

Livelihoods Sector Technical Working Group (LSTWG) meeting minute

Meeting called by:	UNDP/ Francesca Cozzarini Co-Chair	Type of meeting:	Monthly Livelihood sector technical working group
Host:	UNDP/ Francesca Cozzarini Co-Chair	Venue:	UNDP Conference Room
Note Takers:	Natsuki and Stephen	Date:	16 July 2018
Agencies/partners represented:	UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UN WOMEN, IOM, Nsamizi, Samaritan's Purse, Caritas Uganda, ACTED, Mercy Corps (attendance list attached)		

Agenda item:	Opening Remark & Introduction	Opening marks:	Francesca Cozzarini (UNDP)
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After the introduction of participants, the host noted that the UNHCR co-chair (Samuel) left the operation and he is now replaced by Gerald-Asst. Livelihood Officer at UNHCR in Kampala.

Agenda item:	Key updates from agencies (Upcoming Assessments or Major activities)	Facilitator:	Francesca Cozzarini (UNDP)
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All agencies were given the opportunity to share any upcoming major activities and the Co-chair indicated that all livelihood documents can be found at UNHCR portal (<https://ugandarefugees.org/category/sector-coordination/livelihoods/?r=48>)

UNHCR

1. The DRC Refugee Response Plan has been updated with increased targets. The review of the Uganda chapter of the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan is also ongoing. If agencies wish to revise (reduce) their targets, they should communicate it as soon as possible. So far, no livelihood partner has submitted revised targets.
2. It is important to complete the 4/5Ws to follow up activities of each organization and avoid duplication. The means of data collection should be standardized for livelihood sector.
3. The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) Joint Analysis Workshop will be held on Friday, 27 July.
4. The next Refugee Response Plan (2019-2020) will be a bi-annual plan.

For 2 and 4, specific presentations were further provided in the latter part of the meeting.

Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development

- In Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements, Nsamizi is promoting rice farming as a high value crop with 290 members growing rice;
- Carried out an assessment of acreage of land suitable for rice farming, assessment found out that there are 4 sq. km of land available for rice growing, another key finding indicated that 45 acres of land are currently under rice production;
- Nsamizi is also implementing micro credit to 35 VSLAs, consisting of 721 individuals;
- Farmers mainly sell unprocessed rice, Nsamizi thus is planning to construct a rice miller for processing rice.

UNDP

- Started implementation of a new livelihood project funded by the Government of Japan in Yumbe (Bidibidi), Moyo (Palorinya) and Arua (Imvepi). Main activities include: cash for work (phase 1), provision of small grants for micro-business development (Phase 2), expanding market opportunities for supported beneficiaries (Phase 3, only in Yumbe), plus support capacity building of district local governments to respond to the refugee situation. Market assessments will be conducted in 3 districts/settlements, building on findings of previous assessments.

In her power point presentation, Tina presented the new retail engagement model by WFP. The Power Point presentation (pdf) is attached to the meeting minute.

Presentation:

- ✓ The purpose of the retailer engagement strategy is to improve the availability and access of nutrition products in the local refugee markets while increasing the refugee purchasing power. The world's most vulnerable spend over 2/3 of their income in stores and markets, with 50% spent on food alone.
- ✓ Retailer engagement objectives for Uganda are; gain better value, develop the retail sector, and measure customer profiles and preferences;
- ✓ The new focus for WFP is the South West, specifically Nakivale settlement, following the development of the strategy for Nakivale;
- ✓ A retail assessment of customer profile regarding price, quality, assortment, service was conducted. The pointed findings are as follows:
 - Low purchase power
 - Lack of scale/capital: Group purchase does not occur often.
 - Lack of market information: Not only customers, but also farmers do not have the price information. Transport capacity is also missing.
- ✓ What does WFP want to achieve in Uganda?
 1. Gain best value: wholesale market at distribution point, direct link farmers to market.
 2. Develop the retail sector; aggregate retailers and introduce POS, integrated supply chain.
 3. Measure customer profiles and preferences: WFP demo retail shop, develop local retail teams.
- ✓ WFP piloting new cash payment mechanism: WFP distributed cash itself, delivered in trucks; to avoid any possible risk, it started to work with banks (Post Bank) to distribute cash (e-payment cards) through local agencies on a monthly basis, as a pilot initiative.
- ✓ WFP also is trying to pilot the agency banking model. However, this is still in the planning phase, detailed update will be provided later on.
- ✓ WFP's retail engagement model goes along with other interventions such as nutrition support.

Q&A, comments:

- ✓ A question was raised on sustainability of the strategy, especially when cash is introduced. The retail engagement strategy will contribute to developing the markets which will then be able to absorb the cash injected in the local economy. This will also contribute to increased purchase power. To respond to concerns about reduced seed distributions, FAO highlighted that it has increased on vegetable production to provide the micro nutrient food components missing in the WFP food basket, as such it has reduced on seed distribution. It is agreed that, under WFP approach, cash distribution is a substitute for food aid (not for seeds).
- ✓ WFP is now focusing on the South West (Nakivale, Oruchinga) to roll out the strategy, to be followed by the West (Kiaka II, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja) and finally by West Nile.
- ✓ There is need to coordinate with other actors (e.g. UNHCR, SIDA, Grameen) to find synergies while avoiding duplication.

The Power Point presentation is attached to the meeting minute.

- ✓ The 4Ws is based on activities, implementation for a given period of time focusing on the beneficiaries reached on that particular period. The purpose of 4W is to monitor the projects with the use of a standardized tool, to avoid duplication, and for advocacy or fund raising.
- ✓ Collection of data should be at lowest level, i.e. community level or settlement level.
- ✓ Data flow from the field should be standardized. For each sector at field level, OP and IP send the data to UNHCR sector lead in the field. The field sector lead passes the information to the national sector lead (IM team) in Kampala. The team stores, analyzes and shares the information with the relevant partners.
- ✓ The process is quarterly (Q1 to 4 in FY 2018). 4W is directly related to the RRP. The data should cover the planned, ongoing and completed activities.
- ✓ UNHCR is finalizing PPA with reach to train field staff to collect the 4W data for each sector in the settlements

Gerald presented the purpose, features, objectives and indicators, process, and timelines of RRP 2019-2020. The Power Point presentation is attached.

Presentation:

- ✓ The 2019/2020 RRP supports the CRRF goals.
- ✓ What's new:
 - The response plan is becoming bi-annual and changing focus to strengthen resilience pathways
 - Among the three objectives per sector, one should be resilience oriented, and the objectives should be impact-based
 - More agencies will be involved in the drafting process of the RRP.
 - Host community defined: Sub counties hosting refugee populations
- ✓ Needs assessments will be used to help in drafting the RRP, these include the JMSNA, vulnerability assessment, etc.
- ✓ Key timelines:
 - Planning assumptions (scenario, planning figures) – 13 July 2018
 - Needs -10 August
 - Sector strategies – 31 August
 - Final submission – 5 October

Discussion:

- ✓ Partners asked to volunteer to contribute to drafting the RRP for livelihoods sector. UNHCR, UNDP, Samaritan's Purse, Nsamizi, Mercy Corps, Caritas will be volunteering. The meeting will be held on 27 July.

AOB

1. CRRF steering committee group meeting was held on 3 July. The meeting had key summary points related to livelihood (task force to be created for the development of a livelihood strategy/framework; Steering Group to consider including the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries as a Steering Group member). 4th CRRF SG meeting action points for circulation attached
2. Connecting Business initiative (CBI) – a demand driven multi-stakeholder initiative transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises; Operational and technical support provided by OCHA and UNDP. Existing network for East Africa. Website: www.connectingbusiness.org
3. The next livelihood technical WG meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.
4. If any agencies intend to revise the targets on the RRP, contact Francesca and Gerald by 17 July (the original deadline was last Friday 13 July). Agencies invited to circulate assessment reports that may help in drafting the RRP.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14 August 2018 (TBC)