

## Inter-Agency Working Group on Food Assistance

### Terms of Reference

November 2016

## Context

The progressive refugee policy and political stability has made Uganda a refuge of choice for refugees and asylum seekers in the region. The country currently hosts more than 870,000 refugees (Nov 2016), the largest number in Africa. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from South Sudan make up the majority of them, but there are numbers of refugees from Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda.

Refugees live in urban areas and nine rural settlements in the South-Western and West Nile regions. They are provided with plots of land in settlement areas, which gives them a much-needed livelihood option, but environmental, economic and technical factors limit the reliability and scale of food production. The food security of refugees is therefore fragile: 13.3% of the refugees have a poor food consumption score (FCS), the average stunting rate reaches 24,9% within the refugee settlements (December 2015) and about 50% of the refugees have a low diet diversity score within Kyangwali, Kayaka II, Rwamwanja and Koboko settlements (August 2016). In this context, most refugees need some assistance to ensure their food security, especially during their first years in Uganda.

Various international and local actors are supporting refugees to help them access food through various projects throughout the different settlements. In order to map out and coordinate all those initiatives, OPM, WFP, UNHCR and their partners decided to launch this Inter-Agency Working group on Food Assistance.

## Objectives

The Inter Agency Working Group on Food Assistance has the following main objectives:

1. Map Food assistance players and projects in Uganda;
2. Avoid duplication and ensure country coverage;
3. Identify areas of collaboration;
4. Exchange best practices, evidence, information & enhance learning;
5. Make food security interventions more efficient and effective.

## Structure

### Composition

- The Food assistance WG is open to all organizations engaged in food assistance activities.
- It consists of UN agencies, government authorities, NGOs and other organizations. All stakeholders should have a primary focal point and an alternate.

### Coordination

The Food assistance WG will be coordinated by OPM, WFP and UNHCR.

## Secretariat

OPM, WFP and UNHCR will be responsible for the Secretariat, i.e. invites and minutes.

### Dates frequency

The Food assistance WG meetings will take place every month or as necessary.  
The WG meeting will take place on the **second Monday of every month.**

## Contacts

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### **WFP and UNHCR refugee support in Uganda**

#### **WFP food assistance for refugees**

- As of November 2016, WFP assists about 740,000 refugees in all the settlements and this number should reach over one million in March 2017. Due to the high number of new arrivals especially from South Sudan, the caseload has rapidly increased as in January 2016, WFP assisted only 380,000 food insecure people.
- At the border and during the transit period, refugees are provided with hot meals and ready to use food. In the settlements, refugees receive food assistance through in-kind food or cash.

#### **UNHCR activities**

- UNHCR is providing coordination responsibilities in the emergency response that covers the following vital sectors: health, shelter, sanitation, site planning and water, as well as key field activities underpinning the operations such as logistics, logistics and supply, community services and registration.
- In close collaboration with OPM, UNHCR is receiving new refugee arrivals at border entry points where they are granted legal refugee status based on prima facie criteria. UNHCR ensures refugees are medically screened and that separated and unaccompanied minors are identified through child protection services.
- While WFP supports the MAM cases with nutrition supplies, UNHCR provides SAM cases and sick refugees with medical care and ambulatory services where deemed necessary.