



BANGLADESH FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Livelihoods WG

Background

Violence in Rakhine State, which began on 25 August 2017 has driven over 650,000 Rohingya refugees across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The population is concentrated in two Upazilas: Ukhia and Teknaf, putting an immense strain on infrastructure, services and the host population. Pre-existing settlements and camps have expanded with the new influx, while new spontaneous settlements have also formed and are quickly growing. Significant numbers of new arrivals are also being absorbed into the local host community.

Food Security Sector response:

The speed and scale of the influx has resulted in a critical humanitarian emergency; the Food Security sector members have responded with life-saving food assistance: WFP and 24 sector members (INGOs, NNGOs, Red Crescent Society, UNs) through General Food Distribution (GFD), hot meals and fortified biscuits for the new arrivals. Some FSS members prior to August 25th have engaged in livelihoods programmes, and few of these are still ongoing, involving both Bangladesh host communities and Rohingyas. The new influx and the impact on host communities has changed the environment and developing a new livelihood strategy became paramount.

Livelihoods strategy and opportunities: a technical WG

The group aims at strengthening coordination of the livelihoods activities both in camps and host community; effectively utilizing the information on the refugees available on FSS partners' databases (such as 4W, stock taking, etc.) through information sharing agreements with partners; continuously applying a coherent selection criteria for livelihoods activities among partners through the established frameworks (including the Vulnerability Assessment Framework) in host community and settlements; informing partners in Cox's Bazar about livelihoods programmes in the district shared by the respective field-level livelihoods coordination structures.

FSS members decided to have a smaller group that is going to focus on the livelihoods opportunities and feedback all FSS members on a harmonized strategy that can be included on the HRP 2018.

The group main goal is to develop a livelihoods package(s), develop specific guidelines and initiatives for livelihood programming and Standard Operating Procedures (gender, protection, modalities, linkages with other sectors and Working Group (Cash Working Group for example), develop advocacy messages, etc. for responding to the needs of the affected population for both Host communities and Rohingyas.

This group will also connect with and support relevant government-led structures. The Livelihoods Working Group will report to the Food Security Sector (FSS) on its progress and achievements.

The FSS will report on livelihood activities such as mapping of activities/project, caseload, mitigate potential duplication of livelihoods projects, identify ways of improving complementarity, monitor and evaluate the progress on the livelihoods projects in the area, ensure timely reporting related to the ISCG, including the livelihoods dashboard, and finally advocate for and guide resource mobilisation through relevant mechanisms or calls for proposal from donors.

Scope of work: the technical working group is not a policy/decision making body. It is an action oriented group.