

Meeting Title: Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector SAG Meeting

Meeting Date: 14 July 2024

Participants: BRAC, FSS, Helvetas, ISCG, IOM, Mukti Cox's Bazar, NGO Forum, WFP, UNHCR

Agenda:

1. Remarks from ISCG Principal Coordinator, Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, President and UNHCR Representative
2. Presentation on Market Mapping in the camps (Concepts, methods, and tools), will be presented by UNHCR
3. Discussion on Host Community Technical Working Group, ToR finalization, will be presented by Sector Coordinator
4. Briefing on GAC funded ISEC project, implemented by ILO & BRAC
5. Local Advocacy on operationalizing the Advocacy Note

Agenda	Key Discussion and Action points
<p>1. Remarks from ISCG Principal Coordinator, Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, President and UNHCR Representative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This Ad-hoc SAG meeting was joined by ISCG Principal Coordinator, President of Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and the UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh. ➤ UNHCR Representative, Sumbul Rizvi, as the lead agency for the Livelihoods Sector, highlighted the importance of SAG as a strategic advisory platform to guide LSDS in policy decisions, strategic coordination, and the implementation of the Sector's Annual Work Plan. She also recognized the Government and people of Bangladesh for their ongoing support, particularly for authorizing the GoB-UN Framework on Skills Development and the Guidance on Volunteer Engagement. As the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as ADB and World Bank are allocating their resources mostly to infrastructure related projects, this is a great opportunity for LSDS to connect skilled refugees, who have graduated from relevant Vocational Training courses being implemented in the camps, with these projects. These types of project can bring far reaching benefits, especially where capital intensive investments are needed, which cannot be funded by existing resources of humanitarian actors. The Representative also applauded the Sector for its achievements in Vocational Training, Accelerated Adult Learning (AAL), Volunteer Stipend Standardization, and advocacy efforts, emphasizing that AAL should be expanded to make more Refugees eligible for further skills development. The Representative emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration among sector partners to jointly address challenges and implement innovative solutions for the benefit of the Rohingya refugees and host communities. Also, given that the previous Sector Coordinator (Jasmina) has left, the Representative requested that SAG extend their support to the Acting Coordinator who is well known to the sector members. ➤ ISCG Principal Coordinator, David Bugden highlighted the LSDS's role in harmonizing skills development approaches and creating diversified livelihood opportunities. He emphasized SAG's pivotal role in supporting LSDS with strategy, coordination, policy decisions, and workplan implementation, including the annual JRP processes and overall focus on

	<p>finding solutions for sustainable livelihoods opportunities for vulnerable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The President of Cox’s Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries stated that it is time to look beyond the humanitarian context. He expressed his delighted that Rohingya youth have the opportunity to access AAL packages and noted that it is a great leap forward. He highlighted that the linkage of refugee products with host community markets/businessmen is very crucial, for example - the products Protyashi is making with Refugees in Bhasan Char and selling in the outlets of Cox’s Bazar are of quality that could be sold in the national or even international market. The Cox’s Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries expressed willingness to support the LSDS partners on market linkage and on value chain analysis in the Host Community.
<p>2. Presentation on Market Mapping in the camps (Concepts, methods, and tools), will be presented by UNHCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Robert Nyambaka, Senior Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer at UNHCR, delivered a presentation on the ongoing Market Mapping initiative in UNHCR's Area of Responsibility (AoR) camps. This initiative is an agency-specific activity focused on understanding the market dynamics within the camps. The attached presentation provides detailed insights into the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Size and Types of Markets ✓ People Engaged in Market Activities ✓ Governance Structures ✓ Infrastructure ✓ Supply Chain Dynamics <p><u>Key Actions and Next Steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Submission and Approval: The results of the market mapping will first be submitted to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office for approval. <p><u>Sharing Findings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Following the RRRC's endorsement, the findings will be shared with LSDS partners to inform strategic planning and interventions. The detailed presentation is attached with this action point.
<p>3. Discussion on Host Community Technical Working Group, ToR finalization, will be presented by Sector Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ashik Kabir, the Acting Sector Coordinator, presented on the formation of the proposed Host Community Technical Working Group (HCTWG). The need for this group was identified during a host community partners’ coordination meeting on 15 May, with the goal of harmonizing operations within the host community. The detailed presentation is attached to these action points. <p><u>Key Actions and Decisions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial members proposed: ILO, IOM, WFP and BRAC. Additional members needed: It was suggested to include a local NGO and a local private sector representative to complete the group. <p><u>Terms of Reference (ToR) and Membership Finalization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ToR for the HCTWG has been shared with partners. Interested partners are encouraged to reach out to the Sector if they wish to join the HCTWG. Membership will be finalized after discussions with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). <p>Coordination on Market Linkage Discussions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The FSS Coordinator suggested that the Food Security Sector (FSS) and LSDS collaborate on market linkage discussions within the host community, rather than pursuing parallel initiatives. It was agreed that this topic would be discussed with partners in an upcoming coordination meeting to ensure a unified approach. <p>The attached presentation provides further details on the HCTWG proposal and the discussed strategies.</p>
<p>4. Briefing on GAC funded ISEC project, implemented by BRAC in the Host Community</p>	<p>UNHCR Presentation on Refugee Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UNHCR provided an overview of the refugee component of the "Improving Skills and Economic Opportunities for Bangladeshi Community and Rohingya Women and Youth in Cox's Bazar" (ISEC) project. <p>BRAC Presentation on Host Community Component</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BRAC presented the host community component of the ISEC project, highlighting its key activities and objectives. <p><u>Key Actions and Proposed Ways Forward</u></p> <p>Focus on Teknaf for Development Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partners implementing projects in the host community were encouraged to prioritize Teknaf, recognizing it as an area significantly deprived of development activities. <p>Proposal for Multi-Dimensional Overview of Teknaf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The UNHCR Representative proposed that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) should develop a multi-dimensional overview of Teknaf. This overview would identify scopes, challenges, gaps, and potential interventions in Teknaf Upazila to better address the area's development needs.
<p>5. Local Advocacy on operationalizing the Advocacy Note</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The LSDS Sector held a meeting on 12 June with key partners to discuss their plans and expertise for supporting the operationalization of the LSDS advocacy document. Currently, feedback from the Government is still pending. Comments have been received from ILO and UN Women. <p><u>Key Actions and Next Steps</u></p> <p>Organizing a Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suggestion by ISCG Principal Coordinator: The Sector, in collaboration with the ISCG, should organize a half-day workshop with key partners to develop a comprehensive operational plan. <p>Sharing Received Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suggestion by UNHCR Representative: The comments already received for the operational plan should be shared with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members along with this action plan. <p>Endorsement and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After the SAG's endorsement, the Sector can proceed with organizing the workshop to build and finalize the operational plan. These steps aim to ensure a collaborative and well-coordinated approach to the operationalization of the LSDS document, incorporating feedback from all key stakeholders.