

Livelihoods Technical Working Group Minutes

LTWG – May 30th, 2022 (15:00 – 16:33 GMT+2)

Minutes written by: Kristina Chopra (DRC), LTWG Chair.

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Agenda:

Time	Name of the session	Responsible
15:00-15:10	Introduction of the agenda.	Kristina Chopra (DRC)
15:10-16:20	Discussion. Partners' Livelihoods activities plans regarding: 1) liberated areas, 2) IDPs, 3) host communities in Western Ukraine.	All participants.
16:20-16:30	Closing statement.	Kristina Chopra (DRC).

Overview.

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate the discussion on the planned and ongoing livelihood activities within the changed context of the conflict in Ukraine. Areas of livelihoods interest were divided into three categories:

1. Livelihood activities aimed at supporting beneficiaries in newly liberated areas.
2. Livelihood activities aimed at internally displaced people (IDPs).
3. Livelihood activities are aimed at host communities in the Western region of Ukraine.

Minutes.

1) Partner introduction.

⇒ 26 participants from 19 organizations joined the 3rd Livelihoods Technical Working Group on the 30th of May 2022. In their introductions, partners highlighted their interests in the working group as well as shared some of their plans. Namely:

- FAO continues with both the Emergency and Livelihoods projects and plans to expand its operations in the next nine months with an emphasis on agricultural livelihoods as the backbone of resilient and sustainable emergency response;

- Nekka, a local Ukrainian NGO from the Zakarpattya region provides social, psychological, and humanitarian support to beneficiaries and seeks opportunities to cooperate with partners on livelihoods projects;

- Monto an Estonian NGO are looking at developing livelihoods projects;
- OXFAM looking at agricultural livelihoods and potentially supporting small businesses;
- World Vision looking at developing FSL programs across Ukraine, Romania and Georgia;
- DIA is primarily interested in IDPs support and has already established Women in Business technology network. The network supports IDPs of all genders in income generation;
- Estonian Refugee Council working with livelihoods for the past 8 years and is currently focused on Multi-purpose cash distribution. Carried out two rounds of women's entrepreneurship programme and started a new program in late May;
- CARE USA emphasised the effect of livelihoods projects in Ukraine on global wellbeing;
- PIN highlighted the importance of coordination, to promote a balanced approach to Early recovery interventions;
- IMPACT plans to conduct socio-economic assessments in the Northern and Central Oblast of Ukraine;
- URCS is focused on cash and voucher assistance at the moment but considering livelihoods projects. URCS is at the beginning of a joint project with the Spanish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross to conduct a national needs assessment, which will focus on livelihoods as well as shelter. The assessment is expected to be finalized by the end of summer, that will be used as a blueprint for future livelihoods and shelter projects. Agreed with the need to develop a joint strategy;
- UNHCR (protection cluster) has a project with ILO on profiling the IDPs concerning their economic and social integration. Sample IDP's survey in three oblasts Lviv, Zararpatta, and Vinnytsa to identify the source of their assets and potential employability, data collection will start in June;
- IOM planning to come back to livelihoods interventions;
- ACTED shared, that their Women's economic empowerment program is going through amendments and changes;
- Caritas Ukraine focused on food security and work through 30 local organizations. Considering developing livelihoods activities.

2) Discussion. Partners' Livelihoods activities plans.

- ⇒ Participants were offered to choose one of the 3 teams to join for a closer discussion, namely: 1) Livelihood activities in the liberated areas, 2) Livelihood activities for the IDPs, and 3) Livelihood activities for the host communities in Western Ukraine.
- ⇒ Most of the participants chose teams one and two.

3) Discussion results:

⇒ **1st group** discussed that regardless of coordination each organization has a specific vision for the projects and will likely follow its vision. The group also found the timing dedicated to the discussion limiting and called for a separate meeting on the topic of Livelihood activities in the liberated areas. URCS suggested, that partners submit their questions either in written form or in a form of a discussion for an assessment that will be conducted by the organization. The team also emphasise the need for rapid assessments, to provide emergency livelihood support.

⇒ **2nd group** identified that some of the partners are still running assessments to identify the optimal focus for their programming. Several organizations are interested in supporting IDPs entering the IT sector, and a couple of partners are interested in agricultural livelihoods and educational support. The second team also discussed the importance of the bridge between mine action and livelihood planning. Most of the IDPs are concentrated in the western regions of Ukraine, hence the IDP livelihoods programs should be localised there. The group reached a common understanding of how livelihoods programming can assist GBV survivors and are open to cooperation with other partners. Additionally, some of the partners in group 2 are interested in cooperating with Governmental Employment canthers to provide long-term solutions and results for the employability of the IDPs. Food security stays in the focus through the support of local farmers, who are willing to employ and/or feed IDPs.

⇒ **3rd group.** Due to low interest and technical issues the third group discussion did not happen.

Next steps:

Livelihood technical group to meet for another session in June to discuss Livelihoods directions in detail.

Attendees:

#	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name	Title/position	E-mail Address
1	Natalia	Kuzmenko	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	Project Manager of "Securing Women's Economic Empowerment in Donbass"	natalia.kuzmenko@acted.org
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