

# 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 be 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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