

## Assessment Technical Working Group

### Minutes for the Meeting held on 29/06/2023

**Organizations in attendance:** UNHCR, World Vision, REACH, WFP, Save the Children, UNWOMEN, FCA, UNICEF, Handicap International

**Total number of participants:** 24

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and introductory remarks
2. Updates from the ATWG Co chairs
3. Updates on the prioritization (WFP)
4. Updates on the refugees and hosts FSNA (UNICEF)
5. Updates on the price analysis (Refugees areas of intervention) -WFP
6. Presentation of Value Chain Assessment (World Vision)
7. Presentation of livelihoods and urban refugee assessments (REACH)
8. Presentation of planned assessments (REACH)
9. AOB and Closure

#### Participants

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
1. Festo Muriisa	UNHCR	13. Isaac Philemon Ejonu	UNHCR
2. Faith Kirungi	UNHCR	14. Justine Apiku	World Vision
3. Godfrey Twesigye	World Vision	15. Theodore Jaspers	REACH
4. Melle Van-Hilten	REACH	16. Ronald Mutebi	UNHCR
5. Geoffrey Muhindo Muhumuza	World Vision	17. Nathan Lowanyang	WFP
6. Lilian Ndagire	WFP	18. Felix Obong Okello	UNHCR
7. Ankunda, Kullein	Save the Children	19. Charles Alemi	UNHCR
8. Elise Buvarp Lavik	UNWOMEN	20. Pauline Lietar	REACH
9. Nelson Okao	WFP	21. Stephen Adeun	UNHCR
10. Esau Atwongyeire	FCA	22. Lilian Likicho	WFP
11. Alex Mokori	UNICEF	23. Josefina Bandalan	Handicap International
12. Emma Sohi-isolani	REACH	24. Collins Tumuhairwe	WFP

#### Presenters

Name	Topic/ Assessment	Organization
1. Festo Muriisa	- Assessment Registry Dashboard	UNHCR
2. Melle Van-Hilten	- Update on the GRF - Update on harmonization of sectoral indicators - Livelihoods and Movement of refugees and host in Uganda particularly, urban refugees	REACH
3. Nelson Okao	- Updates on Prioritization	WFP
4. Alex Mokori	- Food Security and Nutritional Assessment (FSNA) update	UNICEF
5. Lilian Ndagire	- Market assessment and Price Monitoring	WFP
6. Godfrey Muhindo Muhumuza	- Value Chain Assessment	World Vision
7. Pauline Lietar	- Update on Planned assessments	REACH
8. Theodore Jaspers		

### Update on the Assessment registry dashboard (UNHCR)

#### Key highlights

- 120 assessments have been so far registered on the system
- The year 2021 had the highest registered number of assessments while 2020 had the least. Only 13 assessments have so far been registered in 2023
- Overall, 60% of the registered assessments target refugees while 40% target host communities
- UNHCR has so far registered the highest number of assessments, followed by AVSI, WFP and other partners
- Most of the assessments conducted are focused on Livelihood sector, followed by Environment and Energy, Education, and other sectors follow.
- 8 assessments were conducted about Covid 19
- By geographic distribution, West Nile has the most assessments conducted

### Updates on the harmonization of sectoral indicators

REACH: With intent to ensure that assessments follow set standards, harmonization of set sectoral indicators must take place. Additionally, the reason for this is that at times different assessments investigate similar areas while using different indicators, at times using different questionnaires and tools and this can lead to different results although about the same topic. This in some way leads to conflicting data and users can't know whose source to trust or use.

*Rationale:* Assure compatibility of different data sources and benchmarks

*Process:*

- Creation overview of commonly collected indicators in the response
- Generation of recommendations for standardization
- Discussion with UNHCR and all sectors
- Aggregation of feedback and finalization standard set of indicators
- Sector/ response-wide validation

*Discussion:*

- Come up with common indicators for each sector for reference prior to conducting assessments. This will enable collecting comparable data even if it is from different locations
- Create an overview of all commonly collected indicators in the Refugee response. Review the existing assessment indicators for different sectors and identify any existing overlaps.
- Based on the global standards for some indicators, come up with recommendations that shall be discussed with all sectors and stake holders and based on this, final recommendations shall be developed, broadly validated, and then implemented.

The objective for this process is to ensure that we have more comparable data across assessments in the response. As of now, we are only at step 1. The UCRRP was also included to ensure that data collected aligns with the planning framework.

If any of the partners are interested in participating in the process or may have inputs on anything, get in touch with REACH.

### Update on the GRF

REACH: ATWG is supporting the GRF preparations on information management specifically taking lead on the three different situation analyses namely, access to services led by REACH, socioeconomic funding and protection led by UNHCR and all these analyses shall go through the UBOS for validation. These will feed into the detailed planning for the current UCRRP. They will also be shared ahead of the livelihood and self-reliance round table discussions and any other planned GRF events.

### Update on Technical steering committee

REACH: Technical steering committee is one of the initiatives of the ATWG to be launched this year. The objective is to have a smaller technical group of ATWG members who give technical guidance to partners regarding the implementation of

assessments and enforce adherence of assessments to the set standards. Meeting schedule would take place on ad hoc basis.

**Action 1:** Establish membership; interested members can reach out to the co-chairs to join. One ATWG member from World Vision expressed interest.

Co-chairs:

- UNHCR, Bekir Yildiz, [yildiz@unhcr.org](mailto:yildiz@unhcr.org)
- WFP, Wendy Alvarado, [wendy.alvarado@wfp.org](mailto:wendy.alvarado@wfp.org)
- REACH, Melle van Hilten, [melle.van-Hilten@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:melle.van-Hilten@impact-initiatives.org)

**Action 2:** Share an email with information regarding the Technical Steering Committee to help interested participants to sign up.

### Updates on Prioritization

**WFP:** Prioritization phase 3 to commence on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. and here, beneficiaries shall be able to come forward to submit the issues regarding their categories.

- Rations: 100% for new arrivals, 60% for category 1 and 30% for category 2.
- Individual POC households were informed about their categories in May and June 2023, through various channels such as SMS, hotlines, Food Distribution Points and The Complaints Feedback Mechanism desks.
- Regional and settlement level communication of phase III successfully undertaken
- Joint OPM/ WFP/ UNHCR communique was signed and shared with partners and stakeholders.
- Joint appeals mechanism now known as prioritization review mechanism framework is now finalized and establishment is ongoing
- Updated key messages and FAQs were circulated with all partners
- Under-resourcing and ration reduction are additions to the complexity of prioritization

*Discussion:* New arrivals shall receive 100% of recommended allowance for a period of 3 months. After this, they shall be categorized in category 1 as highly vulnerable and shall be entitled to 60% of food ration and later profiled and categorized accordingly. Category 2 are the moderately vulnerable households, and these shall receive 30% food ration and these decisions were resource driven.

### Update on Food Security and Nutritional Assessment (FSNA)

**UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR:** Through support from development partners, FSNA will be conducted to monitor the situation in the refugee settlements and host districts and provide basis for timely, objectively verifiable interventions and response. The 2023 FSNA will be conducted in all the refugee settlements of Uganda and the host communities aligned to the following:

- The 2019 FSNA review and institutionalization process for annual assessments
- The 2022 FSNA harmonization process, protocol and tools
- The UBOS recommendations for methodology and reports format

Assessment will consist of 19 objectives, targeting all children of age 6 to 59 months living in the sampled households, women of age 15 to 49 years and mothers of children of age 0 to 59 months in the selected households

#### Key activities

1. Inception meeting to discuss the TOR and gain consensus on methodology and related issues
2. Coordinate with district and hold inception meetings at the district level
3. Train supervisors at national level to establish teams who will train the enumerators in each district. This will be followed by data collection in all the 9 districts
4. Strong supervision from district and national level including support from UBOS, Health and Agriculture Ministries and UN technical team
5. Data management and report preparation
6. Holding validation meeting in each district to share preliminary results and discuss key recommendations.

#### Structure of the survey team

- Coordinated by UNICEF with technical leadership from UBOS, in close coordination with OPM, UNHCR, WFP and MoH
- UBOS will take lead on sampling design
- Implementing partners and the District Local Government (DLG) staff will constitute data collection teams.

The analysis framework

- A. Access to food (Income earners, food prices, debt)
- B. Availability of food (Access to land, cropping practices, HH food stocks, Livestock ownership)
- C. Stability (Shocks, Cropping levels)
- D. Utilization (Food consumption, Malnutrition rates, IYCF practices, Disease prevalence, WASH indicators)

Details on objectives, methodology including the target population and the assessment road map can be found in the presentation document.

**\*\*Key to note is that the FSNA will be conducted by a consultant funded by UNICEF guided by the key partners, UNICEF, UNHCR & WFP\*\***

*Action point:* They are to involve the ATWG at a stage that will be communicated in the coming weeks.

### Update on Market assessment and Price Monitoring

**WFP:** High food prices have eroded the effective purchasing power parity of the WFP transfer value and recipients of WFP's cash assistance. Refugees receive an entitlement that is lower than what other refugees receive in the form of in-kind food. Commodity prices are monitored on a weekly, quarterly, and monthly basis. Cross section surveys are conducted on monthly basis to update prices for commodities identified by the Cash Working Group and some of these commodities include maize, grain or maize white maize flour, vegetable oil beans and salt.

*Key highlights*

- Between January and May 2023, prices have increased in a range of 5% to 31%. Prices for beans have increased by 31%, maize grain by 24%, maize flour by 5%. Prices for oil and salt have reduced by 9% and 6% respectively in the past two months. However, some settlements show more variability than others. Details can be found in the presentation or report including comparisons between settlements.
- With the current ration, PoCs receiving cash in group 1 can only purchase 26% of the ration. PoCs receiving cash in group 2 can only receive 24% of the ration, PoCs receiving cash in group 3 can only purchase 23% of the ration. The most expensive settlements are Palabek, Adjumani, and Kyagwali.

Details regarding findings from the Market Prices Monitor can also be found from the dashboard and this has been aligned with the categorization to integrate the prioritization.

**Action:** WFP team to share a dashboard which will be shared publicly to enable access information on the market prices

### Value Chain Assessment

**World Vision:** The assessment was conducted about the Uganda greening communities project implemented in Yumbe district. The project is implemented in a consortium with Care International and Catholic Relief Services. The project aims to promote and improved landscape restoration, HH food and nutrition security, Livelihood and community resilience to climate related and other shocks or disasters. Details regarding assessment background, objectives, methodology, and results of the study can be found in the report.

The value chain assessment was conducted aimed at understanding the constraints that value chain actors mainly the small holder farmers face and to provide relative recommendations.

**Key findings**

- Gender participation in the assessment was females at 54% and Males at 46%. The highest percentage of participants was aged 31-60 years followed by 18-30 years. 51% of the respondents were from the refugee

settlement while 49% from the host community. Persons with disability in the settlement were at 51% and 49% within the host communities. There are few partners responding to disability issues within the area.

- Majority of the respondents are involved in crop production activities, followed by livestock keeping. Charcoal selling was the third activity however this has a devastating impact on the environment. More details regarding the results can be found in the report.
- 71% of women are involved in production, while men dominated the marketing of high value crops at household level
- Input dealers are located far from the beneficiary communities; only 19% of farmers interviewed had purchased seeds from input dealers.
- Limited storage capacities for the produce at the village aggregators
- Lack of business and financial skills among the farmers and the input shop dealers
- Few commercial institutions in Yumbe
- Gender stereotypes hinder women participation in small and medium-term trade.

*Action:*

- Information about the cost benefit analysis of different value chains should be shared widely among the beneficiaries prior to enterprise selection
- World Vision to share the detailed report with the ATWG

*Discussion:*

- Is there a possibility to disaggregate the respondents that require business skilling by age and gender categories?
- Also, based on the assessment findings, what could be the reasons or the potential barriers causing the gender stereotypes affecting women participation in the value chain process.

### Livelihoods and Movement of refugees and host in Uganda

**REACH:** The livelihoods assessment was conducted in 9 locations in both refugee settlements and urban centers targeting both refugees and host communities. Of interest were Female headed households and the persons with disabilities.

#### Key findings

*Livelihoods:* Three key barriers to sustainable livelihoods applied to both refugees and host communities in both settlement and urban contexts.

- Poor access to formal financial services that would enable households to invest in their livelihoods
- Poor access to land mainly affecting refugees and,
- Finally, was access to markets, an issue both in urban centers and settlements with issues related to discrimination and documentation

*Role of remittances:* Remittances are a very important source of income for refugees in urban centers than in settlements. Details in the report. Important to note is that urban refugees seem to be relying very heavily on remittances for their overall income, which indicates that they may not be as self-reliant as they might be. In much simpler terms, it means for most refugees in urban centers, most of their income is coming from remittances rather than from income generating activities that they're engaging in their location.

*Movement patterns to country of origin-* More of refugees in West Nile and Northern Uganda moved back to their country of origin than the refugees in Central and Southwest. 61% of the refugee households who reported at least one member occasionally travels to their country of origin, 61% reported that they generally travel approximately less than once a month.

#### *Push factors for movement from the settlements*

- Limited access to education (69%),
- Limited access to healthcare (58%),
- Limited availability of food (31%),
- Low quality of food (20%), and
- Limited access to livelihood opportunities (18%)

### *Pull factors to urban centers*

- Access to education (68%)
- Access to health care (46%)
- Availability of food (25%)
- Access to livelihoods opportunities (18%)
- Social contacts (17%)

### *Intentions to potentially leave the settlement.*

- 89% appear to have no interest in moving to an urban center specifically through in this table you see different sort of options and this is mainly because 37% of respondents did not know anyone in the urban centers and another 37% claim that there is no or worse access to assistance in the cities, 31% mentioned that there was no or worse access to land in cities among others.

*Reflection point:* Social networks and connections are really key for refugees, and this is true for refugees in both urban centers and in the settlements, social networks and connections, especially with the host community, appear really important, particularly when it comes to accessing land in urban centers. And it's also related to that a key factor when it comes to facilitating migration and migration routes within Uganda.

### **Update on the Gulu Case Study for Livelihood- REACH**

- Key findings show that out of the 60 respondents interviewed, 20 reported to be engaged in some form of small business activity for a livelihood. 43 respondents reported that they were relying on remittances as a source of income and 24 relied on humanitarian assistance as a source of income.
- Barriers to preferred livelihood activities include; lack of capital, poor market conditions, limited access to land, lack of resources among others.
- 39 of the interviewed participants spent their remittances on basic needs, another 34 on rent, 35 on education, 21 on health care.
- Key livelihood barriers are limited access to formal financial services, markets and land.
- Urban refugees are more mobile than refugees in settlements
- Urban refugees rely heavily on remittances.

### **Update on Planned assessments- REACH**

1. Urban Migration monitoring: REACH intends to set up a monitoring system within several urban centers that allow to check in every few weeks and see if any influx has come in and the situation of the traveling refugees
2. U-Learn: Knowledge Attitudes and Practices on Energy, Environment and Climate Change which seeks to inform the humanitarian response on potential ways through which actors could induce behavior change in terms of energy consumption, and that could in turn reduce the risk of environmental degradation and the negative consequences it would have on the surrounding communities and the refugee and its surrounding communities in a context where climate change will inevitably aggravate these consequences and existing vulnerabilities.
3. Impact-REACH: Access to land assessment stems from the recently concluded livelihood assessment. This assessment will shed more light on livelihoods, social cohesion and durable solutions issues, given that access to arable land for agriculture plays a large role and has a conditional effect on wider objectives within the humanitarian and development context including food security.  
Data collection will commence in September until end of October 2023.

### **Overall action points**

1. ATWG participants to share the gender assessment TOR for consultancy widely across different platforms.
2. Share information about the ATWG to different sector focal persons to enable more contributions from other sectors and partners about the research studies happening. There was a gender training recently conducted and several discussions were held regarding data. Participants are not aware of the assessment registry, It would be very helpful for the technical working group to come into the different working groups to maybe have those short presentations

or to send information to the focal point so more people in the sector are aware that it existence can start sharing more research.

3. Publicize the registry a bit more.
4. Partners to communicate among their colleagues about the technical steering committee.
5. Encouraged partners to keep updating the assessment registry.

## World Vision report presentation

