

Meeting Title: Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector Coordination Meeting

Meeting Date: 23 September 2024

Participants: IOM, UN Women, GUK, IRC, Cordaid, Mukti Cox's Bazar, UNFPA, ESDO, DRC, AAB, ISCG-Dev Unit, ACF, United Purpose, FIVDB, Educo, HAP, Prottiyashi, SCI, NGO Forum, Oxfam, Shushilan, CWW, UNHCR

Agenda:

1. JRP timeline
2. Discussions with LSDS_ SAG 2025 and JRP Sector Activity Matrix
3. 2025 JRP Sector Target and Budget
4. Impact Assessment
5. ISNA initial findings
6. AoB

Agenda	Key Discussion
<p>1. JRP timeline, SAG meeting discussions and Sector Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The LSDS Coordinator presented the timeline for the Joint Response Plan (JRP), as outlined in the attached presentation, to the LSDS. ➤ It was shared that in line with ISCG, Theory of Change for next two years (2025-26) planning the Sector is focusing on Evidence-based policy dialogue with public and private sector to expand scope for tiered refugee employment, value chains analysis, job creation. And planning to Optimize use of skills development framework by the sectors and agencies working in the camps. Advocacy on "low hanging fruit" such as allowing refugee shops in the camp, formalizing marketplaces inside the camp, expansion of skills sets etc. <p>There are no significant changes in the Sector Objectives, the agreed Sector objectives by the SAG members are-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support skills and capacity building of Rohingya refugees/FDMNs that can support their sustainable reintegration in Myanmar. b) Support Rohingya Refugees in utilization of gained transferable and vocational skills to generate different income opportunity in humanitarian and development sectors. c) Support Host communities in diversified vocational skills development and sustainable livelihood options to promote Social Cohesion.
<p>2. 2025 JRP Sector Activity Matrix</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Sector has introduced a new Activity Group, titled "Advocacy with the Private Sector," under the first objective. The proposed activities within this group include a Public-Private Sector Dialogue and joint field visits with private sector representatives. This initiative aims to foster greater engagement with the private sector in creating income-generating opportunities for both Refugee and Host Communities. ➤ Under the second objective, the activity narrative has been revised based on input from SAG members. The new proposal is for "Equipment/in-kind support for formal and non-formal skill training graduates" to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and provide opportunities for self-employment and volunteer engagement". The ongoing market mapping in the camps, led by UNHCR, along with insights from the ISNA, will serve as valuable evidence to support this activity.

- For the third objective, which is dedicated exclusively to the Host Community, a new Activity Group focused on Technical Training aligned with the national curriculum has been introduced. The **Host Community Technical Working Group (HCTWG)** will provide guidance to Host Community partners in implementing this initiative. In parallel, the non-formal technical training activity group will continue, as many partners are still actively engaged in these activities.
- Under the non-formal technical training there are areas of potentialities in some of the trades mentioned in the Skills Development Framework. For example-
 - I. The basic digital/ICT training is highly encouraged by the RRRC, it is also endorsed in the Skills Development Framework, but partners should map out the security risks and plan for implementation of this activity.
 - II. WASH Sector spends USD 10 million annually on laundry and bathing soaps. During previous discussions concerns were raised regarding the refugees' dissatisfaction with the current soap products and the environmental impact. Given that soap-making is already approved within the Skills Development Framework, the Sector propose piloting a soap-making initiative under the non-formal technical training in collaboration with INGO and NGO partners. This will involve obtaining BSTI approval, ensuring quality control, securing environmental certification, and collecting refugee feedback.
 - III. Also, Plastic recycling/ waste recycling could be another potential area of engagement. WASH sector has a plan to do a study on valuable waste recycling in 2025, that will compliment this activity planning as well.

**3. LSDS JRP 2025
budget and target**

- The budget for JRP 2025, will remain same as 35.5 million and there is possibility to increase up to 40 million based on the quality of proposals received and approved by the LSDS JRP Peer Review Team.
- The targeted beneficiaries for Refugee Communities will be increased as the Sector is planning to expand the Accelerated Adult Learning packages significantly, tentatively targeting 40,000 Refugee beneficiaries.
- As the scope for engaging volunteers are reducing within the camps, the Vocational Training for Skills level, targeted beneficiaries will be reduced compared to JRP 2024.
- The Sector lead agency UNHCR is planning to expand vocational skills curricula to levels 2, 3 and 4 and enhance the capacities of skills development centres to enable them to provide high quality training.
- Sector Coordinator gave an estimated minimum cost per beneficiary, idea for each activity group.

MAXIMUM UNIT COST PER ACTIVITY GROUP

- The purpose of the maximum unit cost is to help the Sector and the Peer Review Teams in assessing whether the budget proposed by partners is reasonable.

- Since activity groups are grouping different specific activities, the maximum unit cost of the activity group will be the one for the most expensive activity of all activities under the activity group.
- If the same or similar activities are conducted for refugees and host community, the maximum unit cost will likely be the one for refugees.
- For homogeneity, it is preferable to take beneficiaries as the unit of measurement, meaning the unit cost would be the cost-per-beneficiary (this is where target number of beneficiaries should be used).
- The (unit) cost for each activity group should include all operational and non-operational costs:
 - Direct costs: procurement costs, staffing, etc.
 - Support costs: logistics, rent and running costs of a facility, staff partially engaged in overseeing a project, etc.
 - Indirect costs or overheads: organisational management, admin, office costs, laptops, etc.

- Sector Coordinator asked the partners to reach LSDS for any support on budget calculation.
- Sector will soon share the Activity Matrix Guidance for 2025 with partners.

4. Impact Assessment

- The LSDS Coordinator informed the Sector Partners that, in alignment with the Sector Work Plan, the Sector is planning to conduct an Impact Assessment in November-December 2024.

- **Objectives of the Impact Assessment:**

The key objectives of this assessment are:

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of Vocational Training, non-formal technical training, and volunteer engagement initiatives in enhancing the livelihoods, skills, and overall well-being of refugee beneficiaries including persons with beneficiaries.
 2. To compare the outcomes of participants in these programs with a control group of non-participants, identifying key differences in economic opportunities, skill acquisition, and social integration.
 3. To quantify the value added by these interventions, providing evidence-based insights for refining program strategies, and improving the effectiveness of future interventions.
 4. To inform future program planning and resource allocation by identifying successful approaches and areas for improvement in the implementation of Vocational Training and related initiatives.
- The assessment will specifically focus on evaluating Vocational Training initiatives from January 2023 onwards, as well as the Non-Formal Technical Training initiatives harmonized in 2024.
 - A draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Impact Assessment has been shared with SAG members for their review and feedback, attached to this meeting's minutes.
 - The Impact Assessment will be conducted by an external consultancy firm, and the SAG has recommended selecting the firm through a competitive bidding process to ensure transparency.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Additionally, LSDS has shared that once the consultancy firm is finalized, they will receive clear instructions and guidance from relevant Information Management colleagues before commencing data collection and activity implementation.➤ It was highlighted that the assessment should not only look into economic aspects rather overall socio-economic aspects as well.
5. ISNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The initial findings from the Inter-Sectoral Needs Assessment (ISNA) have been shared with the Sector, though a detailed analysis is still pending. A preliminary overview of these findings has been presented to the SAG. The Sector's Information Management focal point is expected to provide a comprehensive analysis by mid-October. The ISNA findings are available in the attached presentation for your reference.
6. AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Sector has rolled out the facility mapping for both Host and Refugee communities, partners are supposed to contribute by 29 September on the existing and planned facilities.➤ Sector shared the 5W analysis of partner presence in the Camp and emphasis that for JRP 2025, the proposal should focus and will get priority for partners where they have existing facilities, ongoing activities and if any camp having less activities the gap should be bridged.➤ Sector has already completed PSEA, and 1st batch of training for Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action for Partner staffs. In October- November training on Washington Group of Questionnaire, Proposal and Report Writing, Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action, Emergency Preparedness for LSDS partners and Cash Voucher Assistance Training for Host Community partners are planned.