



SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2016

SAFE Working Group Updates

Introduction of New Members

- Biogas Taita
 - Biogas Taita is an NGO working mostly in Kenya, and some in Tanzania. We focus on water, sanitation, waste management, and similar initiatives, mostly in semi-urban and peri-urban areas. We establish community-led biowaste centers. Biogas technology is one of the solutions we employ – turning it into cooking gas that helps to run a community restaurant.

Introduction of Guests

- Alberto Llarío is a solar and WaSH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) specialist at the Nairobi office of the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM). He reached out to SAFE in June to inquire about potentially collaborating with SAFE on the Global Solar-in-WaSH Initiative
 - Objective to mainstream solar energy into the WaSH sector.
 - Global Solar & Water Initiative updates (IOM-OXFAM-NRC):
 - Potential to set up a Solar & Water Working Group with participation of some major NGOs and UN agencies.
 - Opening of technical helpline at solarquey@iom.int backed by a pool of experts and responding to any query related to Solar & Water issues (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish).

IASC Reference Group Status

- *Recap:* The SAFE WG is applying to the UN Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) to become a formal Reference Group for the coordination of energy-related assistance humanitarian crises, similar to the existing reference groups for protection and gender. This would make energy a formal part of the UN humanitarian system.

Updates from Katherine (Alliance):

- We heard from a number of SAFE WG members, including UNHCR, WFP, FAO, and Mercy Corps among others, that people really felt it would be better to try for two separate groups on energy and environment, so this is what we are going for now.
- We were notified fairly last-minute of the possibility for a discussion at the recent ad-hoc IASC WG meeting on July 7, and resent them our signed letter of request from last year, as well as the work plan for this year.



- We also advocated with several of the IASC WG focal points, including at UNHCR, WFP, and FAO, and provided them with talking points.
- Unfortunately, the IASC WG deferred the decision on both groups for a later date – we have not gotten any confirmation about when the next discussion or vote will be, but likely it will be October 25-26 meeting.
- Rene and Kati (JEU) might have additional information, as they were leading the effort for the Environment in Humanitarian Action (EHA) group

Discussion:

- Kate (WFP): Feedback from WFP’s focal point –
 - There was general support during the IASC WG discussion for the formation of two different groups for energy and environment.
 - However, some members did repeat the concern about the issue of having too many groups. The IASC previously had too many subsidiary bodies, so they’re hesitant to approve two new groups.
 - But overall there was good general support for two separate groups, with a note that there might need to be some changes to the TORs to emphasize the “communities of practice” element of these groups: they are not setting policies.
- Katherine: UNHCR’s focal point has advocated quite strongly for two separate groups.
- Sandra (WRC): Starting in early September we could do a concerted advocacy campaign to IASC focal points and agencies – go to every agency and do individual advocacy. We can split up the responsibility among the different SAFE WG members. WRC is willing to have another offline conversation about how we can go about this.

Expert Roster

- *Recap:* The SAFE WG has been working to develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) for an energy expert roster – a list of energy experts that can be deployed at need to assist humanitarian responders with energy-related aid (e.g. heating, lighting, cooking, and powering) in emergencies.
- The [TOR](#) is complete and will be released this month.

SAFE Workshop

- The Alliance is co-hosting with COOPI this year, thanks to funding from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection unit (ECHO).
- Tentative details: First week of November in Addis, Ethiopia
- Please feel free to send any suggestions regarding venues, vendors, side events, curriculum development, or other topics.



Events

UNGA 71, Tuesday, 13 September 2016

- Obama will host a [Leaders' Summit on Refugees](#) around this time. There isn't much information yet, but it focuses on:
 - Increasing funding to humanitarian appeals and international organizations
 - Admitting more refugees through resettlement or other legal pathways, and
 - Increasing refugees' self-reliance and inclusion through opportunities for education and legal work.
- The Alliance will be attending UNGA, but will not be leading any events on SAFE.
- Will anyone else be attending and/or be interested in leading a SAFE event?

Presentations: Procurement Tools

[The Level Market \(TLM\)](#) – Stephanie Cox

- Stephanie has been both a buyer and supplier in the humanitarian space for many years, working on different areas in the supply chain, including procurement and purchasing. She also survived the 2014 tsunami. She grew tired of seeing poor products being dumped on poor people.
- TLM created a year ago. Marketplaces have been around for decades, and we wanted to apply this concept to international aid and development.
- Walkthrough of website:
 - Ability to compare and review products
 - Baseline pricing
 - Technical specifications and certifications attached to the product
 - All products must have a warranty
 - Internal quotation system. You can quote up to 4 different suppliers
 - Buyers and suppliers have the back end – we just provided the system to make this happen.
 - Ability to filter product searches
 - There is no cost to buyers

Q&A:

- Oriol (MSF): Who is the audience? NGOs or end users?
 - Stephanie (TLM): We are business-to-business: International NGOs, etc. That being said, it's not a closed site, so end users could explore it to look at different products
- Kate (WFP): What about UN procurement rules? Normally we have do that through corporate tenders.
 - Stephanie (TLM): Originally TLM was designed for agencies without procurement processes, but we've gotten a lot of interest from them. We're not yet in contact with



anyone at the UN except for some people in UNHCR. We would more than welcome speaking with anyone to see if we can address some of the UN procurement rules.

- We do cover some USAID procurement rules.
- Kate (WFP): Often we're not just purchase stoves, but purchasing a training service for the end users as well.
 - Stephanie (TLM): Yes you can work that out with the supplier on the messaging system
- Karthik (Real Relief): How do you become a supplier?
 - Stephanie (TLM): We do sub-curate suppliers to make sure that you're a legitimate business.
 - You must be a manufacturer. We don't work with distributors for the most part.
 - You have to be specifically made for humanitarian purposes and capable of doing manufacturing runs.
 - You must have experience with shipping and freight forwarders.
- Oriol (MSF): Experience in developing countries. Cost locally?

Lighting Global (LG) – Leo Blythe *Note: See presentation sent with meeting minutes*

- Intro to Lighting Global – 10 country programs.
- Quality Verified products:
 - 85 quality verified products. Of those products, over 70 million have been sold across the world.
 - Questions we look it: “Does it do what it says on the box?”
 - The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has a technical specification for testing.
 - ECOWAS countries have used these standards as a barrier for entry.

Q&A

- Oriol (MSF): Thank you for this. We have been using it for a year and a half. MSF is looking for certain products that haven't been validated yet. Can we submit products for assessment?
- Kathleen (Alliance): Do the testing results include field tests as well as laboratory tests?
 - Leo (LG): There are no field tests involved in IEC tech specs. The rule is you have lab conditions and you try and create real-life conditions in the lab. Water ingress, strain relief, pressing switches thousands of times. We do process complaints from acquirers.

Clean Cookstoves Catalogue – Neeraja Penumetcha

- The Clean Cooking Catalog is a global database of cookstoves, fuels, fuel products, and performance data. It includes information on features and specifications, as well as emissions, efficiency and safety based on laboratory and field-testing.
- The Catalog is driven by partner submissions and serves as living documentation of innovation in the clean cookstove and fuel sector. Inclusion in the Catalog does not reflect or imply an endorsement by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.



- Core functions of the Catalog are to champion the adoption of international clean cookstove standards and to serve as a tool for delivering robust monitoring and evaluation information to key stakeholders, including:
 - Consumers, investors, and donors, as a resource for stove assessment and comparison
 - Manufacturers, for visibility on their product performance, quality and innovation
 - Researchers seeking data for advanced analysis and study
 - Testing centers, to distribute results and facilitate collaboration
- More recently, the Alliance has added a [Fuels](#) section to the Catalogue.

Organizational Updates

FAO

- The Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body. The [biennial sessions of COFO](#) (held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy) bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action. Other international organizations and, increasingly, non-governmental groups participate in COFO.
 - FAO will launch its joint publication with UNHCR, "[Assessing woodfuel demand and supply in displacement settings](#)," at a COFO side event.

UNHCR

- No major updates
- Will follow up on IASC advocacy and the SAFE Workshop.

ILF

- Institutional stoves in schools pilot with WFP in Burundi – success on the ground.
- Focal officers to take on SAFE
- Ongoing report that we can share with the SAFE working group.

EAPN

- The annual UN Foundation Energy Access Practitioner Network survey – the fifth consecutive year that the Practitioner Network has surveyed its members to collect real-time impact and barrier data pertinent to the energy access sector – will be opened the week of July 18, to run until August 18.
 - Being the largest membership-based network focusing on decentralized energy solutions, with a broad-based membership spanning 170 countries, the results of Practitioner Network surveys have a significant role in identifying remaining challenges in the sector, as well as making the case for collective success and scale.



- This year's branched survey that will take each member through questions that are only pertinent to their areas of expertise, and will have specific questions for organizations – SMEs to UN agencies to donors – working on the nexus of energy access and humanitarian relief.
- We worked to put humanitarian relief-related questions into the survey this year.
- Please contact Yasemin at yerboy@unfoundation.org if you would like to participate.

WFP

- Kate: No real updates; working to get some documents on the initial Burundi assessment

WRC

- The UK Department for International Development (DfID) recognized the need for research on the protective and empowering effects of SAFE Programming. They reached out to WRC based on a prior WRC multi-country research project to put forth an example of a much scaled-down initiative that would only be feasible in one setting. With a very short turnaround time the WRC reached out to several members of the SAFE Working group and were fortunate to quickly identify a possible project in Mali with Mercy Corps and submitted a concept paper.

Alliance

- The Alliance has launched a project in Haiti to determine whether or not the Canadian government should get involved in investing in cooking issues there.

COOPI

- ECHO has approved Phase II of the [Set4Food](#) project.

Gaia Association

- Gaia is conducting a clean cookstove evaluation of its work in Ethiopian refugee camps with Arizona state university, including data collection. Impact indicators include school enrollment, cost savings, time savings, and others. Gaia will share the results when it's complete.

GVEP

- Laura Patel has taken over program management of Phase II of the Moving Energy Initiative (MEI).
- MEI is focusing initiatives in Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Georgia. Market development projects, how to engage more with the private sector.

Real Relief

- Moving product development to the next stage; internal study of different fuel solutions, since the new BOILEX™ Ultraclean Stove can be used with different fuels. The stove is still undergoing testing; will submit to the Alliance for inclusion in the Catalogue when complete.

MSF



- Looking at solar lamps to complement products in hospitals; assessing a lot of Chinese products to see if they are good quality.

No new updates from JEU, Biogas Taita, or Lighting Global

Actions Planned

Who	What
ALL	Reach out to Katherine with ideas on advocating to IASC focal points for formal Reference Group status in September and thereafter
ALL	Alert Yasemin if you want to be part of the Practitioner Network's survey
Ethiopia-based or experienced members	Please send Kathleen any suggestions for venues, hotels, transportation vendors, site visit suggestions, etc. for the SAFE workshop.
Members attending UNGA 71	Please reach out to Kathleen for coordination with the Alliance at the event.

List of Participants

Meeting Chair: Kathleen Callaghy, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

Organization	Name
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Andreas Thulstrup
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance)	Corinne Hart, Katherine Arnold, Kathleen Callaghy, Neeraja Penumetcha
World Food Programme (WFP)	Kathryn Milliken
<i>Steering Committee</i>	
Energy and Climate, UN Foundation	Yasemin Erboy Ruff
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Vahid Jahangiri
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Virginie Viaene
Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)	Sandra Krause
<i>Associate Members</i>	
Biogas Taita Project	Fieke Geerts
Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)	Cristina Sonzogni
Gaia Association	Desalegn Getaneh
Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP)	Laura Patel
Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit (JEU), Environment in Humanitarian Action (EHA)	Kati Wenzel
Lighting Global, International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Leo Blyth



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	Oriol Lopez Guirao
Real Relief	Karthik Thangavel
<i>Guests</i>	
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Alberto Llarío
The Level Market	Stephanie Cox