



THE SKILLED WOMEN INITIATIVE

REPORT ON THE VULNERABILITY DIALOGUE

A 1- DAY POLICY EVENT HOSTED BY THE SKILLED WOMEN INITIATIVE(TSWINI)
DATE: 12TH APRIL,2021
VENUE: ABUJA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ACCI) BEST CENTRE.
THEME: USING TECH AND INNOVATION TO REDUCE THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES AND IDPS

PREAMBLE

This policy dialogue event which was centered on identification of problems amongst vulnerable groups, finding gaps and possible solutions amongst this target group, creating partnerships with organisations who work within this target groups to proffer solutions and adopting innovations and systematic approaches to resolve issues in the target group.

In attendance at the physical event were policymakers, NGOs, and organisations who play an active role in the lives of vulnerable persons especially refugees and Internally displaced persons. Representatives from; Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Nigerian-German Center for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (GIZ), Ecologistics Integrated Services, WEWE network Afrique, Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), FlexiSAF Foundation, TechFugees, Revamp Rave Network and a host of others graced the dialogue.

In the welcome address made by Chisom Nwankwo, the convener of the Skilled Women Initiative, she highlighted the work that has been done by the NGO and the importance of the dialogue. She stated that;

“The Vulnerability Dialogue is one of the flagship programs of the Skilled Women Initiative which targets policy awareness, advocacy and implementation for vulnerable persons. This very



first edition is centered on how technology and innovation can be used to better the lives of over 2.5million internally displaced persons and over 75,000 refugees in Nigeria. We have decided on a broad array of thematic area in this first edition, just to shed light on the major issues that affect this target group. These major issues focus on Shelter, Health, Education, Livelihoods, return, and Reintegration mechanisms.

We are hopeful that at the end of this dialogue we would have been able

- 1. Improve and develop solutions to access to shelter, health, education, livelihood, for our target group*
- 2. Improved knowledge on the Internal Displacement Policy and how it affects our work.*
- 3. Develop a possible project that can accommodate all the thematic areas mentioned*
- 4. Create opportunities for the easier and quicker return and reintegration of IDPs and Refugees in Nigeria.*

OBSERVATIONS

- i.** The Director general ACCI in her goodwill message highlighted some of the issues facing the target group;
“Nigeria needs to make adequate investment in internet infrastructure to ensure uninsured availability of data as this is the fuel for the digital economy on which we all now depend.... this is timely, there are no interventions or programs to cater for displaced persons today that can be established, sustained and impactful without the use of technology.... they can be productive and they can leverage on ICT opportunities to make themselves economically”.
- ii.** Yukta Kumar the representative from UNHCR in her goodwill message highlighted the need for increased cooperation and collaboration to ensure better outcomes for persons of concern.
‘Technology and innovation can support positive outcomes in the lives and livelihoods of refugees, internally displaced persons and persons of concern. We all have an obligation to ensure that refugees, internally displaced persons and persons of concern are adequately protected by ensuring that both humanitarian and development assistance address the challenges of displacement in a predictable and sustainable manner. New technologies and innovations play an essential part in helping us address these challenges.’
- iii.** Dr Paul Abolo in his keynote address emphasized on the need for;
 - Enterprise management resource system where people can easily access and connect to implementations and interventions of CSO’s and NGOs



- A data generation technology for transparency
- Engaging different strategic partnership for enumeration
- Innovation approaches to access global funds
- Technology to marshal out intervention for vulnerable persons e.g., Solar home systems in camp communities
- Psychological evaluation for vulnerable persons and persons of concern.

PANEL DISCUSSION

1. During the course of the Panel discussions, which was divided into 2 sessions, thematic topics like; livelihoods, data, health, education, vocational/technical skills and access to market, were discussed, and panelist were able to point our challenges, gaps, innovations and technologies applied in their different field and the sustainability of their interventions.
2. Panelist identified the vulnerable groups and communities they have worked with, which includes Children from slum, Extremely destitute children, traumatic children, refugees, IDPs, returnees, Asylum seekers, stateless persons, women with disabilities.
3. Challenges and gaps of working with this group were identified by the panelist
 - Lack of complete data
 - Mobility
 - Duplication of efforts by different implementing bodies and partners
 - Lack of structure, coordination by implementing partners
 - Engaging policy makers
 - Implementing policies through domestication
 - Lack of psychological support
 - Standardization of products
 - Access to market
 - Communication/language barriers
 - Environmental protection
 - Sanitary issues
4. Some of the innovations and technologies applied in the course of their work include,
 - Creation of tech labs by the UNCHR within vulnerable communities
 - Introduction of the talking pen platform that assist in translating languages
 - A software structure (SAF sms) that collects data for beneficiaries
 - Provision of a vocational skill hub that provides hands on skill learning center for persons of concern.
 - Integrating a learning video in different languages.



- The NCFRMI collaborated with NIMC to register persons in IDP camps to facilitate data collection
- The NCFRMI in conjunction with the ministry of humanitarian affairs is working on an IDP policy framework that will be able to address the issue of replication of intervention between NGOs and CSO's.
- Provision of trust funds to implementing and supporting partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The urgent need for Interventions and programs to cater for refugees and Internally displaced persons that can be established, sustained and impactful through technology.
2. Establishment of a universal standard for the collection of data in refugee and IDP camps.
3. Proper monitoring and evaluation process from government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, and other implementing partners.
4. Basic education set up like mobile schools, bottle for books, The FlexiSAF Acclearn program are required in every camp settlement for easy access to both adult and children education.
5. Establishing e-learning center in host communities of internally displaced persons, refugees and persons of concern, provision of basic smart devices to accelerate e-learning education process.
6. The skilled Women Initiative (TSWINI) In-camp vocational and tech hub can be replicated across each state [Benue, Borno, Taraba, Cross River, Edo state and other states with displacement insurgence to improve access to;
 - hands-on-skills education,
 - psychosocial support,
 - business and entrepreneurial trainings/ mentorship,
 - digital access to market platform through partners like TechFugees and the Kwando brand,
 - financial inclusion and out of camp business set up for refugees and IDPs
 - Integration process for successful refugee and IDP beneficiaries.
7. Provision of a mini-industry within the camp communities, to address the issue of standardization of products and an easy access to market platform for persons of concern.
8. Creating waste to wealth and waste to value from environmental waste generated in camp communities (textile waste, nylon waste, plastic waste) etc.



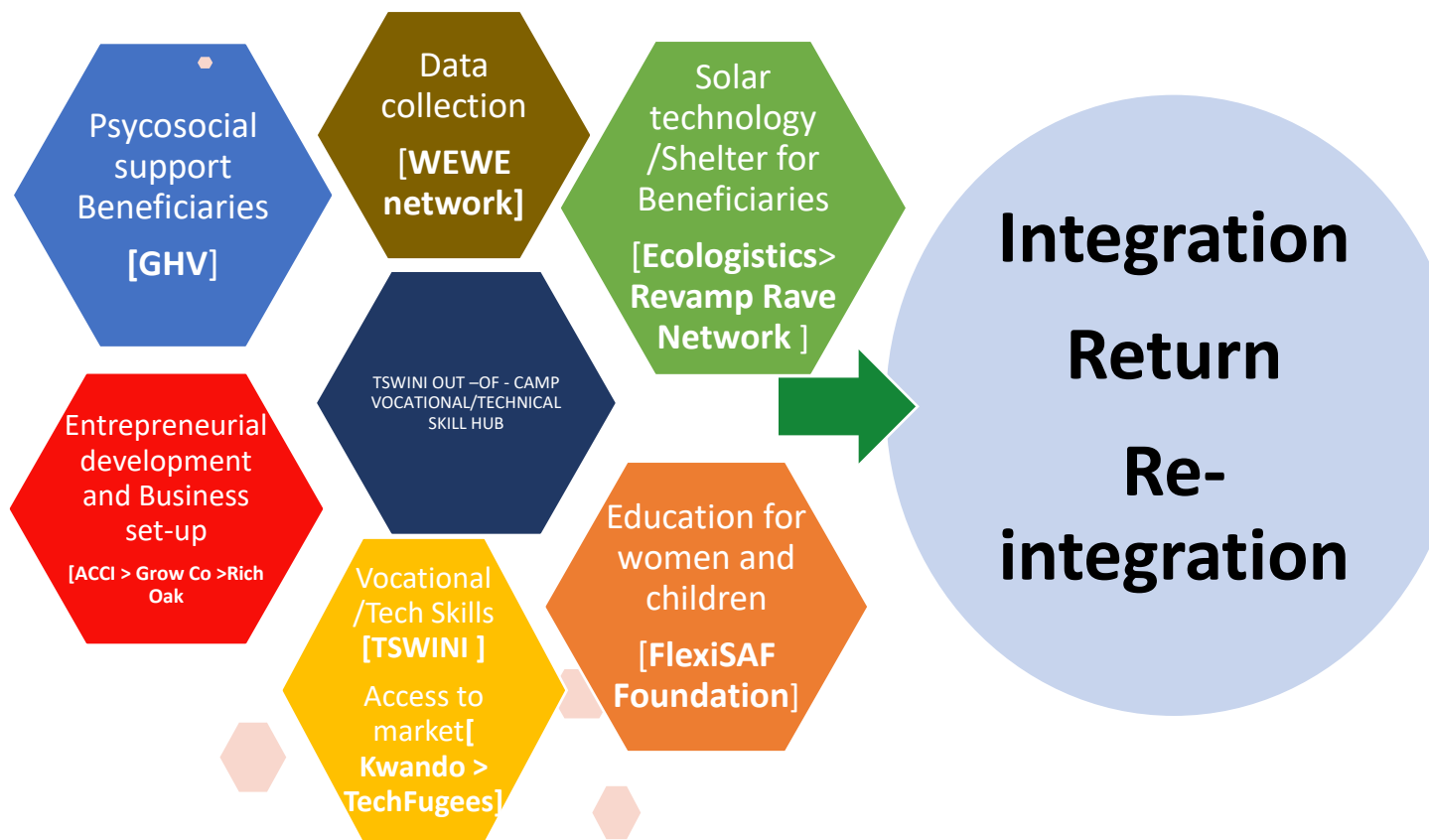
9. Engaging internally displaced persons, refugees and persons of concern in the use technology through the use of mobile phones, tech labs, digital platform (Facebook, WhatsApp)
10. Involvement of the Government to be able to establish sustainability in implementation of projects.

THE RETURN, REINTEGRATION, AND INTEGRATION PLAN OF ACTION

- i.** The TSWINI out- of- camp vocational/tech skills hub powered by the Skilled Women Initiative (TSWINI) and relevant/implementing partners (WEWE network, FlexiSAF, GHV, ACCI, Rich Oak, GrowCo, TechFugees, Ecologistics, Revamp Rave Network, GIZ, NCFRMI) to be set up by January 2022.
- ii.** The out of camp hub will be a well-equipped training center that can be accessed by IDPs and refugees from the different displacement camps in the north east region.
- iii.** The training center will be a standard vocational learning center for all beneficiaries for a minimum period of 18months.
- iv.** The skills Hub will comprise of:
 - A Data collection Services- Wewe Network
 - A Basic learning center for adult and Children - FlexiSAF
 - A mini health center to provide basic healthcare and psychosocial support for beneficiaries- Good Health for The Vulnerable (GHV)
 - Vocational and technical skills workshop for Beneficiaries- TSWINI
 - Solar technology for equipment/ Shelter- Ecologistics, Revamp Rave Network
 - Transportation services- TSWINI
 - Access to market section- Kwando brand, TechFugees
 - Business trainings and Support- Abuja Chamber of Commerce, GrowCo Management solutions, Rich Oak
 - Possible Government support, Co-financing- NCFRMI, GIZ, UNHCR
- v.** At the end of the18-months' timeline each beneficiary is ready and expected to leave the camp and integrate into the community
- vi.** We look forward to deepening the partnerships created at this dialogue through impactful collaborations and success stories that would be shared at the Vulnerability Dialogue 2.0 in April 2022.
- vii.** The TSWINI out- of- camp vocational/tech skills hub powered by the Skilled Women Initiative (TSWINI) and relevant/implementing partners (WEWE network, FlexiSAF, GHV, ACCI, Rich Oak, GrowCo, Revamp Rave Network, GIZ, NCFRMI) to be set up by January 2022.



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