Cross Border Livelihoods Working Group (CBLWG)

Experiences
Background, objectives

Started in March 2022, with the view to supported *sustainable re-integration* of Burundi refugees

CBLWG aims to:

- **Develop cross-border data sharing mechanism on skills & capacities.**
  - Systematic capture of info on trainings received/skills developed by UNHCR/partners in CoA.
  - Link training/skills info by info captured by the returnee monitoring system.
  - Data accessibility to UNHCR/partners supporting livelihoods activities in areas of return.

- **Improve understanding on economic opportunities in areas of return.**
  - Identification of opportunities in areas of return.
  - Capacity assessment: service providers/micro-finance, BDS, etc., => support re-building livelihoods.
  - Joint multi-sectoral assessments

- **Enhance coordination and resource mobilization.**
  - **Share information**, good practices and research on livelihoods projects and economic opportunities available to refugees and other displacement affected populations in the region.
  - Work on (joint) cross border programmes to support reintegration of Burundian refugees.
  - Discuss and develop advocacy messages.
  - Expand network opportunities
  - **Exchange and learn** across the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes Region.
Experiences

• **Existing operations/programmes across countries**: Many actors already operating in both country of asylum and country of origin (COO). => Activities could synchronised to better leverage on the geographical (operational) advantage/spatial coverage. Coordination and linkage is necessary to achieve maximum impact and optimise use of limited resources.

• **Breaking silos and engaging one another**: Across humanitarian and development actors. The platform is beginning to break silos and engage each other within country (cross-border) to work more closely while reaching to one another.

• **Talking to one another**: Sharing best practices, encouraging expansion of programmes that have shown success.
Going forward

- **Coordinating actions (COA, COO):** Challenges exist especially in countries asylum. Supplementary activities need to be coherently planned to support re-integration.

- **Advocacy for increased donor funding:** Drumming up donor support in country of origin (Burundi) to fund livelihood support programmes to strengthens prospects of a sustainable re-integration. Creating pull-factor to support durable solutions.

- **Engagement of government (at all levels) in coordination.** Where possible having coordination both at national and sub-national (operational levels.
Thanks

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