

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

Monthly National Coordination Platform

MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2020

9:00 – 12:40

MS TEAMS

<b>CO-CHAIR§</b>	Emmanuel Emorut Ekakoro chaired.
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Miriam Natabo

**Attendees:**

#	Full Name	Organisation	E-mail
1.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:ekakoro@unhcr.org">ekakoro@unhcr.org</a>
2.	Miriam Natabo	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:natabo@unhcr.org">natabo@unhcr.org</a>
3.	Duncan Henry Katimbo	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:katimbod@unhcr.org">katimbod@unhcr.org</a>
4.	Clement Okia	ICRAF	<a href="mailto:C.Okia@cgiar.org">C.Okia@cgiar.org</a>
5.	Phillip Kihumuro	ICRAF	<a href="mailto:P.Kihumuro@cgiar.org">P.Kihumuro@cgiar.org</a>
6.	Maria Ossola	AVSI	<a href="mailto:maxie.ossola@avsi.org">maxie.ossola@avsi.org</a>
7.	Emmanuel Adowa	DanChurchAid	<a href="mailto:aemm@dca.dk">aemm@dca.dk</a>
8.	Henry Mukiibi	Lutheran World Federation	<a href="mailto:henry.mukiibi@lutheranworld.org">henry.mukiibi@lutheranworld.org</a>
9.	Musa Wamala	Lutheran World Federation	<a href="mailto:musa.wamala@lutheranworld.org">musa.wamala@lutheranworld.org</a>
10.	Sarah Basemera	RGF	<a href="mailto:sbasemera@raishingabdho.org">sbasemera@raishingabdho.org</a>
11.	Charlène Cabot	Response Innovation Lab	<a href="mailto:charlene@responseinnovationlab.com">charlene@responseinnovationlab.com</a>
12.	Lia Hulit	Catholic Relief Services	<a href="mailto:lia.hulit@crs.org">lia.hulit@crs.org</a>
13.	Katherine Santi Nelson	Danish Refugee Council	<a href="mailto:katherine.nelson@drc.ngo">katherine.nelson@drc.ngo</a>
14.	Butele Ben Adrama	GIZ	<a href="mailto:ben.butele@giz.de">ben.butele@giz.de</a>
15.	Christopher Tusiime	CARE	<a href="mailto:christopher.tusiime@care.org">christopher.tusiime@care.org</a>
16.	Daniel Omod-McMondo	UNDP	<a href="mailto:daniel.omodo@undp.org">daniel.omodo@undp.org</a>
17.	Sylvia Namara	Norwegian Refugee Council	<a href="mailto:sylvia.namara@nrc.org">sylvia.namara@nrc.org</a>
18.	Christine Nandora	Rescue	<a href="mailto:christine.nandora@rescue.org">christine.nandora@rescue.org</a>
19.	Deogratias Kiggudde	Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team	<a href="mailto:kiggudde.deogratias@hotosm.org">kiggudde.deogratias@hotosm.org</a>
20.	Sara Amadi	Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team	<a href="mailto:sara.amadi@hotosm.org">sara.amadi@hotosm.org</a>

**Absent with Apologies:**

1. John Paul Magezi – OPM
2. George Gasana – NFA
3. Emmanuel Aziebor – Mercy Corps

**Agenda topics:**

1. Welcome Remarks from the Co-Chairs and Announcements (5 Min each)
2. Working Group Management – Brief on Secretariat
3. Review of Last Minutes and Actions (20 min) - Miriam
4. Presentation of key findings and recommendations of the FAO/ICRAF study on NWFPs value chains – Dr. Okia
5. Presentations of Updates/Concept Notes (5-10 minutes each)
6. Impact of COVID-19 on partner interventions and adaptive measures - All
7. National Tree Planting Day (25 April 2020), is it still on? – NFA/FAO
8. Tour de Table (30 min)
9. Next Meeting

**1. INTRODUCTION§**

Members present introduced themselves for purposes of knowing one another.

## 2. REMARKS FROM THE CO-CHAIR

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Appreciated the current challenges we are undergoing and encouraged members on finding new ways of working under the current circumstances.</li> <li>ii. A training on ActivityInfo was carried out for all UNHCR OPs and IPs on 8<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>iii. A reminder e-mail was sent to members urging them to submit their Q1 updates into ActivityInfo. The submission deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> April.</li> <li>iv. For partners with running consultancies/contracts requiring field travel during this COVID-19 lockdown were urged to wait until the travel restrictions are lifted. Consultants can also be granted a no-cost extension in view of the travel restrictions in place that have halted progress of activities on ground.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. Partners to submit their Q1 updates in ActivityInfo before deadline.	All to Note	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020

## 3. WORKING GROUP MANAGEMENT

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. OPM advised to put the matter of the Secretariat to rest.</li> <li>ii. All members not on the WorkGrEEen Whatsapp group were urged to join via a link that was shared.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i.		

## 4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. UNHCR developed a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to guide our refugee response and the priority activities during the COVID-19 period.</li> <li>ii. The Whatsapp group now has multiple administrators to ease the addition of new members.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. UNHCR to share BCP with members.	Miriam Natabo	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020

## 5. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NWFP, VALUE CHAIN STUDY

DISCUSSION		
<p>This Study was carried out by FAO and ICRAF in West Nile. The highlights from the presentation are as follows:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Non-wood forest products definition:</b> NWFPs, are tangible physical goods of biological origin other than wood from forests, woodlands or trees outside forest, provide resilience to food and household income systems. In this report, NWFPs analysed were honey, shea butter, long-horned grasshoppers (enseenene) and balanites.</li> <li>ii. <b>Objectives of the study:</b> Identify key NWFPs in West Nile Subregion; analyse their value chains</li> </ul>		

(stakeholders involved in the value chains); Identify bottlenecks to achieving full potential of the key NWFPs; and Propose interventions to the bottlenecks.

iii. **Findings:**

- ✓ Priority NWFPs in West Nile sub-region were honey, shea butter, enseenene and balanites.
- ✓ Refugees and host communities have similar uses for the key NWFPs.
- ✓ Other NWFPs (minus honey) were mainly processed locally using artisanal techniques for household consumption and the surplus sold in local markets or through agents in the main urban markets.
- ✓ Women were more involved in the key NWFPs value chains.
- ✓ Challenges faced along the value chains included a general lack of knowledge and skills in product collection and processing and limited information on market trends.

iv. **Conclusions:** NWFPs provide a seasonal source of food and livelihood options for rural communities in West Nile. Shea butter and Desert date were immensely useful in improving nutrition and household income. NWFPs' collectors were also the processors and traders of the products except for the honey value chain. Numerous opportunities for improving NWFPs value chains in West Nile sub region exist e.g. the high demand for the products and the fact that communities within the landscape have been working with the identified NWFPs for a long time.

v. **Recommendations:** A more comprehensive assessment of NWFPs and their value chains be undertaken in other regions that support refugees and host communities. An enabling environment should be created to facilitate an engagement between non state actors and UNBS to promote acceptable standards for NWFPs on the market. The value of NWFPs be considered in relevant national policy reviews. To enhance on-farm cultivation and conservation of the remaining wild trees, there is need to increase efforts geared towards participatory domestication and value addition for these priority indigenous fruit trees.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**6. PRESENTATION OF UPDATES/CONCEPT NOTES**

DISCUSSION	
<p><b>Mercy Corps Access to Energy – Charlène</b></p>	<p>i. AMPERE Energy Project implemented in Bidi Bidi by a consortium led by Mercy Corps in partnership with the RIL, Save the Children and SNV to test, prove and build evidence for quality, affordable, and reliable market-driven energy access solutions for humanitarian response programming in Uganda. closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The project commenced in August 2019 Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3,736 solar products were sold through a RBF mechanism out of which 421 were PAYGo systems on a 12-month payment plan. Lantern capacities 0.3 – 2.8 W; PAYGo home systems 10 – 120 W &amp; productive systems 3000W AC.</li> <li>✓ Four (4) innovation pilots funded through the RIL namely: EnVenture, Kumi Kumi, RGF and ANCHOR.</li> </ul> <p>ii. A learning event (close-out event) for the AMPERE grant planned for March 31, 2020 at Fairway Hotel was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>iii. Knowledge products such as Innovations Catalogue &amp; Mapping of Energy Retail Points were developed by the AMPERE project. Materials will be shared with members once finalized.</p> <p><b>Response Innovation Lab – Charlène</b></p> <p>i. RIL led the design and implementation of the Green Innovation Challenge Fund. In September 2019, a</p>

challenge mapping exercise for Bidi Bidi was carried out to identify the key hindrances to adoption of RETs.

- ii. Then a call for innovative ideas to address each of the mapped challenges was made in October 2019. A total of 97 applications were received from which 4 pilots were selected by the review panel i.e. ENVenture, ANCHOR, Kumi Kumi and RGF.
- iii. The pilots were engaged in a co-creation process during which they were brought together to find ways to create synergies between the pilots and jointly analysis the gaps they have regarding implementation. From this process, the lack of a more refined understanding of the current retail points in Bidi Bidi where people to could access clean energy products. HOT was then engaged to collect data on this. Each pilot received USD15,000.
- iv. Impacts include: establishment of two community-level energy cooperative shops by ENVenture that source products from D.light and Village Power; building a digital savings platform and culture among members of Kumi Kumi to acquire energy products. RGF has trained community members in the production of briquette and heat-retaining cooking baskets. VIAMO/ANCHOR broadcasted IVR messages to community members on clean energy options and retail points (energy cooperative, D.light and Village Power retail shops located at the Innovation Center Zone 3).
- v. A Green Innovations Catalogue was developed to a hub for all the knowledge gathered during the implementation of the 5 pilots including one implemented in Rwanda with Mercy Corps and Dlight. The catalogue will be made available on the RIL website.

#### **HOT – Deogratius**

- i. HOT carried out the Mapping and Surveying of energy saving providers in Bidi Bidi which aimed to understand the whole business landscape around energy saving products/services across the settlement. This information is critical in case of replication of the pilots.
- ii. HOT deals with data collection and analysis using open source tools with a premise of always using OpenStreet Map to visualise and provide context to areas that need it.
- iii. Methodology: Engaged with refugee and host community stakeholders to explain to them the purpose of the mapping and survey to enhance openness of the community. Used mobile application such as ODK and Kobo server mapping 138 retail points using 10 surveyors.
- iv. Various community maps were developed for each zone e.g. Energy saving solutions retailers in Zone 1 Map, Different Energy Saving Solutions in the settlement illustrating how they're spread out, etc.
- v. Developed a project factsheet giving an overview of the different statistics across the questions asked during the survey. Over 82% of the institutions surveyed were businesses. Social enterprises have the highest (41%) business capacity (more energy solutions available for sale). The most demanded energy solutions were solar products (44%) followed by briquettes (33%) and energy saving cook stoves (19%).
- vi. An interactive map was developed highlighting all the 138 retail points mapped in Bidi Bidi settlement with comprehensive data for each point.
- vii. More funding required to extend such analysis to other settlements.

#### **UNHCR – Miriam**

- i. Kick-off meeting with NFA for the ReForest Project 2020 held on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Project shall build on 2019's achievements such as replacement planting for the area affected by fires.
- ii. UNHCR, UNDP and WHO submitted a joint SDG Fund proposal on *Accelerating Innovative Finance for Renewable Energy in Social Sectors and UN Operations in Uganda* to UNCT on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- iii. UNHCR, UNDP, UNWomen and WFP working to submit a joint proposal to EUTF- Call for Proposals on *Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts*. Project area West Nile. Available funds **USD10 Million**. Proposal will be on energy, environment and climate change.

- iv. Partnering with GIZ to implement the ESDS project in West Nile that has 3 implementation areas:
  - ✓ Support the implementation of the CRRF in the Energy Sector in Uganda
  - ✓ Greening of UNHCR base camps
  - ✓ Improve access to sustainable energy for households, small enterprises and social institutions
- v. Currently, draft TORs for contractor for Greening Base Camps in place under review and draft selection criteria for base camps in place. Draft TORs for a Regulatory Study to clarify the regulatory conditions for energy provision by private sector actors in displacement settings. The study focuses on both the national legislation and UNHCR-specific regulations.

**LWF – Henry**

- i. Procured 100kg of *Gmelina arborea* seeds of which 25kg were sown while the remaining 75kg will be sown for second planting season in Palorinya.
- ii. A total of 175,000 assorted tree seedlings are being maintained in the 3 CTNs in Adjumani, Rwamwanja, and Palorinya waiting for the first season rain to stabilize.
- iii. Sensitization meetings on environmental conservation and clean energy were conducted to a total of 538 (M=205, F=333) participants including refugees and host community. 233 participants (F=111, M=122,) in Kikuube; 305 (F=222, M=83) in Palabek.
- iv. Monitoring visits were done to 5 Briquette making groups that were supported under the UNHCR project in Palorinya and it was established that a total of 1,386 kg of briquette were made during this reporting period of which 465 kg were sold earning UGX 828,000 for the groups.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. HOT to share the link to the Interactive Map.	Deogratius Kigudde	Before meeting ends
ii. All presentations to be shared with members.	Miriam Natabo	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020

**7. NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY**

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. PS MWE to issue direction on this. There is no communication and vehicles have no stickers so for now the exercise for 25<sup>th</sup> April will not proceed. It most likely will be postponed next year.</li> <li>ii. Members were urged to be ready to participate in NTPD on whichever day it might be scheduled by authorities.</li> </ul>
ACTION ITEMS
PERSON RESPONSIBLE
DEADLINE

**8. TOUR DE TABLE AND IMPACT ON COVID-19 ON PARTNER OPERATIONS**

DISCUSSION
<p><b>DCA – Emmanuel Adowa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ They were able to secure some movement permits to make outreach to the communities. In each of the districts they operate, DCA was permitted to use 2 vehicles.</li> <li>✓ Developed contingency plans and shred with donors and for the Danish funded projects, DCA has been advised to redirect funding towards COVID response through support to District Task forces in Arua, Yumbe and Kiryandongo with fuel and procured equipment to support health units.</li> <li>✓ DCA’s partners are being advised to revise some of the activities and replace them with COVID-19 response activities.</li> </ul>

**GIZ – Ben**

- ✓ ESDS project especially for component 2 is going to be a private sector led intervention. GIZ and UNHCR is to provide the enabling environment for the private sector to be able to invest.
- ✓ Developing tender documents and ToRs with UNHCR to assess the solar systems of health centres and social institutions in refugee settlements focusing on 7 health centres (HC IIs, & HC IIIs) in Rhino Camp and Imvepi. The ToRs and tender documents in place but can have a consultant on board due to the lockdown.
- ✓ Construction works for kiosks cannot proceed due to lockdown and the sites have to be handed to the contractor virtually and also hardware shops are closed.

**CARE International – Christopher**

- ✓ Most of the partners have not been able to continue operation.
- ✓ For the Danida funded projects they are working on response plans to allow them divert funds to COVID-19 response.

**HOT – Deogratius**

- ✓ Doing remote mapping for different actors involved in COVID-19 response including MOH providing them with information on building footprints and road access to ease their surveillance.

**LWF – Henry**

- ✓ Most staff working from home but have some stickers allowing a few of the staff to go to office. Most staff were locked down while in the field.
- ✓ Implementing WASH activities which are considered essential in COVID response. WASH officers move with environmental staff to pass on environmental messages to the communities alongside WASH items.
- ✓ Maintaining the tree seedlings in the nurseries. Nurseries in Palorinya and Palebek, the LWF team can maintain the seedlings as they are located next to the LWF offices.

**RGF – Sarah**

- ✓ COVID has limited everything. The Green shops were shut down to avoid exposure of PoCs.
- ✓ Benchmarking on what was happening in the settlements e.g. in Kyangwali each household produces its own energy and trying to see how to pilot this among urban refugees devising a way for them to get raw materials for themselves to make their own fuel.
- ✓ Concluding partnership with Refugee Boda Boda Group (CBO registered with KCCA) to see if it can be regulated where 1 or 2 people can walk to where RGF has put the supplies and a refugee boda boda guy delivers the energy products to the household in need especially now when access to energy is difficult and people are not working to earn money to buy fuel.
- ✓ Have an online platform funded by partners through which most operations are carried out e.g. refugee registration is done. Energy producers can use this platform to capture this data and those in need of energy can be directed to where the producer is.
- ✓ There is a WhatsApp group through which RGF communicates to the POCs where they are expressing increasing interest in energy to enable the cooking of food during the lockdown.
- ✓ Group trainings will be halted.

**AVSI – Maria**

- ✓ Developed contingency plans for all projects being implemented and shared them with their donors. Some of these projects have been put on hold according to the scope of the project. Changes have been made to support the COVID response according to the different needs of the district in which the projects are being implemented.

**UNHCR – Emmanuel**

- i. Tree seedlings in most NFA nurseries were ready for transplanting in the field. However, due to the lock down and Presidential guidance on social distancing, tree planting activities had slowed down with challenges of transportation of seedlings from the nursery to the field for planting.
- ii. Discussion on which E&E activities to shelf and which to retain to enable reallocation of funds to COVID-19 response. Sector Leads are will be consulting with partners to see if PPAs can be revised.

**UNDP – Daniel**

- i. Partnering with UNHCR and UNWomen to submit a joint proposal to EUTF- Call for Proposals on *Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts*. Project area West Nile. Available funds **USD10 Million**. Proposal will be on energy, environment and climate change.
- ii. Field activities have slowed down, but all staff are working from home. UNDP procured 10,000 licenses for Zoom to support government’s business continuity online. Yesterday, the national task force held a Zoom meeting to discuss how the situation was on ground considering COVID-19.

**NRC – Sylvia**

- ✓ Trying to integrate more WASH-centred initiatives around NRC programming.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. Some capacity building required in using virtual meeting platforms to support effective meetings.	All to Note	N/A
ii. Advocacy on environmental protection should continue to curb on the potential threat of environmental degradation due to absence of enforcement teams during lockdown.	All to Note	N/A
iii. Consult IT on which platform to use for future meetings given security concerns associated with some virtual platforms.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	Before Next Meeting
iv. Any partners requiring OpenStreetMap information to contact HOT.	All to Note	N/A

**9. Next Meeting – May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 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)

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Secretary (M. Natabo)