

Food Security Sector Coordination & Livelihood Technical Working Group - Meeting Minutes February 5th, 2019 – ISCG meeting Room

This meeting was a combination of the FSS coordination and the livelihood technical working group meeting as agreed by the partners in the previous meeting to combine the two going forward.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
 2. Food Security Sector JRP 2019, FSS
 3. WFP Program Operation
 4. Crafts production experience with Rohingya and Other livelihood experience with Host Community, IUCN
 5. Lesson learnt from self-reliance project, Save the Children
 6. Complementary Food Voucher, Relief International
 7. AOBs
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1. The Sector Coordinator welcomed the participants and thanked the partners who contributed to the development of the FSS 2019 Jointed Response Plan (JRP). The JRP is at final stages. The FSS's budget is \$255M with 22 partners. All partner projects have been uploaded and approved in the system and the narrative submitted. A presentation of the FSS JRP was made during the SEG/HoSOs/Sector Coordinators review process, on December 11, 2018, to validate the overall 2019 JRP.
2. The Sector Coordinator made the presentation for the FSS partners during this meeting. *The Presentation can be found on the link below. Double Click to Open.*



3. During the review process, RRRC stated that the term "self-reliance" for refugee interventions should not be used. The meeting agreed to change the terminology to "**skills development**", going forward.

WFP Program Operation: *The Presentation can be found on the link below*

<..\..\ShareOwnCloud\Fs Sector\Meetings -FSS\2018\December 2019\17.12.2018 WFP Programme Operations.pdf>

GRC wanted to know if WFP has had an issue in doing finger print registration as they have heard that refugees are opposed to it. WFP clarified that this is not linked to verification; which is a UNHCR/GoB exercise and that finger prints have been done for all beneficiaries.

WFP envisages full transition from in-kind food distribution to e-voucher by August 2019 and if government approves, transition to cash for food form mid-2019. Currently 25% of the beneficiaries have been transitioned to e-voucher.

4. **Self-Reliance Assistance for Rohingya and Host Communities in Ukhiya & Teknaf** – a project of World Vision in collaboration with BRAC.

Project activities;

- Soil stabilization through planting of vetiver grass on slopes using cash for work modality in camps and host community
- Vegetable gardening targeting 1,070 women

The Presentation can be found on the link below.

<..\..\ShareOwnCloud\Fs Sector\Livelihoods WG\Livelihoods Meeting\December 2018\FSS meeting December 13, 2018 presentations\BRAC Save the children presentation Final.pptx>

5. **HEC, Crafting and Livelihood improvement: Host and Refugee community** - IUCN-UNHCR partnership on Biodiversity Conflict Mitigation



The Presentation can be found on the link above. Double Click to Open

The intervention aims; to mitigate human and elephant conflict (HEC) and to create awareness to community and other stakeholders on environment and biodiversity issues – through livelihood initiatives.

IUCN/UNHCR held a Craft exhibition for products made by the Rohingya artisans - a good option for livelihood improvement

130,00 BDT were raised in 2 days for an investment of 30, 000 BDT.

6. Several partners, liked IUCN/UNHCR, held very successful exhibitions in Cox's Bazar for Rohingya products (taking opportunity of the festive season). The profit

made was impressive, however; the partners are facing a challenge of how to take back the money to the refugees, because of policy restriction. From this experience, it emerged that there is a lot of potential market for the Rohingya refugee artwork products in Cox's bazaar town; however; the authorities won't approve of setting up a shop for selling the products. The sector will look into ways this potential can be utilized e.g. organizing a bazaar, supporting refugees to set up shops in camps etc.

7. During deliberations it emerged that several organizations are engaged in vegetable gardening activities. Partners will share their plans and areas of coverage to the sector for compilation and sharing and facilitating better coordination and avoidance of duplication. Also, the need for impact assessment and ensuring sustainability was emphasised. Impact assessment for FAO is ongoing.
8. Suggestion was made to have a skills assessment in the refugee camps so that the actors can build on this. However; this may not be necessary as IFPRI have done such an assessment and the sector will share the report with the partners. An alliance of Christian organization is also doing a similar assessment and the report will be shared once it is out.

The IFPRI report can be found on this link: [..\..\ShareOwnCloud\Fs Sector\Livelihoods WG\Livelihoods Assessments\IFPRI Rohingya Enterprise Survey Report Sept 25 2018 \(002\).pdf](..\..\ShareOwnCloud\Fs Sector\Livelihoods WG\Livelihoods Assessments\IFPRI Rohingya Enterprise Survey Report Sept 25 2018 (002).pdf)

9. **Complimentary Voucher:**

Relief International has completed groundwork for initiation of the complimentary voucher activity in camps 8W and 17 and are at the stage of contracting traders. They observe that there is a lot of fresh food in the camps sold by various small traders and cautioned that actors should ensure mitigation of the risk of big traders phasing out small traders, thus; making them lose their livelihood. There is also the risk of external negativities as large traders are likely to source food from outside the district. The traders should be encouraged to purchase locally, however; partners to look into supporting adequate continuous supply and also linking the producers with the traders they contract.

It has been observed that the beneficiaries have a tendency purchasing their food items at once as soon as they receive the vouchers (top up). This compromises diet diversification as they do not get fresh food through the month. Relief International will try to mitigate this by distributing vouchers twice instead of once a month. Partners to explore possibilities of using dated vouchers and beneficiary sensitization.