



SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2016

SAFE Working Group Updates

Co-Chair Election

- We'll be voting on having the Alliance, FAO, and WFP serving jointly as Co-Chairs for 2016 – this is the only nomination. **If you have any issues with this nomination, email Katherine or Megan by the end of 2/10. If no objections are heard, this will be considered a vote of yes.**
 - WRC: It's important that the SAFE Working Group leadership has both UN and NGO agencies. It is great for the profile of the SAFE Working Group and strengthens our case to become an IASC working group. FAO and WFP also have a history with SAFE – both were involved in the early years when the working group was a IASC Task Force.
 - WRC will step down as Co-chair effective March 1. They have done incredible work as Co-Chair. We are thankful, and sad to see them go.
 - WFP: SAFE is a really big focus in the coming year and we are looking to scale up, which includes advocacy and networking. We hope to make these networks available and share the knowledge we build.
 - FAO: This was carefully considered because we are also expanding our efforts on SAFE (products, events, etc.) We share a lot of work with WFP in the field.
 - The Alliance has offered to take on the main share of the day-to-day work, such as coordinating the calls and managing the SAFE website.

IASC Reference Group request

- IASC Event – Feb. 16 at 10 am in NYC (4pm Geneva).
 - Great opportunity to meet new partners and get energy access in front of them. Recommend anyone calling in highlight your organizations during the discussion.
 - Speakers include Katherine from the Alliance, Megan from WRC, and Paul Quigley - Senior Energy Officer at UNHCR.
 - MEI, JEU, ILF all plan to call in.
- IASC Working Group session March 8-9 in NYC
 - Opportunity for us to present our work to IASC and make our case to be a Reference Group.
- Both the SAFE Working Group & OCHA's Environment in Humanitarian Action (EHA) Reference Group are requesting IASC Reference Group status. It may be beneficial to join our applications. Nothing official has been sent on this proposal to the IASC yet.
 - This idea is in its very early stages. Joining with the EHA could change a lot of the ways that the SAFE Working Group functions, and it's not quite clear how things will be treated (e.g. would energy and environment be separate pillars in the workplan)



- The IASC is reluctant to have a lot of reference groups under it. EHA has proposed joining groups based on that guidance. We do have to submit a work plan, but we can create room in it for both groups to meet their objectives.
- Unlike the SAFE Working Group, which was originally an IASC Task Force that became independent, EHA has not worked under the IASC before. It would be a first for the environment sector.
- Discussion: How might this affect partners who are not focused on the environmental angle (e.g. protection, gender, and private sector partners)?
 - WRC has been working in this area from the protection perspective for many years. Access to firewood for cooking fuel is a top risk factor (for women's safety, and it has been a challenge to make sure that message is strong. A lot of the funding and attention for this issue has really come from the environmental sector, but we've struggled with the large players on GBV and protection to support this issue. No one would deny that it's closely linked to the environment.
 - UNHCR is concerned that energy will be overshadowed if it is lumped into environment, but it doesn't have to be. UNHCR comes at both from the protection perspective. As long as we maintain the workplan for both energy and environment and improve chances of IASC reference group approval. Let's further discuss the possibility of getting what we want from the IASC.
 - GOGLA: We don't have enough information yet to know if to know if the merged group would be a deterrent to private sector membership.
- EHA: The Reference Group work plan is (first and foremost) supposed to extend the mission of the IASC. Within that, however, we can have separate topics – e.g. designated energy and environment teams. We just have to find the right modalities to meet everyone's needs.
- Rene will share a copy of the EHA work plan and/or other resources so SAFE WG members can think about how we could collaborate?
- Background documentation for the IASC Working Group meeting needs to be submitted by Feb 22nd.

SAFE WG Website updates

- The following two forms are now open to the public, which helps to decentralize updates and make it easy for other WG members to contribute. The goal is to try and get this info in the public space so people can learn from projects
 - [Project Mapping Form](#) – open to public, please add your relevant projects and send to field staff to add as well
 - [Resource upload form](#) – open to public, please add your relevant resources on an ongoing basis



Events

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), May 23-24, Istanbul

- Applications to host a side event, exhibition fair, or innovation marketplace are [now open](#): submissions due by **February 12**. SAFE WG members are encouraged to submit as many applications as possible to increase the likelihood of getting a spot.
 - The Alliance has applied for an exhibition fair and side event that would be for the SAFE Working Group, as well as an innovation marketplace that deals with cooking, but not the SAFE WG specifically.
 - Chatham House will submit a proposal for a one-hour side event on promoting the MEI approach.
 - WFP will be present, but not clear if it will be talking about energy
 - Pabla: Assessing whether we will apply
 - JEU will submit a proposal for a side event.
- Briefing about WHS from the IASC last week stated that some groups might be asked to combine similarly-themed events

Organizational Updates

2016 Annual Planning

- Katherine has shared the SAFE Working Group 2016 work plan. Please read and comment by email to Katherine, Megan, Daphne and Andreas by **February 20th**. Are there any places where your organization can contribute?

WFP

- Working hard on a strategy that will help to meet the goal of reaching 10 million people through their SAFE program by 2020. This strategy is divided that into pillars:
 - Advocacy and resource allocation for the WFP SAFE program.
 - This includes advocating for the inclusion of energy in humanitarian programs (e.g. at events), and allocating support for country offices. WFP will continue existing SAFE projects.
 - Organizational capacity building, learning, and growth;
 - WFP hopes to have an internal SAFE workshop for WFP country directors share tools and mainstream energy into operations and WFP programmatic areas, reviews, and consultations
 - Developing tools, guidance, and best practices. A WFP SAFE toolkit will be internal and later externally available.



- Impact assessment and video in Sudan focusing on WFP's biggest SAFE program. This will be completed in March.
- Feasibility study for Burundi.
- Training videos to increase knowledge and expertise within WFP. It is unclear whether or not these will eventually be public.
- Government Partnerships and Transition
 - Development of partnerships and a strategy that can help with WFP SAFE programming.
 - Development of an energy and technology expert roster. Hoping to work with SAFE WG on that. The Alliance has already done some work on a SAFE WG roster (see below) and will follow up to collaborate.
 - Pilot programs, feasibility assessments, etc. to scale up operations.

FAO

- FAO is continuing to develop energy tools and guidelines.
 - Includes several guidance notes on FAO's work in protracted crises. One is dedicated to food insecurity, and one to energy. These will be published and made available in 2016.
- Ethiopia and Kenya projects

WRC

- WRC will complete its ongoing research project with WFP on assessing alternative cooking fuel sources (such as Prosopis) in Dadaab.
 - The results will be helpful for key stakeholders in Kenya and the region. Anticipating a report to be available in the next 6 weeks; Megan can discuss the preliminary results bilaterally with anyone who is interested.
 - FAO is starting a Prosopis pilot in Kakuma. WRC is finding ways to have actors collaborate.
- WRC will participate in three upcoming events
 - Two events at [CSW60](#) - one focused on SAFE and one on alternative technologies.
 - Panel at the IASC meeting in February.
- As of April 1, Sandra Krause (Megan's supervisor) will take over Megan's role in the working group. WRC has struggled to get funding for the SAFE program, but does remain committed and is trying to shore up fundraising. Megan will be wrapping up and doing handover through March.

ILF

- ILF will focus mainly on increasing technical capacity in Northern Uganda in 2016, expanding its production center there.
 - We are witnessing a lot of inappropriate technologies on the ground that are being distributed by the agencies.
 - We are trying to work very closely with NGOs and UNHCR there, and have had some discussions with FAO on potential collaboration.



- Training organizations on technologies and evaluation, not just on ILF technologies.
- Activities will focus on technical capacity and project development in rural areas, targeting refugee settlements – mainly Adjumani. Coordinating with LWF. Hopefully we'll also be able to work in southwestern Uganda.
- ILF will continue its work in Haiti, where we have an automated production center.
 - Talks with OCHA and UNDP to address issues on border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The context is a little different there – 30,000 stateless people in a difficult situation.
- ILF will speak on a panel with Alliance and WRC in New York for CSW.
- Look forward to seeing what the UNHCR and MEI strategies will be and how we could potentially collaborate.

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

- The Alliance's 2016 strategy has 6 pillars
 - **Coordinating and Sharing information**
 - The Alliance will continue to lead the SAFE WG and update SAFE WG website, making it more and more interactive so that it's easier to transfer ownership if there's a new Co-Chair in 2017.
 - **Research:**
 - Conducting a fuel study in Rwanda to assess what alternative fuels might be possible in the refugee camps.
 - Study on GBV and how it can be ameliorated by energy interventions.
 - **Advocacy**
 - WHS: events above - Separate high level breakfast with some of our partners interested in this issue
 - The Alliance will hold an event in DC to convene GBV experts and raise awareness of the impacts of cooking and fuel on this issue.
 - Will release the issue of Boiling Point many WG members participated in; there will be communications around that in March.
 - **Building Capacity**
 - We hope to hold the annual SAFE WG training workshop. There is a small amount of funding currently available, but if we do not get more, it will have to be a smaller event than the 2015 workshop.
 - We are working on an expert roster
 - **Technical Assistance**
 - SAFE WG members – please continue to ask us any questions you may have on fuel and stove technology, standards, M&E etc.
 - **Mobilizing Resources**
 - The Alliance will host a trip to Rwanda for key donors with government representatives and others.

Mercy Corps

- Number of programs happening in 2016, but will keep this report brief.



- Working to build internal capacity on energy in humanitarian settings, organization-wide and covering many sectors.
 - Part of this effort is developing an e-learning platform. MC is looking for insights from any WG members who have developed this kind of learning content before.
 - UNHCR and WRC have worked to develop online learning systems.
 - “Cornerstone on demand” is the platform Mercy Corps is using
 - SCORM is the name of the platform.
 - MC will host a call with disaster-ready.org, which will host the platform.
 - MC will mostly focus on pulling in existing resources, developing a spreadsheet of what’s out there, but there will be a curation process. Maybe we could collaborate with other WG members to do this.

UNHCR

- 2016 work plan is not yet finalized.
 - IKEA has provided funding to increase UNHCR capacity at HQ. We have now hired experts to work on the energy portfolio, so we’re still working on rollout, and the modality may be different. We may not use national consultants to develop the SAFE strategy in future, and welcome advice around this.
 - Rollout of National SAFE Strategies has been delayed, as UNHCR is dissatisfied with the initial drafts received from the consultants, and is working to revise them.
- Capacity building– community environmental action planning
- Discussing with JEU to update our frame tools from 2005.
- UNHCR will finalize its M&E toolkit in 2016.
 - Currently working on the fuel, lighting, and power sections.
 - Amare will share the fuels section with the Alliance for comment.
 - UNHCR is looking for a new expert to finish work on the tool.
- Collaborating with WFP, FAO, Alliance and MEI.
- Working with Georgetown University to conduct energy and environmental impact assessments in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti. Georgetown also proposed including Kakuma, but UNHCR hasn’t agreed yet.
- UNHCR will continue working with the Alliance on fuel assessment, baseline surveys, capacity building, and advocacy.

COOPI (updates shared prior to call)

- While waiting for the SET4food project, COOPI has been implementing an Energy Facility project in Sierra Leone with Welthungerhilfe and Ibis about the introduction or renewable energy sources to improve the access to energy for rural poor. Clearly it does not deal with refugees nor IDPs, but the outcomes could be of interest.
- We will try to add SAFE activities in our project proposals dealing with other sectors, like food security, WASH.



Actions Planned

Who	What
ALL	Please read and comment on the SAFE Working Group 2016 work plan and email to Katherine, Megan, Daphne and Andreas by February 20th

List of Participants

Organization	Name
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance)	Corinne Hart, Katherine Arnold, Kathleen Callaghy
Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)	Megan Gerrard
<i>Steering Committee</i>	
Energy and Climate, UN Foundation	Yasemin Erboy Ruff
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Andreas Thulstrup
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Corinne Treherne, Meinrad Burer, Amanda McClelland
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Vahid Jahangiri
Mercy Corps	Shanti Kleiman
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Amare Gebre Egziabher
World Food Programme (WFP)	Daphné Carliez
<i>Associate Members</i>	
Chatham House	Owen Grafham, Glada Lahn
Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)	Marco Caniato
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Amy Wickham
<i>Guests</i>	
Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA)	Pabla van Heck
Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)	Rene Nijenhuis

Could not attend in person but sent talking points

Organization	Name
Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)	Marco Caniato