

## **Regional Economic Inclusion Exchange Meeting**

**Location:** UNHCR Regional office

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Participants:

<b>Name of Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Nicoletta Buono	DRC
Vishal Ashvin Patel	IFC
Lili Mohiddin	NRC
Sara King	NRC
Sergio Innocenti	FAO
Emily Addonizzio	FAO
Deborah Duveskog	FAO
Caroline Njuki	ILO
Patience Kiara	REDSS
Shezane Kabura Kirubi	REDSS
Alfred Ejem	AAH
Kenneth Wamai	ILO
Job Matseshe	Village Enterprise
Laura Buffoni	UNHCR
Emily Lugano	UNHCR
Celine Mersch	UNHCR
Sandra Aluoch- Simbiri	UNHCR

### **Agenda:**

1. Introduction: what the “exchange” is not, what it can be
2. Presentation/ updates from UNHCR:
  - The UNHCR Global programme to alleviate poverty of refugees and host communities/Consortium workshop, Geneva 26-27 February
  - Updates on GCR/CRRF and the Global Forum for Refugees
  - Forthcoming IGAD conference on Jobs, Livelihoods and Economic inclusion, Kampala 26-29 March
3. FAO/UNHCR partnership
4. ILO The “Dutch partnership” on Inclusive Jobs and Education for forcibly displaced persons and host communities - Government of the Netherlands, IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and the WB 10 min
5. Alexander Betts (Refugee Study Centre, Oxford) presenting some of the results of his most recent research on Uganda/Kenya – video presentation
6. AOB

**UNHCR introduced and facilitated the meeting** which aims at discussing economic inclusion and livelihoods programming in refugee, returnee and other displacement settings, with a special focus on host communities.

### **FAO/UNHCR partnership:**

The two agencies have developed this partnership to promote joint UN planning as a contribution to the CRRF. There is a global MOU between FAO and UNHCR, which focuses on four main themes, with an overarching theme of social cohesion:

- Food security
- Environment and energy
- Economic inclusion through agricultural value chains, bringing investment to refugee hosting areas.
- Data for programming (food security analysis and resilience measurement)

Current projects being formulated include work on groundnut and passion fruit value chains in Uganda and Kenya. In Uganda, FAO and UNHCR jointly chair the Livelihoods Working Group.

There will be an event at the end of May on environment and natural resource management, to which FAO will invite members of this group.

**“Dutch partnership” on Inclusive jobs and education for forcibly displaced persons and affected host communities: the role of the ILO**

A 4 year programme on Education and Inclusive Livelihoods involving ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, World Bank, IFC and the Government of the Netherlands. ILO will use Employment Intensive Investment Programming (EIIP) amongst others, to deliver employment-intensive works and public employment programmes in some of the areas where the partnership will be investing.

Focus on host communities as the main entry point

Covers Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

More details in the presentation given.

#### **AOB:**

NRC shared some information about their ongoing programme in Dadaab, called the [Refugee Employment and Skills Initiative](#) (RESI). This is implemented together with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and funded by the Dutch government. It focuses on two value chains – digital online freelancing and home décor. Phase 1 is coming to an end soon, an application for phase 2 has been submitted. Coordination has been done with ILO/UNHCR regarding the Garissa County market assessments which were carried out by both groups in November.

#### **Action points and agreements:**

##### **1: Regarding the Regional Economic Inclusion Exchange group meetings:**

- The meetings deal with all displacement affected populations- refugees, IDPs, returnees, host communities.
- Meetings can have a thematic focus. Members can present research, learning, ideas, etc. depending on the theme. Potential themes to be explored further at a later date, however some suggestions given were:
  - o Durable solutions – different perspectives and how they link to livelihoods / economic inclusion.
  - o Urban programming
  - o Private sector engagement
  - o The link between livelihoods and energy/environment
- Rotate hosting and facilitation; UNHCR will continue to manage invitations, mailing list, and the online uploads; and host/facilitate meetings whenever needed.
- Identify note taker at the beginning of each meeting to ensure the provision of minutes

##### **2. Information management for the group:**

- Better understanding of who is doing what and where is needed (4W type of analysis but without engaging in a full “matrixing” exercise. ). Suggestion is to review a pre-existing mapping that was done in 2018–and to use existing country-level portals
- UNHCR data portal can be used and documents can be uploaded – only UNHCR can upload docs – or maybe a Gogledoc? Decision is to use UNHCR data portal for now.

##### **3. General action points:**

- An update will be sent to the group on SEEP Minimum Economic Recovery Standards 1-day event. Event likely to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. This will be in addition to the SEEP MERS run cost-recovery 3-day event that may take place in June (TBC).
- Laura to upload Alexander Betts research & video on to UNHCR portal, and presentations given in this meeting.
- ILO & The Dutch partnership: Inclusive jobs and education for host communities, refugees and other forcibly displaced persons
  - o Country Vision Note for Kenya (and other countries in the region?) to be shared.
  - o Launch in April of the Dadaab/Garissa market assessment report. Can also look at other assessment reports such as the one by ITC/NRC. Engagement from members of this group may be sought – TBC.
- FAO will invite members of this group to an event in May on environment and natural resource management.

##### **4. Questions**

- Is there a need for a similar group for regional sharing/learning on energy / environment / resilience work? Anyone interested is invited to contact Sarah King at NRC on [sarah.king@nrc.no](mailto:sarah.king@nrc.no) .

For questions regarding the group and to participate or contribute, please contact Laura Buffoni, UNHCR, [buffoni@unhcr.org](mailto:buffoni@unhcr.org)