



SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

*Names, acronyms, and *action items are summarized at the end of the document*

SAFE Working Group Updates

Introduction of new Participants

- Mina Weydahl, NORCAP (Norwegian Refugee Council's expert deployment capacity).

Readout on 2017 SAFE Humanitarian Workshop

- The Alliance has released an article summarizing the workshop, available here: <http://www.safefuelandenergy.org/news-events/article.cfm?a=70>
- Presentations, agenda, and photos all available on Dropbox at <https://www.dropbox.com/home/SAFE%20Humanitarian%20Workshop%202017>
- Very positive experience for all who attended. A lot of learning and beneficial networking. Powerful to see everyone come together as a sector and get a sense of where we stand on the dynamics of the topic.
- Several country-focused discussion groups committed to launching local SAFE Working Groups in their locations – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- UNF's side event on Day 4 focused exclusively on mini-grids
 - Can we apply them in humanitarian settings, especially refugee camps?
 - What are the energy needs for affected populations, and are they high enough to warrant a switch from current solutions (i.e. diesel gensets)
 - Underlying theme of energy use by humanitarian agencies, versus just by

Readout on In-Person SAFE WG Meeting in Nairobi

- Two meetings total, attended by the Alliance, UNF, ILF, FAO, UNHCR, the Gaia Association, Mercy Corps, Practical Action, GIZ, COOPI, Chatham House
- Overall value of the SAFE Working Group is generally agreed to be – in order of priority – coordination, advocacy, and knowledge management. These benefits should continue, and the group demonstrated an overall strong commitment to it.
- Each organization discussed their priorities with regard to SAFE and what they have the capacity to contribute within the next two years.
 - An ongoing challenge with limited funding and capacity was identified among most members, despite commitment at an individual level.
 - Discrepancies between what we do at a global level and what happens at the national level. How can we facilitate smoother coordination?
 - Recognition that while individual “champions” within each organization are good, we need higher-level commitment within each agency, so that it outlives staff turnover.
 - Idea was raised that it may be beneficial for each member to highlight the types of work where they are strong (e.g. research, field work, advocacy, etc.) and the topics on which



they are experts (e.g. cooking, off-grid energy, emergency relief, etc.) so as to be focal points who can provide advice or support in these areas.

Ongoing Emergencies

- **Bangladesh – Rohingya Refugees**
 - The Alliance’s Bangladesh market manager has been in conversations with FAO, WFP, IOM, UNHCR, and the Government of Bangladesh on assessing cooking solutions to help reduce the high rate of environmental degradation in Cox’s Bazaar due to building shelters and cooking with firewood.
 - UNHCR conducted a review of cooking options; LPG has emerged as the preferred solution.
 - FAO, WFP, IOM, and UNHCR are developing a proposal for such an LPG intervention to be funded.
 - FAO signed a contract with the Irish to do a small LPG pilot right away with communal cooking.

- **Puerto Rico – Hurricane Maria Relief**
 - Mercy Corps has a dedicated energy person in the field. Their response takes place in two phases:
 - Phase 1: Targeted household distributions as "bundles" with cash, solar lanterns (capable of charging mobile phones) and water filters to 2500 households. Bundles were distributed to communities in the mountainous center of the island where municipal power and water service are unlikely to return for several months. An additional 2500 households were provided with solar lanterns. Phase one activities finished in early January 2018.
 - Phase 2: Activities center around "resilience hubs" which are community centers that will be provided with renewable solar energy and battery storage systems, and solar powered drinking water systems. These hubs will provide a reliable source of power and water to 14+ communities. In some cases resilience hubs may even be installed before grid power is restored in the communities. Solar energy systems for resilience hubs will be sized to provide community centers with enough power to operate a few refrigerator/freezers, washing machines, fans, building lights, and charge portable electronics. Resilience hub water systems will support existing water infrastructure that has been left without power due to storm damage. In some cases this will mean the installation of a new water pump designed to work with power direct from solar panels, in other cases, solar power and batteries will provide power to a conventional water pump. Where possible, solar energy systems will be designed to integrate into the power grid with the ability to function independently during future utility power outages. Phase two activities are scheduled to take place between January 2018 and June 2019.



- The solar lanterns with chargers were from Total.
- Mercy Corps is looking at expanding activities more towards development (vs. aid)

Events

[Energy for Displaced People: A Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement](#), Berlin, January 15-16

- Goal to develop a global, multi-stakeholder plan of action on energy access for displaced people.
- Event is funded by Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- Organizing team consists of: UNHCR, IOM, UNITAR, GIZ, The Moving Energy Initiative, Practical Action, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and UNF.

[What Role Can Energy Play in Bridging the Humanitarian-Development Divide?](#) Rome, January 18

- Hosted by FAO as part of the Sustainable Energy Technologies for Food Security (SET4Food) initiative. Event will be webcast.

[Sustainable Energy for All \(SEforAll\) Forum](#), Lisbon, May 2-3

- MEI hosted a Partner Working Session on energy and humanitarian assistance at last year's Forum in New York. UNF is looking into the potential to do this, or something similar, again.

[High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#), July 9-18, New York City, USA

- SDG 7 is part of this year's agenda. Members to think about how we can incorporate humanitarian.

Organizational Updates

ILF

- ILF is continuing to work with WFP on stoves in Burundi. Late end of year mission to Burundi in 2017 – the WFP focal person presented on it at the SAFE Workshop. ILF hopes to complete all 80,000 households by the end of 2018.
- UNHCR has asked ILF to build institutional stoves in Uganda, as well as distribute stoves and provide user training to 5000 households. Potentially working with GIZ on this.

Actions Planned

None



List of Participants

Meeting Chair: Kathleen Callaghy, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

Organization	Name
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Florent Eveille
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance)	Krista Riddley, Kathleen Callaghy
<i>Steering Committee</i>	
United Nations Foundation	Luc Severi
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Vahid Jahangiri
Mercy Corps	Raffaella Bellanca
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Madeleine Marara
<i>Associate Members</i>	
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Inga Buchholz
Project Gaia	Chido Munangagwa
<i>Guests</i>	
Norwegian Refugee Commission	Mina Weydahl