

Livelihood and Skill Development Sector Meeting Minutes

Strategy Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting

Date: 04.08.2026 (02.00PM-03.30PM)

Location: RCP Conference Room

Participants: UNHCR, IOM, WFP, AAB, MUKTI, BRAC, PLAN, FSS, Prottiyashi

Agenda:

- Introduction
- LSDS Update- ISNA; Localization Road Map; Transformation Matrix; JRP 2027; OCHA second tranche
- LSDS Co-coordination
- AOB- partner staff training; camp focal points; coordination and collaboration

Agenda	Key discussion
LSDS Update	Localization Road map: LSDS has engaged with more than 50 partner organizations, including 9 UN agencies, 15 international NGOs and 26 national/local NGOs while at JRP-2026 18 JRP appealing partners and 22 implementing partners. Following to that five national NGOs - AMAN, BRAC, Caritas Bangladesh, Mukti Cox's Bazar and Prottiyashi - are direct JRP appealing partners. Also, these five national NGOs requested approximately USD 3 million as direct funding (donor to local NGO) in the 2026 JRP, representing 10% of the total LSDS funding requirement. For more NGO ownership, LSDS aims to increase the share of funding managed by national NGOs by JRP 2027 15%, and JRP 2028 20% which will be further increase to 35%- 40% by JRP 2028 accordingly. To establish NGO footprint in the sector the proposed first step is appointment of a capable local NGO Co-coordinator to NGO participation in coordination, improve information flow, and build a pathway toward future co-leadership. UNHCR would retain overall leadership, accountability and the protection mandate, while selected responsibilities would be delegated under the guidance of the LSDS Coordinator. Selection process: The selection pathway comprises SAG consultation, assessment of partner capacity and willingness, appointment by the Sector Lead Agency, and agreement on scope, working arrangements and reporting. The roadmap proposes reviews at six months, one year and two years, using evidence on NGO participation, donor/government engagement, camp-level coordination, commitment, capacity, dedicated time and tangible outcomes. LSDS Co-coordination: LSDS recommended BRAC based on their performance and in-depth involvement with sector activities as they have been active and dependable LSDS partners since the Sector's establishment. Through the BRAC Pool Fund Project from 2024 to 2026, BRAC strengthened the institutional and technical capacities of participating national NGOs like AMAN and Shushilan. Also, BRAC's coordination, reporting, responsiveness, and technical engagement with LSDS have been consistently strong. As a part of sector advocacy BRAC has actively supported financial inclusion, private-sector engagement, and the formalization of camp markets. In addition to that, BRAC has strong

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	communication and working relationships with other stakeholders, including Governments, which is an essential capacity for effective sector co-ordination. Overall, BRAC possesses the leadership, technical depth, operational reach, institutional credibility, coordination capacity, and stakeholder access required for the National Co-Coordinator role. Decision: BRAC has been selected as LSIDS NGO Co-coordinator by majority of all the SAG members' vote. SAG Member election: LSIDS have plans to do new SAG members election soon after the JRP-2027. JRP 2026 funding analysis -As of 30 June 2026, the combined funding gap across two priority areas was presented as USD 24.0 million. USD 21.2 million (88%) of the gap relates to resilience and solutions activities, including Accelerated Adult Learning, vocational training, non-formal technical training and entrepreneurship. Up to 26,500 listed service opportunities were identified as exposed: AAL 14,000; vocational training 4,500; non-formal technical training 4,000; and income-generation support 4,000. Transformation Matrix: LSIDS x WASH - IOM-PHALS local soap production at Camp 20 is moving from external sourcing toward quality-assured local supply. Partners were asked to aggregate demand and support procurement, financing, community feedback and BSTI approval. Oxfam confirmed that they are coordinating with WASH Sector on community feedback, LSIDS requested Oxfam to keep LSIDS in loop and share update monthly. LSIDS aims to introduce multipurpose soap by end of this year which can save cost of WASH sector around 3.5 million. Volunteer engagement guideline: The proposed harmonized framework will distinguish paid work, incentive-supported service and unpaid volunteerism; standardize incentives and safeguards; link service roles to upskilling; and increase meaningful Rohingya participation. The consultancy firm or consultant will do the guideline review (3 months). The ToR was reported finalized and FCDO-reviewed, with UNHCR proceeding toward publication of the call for proposals. The Final guideline will be review and endorse by RCP and UNHCR, after that it will be share with Government-RRRC. ISNA Update- The ISNA was included as a strategic update and as evidence input to JRP 2027 planning. On 03rd August LSIDS conducted enumerators training session regarding questioners. JRP 2027 planning and timeline- • Needs-Based Plan: JRP 2026 context- JRP 2026 included a “hyper-prioritized” appeal for \$ 710M-26% lower than JRP 2025 (\$25M less) despite a growing population and increasing needs. Total needs are assessed at \$900M+. RCP recommended 03 Options like- Option A-Comprehensive needs-based plan and appeal \$1B, based on credible quantification of the needs and associated costs. Option B- Disciplined prioritized appeal (\$700M) maintains a similar level of
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	discipline while using transformative initiatives to maintain essential services. Option C-Realistic plan covering critical needs (\$800M)-Including essential activities excluded • Simple, more sustainable, Prioritization: Option A- Combined P1+P2, P3 removed and resilience activity retained separately. Option B- Combined P1+P2, P3 retained, R&S Retained +tagged separate activities that can demonstrate contribution to reduce humanitarian Aid. • Scale up Transformation: Sectors will incorporate transformative initiatives in JRP2027. • Structural changes & localizations: Retained for 2027, with ongoing integration within and between sectors, number of non-UN appealing partners expected to increase, consortia encouraged especially for smaller organizations, sector co leadership arrangements. • Host Community Support- Re-launch of Cox's Bazar development Forum (April 2026) creates opportunity to better quantify development investment outside the JRP. Advocacy is needed with NGO Affairs Bureau to revise FD7 rule (25-30% NGO projects in HC) • JRP Timeframe options: 1 year-2027, 02 years-2027/28, 03 years- 2027-/29. OCHA second tranche: OCHA Provided an update on on-going discussion regarding a possible second US allocation to the Bangladesh Humanitarian Fund. The total allocation and final parameters remain under discussion. Project durations are up to 12 months. Education & Livelihoods will not be funded as standalone sectors, although clearly life saving activities may be considered under eligible sectors like Soap production WASH sector, NFI materials Shelter CCM.
Partner coordination and collaboration	The draft LSDS Partner Coordination and Collaboration Guideline clarified that routine communication is not, by itself, meaningful coordination. Effective coordination requires early consultation, timely sharing of project documents and changes, location and event planning, technical alignment, reliable reporting. The draft guideline documents will be shared by LSDS with SAG members for their review and finalization.
AOB	• Training- LSDS is planning to hold the training on Inclusive Humanitarian Action in collaboration with Humanitarian Inclusion and Age Gender and Disability WG of RCP on 16-17th August. Livelihoods Centered DRR training by IFRC, EPR on 26th- 27th August. • BRAC will support LSDS to provide one M&E officer who will be responsible for overseeing the partners' activities in the field. • BRAC have conducted a skills need assessment about BRAC's livelihoods and skill development training and LSDS sector requested to share the report once it is finalized. BRAC also mentioned that all the partners and sectors need to emphasize job placement, market linkage and private sector engagement. • Prottyashi requested to arrange a camp focal orientation as new camp focal has appointed. LSDS have plans to do a monthly camp focal coordination meeting next week.

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