

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region

REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP

Organizers	Anna Gaunt (UNHCR) and Zalina Kochenova (FAO)	
Meeting Location	Virtual (WebEx)	Date and time 05 November 2020 09:00 – 10:30
Next Meeting	03 December 2020	

Agenda

1. Introductions by UNHCR, DRC and FAO
2. Presentations by FAO, NRC and DRC
3. General – upcoming themes, AOB, Wrap-up

Attendance

Agency	Participant	Email
BOMA	Wendy Chamberlin	wendy.chamberlin@bomaproject.org
DCA	John Riungu	jori@dca.dk
DRC	Alistair Cowan	alistair.cowan@drc.ngo
DRC	Diego Hakspiel	diego.hakspiel@drc.ngo
DRC	Natalie Topa	natalie.topa@drc.ngo
DRC	Nicoletta Buono	nicoletta.buono@drc.ngo
FAO	Deborah Duveskog	deborah.duveskog@fao.org
FAO	Francis Ekiru	Francis.Ekiru@fao.org
FAO	Zalina Kochenova	Zalina.Kochenova@fao.org
FSDA	Kuria Wanjau	Kuria@fsdafrica.org
GIZ	Kokebe Hailegabrie	kokebe.hailegabriel@giz.de
ILO	Geofrey Ochola	geofrey@ilo.org
ILO	Grace Rwomushana	rwomushana@ilo.org
ILO	Lilyanne Velo	velo@ilo.org
ILO	Stephen Opio	opio@ilo.org
IOM	Lisa Bedolla	lbedolla@iom.int
IOM	Odette Bolly	obolly@iom.int
IRC	Boniface Odhiambo	Boniface.Odhiambo@rescue.org
IRC	Brian Ssebunya	Brian.Ssebunya@rescue.org
IRC	Charles Mulagwe	charles.mulagwe@rescue.org
IRC	Christine Nandora	Christine.Nandora@rescue.org
MEDA	Geoffrey Juma	Gjuma@meda.org
NRC	Evelyn HLP AoR	Evelyn.Aero@nrc.no
NRC	Karoline Rosholm	karoline.rosholm@nrc.no
NRC	Lili Mohiddin	lili.mohiddin@nrc.no
NRC	Lilian Ouma	lilian.ouma@nrc.no
NRC	Sarah King	sarah.king@nrc.no
Other	Malogo Kongola	malogokongola@gmail.com
REDSS	Abdullahi Abdi	a.hassan@regionaldss.org
UNHCR	Anna Gaunt	gaunta@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Anyoli Jerry Grants	anyoli@unhcr.org

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Agency	Participant	Email
UNHCR	Arifur Rahman	rahman@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Carolyn Ndawula	ndawulac@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Catherine Wiesner	wiesner@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Damalie Zalwango	zalwango@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Danya Kattan	kattand@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Edith Ingutia	ingutia@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Gerald Emoyo	emoyo@unhcr.org
UNHCR	George Ngechu	ngechu@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Ingrid Oyvann	oyvann@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Kaleab Zelalem	zelalem@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Lilian Otiego	otiego@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Lilian Otieno	otienol@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Lucy Kariuki	kariuki@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Mohamed Mahdi	mahdi@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Peter Opiop	opiop@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Salwa Asmat	asmad@unhcr.org
UNHCR	Sebastian Herwig	herwig@unhcr.org
WFP	Christine Khavetsa	christine.khavetsa@wfp.org
WFP	Christine Omondi	christine.omondi@wfp.org
WFP	Robert Murule	robert.murule@wfp.org
WVI	Paul Kinuthia	paul_kinuthia@wvi.org
WVI	Richard Mulandi	richard_mulandi@wvi.org

Meeting minutes:

Introductions

UNHCR, DRC and FAO co-moderated a session which specifically focused on rural economies and agricultural livelihoods and opportunities for refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced persons in rural areas as well as host communities living around them.

Overview of presentations

The session brought together different approaches for fostering economic inclusion of refugees and displaced persons and host communities in rural economies and agricultural livelihoods as well as creating enabling environments to become self-reliant and live dignified lives. The presentations have been uploaded to the [Regional Livelihoods Working Group Portal](#).

[FAO – FAO in displacement settings in East Africa](#) FAO has been assisting refugees' integration and host communities' rural economies through increased livelihood opportunities in agriculture and access to market, livestock and agriculture value chain investment, peacebuilding cross border voluntary return and labour skill development interventions. Elaborated on UNHCR/FAO 2020 joint collaboration programmes including inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern in FAO's projects and programmes; Inclusion of refugees in existing Food Security Assessment Tools and Joint external visibility and information sharing initiatives. Examples of support to country operations in joint project

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development were also highlighted; including the presentation of the Comprehensive Value Chain analysis of refugee hosting areas in Ethiopia; and the Kenya experience on enhancing self-reliance for refugees and host communities in Kalobeyei. Ongoing collaboration leveraging on WFP's expertise on harvesting surface water and storing it in water pans and earth dams to make water for crop and animal production available was also cited. The Kalobeyei setup is an example of how agencies, governments and communities can work together to transform the lives of communities and persons of concern.

[NRC – Land and Livelihoods – lessons from the field](#) Economic Inclusion and self - reliance have no meaning without a focus on land and sustainable livelihoods. These linkages need to be enhanced in order to provide real benefits to displacement affected communities. Land rights and sustainable livelihoods in practice were demonstrated through Somalia and Uganda case studies. Within the context of displacement, self-reliance is important for sustainable durable solutions and creates several avenues for advocacy around local integration. Registering property tenure rights remains an important subject, underpinning livelihood success. Issues of 'transferability' of these rights within the households, households (particularly looking at gender dynamics), and collateralizing land rental agreements for financial access to invest in their livelihood activities (linking land rights to financial access) are however context specific and vary from country to country. Key considerations, challenges and recommendations when programming for land and livelihoods were also discussed.

[DRC – Restoring Community Agroecosystems](#) Working with communities to create abundant food systems while buffering them from extreme weather events such as flood, drought, flash floods, landslides and others. Presented DRC's work with refugees, internally displaced communities (IDPs), returnees and host communities to create resilient households, farms and landscapes and agroecosystems using Permaculture. Permaculture is a systems-based design science applicable to the architecture, infrastructure, town planning, agroecology, agroforestry and land restoration. It is about designing to optimize all resources and flows around you. The presentation highlighted the importance of using design, tools and skills to buffer communities from extreme climate and weather events while strengthening economic opportunities and mitigating the risk of displacement, showcasing examples from Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.

Useful links: [Value Chains Selection Report, April 2020](#) – FAO/UNHCR Ethiopia Comprehensive Value Chain Analysis of Refugee Hosting Areas

[Feasibility Study on Agricultural Viability and Water Access](#) for Dryland Agriculture in Kalobeyei, Kakuma & Daadab – 2019 FAO & ICRAF study

[Guidance to put forward Sustainable Forestry Interventions in Displacement Settings in Kenya](#) - This guidance document aims to support countries, FAO and other partners and stakeholders in developing sustainable natural resources management solutions in order to secure environmental conservation, restoration of degraded land and a sustainable supply of tree and forest products in the context of displacement settings in the country. As well as leveraging opportunities to address environmental degradation, such initiatives should address the constrained access to energy while also building livelihood resilience in situations of displacement that encompass both displaced and host communities.

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[KISED P Framework](#) - FAO provided agricultural insights for KISED P 2018. FAO is a key member of Agriculture, Livestock, and NRM – Component 6 of the KISED P Framework.

[Nutrition-sensitive Farmer Field Schools in Kenya's Kalobeyei settlement](#) - In collaboration with Turkana County Government, WFP, UNHCR, and KISED P Agriculture, Livestock, and NRM task force member agencies, FAO is using Farmer Field School extension methodology to reach masses in Kalobeyei & Host locations to benefit from Crop and Livestock production, Livelihoods, and Natural Resource Management (NRM).

Follow up areas for discussions: Strategy formulation to 'green refugee settlements' and driving cleaner energy use; How do we engage private sector players and how to loop in financial institutions;

AOB

Members were requested to share proposed themes for upcoming meetings, as well as present key findings, lessons learnt, tools to the group by contacting [Anna](#) (UNHCR) and [Sarah](#) (NRC). Upcoming topics of interest include Private Sector Cooperation and Financial inclusion.

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

Subsequent meetings to reoccur every first Thursday in the month effective October 01, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for December 03, 2020.
