



SAFE Humanitarian Working Group (SAFE WG) Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes February 13, 2019

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

SAFE Working Group Updates

Introduction to New Members

- The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), based in Geneva, joins SAFE WG as an Associate Member. [View their profile here.](#)

Introduction to New Participants

- Cecilia Ragazzi joins as the new working group representative for Mercy Corps
 - She is the Senior Advisor for Humanitarian Partnerships, Energy Access and manages Mercy Corps' relationships
 - 10 years in humanitarian and development sector
 - Manages multi country and multi partner projects including energy and women's empowerment projects

Co-Chair Selection

- The Steering Committee has voted that IOM, Mercy Corps, and the Clean Cooking Alliance will jointly co-chair the SAFE WG in 2019.

SAFE Conference

- To be held in Addis Ababa sometime in mid to late July; 4 days in total
- De-coupling the workshop and conference components
 - First 2 days will be training workshop including introduction to SAFE, introduction to humanitarian contexts, and if/how to intervene for beginners and people who have never been to the workshop before. It will include a mix of stakeholders. The primary goal is capacity building, and the secondary goal is to establish a common understanding between various stakeholders.
 - Second 2 days for conference, which will focus on networking, high-level discussions, and hopefully an exhibition component. The first or half of first conference day will include a mapping of the sector. The rest of the time will be for topics such as innovative finance, procurement, working with the private sector, policy sessions around frameworks (e.g. Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework).
- The next step in the conference-building process will include sending out an agenda survey to ask participants about their needs and interests.
- Part of the fifth day will be reserved for a SAFE Working Group meeting and/or other internal strategic discussions.



- Discussion:
 - **FAO:** African Union (AU) is featuring the year of refugees, returnees, and displaced persons. Given that they are based in Addis, perhaps we can engage them in the conference.
 - **Alliance:** Suzanna Huber of UNITAR also suggested this idea. We are hoping that one of our contacts from the Ethiopian Association for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) can help us develop this discussion with the African Union.
 - **Lighting Global:** Wondering about why the limited number of participants in the workshop and concern about eliminating technical deep dive sessions.
 - **Alliance:** The limited number of participants is only for the training/workshop portion of the event (the first two days) – the idea of this is to get new participants into the sector and bring them to a baseline level of understanding. Technical deep dive sessions will not necessarily be eliminated. They can be incorporated into the second two conference days if there is high enough demand, but the training will focus less on technology specifics and more on the decision process around when, whether, and how to intervene with an energy solution.
 - **IOM:** Going to Addis next week and will be meeting with donors and partners (e.g Unicef). Would like to discuss the event with them.
 - **Alliance:** We will develop a one-page summary of the event.

Events

- AIDF Summit, February 26-27, Nairobi
- The Asia-Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP), 27-29 March, Bangkok
- 5th ARE Energy Access Investment Forum, 13-14 March
 - UNF will attend
- Regional Forums on Sustainable Development during 1st/2nd Qs, (UN Regional Commissions) Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, 1-3 April (DESA and UNFCCC), Copenhagen
- Midpoint Review of UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-24, 23-24 May, New York (DESA)
- Clean Energy Ministerial, 27-29 May, Vancouver (IEA)
- Energy for LDC Conference, early June, Beijing (OHRLLS/GEIDCO)
- G-20 Energy & Environment, June, Nagano (IEA)
- Arab Energy & Water Committee, June, Beirut (ESCWA)
- EU Development Days, Brussels, June (EC)
- HLPF, 9-18 July, New York (DESA)
 - UNF may attend
- SDG Summit, NY, 24-25 Sep (DESA) + SG Climate Summit on 23 Sep
- High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway, 27 Sep (OHRLLS), New York
- UNFCCC/COP25, Nov 2019 (UNFCCC), Santiago
- SEA4ALL Charets (intensive mapping and planning meetings), 18-20 June, Amsterdam
 - UNF will attend



Organizational Updates

FAO

- Two project updates: First project in Gaza Strip through European Union funding works to solarize food processing, livestock, and veterinary activities. Second project will conduct an assessment of energy demand and woodfuel supply in Niger near Lake Chad. Would be interested in any contacts or existing projects.
- FAO is looking at its portfolio in East Africa and thinking strategically about what has been accomplished and what needs to happen going forward. The plan is to have an international consultation followed by two workshops (one to raise awareness of FAO staff in the region regarding energy access and environmental management in humanitarian settings in May; second to develop regional action plan to be divided by countries in June). FAO would like to link this work with UNHCR. The objective is to have an understanding of what FAO has been doing in this field over the last 4 years and what they can do better. Resilience office for Eastern Africa is very much interested. Just at the concept stage right now.
 - **Alliance:** Moving Energy Initiative proposed having a conference session on developing organizational humanitarian strategies. If FAO is ready and able, it would be helpful to discuss their experience in this process during the workshop.
 - **FAO:** Timing should work well according to their estimated timeline.

Lighting Global

- Recently finished Lebanon assessment of energy needs in Syrian refugee camps and going to publish an executive summary document shortly. Will share on COP and with Kathleen. Survey covered energy needs, willingness to pay, and awareness about solar. Spoke to community members and shop owners in the camps, as well as companies that are active in Lebanon. This project is specifically a Lighting Global initiative.
 - **FAO:** In FAO's Gaza project, there are issues with lighting for poultry. Wondering if Lighting Global looks into these types of concerns.
 - **Lighting Global:** Some focus on PULS (productive use leveraging solar) efforts but mostly in pumping and milling and not incubators.

ILF

- Project in the West Nile and Southwest Nile with a variety of South Sudanese and Congolese refugees. Nearing completion with household stove access project and almost done with government stakeholder training. In the process of enlisting more community trainers and setting up energy kiosks. The plan is to finish up around mid-April and share report in May.

Mercy Corps

- Primary news is MC's new staff – Cecilia (Partnerships) and Sarah (EEMRG). Sarah is heading to Uganda in late Feb and March. Will be attending Smart Communities Coalition meeting from February 27th to 28th in Nairobi, as well as focusing on pay-go project in Bidi Bidi.



- Mercy Corps is interested in solarizing offices and would love to talk with other organizations trying to do the same.
- Shanti just took a trip to Gaza for solarizing desalination plants initiative.
- In Nigeria, MC has a new small pot of funding to look at cooking and protection concerns in Borno State.
- MC has selected 3 vendors for stoves and 1 for lights. Will be putting out guidance for program teams.
- Cost sharing the hiring of an Energy Advisor based in Uganda with Power Africa which will be in service to the Smart Communities Coalition (SCC).
- DFS/Pay-Go study was funded separately by a small private donor. Hoping that whatever comes out of the pilot can be shared with SCC.
 - **ILF:** At the moment, WFP is the only other organization involved specifically in SAFE in Uganda.
 - **GIZ:** There is a technical working group for energy and environment in Uganda led by UNHCR that meets every month and is very active. A lot of organizations are participating regularly. It is trying to coordinate activities in the sector and advance priorities (e.g. refugee response plan for 2019-2020 which includes energy access and environment. There is sub-task force on developing a guidance note focused on market-based approaches and ways of coordinating humanitarian and other stakeholders in the sector. An on-going activity in Uganda is giving guidance on cash transfers and ways to include energy into minimum expenditure basket. Lastly, the Minister of Energy and Development has committed to developing a specific refugee and energy response plan (thus far, health, education, and water are the only response plans in place.)
 - **FAO:** FAO has a few projects in clean cooking, bio-energy, and biogas in Uganda. Takes biometric variables and links them with food security. Tries to show how the variables have an impact on food security. Energy resources and type of cash transfer were included as variables. Partners should coordinate with FAO colleagues in Uganda.
 - **Energy 4 Impact:** USAID grants for solar homes in Uganda. Also, moderating panel on energy access and demand at the AIDF summit in Nairobi on February 26th. The event is still looking for speakers.

COOPI

- Federico is traveling to Ethiopia tomorrow and will hire a local expert who may be able to also help with SAFE conference promotion and contacts

UN Women

- Launching call for proposals that will go out to national NGOs in the DRC. The focus is around humanitarian action for women in the DRC. She will share the link with the group. DRC is going through a transition, and they hope that with new leadership they can expect support needed to fast track the initiatives they've been discussing with authorities around cooking and energy activities.
 - **Alliance:** Daphne Carliez, former co-chair of the SAFE WG when with WFP headquarters is in the DRC and looking to connect with partners.



UNITAR

- Working with WFP on training for energy.
- UNITAR is in close contact with NORCAP regarding energy expert roster.

Actions Planned

Who (Organization)	What
Clean Cooking Alliance	The Alliance will prepare a one-page summary of the SAFE Conference for IOM to share with partners and donors
All	Connect any partners or colleagues in the DRC with Daphne Carliez, former co-chair of the SAFE WG

List of Participants

Meeting Chair: *Kathleen Callaghy and Megan Gerrard, Clean Cooking Alliance*

Organization	Representative(s)
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Clean Cooking Alliance	Kathleen Callaghy, Megan Gerrard, Shruti Ratnaparkhi
Mercy Corps	Shanti Kleiman, Cecilia Ragazzi
International Organization on Migration (IOM)	Alberto Llario
<i>Steering Committee Members</i>	
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	Florent Eveillé
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Alison Filler
COOPI	Federico Ramonda
<i>Associate Members</i>	
UNITAR	Aimee Jenks
UN Women- Democratic Republic of Congo	Awa Ndiaye Seck
Lighting Global	Nicole Silvy Bouris
GIZ	Anja Rhode
Energy 4 Impact	Laura Patel