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| **PSN sub working group meeting Minutes** | | | | | |
| **Date** | **29 July 2020** | | **Venue** | Online | |
| **Agenda** | 1. Review of action points from previous meeting 2. Cash assistance for PSNs in humanitarian settings 3. Updates from members 4. Discussion: mapping community based organisations providing support to PSNs 5. AOB | | | | |
| **Attendance** | UNHCR, HI, AAR Japan, IRC, Alight, Finn Church Aid, NUDIPU, DRC, MGLSD, DCA | | | | |
| **Facilitator** | Gemma Woods (UNHCR) | | | | |
| **Discussion points** | | **Recommendations/Action points** | | | **Responsible** |
| 1. **Review of action points from previous meeting** 2. Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities – pending; a residential review was held the previous week in Jinja; HI and NUDIPU are the only members so far participating in the review. First draft of the new policy will be shared soon with the technical working group for review; PSN SWG members will be invited to input in the next round of consultations starting on 14th August. MGLSD will also share the assessment that was completed of the previous policy 3. HI to share learning around costs of living for PWDs – pending 4. LWF to share lessons learnt and challenges from multipurpose cash provision to PSNs – pending 5. PSN SWG to consult with ESP team on learning around tailored cash assistance for PSN – completed; overview of their recommendations will be shared with compilation of learnings from other PSN SWG members on cash assistance for PSNs 6. Presentation on Give Directly’s programmes in Uganda refugee context – pending 7. Presentation on HAI’s assessment findings on impact of COVID 19 on older refugees – pending 8. Meeting amongst PSN SWG members on ideas for joint advocacy strategy on impact of COVID 19 on PSNs – completed; meeting will take place immediately after PSN SWG meeting 9. **Cash assistance for PSNs in humanitarian settings**   There had been a discussion at a previous PSN SWG meeting on the possible need to tailor minimum expenditure baskets to reflect the increased cost of living for PSNs, particularly persons with disabilities, who may have higher costs in areas such as transportation and medical care. Members with learning around this subject have been invited to share for dissemination to the group.  DCA shared a number of general lessons learnt in targeting cash assistance to PSNs in Bidibidi: DCA has targeted 2000 PSNs including older persons, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses, women at risk and children at risk. Following an MEB developed each year, each individual received 40,000UGX a month.  Community engagement in the identification of beneficiaries for the cash assistance, usually a key component, had been more limited due to the COVID-19 restrictions. There had been challenges in narrowing down the potential list of beneficiaries as the targeted categories of PSNs above includes a significant number of people, and complaints from members of the community that they had not been included in the cash assistance programme. Many of the targeted community members did not have mobile phones or registered sim cards to allow for mobile money to be disbursed, which slowed down the response. Initially, mobile phones were provided to beneficiaries, but this was not a sustainable approach; now beneficiaries are being supported through OPM and mobile operators to receive a new sim card. Information sharing amongst partner colleagues was also a challenge, with several bureaucratic delays.  Several members expressed interest in learning from experiences of providing cash assistance to PSNs and post distribution monitoring. Lessons from members which have engaged in the activity will be collated and shared with the group, and may potentially be relevant to the cash technical working group and livelihoods working group in the future.   1. **Updates from members**   HI: As part of project on inclusive education, HI’s partner provided radios for distribution to LC1s, however many families with children with disabilities were purposely excluded from the distribution due the belief that the children would not benefit. This was changed with advocacy but there needs to be a constant monitoring of how stigma, discrimination can negatively affect programmes for PSNs.  DRC: continue to conduct home visits to PSNs, several issues arising – there are increasing needs for PSN shelter support, CRIs and facemasks, supplementary feeding and livelihoods. In Kiryandongo, DRC has been working with OPM to ensure PSNs currently hosted in the reception centre are prioritised for plot allocation.  AAR Japan: Following results of an assessment in Imvepi, AAR have identified that parents of children with disabilities have little knowledge of COVID-19. AAR is targeting RWCs and secretaries for PSNs for dissemination of information on how to care for children with disabilities and COVID-19; these structures will then be involved in wider community sensitisation.  IRC: Continue to manage information support centres in Bidibidi; the main issues arising are around livelihoods, CRIs, health. During household visits to PSNs, the main identified needs are around CRIs and shelter. IRC support PSNs to access food distributions through tricycle schemes which provide free transport. There are increasing shelter needs amongst PSNs due to poor weather in West Nile.  Alight: case follow up for PSNs continues in south west and Kyangwali. An assessment of persons with disabilities was done in order to provide assistive devices, and reusable face masks are being provided for PSNs. PSNs are also being supported through provision of NFIs and shelter renovations.  FCA: provides home learning materials for children with disabilities, primarily in Bidibidi, working with the Ministry of Education. PSNs are also being identified in Kyaka for a cash for work programme.  DCA: Is handing over 1.5 acres to families with PSNs to support cultivation and is working with TPO to identify beneficiaries with mental disabilities. Also working with IRC to identify women at risk who have faced protection problems when searching for firewood for provision of briquettes and cooking stoves.   1. **Discussion: mapping community based organisations providing support to PSNs**   Various members of the PSN SWG have supported different community based organisations to provide support to PSNs, including through training, capacity building and helping to set up specific support groups (for example for persons of old age and persons with disabilities) where they did not exist before. There are also a large number of community-initiated groups which also work with PSNs and which would benefit from similar support, but which are not yet known widely. Community based initiatives are a more sustainable model for humanitarian assistance and can continue long after humanitarian actors have phased out of a particular area.  Many partners work with the PSN secretaries within the RWC structures; however, the majority of support is given to RWC1, with the result that others are not aware of their roles. Through identifying these gaps, partners can work to improve outreach and sensitisation, focusing it where it is most needed.  Partners will be asked to contribute to a mapping of community based structures in each location which are known to work with PSNs, along with recent support provided (if applicable). This will be shared with all members and regularly updated to guide new interventions by the group.   1. **AOB**   **Next meeting: Wednesday 12 August, 2pm (online)**  Link to shared Google drive for PSN SWG with minutes of meetings and key documents: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qh4gpf2cHNFrRCvOCyXaQpgV2GByOl_6> | | Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities  HI to share learning around costs of living for PWDs  LWF to share lessons learnt and challenges from multipurpose cash provision to PSNs  Presentation on Give Directly’s programmes in Uganda refugee context  Presentation on HAI’s assessment findings on impact of COVID 19 on older refugees  Members to share experiences / lessons learnt from provision of cash to PSNs in humanitarian context  Members to contribute to mapping of community based structures providing support to PSNs | | | Emily / Ministry of Gender  Ryan / HI  Geremew / LWF  Simon / Give Directly  Emily / HAI  LWF, DCA, FCA, others  All members |