

Livelihood Working Group Uganda

Minimum Expenditure Basket Harmonization Guidance 2018/19

Kampala, March 19th , 2019

National Technical Cash Working Group

Co-Chaired by



World Food Programme



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Technical support by



NORWEGIAN
CAPACITY

CASHCAP

Agenda

1. What is a MEB?
2. Why a MEB?
3. MEB harmonization guidance: An operational tool and inclusive multi stakeholder process
4. Reference Values and limitations
5. Recommendations and next steps
6. Q&A



What is a MEB?

- An MEB is an average cost of what a household requires in order to meet basic needs – on a regular or seasonal basis – that could be covered entirely or partly through the market
- Essential/basic needs are defined as essential goods, utilities and services required by households to ensure survival and minimum living standard

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- *MEB does not equate to all the essential needs of a household.*
- *An MEB is not equivalent to a transfer value*
- *The is no such thing as an “average” household in the reality*
- *An MEB captures recurrent need of households*
- *Due diligence feasibility assessments for cash and voucher assistance are still required*



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Why a MEB?

- Collaboration among technical sectors and between cash and sector experts
- When assistance is designed for covering a broader set of essential needs (multipurpose cash assistance)
- There is a growing consensus that needs cannot be analysed and addressed independently from each other. The importance of considering needs holistically rather than sectorally
- How far multi-purpose cash contributes to sectoral outcomes
- Cash alone is not enough.
- Investment in livelihood opportunities

Objective (RRP 2018)

- i) To support decisions on transfer value amount for food and non-food items;
- i) To support multi sector coordination and sector harmonization.

INCLUSIVE

Collective actions from all partners
Meaningful engagement of refugees* (CwC, FGD)
Consensus based decision-agreements
Coordination platforms (SWG) at National level
Multiple stakeholders

EVIDENCE BASED

Desk Review, Data Analysis,
Analytical teams (WFP,
REACH, FAO, CashCap)

OPERATIONAL

Useful for CWG partners
Simple
Guidance
Not one size fits for all

HOLISTIC

Basic needs
Across sectors
Economic capacity
Foundation for Sector
Specific Interventions

A HARMONIZATION GUIDANCE

*A TOOL FOR
OPERATIONAL
PARTNERS*

Step by Step

STEP 1: Items are based on assessed and priority needs, refugee perspective and Humanitarian Standards. Lack of income is an important barrier to access these good and services (Right Based Approach)

STEP 2: Items are based on grounded evidence that needs can be covered through the market (when available) and costed at actual local prices (Market lens)

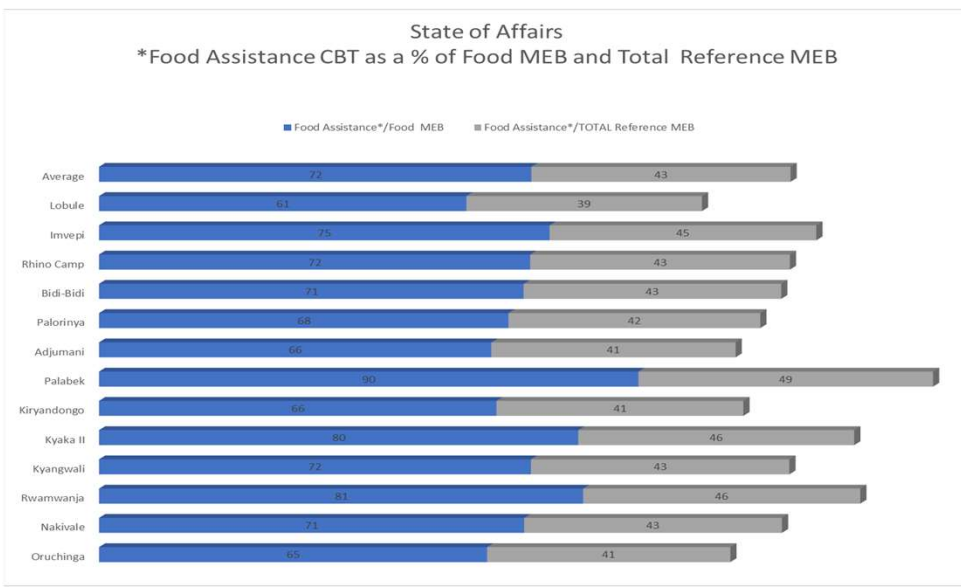
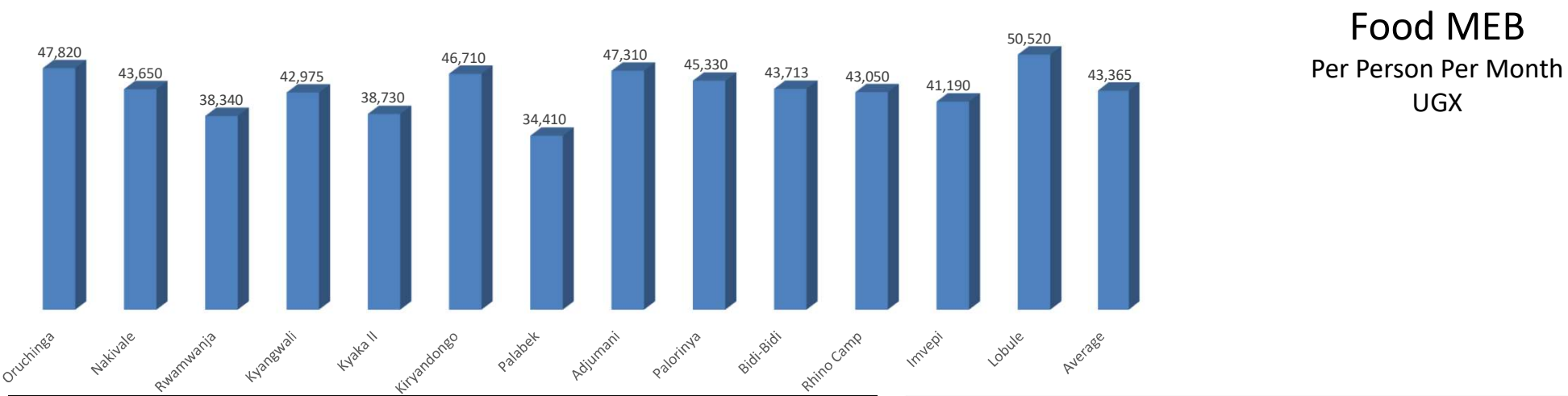
STEP 3: Solid triangulation with expenditure and consumption patterns to be consistent with demand behavior (Expenditure lens). In line with National Statistics (UBOS)

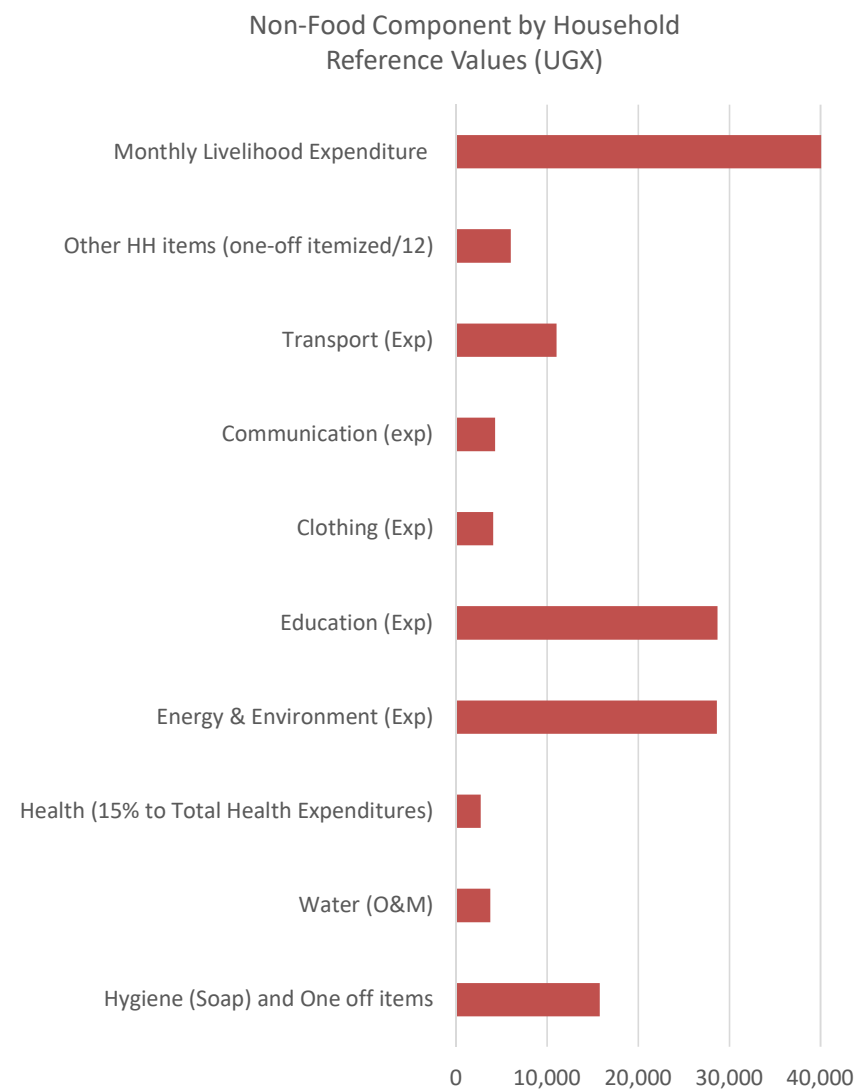
STEP 4: **Gap analysis** provided the objectives of the programme, the vulnerability of the target group and the household's economic capacity inform CVA

IN OTHER WORDS...

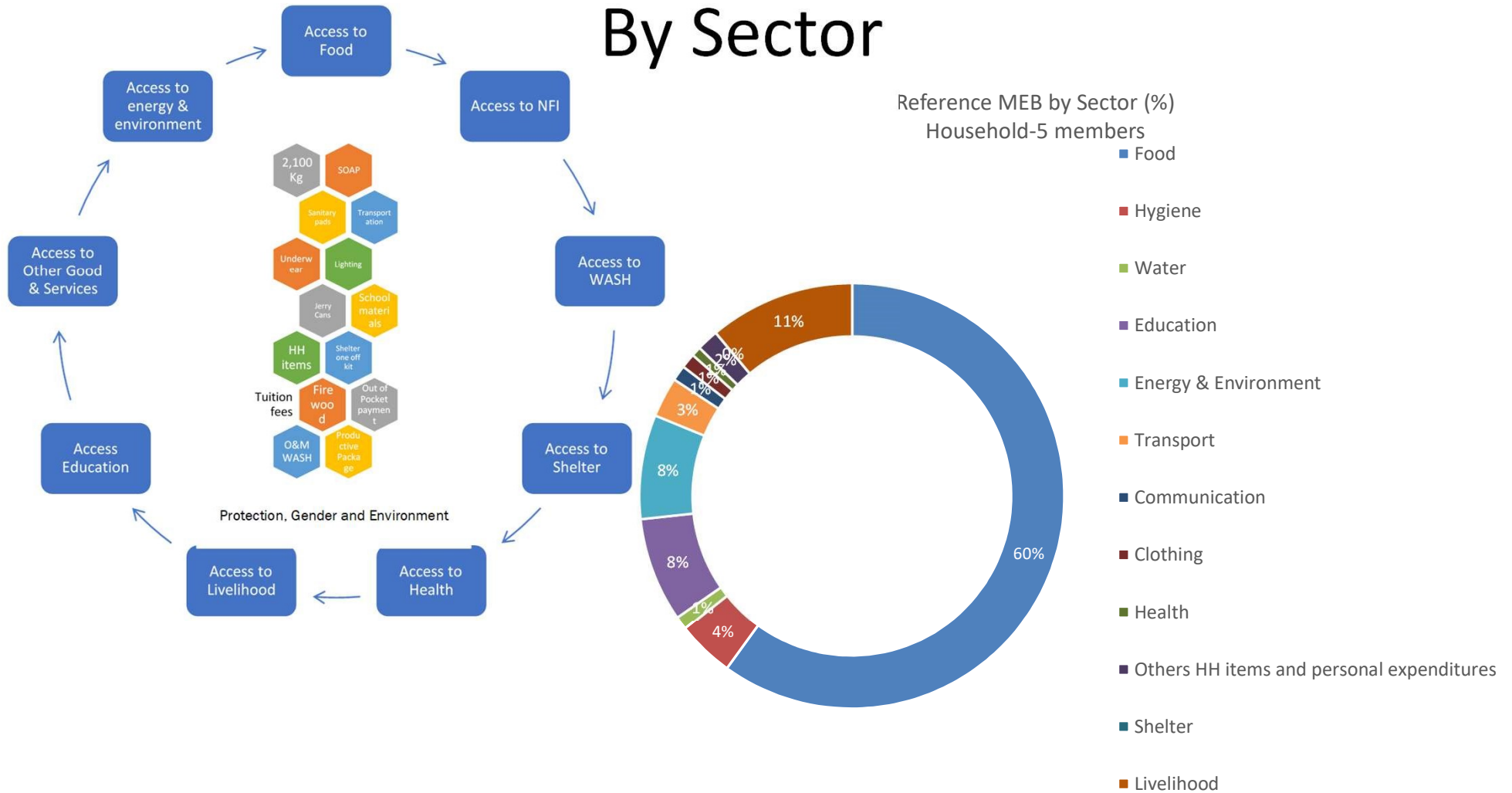
- It is a need? It is a priority? Do they spend to cover this need?
- It is unmet? It is unmet because is not available/accessible in the market? (*market based interventions*).
- If available, it is unmet because they can't afford it?
- If they could afford it, how much would refugees spend in these items and would be willing to pay? (*expenditure lens*)
- How can we ensure that with that money, people access to those items to meet humanitarian standards and contribute to program outcomes (*right based approach*) ?





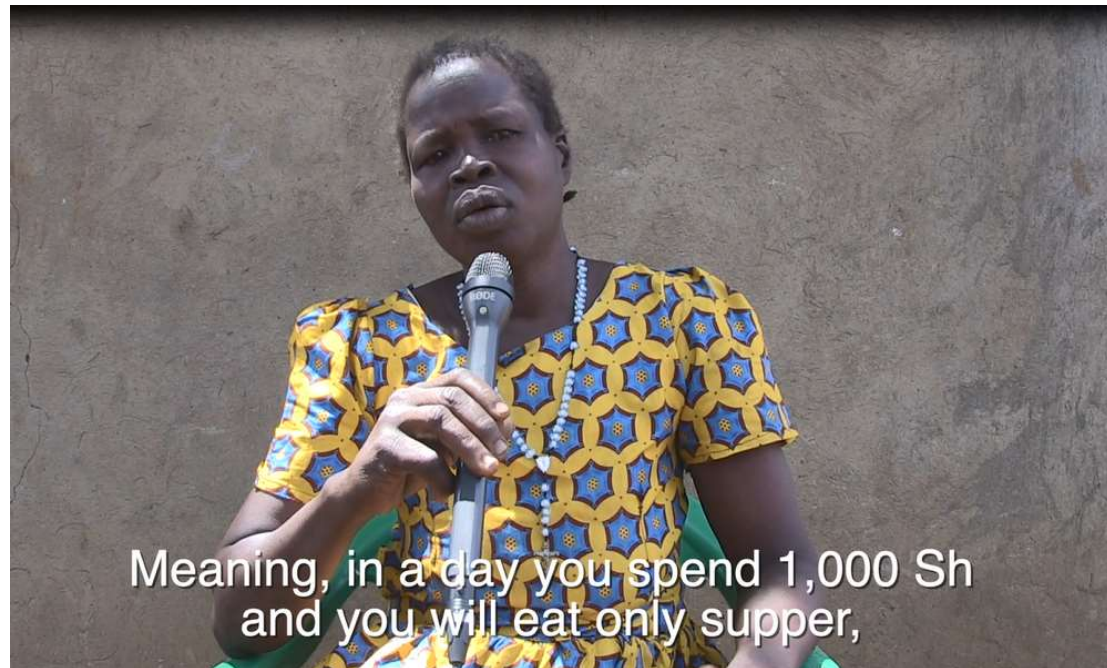
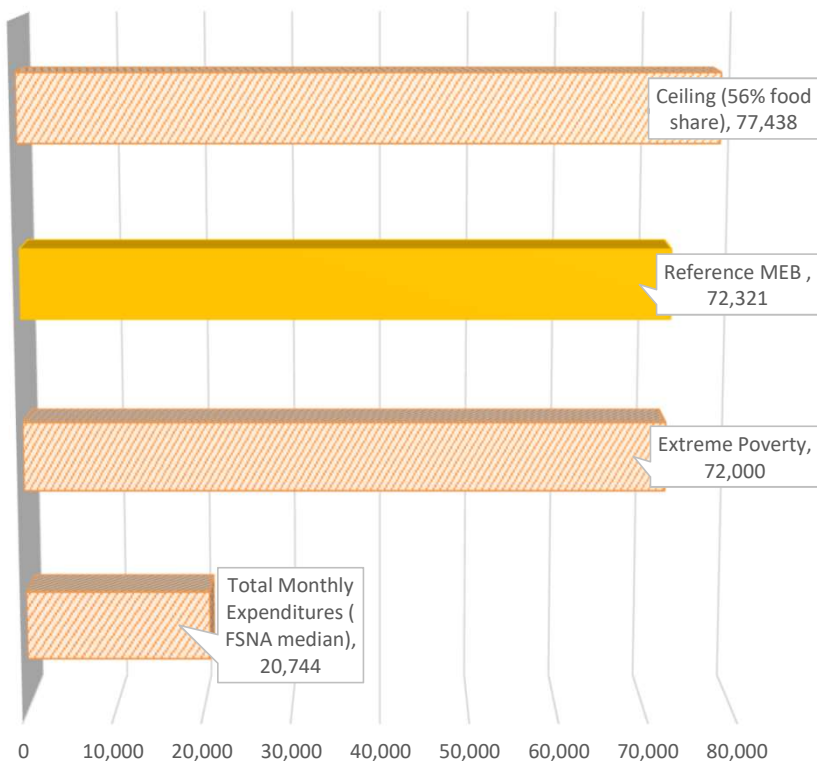


By Sector



MEB Reference Values

IN SUMMARY
TOTAL MEB
PER PERSON PER MONTH



Limitations: District level consultation and involvement of refugees across all settlements. Data accuracy across sectors. Localization of MEB to different geographical area as next step . Guidance provide tools for partners. Living document. Useful for partners.

Why to include livelihood in a MEB?



- Lack of livelihood opportunities
- Strong evidence on MPC boosting livelihood with temporary income
- Livelihood, resilience and self reliance being strategic priorities for RRP
- Reported expenditures on productive assets
- Access to income support and incrementing purchasing power through cash and voucher assistance should not be understood as incompatible with self-reliance
- There is significant international experience showing that well-designed income support can underpin income generation and jobs by giving people the security to take risks and invest
- Stressful coping mechanisms are still prevalent.
- The livelihood component of the MEB should enable households to directly invest in self-selected IGA to form their overall household livelihood strategy

Investment type	Minimum Package (100%)		Annual (100%)
Initial investment (one-time) (2 IGA max.)	TARGETED	193.83 USD	193.83 USD
Seasonal investment – twice per year	ASSISTANCE	117.21 USD	234.41 USD
Monthly investment	INCLUDED IN MEB	10.73 USD	128.76 USD

Key Considerations for Livelihood component

- The use of cash to enable households to meet their needs for productive assets is dependent on market analysis to assess accessibility of productive assets and capacity to absorb increased demand generated by household access to cash (market analysis)
- Scale, seasonality and transfer to be adjusted to reflect ability to self-invest, productive asset and IGA to move to self reliance
- Evidence: LIPW, SAGE.. Showing that 20-30% of beneficiaries are regularly investing in agricultural production, agricultural inputs, animals for rearing and hire of ox-ploughs. There was an increase in the proportion of households owning livestock, from 69% to 75%. The proportion of working age adults also increased from 74% to 81%, while 27% of elderly people declare to have hired day-labourers as a result of income support.
- The LWG will refine the methodology of frequency, payment size and IGA and work collaboratively with the CWG on MPC
- Cash transfer should be complemented by targeted technical assistance training
- Market support to enable market functionality and absorptive capacity to meet increased demand for productive assets as a result of increased access to cash by targeted populations.
- System strengthening to public and private sector actors to provide service delivery and an enabling environment for livelihood activities that promotes a stronger coherence between agriculture and social protection through enhanced coordination and involvement between key ministries in the refugee response.

Conclusions and recommendations

- The MEB value is a critical factor when determining transfer values;
- Transfer values are closely reliant on of the capacity of the households to cater for their own essential needs with their own resources and abilities, other assistance received, market capacity and what the program aims to achieve. Including gender dynamics. Timing and frequency of the transfer (*and predictability*) are key design features influencing potential impact.
- Cash is not the only form of assistance needed. Support for protection and sector-specific programming will remain vital for the supply of quality services and goods to refugees and for the technical knowledge, training and behaviour change needed to achieve outcomes
- Investment in livelihood opportunities can increase refugee's capacity to meet more of their needs and preferences and reduce dependence on assistance
- A need for aligning the provision of assistance to the level and type of need in households and individuals.
- Access to income support and incrementing purchasing power through cash and voucher assistance should not be understood as incompatible with self-reliance



Thank You!

All photographs and videos are from a CashCap-CwC NORCAP joint Initiative in collaboration with UN Women and Refugee Law Project

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NORCAP joint Initiative in collaboration with UN Women and Refugee Law Project

PRESS PLAY

<https://vimeo.com/album/5834629/video/323153524>

Community Versions available for Ugandan and South Sudanese Groups

