

**Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group Coordination
Ms. Teams Meeting, 22 June 2021**

Agenda

- i) Updates from the Co-chairs
- ii) Update on JLIRP and next steps –Ministry of Gender Labour Social Development
- iii) Knowledge Sharing –NURI / DRC
 - Capacity Strengthening for District Local Governments and local Communities
 - Developing strong in market linkages
- iv) Open Discussions on
 - transitioning from short to long term resilience
 - Strengthening the settlement coordination forums
- v) Partner announcements
- vi) A.o.B

Opening remarks and Updates form CO-Chairs

- The meeting was held at a time when the country was in a lock down due to an upsurge in COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country. Partners were requested to revise their activity plans accordingly. Following feedback from members, the Co-Chairs decided to reduce the number of items on the agenda in order to allow adequate time for discussions.
- Reporting for quarter one was poor, so the Co-Chairs requested for an improvement in the quarter two reporting, which is due at the end of June.
- The Individual Profiling Exercise, which was expected to assist partners in targeting assistance, has been affected due to the COVID_19 restriction, the exercise has been postponed until a later date to be communicated.
- The LRSWG is scheduled to make a presentation during the Inter-Agency meeting scheduled for the second week of July. The Co-Chairs will undertake an analysis based on the partners submission in the *Activityinfo* for Q2 period and prepare a make a presentation on the sector's performance.
- Partners were reminded to submit lists of Car plates for UNHCR to request for movement waivers/permits from government.
- The Co-Chairs requested the partners to share the challenges experienced due to the new restrictions.

Comments to the opening remarks and updates

- Given that movement of NGO staff is limited, partners reported a reduction in training activities, including reducing the number that participate in group trainings to 15 members on average, to ensure compliance with SOPs.
- Some of the partners reported using radio programmes to deliver key training messages using languages spoken by refugees and hosts.
- Savings groups, which under normal circumstances have 20-30 members, have been split into smaller groups to enable them continue with their activities.

Knowledge Sharing by Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) NURI

- The Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI), funded by DANIDA, targets enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities'. This is done through supporting for 1) Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) – training in sustainable production techniques and bottom of the value chain marketing activities; 2) Rural Infrastructure (RI) - community-planned, labour-intensive and agriculture-related rural infrastructure ; and 3) Water Resources Management (WRM) .
- NURI covers 9 districts in the West Nile and Acholi Sub Regions of Northern Uganda. The districts are Agago, Kitgum and Lamwo in Acholi sub region and Arua, Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Moyo and Adjumani in West Nile sub region. NURI also Refugee s in Rhino Camp, Palorinya , 3 settlements in Adjumani, and Palabek Settlement in Lamwo District.4375 farmer groups and 3300 VSLAs have been formed, 28% of them being refuge groups.
- What makes NURI different is that it is a programme and not an NGO. NURI also builds long term human capital at the DLGs and farmers and engages with government and farmers. In addition, NURI works in all sub-counties in the targeted districts, where the youth, women, as well as other groups are targeted. VSLA and financial literacy training were integrated in the NURI programme.
- NURI reported that introduction of Resilience design- integrating CSA techniques with water and infrastructure and VSLAs, savings plans, CSA, production and marketing plans builds resilience.
- However, promoting access to quality agro-inputs and competitive markets remains a challenge.

Questions and responses

- *Has NURI organised farmers for better bargaining power/collective action?*
NURI links groups to input and output markets, including to Abi Trust for further support
- *Has NURI been successful in linking farmers to markets?*
Although there has been success in assisting groups to access markets, marketing of produce is still a challenge.
- *How was the cash for work rate- 6,000 determined?*
NURI used the government rate.

Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) and Next Steps – Ministry of Gender Labor Social Development (Fr. Benedict Okweda)

Following the launch of the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan in May 2021, the Ministry of Gender Labor Social Development has developed a plan for the next steps in the Implementation of the plan.

The next steps for the plan include: developing a popular version, dissemination of the JLIRP to stakeholders in the respective 13 refugee hosting districts, Supporting the 13 refugee hosting districts to integrate the JLIRP in their respective Development Plans , and to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

The MGLSD representative requested for support from partners towards implementation of the proposed JLIRP activities.

Open Discussion on:

a) Transitioning from short to long term resilience

b) Strengthening the settlement coordination forums

- It was noted that the sector had recorded commendable success with the first objective i.e. providing humanitarian livelihood support to refugees and hosts. However, the performance has been very minimal with regard to building resilience and enhancing the enabling environment to promote livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees and host communities.
- The AVSI- Trickle Up graduation programme, a multi-year USAID funded activity, was mentioned as an example of a well-designed project that can support long term resilience of participants.
- Further discussions on transitioning from short to long term resilience and strengthening the settlement coordination forums was deferred to the next meeting due to time limitation.

Partner announcements

- The UNHCR Information Management Unit has organized training on *Activityinfo*, the reporting system for the Refugee Response, on 29th and 30th June. Partner staff can sign up for the training by sending an e-mail to: matovuc@unhcr.org or numero@unhcr.org.
- ILO issued a call for expression of interest for a grant to support value chains including cassava and Sesame in Arua, Madi-Okollo and Terego districts. ILO has scheduled a call on 29th June to provide detailed information about the grant to interested partners.
- Humane Africa Mission won a grant to support vulnerable people, including youth, in Kiryandongo.

Closing remarks

The Sector Leads requested all RRP partners to submit their *activityinfo* reports to UNHCR by the first week of July to enable them analyze the sector’s performance and prepare a presentation for the Inter-Agency meeting scheduled for the second week of July.

The next working group meeting will be held on 20th July.

List Of Participants

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| 1. Lilian Otiego, Co-Chair, UNHCR | 28. Noah Ssempijja, Opportunity International |
| 2. Paul Mwirichia , Co-Chair, WVI | 29. John Ilima, Village Enterprise |
| 3. Joseph Ebinu, NURI, DANIDA | 30. Rose Wilder, Trickle Up |
| 4. Bik Lum, UNHCR | |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Rilla Kirk, DANIDA 6. Dave Moore, US PRM 7. Katie Medeiros, US PRM 8. Mike taurus, USAID 9. Dave Greenhalgh, ACF 10. Yoon -Kyung Shin, UNDP 11. Weigt Christin, GIZ 12. Geremew Yadessa 13. Benjamin Christopher Reese, World Bank 14. Rita Larok, AVSI 15. Fr. Benedict Okweda- MGLSD 16. Charles Alemi-UNHCR 17. Mesele Fitsum – ZOA 18. Martin Michael Malinga-NURI 19. Albert Okwai, 20. Mike Taurus – USAID 21. Christian Schniepper, Welthungerhilfe 22. Gilbert Sarah, CRS 23. Joanita-AVSI Engorok 24. Obi, SHA 25. Mirima Egau 26. Mulugeta Taddele 27. Emily Kemigisha | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Samsonraj Pandian 32. Medeiros Katelya 33. Michael Opio – CARE 34. Rose Wilder – Trickle up 35. Christopher Komakech – NRC 36. James odongo-CARE 37. Emily Kemigisha-HelpAge International 38. Roman Chandia- 39. Jonathan Opio- Humane African Mission 40. Gerald Emoyo – UNHCR 41. Mesele Fitsum-ZOA 42. Michael Opio 43. Ronald Wanyama 44. John Francis 45. Aciro kevin 46. Martina , CESVI 47. Dave Van Zoonen , REACH 48. Martin Malinga Danish Refugee Council 49. Ronald Wanyama , Oxfam 50. Wamonhi Davis , War Child Canada - Uganda 51. George Matete, BRAC |
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