

Jobs and Livelihoods Co-Sponsorship Group

28 August 2019

Participants: 36 participants (including half on the phone): Austria, Croatia, Egypt, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Switzerland, the EU, Sweden – in the form of SIDA, FAO, ILO, ITC, Tent Foundation, World Bank, BRAC, Good Neighbors, Settlement Services, USCRI, Asylum Access, LWF, Refugees International, CDG, ODI, IKEA Foundation, IRC, and WRC, along with several UNHCR country offices.

Draft workplan: shared on screen showing a very preliminary work plan, short on details.

Three more preparatory events planned: A full day meeting in late Sept – date to be determined – and additional meetings in Oct and Nov – again, with dates to be determined.

High level session at the GRF: To be held on 18 December from 11:00-13:00: 30 minutes of panel presentations followed by 90 minutes of statements and comments from the floor. ***They will be asking for ideas for panelists – governments mostly, it sounds like, and maybe a refugee.***

Pledges: Confirmation of pledges will start in Sept and continue until Dec.

- Hope to have the pledges focus on three themes: private investment, economic development, and legal frameworks, with sub-themes around women's economic empowerment, financial inclusion, skills development, and entrepreneurship.
- AGD and disability inclusion will be cross-cutting.
- While they are currently focusing on 11 countries (Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Chad, Niger, Colombia and Peru), they will likely add three more, but this does not close the door to submitting global pledges.

Breakout group 1 – Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan:

- Started a discussion on the challenges vis-à-vis livelihoods in those hosting countries, but there was a lot of push back (especially from the Netherlands) in talking about those countries when they were not in the room.
- UNHCR said they were invited, but might not have understood the relevance, as they likely wouldn't be making their own pledges on this topic. UNHCR will try to engage them going forward.
- Mostly just a reiteration of the livelihood challenges already outlined in the background papers UNHCR had shared on each of the countries.

Egypt expressed an interest in some sort of Egypt Compact à la the Jordan Compact, which UNHCR seemed to like.

Closing summary:

- Lack of presence of hosting countries noted.
- Noted the suggestion that these discussions be handed over to the country level instead of being completely led by HQ (said timing wasn't going to allow for this, but would try to find other ways of engaging country operations).
- Request by governments to accelerate the work of collecting best practices so that the various countries targeted could learn from what is happening elsewhere.
- Promised to share WRC's draft criteria [worked on by UNHCR after] for good practices.
- UNHCR will identify potential overlaps with the other themes (requested by IRC as they said some similar things were being discussed by the solutions group and the protection group).
- Noted the need to make responses more comprehensive – i.e., link with energy, protection, etc.

- UNHCR will continue to work on, and build out, the country sheets and ensure inclusion of host communities.
- Highlighted that additional countries will be added beyond the current 11.