



SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call Meeting Minutes July 20, 2018

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

SAFE Working Group Updates

- June 2018 SAFE WG call had to be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

Membership Updates

- UN Women, Democratic Republic of the Congo country office, has applied to become a member of the Working Group at the Steering Committee level. The Steering Committee will decide on their admittance by majority vote.

SAFE Workshop

- Due to insufficient funding, there is unlikely to be a SAFE Workshop in 2018. The Alliance has applied for this, but if it comes through, it will be too late in the year to plan a well-thought out workshop. The current hope is to do one in early 2019 (January/Feb).
- The Alliance has also applied for funding to develop the SAFE Workshop curriculum into handbook that could be utilized by other organizations, and hopefully used to host more workshops.

Energy Expert Roster

- *Recap:* On behalf of the SAFE Working Group, the Alliance developed a partnership with [NORCAP](#), the Norwegian Refugee Commission (NRC's) expert deployment capacity, which manages several humanitarian expert rosters. The Alliance and NORCAP submitted a joint proposal to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) for the establishment of an energy expert roster within NORCAP, which has now been funded.
- NRC is in the process of hiring an Energy Expert with experience in humanitarian settings (see [job description](#)) to conduct needs assessments for energy expertise in humanitarian settings in Sub-Saharan Africa. Applications are due August 10, 2018.
- Following the needs assessment, NRC plans to send out four experts to the settings that are identified as "most need" or "best able to make use of" an expert
- Mina Weydhal, the project manager for this work at NRC, was unable to join the call but asks for the following assistance from SAFE WG members:
 - *Concrete suggestions of countries/settings to look closer at (the study is limited to Africa only.)
 - *Reports, analysis, data that can help our expert before starting site visits in 2-3 months
 - The assessment should be 'technology agnostic', meaning that the most suitable/sustainable technology should be chosen at any given site. This means that solar, biomass, LPG, ethanol, stoves, lanterns, wind, batteries etcetera can all be considered as solutions.
 - *Share your contact information with Mina if you would like the expert to visit your in-country projects or activities. mina.weydahl@nrc.no



- * (Optional) Join a Workplace (Facebook for companies) group that Mina has set up where you can post reports, comments, feedback etcetera directly on the page. It would also allow the assessor to quickly share comments with this group before and during mission (where other members can answer if they have input to give). Mina is happy to add anyone, and invites suggestions for other individuals to include.

Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA)

- *Recap:* A Steering Group consisting of the UNHCR, UNITAR, IOM, GIZ, the Alliance, UNF, Practical Action, WFP, and the Moving Energy Initiative (MEI) is leading the development of a Global Plan of Action with the vision to provide every person affected by conflict or natural disaster with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services by 2030. Information available at: <http://onlinelearning.unitar.org/global-plan-of-action/>
- The Framework (challenges and recommendations) of the GPA was launched last week in New York in parallel to the High Level Political Forum. (See [MEI press release](#)) The event took place at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN on July 11th and comprised two parts: a “world café” style expert session to review and discuss the framework, followed by a high-level panel with representatives from IOM, UNHCR, the Government of Jordan, and the Netherlands Development Organization, moderated by the Executive Director of UNITAR. A readout from the event is forthcoming from UNITAR.
 - Among SAFE WG members, the Alliance, ILF, UNF, Practical Action, Chatham House, and Lighting Global attended.
 - The morning event (world café) was very useful for understanding the Framework better and providing feedback.
 - GPA Steering Group members seemed to be able to attract the right audience for the event. Many people who attended are new to the SAFE and/or GPA communities, and representatives from several Permanent Missions attended, including Mexico, the Philippines, Mali, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Next Steps:** Over the next 6 months the GPA Steering Group has two goals –
 - (1) Formalize a Support Structure for the GPA (and fundraise for it) and
 - (2) Begin development of a Work Plan – a series of concrete actions per the recommendations in the Framework with implementers and timelines. This will be a highly consultative process, especially in host country regions.
 - Another GPA event, format to be determined, is envisaged for early 2019, likely in Sub-Saharan Africa – potentially in concert with a SAFE Workshop.
- **Discussion: What are members’ thoughts on the best way for the SAFE WG to engage with, or alongside of, the GPA?** As the GPA process progresses, there is a need to consider how SAFE will position itself. The intention of the GPA is not to duplicate, but rather to unify and catalyze existing initiatives working on humanitarian energy initiatives, including SAFE, MEI, and the Smart Communities Coalition. Still, some areas of overlap are emerging.



- The SAFE WG has a much wider, and much more local (in-country) network than the GPA
- SAFE's coordination work, e.g. in emergencies, seems very different than the recommendations in the GPA, and there a need to work in parallel.
- The GPA support structure needs a lot of development (roughly by the end of this calendar year), and it needs a roadmap that targets high-level headquarters representatives for agencies. SAFE's network, on the other hand, includes much smaller and medium sized enterprises (SME) that likely wouldn't be captured by the GPA.
- What SAFE has been doing, especially in the workshops, has been different. It could fulfil some of the recommendations in the GPA, especially in the Coordination and Capacity Building Working Areas.
- It may be strategic to cede high-level advocacy efforts to the GPA process, especially since it has gotten more attention at the policy level, while SAFE can focus more on coordination, capacity-building, and implementation.
- As GPA moves forward, so should SAFE in terms of narrowing down the recommendations into concrete actions.

Events

[Webinar: Cooking Solutions for Refugees - Rwanda Assessment, July 25, 8:00 AM EDT.](#) Hosted by the Alliance, Inyenyeri, and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Week, September 18-30, New York City, USA

- No humanitarian energy events currently planned – tends to be difficult to work this into such a big event. *Share any events if you organization is planning to attend.

Clean Cooking Investment Forum for East Africa, November [DATE TBD], [Location TBD].

- The Alliance is helping to coordinate this event, and working with [UNEP DTU](#) on the possibility of making humanitarian settings a part of the discussion. This would tie in well with the Innovative Finance area of the GPA and go towards drawing different types of funding to the humanitarian energy sector

FAO Expert Meeting on SAFE, Nairobi, [DATE TBD – early 2019]

- FAO is conducting an internal survey of its SAFE activities in East Africa – what they've been doing, what challenges they are encountering, etc. Then the same exercise will be done for West Africa, expanding beyond Nigeria.
 - The process is also to assess where there are bottlenecks on energy activities within FAO, and determining ways to explain the relevance of energy to colleagues that are uninformed and teach them how to incorporate it.
- The meeting will be internal for the first day, with the goal to present a plan of action / strategy on SAFE. The second day would be open to humanitarian partners and donors.



- **Discussion:** Encouraging to see FAO going through this process, as having humanitarian agencies go through a similar exercises is one of the goals of the Coordination working area of the GPA. Suggest looking at UNHCR Global SAFE Strategy as a reference.
 - WFP may have a similar strategy for reference, and is interested to extend its energy portfolio.

Organizational Updates

FAO

- Conducting a woodfuel supply and demand assessment in Niger, Diffa region, October-November.
 - Three countries in mind: Nigeria, Chad, Niger. Developed the compact with different partners, so Niger is this year. Government of Niger, Ministry of Environment asked FAO to do the assessment.
- Hopefully the assessment in Maidugiri, Nigeria, will be finished around the same time.
 - Hope to figure out what kind of cookstoves we could provide. Will analyze the data with WFP and UNHCR – it's a huge sample, 8000 households. Together with GIS imagery, the assessment will show how much biomass is left in the environment and compare it with the consumption.
- Published FAO SAFE framework – mainly for FAO staff partners, but it can be shared.
 - *FAO to post on ENERGYCoP - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA0021EN/ca0021en.pdf>

WFP

- Conducting an internal survey on WFP SAFE work in different countries, similar to the [one done in 2014](#). The goal is to develop a strategy for WFP that looks at the entire food system.
 - Working with other units to understand how we can complement the work that they are doing with energy components. E.g. school feeding program – implemented in many countries around the world. Also “Food for Assets”, another typical WFP intervention.
- *WFP is looking for examples of Long Term Agreements with suppliers that they can use given agreement between UN agencies. Please share if you can.

Lighting Global

- Lighting Global is currently advising organizations on their procurement strategies when it comes to pico and solar home systems. We've been trying to come up with a strategy for how we can be useful in the same way in the humanitarian sector.
 - *WFP is interested to discuss with LG about this. Please email Raffaella: raffaella.bellanca@wfp.org

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

- Humanitarian Clean Cooking Fund (HCCF) grantee projects ongoing – Gaia Association in Ethiopia (charcoal briquettes and ethanol) and Inyenyeri in Rwanda (Mimi Moto stoves and fuel pellets).



- The Alliance is combining monitoring and evaluation of Inyenyeri’s project with a study on gender-based violence – looking at the ability of clean cooking projects to actually reduce the risk or incidence of gender-based violence during firewood collection. Conducting the study with Plan International and Johns Hopkins University.
- The Alliance recently released [a new report](#) with Accenture that explores lessons learned to enable companies and financiers to drive sector growth across global markets. While this is not related to humanitarian settings, we hope to carry forward some of the lessons learned to build relationships with investors and private companies interested in the humanitarian space.

WLPGA

- WLPGA is engaged in LPG solutions for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, although an update is not currently possible on this call.
- Completed a report on the socio-economic impacts of switching from wood to LPG. This is more for internal use at the moment, but it could potentially be shared publicly.
- *WFP and WLPGA to connect on Bangladesh. Please email Raffaella: raffaella.bellanca@wfp.org

Actions Planned

| Who | What |
|-------------------------|--|
| ALL MEMBERS | Provide reports, analysis, data that can assist NRC’s expert with needs assessment for energy roster expertise in Africa (see above: Expert Roster). Email Mina Weydahl mina.weydahl@nrc.no |
| ALL MEMBERS | Notify Kathleen if your organization is planning events around UNGA week. |
| FAO | Post FAO SAFE Framework to ENERGYCoP |
| ALL MEMBERS | Notify Raffaella if your UN agency has developed a LTA with suppliers or energy services and products which we should be able to use as well. Or share the template if you’re not UN. Raffaella.bellanca@wfp.org |
| WFP and Lighting Global | Connect on humanitarian procurement guidelines. Raffaella.bellanca@wfp.org |
| WFP and WLPGA | Connect on Bangladesh Rohingya Raffaella.bellanca@wfp.org |



List of Participants

Meeting Chair: Kathleen Callaghy, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

| Organization | Name |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Steering Committee</i> | |
| Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | Florent Eveillé |
| Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves | Kathleen Callaghy |
| International Lifeline Fund (ILF) | Alison Filler |
| International Organization on Migration (IOM) | Alberto Llarío |
| United Nations Foundation (UNF) | Luc Severi, Maeve Givens |
| World Food Programme (WFP) | Gloria Rupf, Raffaella Bellanca |
| <i>Associate Members</i> | |
| Lighting Global | Nicole Bouris |
| Project Gaia | Chido Munangagwa |
| World LPG Association | Khalid Yousafzai |

Apologies

| Organization | Name |
|---|--------------|
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Inga Bucholz |