

Regional Economic Inclusion Exchange meeting

10th May 2019, UNHCR Regional Office, Nairobi

Agenda:

1. The IGAD Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities of 28th March 2019 (UNHCR)
2. The Global coalition to alleviate poverty amongst refugees and host communities (UNHCR HQ)
3. Brief discussion on the TORs of this group
4. Your updates and news

Outcomes

1. Laura gave an overview of the Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the IGAD Region (meeting held in March 2019). This is a progressive declaration however it is non-binding so it is important that we all keep advocating for its implementation. We can use the language in it to share with other countries and encourage similar commitments; also to continue encouraging non-hosting countries to do more to share the burden.

IGAD also produced a long but useful working paper on improving livelihoods for refugees, returnees and host communities, in preparation for the Kampala Summit. This will be shared on the data portal for this group.

2. Cian O'Brien from UNHCR Geneva office gave a presentation on the Global Coalition to Alleviate Poverty amongst Refugees and Host Communities, which is an initiative of UNHCR, the World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) and 11 NGOs. The main approach that will be used by the Coalition is the Graduation Approach (<https://www.unhcr.org/graduation-approach-56e9752a4.html>). 35 countries are included, as yet no prioritization has been done. Fundraising will be done both by UNHCR/Partnership for economic Inclusion (WB/PEI) and by the individual members themselves. The Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (<https://www.refugeeselfreliance.org>) has been in discussions with UNHCR about monitoring for the coalition, but no decisions have been made yet. Largely it will be up to the members to coordinate and collaborate at a country level.

UNHCR has done several pilots of the graduation approach, mostly together with TrickleUp the technical lead on incorporating the approach into refugee settings (BRAC developed it initially, for extreme poor in Bangladesh). Some of these pilots have been documented, eg Ecuador.

<http://www.brac.net/sites/default/files/BRAC%20Briefing%20-%20TUP.pdf>

The official launch of the Coalition will happen in June 2019, and there are 17 events organized over the coming months, including one in Nairobi at/around the AIDEX forum (12-13 September 2019)

<https://www.aid-expo.com/nairobi-event>

The Coalition was also included in the Global Refugee Forum to seek funding and support; the GRF will take place in Geneva on 17-18 December 2019. Various materials are being developed around the GRF as well as a number of preparatory initiatives (see below).

During the discussion, an update was shared about an evaluation recently carried out by BRAC, which indicates that where they mentored groups rather than individual households to save cost and increase scale of the approach, outcomes were better and projects more cost effective.

3. The presentation and discussion about the Refugee Self Reliance Initiative was postponed to a later meeting.
4. The TORs for the group were shared and discussed; some amendments were proposed to some sections, and agreement reached that the group will remain largely informal. It was agreed that Laura will update and share the TORs with the group for final endorsement.
5. Updates from participants
 - UNHCR: the Global Forum on Refugees will be held in December, in Geneva: information is found on the UNHCR website. Preparatory meetings will be held in June, August and November (in Geneva). Regional event in preparation of the GRF will also be organized. For more info: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html>.
GRF guidance note on pledges and practices is to be found here: <https://www.unhcr.org/5cc836594>
5. UNHCR Kenya: last week a financial inclusion workshop was held with six financial service provider and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS). This included a visit to the refugee hosting areas of Nairobi and talks with refugees who are running businesses, but can't get access to credit or other financial services.
6. MEDA (www.meda.org): gave an overview of their work in economic development in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. They are interested in working more in the refugee space, and recently held meetings with NRC to explore further.
7. IKEA Foundation: Sorcha O'Callaghan is an ODI consultant currently doing a review of the foundation's work in the region (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda) and exploring how it can move more into the area of climate change & livelihoods, rather than a focus on humanitarian responses when it comes to refugees.
8. ReDSS: there will be a meeting on 29th May on the "unpacking Dadaab" theme and durable solutions. More information on the website: www.regionaldss.org. Follow the website updates for information on their forthcoming training at the end of June.

Participants

Sanja Heric, heric@unhcr.org; UNHCR, Education
Duveskog, Deborah (FAOKE) <Deborah.Duveskog@fao.org>
Anne W Njuguna AnneW.Njuguna@plan-international.org
Meri Fukai, mfukai@iom.int
David Oyori DRC
HIAS
Pamella Whako, AVSI Foundation
Lili Mohiddin lili.mohiddin@nrc.no
Sarah King sarah.king@nrc.no
Belinda Muya muya@refugepoint.org
Danya Kattan kattand@unhcr.org
Siiri Uino siiri.uino@undp.org, UNDP sub regional office
Sorcha O'Callaghan s.ocallaghan@odi.org.uk
Lloyd McCormick lmccormick@meda.org
Celine Mersch mersch@unhcr.org, Snr CRRF officer, UNHCR
Patience Kiara p.kiara@regionaldss.org
Benjamin HOUNSELL benjamin.hounsell@samuelhall.org
Laura Buffoni, UNHCR buffoni@unhcr.org