aweil, while **1 in 4** in Dadaab reported experiencing challenges at work.

IV. Market Assessment Findings

106	Businesses surveyed
17	Key Informant Interviews
8	Focus Group Discussions

Overall context challenges

Water • Land • Electricity • Climate

Livelihood Options in Aweil, South Sudan

- Crop Production**: Challenges include market saturation, floods, droughts.
- Livestock**: Transportation barriers, financial constraints.
- Beauty Services**: Promising, but faces seasonal challenges.

Livelihood Options in Dadaab, Kenya

- Crop Production**: Limited land for refugees, lack of legal integration, social and financial inclusion barriers, skills gaps, and capital limitations.
- Poultry**: Same as with the crop production barriers, transportation costs, disease outbreaks.
- Hospitality/Catering**: High demand, business expansion opportunities but facing similar challenges with less consumers during the rainy season.

What's Next: Paving the Path to Self-Reliance

This EI project is more than a pilot; it's an upgrade, shaping the blueprint for the displacement-affected population's journey to self-reliance. As we implement, we craft evidence, decipher what works, and fuel collaboration towards a future where Economic Inclusion is a success story. Join us on this transformative journey!

Want to Learn More?

Prepared by NRC for humanitarian and development professionals, read the [Summary Report on Economic Inclusion Barriers and Market Assessments in Kenya and South Sudan](#). You can also contact Shpresa Osmani, NRC's Global Economic Inclusion Project Manager, at shpresa.osmani@nrc.no