

What It Means ➤ to Prosper

Key insights from our inaugural flagship report

To some, “prosperity” might signal material wealth. But when we asked more than 1,100 people living through conflict, climate change, and economic hardship about what it meant to them—they rarely described material wealth as prosperity itself.

Prosperity is...

Shared with others

People rarely imagined a better future for themselves alone. They talked about their families, neighbors and communities moving forward together. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a woman told us: “Even if I have enough and the other person does not, I can’t live in peace... Prosperity is a community effort.”

The ability to plan for the future

Prosperity was strongly connected to being able to imagine and plan for what comes next: sending children to school, finding meaningful work, cultivating a field safely. In Ukraine, a woman told us: “The situation is such that you can only plan for two or three days; it’s impossible to plan any further ahead, as you don’t know what tomorrow will bring.”

Built from within

When people described how they navigate hardship, they spoke about the resources that already exist in their communities—knowledge, mutual aid, pooled savings, shared labor, and local networks—rather than outside help. In Indonesia, one person explained: “We have knowledge... it’s what’s allowed us to survive until today, and it’s what will let us survive in the future because we can put that knowledge to use.”



About the Voices of Prosperity initiative

The Voices of Prosperity initiative is Prosper Global’s ongoing effort to listen, learn, and share community perspectives on what it takes to prosper. We began by asking more than 1,100 people a simple question: **What does it mean to prosper?**

Our inaugural flagship report brings together insights and stories from this first phase of listening.

1,100+
people surveyed

15 languages **6** countries

[Read the full report](#)

**“It is no use to prosper
if others are left behind.”**

— Woman in Cartagena, Colombia

“I can’t see a future while the war is still going on. We’re doing everything we can to survive, living one day at a time.”

— Man in Mykolaiv Oblast, Ukraine

What stands in the way of prosperity?

When we asked communities what stood in the way of prosperity, three specific barriers emerged.

CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

People connected peace with the ability to plan and move forward. Survey participants who have experienced conflict describe how insecurity permeates nearly every aspect of daily life—eroding their safety, livelihoods, and education.

CLIMATE CHANGE

People talked less about “climate change” and more about its lived consequences, including hunger in 83% of conversations about barriers and water scarcity in 67% of those conversations.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

People rarely identified lack of wealth itself as the problem. They talked about the lack of opportunity—particularly jobs for young people.

Moving forward together

Communities already have much of what they need to create prosperity on their own. What they need to move forward are partners who can help them remove barriers, create connections, and build toward something better—on their own terms.

That’s where Prosper Global comes in.

We pair local knowledge with global resources to help communities build what’s needed, test what’s possible, and scale what’s proven, so that people everywhere can pursue a full life.

Because barely enough is not enough for anyone.

Dive deeper

Explore the full report, read stories about the people we surveyed, and learn more about our ongoing Voices of Prosperity initiative.

prosperglobal.org/voices



Cultivating shared prosperity

A glimpse into community support and solidarity

The path to prosperity looks different in every community, but it starts with the people, relationships, and local structures already working to hold communities together. For example,

In Ukraine, communities come together to host families who have been displaced during the war.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, people organize farmers’ associations where members take turns cultivating each other’s fields to help with harvests and strengthen social ties.

In Indonesia, people refer to the value of Gotong royong, a cultural spirit of cooperation and shared work. That spirit drives neighbors to pool effort during fieldwork, rebuild houses of worship, or pay for someone’s healthcare.