

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

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*

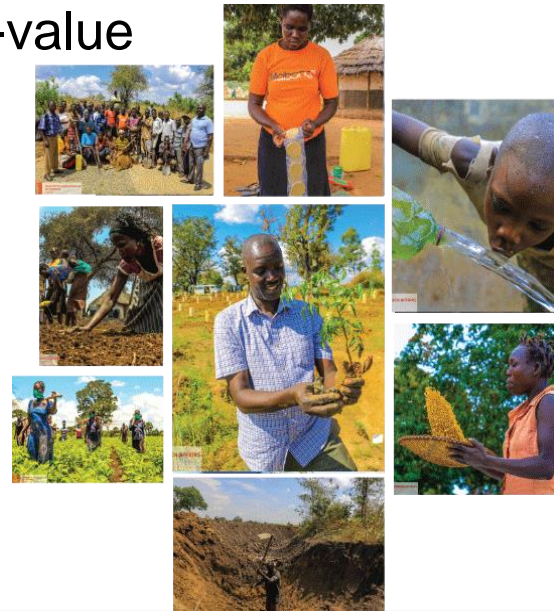
- Support refugees to better utilize the plots for subsistence with a focus on food security and dietary needs through:
 - Training on land use optimization, GAPs and Climate Smart Agriculture
 - Provision of input vouchers and irrigation kits
- Engage targeted population as agents and peer leaders to 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

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*

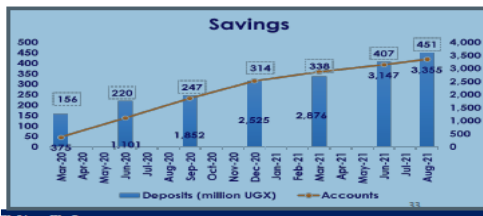
Financial Inclusion of Refugees

Case #7. Inclusion of Refugees into Formal Financial Service Provision*



Nakivale Branch Performance Summary as at 31st Aug

Category	Refugees		Host Communities		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Loans Disbursed	247	579	148	328	1,302
Volume Disbursed (USD)	234,742	550,266	140,655	311,723	1,237,387
Active Loans (USD)	130	305	78	173	686
Portfolio	72,780	249,743	53,961	166,673	543,157
PAR 30					6%
Accounts	778	1,755	275	547	3,355
Deposits (USD)	23,749	52,333	6,025	45,996	128,102
Financial Literacy by NGO	4,999	7,819			12,818



- 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?