

Language for Resilience Technical Launch Brief

17th March 2021

Background

Uganda is facing one of the largest refugee influxes in recent years with almost 1.3 million refugees and asylum seekers registered by June 2019 and many more expected. The response from the Government of Uganda has been exemplary in terms of the freedoms and support it grants refugees; nevertheless, given the scale of the influx, services are stretched to breaking point across all sectors.

In the education sector a range of government, development partners and non-governmental organisations came together to establish a Task Team, chaired by the Ministry of Education & Sports, UNHCR and UNICEF, and developed a Uganda Refugee Response Strategy for education. Following an initial research project published in 2018, the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG) Language Task Team recommended six actions two of which now form the outputs that shall be launched

- 1) A report on language mapping survey in three refugee affected districts to better understand the language issues and barriers affecting teachers, students and communities in accessing education the languages that teachers know and use in schools which have large numbers of refugee children
- 2) Two handbooks which are pedagogical guides on the language of instruction and strategies for multilingual approaches in the classroom.

Objectives

The objectives of the research were to gain a more nuanced understanding of the range and use of languages *and the challenges to learning, and teaching posed by multilingual classrooms* in refugee affected districts. It looked at LOI practices – how the teachers coped with multilingual groups of students, how they adapted the educational materials; highlighting good practice and areas of weakness which now inform the content of the practical guidebook for teachers of groups of multilingual learners. In addition, the research looked at the use and attitudes towards languages of teaching and learning in the wider community, amongst parents (host and refugee), head teachers, community leaders and district education officials.

Event Description

The event will be held at the Golden Tulip Hotel on 17 March 2021. The event will provide a platform for partners to give feedback on the language scoping report and practicality of the handbooks. 50 people will attend the event physically while teachers from Ivementi and Kyangwali will join the discussions online.

Expected Participants

Member organisations of the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG) Language Task Team, Civil society working in refugee education, policy makers from Ministry of Education and Sports, Office of the Prime Minister and Teachers from refugee hosting schools.