

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region

REGIONAL LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP

Organizers	Anna Gaunt (UNHCR) and Sarah King (NRC)	
Meeting Location	Virtual (WebEx)	Date and time 10 September 2020 09:00 – 10:30
Next Meeting	01 October 2020	

Agenda

1. Introductions (UNHCR and NRC)
2. Presentations by WHO, FAO, ReDSS
3. Tour de Table – updates from new partners
4. General – upcoming themes, AOB, Wrap-up

Attendance

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Meeting minutes:

Introductions (Anna Gaunt, UNHCR and Sarah King, NRC)

Welcomed all Partners present and thanked them for taking time to meet and share through the Forum.

Reiterated the purpose of the Information Portal, which is centred on a vibrant information exchange and collaboration among partners in the Livelihoods humanitarian space.

Provided an overview of the agenda: presentations from WFP, FAO and ReDSS, tour de table and discussions on upcoming themes.

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Overview of presentations

The following presentations were made by Partners and provided great insight on various ongoing interventions. The presentations have been uploaded on the Regional Livelihoods Working Group Portal for ease of access.

[WFP – Joint WFP/UNHCR Targeting and Monitoring Hub](#), a joint initiative centred around collaboration, operationalization of joint global frameworks, assessment and analysis, joint targeting and programming around livelihoods and self-reliance. This project is in its pilot phase until September 2021, providing end-to-end and modular support to Rwanda among other countries beyond the region.

[FAO – Private Sector partnership in groundnut and passion fruit value chains](#), a new intervention centred around a value chain approach for economic integration and self-reliance of refugees and host communities in East Africa (Kenya/Turkana County and Uganda/Kiryandogo). This project is part of the joint workplan of the UNHCR/FAO MoU signed in 2019, funded by IKEA Foundation over 4 years; using 'safe-bet' private sector partners and a 'graduation' approach.

Targeting is done through a combination of voluntary engagement after initial community engagement and deliberate targeting of specifically vulnerable HHs through secondary information from local Government and partners.

The engagement with the private sector will be through direct tailored contract farming contracts between the companies and the farmers, initially mentored by the project team, but following initial year the project support will be withdraw, to gradually move from a mentored and supported relationship towards a fully commercial contract farming relationship.

[ReDSS – Regional and Country work on Self-Reliance Index \(SRI\) and graduation with members and links to the Regional Economic Inclusion forum](#). Discussions on key issues around measuring self-reliance and the graduation approach (Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia), including having a common agenda, partner engagement and opportunities for joint learning and trainings.

Useful links: [Refugee Self-Reliance Index \(SRI\)](#) – the first global tool for measuring the progress of refugee households toward self-reliance. It supports practitioners in designing and providing effective services and can be used to target populations for assistance, highlight service gaps, and inform funding priorities. Use of the SRI will help build an evidence base for enhancing refugee self-reliance opportunities and allow for comparative global analysis.

[Poverty Alleviation Coalition](#) – a global coalition with the World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion and 13 NGO partners: BOMA Project, BRAC, Caritas Switzerland, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, HIAS, Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Trickle Up, Village Enterprise and World Vision.

[UN-Habitat/UNHCR Settlement Profiling Tool: A Spatial Analysis Framework for Settlements Accommodating Displaced Populations](#). The Settlement Profiling Tool guides humanitarian and development professionals through an iterative process of investigation with the aim of developing a common baseline of information to support coordination and planning, particularly in situations where protracted displacement has occurred. It considers cross sectoral areas of work which also include livelihoods

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and the local economic situation, presented through spatial analytics. We are currently building on expanding/testing the toolkit in more regions and contexts. Do check it out, let us know your thoughts, and please do not hesitate if you would like to speak further on it.

Tour de Table

[Village Enterprise](#) specialises in poverty graduation in East Africa. We set up approx. 6,000 businesses per year (18,000 entrepreneurs) and have worked in West Nile in Uganda and through the PAMOJA consortium will work in refugee camps in Kenya through providing technical assistance to Danish Refugee Council. We also provide technical assistance to organisations outside East Africa, e.g. World Vision in Mozambique (in cyclone impacted areas) and African Wildlife Foundation in the DRC.

[Africa Women Agribusiness Network \(AWAN\) Afrika](#) is a non-profit organization limited by guarantee. AWAN-Afrika's secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya and we are present in 37 countries represented by our champions. Its network comprises of individual members' businesses including producers, processors, aggregators, export companies and input suppliers among others across the continent and globally. The organization provides women-owned and youth-owned agribusinesses with an E-Hub, which is a repository of information on agriculture along value chains and supply chains.

[International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) spoke about the implementation of Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities ([PROSPECTS](#)), a new Partnership initiative spearheaded by the Government of the Netherlands and bringing together the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank. The partnership aims to shift the paradigm from a humanitarian to a development approach in responding to forced displacement crises. It is grounded in the consensus of the Global Compact on Refugees that helping refugees and their host communities thrive, not just survive will reduce the risk of protracted stays and lessen refugees' dependence on humanitarian aid. The Partnership aims to devise collaborative and innovative approaches for inclusive job creation and education in contexts characterized by forced displacement. The program encompasses three pillars, namely inclusive jobs, education, and protection and operates in eight countries across East Africa, Horn of Africa (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda) and the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) employing an area-based approach, in which the partner agencies jointly focus their activities on selected regions within each country. For the Uganda chapter of the Partnership, the partner agencies have selected two focus districts for further analysis: Isingiro (in Western Uganda) – Nakivale refugee settlement and its host communities, and; Arua (Northern Uganda) - Rhino camp and its host communities.

[The Amahoro Coalition](#) is an African-led initiative convening business leaders from the region to spearhead the engagement of the private sector in transforming refugee communities. Focusing on **education** and **livelihoods**, the Coalition amplifies existing refugee initiatives, stimulates awareness and interest among businesses across the region, generates solutions by facilitating concrete private sector commitments, and serves as a dynamic hub to catalyze policies that encourage companies to integrate refugees within their supply chains.

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[Save the Children](#) spoke about the regional office in Nairobi covers 13 countries in the East and Southern Africa region. Operates programmes around Health and Nutrition, Food Security & Livelihoods, Child Protection, Child rights governance, Education, Adolescents & Youth, and Humanitarian response. Focus on market systems development, Agriculture, Climate Change Social Protection and Graduation programming.

[Mennonite Economic Development Associates \(MEDA\)](#) is an international economic development organization that creates business solutions to poverty. For over 65 years, MEDA has been creating business solutions to poverty that are sustainable, scalable, measurable and replicable such as the [M-SAWA](#) project.

[Danish Church Aid \(DCA\)](#) is an international NGO based in Kenya with operations worldwide. Main programming in Kenya (Kakuma, Kalobeyi and host communities) includes Financial Inclusion (Youth Training and VSLAs), Agricultural Value Chain interventions (vegetable, fish trade and cricket farming) as well as Market development initiatives in Western Kenya.

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). Emerging topics of interest noted include Agriculture and Rural interventions, Urban interventions, Private Sector cooperation and Financial inclusion.

Members were encouraged to volunteer to consider moderating upcoming meetings; and 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 01st October 2020.
