# **Refugee Engagement Forum (REF)**

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report: 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021



Figure 1: REF members and the task force during the 11th REF meeting in Eureka place hotel.

# Day 1: 5/10/2021

Session I title: Opening remarks
Session time: 10:58-11:03
Session objective: To officially welcome all participants and give a brief introduction of the 11th REF meeting.
Presenter name and organisation: Ms. Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR

# **Key points presented:**

- Thanked U-Learn, CARE, and IRC for financing the 11<sup>th</sup> REF meeting.
- Thanked the Government of Uganda for providing space for refugee engagement.
- Noted that though there are some positive experiences learned from Covid-19, the pandemic has affected service delivery, calling for partnership between community leaders and partners providing services to the persons of concern.
- Informed the meeting that the demand for support is growing yet the funding remains stable.
- Added that UNHCR is encouraging donors to continue providing more support to the refugee response.

Session II title: Review of action points from the 10<sup>th</sup> REF Meeting Session time: 11.05-11:15 Session objective: To review progress against action points from the 10th REF Meeting. Presenter name and organisation: Mr. Geoffrey Okullo, U-Learn

# **Slideshow link:**



#### **Key points presented:**

- Refugee leaders requested to sensitize the community on the official return to countries of origin and to refrain from self-repatriation.
- The support for consultative and feedback meetings should continue ensuring the room to consult wider community embracing Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD).
- REF members voted online and decided to postpone the elections of REF representatives to the CRRF Steering Group until the next in-person REF meeting, thus extending the term of the current representatives to the CRRF SG.
- More information on the plan for the COVID-19 vaccination and the safety of vaccines is crucial to avoid misinformation among refugee community.
- To address community knowledge gaps about the REF, U-Learn will develop and share a presenter's guide to be used when explaining REF to community members.

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- Nakivaale: Some Burundians were not supported to access official documents needed for repatriation leading to cases of self-repatriation.
- Adjumani: School closure for a long time, seeking medical treatment and support, and family reunification are some of the reasons for self-repatriation.
- Kyaka II: Burundians are being sensitized against the dangers of self-repatriation.
- Imvepi: Single-headed families cannot bear the burden of food reduction and requested for continuous sensitization on the official return process to countries of origin.
- Kyangwali: There is a need for partners' involvement (e.g., OPM, UNHCR) in the REF consultative and feedback meetings and share feedback from REF meetings during village, sector, and coordination meetings.

#### **Action points:**

- Refugee leaders to ensure continuous sensitization of community members to refrain from self-repatriation.
- REF to continue sharing feedback at various coordination meetings at settlement, district and regional level.

**Session III title:** Briefing on the agenda items for CRRF Steering Group meetings **Session time:** 11:16-11:28

**Session objective:** Inform REF members of the agenda items for the 14<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG Meeting. **Presenter name and organisation:** Ms. Hellen Acibo, CRRF Secretariat (OPM)

#### **Slideshow link**



Draft Agenda for the 14th CRRF Steer

#### Key points presented:

The agenda of the CRRF SG meeting included:

- Adoption of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting
- Discussions on the critical issues for Uganda's refugee response, which included operational update on the refugee response, impact of COVID-19 on the refugee response, and its strategic plan to avert the next wave. Planned programme for reopening of schools.
- Progress in transitioning Sector Response Plans into national programme implementation action plans under the third National Development Plan - NDPIII

programme approach, which included alignment of Sector Response Plans with NDPIII and status of District Development Plans for refugee-hosting districts, updates on development of Education Response Plan II (Human Capital Development Programme), the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (Sustainable Energy Programme) and draft concept note on Infrastructure Refugee Response Plan (Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services Programme).

• Summary of the meeting's action points & decisions

Session IV title: Decisions from the last CRRF SG meeting

#### Session time: 11:30-11:53

**Session objective:** To update members on the progress on the decisions of the 13<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG Meeting.

Presenter name and organisation: Ms. Hellen Acibo, CRRF Secretariat (OPM)

**Slideshow link:** 



PROGRESS ON THE DECISIONS OF THE '

#### **Key points presented:**

- CRRF SG adopted minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG meeting & 2020 CRRF Annual Report.
- CRRF SG adopted the Strategic Direction 2021-2025 and National Plan of Action with comments.
- SG members welcomed the focus on district coordination/engagement, expressed support for the establishment of District Engagement Forum & recommended the review of Issues Paper on District Coordination to formalize CRRF coordination at district level.
- Welcomed the focus on Localization Agenda and suggested that a road map is developed.
- SG members requested to receive an update from the MoH on the use of vaccines, for border security, immigration, etc. and urged that a communication campaign is rolled out to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination among refugees & host communities.

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

• REF representatives do not get timely feedback from SG meeting.

#### **Action points:**

 REF members urged to note down the feedback from refugee representatives and raise them to the CRRF SG meeting for further sharing with the wider refugee community.

Session V title: Prioritisation of WFP Food Assistance Discussion

# Session time: 11:55-13:58

**Session objective:** To inform the refugee leaders of the food assistance geographical prioritization approach for 2021 and get their feedback on the same topic.

Presenter name and organisation: Ryan & Beatrice - WFP

#### **Slideshow link:**



**Key points presented:** 

- Preparations are ongoing to implement needs-based prioritisation of resources that are available for food assistance.
- Through prioritization, more vulnerable communities will be provided with more assistance than less vulnerable communities, to achieve better food security outcomes and protect the most vulnerable.
- Given the limited resources, WFP will implement a geographic prioritization scheme, with revised food/cash rations as of November 2021.
- Dividing the settlements into these three groups is based on important differences among the three regions that impact food security. Group 1: refugees living in settlements considered to have the highest levels of vulnerabilities will receive the largest food ration. Group 2: refugees living in the next category of settlements, still considered very vulnerable, will continue to receive a slightly smaller food ration. Group 3: refugees living in settlements that are on average considered overall less vulnerable than those in other settlements will receive a smaller ration.
- WFP, UNHCR and OPM will jointly implement a Communication & Community Engagement Strategy to ensure that refugees understand why and how WFP's food assistance rations will be prioritised from November 2021 and address any potential misunderstandings, rumours or misinformation.

# Key feedback raised by the REF:

- A REF member asked whether the food cuts will consider the different vulnerabilities within the settlement.
- A concern was raised that the assessment seems to generalize that all individuals in the South-Western settlements can produce food, which is not the case.
- In Kiryandongo, long dry spell affected food production in 1<sup>st</sup> season, coupled with small land, which is not enough to support sustainable farming.
- Kiryandongo: A member raised the issue of discrimination among the refugees. He questioned the difference between refugees in Uganda and those in other countries.
- Nakivale: Raised a concern that not all households in Southwestern under group 3 are food secure, adding that most people lack land to cultivate thus depending on food assistance.
- A REF member asked whether WFP has any plan of supporting urban refugees who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19.
- In Kyangwali, members wanted to know who conducted the study and when was it done because Kyangwali is currently receiving new arrivals.

# **Responses from WFP**

- WFP noted that this proposal is an interim solution and that this requires working together with different livelihood partners.
- The current proposal does not consider the vulnerabilities within the households but focused on the geographical prioritisation.
- WFP informed REF that the issues of more land allocation will be guided by OPM.
- WFP informed that most donor countries have reduced support due to funding challenges in their countries and that prioritisation approach in other countries may vary.
- WFP added that it's not discrimination of refugees, but better allocation of resources.
- WFP informed that studies were conducted in 2016 related to nutrition, and VENA in 2019.
- Starting 18th October, individual verification exercise will commence in Southwest to ascertain the exact number of individuals per household and inform the exact amount of support needed and the existing needs
- Refugee leaders were challenged as representatives to speak up and think of solutions to issues affecting refugees
- Urban refugees are expected to be self-reliant, but UNHCR has been able to support urban refugees with cash assistance during the peak of the COVID pandemic.
- Refugees are encouraged to embrace self-reliance, innovation and be solution oriented

#### **Action points:**

 WFP, UNHCR and OPM to hold joint community engagement and awareness to ensure that refugees understand why and how WFP's food assistance rations will be prioritised from November 2021 and address any potential misunderstandings, rumours or misinformation.

**Session VI title:** Achievements of the Education Response Plan (2018-2021 and the development of the Human Capital Development Response Plan). **Session time:** 14:53-15:10

**Session objective:** To inform REF members of the achievements of ERDII and the development of Human Capital Development Response Plan.

Presenter name and organisation: Ms. Hellen Acibo, CRRF Secretariat

#### **Slideshow link:**



ERP II Process Update to CRRF SG\_

#### **Key points presented:**

- Concept note and road map were approved at 7<sup>th</sup> ERP Steering Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- Reference group constituted for oversight and guidance on the development process.
- Technical ERPII Task Team formed and assigned to develop the ERP II with MoES Department of Planning and Policy Analysis as Convener. Additional costing model expertise received from UNICEF.
- Comprehensive data in settlement and host schools in 12 Refugee Hosting Districts were collected and under analysis and validation.
- Consultation with stakeholders in districts/settlements concluded in September 2021.
- Additional Sub Task Groups for TVET and Early Childhood Care and Education constituted.

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- High number of learners in schools versus few infrastructures leading to congestion in classrooms. For example, in Bidibidi, we have over 5,000 pupils in a school with no examination centres. They requested for more infrastructures, advanced level schools and examination centres.
- There are a few secondary and vocational training schools (e.g., Palorinya: 3 secondary schools with 1 advanced level school, Palabek: only 1 secondary school).
- In Lobule, teachers do not get paid, and there is a lack of textbooks and high cost of fees in UNHCR-supported schools.
- South Western: There is language barrier in schools Kishwahili. They requested for government to recruit more education assistants / language interpreters in schools.
- Across all settlements, there are high rates of teenage pregnancy due to school closure
- Refugees face the challenge of equating refugee's academic documents to Ugandan standards.
- There are few scholarship slots available and limited information about them. REF requested for more scholarships.

Session VII title: Prioritization of Key Messages for the Steering Group Meeting Session time: 15:50-17:05

**Session objective:** To develop key messages for presentation by the Refugee Representatives in the next CRRF SG Meeting.

Presenter name and organisation: Mr. Jerry Grant Anyoli, UNHCR

# **Slideshow link:**



Key messages for CRRF SG .docx

#### **Key points presented:**

Key messages for CRRF SG meeting:

- Impact of COVID-19 on service delivery in your settlement: Need to increase livelihood interventions and strengthen community structures to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery.
- Access to COVID-19 vaccines within the settlements: Use of creative approaches for awareness creation on benefits of vaccination.
- Effect of COVID-19 on education (school closure): Need to re-open schools and strengthen accountability of the legal practitioners to ensure access to justice for the survivors of SGBV.
- Management of refugee's expectations as government and partners plan for the 3rd wave of COVID-19: Continuously support POCs with SOPs, provide more livelihood support, and strengthen the refugee COVID-19 task forces.

#### **Action points:**

 Key messages developed for presentation at the CRRF SG Meeting by the refugee representatives.

# Day 2: 6/10/2021

Session VIII title: Review of REF Presenter's guide Session time: 09:45-11:00 Session objective: To REF Presenter's guide with REF members. Presenter name and organisation: Marijke Deleu, U-Learn

#### **Slideshow link:**



REF Presentationpresenter's guide sli

#### **Key points presented:**

- Shared the REF Good Practice process timeline
- REF presenter's guide development was based on the recommendations from REF members
- Presenter's guide helps to raise awareness about REF among community members.
- Structure of the Presenter's Guide: Information about REF, how to start your session, tips on how to keep your audience attentive, how to begin and end the session.

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- Some positive feedback: the guide clearly shows the two-way communication flow, with clear referral pathway
- The guide gives a very clear session breakdown.
- It gives a clear process of identifying people's concerns.
- The guide actively involves the refugee leaders.

# **Action points:**

- U-Learn to review and include the comments from REF members in the guide.
- U-Learn to translate the presenter's guide to refugee languages.
- REF members to share additional feedback-if any in a week's time with U-Learn through email or WhatsApp.
- Each REF member will be given 2 copies of the REF presenter's guide and Good Practice study reports.

Session IX title: COVID-19 situation and vaccination
Session time: 11:00-12:00
Session objective: To share the status of COVID-19 and vaccination in the country.
Presenter name and organisation: Dr. Ibrahim, Ministry of Health.

#### **Slideshow link:**



COVID-19 Update ppt.pptx

# **Key points presented:**

- 3,074 refugees had tested positive as at 5/10/2021.
- Very few refugees and humanitarian workers have taken COVID-19 vaccines.
- Challenges include: Few doses of vaccines in the country, low uptake by the community members, among other.
- Strategies to improve vaccine uptake include awareness creation among community members and involvement of the VHTs.

#### Key concerns raised by the REF:

- Kampala: a REF member asked whether people who recovered from COVID-19 are eligible for vaccination. REF members were informed that people who recovered from COVID-19 are eligible for vaccination.
- A member informed the presenter that there are so many rumours regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. REF members were informed that the vaccines are safe despite minor side effects, added that none of the people vaccinated have reported cases of blood clot.
- A member asked why one should put on a mask when fully vaccinated, as this may mean that the vaccine is not safe. MOH responded that when one gets vaccinated, the case will not be severe.
- Another member asked whether the MOH is having any strategy for ensuring availability of COVID-19 vaccines. REF was informed that there is a Parliamentary Committee working on COVID-19 vaccine issues.

# Action points:

- Partners should adopt a more creative and non-traditional awareness creation approached to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.
- REF members to sensitize community members to observe MOH COVID-19 guidelines and encourage them to get vaccinated.

Session X title: Basics for Advocacy (SGBV referral etc) Session time: 12:07-13:17 6/10/2021 Session objective: To equip REF members with basic advocacy skills. Presenter name and organisation: Doreen Ayebare, CARE

#### **Slideshow link:**



# Key points presented:

- Understanding advocacy
- The Advocacy Planning and Implementation Cycle
- Communicating your influencing plan
- Advocacy Actions
- How REF Advocates for refugees

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- REF members requested for a session on land rights
- REF members raised concerns related to lack of respect for leaders by some partners as a major challenge to advocacy efforts
   Participants were concerned that some issues raised are never addressed by stakeholders-e.g teenage pregnancy, and limited land for cultivation

#### **Action points:**

- REF members requested to be supported to develop an advocacy plan
- Care & IRC to train REF on land laws and policies.

**Session XI title:** Updates from U-Learn SG meeting by REF member **Session time:** 14:30-15:00 6/10/2021

Session objective: Provide feedback from U-Learn SG meeting to participants.

**Presenter name and organisation:** Marifa Junior Debaba – U-Learn's SG member.

#### **Slideshow link:**



Feedback on U-Learn SG meeting

#### **Key points presented:**

- U-Learn SG aims to strengthen refugee response through increased response wide learning, affected populations meaningfully participating in the refugee response
- Partners continue to adapt programme delivery based on regular relevant findings from the field
- Themes for 2021 include Refugee participation, Cash assistance and private sector innovation.
- U-Learn's progress include: RCCE assessment, defined thematic scope of learning hub, REF Good practice study, Supported and strengthened the REF, Rumor analysis and provided risk communication technical support.

#### Key concern raised by the REF:

 A REF member suggested a replacement of U-Learn's SG member, Mohamad Muktar who passed on. The response from UNHCR was that the Urban Team and UNHCR would take lead in doing that.

#### **Action points:**

- U-learn to print and share REF Good Practice study report with REF members.
- It was resolved that the 3 REF members will continue to represent at the U-Learn's Steering Group.

**Session XII title:** Election of REF Representatives to the CRRF Steering Group. **Session time:** 15:23-16:52

**Session objective:** To elect 2 REF representatives to the CRRF Steering Group.

Presenter name and organisation: Julian - UNHCR Slideshow link:

#### **Key points presented:**

- Composition and functions of REF Taskforce
- Qualification/Requirements for Candidates
- Campaigning and nomination procedures
- Polling processes and procedures of counting votes
- Results of the election

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- A member questioned the relevance of electing REF to the CRRF SG because their presentation was not included in the agenda.
- A member asked whether youth representatives are eligible for election to CRRF SG.

#### **Action points:**

- UNHCR proposed that election of CRRF SG members be aligned to the election of RWCs.
- REF told to start the nomination process of eligible candidates ahead of time.

# Day 3: 7/10/2021

**Session XIII title:** Feedback from refugee representatives on CRRF SG Meeting to REF members and Taskforce.

**Session time:** 9:18-10:28

**Session objective:** Provide feedback on the discussions held during 14<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG meeting. **Presenter name and organisation:** Noella Kabale & Gakuru Hitimana – REF representatives to CRRF SG.

# **Key points presented:**

- The refugee representatives informed REF that CRRF SG meeting mentioned that there will be a transition from humanitarian to development planning.
- They further informed the meeting that there is a temporary border closure due to COVID-19, however, new arrivals are being welcomed.
- Uganda has organised voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees.
- Ministry of Lands should work with OPM and Ministry of Local Government to address land issues.
- Challenges presented include continuous food cuts by WFP, reduction of funds for refugee response, lack of infrastructure, inadequate land.

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- A member asked when the government will act on reduced livelihood support to refugees.
- A member requested for updates from the last GRF (Global Refugee Forum).
- A member requested for updates on schools reopening.
- Kiryandongo: alleged that there is demand for bribes by some partner staff to get assistance.
- Requested for more job opportunities in Uganda.

# Action points:\*

- REF members to come up with the list of qualified refugees and share it with partners.
- REF members to strengthen feedback at community level
- For all to note: Next Global Refugee Forum (GRF) will take place in December 2021

**\*Note from REF representative to the CRRF:** There were no direct feedback and/or responses from the CRRF SG to the 2 REF representatives, and the different sector leads didn't provide substantial responses. Also, the 2 REF members weren't given any dedicated time slots in the agenda. Therefore, we believe that it is important to advocate for allocating specific time for the 2 REF members in addition some time for reactions and responses from the CRRF SG member in order for the 2 REF members to deliver tangible responses to the communities.

Session XIV title: Presentation on Uganda Refugee Response INGO Forum (RINGO) Session time: 10:30-11:20

**Session objective:** To create awareness on RINGO & opportunities for further engagement. **Presenter name and organisation:** Michael Geoffrey Bruce, CRRF Secretariat.

#### **Slideshow link:**



#### Key points presented:

- The mission statement and purpose of the RINGO.
- Leadership of the RINGO.
- How can REF members voices be reflected in the work of RINGO?

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- Asked whether RINGO will employ refugees to coordinate its work at settlement level. Michael responded that RINGO does not have funding, depends on partners.
- Asked the role of the community leaders in RINGO's activities. He responded that the role of leaders would be located across the suggested activities (guest speakers from the REF during the AGM, settlement level engagement, advocacy coordination, coordination working group).

#### **Action points:**

- REF to select a representative/speaker during RINGO's AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- REF to share suggestions on how often the working group should be sitting.

#### Session XV title: Discussion on AAP indicators

#### **Session time:** 11:18-1:40

**Session objective:** Seek for feedback and input from REF members on the AAP indicators. **Presenter name and organisation:** Kai Kamei, Ground Truth Solution, Ann Mbeiza, and John Bisimwa Mulemangabo, U-Learn.

#### **Slideshow link:**





Copy of AAP indicators.xlsx

# **Key points presented:**

- Definition of AAP
- AAP Task Team TOR (Terms of Reference)
- Using global AAP frameworks to design our AAP indicators
- AAP perception indicators
- Overview of suggested indicators

#### Key feedback raised by the REF:

- 100% of the REF members agreed that the indicators for quality of relationship, empowerment, information and communication, quality of services are relevant.
- Individual groups raised additional questions to be added as indicator questions especially for the theme on participation and complaint mechanisms- these were included in the excel matrix.

# **Action points:**

• U-Learn to support refugees to systematically express their opinions and perceptions through AAP indicators.

# Session XVI title: Key takeaways from REF Meeting

# **Session time:** 14:55-15:02

**Session objective:** Share the key messages and action points from the REF meeting. **Presenter name and organisation:** Geoffrey Okullo, U-Learn.

# Key takeaways presented:

- REF requested for more livelihood interventions to respond to reduced food rations. For example, providing grants, ensure appropriate timing of interventions (do not give seed when growing will not be possible), provide crops that are resistant to drought, increase the size of land which can be cultivated.
- There is a need to rethink and change the way we work together. Government, partners, and refugees must have a common agenda, importantly on how to strengthen self-reliance.
- OPM to encourage more private sector investment in the refugee response.
- Partners need to strengthen community structures to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery.
- WFP, UNHCR and OPM to hold joint community engagement and awareness to ensure that refugees understand why and how WFP's food assistance rations will be prioritised from November 2021 and address any potential misunderstandings, rumours or misinformation.
- Partners to adopt non-tradition and creative awareness creation approaches to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Refugee leaders need to be meaningfully involved in the COVID response and not only the VHT.
- Health partners need to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are brought closer to the communities.
- Requested Government to make Covid-19 vaccination mandatory other than making it voluntary.
- REF requested for the re-opening of schools.
- Protection partners (Care & IRC) should strengthen accountability of legal practitioners to ensure access to justice for the survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
- Protection partners to strengthen follow up of SGBV cases and ensure logical conclusion, document, and share the good practices.
- Care and IRC to Support community leaders to formulate and enforce bylaws/guidelines against early marriage and teenage pregnancies.
- Care and IRC to conduct continuous community sensitization and awareness creation on the dangers of early marriage and teenage pregnancies.
- REF requested for continuous support with sanitizers, soaps, masks, and hand washing facilities to cope with 3rd wave of COVID-19.
- Strengthen COVID-19 task forces at settlement level (through trainings, transport, etc.).
- REF members to continuously sensitize community members on the official return to the country of origin
- REF requested UNHCR, OPM and partners for more secondary schools / open more A level schools, infrastructures (classrooms, teachers houses) and examination centres in settlement schools.

- REF members requested UNHCR, OPM and education partners to recruit education assistants (interpreters) in schools.
- Requested UNHCR and education partners for more scholarships for professional courses like nursing, etc.
- REF Task Force need to strengthen community feedback through meetings and reports sharing.
- REF requested Care to support them in developing advocacy plans.
- REF requested protection partners (IRC & Care) for training on land laws and policies
- U-Learn need to support refugees to systematically express their opinions and perceptions through AAP indicators.

#### **Action points:**

• REF Task Force to share the key takeaways with meeting participants.

**Session XVII title:** Election of Representatives to the SG – Nominations, Campaigns & Voting **Session time:** 15:05-16:13

**Session objective:** Elect refugee representatives to the CRRF SG.

#### Presenter name and organisation: Julian, UNHCR

#### **Key points presented:**

- Informed REF members about the voting procedure.
- Read the names of the REF members who were nominated to the SG.
- A total of 11 REF members were nominated (03 female, 08 male).
- 4 candidates stepped down, 7 candidates (02 female, 05 male) remained in the race.
- Reminded REF members to vote for one female candidate and one male candidate.

#### Feedback from REF members:

- A total of 32 REF members present voted through a secret ballot paper.
- Vote counting was witnessed by all members present.
- The total votes cast for male candidates were 32 (29 valid votes, 03 invalid votes).
- Total votes cast for female candidates were 32 (29 valid votes, 03 invalid votes).

#### **Action points:**

- From the total votes cast, Charles James Loro, a male candidate from Imvepi settlement got 17 votes, followed by Noela Kabale, a female representative from Kampala who got 15 votes.
- Therefore, Charles James Loro and Noela Kabale were declared the duly elected REF representatives to the CRRF SG.
- The second runners up were Gakuru Hitimana, a male from Rwamwanja settlement who got 7 votes, and Kayunge Margaret, a female from Bidibidi settlement who got 14 votes, were elected as the alternative representatives to the CRRF SG.

Session XVIII title: Closing remarks Session time: 16:15-16:40 Session objective: Officially close the three days' meeting. Presenter name and organisation: Mr. Byaruhanga, OPM

# **Key points presented:**

- Congratulated refugee leaders for participating in the election of the 2 REF representatives to the CRRF SG.
- Observed that the race for the ladies was so tight, meaning that men and women can sit at the same table and compete.
- Advised leaders that they should serve their communities on a voluntary basis, and that the REF is a unique forum that is not in other countries.
- Thanked the UNHCR and partners for availing resources to support the REF.
- Advised the refugees to go back to their countries of origin when peace prevails, he cited the case of Burundians who are currently being repatriated.

• Wished all leaders the best as they serve their communities and officially closed the meeting.

# Annexes

- 1. list of members who attended: https://rescue.box.com/s/vm6z53h39jee9lh2co3ry81vyliegs6p
- 2. Agenda: https://rescue.box.com/s/d43807xi3158kk30wsdbohyc54hiaxyf
- 3. Action points: https://rescue.box.com/s/dll2kd5bcic8lulc9qy4ykmw41lsxiol
- 4. <u>Breakout group discussion notes:</u> <u>https://rescue.box.com/s/jnnpayf1oivyf80o91xb62el1ova8mpb</u>