Refugee Empowerment through Markets Initiative
Moving the marginalized centre stage

CCITF, 2 June 2023
Conflicts, economic instability, climate change
- World Bank estimates that **250 million** people will be displaced by **2050**
- **20 years** average of forced displacement
- **103 million** refugees and IDPs worldwide
  - 4 out of 5 are below poverty line and hosted by developing countries

Key challenge: thin market

**MSMEs**
- Limited supply side capacity
- Weak market integration
- Legal status

**Market and business ecosystems**
- Humanitarian, aid-reliance
- Limited access to / service offering by BSOs, FIs and private sector actors

**Economic and business policy**
- Low investment, high trade related costs

Entry point

**Context**

- Economic resilience and self-reliance interventions
- Strengthening capacity as core market actors
Activities since 2015

8 dedicated projects implemented for refugees, IDPs, returnees: Kenya, Gaza, Jordan, Somalia

4 additional projects that have included the groups The Gambia, Burkina Faso and Mali, Colombia, Guinea
Taking stock

Example RESI / Kenya
Focus: Over 700 people directly supported
Income: Over $500,000 generated
Social impact: Gender equality, women empowerment, youth leadership
System influencing: Adoption of market-based approach by local actors

Lessons learned

Systems-wide approach
• Firm vs. broader level engagement
• Direct vs. indirect role

Programmatic structure
• Organizational knowledge building
• SOPs and guidelines (market interventions in FCAS, conflict sensitivity analysis)

Tapping into ITC tools
• SheTrades, YE!, EFI, A4A, EcomConnect
• Trade and market intelligence

Strategic and operational partnerships
• Global and in-country network
• Private sector buy-in
• Donor flexibility
Vision

An inclusive market-based approach focused on:

- Refugees, IDPs, returnees and MSMEs in host communities enabled to access and participate in markets
- Private sector partners, BSOs and FIs strengthened to service target groups and integrate them in market systems
- Livelihood improved in target communities as a result of increased business and income opportunities
5 Pillars of work

P1 Direct delivery of support
- Models of support to BSOs, FIs and private sector actors
- Research and analysis on trade in displacement and FCAS
- Results and learning across ITC to strengthen displacement disaggregated data

P2 Strengthening ecosystems actors

P3 Policy advocacy
- Refugee and displacement-inclusive business and trade policies and regulations
- Scale existing model
- New and differentiated services for refugees, IDPs and returnees
- Direct support to demonstrate

P4 Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Management
- Results and learning across ITC to strengthen displacement disaggregated data
- Resource mobilization
- Operational feasibility
- Transformative impact

P5 Partnerships
Highlight for 2023

Kenya and Pakistan
Sector/focus: Digital value chain/Women and youth participation
Client: Refugee and host communities
Approach: Direct Delivery/Ecosystems
$1 million - Visa Foundation

Rwanda
Sector: Horticultural products/Sustainable and inclusive youth employment
Client: Refugee and host communities
Approach: Ecosystems/Advocacy
$925k - Mastercard Foundation

Kenya
Sector: Artisanal value chain
Client: Refugee and host communities
Approach: Direct Delivery/Ecosystems
$5.6 million - KOICA

Nigeria (under discussion)
Sector: Entrepreneurship and employment/Youth economic reintegration
Client: Returnees
Approach: Direct Delivery/Ecosystems
$1.35 million – EU and Germany

Ukraine
Sector: Digital service/women focus
Client: IDPs and MSMEs
Approach: Direct Delivery/Ecosystems
$308k - Government of Japan

Gaza
Sector: Digital service
Client: Refugees and host communities
Approach: Direct Delivery
$611k - Government of Japan

Nigeria
Sector: Digital service
Client: Women, youth and IDPs
Approach: Direct Delivery
$289k Government of Japan

6 projects in 5 new locations
3 projects in implementation
3 projects being launched
1 project under discussion
Thank you - Coming up...

- Expand and scale private sector engagement
- Inclusive market systems development
- World Refugee Day: Project launch and event on 22 June, 2023 11 am @ITC