

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region

REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP

Organizers	Anna Gaunt (UNHCR) and Lili Mohiddin (NRC)		
Meeting Location	Virtual (WebEx)	Date and time	20 January 2022 10:00 – 11:10
Next Meeting	03 February 2022		

Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. *Tour de table*
3. 2021 in Review
4. 2022 Planning – Members' interests and contributions
5. Upcoming February Meeting Introduction
6. General – Upcoming Events, AOB, Wrap-up

Attendance

The meeting was attended by 43 members representing 23 organizations working on Economic Inclusion and related functions among the displaced populations in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. The following organizations were present during the 2022 Planning meeting: AAH, ARDC, CONCERN, DRC, FAO, FCA, FSD Africa, GIZ, ITC, MASTERCARD Foundation, NRC, REFUGEE INTERNATIONAL, REFUGEPOINT, REFUSHE, IRC, TRICKLEUP, UNHCR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, VILLAGE ENTERPRISE, WFP, WORLD BANK, WUSC and WVI.

Meeting minutes:

Introductions

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) co-moderated the session focused on reviewing the activities of 2021 and gathering proposals on themes or sub-themes of interest to members during the 2022 Regional EI Exchange meetings.

Overview and outcomes of the planning session

The session highlighted the remarkable growth in the membership, which currently stands at over 300 members from 66 organizations in the region (UN, NGOs, Donors, Development Partners, Academia, Refugee Organisations, Private Sector, Research Institutions, Consultants, among others).

The Economic Inclusion Exchange working group continues to stimulate discussions, research, and sharing of best practices related to the livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugee, returnees, other persons in displacement and their host communities. It is an open platform for discussion of partners advocating, researching, investing and realizing projects that strengthen self-reliance and resilience, reduce the need of assistance, contribute to economies, increase protection and enhance durable solutions. Contributions from members are featured on the [Regional Livelihoods Working Group Portal](#).

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The following board themes were covered in 2021: GCR/GRF and Development Partnerships, Learning to Earning, Digital Economy, Financial Inclusion, Working across borders, Private Sector and SME development, The Circular Economy, Social Protection, The World Bank's Engagement, Empowerment of Women in Economic Inclusion initiatives.

Members present had an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves during the *Tour de table* as well as highlight ongoing engagement and opportunities of collaboration with other members. The following reports were shared during the session: [Self-reliance Evidence Review 2021](#) by DRC and RefugePoint, and [a case study on LMA in Kenya](#) by Refugee International.

Proposed themes for 2022



Proposed presenters for 2022

Members were requested to update the online list of presentations indicating various presentations various organisations are willing to present to members during 2022. Members are encouraged to continue updating the [online list](#).

AOB

Members were requested to present key findings, lessons learnt, tools to the group by contacting [Anna](#) (UNHCR) and [Lili](#) (NRC). Members were encouraged to volunteer in moderating upcoming meetings; as well as share research, publications, highlights, webinars, meetings, etc that they would like uploaded to the [Economic Inclusion Exchange East Africa Portal](#).

Schedule of meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for February 03, 2022 1000-1130Hrs EAT.