



INTER AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 16 October 2020

Venue: virtual

Attendance: 68 (at the peak of the meeting)

Key Highlights

In the absence of the UNHCR Country Representative, the Deputy Representative welcomed the new Commissioner, Department of Refugees from the Office on the Prime Minister (OPM) in absentia as he was unavoidably absent. She expressed confidence in the continued good working relationship with OPM as the new Commissioner has already worked in the same position before.

She Congratulated WFP on behalf of the Representative and the organization for winning the Nobel Peace price and hoped that this price would be accompanied by the necessary funding for the entire operation and for WFP at large.

In the briefing of OPM and the Local Government, reports of refugees involving in politics were highlighted. Both speakers insisted that the law does not allow refugees to partake in the national politics of the country and therefore urged all to reinforce sanitizations to help refugees refrain from politics to avoid being arrested.

Pendular movements were also mentioned by OPM and requested refugees to avoid such movements especially due to COVID-19. Refugees blamed the movements on the insufficient food rations which according to the information received during the meeting is a push factor.

The following issues were also raised:

- The criteria in the SOPs for the reopening of the schools were not met by some schools and hence will remain closed until further evaluations are done;
- There are challenges in testing kits in some locations such as kyangwali. Partners were requested to inform Dr Kasozi about the donations they make so that they are directed to areas where they are challenges and most needed;
- On the conflicts in Rhino camp, there are challenges of some of the refugees returning to Rhino despite the measures put in place to assist them. They were however advised to return to their settlements to avoid congestion and the spread of COVID-19 and that assistance will only be provided them in Rhino camp;

- About 600 refugees who have overstayed at the Base Camp in Palorinya and there is need to find a solution (protection colleagues were requested to take the lead to find a solution to this situation);
- Burundian refugees to be supported to repatriate as this is the right of those willing to repatriate;
- Increased teenage pregnancy cases is worrisome and the need for respective partners to pay attention and follow up;
- Education team/partners to give an update on status for next Inter Agency Coordination Meeting
- It was signaled that potential additional refugees might cross over into Uganda considering the continued conflict in Kajokegi – the three contingency plans were updated and endorsed by OPM considering these developments;
- Partners to requested upload their inputs into the mid-year reporting by 22 October
- There are plans by JAICA to rehabilitate some roads in our operational areas (Yumbe-Arua axis)
- Next meeting is slated on Friday 13 November 2020.