



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTER AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 20 November 2020

### Agenda

1. *Welcome remarks – UNHCR*
2. *Remarks by OPM*
3. *Operational update – UNHCR and WFP*
4. *Health Sector update: COVID-19 and Clarification on reporting lines of declared cases – UNHCR Doctor Julius*
5. *Solutions and Resilience section update – UNHCR Solutions Unit*
6. *AoB*

**Venue:** Virtual, (on Microsoft Teams)

**Attendance at peak of meeting:** 67

### **Welcome remarks by UNHCR**

The UNHCR Assistant Representative for Operations welcomed OPM, the Local Government, partners and colleagues to the meeting and hoped all of them and their families are safe.

He urged all to be vigilant as COVID-19 is becoming very serious in the world including in Uganda even though there is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines being developed.

### **Remarks by OPM**

Godfrey on behalf of OPM thanked partners for supporting the response and reiterated the need to continue adherence to the SOPs. He urged UNHCR to speed up the process of cash distribution in Urban Kampala to avoid overwhelming numbers of refugees flocking to Kampala as per the laws governing refugees in Uganda. He reminded partners that some Burundian refugees have expressed willingness to go back to Burundi and all processes and the schedule will be shared with partners. He urged all members to take note of the upcoming festive season coupled with the forthcoming elections and strengthen security systems and sensitizations of persons of concern. Mr. Asiimwe Douglas was introduced as the new Assistant Commissioner for Refugees.

### **Key points**

- OPM reported on the riots in Kampala and in some other locations but the situation is getting calm and hope it will continue to be so;
- Food distribution was put on hold in some settlements due to the advice received from UNDSS but it resumed. If there are any further difficulties, OPM will work with the security arms to resume the distribution to avoid riots in the settlements;

- Volrep is being worked on by OPM and UNHCR for Burundian refugees. The figure stands at 600 plus for now. All partners will be informed on the details on departure date and other arrangements;
- WFP has received addition funding for cash and food to end the year and start the next year. It is possible to continue with the 70 per cent food and cash distribution until further notice in 2021 but also announced that there will be further ration cuts;

### Health Update

- Partners were urged to share information especially at field level to inform appropriate action. According to the current health protocols, if a humanitarian worker is a contact, he/she is expected to stay home and not to interface with the communities until the test results are out.

### Update on Solutions and Resilience

The Global Compact on Refugees, the CRRF, and Humanitarian development nexus has introduced fundamental shift and transformations to UNHCR and its partners in relation to how we provide protection and assistance to PoCs. This has necessitated system changes within UNHCR and necessary restructuring/re-organisation to respond to the new way of working.

In line with what is taking place in Geneva, to achieve greater coherence, technical sectors together with Education, CBI and livelihood were brought together under one roof (Resilience and Solutions). This section is responsible for sectorial planning and ensuring that short and medium/long terms perspectives are factored into our planning, in line with protection objectives. The section works with both humanitarian and development stakeholders at strategic and operational levels, holding together the diverse aspects introduced by the humanitarian development nexus. In the context of protracted situations, the HD nexus is not about a “hand-over” from relief to development actors, but rather it is a determined search for complementarity throughout the crisis.

In practice, ensuring harmony and coherence between the CRRF Sector Response Plans and the Refugee Response Plan (RRP). This includes liaising with OPM, line Ministries, World Bank/DPs, IPs/OPs and coordinate support to DLG. In this light, sectorial roadmaps were drafted by this section to facilitate an objective discussion on how to the transition (& inclusion into govt systems) as envisioned by the GCR.

- In the above regard, Assistant Rep-Ops urged partners to be proactive and to work together with UNHCR to strengthen Livelihood and Resilience Sector.
- He emphasized that Livelihood should be strengthened and prioritized in the settlement effective next year 2021 in response to the ration cuts by WFP. Partners were urged to be innovative and proactive and find alternative solutions to mitigate the negative impact of the food ration cuts.

### AoB

- BRAC is looking at financial inclusion by providing support to refugees especially women in Rhino and Kiryandongo settlements in response to Livelihood intervention. Training and capacity building are on-going in Rhino to enable refugees have access to financial services (Banking and loan facilities). The district is already engaged. VSLA groups to be supported so that they have access to the banks. BRAC to coordinate with CBI sub-working group at national level for harmonization of cash interventions.
- Agreed that the next Inter-Agency meeting to be on **18 December 2020**.