

## Refugee Livelihood & Resilience Sector Working Group Monthly Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> November -2023

UNHCR Office

### Agenda Items

1. Updates from sector chairs – 10 mins
2. Presentation from ZOA – 25 mins
3. Updates on the GRF pledge – Godfrey Ariong CRRF – 30 mins
4. Presentation on draft minimum self-reliance measurement index – Godfrey Ariong, CRRF – 1 hr
5. Updates on settlement level strategy development – Gerald Emoyo UNHCR – 20 mins

### Agenda Items

### Action points

#### 1. Introductions and updates from Co-chairs

The Co-chair informed members about former co-chair Kaleab Zelalem's transition to Geneva and in the interim, Snr. Development Officer Arifur Rahman will co-chair with Paul Mwirichia.

Co-chair appreciated partners who took leadership of various thematic areas and reiterated that the LRSWG will continue working along thematic areas so partners with expertise can bring their experience onboard.

Settlement level strategy development to consolidate livelihood interventions at that level and documentation of good practise for scale have happened.

Settlement level mapping to validate the work partners are doing in the field was conducted and efforts to establish Minimum self-reliance measurement standards are underway.

#### Presentation from ZOA (Evaluation study)

*By Catherine Magoba, Ssekamatte Latif, consultants with Adroit*

#### Background.

West Nile region has potential for solar energy due to lying in tropical climate, however, livelihood is limited due to limited access to electricity and heavy reliance on biomass fuel which negatively affects economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Green energy project was launched in Madi Okollo and Terego, West Nile with aim to enhance economic, social and environmental wellbeing by leveraging regional green energy potential. 60 participants and 22 key informants responded to the study.

#### KEY FINDINGS

##### Lessons learned.

- Research and consultations informed effective project interventions, enabling learning from partners and addressing accessibility issues.
- Engaging all stakeholders (i.e., local leaders, working groups, among others) enhances project efficiency, utilizes diverse skills, and minimizes duplication.
- Tailoring projects to address specific participant needs instead of assuming uniformity across implementation sites is crucial.
- Community involvement and participation along with awareness and knowledge dissemination on solar products, foster ownership and project sustainability.
- Streamlining internal procurement processes is essential for smoother project implementation.
- Establishing independent structures like new Village Agents can improve awareness efforts and avoid overlap with other projects.

- Inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities is central to effective and sustainable development and humanitarian programs.

**Effectiveness of strategies adopted by the project**

- Saving groups which ensured members access to unsecured loans, 98.36% respondents were part of savings groups, with 28% of them accessing solar products through these groups.
- Village agents were the most successful strategy. At least 47% of respondents accessed solar products through VAs. Key challenge was the extensive coverage and long distances
- Only 12% used affordability initiatives (cash, Hire purchase, loans) citing challenges like lacking local financial institutions and required documentation. Most preferred cash on delivery (87%) due to reduced transportation costs.
- Flexibility in credit provision contributed to affordability, particularly for low-income earners.

**Recommendations**

- Efforts to enhance project efficiency and effectiveness are crucial. This involves improved partnership implementing organization to leverage synergy and prevent project intervention overlap.
- Financial empowerment for small shop owners, retailers and village agents through grants and loan linkages can bolster the supply chain, ensuring greater product availability.
- Exploring long term partnerships with ZOA and donors can consolidate gains and extend project reach.
- Engaging government representatives in project review meetings and joint ventures can provide valuable insights and objective assessments.
- Finally, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensures consistent data collection and target tracking for informed decision-making.

**Updates on the second GRF**

Overarching pledge is Uganda pledge to create up to 300,000 viable employment opportunities for refugees by 2027 along various workstreams;

Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries will increase sustainable agricultural productivity from current average of 50% to 75% of the yield potential by 2027 for food, nutrition and income security in the refugee settlements and host communities.

Ministry of Labour, Gender, and Social Development leading on resilience and self-reliance will establish and operationalize 5 regional job centers with satellite stations in all settlements to enhance employable skills enhance, counselling and guidance among others.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET arm of Ministry of Education and Sports pledged to increase number of students and other non-formal trainees from 13,680 to 54,720 by 2027. And strengthening affirmative action to increase number of students with special needs and other persons with disabilities accessing vocational education skills from 1,200 to 4,800

Pledge document book is ready for circulation by co-chairs for members to dive deep into each pledge.

<p><b>The self-Reliance Measurement Framework in Uganda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical discussion on minimum standard indicators for measuring refugee self-reliance and minimum livelihood investment package for a household – 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023</li> <li>2. Presentation of the draft indicators to the LRSWG, RHPG, and DPG Nov 2024</li> <li>3. Development of the data collection tool, methodology, thresholds and monitoring plan – Jan – Feb 2024</li> <li>4. Testing of the data collection tool and thresholds in refugee and host communities – Feb 2024</li> <li>5. Presentation of the self-reliance measurement framework to the JLIRP National Steering Committee for endorsement – February 2024</li> <li>6. Launch of the Self-Reliance measurement framework for refugees and host communities in Uganda – March 2024</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a minimum investment package. government led, under Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development who are coordinating the implementation of the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan. UNHCR and WFP teams, including other humanitarian and development partners will work together to support the government in the process, just like it's currently happening for the development of the Self-reliance measurement framework.</li> <li>• Technical group shall meet again and flesh out this package</li> <li>• In January, a meeting encompassing all members shall be held to consolidate their feedback into the framework</li> <li>• For now, members were requested to thoroughly review the existing document and provide insightful comments</li> </ul>															
<p><b>Updates on settlement level strategy development</b> Livelihood sector working group in coordination with OPM and DLG are working on strengthening coordination of sector at settlement level and coordination between settlement and national working group. Among the sector challenges identified were fragmentation, duplication of efforts, lack of alignment with government framework, and oblivion of private sector opportunities as detailed in report by sector working group co-chairs. In July LRSWG embarked on settlement level strategies drafting where actors came together to understand the context in the various settlement and to place it in the region and national context. Currently, validation is ongoing to ensure critical input from various actors is captured, identify synergies among various actors, and establish a broader spectrum of inclusion and ownership.</p> <p><b>Some key highlights from the South West validation workshop held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b> Protection mainstreaming was done alongside the livelihood strategy. Workshop was attended by 87 participants from Livelihood IPs and OPs, Private sector, DLGs, UN agencies, Learning and Research organizations and livelihood team.</p> <p><b>Key highlights from the workshop were:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More inclusion and engagement of various stakeholders in private sector, academia should be emphasized for new ideas</li> <li>• More stakeholder coordination and innovation in the space is required</li> <li>• Environmental protection should be prioritized as land is used for agriculture</li> <li>• Partners were encouraged to buy certified seed and to utilize government resources to prove seed viability.</li> <li>• There's need to recognize the local government act as part of the legal framework</li> <li>• Focus should be creating a Livelihood information management system capturing each specific intervention area to facilitate evidence-based interventions</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Settlements</th> <th>Dates/remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mbarara</td> <td>Kyaka II, Nakivale and Oruchinga, Rwamwanja</td> <td>7 – 8 November</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adjumani</td> <td>Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Palabek and Palorinya</td> <td>23 – 24 November</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arua</td> <td>Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule and Rhino Camp</td> <td>5 – 6 December (TBC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban</td> <td>Kampala</td> <td>Planning workshop 28 November</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Settlements	Dates/remarks	Mbarara	Kyaka II, Nakivale and Oruchinga, Rwamwanja	7 – 8 November	Adjumani	Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Palabek and Palorinya	23 – 24 November	Arua	Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule and Rhino Camp	5 – 6 December (TBC)	Urban	Kampala	Planning workshop 28 November
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<p><b>AOB</b> Partners are encouraged to not only coordinate but also report on their quarterly activities to feed into the implementation piece</p>																

the working group will be working on to share with stakeholders and to ease coordination work.

**Attendance**

1. Charles Data Alemi
2. Magoba Katherine
3. Ssebamatte Lahb
4. Mara Forbes
5. Accelam John Baptist
6. John Muhangi
7. Okwir Martin
8. Jeeyoung Moon
9. Martina Sterece
10. Raymond Kiyimba Joseph
11. Arifur Rahman
12. Paul Mwirichia
13. Gerald Peter Emoyo
14. Nakiyinji Joan
15. Birungi Karen
16. Kwizera Alex Rwego
17. Mugabi Nelson

18. Damalie Zalwango
19. Nyambane Anne
20. Eliud Nick Waluse
21. Moses Okure
22. Isabella Karvinen
23. Sam Businge
24. Olwouch Ocaya Patrick
25. Winnie Alum
26. Alaso Sylvia
27. Izakare Lawrence
28. Francis Kajura
29. Matilda Jerneck
30. Stephen Adeun
31. Godfrey Ariong
32. Mesele Fitsum
33. Ray Otim
34. Julius Pachoto
35. Henry Wanume