

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TITLE: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY (WorkGrEEen) FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019	
Meeting Subject:	Monthly National Humanitarian Coordination Forum
Time & Place of Meeting:	06-08-2019 10:00 am – 1.30 pm Ridar Hotel Seeta, Mukono District Host: OPM-DOR
Meeting Chaired by:	Chair: John Paul Magezi, Energy and Environment Focal Officer (OPM-DOR) Co-Chair: Ranya Sherif, Senior Environment Team Lead (UNHCR)
Minutes Compiled by:	Emmanuel Ekakoro, Biomass Energy Officer (UNHCR)

AGENDA

1. Introductions and remarks from the Co-Chairs
2. Review of last meeting minutes and actions
3. Update on ActivityInfo / Factsheet
4. VENA update
5. Presentation of Updates/Concept Notes
 - a. ICRAF
 - b. Pesitho Denmark
6. Tour de Table

Participants

	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION
1.	Clement Okia	ICRAF	Country Representative
2.	Ben Butele	GIZ- Endev	Coordinator, Refugee Energy
3.	Adowa Emmanuel	DCA	Humanitarian Program Officer
4.	Otim Robert	Care International	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
5.	Severine Moisy	DRC	HOP
6.	Godfrey Otika Odong	DRC	Country Livelihood Coordinator
7.	Komuhendo Pamela	RGF	Field Operations
8.	Basemera Sarah	RGF	Team Leader
9.	Wamala Musa	LWF	Program Officer
10.	Andrew Masaba	LWF	Resource Mobilisation Manager
11.	Anna Leichtfried	OPM CRRF Secretariat	Senior Policy Advisor
12.	Magezi John Paul	OPM DOR	Focal Officer, Environment and Energy
13.	Ranya Sherif	UNHCR	Snr. Environment Team Lead
14.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR	Energy Officer, Biomass
15.	Okello Christine Laura	Caritas Uganda	Humanitarian Emergency Coordinator
16.	Simon La Cour	Pesitho Denmark	Co-founder and CCO
17.	Sylvia Namara	NRC	Livelihood and Food Security Specialist
18.	Tonny Ojok	World Vision Uganda	Resilience and Livelihood Specialist
19.	Rossella Lombardi	ACTED	Project Development

Absent with Apology: Daniel Omodo (UNDP)

1. OPENING REMARKS

- John Paul Magezi (Co-Chair) from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) welcomed the participants and provided a brief overview of the workshop focus. Field colleagues to arrive in the evening for the upcoming 2-day E&E Mid-Year Review Workshop
- Ranya Sherif (Co-Chair) from UNCHR added to the opening remarks by introducing Emmanuel Ekakoro as Biomass Energy officer (UNHCR) and welcomed him to the Team.
- Ranya thanked the participants for their updates on the ActivityInfo platform.
- Ranya added that both she and John Paul were available to discuss any issues raised by the partners.
- Ranya also provided an overview of the minutes and said the meeting would consist of a technical discussion.

2. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES AND ACTIONS

- i. Matters arising from the previous minutes were as follows:

Actions	Assigned to	Due date
Documents on the portal are hard to find and this would be resolved following further consultations.	UNHCR-IM	Sept
The mailing list is becoming a challenge to manage. This too would be dealt with in detail following further consultation.	UNHCR-IM	Sept
The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) Concept Note for the Energy Refugee Response Plan formulation meeting planned 28 th of August. Members were informed that a stakeholder consultation would be held the last week of October and to block that time. It was noted that the Sustainable Energy Response Plan will be similar in structure and approach to other CRRF sector response plans and will be led by the MEMD.	Info	Complete
FAO is expected to share the report on valuation of Non-Wood Forest Products and Forest Resource Management Plan for Bidibidi Refugee Settlement.	FAO	Sept
ICRAF has shared the literature review on the Environment and Energy Nexus also uploaded to the Needs Assessment Registry. http://new.worldagroforestry.org/sites/default/files/Publications/PDFS/B17977.pdf	Info	Complete

The Refugee Response Plan Indicators, definition of monitoring protocols for all sectors including energy have been developed and the logframe circulated with ActivityInfo guidelines. The monitoring protocols will be discussed.		Ongoing
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ii. ActivityInfo and Factsheet

- It was noted that partners are doing more than is reported on the ActivityInfo portal. There is need for partners to discuss with sector co-leads and find a way to capture all the activities on the portal. It was proposed that partners present to sector co-leads the information they intend to submit to the portal first and reach agreement before they are posted.
- DRC noted that they cannot access information once uploaded in the system, which denied them control on their information, as they are unable to make corrections to any erroneous entries.
- Ranya responded that data can be exported from the portal.
- DRC in turn noted that they did not have user-level access to export data and that being a large organisation with a lot of data, there is need for them to have some level of access to the data for the purpose of validation and quality control.
- It was concluded that feedback would be shared to the IM team and that bilateral consultations should be arranged prior to the next submission.
- The factsheet will be published by end of August with the available data

iii. Updates

a) UNHCR call for Expression of Interest

- Ranya informed the meeting that the UNCHR call for EOI published on the UN Portal, comprising call for 4 lots by regions had closed for submissions. The Environment and Energy Sector call is based on the RRP. The meeting was informed further that the review process has not yet started an update would be provided at the next meeting.

b) RGF: Kampala and Kyangwali Project

- In follow-up to the presentation made in July, it was clarified that the project also partners with Safe Boda to deliver energy products to customers.
- A concern was raised that LPG is a non-renewable fossil fuel, yet it is promoted as an alternative to fuelwood, which might raise concerns among donors.
- Ranya agreed with the concern, but countered that while LPG is non-renewable, it is not necessarily a worse option than biomass, whose positive attributes depend on the manner it is harvested. If harvested unsustainably, there is a case for choosing LPG.
- An example was given of Bangladesh where LPG was recommended for supply to refugees as an intervention to save forests.

- A similar example was given of refugee households receiving entitlement to LPG Rwanda to eliminate use of firewood in one of the camps as a precedent that has been shown to work successfully.
- It was noted that there are concerns that LPG is dangerous, pointing at the need for education among the refugee population on the safe use of LPG.

iv. **Action Items:**

- RGF and LWF are expected to produce a pamphlet for fireless cooking bags.
- Ranya informed the participants that there were websites with information that is publicly available on the subject.
- RGF informed the meeting that they had shared some information on a WhatsApp Group.
- RGF further said that they were working on draft pamphlet which required enhancement with images.
- It was agreed that RGF would share an editable document to which UNHCR could help by providing graphic design support if needed
- Ranya also introduced a new interesting concept on “Rock beds” which is used to save energy. Ranya undertook to share highlights on the same from a website.
- <https://youtu.be/wJyZ1Y8Tq1l>
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gRF7KDq5E9gCgSQjAvvjCBnKNQ_DjV0iZ9l6Y1AjNko/edit

v. **TUNADO project on beekeeping:**

- National Honey Week is last week of August at Forest Mall in Kampala, details to be circulated. Refugee-made products will be available
- <http://www.tunadobees.org/index.php/2017-04-20-09-27-28/10th-honey-week-2019>

vi. **Roundtable Discussion**

a) **Shea Nut Value Addition:**

It was reiterated that there is a business case for shea nut value addition over charcoal production from the trees and partners agreed that priority should be placed to support shea nut value addition among refugees and host communities. LWF noted that it has developed a project in Lamwo and would share business case details with the group.

vii. **Sector Response Plans**

The representative from the OPM CRRF Secretariat noted that MWE shared a draft RP with the Steering Committee in July and a final draft is expected soon. It was noted that Uganda is one of the first countries to adopt CRRF, where RRs are taken up by line ministries for the purpose of sustainability and monitoring.

As previously noted, the Energy Response Plan development process has been initiated and will be led by MEMD with support from GIZ.

Conclusion on the Review of Minutes:

- There were no additions to the minutes and so they were marked as a true record of the previous meeting.

3. UPDATE ON ACTIVITY INFO AND FACTSHEET

- It was noted that ActivityInfo has been discussed in the previous 4 meetings and all discussions are well-documented.
- The fact sheet should be ready by the end of the month

4. VENA UPDATE

- The meeting was informed that the REACH Team is in the field for data collection.
- Participants wanted to know if the schedule was shared for VENA assessment as agreed in the previous meeting.
- It was further noted that there were questions excluded on mental health and it was agreed to deal with mental health issues in a separate assessment.
- Some questions were removed to shorten the questionnaire so as to maintain respondent focus.
- The meeting was informed that the schedule as shared and those who had not seen it were advised to consult the WG head.
- Ranya clarified further that some questions relate to the RRP Indicators and therefore should be included for the purpose of monitoring.
- Ranya will review the VENA questionnaire in detail and share with the team.

5. PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTS AND PROGRESS UPDATES

ICRAF

- Clement Okia presented an overview of ICRAF tree-based activities relating to Refugee Response.
- Okia presented on a concept on: *“Gender-responsive innovation for soil rehabilitation, alternative fuel and agriculture for refugees and host communities in East Africa.”*
- The work is being funded by BMZ and will be undertaken un West Nile, specifically in Arua at Rhino Camp.
- It will be led by International Water Institute and targets 3,000 direct and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries.
- Participants wanted to know if the interventions will also be relevant to other sectors other than Environment and Energy. ICRAF responded that the most likely sector outside the EE would be Livelihoods.
- Other partners will also be involved in the project.
- Participants also wanted to know what “Gender-responsive” meant. ICRAF replied that it was a reference to interventions that target women and other vulnerable groups.

- ICRAF also informed the meeting that they had a seedling nursery located between Imvepi and Rhino Camp so they can supply seedlings to both settlements.
- Participants were also informed of an upcoming book on tree planting for the host and refugee communities which would describe in detail the systems, species and approach to be used in different circumstances.
- ICRAF is also involved in tree-based value chains particularly shea nut, honey and desert date.

Pesitho Denmark

- Pesitho, a private enterprise based in Denmark, presented on a pilot project in Bidibidi Settlement to test and promote PESITHO ECOCA Solar Cooker.
- The goal is to substitute fuelwood with an alternative renewable energy.
- Participants hailed the innovation and added that there is need for interventions that can be scaled up.
- Participants wanted to know:
 - the price of the cooker
 - how the cooker would work on cloudy days
 - the lifespan
 - whether it is user-friendly (e.g. how to connect all the cables).
- In response, Pesitho said:
 - It is still too early to give a definitive price, but the conservative price is USD 450. The final price would be known after commercialisation depending on the scale, and whether local production could be done.
 - The pot is designed to be efficient by retaining heat for longer inside while remaining cool enough on the outside to be handled.
 - Pesitho is setting up local assembly/production infrastructure and have trained technicians who can help in maintenance.
 - The connection is always set hence there is no need for plugging or unplugging any components.
 - The cooker has a built-in battery that can be used when there is less sunlight.
 - The demonstration model of the cooker can work if plugged to the grid but is designed to be stand-alone to be under the total control of the households.
- Other concerns raised:
 - Scalability beyond the project life
 - Warranty
 - Trials in urban areas
 - Can it be used in institutions?
- In response, Pesitho said:
 - The project is scalable, and CDM is being considered to help subsidise the price.
 - When the design is finalised and the cooker is certified, a warranty would be available.
 - The stove can be tried in urban areas but for the purpose of piloting it is better to be done in a controlled environment.

- Institutional applications are already being considered.
- A participant wanted to know if the stove could be diverted for other purposes such as phone-charging station, instead of cooking.
- Pesitho responded that the stove is designed to do both hence that possibility would not be a problem. In the end, the cooker would give the user the specific service considered a priority.

6. SCREENING OF A VIDEO: "APOCLAYPTIC FUEL"

- Participants watched a 20-minute video by the Refugee Law Project documenting the impacts of unsustainable charcoal production in northern Uganda.
- <https://youtu.be/y4FVAouloiA>
- It was noted that that charcoal is a developmental challenge and not merely an energy issue, hence addressing energy supply without addressing livelihoods would not eliminate problems associated with charcoal production.
- It was noted that although the video says the influx of refugees in 2017 aggravated the charcoal problem, there is need to be careful not to erroneously attribute all the charcoal problems to the refugee presence.
- Addressing the charcoal problem requires a multi-stakeholder effort including the government, civil society, donors, host community and refugees.
- There is also need to address the demand side, e.g. peri-urban charcoal users (by providing alternatives like subsidised LPG).
- Other interventions include tree planting, government allocation for interventions, and education.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- i. RGF and LWF are expected to produce a pamphlet for fireless cooking bags. RGF will share an editable document to which UNHCR could help by providing graphic design support if needed
- ii. National Honey Week is last week of August at Forest Mall in Kampala, details to be circulated. Refugee-made products will be available
- iii. Ranya will review the VENA questionnaire in detail and share with the team.
- iv. Look ahead to Global Refugee Forum in December – energy to be included
- v. Sector to develop social media campaigns for advocacy, awareness and mindset change – partners to consider development of videos to highlight success stories
- vi. WhatsApp group to be revitalized and expanded
- vii. Support shea nut market development as opposed to burning it for charcoal.
- viii. Recommend to MEMD to also include urban demand-side interventions in its RRP, taking into consideration issues of sustainability and technologies and to look at expanding the Green Charcoal Project to other refugee hosting districts (Kiryandongo was part of the original pilot).

8. TOUR DE TABLE

- i. NRC proposed energy symposium where innovations can be shared – National Energy Week is upcoming and will be a good forum. Ranya informed the

- meeting that a National dialogue on charcoal was held with the participation of MEMD, MWE, UNHCR, GIZ and other stakeholders.
- ii. It was proposed that there is need to identify the most affected districts so as to develop an appropriate approach for reforestation.
 - iii. GIZ informed the meeting that 19 institutional stoves are ready for handover and plans for 4 institutional kitchens in Rhino Camp have been finalised. Taskforce for inception of Energy Response Plan planned for August 28th
 - iv. ACTED – Arua gender-sensitive assessments planned - to circulate TORs
 - v. World Vision to have training on FMNR for Local Government officials in Arua from the 14th of August. A regional workshop to be held on the 15th of August.
 - vi. RGF – cooking baskets introduction is ongoing – older beneficiaries appear to be more interested, Coca Cola to buy all the plastics collected by RGF, in Kyangwali community sensitization on cleaner energy ongoing. The community is aware of the dangers of tree cutting but there are few alternatives.
 - vii. Pesitho/Caritas - efficiency improvement alone is inadequate to address deforestation, hence the need for alternative fuels. Ranya – clarified that deforestation is a land-use change (usually to agriculture), while tree-cutting for biomass fuel leads to forest degradation. Pesitho and Caritas to introduce ECOCA in Kyangwali.
 - viii. LWF to distribute 200 heat-retaining bags, 70,000 trees established in Kyangwali.
 - ix. OPM-CRRF – Steering group field visit planned for Kyangwali in September. Date to be communicated.
 - x. Announcement: NFA organising a meeting of DFOs in Hoima to identify nursery needs for 2020. Participants asked to provide input even if they will not be invited to participate in the Hoima meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting to be held in September – DRC volunteered to host
- Agenda to be shared after receiving suggestions from partners.

10. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

- Co-chairs gave a vote of thanks.
- OPM will support any initiatives and ideas that work towards the RRP goals.
- OPM will share details of an upcoming exhibition where partners can participate.
- Meeting ended with a word of prayer at 1.30pm.