

Minutes of the Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG) Meeting held on 16th August 2022 at UNHCR Lion's Boardroom, Kampala and online

Agenda

1. Updates from Co-Chairs

- a) Follow up activities after the strategic engagement meeting (Strategy, ToRs, learning & evidence)
- b) Update from Co-chairs on Southwest Field Coordination Support Mission
- c) Emergency preparedness – Planned assessment

2. Learning and Research Objectives(U-Learn)

3. Market Assessments – Findings and Recommendations

- a) DAI- Market Assessments in Rwamwanja, Nakivale & Palabek
- b) ILO – Value Chain Assessment in Nakivale
- c) UNDP - Market Assessments – in Moyo, Obongi

4. Sector Targets & Indicators g remarks and updates from Co-chairs

5. A.O.B

1. Updates from Co-Chairs

Lilian Otiego, Senior Development officer, UNHCR:

- Welcomed participants who made it for the physical meeting at UNHCR offices and thanked those who joined online.
- In a special way, Lilian welcomed Hellen Bugaari, the new Director of the CRRF Secretariat to the working group.
- Also introduced Lucy Otto, the new Principal Social Development Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development. Lucy will be the Focal point for the Jobs and Livelihoods Response Plan (JLRP), directly overseeing the implementation of JLRP and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (LIRP) for refugees and host communities in Uganda.
- She called upon partners to avoid duplication of interventions and embrace more practical solutions that will help PoCs to transform their lives.
- Reiterated that during the meeting, three partners would present findings from market assessments that were recently completed.
- There was an ongoing needs assessment for new arrivals.

Paul Mwirichia, Team Leader Food& Cash Assistance Projects, World Vision International:

- Thanked members for the active participation during the strategic engagement workshop held on 12th May and for the inputs for the revised sector strategy.
- Requested partners to review the draft revised sector strategy that will be circulated to all and send any additional inputs or comments to the Co-Chairs.
- On the field visit by the Co-Chairs to settlements in the Southwest on 8-12 August, Paul reported among other things that coordination seems to be working well in some of the settlements while in others, partners had not met for more than seven months.
- During the visit, Paul noted that some refugees were doing well in terms of livelihood and at the same time still benefiting from the WFP food rations , which ideally would be

for those who are more vulnerable. There is also a high possibility of duplication especially in terms of beneficiaries. He requested partners to support and encourage settlement and district constituents to work closely and avoid duplication.

- It was also noted that some of the livelihood partners were still focusing on activities such as kitchen gardens and seed distribution instead of supporting value chain development activities that can have substantial impact on livelihoods of protracted refugees.

Other points

- Ezra Rubanga from the CRRF Secretariate, on behalf of Government appreciated the Co-chairs and all partners for implementing interventions to support livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees and host communities across the operation.
- Urged partners to engage more on practical and transformative initiatives towards refugees.
- The new Director of CRRF pledged continued support of the secretariat and government for the livelihood's partners, including commitment to strengthen coordination of the actors.

2. Learning and Research Objectives - by Marijke Deleu, U-Learn, Learning Hub Manager

The objective of the initiative is to define learning and research needs, guide and support prioritization of learning and research work for the sector. She mentioned that the process is consultative in nature starting from the strategic engagement workshop held in May and continues as well online to ensure that it embraces all partners. The detailed layout of the plan is available on the livelihood [portal](#) for learning and information sharing by all.

Responses and reactions to U-Learn presentation

- U-LEARN to include Fort Portal in the study area and if possible other secondary cities such as Arua and Gulu that are providing opportunities for refugees.
- Consider expanding the study to cover other non-refugee hosting areas to capture views and experiences of such places.
- U-LEARN was urged to coordinate with Enabel who have planned a similar assessment to avoid duplication.

3. Market Assessments – findings and recommendations- by Miriam Namukose and Annet Namunane of DAI-Feed the Future

The study was carried out in Nakivale, Rwamwanja and Palabek refugee settlements, with the objective of understanding the constraints and opportunities existing in the market systems in refugee settlements; and developing recommendations on approaches and models that will strengthen engagement of refugees in agricultural market systems.

On the findings, the assessment found out crosscutting constraints including;

- Food rations are reducing, and refugees are increasingly motivated to invest in agriculture,
- Limited access to high-value markets that offer embedded services for the farmers,

- Low private sector engagement,
- Limited access and underutilization of the available financial services,
- Limited access to quality agri-inputs,
- High cost of hiring land for individual farmers (Rwamwanja and Nakivale – 150,000/200,000 per acre, Palabek 30,000 – 50,000 per acre).

On the opportunities, the assessment found out the following:

- Majority of the refugees are involved in agriculture – Maize and Beans (Nakivale and Rwamwanja), various value chains in (Lamwo),
- Humanitarian agencies invest in the introduction and adoption of high-value crops in the settlements.
- There are Opportunities for refugees to provide labor
- Existence of value addition for maize, honey, and milk with registered difficulties in meeting quality standards among others. The detailed study report is available on the livelihood [portal](#).

Reactions to the presentation

- There is need to share the assessment report with the entire group and include it in the ongoing value chain desk reviews.
- All financial services providers who have been working in the settlements with their products should be documented and shared.
- More information on Rwamwanja is needed mainly on TRACO valley.
- The contribution of DRDIP should be included across the study areas.
- Sustainability and scalability should be highlighted very well in value and market assessments.
- Job creation differs in context and regions, it should be explained clearly beyond survival.
- There is need to come up with a community of practice on value and market assessments so as to come up with a common understanding.
- Access to land by refugees remains one of the biggest challenge due to policy and cultural attachments.
- Persons of concern have different livelihood practices and cultural beliefs which continue to influence their lifestyle across the borders. This calls for orientation and sensitisation by partners.
- The studies should focus more on actions and practical initiatives which can transform life than mere challenges.
- Support formation of labour collection centres where employers and jobseekers can collect information across refugee settlements.

International Labor Organisation (ILO) Value Chain Assessment- *by Louisa Akiror and Joel Kasibante, ASIGMA consultants*

The study focused on five value chains including: textile production, handicrafts production, soap production, plastic waste management, and aquaculture.

The key findings were:

- There is limited information among the refugees who have low negotiating power because they lack information on prevailing market prices and alternative markets.

- To build sustainable livelihoods amongst refugee communities, Market-based interventions are best facilitated through the development and enhancement of market linkages between refugees and host communities.
- Sustainable and scalable economic opportunities can only be obtained by leveraging services and value chains that are exportable out of the settlement and refugee hosting areas into national and regional markets.
- It is better to set up large scale opportunities, such as agro-processing, in the host community, and source agro-produce from the refugee settlements (in addition to the larger quantities sourced from host community) through a network of refugee aggregation businesses.

On labour market, the study found out:

- Job opportunities for refugees involve both self and hired employment.
- Many interventions for job creation in the refugee-hosting areas focus on the development of the demand side (Push) with little consideration for the supply side (pull).
- Although there is free mobility of labour, there is stiff competition for jobs in hired employment space between the refugees and the nationals.

The detailed study report is available on the livelihood [portal](#).

Participation

The meeting was attended physically (20) and online (47) by partners working on livelihood and resilience across the operation, UNHCR staff in Kampala and from the field, representative from CRRF Secretariate, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development. The list of participants who attended is annexed below.

Closing remarks

Lilian thanked partners for the good deliberations in the meeting and requested that the presentations by UNDP and UNHCR be deferred to the next meeting. She asked partners to give due guidance and support to persons of concern as we enter a new planting season following a dry spell. In addition, she requested partners to share information on VSLAs work across the operation so that it can be captured on the system.

Paul Mwirichia - the second co-chair thanked partners for the discussions and urged all to work collectively as a lot can be achieved when partners work together.

Annex 1: List of participants

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