



## SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2016

### SAFE Working Group updates

- **Co-chairs**
  - FAO and WFP have officially started as Co-Chairs.
- **IASC Reference Group status**
  - A decision on this has been delayed until we can present together with the Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) group to IASC Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Kyung-wha Kang.
    - The [IASC briefing event](#) in February in NYC went well; however –
    - The IASC does not appear to be open to separate applications from energy and environment, although it was the general consensus that we would try to proceed separately after last month's SAFE WG call. As a result, our participation at the IASC Working Group meeting this month was cancelled last minute. The IASC would like energy and environment to present together and be voted on at the same time. The EHA, [under Joint UNEP-OCHA Environment Unit \(JEU\)](#) leadership, is currently reworking its work plan, and our participation in the next IASC WG meeting (several months from now) will be dependent on their readiness.
    - Katherine will schedule meetings with both the JEU and the IASC when she is in Geneva March 22-23 to discuss next steps for the SAFE WG request.
- **Energy Expert Roster**
  - We have drafted a TOR for the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group to recruit fuel and energy experts who can then be deployed to the field in emergencies.
    - In the short term, it can be housed on the SAFE WG website, but the Alliance is investigating who can host and operate it in the long term.
    - Please review the document and provide feedback by March 31.
- **PRM Funding Opportunity**
  - The US Department of States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) has posted a funding opportunity for [NGO Programs Benefiting Refugees in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo](#). Submissions are due **Monday, April 4, 2016** at 12:00 p.m. (noon EDT). This is a very quick turnaround.
    - Opportunity is a 1-3 year grant of up to \$2 million USD per year, with proposed start dates between June 1 and Sept 15, 2016.

### Events

- **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), May 23-24, 2016; Istanbul, Turkey**
  - SAFE WG Member participation



- The SAFE WG has submitted applications to host a side event and Exhibition Fair booth and is waiting to hear on the status; hopefully we will hear back this Friday. If accepted, both would be on the official WHS agenda, which would be great visibility for the SAFE WG.
  - The Alliance has also applied for a slot at the Innovation Marketplace specifically for cookstoves and alternative fuels.
  - The Alliance will host a high level breakfast event on cooking in crises on the morning of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Several high-level representatives will attend. We expect Mary Robinson to attend and hope will be the keynote speaker. We would welcome high-level participation from any of the SAFE WG member orgs.
  - FAO will attend WHS – still working on the composition of the team.
  - WFP will attend WHS – Daphné is working to get SAFE into their materials once it's decided who is going.
  - Mercy Corps will attend – specifically Neal Keny-Guyer (CEO), Simon O'Connell, Michael Bowers (EU office) and Su'ad Jarbawi (based in Palestine).
  - COOPI has applied for a slot in the Innovation Marketplace, attendance will depend on acceptance
- Communications plan
    - The Alliance has drafted a strategy for the SAFE WG to coordinate advocacy efforts around humanitarian energy access before and during WHS, with the objectives of raising awareness, educating audiences, and promoting discussion. The strategy consists of four components, and everyone in the WG is encouraged to participate!
      - **Twitter campaign:** We will draft a series of generic tweets about humanitarian energy access, to be posted on various dates running up to WHS. Other WG members can copy and paste these tweets, or create their own. We want to emphasize how many sectors are impacted by energy access – e.g. health, protection, food security, etc. – so it would be helpful if the organizations with these foci could create some topic-specific tweets. It will also be necessary to develop tweets focused on all aspects of energy. The Alliance will lead on developing general and cooking-specific tweets, but other organizations will need to develop additional tweets on lighting, heating, and powering.
        - The UNF Energy Access Practitioner Network can help with that.
      - **Partner Call to Action:** We will draft and disseminate a message to the SAFE WG humanitarian partners informing them about WHS, its relevance, and the opportunity to increase awareness for humanitarian energy access. It will encourage them to participate in the Twitter campaign, send us stories, photos, quotes, and other media that we can share, and spread the word among their own networks. Other WG members can use the same message, or a customized one, to disseminate among their own networks – preferably on the same day.



- The UNF Energy Access Practitioner Network can help with that.
- **Op-ed:** We are brainstorming ideas for developing an opinion piece that would be signed by high-level representatives – potentially Executive Directors of SAFE Working Group organizations and/or donors – emphasizing the importance of humanitarian energy access, describing their own commitments to the sector, and calling on other organizations to do the same. We would publish it as a press release through various media outlets, as well as distribute it among our own partners. Kathleen will follow up as we develop this idea further.
  - WRC suggests we publish this as an open letter – a public op-ed in a major news outlet (e.g. New York Times, Huffington Post), as is commonly done by NGOs.
- **Talking Points / WHS engagement:** We want to emphasize getting messages about humanitarian energy access into the speeches of people who are already attending WHS, especially for the topical roundtables. That would be a big win for us. The Alliance can develop some general talking points, but will need help from other SAFE WG members.
  - Mercy Corps: It would be great to have these talking points. MC's PA team is based in DC; they might be willing to share what they'll be presenting at WHS.
- If you have any questions on this draft communications strategy for WHS, contact Kathleen at [kcallaghy@cleancookstoves.org](mailto:kcallaghy@cleancookstoves.org).
- **60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), March 14-24, 2016, New York USA**
  - SAFE WG side event: "[Protecting and Empowering Displaced Women through Safe Access to Fuel and Energy](#)," Thursday, March 17 at 4:30 pm in the Salvation Army building on East 52<sup>nd</sup> street.
    - Will focus on the impact of energy on displaced women and girls
    - Event is being hosted by several SAFE WG Members: WRC, ILF, and the Alliance, with panel speakers from WFP and DFID.
  - WRC side event: "Innovations in Clean Energy Access to Promote Women's Safety and Empowerment" Monday, March 14, 10:30 am at the Thai Cultural Center
    - Co-hosted with Solar Cookers International
    - If anyone is available that day, it would be great to have you attend. Contact Megan if you are interested.
  - Alliance side event: "[Women's Energy Entrepreneurship: Empowering Women and Scaling Access to Energy](#)." Monday, March 14, 12:30-2:00 pm, Church Center for The United Nations
- **Africa Biogas and Clean Cooking Conference, April 5-7, Addis Ababa**



- Alliance will lead a session on cookstoves and fuels in humanitarian settings. This session will likely include Madeleine Marara from UNHCR and HOAREC.
- **[TBD] Summer energy access workshop in Nepal**
  - UNF Energy Access Practitioner Network is thinking about possibly hosting this workshop and incorporating a humanitarian angle, given the 2015 earthquake. It will incorporate site visits and a focus on mini-grids. Contact Yasemin for additional details.

## Organizational updates

- **World Vision Kenya** – recent visit to Kakuma (*Joan was unable to join the call, so sent in these points*)
  - A lot of cookstoves have been distributed in the camp yet most of the refugees are not using them. The question is what could be the reason, could it be stove manufacturers and distributors don't consider cultural acceptability (type of food cooked, number of individuals within a household vis a vis the type of cookstove, shelter type, cooking area - inside or outside the house etc). Most stove distributors focus on number of cookstoves distributed instead of impact;
  - The refugees are fatigued with research on household energy with no meaningful success. In fact some refugees have mastered the art of responding to questions and give similar responses in most of these research;
  - Issues of stove efficiency is wanting. Some have not been tested and if tested how credible is the organization performing efficiency testing;
  - There is need for mass awareness/education on importance of using improved cookstoves;
  - Both refugees and host community be trained on stove manufacture/fabrication for sustainability reasons;
  - There is adequate space for establishment of greenbelts for firewood since firewood rations from UNHCR is very small and some refugees even sell food to buy firewood;
  - There is potential for biogas in institutions (schools and hospitals)
  - *Action: contact Joan with any areas of overlap*
- **ILF**
  - No major updates; we will be consulting with WFP in Burundi in the coming months.
- **WRC**
  - Wrapping up Dadaab fuel research project; report should be coming out in the next few weeks.
  - Megan's last WG call; her last day will be April 1
- **WFP**
  - Burundi, as Vahid mentioned. Consulting work for SAFE in Burundi. Daphne did feasibility study there recently – proved how we could really integrate SAFE into our other programs. We'll write a report with recommendations to scale up SAFE; hoping we can find the funds to be able to do that
  - Heard very promising things on SAFE inclusion in Nepal; been in touch with AEPC; brought them in touch with WFP country office; concrete plans to implement stoves in schools for the school feeding programs



- Shared report on global cookstoves assessment from all country offices; Daphne has shared.
- **COOPI**
  - Still waiting for approval on some projects; meanwhile –
  - Politecnico di Milano, our technical partner in various projects, is guest editing a special issue of the Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments journal that focuses on humanitarian contexts and rural communities and is looking for authors interested in writing a scientific contribution.
    - COOPI is contributing a paper on the need for technology innovation to enhance food utilization in humanitarian contexts.
    - Marco forwarded the call for papers last month; contact him if you would like to contribute a paper.
- **GIZ**
  - Anja went to Kakuma recently to evaluate possible options for cooking and lighting energy in the camp with our existing project there; got a financial upgrade recently.
    - There is a UNHCR national SAFE strategy for Kenya, but implementation has been somewhat slow.
    - A lot of interventions and piloting is taking place in Kakuma, but they don't seem to be coordinated. They are mostly free handouts of different stoves, different fuels, to different people. 10% of firewood used by refugees in Kakuma comes from free handouts by UNHCR; the other 90% that they need is being bought or bartered for.
    - 98% of the host community is living beyond the poverty line. They're worse off than the refugees, and people aren't focusing on them
    - GIZ proposes to establish market approaches for stoves and lighting
      - Anyone who's tried market based approaches, please share information.
        - FAO is using vouchers in Kakuma; semi market approach. Trying to improve host community livelihoods while providing a choice of vendors for refugees.
    - Trying to pilot persopis management as a fuel in Kakuma as well
      - WRC: There is lots of overlap here with other projects in Dadaab; it may be worthwhile to have a conversation with several orgs working in Kenya already.
- **Alliance**
  - Most updates already discussed: WHS planning, expert roster, WHS communications strategy, organization of CSW and Africa Biogas conference sessions.
  - Katherine will be traveling to Geneva and Rome in March, then Ethiopia and Rwanda in April.
- **Mercy Corps**
  - We've hired SAFE-specific intern who is starting tomorrow. Her first assignment is compile a list of all existing e-learning platforms. She comes from a humanitarian background but is new to the energy sector.



## Wrap Up

- This is Megan’s at WRC’s last SAFE call.
  - Corinne: Thank you so much to Megan for being such an invaluable resource to our community – transferring over from WFP to WRC – and it will be huge gap having you gone. Thank you on behalf of us all. We wouldn’t have achieved what we’ve accomplished over the last couple of years without your dedication.
  - Megan – thanks to all of you for making it all so enjoyable, and we’ll keep in touch.

## Actions Planned

Who	What
ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review &amp; comment on the Energy Expert Roster <b>by March 31.</b></li> <li>• If your organization is sending people to WHS, send contact information to the Alliance (Katherine and Kathleen) so that we can invite them to SAFE WG side events and coordinate energy access talking points for presentations.</li> <li>• Review &amp; comment on WHS Communications strategy</li> <li>• Provide Anja with any contacts or resources you may have on applying market based approaches to stove and lighting distribution for GIZ’s proposed work in Kenya.</li> <li>• Follow up with Yasemin if you are interested in partnering on a potential energy access workshop in Nepal this summer</li> </ul>
Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and share WHS communications strategy</li> <li>• Develop basic WHS talking points that orgs can use to get their reps to include energy access in speeches</li> <li>• Share draft Energy Expert Roster TOR with WG</li> </ul>
WRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share invitation for CSW side event</li> <li>• Share Dadaab fuel study when it’s ready</li> <li>• Follow up with GIZ on Kenya project overlaps</li> </ul>
Mercy Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share new intern’s contact information with SAFE WG co-chairs so she can be added to the WG mailing list (DONE).</li> </ul>



## List of Participants

**Meeting Chair:** Katherine Arnold, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

Organization	Name
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Andreas Thulstrup
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance)	Katherine Arnold, Corinne Hart, Kathleen Callaghy
World Food Programme (WFP)	Daphné Carliez
<i>Steering Committee</i>	
Energy and Climate, UN Foundation	Yasemin Erboy Ruff
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Vahid Jahangiri
Mercy Corps	Shanti Kleiman
Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)	Megan Gerrard
<i>Associate Members</i>	
Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)	Marco Caniato
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Anja Rohde

### Could not attend in person but sent talking points

Organization	Name
World Vision (WV) Kenya	Joan Sang