

Livelihoods & Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG) Meeting – 18th September 2024

Venue: UNHCR, Lion room

Agenda Items

1. Co-chairs update by Aurthur -5 minutes
2. Mapping of Assessments – 10 minutes (Festo, IM)
3. Updates on SRI – 10 minutes (Godfrey Ariong)
4. VSLA impact studies by Grameen - 20 mins
5. Updates from partners (new projects, initiatives) - 20 minutes
 - Research on Refugee worker from WIENU by Charles
6. AOB - 5 minutes

Agenda Items

Co-chairs update by Aurthur - 5 minutes

- Highlighted the Sudan situation. Since the start of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, more than 55,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda – including 36,000 individuals from January 2024 to date. Consequently, Health, sanitation and Education concerns have been raised requiring the sector to work collaboratively to solve
- Workshop on Sudan was convened on 17th September to provide information to countries on how to address the Sudan situation

Mapping of Assessments – 10 minutes (Festo, IM)

- Festo, IM (UNHCR) presented on the state of the assessment registry and informed partners that the aim is to jointly track assessments.
- It was suggested that partners intending to conduct assessments first present their proposals to the working group and that before finalised assessments are disseminated to partners, they are reviewed/verified by the working group

Updates on SRI – 10 minutes (Godfrey Ariong)

- UBOS offered two colleagues to support the pretest exercise.
- First phase of the pretest to be conducted in Rwamwanja 30th September targeting 30 Households
- The SRI tool will be rolled out in November, and partners willing to support the pretest exercise are called upon to reach out to Godfrey or Lucy, MGLSD

VSLA impact studies by the Uthabithi Consortium(SCI and Caritas)- 20 mins

- Evaline Angole made a presentation on the digitalization approach used by USAID *Uthabithi* and the lessons learned. The project leverages a humanitarian-development nexus approach to enable refugees and host communities (especially youth and women) to have diversified livelihood opportunities to enable to meet their basic needs and participate in economic growth.
- The project promotes a refugee financial inclusion model that comprises of: digitize saving groups, digital financial literacy, VSLA group loan tailor-made for refugee needs, and Women and youth digital financial services. 140 VSLAs in Lamwo are onboarded onto the Ledgerlink by Grameen Foundation, and in Nakivale, 140 VSLAs have been onboarded onto the Ugafode VSLA application. Find the presentation [here](#).

Questions:

1. **Is the credit history from the apps acceptable to FSPs to grant loans?**

FSPs are using available credit history. Data for more than one cycle is used to determine the group's creditworthiness.

2. Is it possible to view all data of VSLAs using app to see their portfolio sizes?

Yes, it's accessible for the Grameen app in real-time

3. What's the cost per annum for VSLAs to use the platform?

Ledgerlink is free since it is a Grameen developed app. In southwest, where VSLAs use the Ugafode app, Grameen pays license for VSLAs to access the platform. But there's the intention to sustain beyond the project period

4. What's the incentive for VSLAs to onboard?

- *Access to credit since the group data is centralized.*
- *Simple and accurate records as the app automates transactions.*

5. What's the criteria for selection of VSLAs to work with?

Proven groups in active existence for over one year are selected to work with

6. What's the integrity of digital apps?

Integrity for the Ugafode app is protected by MOU signed and data sharing agreements to protect clients' data

7. What are the languages on the apps?

So far, the apps are piloted in two languages but once need arises, the apps will be translated into local languages

8. Are the apps operational only on smart phone based or feature phones?

To accommodate group members who don't use smart phones, the VSLAs groups still maintain their passbooks even though the apps track their transactions

Updates from partners (new projects, initiatives) - 20 minutes

- Research on Refugee worker from WIENU by Charles

- WIENU presented research they did on refugee Informal employment.
- LRSWG co-chairs advised WIENU to address comments the co-chairs made to their research and re-submit for review and dissemination, once approved.

AOB - 5 minutes

- Aurthur, The Co-Chair, reminded partners to submit their ongoing livelihoods projects to the mapping tool that was shared
- James(FAO), informed the meeting about the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the Southwest and that he would share a detailed update on the same with members.

Attendance

Physical

1. Festo Muriisa, UNHCR
2. Mishael Carolyne, Raising Gabdho F.
3. Vivian Otieno – UNCHR
4. James Terjanian, FAO
5. Apophia Atukunda – UNHCR
6. Charles Batte - WIENU
7. Aurthur Mutambikwa – UNCHR
8. Gerald Emoyo – UNCHR
9. Henry Wanume – UNHCR
10. Nick Waluse - UNHCR

Online

1. Ariong Godfrey, CRRF
2. Okello Obong Felix UNHCR
3. Atibo Christopher

Magdalene Amujal
Margaret Katuutu
Maria Keren Birungi
Michael Opio
Mwijuka Jesca – WIENU
Nabwire Dorothy
Noel Anzo Alabi
Opio Paul
Patrick Langoya
Peter Adori
Peter Paul Opata
Raymond Mukisa – UNDP
Richard Kibwota - CRS
Simon Ocana
Simone Mattuisi
Thomas Akol
Twinomujuni J

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