



**SAFE Humanitarian Working Group Monthly Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2018**

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

SAFE Working Group Updates

Membership Updates

- UN Women, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) country office, has joined the SAFE Working Group as an Associate member. Representatives are Awa Ndiaye Seck and Fatou Giwa.

Energy Expert Roster

- *Recap:* The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is in the process of hiring an Energy Expert with experience in humanitarian settings to conduct needs assessments for energy expertise in humanitarian settings in Sub-Saharan Africa. 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” a humanitarian energy 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

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/>
 - 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.

- Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) has joined the GPA Steering Group as a member. They are currently being represented by Christine Eibs Singer.
- MEI has published a [readout article](#) on the GPA Framework launch event during the High Level Political Forum last month (see July 2018 minutes). A shorter article is also available from the [Alliance](#).

Events

[Panel Discussion: Energy Access Work in Conflict Areas](#), August 21, 2018 – Oakland, CA, USA

- Organized by the Energy Access Forum and the Sierra Club.
- Any SAFE members in or visiting the area are encouraged to attend.

[Ux Week](#), August 21-24, 2018 – San Francisco, CA, USA

- UX = “user experience. UX week is a design conference where professionals from all over the world gather for four days of community, inspiration and skills building
- ILF will be giving a talk on Day 1, August 21st. See [abstract](#).

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

- Alliance and Mercy Corps CEOs attending (for other purposes)
- No SAFE-related events currently planned.
- *Please share any events your organization is planning to attend.

Clean Cooking Investment Forum for East Africa, November 5-6 [TBC], Kigali, Rwanda [TBC]

- Event aims to scale up efforts to identify, support, and finance businesses that have the potential to expand the clean cooking sector. The event will inform and influence the private sector and those with the ability to accelerate access to quality solutions through viable business models at scale. Save the dates will go out soon from the Alliance.
- The Alliance is helping to coordinate this event, and is working with [UNEP DTU](#) on the possibility of making humanitarian settings a part of the discussion.

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

- See July 2018 Meeting Minutes for details.

Organizational Updates

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

- The Alliance continues to manage grantee projects from its Humanitarian Clean Cooking Fund with Inyenyeri in Rwanda and the Gaia Association in Ethiopia.

- Alliance-commissioned study on the relationship between gender-based violence (GBV) and firewood collection is ongoing in Rwanda. Plan International Spain and Johns Hopkins University are collecting data and writing the study.
- Staff: Following the departure of Rachel Mahmud last month, the Alliance has hired a new Senior Program Associate for Gender, Jescinta Izevbigie.
 - Jescinta has been working in international development for six years with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, conflict/post conflict, and countering violent extremism. Most recently, she was working for Resonance Global as an Analyst supporting four countering violent extremism projects across sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa.
 - Jescinta will support the Alliance's work on gender-based violence going forward.
- Kathleen is chairing the Coordination & Planning working group in the GPA (see above).

Energy 4 impact (E4I) / Moving Energy Initiative (MEI)

- Coming to the end of the second phase of MEI. Wrapping up demonstration projects on the ground and collecting data. Lots of reporting coming out in the next few months:
 - Chatham House is working on a study examining the cost of humanitarian operations.
 - E4I is finalizing a paper on the issue of financing for humanitarian energy programs.
 - Completed some feasibility work on the idea of a humanitarian energy fund and looked at associated risks. Didn't get anything off the ground, but E4I will share the results.
 - The paper builds off the innovative finance chapter from the GPA Framework (see above).
- E4I recently finished evaluating concepts for non-woodfuel cooking concession designs in a prize competition in Kakuma, Kenya. Winner to be announced soon.
- E4I has released a [TOR for consultancy](#) on a landscaping study that will address how the issue of humanitarian energy has changed in the sector since MEI started doing its work three years ago. What are the remaining gaps and opportunities?

World LPG Association (WLPGA)

- WLPGA is building its relationship with UNHCR to bring a pilot LPG project to refugee camps in Bangladesh.
 - The Alliance's Bangladesh market manager has also been working with UNHCR, IOM, WFP and FAO in the Rohingya camps, providing ad hoc technical assistance on the feasibility of different cooking options for the camps, as well as liaising with the government – specifically the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), Ministry of Power.
 - After evaluating several options, the government and the four agencies listed above decided that LPG was the best viable clean cooking option for the camps, given that it would slow environmental degradation and there is an existing LPG market in Bangladesh. UNHCR has evidently awarded LPG company Total to be the supplier, but the project is largely under-funded in terms of covering the whole camp.

- E4I also spoke to UNHCR about Bangladesh as part of a series of case studies. This will be released soon.

Chatham House / Moving Energy Initiative

- Study on the cost of energy of humanitarian operations (see above: E4I)
- Chatham House is developing a toolkit on fuel and energy use in humanitarian aid to assist organizations looking to move to more affordable and sustainable sources.
 - *Send Glada or Owen message if you think this would be helpful for your organization. Feedback is needed.
 - Practical Action and GIZ are interested.
- Closing ceremony for green affordable homes project in Jordan.
- Solarization of a hospital; patient intake for Syrian refugees. That will come together hopefully with a scale up.
- Lots of monitoring and evaluation work for MEI.
- Preparing a proposal on support of the GPA (see above) for follow up with UNITAR.
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) approached Chatham House for assistance in developing their energy strategy.
 - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) has been a SAFE WG member in the past, but has not recently participated. Kathleen can send representatives' names to Glada if helpful.

Practical Action (PA)

- PA has launched [Renewable Energy for Refugees \(RE4R\)](#) program in Rwanda and Jordan.
 - Practical Action is implementing a three and a half year Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R) project in Rwanda and Jordan. This project will be led by Practical Action and UNHCR to deliver renewable energy investments through innovative approaches in humanitarian settings, working directly with refugees and host communities in Kigeme, Nyabiheke and Gihembe refugee camps in Rwanda and with urban refugees in Irbid in Jordan. The project will provide access to affordable and sustainable sources of renewable energy, and improve the health, wellbeing and security of target populations.
 - Explicitly renewable energy, so LPG wouldn't be qualify.
 - Project covers the whole energy spectrum – lighting, cooking, household and community level. Schools clinics, public spaces
 - *PA would like to collaborate with other SAFE members in Rwanda. Contact Sarah if interested.
- Sarah is chairing the Data & Evidence working group for the GPA (see above). They are planning a scoping of existing data in humanitarian programs.

GIZ

- GIZ is in an early stage of drafting a proposal on energy in humanitarian settings, in direct consultation with UNHCR. Specific locations for implementation are yet to be jointly identified.
- Another proposal, also in early stage of drafting, will be developed for activities in Turkey.

Both initiatives are still subject to confirmed findings.

Oxfam GB

- Working with IOM on the second phase of the Global Solar and Water Initiative – renewable energy for solar pumping.
 - Second phase us launching in Kenya, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland), Ethiopia, and Iraq. It is funded by OFDA, and will be similar to the first phase.
 - Arranging first visit, likely in Somalia. Looking for contacts there.
 - Michael Keating has just returned from there and might be willing to connect.
*Glada and Asenath to connect on this.
 - Is Oxfam looking into water treatment in Iraq?
 - No, but Oxfam is piloting desalination plants in Somaliland, and we could share lessons from there. Have not yet agreed on when we will be going to Iraq.
 - Working with all actors (UN, government, etc.), targeting the larger projects.
 - GIZ has colleagues working on desalination and solar in Kenya and elsewhere.
*Inga and Asenath to connect on this.

Lighting Global / CLASP

- CLASP has launched the [Global LEAP Off-Grid Cold Chain Challenge](#) to identify and promote the most energy-efficient, sustainable, and cost-effective technologies that can meet the cold storage requirements for fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products.
 - The competition gives winning companies money. It might be interesting for those working in refugee camps. Preventing food spoilage; pay-for-use model.
- The [Global LEAP website](#) contains a catalogue of off-grid appliances.
- Already in touch with GIZ in Kenya
- Solar water pumping technology awards program. Help organizations identify appropriate water pumping technologies. This awards program will fall under Global LEAP and calls for participants will begin in October.
 - Mercy Corps – suggestion to be in touch with people on the “SITE” (sp?) program out of D-Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- CLASP is working on a standards and labeling (S&L) testing program in Bangladesh for all cookstoves, supported by GIZ. It is not directly applicable to humanitarian settings, but it might have some synergies.

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.veydahl@nrc.no

ALL MEMBERS	Notify Kathleen if your organization is planning events around UNGA week.
Members who work in Rwanda	Contact Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen (Sarah.Rosenberg-Jansen@practicalaction.org.uk) if is interested in collaborating with Practical Action's RE4R program in Rwanda.
Practical Action, GIZ, and any interested members	Contact Glada Lahn (glahn@chathamhouse.org) at Chatham House if your organization is interested in providing feedback on a draft toolkit that assists organizations looking to transition operations to more affordable and sustainable energy sources.
Chatham House & Oxfam GB	Connect on Michael Keating advice for Oxfam visit to Somalia.

List of Participants

Meeting Chair: Kathleen Callaghy, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

* = Moving Energy Initiative (MEI) consortium member

Organization	Name
<i>Steering Committee</i>	
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (the Alliance)	Kathleen Callaghy, Krista Riddley
International Lifeline Fund (ILF)	Alison Filler
Mercy Corps	Shanti Kleiman
Practical Action*	Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen
<i>Associate Members</i>	
Chatham House*	Glada Lahn
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Inga Bucholz
Energy 4 Impact*	Laura Patel
Lighting Global	Nicole Bouris, Sam Grant (CLASP)
Oxfam GB	Asenath Ndegwa
World LPG Association (WLPGA)	Sergei Beznosai

Apologies

Organization	Name
COOPI-Cooperazione internazionale	Emanuela Cappuccini
International Organization on Migration (IOM)	Alberto Llario