

RSRI PROGRAMMING PILLAR
Learning Agenda – Working Draft

Purpose of the Learning Agenda:

- To create an evidence base for what works best to help refugees achieve self-reliance
- To provide a knowledge mapping of self-reliance learning and research (and outstanding gaps)

Purpose of the Learning Agenda for the RSRI:

- To highlight the role of the RSRI's members in answering the 'core questions' of refugee self-reliance

Problem(s) that the Learning Agenda is tackling:

- A lack of a common understanding of self-reliance and how it complements and supports each of the three durable solutions
- A dearth of evidence about what works to help refugees achieve self-reliance (both in terms of programming and enabling environments)
- A lack of clarity on the costs and timelines associated with refugees achieving self-reliance
- Insufficient evidence of how refugee self-reliance contributes to host community outcomes.
- A lack of clear measurement approaches for capturing the impacts of self-reliance programs and progress at the global level

Intended Outcomes:

- Identification of program models and ingredients that help foster refugee self-reliance to facilitate replication, adaptation and scaling
- Consolidated, easily-accessed mapping of existing knowledge and evidence around refugee self-reliance
- Identification of knowledge/evidence gaps for refugee self-reliance that require further study

Core questions to be answered:

- 1. What is self-reliance?**
 - a. How is 'self-reliance' understood by various stakeholders?
 - b. What are the barriers to the achievement of self-reliance? Why is it not happening more broadly and consistently in humanitarian/refugee settings?
- 2. What works best to facilitate self-reliance?**

- a. What are the different program models that assist refugees to achieve self-reliance, and what works best for different profiles of refugees depending on age, gender, socio-economic profile, duration of displacement, education level, context, etc.? What does the achievement of self-reliance look like for special needs populations - female headed households, persons with disabilities, etc.?
- b. Are there core principles/considerations that should underpin self-reliance programming? If so, what are they? What external factors are important to understand when designing self-reliance programs (cultural, macro-economic, etc.)?
- c. What are the costs of facilitating self-reliance? What are the value propositions and time frames, and how do those compare to other response paradigms? How long (on average) does it take to achieve self-reliance (and is this sustained?)
- d. What work at the community, systems and government levels is necessary to create enabling environments for self-reliance?
- e. How can self-reliance programs benefit both refugee and hosting communities? How can we mitigate tensions while also helping refugees and hosting community members to become self-reliant? How can refugee self-reliance contribute to local economic development and improved opportunities for host communities?

3. How should/could self-reliance be measured?

- a. What indicators or approaches should we use to track progress on self-reliance at the household, local, national and global levels?

Additional areas of potential research/research questions:

- How can self-reliance programming support each of the three durable solutions? What kind of programs help facilitate self-reliance but also help prepare for possible repatriation?
- How can refugee self-reliance be maximized in different settings - urban, peri-urban, rural, settlement, camp? What does self-reliance look like within an Area Based Approach?
- What are the critical differences between opportunities in the formal versus informal economy for achieving self-reliance? What added value does the formal right to work provide? Fair remuneration and safe working conditions?
- What are the incentives and disincentives for hosting communities to allow/assist refugees to achieve self-reliance? What are the incentives and disincentives for refugees to achieve self-reliance?

Considerations:

- Learning should happen from a cross section of locations with different population groups, types of economies and industries, poverty levels, and refugee rights frameworks (including some CRRF and non-CRRF countries)
- Connect and engage with other entities carrying out similar/related research
- Potential for self-reliance learning agenda to fit into GRF pledges
- Self-reliance learning is a long-term commitment to confirm sustainability