

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS AND HOST COMMUNITIES.

Venue: Amber House Boardroom C305

Date: 1st November, 2017

	NAME	ORGANIZATION
1.	John Paul Magezi	OPM
2.	Justine Akumu	MEMD
3.	Ben Butele	GIZ- Refugees
4.	Muhamad Al Bakari	UNHCR
5.	Claire Kagga	UNREEEA
6.	Stephan Riechling	International Lifeline Fund
7.	Beatrice Okello	FAO
8.	Gregor Probst	UNDP
9.		

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Introduction of participants
3. Communication From the Chairperson
4. Review of Minutes
5. Review of Concept for Technical Working Group on Environment
6. Issues Arising
7. Way Forward

Minute 1 and 2: The meeting started at 10:00am with a prayer followed by introduction of participants from Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Water and Environment

Minute 3: Communication from the Chairperson

The meeting was chaired by Mr. John Paul Magezi, the Energy and Environment desk person at the Office of the Prime Minister, Department of Refugees. He welcomed members and appreciated them for attending the meeting. The chair notified the meeting of the current influx of refugees into the country and this stands at 1,350,000 as of November, 2017. And this is in the twelve refugee hosting districts of Moyo, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Lamwo, Kyegegwa, Hoima, Isingiro, Koboko, Kampala, Kiryandongo and Kisoro. The impact that refugee settlements have had on the environment in these hosing districts is significant and this is due to the need for wood for cooking and shelter provision.

The Chair reiterated the fact that the issues of Energy and Environment need to be planned for and well-coordinated by the Government and stakeholders. It is on this basis that a concept has been developed on Energy and Environment to improve coordination.

Minutes 4: Review of Minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting that was held at the UNHCR offices in September, 2017 were reviewed and approved with the proposal to change the title of the concept from the Environmental Health Strategy to a Strategy on Energy and Environment.

Minute 5: Review of Concept for Technical Working Group on Environmental Health Strategy

With the mandate to offer protection of refugees in Uganda, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) together with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UN in Uganda, the private sector, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and refugee hosting districts to find solutions to the needs of refugees in the country.

Among the sectors currently being supported by partners is the Energy and Environment that involves the distribution of tree seedlings, promotion of awareness to encounter deforestation, distribution of improved energy cook stoves and the provision of lighting equipment such as solar among many other interventions. As part of efforts to intensify interventions on energy and environment among refugees and host communities in the aforementioned districts, OPM through a coordinated approach is engaging stakeholders led by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) to constitute a technical working group (TWG) on Energy and Environment. In the interim, this TWG is composed of the following institutions:

- 1) UNHCR
- 2) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 3) Technical Teams from the Host Districts
- 4) NGOs

The interim Technical Working Group has to date been involved in activities related to technical backstopping in the refugee operations and also consultative meetings have been undertaken both in the field and in Kampala.

Minute 6: Issue arising

The concept was reviewed with the proposal to include the Ministry of Water and Environment focal persons, both in Water and Environment, as well as the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development into the Technical Working

Group. There was also a proposal to include the private sector, along with companies seconded by the private sector associations in Energy, into the TWG. There was a proposal to change the title of the working group, from a working group on environmental health to a working group on energy and environment.

The meeting ended at 1:00pm.

Secretary

Justine Akumu (MEMD)

Chairperson

John Paul Magezi (OPM)