Emerging Good Practices and Lessons in Refugee Livelihood Activities

UNHCR
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Unit

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Outline

• Operational context
• Criteria for good practice
• Specific cases
• Key lessons and emerging concerns
Context

• Protracted nature of refugee situation in the wake of decreasing humanitarian assistance
• Macroeconomic conditions characterised by high unemployment rate
• Need to maintain humanitarian development nexus and transition of refugees from dependence to self-resilience
• Key limitations of current interventions
  – Many pilots, and limited scale up activities
  – Sustainability remains a challenge
  – Limited engagement of beneficiaries
  – Partners working independently
• Progressive increase in contribution of development partners and private sector in the refugee response
# Good Practice: Localized Criteria

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<th>Criteria</th>
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| **Scalability**        | • For economies of scale and reduce the cost per delivery  
                         • To meet the growing need                                                                                                                 |
| **Sustainability**     | • Can the activity continue beyond the life of the supporting project                                                                       |
| **Participatory**      | • Engaging beneficiaries in the design and implementation  
                         • Important for ownership and continuity                                                                                               |
| **Multifaceted support** | • Multiple complementary services  
                          • Increases value of support and allows beneficiaries to do more                                                                          |
| **Partnership**        | • Leveraging comparative advantages  
                         • For complementarity and synergies                                                                                                        |
| **Replicability**      | • For expansion to other similar settings                                                                                                   |
Emerging Practices

Agricultural Production for Food Security and Income Generation
Case #1: Optimized Land Use Model*

• Support refugees to better utilize the plots for subsistence with a focus on food security and dietary needs through:
  – Training on land use optimization, GAPs and Climate Smart Agriculture
  – Provision of input vouchers and irrigation kits
• Engage targeted population as agents and peer leaders to deliver trainings
  – 116 agents and 580 peer leaders
• 5,499 households participated in 2021 in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Kyangwali
• Plan to replicate model in Kyaka II, Nakivale, Palorinya and Rwamwanja

* Introduced and implemented by Action Against Hunger
Case #2: Climate Smart Agriculture (NURI Project)*

- Main objective is poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Focus on agricultural production of staple and high-value crops (fruits and oil seeds)
- Multi-layered support
  - Training on CSA, GAPs and marketing;
  - Extension support through DLGs;
  - Financial literacy and saving mobilization;
  - Rural infrastructure development through cash for work
- 131,250 households (28% refugees):
  - Composed of 4,375 groups which also serve as VSLAs
  - In 13 districts in West Nile and Northern Uganda

* Funded and implemented by DANIDA in partnership with the Government (DLGs) and a number of international and national NGOs
Case #3: Rice production (PRiDE)*

- For food security and income generation
- 2,638 farmers engaged in rice production in Adjumani, Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja
- Multiple support
  - Access to land and inputs;
  - Training on GAPs and post-harvest handling;
  - Provision of milling equipment; and access to market
- In 2021, over 1,200 acres of land cultivated with projected harvest of 1,489 MT.
- 479 farmers trained as TOTs to support other farmers
- Diversification of livelihoods activities include poultry and piggery

*Partnership between OPM, JICA and UNHCR (with partners DCA, Caritas and Nsamizi)
Case #4: Block Farming*

- For food security and income generation
- 4,357 acres of land cultivated in Adjumani, Lamwo and Yumbe, benefiting 13,406 households
- Est. 885 MT of maize, rice and beans harvested in Adjumani (worth US$ 876,000)
- Engages both refugees and host communities as land donors, labourers (CBI) and beneficiaries
- Training on GAPs; provision of input; and post-harvest support (training and kits)

*Partnership between OPM and UNHCR (with Caritas in Bidibidi)
Graduation from Extreme Poverty
Case #5: Graduation from Vulnerability to Resilience*

- A 7-year project to uplift extremely Poor Refugee and host HHs from food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance / Resilience
- 13,200 households chosen through wealth ranking assessment with participation of the community
- Beneficiaries receive consumption support, asset transfer, training and mentoring
- Outcomes from 1st co-hort
  - 73% of cohort one participants graduated to resilience
  - 88% of households (5,336) are able to meet basic needs
  - 89.6% of participating households had diversified livelihood enterprises.
  - 82% of households had three months or more of savings.
  - 3,799 beneficiaries linked to markets with average earnings of US$ 204.
- Replication underway
  - AVSI and partners to replicate similar model in Kyangwali and Palabek
  - Village Enterprise and Mercy Corps in Rhino Camp and Adjumani

*USAID funded and implemented by AVSI, Trickle-Up and IMPPAQ International
Short-term Employment – Quick Impact Projects
Case #6: Mask Production by Refugees*

- Leveraging existing refugee skills, market responsive and quick impact
- Total of 1,845 refugee and host community tailors
  - Produced over 2.8m masks for refugees six years and above
  - Received a total of $639,936 as wages
  - Average income of $181 over average of 6 weeks ranging from to $30 (for 2 days of work) to $3,134 (for about 4 months of work)
- Diversification of livelihoods as beneficiaries invested money in other business i.e. arts & crafts, barber shops, poultry etc
- Partnership with IPs and vocational training centres which provided working spaces, access to sewing machines and quality control
- Flexibility for participants to organize themselves to produce as individuals or groups

*Direct implementation by UNHCR with support from IPs and vocational training centres
Financial Inclusion of Refugees
Case #7. Inclusion of Refugees into Formal Financial Service Provision*

- Multi-faceted programming – debt funding, guarantee funding and technical assistance to the FSPs and beneficiaries
- Grameen Credit Agricole activities
- By 3rd quarter of 2021,
  - VF had lent to 3,600 individual through 183 VSLAs in Moyo and Yumbe
  - Ugafode had disbursed over $1.2m to 1,302 borrowers and mobilized over $128,000 from 3,355 clients in Nakivale
- Opportunity Bank followed suit in opening a Branch in Nakivale
  - As of June 2021, over $1.2m mobilized in savings and $167,800 disbursed as loans
- VSLAs playing the critical role managing the last-mile lending
  - Vetting members,
  - Disbursing loan to and collecting repayments from members
- FSPs expected to be sustainable by end of project (4 years)

* Partnership between SIDA/UNHCR/Grameen Agricole and partner FSPs (Vision Fund (VF), Ugafode and BRAC)
Emerging Observations

- Partnerships especially with host community (through OPM/DLGs) is key to increasing refugee access to land e.g. block farming
- Multi-pronged and multi-stakeholder approach is key to facilitating the socio-economic inclusion of POCs and sustainability
- Multi-year programming and funding is critical to sustainability of livelihoods project
- Scaling up of successful pilots and projects
- Skill development is important, but needs to be comprehensive and aligned to the needs of the market
Discussion Points

• Comments on the criteria chosen
• What would be the desired Population threshold for relevant impact?