

Meeting Title: Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector Coordination Meeting

Meeting Date: 30 June 2025

Participants: UNHCR, Prottyashi, AGD-ISCG, Educo, NRC, DRC, ESDO, BRAC, IOM, JNUS, Mukti, SKUS, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women, ILO, ECHO, Care, IRC, SCI, Oxfam, UNDP, Shushilan, GUK, RDRS, NGO Forum, JPTTC, FIVDB, AMAN

Agenda:

1. LSDS update from Rationalization and Non Paper Operational Plan
2. Presentation from JNUS on their Host Community operation
3. LSDS IM products
4. AoB

Agenda	Key Discussion
1) LSDS update from Rationalization and Non Paper operational Plan	<p>➤ The sector coordinator provided the update from the rationalization workshop of ISCG and provided below update.</p> <p>Discussion on rationalization:</p> <p>➤ The Sector-Specific Rationalization and Cost Efficiency Matrix discussions for the Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector (LSDS), held in June 2025, aimed to identify actionable strategies to enhance program efficiency, localization, and sustainability within the refugee response framework. A central recommendation was to promote joint programming among implementing partners, which would reduce duplication, streamline resource utilization, and strengthen collaborative service delivery models—ultimately contributing to a more cost-effective approach. The discussion also highlighted the importance of engaging the local private sector more proactively. This would not only attract small-scale investments into the refugee economy but also reduce the prolonged dependency on humanitarian aid by building self-reliant ecosystems. In line with promoting community ownership, a pilot initiative involving refugee-led projects was proposed, intending to build capacity within refugee communities and create models that can be scaled. Additionally, participants recommended a review and revision of the cost packages for non-formal technical and vocational training, particularly by adopting lessons and pricing efficiencies from locally embedded training providers. Cross-sectoral coordination was emphasized as a critical enabler for aligning operational priorities and ensuring synergy with other thematic areas such as protection, environment, and education. Lastly, the matrix called for expanding inter-sectoral collaboration, particularly around camp-based production activities, as a means to enhance refugee engagement in meaningful work and to unlock new avenues for economic inclusion. (the presentation is attached along with the meeting minutes with more details).</p> <p>Non-Paper Operational Plan:</p> <p>➤ The Livelihoods and Skills Development Sector (LSDS) has taken a proactive role in advancing the operationalization of the non-paper, which outlines expandable activities and enabling conditions for promoting refugee self-reliance and host community resilience. Building on the sector’s earlier</p>

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	<p>identification of low-hanging fruits and practical entry points, LSDS has worked closely with strategic donors to align technical priorities and develop context-specific pilot proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This collaborative process involves continuous technical dialogue, proposal refinement, and coordination with key donor agencies, including the EU, DFAT, FCDO, and GAC. The LSDS Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), comprising UN agencies, INGOs, and local partners, is playing an instrumental role in guiding the design of these pilot initiatives to ensure they are operationally feasible, market-driven, and scalable within the policy space available. ➤ Through this coordinated and consultative approach, LSDS aims to lay the foundation for sustainable livelihoods programming that can inform future policy shifts and demonstrate the viability of enhanced economic inclusion for refugees and vulnerable hosts.
2) Presentation from JNUS on their Host Community operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The presentation by LSDS partner JNUS on their Livelihood Intervention (30 June 2025) highlights the work of Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS), a women-led NGO founded in 2009, focused on promoting gender equality and economic empowerment for women in both refugee and host communities in Cox's Bazar. Using a gender-transformative, participatory approach, JNUS integrates local skills, soft and hard skill training, and experiential learning to build community resilience. <p>The organization operates four skills training centers serving vulnerable groups such as dropout youth, GBV survivors, persons with disabilities, and refugee women. Supported by BRAC under the SDP–ISEC–PRISE initiative, JNUS strengthens employability and income generation through job placement support and tailored skills development.</p> <p>A key innovation is 'PANCHALI', a climate-resilient social enterprise that markets handmade products by women, enhancing sustainable livelihoods and market linkages. JNUS presents a strong, locally adapted model for inclusive, eco-friendly, and skills-based economic empowerment (the presentation is attached with the meeting minutes)</p>
3) LSDS IM products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sector Published the 2024 Lesson Learned Exercise, which highlighted the importance of adaptive programming, strong partner coordination, and practical approaches like market linkages and skills certification to enhance refugee and host community resilience. LSDS-Lessons-Learned-Exercise-2024-Final.pdf ➤ LSDS will publish the mid-year 2025, analysis of partner activities by the end of July, partners are requested to provide 5W data within the deadline. ➤ Sector will also collect the income tracking matrix data by July, a mail will be generated to upload the data in Activity Info y July as well.
4) AoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interested UN agencies are requested to share their interest, if they are willing to establish the KIOSK in Dhaka to display Refugee and HC products at the UN building at Dhaka. ➤ Dhaka Flow exhibition will take place from 6-8 November in Dhaka, LSDS will join similarly like last year as a group. Interested partners who are

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	<p>willing to sell and display Refugee and HC products are requested to contact LSDS Coordinator in case interested.</p> <p>➤ Partners who are implementing AAL activities, agreed that due to the changed situation and based on the context the stipend to join the AAL session will be reduced to 100 BDT from 150 BDT. Sector will share the updated guideline soon. Partners can complete the ongoing projects and when starting the new AAL interventions, can already use the updated guideline.</p>
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