

**Minutes of the Livelihoods and Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG) Meeting held on
Wednesday, 19th October 2022 (Online)**

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks- **LRSWG Chairs**
2. Sector updates
 - i). JLRIP Launch- **MoLGSD**
 - ii). Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE) - Update and preliminary findings-**UNHCR**
 - iii). Multi Sector Needs Assessment on Receiving Settlements with Livelihoods focus- **REACH**
 - iv.) Quarter 3 Sector Performance- **UNHCR**
3. Co-ordination Support Mission- Update and Discussion– **LRSWG Chairs**
4. Digital Savings Group Checklist- **U-Learn**
5. Partners' announcements & AOB

The following were the major highlights from the meeting:

1. Opening remarks

- Lilian Otiego, the LRSWG co-chair, welcomed participants and thanked them for sparing time to participate in the meeting and share valuable ideas for the sector.
- Lilian reminded partners to make use of the valuable information from assessments and data, that is available on the livelihoods portal, for learning as well as for benchmarking of good practices.
- Paul Mwirichia, the second LRSWG co-chair, thanked partners for the various livelihood projects that they are implementing across the Uganda refugee response.

2. Sector Updates

i) Launch of the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan(JLIRP) for Refugees

- Ms. Lucy Otto, Principal Social Development Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD), who is also the Coordinator at the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) Secretariat, briefed participants on the recent launch of the JLIRP plan in the West Nile and Northern Uganda districts.
- The launch, which was held in Yumbe and Gulu for the West Nile and Northern Uganda districts respectively, was presided over by the state minister for Labor, Employment, and Industrial Relations - Col.(Rtd) Charles Engola Mac- Odwogo Okello.
- The purpose of the launch was to disseminate the plan to the stakeholders in order to increase their buy-in and to draw an action plan for implementation of the plan.
- Participants included Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and District Local Government (DLG) staff; UNHCR staff and other UN agencies, partners, and representatives of refugees across the settlements.
- During the launch, Districts requested for financial support from the MoGLSD and other partners towards the implementation of the plan.
- Participants expressed concern that the plan which was launched at national level in 2020 was only disseminated at district level two years later.

(ii). Individual Profiling Exercise (IPE) - update and preliminary findings

The preliminary findings, based on data from six refugee settlements, were presented by UNHCR staff: Charles Alemi, the Economist and Gorgui Niokhor Diouf, the Operational Data Management Officer. The following were the major highlights from the presentation.

- The exercise was carried out by the Government of Uganda through the Office of the Prime Minister with support from UNHCR.
- The exercise was started on 18 October 2021 and is expected to end in November 2022.
- The purpose of IPE that is combined with verification, is to ascertain the actual number of refugees in the country and to obtain comprehensive socio-economic data and to ascertain protection needs of refugees.
- Data collected is for analysis, profiling, prioritization and for sharing with partners.
- The overall progress stood at 75% with 1,214,515 people verified out of the targeted 1,622,910 persons of concern.
- In terms of refugee education, completion levels stood at; 106,757 at kindergarten; 569,730 at primary; 115,745 at lower secondary; 43,444 at higher secondary; 15,738 at university; 3,181 post university, and 6,3332 completed technical/ vocation education, while 1,171 persons attained informal education.
- Refugees are mainly engaged in field crop and vegetable growing, while the least occupations for refugees were reported as tailoring and dress making.
- The main source of livelihood for households in the last 12 months was reported as; wage employment at 30%, small-scale farming at 25%, and multi-purpose cash grants at 21%.
- Over 80% of refugees receive their main source of living in the form of cash, with 30% receiving monthly and 24% seasonally.
- The monthly refugee household expenditure stands at an average of about UGX 205,000/=.
- About 23% of refugee households reported taking part in agriculture, mainly for food production.
- About 5% of refugee households in Imvepi, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Oruchinga and Rwamwanja refugee settlements reported having access to additional land for farming.
- About 3% of refugee households in the six settlements of Imvepi, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Oruchinga and Rwamwanja reported having a non-agricultural enterprise.
- The IPE revealed that 32% of refugee households reported not receiving any credit at all, 36 % received once, and 31% received more than one loan.

A detailed presentation can be accessed [here](#) and on the LRSWG portal:

<https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/161?sv=0&geo=220>

Reactions to the IPE presentation

- What is the duration of the IPE?
- What are the major sources of credit for refugees?
- What do Livelihood Sector Leads think about continued assistance to refugees who have stayed for over 30 years in the settlements ?

In response, the presenters clarified that the IPE would end in November 2022.

On sources of credit, refugees obtain credit from both formal and informal sources including friends, VSLAs, SACCOs and MFIs.

On the refugees who have overstayed, the focus should be on the ability of such individuals to sustain themselves than on the period someone has spent in the settlement.

(iii) Multi- sector rapid needs assessment amongst newly arrived refugees with a livelihood focus

- The presentation on the assessment that was conducted in West Nile and the Southwest was made by Martina Starace from CESVI.
- The objective of the assessment was to establish an evidence base and increase partners understanding of push and pull factors and movement intentions of new arrivals between countries of origin and Uganda, and between holding centers in Uganda and refugee settlements.
- The methodology used involved household surveys, key informant interviews, and FGDs
- Sources of food vary across the locations and the household's income situation changed significantly after displacement.
- Lack of financial capital was reported as the main barrier preventing households from engaging in non- farm income generating activities.
- There was a mismatch between assistance and needs, the level of assistance received and long distance.
- In Nakivale, households preferred receiving assistance in form of direct cash, while in Rhino Camp, they preferred in-kind aid.
- The assessment revealed that a complete fulfillment of all refugees' needs is far from being achieved
- Underfunding was reported as the main factor affecting humanitarian response
- Access to food is the main need that refugees reportedly struggle to meet in both locations although the situation remained more serious in the Southwest.
- Limited livelihood programmes and difficulties in accessing land and agricultural inputs reportedly decrease chances of households becoming independent from humanitarian assistance.
- The activation of training programmes and interventions favoring non-farm economic activities could be encouraged in order to diversify options for refugees.
- Part of the population has some skills, but they do not have the capital to practice them in Uganda
- Programs focusing on provision of capital to start up enterprises in Uganda should be encouraged.

The detailed presentation can be found on the LRSWG Portal <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/161?sv=0&geo=220>.

iv). Livelihoods and Resilience Sector performance update

The following were the key highlights from the presentation made by Festo Muriisa, Assistant Information Management Officer at UNHCR:

- There are 96 partners, with 44 of them reporting in quarter 3, whereas 52 did not report.
- A total of about 70,000 households have received agriculture support, which is about 27% of the targeted households(257,048).
- In terms of funding, partners have received a total of US \$43.5 M, which compared to the total requirements in 2022-US \$ 134M, leaves a gap of US \$ 90.5M.
- A total of 5,385acres of arable land have been accessed by refugees; and 69,994 people have been trained on good agricultural practices.

The detailed presentation can be found [here](#) and on the LRSWG portal: <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/161?sv=0&geo=220>

3. Coordination support mission - update and discussion

The following are highlights on the technical support mission made by the co-chairs in August.

- The purpose of the mission was to engage with livelihood partners and staff in the field, to appreciate the livelihoods support provided to PoCs and to provide coordination and technical support.
- Key observations included strong coordination and weak coordination in some areas across the operation.
- Duplication of efforts and lack of sharing of beneficiary data were noticed across the settlements.
- The land size allocated to refugees has reduced significantly and refugees pay relatively higher rental rates for arable land across the settlements.
- Cases of informal land agreements which are exploitative were noted.
- Domination of on-farm activities were noticed.
- Poor crop yields were noted during the mission across the settlements, especially due to below average rainfall in the first season of 2022.
- OPM to implement partner zoning approach to address duplication of activities.
- Partners were encouraged to share beneficiary information.
- OPM and DLGs to support refugees access to land and negotiations on user agreement.
- Increased investment in on- farm activities were also recommended.

Detailed presentation can be found on the and on the LRSWG portal - <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/161?sv=0&geo=220>

4. Digital savings group checklist- by ULEARN

- The presentation on the digital savings group criteria checklist was made by Kullein Ankunda – the Acting Livelihoods Learning Specialist at U-Learn Uganda.
- The checklist is a support tool for decision making designed by refugee response actors.
- The criteria looks at group maturity, group savings and loan history as well as group size.
- A digital savings group (DSG) learning review is ongoing involving; collating and curating existing evidence, developing lessons learned and recommendations, as well as disseminating learnings and follow up activities and outputs.
- A digital savings workshop was held on zoom in April 2022.
- A digital savings group leaning brief is available online.
- A secondary output- digital savings groups criteria checklist was finalized and will soon be disseminated.

A detailed presentation can be found here and on the LRSWG portal <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/161?sv=0&geo=220>

5. Partners' announcements and AOB

The co-chairs emphasized that there is need for partners to agree on who takes over some of the initiatives after the 3 or 6 months of the short-term interventions. It was re-echoed that Partners need to speak and agree on how to complement each other.

Moving forward, the co-chairs noted that there are a series of key events and meetings which need participation of partners including CRRF meeting, donors meetings, INGO meetings and JLRIP steering committees in November.

The co-chairs thanked the members for their participation and commitment to the objectives of the group. They pledged to share all the information on the group portal and asked members to make use of them in their planning and interventions.

**Annex 1: List of Participants in the Livelihood and Resilience Sector Working Group (LRSWG) Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th October 2022**

1.	Albert Gatibu	Humanity and Inclusion
2.	Albert Macharia	Humanity and Inclusion
3.	Anna Mariatrzczinska	Danish Refugee Council
4.	Annet Namunane	DAI-Feed the Future
5.	Bob Denis Odongo	Ireland
6.	Chantal Mutamuriza	Light For All
7.	Charles Alemi	UNHCR
8.	Christine Nandora	SCI
9.	Crespo Barya	AWYAD
10.	Dalili Asiku	UNHCR
11.	Daniel Adotu	NRC
12.	Debi Nabukeera	HEKS
13.	Diletta Bartolozzi	UNHCR
14.	Emmanuel Arinaitwe	ANCHOR
15.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR
16.	Esther Ainembabazi	UNHCR
17.	Festo Murisa	UNHCR
18.	Gerald Emoyo	UNHCR
19.	Giulia Montisci	REACH
20.	Grace Mulungi	LWF
21.	Grace Rwomushana	ILO
22.	Hillary Aggwe	UNHCR
23.	James Male Kiwalabye	UNHCR
24.	Joanne Mwosana	Refugee and Hope
25.	Joseph Odumna	Fin Church Aid
26.	Kevin Aciro	
27.	Kullein Ankunda	U-LEARN
28.	Lilian Otiego	UNHCR
29.	Marleen Schreier	International Rescue Committee
30.	Martina Starace	CESVI
31.	Mary Nakibirango	Give Directly
32.	Mawa Alatawa	CEFORD
33.	Mellevan Hilten	IMPACT Reach
34.	Nathan Turyayesiima	Samaritan Purse
35.	Patrick Munduga	ANCHOR
36.	Paul Mwirichia	World Vision International
37.	Pauline Lietar	IMPACT Initiatives
38.	Peter Okaje	FAO
39.	Rose Abio	HEKS
40.	Rose Unzi	HEKS
41.	Salome Awidi	Finn Church Aid
42.	Sam Businge	ADRA
43.	Stephanie Perham	UNHCR
44.	Victoria Babirye	ALIGHT

