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| **PSN sub working group meeting Minutes** | | | | | |
| **Date** | **11 June 2020** | | **Venue** | Online | |
| **Agenda** | 1. Review of action points from previous meeting 2. Updates from members 3. AOB | | | | |
| **Attendance** | UNHCR, HI, NUDIPU, AAR Japan, Alight, Give Directly, IRC, DAI, Finnish Refugee Council, Refugee Law Project, DRC, Help Age International | | | | |
| **Facilitator** | Gemma Woods (UNHCR) | | | | |
| **Discussion points** | | **Recommendations/Action points** | | | **Responsible** |
| 1. **Review of action points from previous meting** 2. Share final accessible messages on COVID 19 for PSNs with PSN SWG members – pending; to follow up with MGLSD. HI explained that the messages are still in draft form, pending approval of the PS from the Ministry. HI, MGLSD and NUWODU have had a follow up meeting to discuss how to convert some of the messages; HI is working on converting some of the messages into pictoral form. To request an updated version of the SOPs from MGLSD & HI to share the pictoral messages when ready. 3. Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities – pending; to follow up with MGLSD 4. Contact sector leads to map activities targeting / including PSNs per sector – pending; update to be shared at next meeting 5. NUDIPU to present preliminary findings from research at next PSN SWG meeting - completed 6. **Updates from partners**   **UNHCR:**  The protection analysis document on the impact of COVID-19 measures on PSNs prepared by the PSN SWG has been shared widely with other sectors, and presentations on the main findings have been given to the National Refugee Protection Working Group and Refugee Humanitarian Partners Group (group of donors, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF). Main issues arising from the presentations so far: (i) OPM has encouraged actors to engage with settlement commandants and RDOs as part of efforts to engage District level COVID-19 taskforces on issues affecting PSNs, as these individuals are also members of the taskforces and (ii) there is support amongst donors for advocacy for inclusion of refugees with PSNs into social protection schemes in the longer term, for example the Senior Citizens Grant, as a measure to address longer term economic vulnerability.  **Alight:** Alight has constructed 79 temporary shelters for PSNs resettled in the south west and have continued to support PSNs at food distribution sites as well as supporting with referrals to partners and transport to hospitals.  Alight is also monitoring feedback received from the FRRM: a number of PSNs are requesting that they be provided with in-kind food assistance rather than cash for food. PSNs are finding it difficult to reach operational markets with transport restrictions and may not have a trusted person to go and purchase food on their behalf. They therefore prefer to receive in kind rations under the current conditions. Alight is following up on the issue with WFP.  Alight has also been working with groups of youth who have volunteered to help PSNs construct shelters in the south west.  **DRC:** Food and cash distributions to PSNs have recently been completed in Arua settlements. DRC is attempting to avoid long waiting times for PSNs at distribution points by prioritising their cases.  An emerging challenge is growing distrust between PSNs and their nominated alternate food collectors, with a disagreement on who should physically pick up the food rations for PSNs. DRC continues sensitisation on COVID-19 related measures amongst the refugee community and has supported community workers with gloves and masks. DRC is also following up on PSNs who are in need of new or repaired assistive devices during the lockdown.  **HI:** Actors working to provide / repair assistive devices for PSNs with disabilities are encouraged to collaborate with actors such as HI for expert advice. DRC is transferring cases in need of assistive devices in the West Nile to HI for this reason and others are encouraged to do the same.  Regarding the protection analysis document on the impact of COVID-19 measures on PSNs prepared by the PSN SWG – the document has been distributed widely but the group needs to look to wider advocacy opportunities around the key points, for example with the Livelihoods and Resilience working group, InterAgency working group.  **IRC:** In Bidibidi, IRC’s health team continue to help screen POCs at food distribution points and have installed handwashing facilities at the homes of a number of PSNs.  Major issues being raised through protection case management include NFI needs, supplementary feeding needs for PSNs with medical conditions.  A new challenge emerging in one zone of Bidibidi is stigmatisation and isolation of older persons and persons with medical conditions by the wider community due to the misunderstanding that these groups are more likely to contract COVID-19 and act as a vector of transmission. Some carers who were previously looking after PSNs have stepped away from their roles as a consequence.  **Finnish Refugee Council:** FRC are looking to establish activities for adult education for persons with disabilities – they are in the process of collecting information to guide plans for interventions.   1. **AOB**   NUDIPU is currently undertaking a national survey on the situation of PWDs in Covid 19 in all districts of Uganda; preliminary findings may be shared at the next PSN SWG meeting.  **Next meeting: Wednesday 10 June, 2pm (online)**  Link to shared Google drive for PSN SWG with minutes of meetings and key documents: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qh4gpf2cHNFrRCvOCyXaQpgV2GByOl_6> | | Share final accessible messages on COVID 19 for PSNs with PSN SWG members  Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities  Contact sector leads to map activities targeting / including PSNs per sector  PSN SWG to reach out to InterAgency working group and Livelihoods and Resilience working group re advocacy on main issues affecting PSNs in COVID 19 response  Partners to monitor whether PSNs are facing stigmatisation around COVID-19 in other locations | | | Emily / Ministry of Gender  Emily / Ministry of Gender  Gemma / UNHCR  Gemma / UNHCR  All partners |