|  |
| --- |
| **MINUTES – Urban Refugee Working Group** |
| **Date** | 29th January 2020 | **Venue** | UNHCR |
| **Agenda** | * Opening remarks by OPM
* Review and adoption of minutes
* Activity info reporting by UNHCR
* Updates by UNHCR
* Review of TOR’s for the working group
* Updates by partners
* AOB
 |
| **Attendance** | OPM, ARC/ALIGHT, RHI, UNHCR, RGF, IRC, U.S EMBASSY/PRM, NRC, JRS, RLP, IOM, CARITAS, REHORE, UR, Mercy Corps, CAFOMI, YARID, SCI, IAU, CAFOMI |
| **Chair and co-chair** | Patience Kyomuhendo (OPM) and Enid Ochieng (UNHCR) |
| **Note Taker** | Duncan Mato (UNHCR) |
|  | **Pending Action points** |  |  |
|  | * Review and finalization of TOR’s
* Share link on FRRM public dashboard
* Organizations interested in being mapped in the Inter- Agency FRRM referral network to reach out to the UNHCR FRRM team
* Develop a directory of service providers.
* Develop an inter-agency referral mechanism for the urban that covers all sectors.
 | * Comments on TOR to be shared by 10th February
 | All |
|  | **Opening remarks by OPM** | **Recommendations/Action points** | **Responsible** |
|  | * The Government policy on refugees is settlement based and partners must take this into consideration during planning/design of programmes.
* There are several cases of PoCs in Kampala requesting to be transferred to settlements. Estimates stand at around 50 persons per day. The Government calls upon partners to enhance coordination to ensure that persons relocated to settlements are well received.
* OPM will continuously engage with the urban leadership to ensure that they are aware of the refugee policy to avoid conflicts with the host community and authorities. OPM also calls upon all partners engaged in the refugee response to continue raising awareness on the refugee policy as well as rights and obligations of PoCs in order to manage expectations.
* The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) held 20 sessions for the Kampala and settlement caseload. Despite the gains made, there is still an existing backlog. OPM is exploring possibilities of rolling out an accelerated RSD programme within the provisions of the law. However, this has not been achieved. Notwithstanding, the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) has been constituted and is ready to commence work.
* The refugee policy is in the final stages and should be finalized by mid-2020.
 |  |  |
|  | **Updates by UNHCR** |  |  |
|  | * In line with the Government policy on refugees, refugees who settle in urban locations are expected to provide for themselves except for few cases that are transferred through a formal referral system. As interventions are tailored, partners should take into consideration the vulnerable caseloads.
* Access to livelihood opportunities in the urban remains a major gap. During planning, partners engaged in livelihood activities should factor in vulnerable populations. Data on locations of vulnerable populations is readily available from OPM/UNHCR if required by partners for their interventions.
* NRC is the new protection partner handling the urban programme. NRC signed a partnership agreement in January and will be working closely with CAFOMI under a twinning arrangement. AHA is also on board as the new partner implementing the health response in the urban.
* Despite the changes as above, InterAid continues to provide assistance through an operational arrangement which is still under discussion. The contact partners for the urban programme are NRC and AHA. UNHCR will share the referral mechanism to enable other partners refer cases to NRC/CAFOMI and AHA.
* There has been a 33% reduction in funding. As a result, UNHCR has since reduced the number of partnerships for 2020. Some of the activities that were implemented by NGO’s have been devolved to the Districts. UNHCR continues to advocate for additional funding to fill implementation gaps.
* Energy and Environment remains a key priority for UNHCR in the urban.
* An Age, Gender and Diversity participatory assessment was conducted in Kampala last year together with refugees, host community and partners among other stakeholders to study challenges and capacities of PoCs in the urban. Data analysis is ongoing, and a report is likely to be released in February.
* It was noted that some asylum seekers who wish to be transported to the settlements are left stranded in Kampala given that AIRD doesn’t transport PoCs to settlements on Fridays. UNHCR expressed that there are no protection houses in the Kampala and called upon partners that may have protection houses to share details and see how to collaborate on addressing the issue. UNHCR to hold Bi-lateral discussions with OPM on transportation of PoCs to settlements.

**Resettlement (RST):** * The resettlement quota has been reduced from 6023 in 2019 to 2350 in 2020. While dependent on resettlement countries, the quota is likely to rise throughout the year through advocacy with the RST countries. The 2020 RST countries will be Sweden, Norway, Canada, Australia and France.
* 4443 refugees were submitted for resettlement and 3288 refugees departed to a resettlement country.
* Identification of persons in need of RST will be through protection and medical referrals. While there isn’t a direct referral mechanism from partners, it is recommended that during case management meetings and engagements with UNHCR, partners should discuss cases that may qualify for resettlement.
* Partners that are interested in knowing more about the resettlement process can reach out to UNHCR for briefings. Partners can also refer to the Resettlement data finder tool to keep track of the number of submissions and departures on a monthly basis.
 | * Share the referral mechanism with partners
* Share participatory Assessment report when finalized
 | UNHCRUNHCR |
|  | **Activity info reporting by UNHCR** |  |  |
|  | * Activity info reporting was Launched in the 1st quarter of 2019. So far, 3 quarters of reporting have been undertaken. Reporting for quarter 4 is ongoing and will be concluded on 31st January. Generation of reports is a 6 week process which begins with partner reporting (2weeks after each quarter), validation by sector leads (2 weeks), updating products (1 week) and final clearance by sector leads (1 week).
* Indicators reported under the activity tool can be added to capture more activities. In case there is a lack of clarity on linking activities to indicators or activities are not captured under the tool, partners should reach out to sector leads on the way forward.
* Partners will be required to report by location, activities, implementation type, activity status (ongoing or completed). During the reporting of achievements against RRP targets, only completed activities are counted. If the activities are reported as ongoing, they are not counted but rather reflected in operational presence.
* Partners will also report by implementation type and funding source. Partners operating with funds from UN agencies will report as implementing partners while those that operate with funds from donors will report as operational partners. If there is a mix between the two, partners will have to separate the report indicating activities conducted as an IP and OP.
* Beneficiary type: Given that there is a mix of different nationalities in the urban, partners will have to submit one record per nationality.
* The information compiled through the activity info reporting tool is key for accountability and advocacy for additional funding. In comparison to the traditional 5W’s, activity info is faster tool to acquire information on partners implementing similar activities per location.
* Partners without access and interested in reporting under the activity info tool should reach out to the Information Management team (UNHCR)
 | * Share step by step guide on activity info
* Share sector log frame document
* Members to reach out to IM team for activity info reporting
 | Bo/DuncanBo/Duncan |
|  | **Review of TOR’s for the working group** |  |  |
|  | * Partners to provide comments on the TOR’s by 10th February 2020. Discussion on the review and finalization of TOR’s deferred to next meeting.
 |  |  |
|  | **Updates by partners** |  |  |
| **IRC** | * Concluded Protection Case Management training. Topics covered include; Case supervision, PSEA, working with interpreters, and other marginalized groups and managing stress.
* Conducted project baseline survey. Key findings include; 20.3% women and girls have participated in safe space activities, 50% of household indicated that they were satisfied with the assistance provided.
* Ongoing Training health workers and police officers and WPE Response Officers on Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors from 27 – 30th January.
* Two protection dialogues were held with stakeholders, refugees and host communities in Makindye Country Club and Najjanankumbi.
* Concluded Vulnerability assessment, data analysis ongoing to inform IRC’s protection case management.
* IRC is also working with KCCA to establish at least 3 safe spaces at health facilities.
 | * Share report on baseline survey
* Share report on protection dialogues
 | IRC |
| **NRC** | * Started implementation of protection and assistance programme for urban refugees.
* NRC finalized contractual obligations with UNHCR. Internal planning (work plans) has also been undertaken, recruitment for the different projects is being finalized and the organization is setting up an office in Kabusu.
 |  |  |
| **Raising Gabdho****Foundation** | * Share finalized brochure on ongoing energy and environment activities in the urban.
 | Share documents | RGF |
| **JRS** | * JRS received a consultancy team from George Town university conducting a study on financial inclusion. The team together with JRS met with various stakeholders and refugees to discuss refugee access to financial services for businesses. A Report that will inform constructive engagements with financial institutions will be drafted in due course.
* A market survey focused on employment opportunities as well as sectors with the potential for absorption of labour was conducted at end of last year. The survey helped inform programming and vocational skills training. JRS is looking forward to expanding the range of courses that are provided to refugees in collaboration with Nakawa Vocational institute.
* JRS is conducting training for teachers in partner schools where JRS gives scholarships to children. The training is focused on psychosocial care for children and benefits the host community and refuge children.
* JRS received funding of about 80,000 euros for the basic needs program. JRS suggested to hold a bi-lateral discussion with OPM on how to collaborate on issue of new arrivals.
 | Share report on financial inclusion Share report on market survey | JRSJRS |
| **RLP** | * RLP is Launching English classes that will also focused on “speaking your rights” as a theme.
* A training of UPDF officers focusing on human rights and refugee rights is scheduled in mid-February at Silver Springs hotel, Kampala.
* RLP in partnership with the University of Ireland launched a new project in November 2019 focused on trafficking. The project seeks to study the nexus between forced migration and trafficking.
* RLP also launched a three year project on medical rehabilitation for male survivors in Kampala and Nakivale.
 |  |  |
| **MercyCorps** | * Conducting assessments on digital literacy and telecommunication feasibility reaching out to 796 refugees in the urban as well as a Social network analysis reaching out to 762 in Makindye Rubaga and Kawempe.
* MercyCorps reached out to private sector associations on work placed learning. So far, the Private sector foundation Uganda, Kasita and Uganda small scale industrial association responded to the call. Results are under review and an evaluation will be conducted.
 |  |  |
| **YARID** | * Conducting a study project funded by World Bank that focuses on testing mentorship programmes with selected businesses.
* Cash grants targeting host population giving up to 300 people cash grant of 500,000 UGx each for persons. MercyCorps is also conducting HIV self-tests and regular English classes and computer training.
 |  |  |
|  | **NEXT MEETING 26th February 2020** |  |