

## REFUGEE ENGAGEMENT FORUM (REF)

### The 16<sup>th</sup> REF Meeting Report:



**REF Meeting happening from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022** at Silver Springs Hotel in Bugolobi, Kampala-Uganda.

#### **Day 1: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Session I title:** Self-introduction and Opening remarks

**Session time:** 09:09am – 10:16am

**Session Objective:** To officially welcome all participants and open the meeting.

**Presenter name and organization:** Ms. Milly Lagu-REF member.

The meeting was officially opened with a word of prayer led by a volunteer REF member (Pasquale-RWC III-Palabek). Thereafter, the participants introduced themselves by name, position, and settlement/organization. They also hinted at what they are harvesting currently and these included sorghum, and sweet potatoes among others.

#### **Opening remarks from Mr. Zbigniew Paul DIME, UNHCR**

##### **Key points presented:**

- Welcomed all the participants to the 16<sup>th</sup> REF meeting. Acknowledged and welcomed all the new members for the meeting.
- Stated that, in the refugee parliament, things may get hot during discussions but what is important is to ensure the REF members present the voices of their communities.

- Currently, there are lots of challenges facing Ugandan refugee operation in terms of budget cuts. As a result, refugee leaders always face challenges explaining things to their communities about whatever is happening. The reductions are not just because of geopolitical circumstances like the war in Ukraine, but we should face the reality and work with the communities to find positive coping mechanisms.
- He emphasized the need to come up with recommendations or suggestions/prayers for things to change in their communities.
- Urged the participants not to get tired of advocacy and continue to champion the voices of their communities even if it means repeating the same issues. He urged them to always come up with suggestions/solutions.
- He then finally declared the meeting officially opened.

**Mr. Jerry Grants Anyoli - REF co-chair**

- Welcomed all the participants for the meeting, and extended apologies from the OPM co-chair (Innocent Ndahirwe) who is unable to be part of the meeting because of other engagements.
- In a special way welcomed back Charles James Loro (REF member-Imvepi) the then REF representative to the SG.
- He informed the meeting, that in the absence of Mr. Charles Loro, Mr. Peter Gift (REF member-Rhino Camp settlement) was elected as the SG representative. With consultation from Charles and the other REF members, Mr. Peter Gift, and Ms. Noella Kabale were seconded to continue representing the REF at the CRRF SG meeting.
- He then assured the two REF representatives to the CRRF SG on the continuous support from the Task Force.
- He informed the REF members, that in the year 2023, the OPM will support in the election of new REF members. The elections will be held based on the guideline documents which will be shared later with the REF members.
- In other administrative announcements, he added that GIZ supported dinner provision for 3 nights of the REF’s stay at Silver Springs.
- He thanked U-LEARN, GIZ, CARE, UNHCR and OPM for all the efforts put in preparations.

**Session II title:** Action points and key decisions from previous CRRF S.G meeting

**Session time:** 10:40am-11:10am

**Session Objective:** To review progress against action points from the 17<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG meeting convened on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Imperial Royale Hotel

**Presenter name and organization:** **Mr. Mike Bruce (CRRF Secretariat/HINGO) and Ms. Hellen Acibo- CRRF Secretariat**

**Key points presented:**

#	DECISION / RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS TO DATE
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1)	<p>The Education Response Plan 2 (2021-2025) was adopted by the Steering Group meeting with a call for the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To integrate a comprehensive transitional management Plan as an Annex</li> <li>• To address the comments by stakeholders in the final draft</li> <li>• To organize a formal launch of the plan as soon as possible</li> </ul>	<p>Preparation processes by MOES for the launch of the ERP2 is ongoing at the Ministry of Education and sports</p>
2)	<p>Uganda's participation in the Global Refugee Forum 2023 at Co- Convener status.</p> <p>The CRRF Secretariat, DOR and UNHCR to expeditiously develop and share a roadmap that will support GOU to participate in a co-convener capacity in the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva</p>	<p>The Hon. minister for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees to launch a national coordination task team on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022</p>
3)	<p>That GOU expedites the approval of loans/grants already approved by World Bank, pending approval by Cabinet and or Parliament amounting to about 300M USD for support to Refugees and Host Communities, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uganda Digital Acceleration Programme (UDAP) for NITA-U and MoICT, with 60 MUSD Grant out of total 146 M USD</li> <li>• Uganda Electricity Access Scale up Project (ESAP) under REA and MEMD- 137 MUSD Grant out of 480 MUSD</li> <li>• Investment for Industrial Transformation and Employment (INVITE) Bank of Uganda - with 60 MUSD Grant out of total 150 M USD</li> <li>• Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity of Women Enterprises (GROW)- MOGLSD- 40M USD out of 181 MUSD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Uganda Electricity Access Scale up Project (ESAP) loan was recently approved by Parliament</li> <li>• MOGLSD have on their part of GROW project updated the required criteria conditions that were a hindrance to loan approval</li> <li>• UDAP Loan was approved by Parliament, Financing agreement being developed taking into account of Attorney General's Advice, and its implementation details captured in Budget call Circular of MOFPED</li> </ul>
4)	<p>Concern was raised about the prolonged food assistance to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP to update the 18<sup>th</sup> SG on the planned Prioritization and</li> </ul>

	<p>Refugees that are already engaged in productive businesses. The SG asked WFP to develop a graduation model that transitions refugees from food handouts to self-reliance.</p>	<p>graduation to self-reliance and resilience of Refugees and Asylum seekers in Uganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Meetings to discuss the WFP Model chaired by PS OPM in attendance of WFP, UNHCR, CRRF, DOR, DRDIP have been held,</li> <li>• The last meeting held on 30th November 2022 agreed to apply a phased graduation model based on number of refugees in livelihood support activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>5)</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of East African Affairs and OPM/ DoR to organize a multi-stakeholder meeting to raise awareness and sensitization on the draft EAC Refugee Policy ahead of its presentation to the EAC Council of Ministers</p>	<p>To be prioritized in 2023</p>
<p><b>6)</b></p>	<p>That Sectors that are yet to cascade the Refugee response plans were asked do so to enhance District buy in and alignment with DDPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent Inter sector Dialogue organized by CRRF Secretariat on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 requested National Planning Authority to support MOGLSD and the MOMED to cascade the JLIRP and the SERP plans respectively,</li> <li>• Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development have been asked by PS-OPM to make a presentation to the DEF meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 on the Scheduled implementation of Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) and plans in place to cascade the SERP to RHDs</li> </ul>
<p><b>7)</b></p>	<p>The government of Uganda was requested to consider the inclusion of refugee enumeration in the forthcoming 2023 National Population and Housing Census,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Consultative meeting between CRRF Secretariat and UBOS was held, UBOS confirmed the enumeration of Refugees come next 2023 Census as has been practiced in previous censuses.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OPM- DOR was requested to forward, other indicators they wish to include in the questionnaire.</li> </ul>
8)	<p>Because of the existing gaps in equating qualifications of refugees mainly from Francophone countries and the lack of Recognition of Prior Learning Framework (RPL), UBTEB takes a lead to Consult MEACA and MOES to fast-track the development of both the National and TVET Qualification frameworks.</p>	<p>The Norwegian Refugee Council has expressed interest to support this matter. CRRF Secretariat to jointly engage with MOES- ERP Secretariat to coordinate this support</p>
9)	<p>The 2023 priorities of the CRRF Secretariat were adopted with emphasis on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision and adoption of the National Plan of Action and the Strategic Direction</li> <li>• Implementation of CRRF evaluation recommendations</li> <li>• Joint field missions at ministerial level in areas that are critical to the national response such as climate change and environmental degradation</li> <li>• Preparations for 2023 Global Refugee Forum</li> <li>• Regional Forum to address causes of forced displacement</li> <li>• Undertake CRRF purposeful research to inform SG decision making</li> <li>• Support to quarterly Steering Group Meetings</li> <li>• Support MOFPED in Development of the National Transitional management framework</li> <li>• Finalize the Development of Private sector engagement strategy</li> <li>• Pursuing the Localization Agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2023 CRRF Draft Work plan has been Developed. Outreach to be made to various partners to support Different components of the Macro work plan.</li> <li>• Discussions with UNHCR on the 2023 PPA are scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022</li> <li>• Roadmap for consultative process to review the National plan of action to be considered in 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</li> <li>• Joint Inter-ministerial missions to Refugee Hosting Districts will be a priority come 2023</li> <li>• Technical Joint Field Monitoring by Sectors implementing Response plans will be a priority</li> </ul>

10	<p>Following the submission by MOFPED regarding the prevailing gaps on transitional planning and management under the Humanitarian Development transition, the meeting resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast Track the development of a transition roadmap before the set date of March 2023</li> <li>• Have a consultant undertake the process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17<sup>TH</sup> SG on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 adopted the Road map for development of the national transition framework,</li> <li>• A Stakeholder Consultative meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in kla to draw experiences and current practices on transitioning across Education, Health and WASH</li> <li>• Meeting proposed guiding criteria for the National framework</li> <li>• Draft TORS for Consultancy developed awaiting consideration of technical task team, and later to be presented to SG,</li> </ul>
11	<p>The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to fast-track the establishment of relevant institutional structures (Steering Committee, SERP Secretariat among others) to operationalize the recently launched Sustainable Energy Response Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official recruitment of Secretariat staff was advertised in National print media and the process which is managed by KPMG will come to conclusion by end of 2022</li> <li>• The Steering Committee will be established as soon as Secretariat is in place</li> </ul>
12	<p>MoWE to undertake a tripartite joint Ministerial mission (MWE, OPM-DOR, MOLG) in company of Donors/actors in the Environmental sector to the most affected areas on Environment degradation and climate change for a fact-finding exercise and follow-up action thereafter.</p>	<p>Key Activity planned for 2023 by CRRF Secretariat</p>

**Reactions/action points.**

- Education Response Plan (ERP) II was adopted.
- The national census is different from the verification exercise because the census goes beyond just counting but it puts in consideration of other perspectives like income, and remittances among others, so whether refugees participated in verification, when census comes all are advised to participate.

- Some settlements embarked on planting trees for soil and environmental conservation.
- Partner (NRC) picked interest in accreditation and when the right time comes, open discussions will be conducted, and criteria will be shared.

**Session III title:** Key take a ways and action points from the 15<sup>th</sup> REF meeting

**Session time:** 11:11am-12:56pm

**Session Objective:** To review progress against action points from the 15<sup>th</sup> REF meeting

**Presenter name and organization:** Mr. Brian Matsiko – U-Learn

NO	Action Point	Responsibility	Progress /Update.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> REF Meeting</b>			
1	Follow up on the linkage between the REF and the DEF	<u>UNHCR</u>	Ongoing. UNHCR is continuously working with the DLG to synchronize the REF & DEF
2	Continue creating awareness of the REF at the community level	REF Members/REF TF	During the REF feedback & consultative session, community dialogues, through coordination meetings and other community events, the REF members and REF TF have continuously created awareness on the REF in the various settlements. Kampala-Urban awareness are on hold due to lack of support.
3	UNHCR REF Focal persons to support in the mobilization of other partners to participate in the Feedback/consultative meetings	UNHCR	Ongoing
4	REF TF co-chairs to streamline communication within the TF, partners, REF members and partners	<u>REF TF-Co-chairs</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>
5	Community sensitization and awareness campaigns (signs, symptoms, where to seek help) at (places of worship, markets), community case definition (illness with the onset of fever and no response to treatment with one of the following signs (bleeding from the nose, any other part of the body, bloody diarrhea, bloody urine or sudden death)	<u>REF Members</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community-based surveillance and alert notifications including deaths,</li> <li>- regular contact with your VHTs</li> <li>- participate in the settlement TF meetings</li> </ul>		
6	The Global fund - CCM elected a representative to coordinate and organize meetings for the refugee Constituency. The role of the representative is to Popularize and sensitize communities about the activities of the Global Fund - CCM.	The CCM refugee representative	<b><u>The</u></b> new representative for Global fund-CCM has not yet been orientated. He reported that he was not facilitated to participate in the CCM coordination meeting. It looks like they were only getting signatures from the refugee representative.
8	The Refugee leaders should spread the news of the Mastercard and Makerere University scholarship program in their communities.	REF members (Maarifa to follow up with the Master Card Foundation team)	<b><u>In Urban</u></b> , the community members are asking for more awareness from representatives of the Master Card,
9	REF members should sensitize communities on SEA case identification and reporting channels available for case management.	REF members	<b><u>ongoing</u></b>
10	Community leaders to support in the popularizing the FRRM in their respective settlement.	REF members	<b><u>ongoing</u></b>

#### **Recommendations:**

- Mastercard Foundation to formalize the various information sharing protocol, and information on the same disseminated at settlement levels. Flyers and posters to be disseminated.
- Conduct the feedback meetings early as soon as the REF members go back from the REF meeting,
- UNHCR Focal persons to continue supporting in the mobilization of the partner staff to participate in the REF feedback sessions,
- Alternating the UNHCR REF focal persons to attend REF Meetings
- Always engage the UNHCR representatives in feedback meetings, call on them for support.
- Starting 2023, settlement commandants will be attending the REF for 1 or 2 days on a rational basis.

#### **Session IV**

#### **Presentation of Key issues from the REF consultative meeting focusing on Self-reliance**

**Session time:** 12:58pm-1:30pm

**Presenter name and organization:** Mr. Raphael Okoropot - U-Learn

#### **Key points presented:**

The major barriers to self-reliance



- Inadequate period of mentorship/skills training by the partners, for example, PoCs possibly trained for 1-3 months, hence affecting the quality. This is worsened by not supporting the trained refugees with start-up kits.
- Challenge accessing agricultural land. This is worsened by the increasing number of new arrivals which put more pressure on the already small plots.
- The food reductions is causing a lot of trauma in the community and increasing the cases of teenage pregnancies. This too is forcing some men to return to their country of origin.
- challenge of stray animals destroying crops in the garden.
- Limited access to information especially online information making refugees miss employment/scholarship opportunities which are mostly posted online,
- The "group model" of support to the refugees is ineffective and has not benefited the group members but a few individuals.
- Lack of standardized identification documents hinders refugees from accessing some services like banking, registering CBOs/RLOs.
- Challenge accessing market, and the poor road networks within the settlements
- The top-down approach to support has been ineffective in that partners impose support on the PoCs hence

### **Suggested supports required by the refugees to become self-reliant**

- Diversify the skills training and make it more inclusive (Proposal to remove age limit). Incorporate positive mindset change in the training module
- Support Households with business grants
- Improve on ICT facilities and increase on scholarship opportunities for all
- Government should support refugees with land which can enable them to do commercial farming
- Refugee identification documents should be standardized to enable them to acquire loans.
- Need to have more information on resettlement and other durable solutions.

**Session V title:** Presentation of 18<sup>th</sup> SG agenda & Group discussion

**Session time:** 2:24pm-4:50pm

**Session Objective:** To orient the REF members with the 17<sup>th</sup> CRRF SG meeting Agenda

**Presenter name and organization:** Ms. Hellen Acibo and Mr. Mike Bruce- CRRF Secretariat

### **Key Points presented**

- WFP is looking at new approaches to support. Stretched the need for more consultation.
- Encouraged the REF members to come up with clear messages for presentations. They need to be confident and present their issues, and not shy away
- In 2023, the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) which will be co-convened by the Ugandan Government, the REF should be clear requesting a leadership role in it.
- Emphasized that he is sure that many other stakeholders will be present during the CRRF SG, and the REF members must be very particular about the issues that concern the refugees
- Focus on the status of emergency humanitarian response, expanded solutions and voluntary repatriation.
- Key highlights on the implementation of sector response plan.

### **Group presentations**

### **Group 1: Status of the Emergency humanitarian response.**

- **The situation** is still bad. There is continuous influx of more than 100 new arrivals on daily basis. They are faced with challenges such as delayed collection from the reception centers and limited access to information.

**Suggestions:** Need for quick response to support the new arrivals, the UNHCR and partners should look for more funding.

- **Durable solutions** (like resettlement- UN agencies to advocate for more countries to open their resettlement spaces, for voluntary repatriation- The UN, and refugee-hosting country to engage the countries of origin for peace to reign so that those who want to voluntarily repatriate can do so. Support the refugees who have stayed for long in Uganda and are willing to locally integrate with the host communities to locally integrate.)

### **Group 2: Prioritization of general food assistance (GFA) for refugees in Uganda**

- Recommends that the new arrivals to remain on 100% for both food and cash assistance.
- Also give special consideration to the persons with specific needs (child headed HHs, the elderly, persons with disability, individuals with chronic sicknesses, extremely vulnerable individuals). The support should be based on the vulnerability status of the refugees.

NB: For all the food support, the refugees should be allowed to choose the mode of assistance (cash or in-kind).

- For the other able-bodied refugees, they should be empowered with diverse skills, and given start-up kits. They should be supported with land for agricultural activities, supported with start-up capital for businesses.

### **Group 3: Opportunity for Uganda to co-convene the 2023 GRF**

Highlighted on some achievements of previous engagement of refugees (2019-GRF) such as improvement on the level of involvement of refugees in discussing issues that concern them. The World Bank has fulfilled some pledges leading to the birth of DRDIP. There is continuous trees planting by the refugees in the various settlements in Uganda.

However, some other pledges made during the 2019 GRF were not fulfilled.

**Expectations:** The REF members expect to be fully represented in the 2023 GRF. There is request that the refugee representatives from Uganda be included in the delegation to be taken to Geneva for the 2023 GRF.

**Action:** CRRF secretariat to support the REF representative (Ms. Noella Kabale) to provide updates on the pledges made during the 2019 GRF on planting trees.

### **Group 4: Key highlights on the implementation of sector response plan**

- On livelihoods, allocate more productive lands for agriculture, cash capital for individual HHs for business, partners to support, partners to work with CBOs/RLOs already in the various settlements,

- On education, advocate on standardized vocational schools, train more refugee teachers, certify the documents for refugees, consider both the registered and unregistered refugee children, increase in advance level and improve on existing advance schools in the settlements, invest in adult learning to improve on the skills of the refugees,
- Health: more operational/implementing partners' structures in the settlements, more essential drugs in the health centers accessed by the refugees, improve the referral pathways, recruit more health workers from the refugee populations, provide durable and quality sick beds, need for more sexual reproductive health (SRH) educators to teach the young ones on SRH, promote the use of reusable pads.
- Refugee registration: The UNHCR and OPM to support in registering the unregistered refugees on a rolling basis.

**Actions:**

- More CBOs/RLOs be encouraged to come up and the development partners will have to build the capacity of the CBOs/RLOs.
- On the registration of the unregistered refugees, the plea is to make it open so that the registration is done on a rolling basis.

**Day 2: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Session I title:** Presentation on servant leadership

**Session time:** 9:00am-1:14pm

**Session Objective:** To build the capacity of the REF members on servant leadership

**Presenter name and organization:** Ms. Noreen Nampewo - Care International

**Key Points presented,**

- Brainstormed on the basic concepts/ qualities of servant leadership i.e. *someone who gives his life to serve others, leading by example, someone who has the sympathy and empathy, works freely with everybody, someone who sacrifices his life to advice other people, one who is objective and knows when to say yes or no, someone who is tolerant, not be a boss but be somebody who works together with others, contribute, and prioritize the interests and benefits of others before yours ensuring that they are safe, good servant does not segregate.*
- Servant leader defines as: "one who focuses primarily on the growth and wellbeing of the people and communities to which they belong".
- A servant leader takes time to listen to the people they serve, provides a link with the service providers, communicates clearly, be available to serve the persons of concern.
- **Summarized characteristics of servant leadership were** *valuing people, humility, attentive listener, trust, caring-selfness and humble, community focused, highly empathetic, foresight, building community, healing, awareness, persuasion, ...*
- **Benefits of servant leadership** *(stronger teams, conducive working environment, community motivation, people-oriented corporate culture, teams taking responsibility and ownership, flexible in the face of a changing environment,*

- **Shared famous quotes by** (*servant leader believes that my success is your success, a true natural servant automatically responds to any problem by listening first, serving others prepares you to lead others, the greatest amongst you should be your servant, life most urgent question is what are you doing for others? we must be silent before we can listen, we must listen before we can learn, we must learn before we can prepare, we must prepare before we can serve, we must serve before we can lead,..., they ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people, we make a living by what we get we make a life by what we give, leadership is not an affair of the head but it is an affair of the heart, what we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others remains*)
- **Understanding leadership through stories of empowerment as servant leader**

**Group discussion & presentations:**

**Group 1:**

**What can be done to change the negative perceptions of the community as servant leaders,**

- Involve the religious leaders in
- conduct community dialogues,
- conducting radio talk shows
- conduct community awareness meetings by the leaders

**Group 2:**

**How to build trust amongst leaders** (establish collaborative networking, communicating effectively and regularly, exhibiting love amongst the leaders, being active and creative, providing timely feedback, honesty and transparency, flexibility)

**Plan of Actions**

Activity	Time frame	Location	Who
RWCs meetings	Jan 2023	All settlements	REF members
Stakeholder engagements	Feb 2023	All settlements	REF members
Community sensitization and awareness creation meetings	March 2023	All settlements	REF Members
Community forum	April 2023	All the settlements	REF members
Community dialogues	March 2023	All the settlements	REF members

### **Key concerns raised by the REF members- experience sharing by the REF members**

- Sometimes, the partners make it hard for refugee leaders to maintain the trust they have built in the community. Servant leader must seek clarification to find out more details of whatever assignments you have been given.
- Practice delegation of authority and monitor the delegated authorities.
- Conflict of interests when serving the people. This too leads to loss of trust from the community members.
- To build trust, one must be open and honest. To be trusted, one must first trust him/herself.
- He/she engages in dialogue with the community members to resolve community issues.
- For one to build trust, the leader must observe the principle of confidentiality, and avoid making empty promises.
- How to build trust on your team? (foster communication between yourself and your team, try to be transparent, meet with individual team members, conduct team-building activities, show your appreciation, exhibit leadership qualities).
- Ways that leaders at all levels can build trust (recognize that building trust takes hard work, be honest and supportive, be transparent, be quiet sometimes, be consistent, model the behavior you seek build in accountability, extend empathy to others.
- continuously consult with the community members before making decisions,
- Lobby for the community members' benefits not personal benefits.

### **Action points**

- OPM and UNHCR to support and establish a clear reporting line for the RWCs taking into consideration all the levels of the RWCs
- Train the RWC 1&2s on leadership, their roles, and responsibilities
- Leaders must be given briefings in time before engaging them in assignments
- Create space for women leaders to discuss issues that concern the women and girls,
- Leaders to try as much as possible to manage their emotions when presenting community issues to the partners

### **Session II: Presentation on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**

**Session time: 2:22pm-5:30pm**

**Session Objective:** To build the capacity of the REF members how to manage MHPSS

**Presenter name and organization: Ms. Teresa Ombalo, MHPSS Officer UNHCR.**

### **Key Points presented**

- What is MHPSS, Common misconceptions
- Addressing MHPSS in Uganda operation.
- Suicide monitoring

**Brainstorming on the meanings of Mental health** as: state of instability/stability of a human being, health of humanity, state where a person can differentiate between good and bad, disruptions in a person's mental ability both internal and external. It is a positive concern to social well-being of people. It helps to determine how to handle stress.

Mental health has something to do with how your brain operates and psych social are the things you do, or your family does for you when they realize that you are not well mentally. Some of the factors are death, seeking for refugee, trauma and stigma, property loss, financial problems, domestic

violence, family misunderstandings, marginalization in the society, rape, HIV/AIDS, sickness, divorce/separation, too much drinking, loss of a job among others.

**Defining Mental health as a** state of wellbeing in which individual realizes his/her abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make contribution to his/her community. **(WHO).**

**Psychosocial is pertaining to the interrelation of behavioral and social factors... to the interrelation between mind and society**

Some people have managed to develop networks that support them during such time whereas others are not. To the humanitarian workers, not all refugees have issues with their mental health. This because some refugees have a supportive neighbor or church that can help them to cope up with the situation.

**Wellbeing broken down as** personal wellbeing, interpersonal wellbeing, **and** skills and knowledge.

**Highlighting on the Common misconception on MHPSS as:** All refugees are traumatized, all individuals should obtain specialized services, mental health problems are untreatable, everyone with a mental health condition should be prescribed to, if you face a traumatic event, you will develop Post Traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

**Noted that all people are mentally sick and** as UNHCR, they discourage the hospital specialized services because very few can afford and so they use the community MHPSS intervention Pyramid.

**Highlighting on Mental health: Cross cutting area such as** Community based protection, GBV, Individual case processing, public health, Education, and Child protection.

**Through guided discussions, sought the views of the participant on suicide** [*Some limitation of thinking it is the end of the world, losing hope/hopelessness, dodging responsibilities*] were some of the suggestions from the participants.

**Suicide defined:** - *It is death caused by injuring oneself with the intent to die.*

**Suicide attempt:** - *Is when someone harms themselves with an intent to end their life, but they do not die because of their actions.*

**Highlighted that** the suicide trend from 2018 to December 2022 shows that the numbers keep going high within all the settlements. More women attempting to commit suicide but there are more men dying of suicide.

**Through brainstorming, the REF Members shared their thoughts on the causes of suicide in their settlements which included** gender-based Violence, poverty, family misunderstanding, and polygamy, amongst others. They also hinted that some women after knowing the strong reasons for resettlement, they also put the situations which can easily facilitate separation so that they are resettled hence suicide on the side of husbands.

**The REF members also suggested ways of mitigating and preventing suicide as:**

- Organizations should not neglect men when giving various support.
- Need to strengthen the local structures with skills of how to respond to suicide cases.

- Advocate for permanent peace within East Africa to allow people to go back to their home countries to restore life again.
- Youths to get close to the elders to learn how to manage life
- Economic empowerment of the refugees.
- Counselling and guidance
- Strengthening the referral pathways for further medical support.
- Regular Community dialogues to sensitize the community on issues of suicide.
- Formation of recreational centers
- Engaging cultural leaders to be part of sensitization and counseling sessions.
- Target survivors to be part of VSLAs to access money
- Youth innovative life skills (Income generating activities) i.e. liquid soap making, amongst others.

### **Day 3: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Session I:** Localization Agenda

**Session time:** 10:30am-11:15am

**Session Objective:** To get refugee Leaders' views about Localization

**Presenter name and organization:** Mr. Muyanja Henry, Street child, GIZ Consultant

#### **Key points discussed**

- Localization: process of recognizing, respecting, and strengthening the capacity of local leaders in local Organizations, Refugee led Organizations (RLOs) to better support and be effective in the humanitarian response.
- Desk review literature on location agenda has been made. This will help get a working document that will guide the agenda. The result will be a guiding document to GIZ, donors and to the government on what should be done to implement localization.
- Interviews with key stakeholders that will guide the implementation plan which will guide key stakeholders including the refugee leaders is underway.
- How leaders can front themselves to support the refugees. This targets mostly the local and refugee led organizations to take lead in responding to the refugee needs.
- This is as result of the Grand Bargain of 2020 which concluded at 25% involvement of local organizations instead of 1% as indicated in the research which was just concluded.

#### **What are the key barriers for local organizations not accessing funds from International Donors/Funding. (Why INGOs do not want to partner with LOCAL Organizations)**

- Bureaucratic procedure to access funds in terms of registration from Sub County to the National level. MOUs which are done from Kampala and online which makes it hard for refugees.
- Lack of information in the settlements. No Organization has shared with the leaders about the localization agenda.
- Lack of capacity in terms of proposal writing/budgeting.
- Those with skills have no room for exercising their skills.
- Corruption and Limited skills in fund management.
- Some stakeholders perceive refugees as those who cannot manage/ refugees are underrated.
- There is no linkage between the funding platforms and the refugees' communities and organizations.

**Key action:** OPM representative in charge of MOU to come and take the forum through the requirements and how it is done in the 17<sup>th</sup> REF meeting.

### **Recommendations**

- Building the capacity of refugees in line with proposals available in the Development and technology areas.
- More clarity on the registration process for Local organizations.
- CBOs can also form a forum where they can learn from each other (mentoring by RLOs/CBOs).

### **Session II: Feedback from the REF Representatives to the SG**

**Session time: 11:15am- 1:09pm**

**Session Objective: To share feedback with REF members**

**Presenter name and organization: Mr. Peter Gift and Ms. Noella Kabale (REF representatives to the CRRF SG)**

### **Key points presented.**

AGENDA graced by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness & Refugees, State Minister for Relief, Disaster preparedness and Refugees and State minister for Local government.

#### ***1. Status of Emergency Humanitarian Response***

Continue to have influx in Uganda in West Nile over 120,000 individuals for this year: 93,000 Congolese through Kisoro and 25,000 that need to be relocated to the settlement.

#### **Durable solutions**

- Opportunities to be availed by more countries for resettlement from Uganda.
- Voluntary repatriation mostly Burundians in this year although some come back. More mobilization so that organization in home countries are improved so that they do not bounce back.
- Negative impacts of COVID on resettlement.

#### ***2. Prioritization of the general food assistance***

Three categories to be prioritized.

- High ratio
- Graduated to livelihood support
- Removed completely

This process has already started, settlement commandants are going to be engaged.

### **Request:**

- New arrivals be supported with food and other full 100% assistance.
- Special consideration to the PSNs
- Refugees empowered with diverse certified skills for development
- SG need to add more representatives for DEF because they are few.
- Comprehensive Refugee policy to allocate land to the settlement with high population
- Access to job market by refugees.



- Human trafficking by unregistered members
- EAC should harmonize on the labor movement.
- International community should not exploit Uganda on burden sharing.
- Assessment on ratio food reduction by WFP.

### **3. Uganda Co-convenor of 2023 GRF**

#### **Key areas of interest**

- Education
- Environment
- Livelihoods

All the above is work in progress.

Refugees should be represented fully in the GRF for better teamwork globally. Refugees shall be represented in Geneva given the 1-year preparation.

It will be an opportunity to collaborate with other countries that will co-convene with Uganda.

### **4. Implementation on the sector response Plans**

- Much emphasize was on livelihoods, vocational skills since many graduates have no jobs, skilling which certified should be boosted to foster resilience. Copy Kiryandongo on Vocational skills.
- Corruption came out strongly; the Minister called upon the members to desist from corruption.
- Appreciate and use briquettes because it is manageable but also can easily be learnt.
- For Congo and South Sudan, there will be higher level engagement to contribute to stability to the home countries.
- Providing solutions to light and cooking. Solar's which can support cooking because light is there.

#### **Reactions from REF members**

- REF member from Kiryandongo wanted to know how many refugees were resettled by country of origin.
- Another REF representative from Kiryandongo requested to know plans by OPM to register the non-registered asylum seekers in their respective settlements
- REF members requested to share progress the pledges made during the GRF in 2019 for all settlements. The two Representatives committed to do a survey to track progress on pledges made. This survey/data will be conducted by Ms. Noella Kabale and Mr. Peter Gift from all the REF Members.

### **Session III: Presentation on 7 Habits of Highly effective people**

**Session time: 2:20pm-4:46pm**

**Session Objective: To enhance the Leadership effectiveness of REF members**

**Presenter name and organization: Mr. Raphael Okoropot – U-LEARN**

#### **Key Points**

1. Be proactive
2. Begin with an end in mind

3. Put first things first
4. Think win- win
5. Seek first to understand and then to be understood.
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the saw.

**By Mr. Stephen Covey.**

For true success and meaning in life, we must be principle-centered in all areas of life. He often taught: There are 3 constraints in life that is: Change, Choice and principles.

Living by example is very key.

Always work and prepare for your private victory before the public victory. One habit leads you to another.

Discussions on what separates zero from Heroes.

- The ability to master yourself.
- The kind of people you choose to associate with.
- The kind of information (books, films, internet, music, etc.)
- The vision and ideals you establish for yourself.

Leaders should strive not to be poor because anytime the refugees can get to them and they have to create solutions.

Habits of ineffective people

- React immediately without thought.
- Go through life with no values, goals and vision.
- Win at the expense of others
- Do whatever seems easiest

**Session IV: Presentation of Key takeaways and action Points**

**Session time: 4:50pm-5:10pm**

**Session Objective: To validate the key takeaways and action points**

**Presenter name and organization: Mr. Mathew Olweny - U-LEARN**

**Key Points**

Action points from the 16 <sup>th</sup> REF Meeting.			
NO	Action Point	Responsibility	Progress /Update.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> REF Meeting</b>			
<b>1</b>	Work with community members to come up with positive coping mechanisms to the food ration cuts, and become self-reliant	REF members	
<b>2</b>	Advocate for Master Card Foundation to give special consideration to refugee	UNHCR and REF Master Card representative	

	students who complete A-level from the settlement schools.		
<b>3</b>	Mastercard Foundation to disseminate information on the scholarship opportunities at settlement level	REF Master Card representative	
<b>4</b>	UNHCR to support the Global fund CCM to streamline their activities in relation to the involvement of the refugees,	UNHCR	
<b>5</b>	REF members to plan and conduct community feedback meetings immediately on returning from the REF meeting,	REF members with support from the REF TF	
<b>6</b>	CRRF secretariat to support the REF representatives to Steering Group Meeting (Noella & Gift) to provide updates on the pledges made during the 2019 GRF on planting trees. The REF members to work with the REF SG rep to generate data related to implementation of the pledges in their various settlements.	REF rep to the SG with support from the CRRF Secretariat.	
<b>7</b>	OPM and UNHCR to support and establish a clear reporting line for the RWCs taking into consideration all the levels of the RWCs	OPM and UNHCR	
<b>8</b>	REF members to actively support in identifying community members with MHPSS issues and link them to MHPSS service providers for further management.	REF members with support from the MHPSS service providers	

<b>9</b>	REF members to conduct community dialogues and awareness meetings on suicide preventions at settlement level.	REF members	
<b>10</b>	REF members to encourage each HH in the settlement to grow at least five (5) trees.	REF members	
<b>11</b>	OPM to give clearance for the registration of the unregistered PoCs in various settlements to address the backlog of unregistered PoCs.	OPM with support from UNHCR	
<b>12</b>	OPM to fasten the issuing of refugee documents (attestation documents & refugee identity cards).	OPM with support from UNHCR	
<b>13</b>	Refugee representatives from Uganda be included in the Ugandan delegation to Geneva for the 2023 Global Refugees Forum (GRF).	CRRF SG	<b><u>confirmed</u></b>
<b>14</b>	Consult with OPM and advocate for the amendment of the MoU guiding refugee leaders' elections, and allow the refugee leaders to access employment opportunities within the settlements	UNHCR with support from OPM	<b><u>In a packing lot</u></b>

### **Session V: Closing remarks**

**Session time: 5:10pm-5:20pm**

**Session Objective: To officially close the 3 days REF meeting**

**Presenter name and organization: Mr. Jerry Grants Anyoli, REF Taskforce Co-chair**

### **Key Points**

- He encouraged members to use the skills that they have received in form of training from the different partners.
- He urged members that there is a lot to learn and benefit from the REF including capacity building.
- He requested REF to prepare and conduct the feedback and consultative meetings differently so as refugees' views are brought out.
- He pledged to attend coordination meetings as well.
- Clarified on transport refund delays, there are policy changes to mobile money payments which takes some time for people taking a little longer to receive their payments, but this is going to be improved.

- Thanked everyone for the active participation, this meeting has been exceptionally different, he thanked the funders for this session, GIZ for the financial support, NRC for paying our DSA, ULEARN for supporting us in the settlements, focal points from UNHCR, WFP they have sent a representative for 3 days, and Care for the wonderful trainings.
- He pledged to invite more s/holders from the settlements in the coming REF Meetings including the Youths at the regional desk shall be attending REF starting next year 2023.

Closing Remarks from **Mr. Peter Gift**, REF Representative to the CRRF SG

- Thanked all partners and pledged to continue representing the REF well in the SG.
- Advised leaders to embrace livelihoods for self-reliance
- Urged Taskforce members to improve on the turnaround time for transport refund

The meeting was officially closed at 5:25pm with a closing prayer from Rev. Datiro, REF Representative Kiryandongo settlement.

## Annex 1 Presentations



7 habits of Highly  
Effective People-REF