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| **MINUTES – National Refugee Protection Working Group (NRPWG)** | | | |
| **Date** | 25th July 2019 | **Venue** | UNHCR |
| **Agenda** | * Opening remarks (OPM and UNHCR) * Review of previous minutes of meeting * Protection Updates * Presentation on “National Child Policy” by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development * Presentation on “Urban Refugee Response” by UNHCR * All Sub WGs and Task Teams to provide strategic updates * AOB | | |
| **Attendance** | OPM, UNHCR, CRRF, War Chid Holland, Oxfam, DRC, LWF, MoGLSD, HI, AVSI, UNICEF, HIJRA, CARE, CECODEP, TROCAIRE, CAFOMI, IAU, UN WOMEN, SCI. | | |
| **Chair** | Peggie Ayesiga (OPM), Peter Waita (UNHCR) | | |
| **Note Taker** | Duncan Mato (UNHCR) | | |
|  | **Opening remarks** | **Recommendations/Action points** | **Responsible** |
|  | * UNHCR is conducting the mid-year review. It was emphasized that it is important for partners to submit performance and output indicators for planning before the deadline on 26th July 2019. | * Partners to submit indicators |  |
|  | **Review of previous minutes of meeting** |  |  |
|  | * UN Women upcoming training: UNHCR will co-facilitate the workshop. Sector leads are being contacted to attend the training. Invitations and a concept note have been sent out. The training will take place from 30th July – 1st August in Entebbe. Other trainings will be facilitated in Adjumani and Yumbe. * It was reiterated that members of the NRPWG that would like to participate in the urban protection working group should share their contacts with UNHCR. * Rule of Law Working Group: Discussions on the frequency (bi-monthly or quarterly) of the WG are being discussed with UNDP after which TOR’s will be developed and composition of the WG will be established. | * Nominate persons to undertake the training * Members to share contacts with Ramsey (UNHCR)   **MINUTES ADOPTED** | -Sector leads |
|  | **Protection Updates** |  |  |
|  | * The population of persons of concern is growing at a rate of about 1.2 – 1.3% per month which equates to about 15,000 persons taking into consideration births and deaths. * Efforts are ongoing to verify the special needs categories in the settlements. There are on-going PSN verifications in Kyangwali and planned assessments in Kiryandongo, Imvepi and Rhino camp. Members were encouraged to participate in these activities and update PSN information in everyday activities. * Based on border monitoring information, **29,654** DRC new arrivals have been received in 2019. In June there were **8,647** new arrivals. * DRCfigures increased due to inter-ethnic violence between the Hema and Lendu communities in north-eastern DRC and reported deterioration in security in Ituri with a reported displacement of about 300,000 people. * Persons arriving through Lake Albert are being relocated to Kyangwali settlement. The facility has a capacity of about **1600** but there are currently about **4000** persons awaiting relocation. * There have been **1,953** SSD new arrivals in June with an average of 65 persons arriving per day. This represents a decrease in SSD new arrivals in comparison to May where there was an average of 205 new arrivals per day. * The Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment (VENA) has been piloted in Kyangwali settlement. * The National Action Plan on Mainstreaming SGBV has been finalized. |  |  |
|  | **Protection Working Group Survey** |  |  |
|  | * It was agreed that the suggestions from the survey should be discussed at the different working groups (WGs) to analyse the level of coordination and possibility of merging. * It was highlighted that decisions on WG meetings should be guided by the terms of reference (TORs), scale of the emergency and level of representation within the working groups to avoid the repetition of information disseminated. It was also noted that national and field level coordination WGs should be aligned to facilitate effective feedback on issues raised from the field for intervention at the national level. * It was highlighted that in the field, majority of coordination meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis. * It was noted that some feedback from the survey could not be implemented given the purpose of Working Groups as coordination structures and that a survey would also delay decision making. As such, it was recommended that a survey should be sent out again to **ONLY generate more suggestions** before being sent to WGs to discuss. * Frequency of NRPWG (monthly or bi-monthly): It was also suggested that meetings can be held on a bi-monthly basis and information could be communicated over email on a monthly basis. * It was suggested that the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social development should formally be included as a member of the NRPWG taking into consideration 62% of the POCs were chlidren | * Discuss suggestions in Question 3 and 6 of the survey * Send out survey to generate more suggestions on Questions 3 and 6 * OPM to send official invitation to MoGLSD | * All WGs * Zainab * OPM |
|  | **Presentation on “National Child Policy” by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD)** |  |  |
|  | * The draft national child policy is in its final stages and is due to be submitted to senior management. * The National child policy is intended to be the overall guiding policy on issues regarding **ALL** children in Uganda. * The goal of the policy is to provide a framework that enables facilitation, harmonization and assessment of the implementation, coordination, and strengthening of central, district and lower local government, community, family, and child efforts towards the realization of all children’s rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. * The policy, among other priority areas, seeks to promote evidence-based planning and programming. The MoGLSD is looking to update and upgrade the existing Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Management Information System (OVC MIS) to a comprehensive child welfare information system. * MoGLSD is also looking to improve the interoperability of existing management information systems such as the health (HMIS) and Education (EMIS) management information systems as well as the Local Government Information Communication System among others.   **Comments:**   * It was highlighted that there is an ongoing review of the refugee policy in Uganda. Consultations and a first draft have been completed and sent to OPM Senior management of OPM. As such, it is critical make sure that the refugee policy and the National child policy speak to each other. * As a way forward, the MoGLSD agreed to share the draft policy and requested that the NRPWG provides comments. The NRPWG has **two weeks** to provide comments. After the comments OPM and MoGLSD will have a sit down with OPM to discuss the policy. * It was highlighted that the Child protection sub working group had recommended that the National Child Policy should explicitly include refugee children as children within the remit of the policy. This would make it clear to service providers that refugee children are covered in the policy. * Recognizing the mandate of the MoGLSD (children) and the mandate of OPM (refugees) it was highlighted that there is a lot of possibilities for collaboration. | * Share draft policy with NRPWG * MoGLSD to hold meeting with OPM on the review of the refugee policy. * OPM to engage the protection actors through the Protection Advisory Group * NRPWG to provide comments on the policy by 8th August 2019. * MoGLSD to meet OPM to discuss the policy. | * MoGLSD * NRPWG |
|  | **Presentation on “Urban Refugee Response” by UNHCR** |  |  |
|  | * Refugee Act and its 2010 protocol promotes freedom of movement. The freedom to choose where to live has led to some refugees living outside designated settlements. However, to obtain Urban refugee status, a refugee must prove to OPM that they can sustain themselves in the urban setting. * Most urban refugees obtain refugee status in Kampala. However, prima facie refugee status is only given to refugees from SSD and DRC who have passed through recognized border points. * The urban response is implemented by InterAid Uganda (IAU) and UNHCR works in coordination with OPM, the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) and Old Kampala Police (refugee desk) * Key interventions Refugee Status Determination, Legal Assistance and Access to Justice, Child protection and SGBV, Education, Community Based Protection and Health. * 2019 priorities: establishment of the Urban refugee working group, PSN verification, support to the government to ratify the 1961 statelessness convention and to enhance individual case management through proGres v4.   **Comments**   * It was noted that there are refugees who are living in urban areas outside Kampala, however the figures presented on the refugee population in Kampala represents that of refugees that are officially recognized by OPM as urban refugees in Kampala. Therefore, refugees registered in the settlement but living in Kampala are not factored as part of the urban caseload. |  |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |  |
| Child protection SWG  (CPSWG) | * The CPSWG is in the process of drafting an inter-agency refugee Child Protection strategy for Uganda. The goal of the strategy is to integrate refugee children in the National system. A task team led by the MoGLSD has been created, TORs developed, and the team has already met. * A work plan for the drafting of the strategy has been developed and OPM has been invited to participate. Consultations begun at field level and a summary as well as an analysis of the consultations is being undertaken. * A Taskforce for the integration of Child protection activities in education has also been started. The idea is to leverage resources in light of limited funding for CP so as to continue providing services for refugee children by integrating minimum packages for child protection activities within education sector. The aim is to include this package within the revision of the Education Response Plan (ERP). Integration is a 6-month process. | * OPM to respond to invitation |  |
| Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) | * Election guidelines and TORs have been adopted for the REF at the central level. * It was highlighted by OPM that during the review of the refugee policy, discussions were tabled to the effect that RWC’s should be formally recognized. However, it was emphasized that OPM is not looking to setup parallel system to the Local councils (LC’s). | * Circulate final documents | Zainab |
| Activity info tool | * Quarter 1 reports have been rolled out and reports have been received from partners. * The first product of the tool (the performance snapshot) was disseminated on the 20th of May. * All products of the activity info tool (Quarter 1) are available on [**the Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal**](https://ugandarefugees.org/en/country/uga) and will also be shared. * Reporting for Quarter 2 has been concluded and the Information management team is currently working on the updating the products (performance snapshot, sector dashboard/factsheet) of the activity info tool. | * Share products of Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 if available**.** | Zainab |
|  | **NEXT MEETING 29th August 2019** |  | |