

Meeting Title: Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector Coordination Meeting

Meeting Date: 21 August 2024

Participants: AAB, BRAC, DRC, ESDO, FIVDB, HAP, Helvetas, GUK, JCF, IOM, ILO, ISCG Development Unit, ISCG Cash Transfer WG, Mukti, NRC, NGO Forum, SCI, Shushilan, UN Women, UNESCO

Agenda:

1. SAG meeting update, briefing from workshop with RRRC office
2. Activation of Host Community Technical Working Group
3. Discussion on Situation updates
4. Market mapping presentation by UNHCR
5. Facility mapping presentation by LSDS IM
6. AoB

Agenda	Discussion points
<p>1. SAG meeting update, briefing from workshop with RRRC office.</p>	<p>SAG key updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The guests 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❖ Cox's Bazar Chamber and commerce and Industries is ready to support on market linkages and value chain analysis❖ Advocacy note operational plan was shared, SAG put their inputs and there would be a workshop soon on that to take the conversation further❖ Host Community Technical Working Group ToR and membership finalized <p>Briefing from workshop with RRRC office</p> <p>There was a Sectoral Briefing with RRRC office on 31st July the key discussion points are below:</p> <p>ICT Skills Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The ICT training is highly encouraged by the RRRC, it is also endorsed in the Skills Development Framework. This will enable the Sector partners on setting up ICT labs in camps to facilitate modern skill development and practical learning, some of our partners have already requested for setting up ICT labs in the Multi- Purpose Service Centers that is being constructed with World Bank funding.❖ RRRC emphasized It is also an opportunity for LSDS to collaborate with the Education Sector, by first targeting the Teachers with ToT on ICT and later utilizing this trained force in training our 18+ beneficiaries. Within the current policies. LSDS can immediately adapt 120 hours non-formal technical training program by adapting ICT training modules already available with partners (UNESCO and Plan International suggested they already available resources).

<p>2. Activation of Host Community Technical Working Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ HCTWG Members- BRAC, IOM, ILO, WFP, Plan International, Save the Children, Mukti and Protyashi ❖ Observers- UNHCR, CCCI ❖ 1 regular member and 1 alternative member, monthly meetings <p>Key Roles and Responsibilities of the members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Technical support to the HC/LC partners ❖ Harmonization of approaches ❖ Guidance on networking ❖ 5W data verifications ❖ Support in assessments and study ToR development
<p>3. Discussion on Situation updates</p>	<p>Due to the unrest in the country the activities were interrupted at the camps, the information received from 8-11 August from LSDS partners are provided below-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All skill development centres were operational from 12 August, and the Accelerated Adult Learning (AAL) sessions have been ongoing during the reporting period. ❖ All production centres were operational from 11 August. Jute bag production centres have also resumed regular operation. ❖ Partners resumed activities at the Multi-Purpose Women Centres and the women’s market in Camp 5, as well as training sessions and reusable sanitary napkin production. ❖ The construction of two English Language centres in Camps 15 and 1E has resumed. ❖ The selection process for new beneficiaries was delayed in some cases due to unavailability of government counterparts. ❖ Volunteers are also conducting community visits to mitigate any challenges enrolled participants may be facing. ❖ Youth clubs and self-help groups have continued their meetings independently, with staff providing technical support remotely. This helps maintain a sense of continuity and engagement among participants. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The insufficient deployment of APBN has negatively impacted staff, creating a sense of insecurity. ❖ Payment of volunteers are getting delayed due to bank restrictions. ❖ Host community volunteers are facing issues in Army checkpoints to access camps as they do not have ID cards. ❖ Adverse weather disrupting construction work of the English Language center of BRAC ❖ Safety concerns and deterioration of law-and-order situation due to current unrest, for staff and beneficiaries in the Host Community affected areas are limiting the ability to conduct in-person activities, which are essential for the effective implementation of the programs. ❖ If the security concerns persist, there may be further delays in the implementation of planned activities, which could have a cascading effect on the overall project timeline. ❖ The prolonged disruptions pose a risk of decreased engagement and motivation among the youth participants. This could negatively impact their overall income and development, undermining the objectives of the projects.

- ❖ Women and girls are at risk in camp especially camp 4 due to the security issues.

Discussion on for better coordination with Development Partners in the changed scenario

- ❖ The previously submitted advocacy note that was submitted to the previous government will be slightly revised , and adapted to reflect current priorities before being resubmitted to the new interim government, with a particular emphasis on the prioritized advocacy points.
- ❖ To enhance collaboration with development partners, efforts will be made to engage the private sector in integrating livelihood initiatives into the broader supply chain. While the private sector's involvement in the camps has largely been limited to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, there is an opportunity to explore more profit-oriented ventures. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Chambers of Commerce could serve as strategic entry points for greater private sector engagement, positioning these initiatives as sound business opportunities—such as accessing untapped markets—rather than merely CSR efforts.
- ❖ A dialogue will be initiated with the private sector to explore potential opportunities, address existing gaps, and overcome challenges.
- ❖ There is a need for increased advocacy for multi-year programming and the creation of sustainable income generation opportunities. Additionally, while the Sector currently operates a 5W Information Management System, this system should be strengthened to include more detailed information on market systems, business activities, and data analytics that will support the planning and design of partner projects.
- ❖ The TRIPLE Nexus approach should be leveraged, particularly in the context of reduced funding, by framing livelihood initiatives as peacebuilding efforts in response to the deteriorating security situation. This focus aligns with the growing interest among donors in supporting peacebuilding initiatives in Cox's Bazar.
- ❖ The skilled workforce, both within the host community and the camps, who have completed vocational training, should be linked to the infrastructure projects planned by development partners to maximize the impact of these initiatives.

4. Market mapping presentation by UNHCR

- ❖ 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:
 - ✓ Size and Types of Markets
 - ✓ People Engaged in Market Activities
 - ✓ Governance Structures
 - ✓ Infrastructure
 - ✓ Supply Chain Dynamics

Key Actions and Next Steps

- ❖ **Submission and Approval:** As due to the unrest in the country the mapping got delayed, as soon the data collection is over, the results of the market mapping will first be submitted to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office for approval.
- ❖ **Sharing Findings** Following the RRRC's endorsement, the findings will be shared with LSDS partners to inform strategic planning and interventions.

5. Facility mapping presentation by LSDS IM

LSDS will run a facility mapping of LSDS partners in Host/Local and Camps and create a dashboard for the ease of the Sector partners. The kobo form was presented to partners. The exercise will take place in September. Draft form could be seen in this link-

[Facility Mapping: https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/icxcTrO2-](https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/icxcTrO2-)

6. LSDS Lessons Learned Exercise

LSDS Lessons Learned Exercise was published, the link is proved here- [Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector Lessons Learned \(rohingyaresponse.org\)](https://rohingyaresponse.org/Livelihoods-and-Skills-Development-Sector-Lessons-Learned)