

Terms of Reference
Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group
Uganda Refugee Response
(Version February 2019)

Context

Uganda is currently the largest refugee hosting country in Africa and the third largest in the world. As of 31 January 2019, there are more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda.¹ In response to the ongoing refugee crisis, the Government of Uganda and local communities spent over US\$ 323 million on the protection, management and provision of essential services to refugees in 2016/17, which is equivalent to 46 percent of the national education budget or 62 percent of the total health budget.² Nevertheless, despite these very significant efforts for a low-income country and Uganda's progressive approach to refugee management, refugees living in settlements and their host communities remain vulnerable and at risk of recurring shocks.

At least 80 percent of refugees in Uganda live below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.90 per day.³ According to the 2018 JMSNA, 26 percent of refugee households reported relying on humanitarian aid as a coping strategy to support family members. The alarming rate of dependency of refugees in Nakivale settlement (67 percent)⁴ highlights the risk for refugees to become dependent on humanitarian assistance if interventions do not adequately focus on sustainable and resilient livelihoods going forward. FAO's Resilience Index Measurement Analysis (RIMA) found that refugee households are less resilient than host community households due to low education levels, poor diversification of income sources, limited number of crops cultivated and productive assets.⁵ Moreover, the recent vulnerability study found that the time refugees have spent in Uganda is not closely correlated with levels of vulnerability.⁶

To stabilize livelihood and overcome the socio-economic empowerment disconnect, geographic and population differences need to be considered in the provision of livelihood support. When exploring different livelihood strategies, key factors linked to productive assets, knowledge, skills and aspirations need to further be considered as does market linkages and opportunities.

Various international and national humanitarian organizations are currently implementing and/or funding livelihoods and resilience programmes to reduce poverty and dependency on humanitarian assistance for refugees as part of Pillar 3 (Self-reliance and resilience) of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in an effort to support the sustainability of the Ugandan model. To coordinate all programmes implemented and to ensure efficiency and adequate coverage, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Vision and partners, under the overall coordination of the refugee response through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), agreed to launch this inter-agency Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG), replacing the previous working group called Livelihoods and Environment Working Group, effective 1 September 2018.

¹ UNHCR, Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response Portal (<https://ugandarefugees.org/en/country/uga>) [Accessed: 18 February 2019].

² UNDP, Uganda's contribution to Refugee Protection and Management, 2018.

³ FAO and OPM, Food security, resilience and well-being analysis of refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda. (2018) Rome. (Available at: <http://www.fao.org/resilience/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1143820/>), pg. 15.

⁴ UNHCR/REACH Initiative, Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment. 2018.

⁵ FAO and OPM, pg. 4.

⁶ WFP, UNHCR and OPM, Analysis of Refugee Vulnerability in Uganda, (2017), pg. 14.

Purpose

The major objective of LRSWG is coordination and oversight of effective Livelihoods and Resilience programming for vulnerable refugee and host populations throughout Uganda.

Programmes Covered by LRSWG

Programmes and activities covered under the LRSWG include all livelihoods and resilience interventions currently implemented amongst refugee communities and their hosts, including but not limited to the following:

- Emergency livelihood support interventions, including productive asset transfers and short-term employment
- Value chain development, linked to District Development Plan prioritization and market opportunities
- Skills development, especially for youth and women
- Financial inclusion
- Enabling environment enhancement

More specific guidance for the types of programming covered by the LRSWG is contained in the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), the Jobs and Livelihoods Response Plan (JLRP) (currently under development) and related government planning documents and strategies.

The Livelihoods and Resilience Sector focuses on agricultural and non-agricultural interventions, including but not limited to emergency livelihoods support (e.g. productive asset transfer and short-term employment), value chain development, skilling and financial inclusion. The Food Security Working Group will focus on the food assistance and production to meet immediate and medium to long-term household consumption needs without having to resort to negative coping mechanisms (such as sale of household and productive assets) that would endanger their path to resilience and reverse gains made in income/livelihood diversification. Similarly, the Livelihoods and Resilience will align to the guidance of the Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) Working Group for cash-based transfers and the Energy and Environment Working Group standards on environmental protection.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities of LRSWG

Specific focal areas for the LRSWG include, but are not limited to:

- Promote evidence-based programming practice and compliance with minimum standards in livelihoods and resilience programming (including development of standards and operational guidelines).
- Contribute technical guidance and information to the development of the JLRP and support for its ongoing operationalisation.
- Coordinate and provide technical guidance for the development, operationalisation, monitoring and review of the Livelihoods and Resilience Sector within the RRP.
- Coordinate timely flow of information from the Livelihoods and Resilience Sector, including through the 5Ws monitoring tool and the quarterly sector dashboard.
- Act as a platform for sector actors to connect for the sharing of information, best practice, avoidance of duplication and collaboration on activities such as assessments and evaluations.
- Support cohesive data analysis, such as the RIMA, under the leadership of OPM to enable evidence-based interventions that are coordinated and complementary.
- Oversight and support for effective and inclusive Livelihoods and Resilience sector coordination at sub-national (e.g. district) level, as appropriate.
- In collaboration with other key actors, coordinate an appropriate Livelihoods and Resilience Sector response to any new emergencies that may arise in Uganda.

Composition

- Membership to the LRSWG is open to all UN agencies, donor agencies, government ministries, international non-governmental organizations (INGO), national NGO, contractors and private sector actors implementing, funding or otherwise strategically engaging in humanitarian and/or development Livelihoods and Resilience programmes and activities amongst refugees and their host communities.
- Representatives of all agencies participating in the Livelihoods and Resilience Sector through the RRP are considered members by default and consistent engagement is expected, including regular attendance at monthly meetings and timely contribution to information flow, notably through 5Ws. Reporting through the 5W is mandatory for all agencies included in the RRP.
- The LRSWG may establish sub-groups to work on specific thematic areas (e.g. in line with the JLRP or specific emergency issues). Sub-group membership shall be determined in consultation with the overall membership.

Coordination and Role of Co-chairs

- The working group is co-chaired by FAO, UNDP and World Vision.
- The co-chairs jointly act as secretariat for the LRSWG and responsible for managing invitations, minutes and documentations of LRSWG meetings, reporting, follow-up on agreed action points and other activities.
- The co-chairs will be responsible for coordinating information flow amongst the LRSWG and between LRSWG members and UNHCR, especially with regard to the 5Ws and other reporting requirements relating to the RRP.
- The co-chairs will represent the LRSWG on the Inter-Sector Group and other inter-agency fora, as appropriate.
- The co-chairs shall ensure effective coordination and collaboration with other sector working groups, especially the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group, the Food Security Sector Working Group and the Cash-based Interventions Technical Working Group, and alignment to minimum standards set by other Sectors (e.g. Health and Nutrition and Protection).

Meetings

- Monthly meetings will be held in Kampala on the third Tuesday afternoon (2:30 – 4:30 pm) of each month.
- Additional meetings, including of selected sub-groups of the LRSWG, may be arranged on an ad hoc basis.
- To the greatest extent possible, the location of meetings will rotate between different LRSWG members.

Contacts

Contacts for co-chairs are as follows:

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- UNDP: Thierry Prouteau, thierry.prouteau@undp.org
- World Vision: Simon Manning, simon_manning@wvi.org

And for overall UNHCR coordination:

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