

Energy and Environment TWG

Minutes of Meeting (main issues)

Date and time: The meeting was held on Tue 10 Oct 2017 at 10:00 hrs

Location: UNHCR Office, Kampala

Agenda

- i) Opening remarks by OPM
- ii) Presentation by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MoEMD) on the developments so far in the energy sector
- iii) Presentation by UNHCR to introduce the Environment Strategy
- iv) Discussions
- v) AOB

Attendance

Name	Organization	Designation	Email contact	Telephone contact
Jean Paul Magezi	OPM	Protection/Environment Focal Officer	johnpaulmagezi@gmail.com	078 246 28-39
Jens Hesemann	UNHCR	Snr. Coordination Officer	hesemann@unhcr.org	078 7298 976
Mohamed Abdel-AI	UNHCR	Snr. Technical Coordinator	abdelal@unhcr.org	077 1-894 115
Martin Bolsterli	UNHCR	Physical Site Planner/Shelter Officer	bolsterl@unhcr.org	078 3365 424
Christine Kasedde	World Bank	Environmental Specialist	ckasedde@worldbank.org	0774 686 013
Okello Lawrence	Action Against Hunger		pqaco.ug@acf-international.org	077 278 8044
Jane Maonge	UNHCR	Snr. WASH Officer	maonge@unhcr.org	0775 700 788
Michele Sahabo	CARE	Shelter Specialist	michele.shabo@care.org	0785 700 788
Justine Akumu	MoEMD	Energy Officer	j.akumu@energy.go.ug	078 590 3093
Beatrice Okello	FAO	Snr. Prog. Officer /Manager	Beatrice.Okello@fao.org	077 650 2504

I. Opening remarks

OPM/John Paul

- Bigger number of participants expected.
- OPM wants to make sure, to have all actors on board
- STA and ReHoPe should be considered as baseline for all partners and stakeholders.
- TWG on Energy started last year, with UNDP on board, but it is important to expand the group to include environment sectors and more stakeholders
- Response need to be coordinated.
- Caseload in South West should not be forgotten.
- To strengthen dialogue the TWG is mandatory and it is important to bring all people to the table.
- Renewable energy interventions is key for next steps in the refugee operation. LWF has been requested to have some activities on land use management plans probably in Moyo and Lamwo
- Land use management plans are very important to adopt since this is an intervention that keeps coming up during interface with district authorities in refugee hosting districts

UNHCR/Jens

- Just a reminder that the overall humanitarian structure has four layers: i) leadership (OPM Commissioner / UNHCR Rep.); ii) interagency level (heads of programmes); iii) multi sectoral working groups at national level; and iv) sectors WGs at settlement levels.
- It is high time to start this important TWG that covers environment in its entirety and to strengthen its role. It is also important to hold regular meetings for this group.
- It is important and necessary that the line ministries (MWE, MoH, Ministry of local districts, etc.), Academic, Development and Private sectors are invited to the TWG
- The long-term planning for Environmental issues are different from the usual humanitarian aid.
- UNHCR relies on the experience of all stakeholders in the field of environment.
- At district level all are worried about environmental issues (firewood collection, impact of borehole drilling, etc.)

II. Presentations

MoEMD/Justine

- High influx of refugees changes the Strategy for Environmental issues.
- High level of deforestation (for cooking) is very significant.
- Clean energy solutions should be brought in (started e.g. with DRC).
- Distributed “energy saving” cooking stoves are not in line with standards.
Discussions with refugees following our field visit indicated that some refugees are not using the cooking stoves as they are not efficient and continue to use the three stone cooking method. Some of the distributed stoves produce smoke. Some refugees received 2-3 stoves where others received nothing. Manufacturers of cooking stoves shall be contacted to improve standards.

- MoEMD is currently reviewing the energy saving cooking stoves standards and will soon conclude this exercise.
- We noted few interventions in energy, but not well coordinated.
- Coordination is of concern. Efforts need to be coordinated properly to reach good level of interventions.
- Access to energy, tree planting, raise awareness, etc. is the way forward
- Capacity building in the domain of energy is lacking.
- Mid and long term planning is essential. The ad hoc kind of situation is unsatisfying,

UNHCR/Mohamed

- Presented the UNHCR Environmental Health Strategy developed recently. To avoid repetition, the presentation is attached herewith.

Two main issues were raised by attendees:

- i) The word “health” in the strategy brings some confusion. To avoid ambiguity, it was agreed to call the strategy “Environment Strategy”
- ii) The strategy should not mix up with the duties of the different sectors. Confirmation received that the strategy is aimed to support sectors in complementing what is missing and to address environmental areas that otherwise are not covered by the sectors.

III. AOB

The meeting agreed that there is a need to include other members from the Livelihood Sector Working Group onto the TWG on Energy and Environment since there are cross cutting issues.

IV. Action points:

1. Invite line ministries, private and academic sectors to join the TWG. Action by OPM
2. Share draft zero of the Environment Strategy and presentation with members of the TWG (present and absent). Action by UNHCR.
3. Prepare draft TWG TOR for further discussions and input by members of the group. Action by UNHCR.
4. Members at the meeting were requested to make input on the minutes of the meeting and the draft Environment Health Strategy before 25th Oct.2017

Stakeholders/ members of the TWG will provide comments on both documents in 2 & 3 above in track changes latest within 10 calendar days after receipt.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the offices of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development on 01 November 2017 at 10:00 hrs.

VI. Next meeting agenda

1. Discuss comments received on the Environment Strategy and the TWG TOR and agree on final versions
2. AOB

11 October 2017