Livelihoods Working Group Overview (Under FSS) WASH Sector Coordination Meeting June 22 Cox’s Bazar | 2020
**FSS & LHWG Overview**

**Food Security Sector (FSS)** is led by WFP and co-led by FAO. Within the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) in Cox’s Bazar, the FSS is a platform to strengthen the food security response through operational coordination, information sharing, and identifying food security related priorities and solutions.

**Livelihoods Working Group (LHWG):** Under the FSS, the LHWG aims at strengthening coordination of livelihoods activities in the host community and Rohingya refugee camps.

Main **Objectives** of LHWG are as follows:

- Operational Coordination
- Ensuring relevant cross sectoral, WGs, and GoB linkages
- Ensuring relevance of programming and support in gap filling/overlap
- Potential space for market linkages and associated support
- WG under FSS ensures relevant linkages and ISCG reporting mechanisms
- Connects with relevant assessments/analysis, etc. to ensure effective programming
- Advocate for and guide resource mobilisation through relevant mechanisms or calls for proposal from donors
Ongoing Activities

- LHWG is working to coordinate partner activities both in host communities and camps to provide livelihoods opportunities in agriculture and non-agricultural areas.

- **Agricultural Activities:** In host community, partners are involved with different horticulture, livestock and fisheries related activities under agriculture whereas in camps they are mainly involved with horticulture with limited fisheries activities in some camps. Their activities ranged from input distribution, building capacity, knowledge dissemination, market linkage creation, etc. Find relevant documents [here](#) for recent Agricultural Workshop (June 10th) organized by FSS/LHWG.

- **Non-Agricultural Activities:** For non-Agricultural activities partners are engaged in entrepreneurship development in host communities whereas in camps they are engaged with training and producing different items (handicraft items, soap, masks etc) through multi-purpose centres as well as through 'work from home' modalities that have been adapted in light of covid-19. Find relevant documents [here](#) for recent non-Agricultural workshop (June 11th) organized by FSS/LHWG.

- FSS/LHWG keeps track of partner activities through [FSS response tracker](#) and dedicated [Online Tracker](#) for mask initiatives to ensure better coordination among partners.

- FSS/LHWG maintains strong coordination with FSS/LHWG Gender Focal Points to ensure operationalization of gender sensitive programming.

- Since early 2020, FSS/LHWG and Education/YWG have furthered discussions on training/skills development both at Cox's Bazar Level and Dhaka Level. These discussions have been tabled in light of Covid-19 response but both FSS/LHWG and Education/YWG continue close coordination.
WASH/LHWG Coordination Opportunity: Menstrual Hygiene Materials

• At the onset of Covid-19, capacity to support in tailoring initiatives (mask making) increased – as the economic impact of Covid-19 continues to impact livelihoods globally the importance of continuing access to these livelihoods activities is critical.

• Currently, LHWG partner are covering critical gaps in relation to the health response. This includes mask making initiatives (estimated 2 million + cloth masks will be made through this local tailor initiative), cash grants (to supplement lost income), as well as agricultural support to farmers.

• The mask making initiative is important to continue, however it may not be necessary at its current pace. Therefore, some partners are looking to next steps – given similar tools required for both menstrual hygiene material production and masks it has been discussed that this could be an easy programmatic shift as well as support a critical female health need.

• Several LHWG partners (through UNICEF and UNHCR) have experience with menstrual hygiene production (NGOP, TAI, COAST Trust, etc.). At a recent LHWG workshop on June 11, partners expressed interest in further engaging in this activity. As the mask initiative shows a high local capacity able support in textiles – WASH and LHWG have been in conversation regarding potential to scale up production of menstrual hygiene materials

• For partners currently engaged in distribution of menstrual hygiene materials interested in connecting with partners looking to start up production of menstrual hygiene materials kindly reach out to LHWG Chair: Leah.beaulac@wfp.org
Information Management Product Overview

- Cox’s Bazar FSS Website
- 5W tracker
- Mask tracker
- Interactive dashboard (Rohingya refugees)
- Interactive dashboard (Bangladeshi host communities)
- LHWG COVID-19 response factsheet
- Agriculture workshop slides
- Agriculture dashboard
- Livelihoods (non-agriculture) workshop
- Livelihoods (non-agriculture) dashboard
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION