

**Working Group on Energy and Environment for Refugee and Host Population
Empowerment
WorkGrEEEn 4 ReHoPE**

Monthly National Coordination Platform

MINUTES

MAY 13, 2020

9:00 – 11:00

MS TEAMS

CO-CHAIR§	Emmanuel Emorut Ekakoro chaired.
NOTE TAKER	Miriam Natabo

Attendees:

#	Full Name	Organisation	E-mail
1.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR	ekakoro@unhcr.org
2.	Miriam Natabo	UNHCR	natabo@unhcr.org
3.	Duncan Henry Katimbo	UNHCR	katimbod@unhcr.org
5.	Phillip Kihumuro	ICRAF	P.Kihumuro@cgjar.org
8.	Henry Mukiibi	LWF	henry.mukiibi@lutheranworld.org
10.	Sarah Basemera	RGF	sbasemera@raishinggabdho.org
11.	Emmanuel Aziebor	Mercy Corps	eaziebor@mercycorps.org
12.	Charlène Cabot	Response Innovation Lab	charlene@responseinnovationlab.com
13.	Lia Hulit	Catholic Relief Services	lia.hulit@crs.org
14.	Katherine Santi Nelson	DRC	katherine.nelson@drc.ngo
15.	Andrew Ebic	DRC	andrew.ebic@drc.ngo
16.	Anthony Dratre	DRC	anthony.dratre@drc.ngo
17.	Ben Butele Adrama	GIZ	ben.butele@giz.de
18.	Christine Nandora	Rescue	christine.nandora@rescue.org
19.	Kigudde Deogratius	Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team	kiggudde.deogratias@hotosm.org
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21.	Gilbert Nayebare	AVSI	gilbertnayebare@gmail.com
22.	Walter Mapanda	FAO/SPGS	Walter.Mapanda@fao.org
23.	Nelly Bedijo	FAO	Nelly.Bedijo@fao.org
24.	George Gasana	NFA	georgegasana72@gmail.com
25.	Anja Rohde	GIZ	anja.rohde@giz.de
26.	Noah Ochima	GIZ	noah.ochima@giz.de
27.	Onesimus Muwhezi	UNDP	onesimus.muwhezi@undp.org

Absent with Apologies:

1. John Paul Magezi – OPM

Agenda topics:

1. Remarks from the Co-chairs
2. Review of Minutes for the last Meeting
3. Government Plans to support partners in implementation of planned activities amid increasing COVID-19 cases – OPM
4. Updates on reprogrammed activities in view of COVID-19 and impacts on planned E&E targets
5. Tour De Table on Partner Programs and Activities during COVID-19 Lockdown
6. Next Meeting

1. REMARKS FROM THE CO-CHAIR

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Most of the activities are going on as usual in the settlements despite challenges e.g. tree planting is progressing well except the restrictions at the beginning of the planting season when movement was highly restricted.ii. There is no single case of COVID-19 in the settlements so we hope to proceed with activities smoothly.iii. The development of SERRP should have commenced but the lockdown has delayed this. The prioritization of other sectors over energy has affected the progress in the subsector and having the SERRP in place, it would propel investment in the subsector. The SERRP would provide a strategy for enhancing the energy access for refugees and nationals.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i.		

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. LWF, DCA, RGF, WVI reported in ActivityInfo.ii. UNHCR BCP was shared with members on 15th April 2020.iii. Presentations by RIL and HOT including the link to the interactive map was shared with members on 15th April.iv. Security concerns regarding Zoom made the platform unsuitable for future meetings.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i.		

3. GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SUPPORT ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION DURING COVID-19

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. OPM is continuously playing the coordination role with stakeholders at the national and field level.ii. Government continues to urge partners and stakeholders to abide by the presidential directives on COVID-19.iii. OPM is available to support the partners on any of the support required for example on fundraising during this period.iv. This is basically mainly through online engagement given the prevailing situation globally.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i.		

4. UPDATE ON DRC NURI PROJECT

DISCUSSION		
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DRC - Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) – Andrew

- i. **Objectives:** At outcome level, the overall objective of NURI is “enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including refugees and refugee-hosting communities”. NURI supports 3 projects in Climate Smart Agriculture, Agriculture related Rural Infrastructure (RI), and Water Resources Management (WRM).
- ii. **WRM:** Objective is to improve the enabling environment for smallholder farmers by increasing water availability, reducing the impact of climate change and extreme weather events like floods and drought and encountering environmental degradation which when achieved would result in increased crop yield.
- iii. Work hand in hand with Upper Nile Water Mgt Zone (UNWMZ) under the Department of Water Resources Management in the MWE. These partners are responsible for planning, stakeholder engagement and M&E activities of WRM.
- iv. Projects implemented include reforestation, afforestation, multi-purpose dams, small scale irrigation, soil and water retention structures in the open landscape both on farm and off farm.
- v. Work with micro-catchment level but these micro-catchments cut across geographical and administrative boundaries, so manage work through a coordinated approach through district leadership up to LCI through catchment management organizations set up within these micro-catchments and the technical catchment committees plus other partners which are needed for effective implementation.
- vi. The UNWMZ has identified 8 micro catchments that they are working in and have already 3 micro catchment management plans in Ora in Zombo, Nyamwodho in Nebbi and Yelulu in Rhino Camp refugee settlement in Arua around which the activities will be implemented. Hope to use systems that are energy efficient.
- vii. Four (4) other micro catchments have been identified namely: Nyivura in Adjumani, Iboa in Moyo, Ogowapoke in Kitgum and Abango in Pakwach. These are in planning phase. Will start working energy efficient systems to reduce carbon emissions from water pumping.
- viii. Rural Infrastructure under E&E is being implemented in 6 districts including 2 refugee settlements i.e. Rhino Camp and Palabek. In the 6 districts of Arua, Madi-Okollo, Kitgum, Adjumani, Nebbi and Moyo they are planting 250 acres of woodlots – trying to establish a resilience forest system in 3 layers.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. DRC to share with members the written brief of their submission of WRM activities under NURI.	Andrew Ebic	13 th May 2020

5. TOUR DE TABLE ON PARTNER PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

DISCUSSION
<p>Mercy Corps – Emmanuel Aziebor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Although the AMPERE Grant has ended in West Nile, the solar companies are still providing services but the agents don't have access to clients due to the current movement restrictions but are working around getting them motor bikes to help access households and attend to the technical issues in households. <p>GIZ – Ben</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. They've finalized the SERRP TORs with comments for the entire Task Team and adverts have been developed and will soon be published.

- ii. Have completed the TORs for the regulatory study for the infrastructure assessment for greening of UNHCR base camps with UNHCR support.
- iii. Today, dispatched a team of engineers to West Nile with support from UNHCR to do the Health Centre Facility Assessment for solarisation to make an assessment of the current status of the installed solar systems and see how to develop these systems to be self-sustaining in terms of having a business angle and be able to generate additional income. GIZ developing models to help support this.
- iv. Working with World Bank to review the TORs that they shared with GIZ and these have been reviewed and submitted back to the Bank.
- v. Have additional GIZ teams working on Water and Rural Development within the refugee settlements. There is need for collaboration with these partners.

LWF – Henry Mukiibi (April updates)

- i. Managed to get some stickers to enable LWF continue with some development activities in the field.
- ii. A total of 25,136 trees were marked in Palorinya with UNHCR funding) by a total of 100 (M=72, F=28) casual workers under cash for work modality (CfW).
- iii. Procured 1,200 kg of *Tectona grandis* seeds to be raised for next season planting in Adjumani under UNHCR funding.
- iv. By end of April, a total of 108,719 assorted tree seedlings have been distributed to 215 households and so far, 93 hectares of woodlots have been established in Adjumani, Lamwo, Obongi and Rwamwanja.
- v. A total of 290,789 assorted tree seedlings are ready for distribution to be distributed in May while 314,242 assorted tree seedlings are being maintained in the 4 Central Tree Nurseries (CTNs) in Adjumani, Rwamwanja (2), Palabek (2), and Palorinya. These seedlings will be planted in the next planting season which is likely to start in July. The only hiccup is the lockdown which slowed down the distribution rate.
- vi. 13 Radio talk shows on efficient energy practices (1- Adjumani under Brot project, 1- Lamwo under UNHCR, 11 in Kitgum and Pader under the EU Tekowa project.
- vii. 15 road drives (5 Pader, 5 Kitgum, 5 Lamwo) were conducted to sensitize the communities about solar access under the EU Tekowa project. Preventive measures for COVID19 as per the Ministry of Health and WHO guidelines were incorporated in these sensitizations.
- viii. 324 households were supported with solar units. These included 90(F=61, M=29) PSNs under the PRM project in Palabek and 234 households accessed solar units under the market-based approach under the EU Tekowa project (Kitgum, Lamwo, Pader, and Agago).
- ix. Monitoring visits were done for 3 Briquette making groups out of the 6 groups that were supported under the UNHCR project in Palorinya and it was established that a total of 1,057 kg of briquette were made during this reporting period of which 247 kg were sold earning UGX 247,000 for the groups. Three other groups suspended production until the lockdown is lifted.

HOT – Deogratius

- i. HOT is not doing much in the refugee settlements line with environment but are able to provide information/data on household level, building structures remotely mapped, roads, locations, etc. and help with such open data.
- ii. There is the Arua Risk atlas developed for OPM and UNDP which gives the trend in environmental status as a result of different activities in the area.

RGF – Sarah

- i. Encouraged people to do domestic production of fuel at household level as the groups they are working with already have hand tools for making briquettes. In Bidibidi production of briquettes at household level is ongoing.
- ii. The Kampala group are unable to operate due to lockdown guidelines but were able to sell all the existing

products and generated about UGX 1 million for two (2) groups.

- iii. Have also procured most of the requirements needed for the Urban Project and waiting for the list of PSNs approved by UNHCR and OPM (for purposes of tracking which households have accessed aid) to do energy access interventions for households and Cash for Work (CfW) for those providing the services. So far, RGF have 200 women who can help with the production of heat retaining baskets.

FAO/SPG\$ – Walter

- i. Have 8 clusters including Northern Uganda and West Nile.
- ii. Currently, they are not travelling at all due to movement restrictions.
- iii. Before lockdown, they were training and certifying private nursery operators. To guarantee the survival of these private nursery owners, FAO has embarked on a contractor training and certifying program so that people planting trees in schools, etc will be FAO certified contractors.

NFA – George

- i. Under the ReForest Project 2020, the Objective was to raise seedlings for the UNHCR Implementing Partners to distribute to beneficiaries. Before lockdown, NFA had done needs assessments and were able to raise 5.1 million seedlings in various nurseries covering Koboko, Arua, Moyo, Adjumani, Lamwo, Kitgum, Gulu, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Hoima, Kyenjojo, Mubende, Mbarara and Kabale.
- ii. Due to the lockdown, he hadn't been able to travel to field and verify but field colleagues verified that the seedlings are ready for planting and partners are free to pick them up and deliver for people for planting. Fruit tree seedlings were in Arua, Mbarara, Kabale, Masindi and Gulu. These are good for refugees in the settlement, so they should be picked up before they overgrow.
- iii. Timber species and firewood species are overgrowing in most of the nurseries. Should you fail to plant them, let NFA know, so that they can be distributed to host communities to meet the objective of improvement of tree cover.
- iv. NFA shall do follow up to documentation for seedling distribution.
- v. Partners should not pay for loading of seedlings from the NFA nurseries. The loading costs are on the nursery management not partners.
- vi. NFA Proposed it is also possible to site the nursery at the site in Adjumani allocated to NFA by the DLG. What is needed is to remove stumps, fence the place and provide water supply.

UNDP – Onesimus

- i. Two Concept notes are being finalized to respond to the EUTF call for proposals on restoration of degraded environment in West Nile. for submission this week. Focus is on two lots: one on environment restoration and the second is on energy access. These are being supported technically by UNDP with support of UNHCR and UN Women.
- ii. Have a colleague based in Adjumani whose name shall be communicated to the working group for inclusion in subsequent meetings. There is also another colleague stationed at the Ministry of Local Government who is supporting the Integration of Environment and Energy in Refugee Support for districts.

UNHCR –Emmanuel

- i. UNHCR is requesting for any NGO to joint UNHCR, UNDP and UN Women in submitting a joint proposal for EUTF

ICRAF – Phillip

- i. Have continued seedlings to farmers in Rhino Camp with support and guidance of OPM amid the lockdown.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. NFA to find out from the Range Manager about the possibility of having some staff in charge of Keri and Labara to be posted at the proposed nursery site in Pagrinya and give feedback.	George Gasana	
ii. Because of the practical nature the training was supposed to take, Mercy Corps was not in support of having the training virtually. Will keep observing to see when to hold the training after lockdown is lifted.	All to Note	

6. Next Meeting – June 17TH 2020 @ SAME TIME

We confirm that this is a true record of the proceedings.

Dated this Day of 2020

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Chairperson (E. Ekakoro)

Secretary (M. Natabo)