

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

Monthly National Coordination Platform

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

09:00 – 12:40

OPM DEPARTMENT OF
REFUGEES BOARD ROOM

CO-CHAIRS	John Paul Magezi chaired; Emmanuel Emorut Ekakoro co-chaired.
NOTE TAKER	Miriam Natabo

Attendees:

#	Full Name	Organisation	E-mail
1.	Christopher Tusiime	CARE	Christopher.Tusiime@care.org
2.	John Paul Magezi	OPM-DOR	johnpaulmagezi@gmail.com
3.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	UNHCR	ekakoro@unhcr.org
4.	Miriam Natabo	UNHCR	natabo@unhcr.org
5.	Sarah Basemera	Raising Gabdho Foundation	sbasemera@raisinggabdhofoundation.org
6.	Justine Akumu	MEMD	akumujustyn@gmail.com
7.	Till Wicker	DRC	till.wicker@drc.ngo
8.	Samuel Oyaku	GIZ	samuel.oyaku@giz.de
9.	Henry Mukiibi	Lutheran World Federation	henry.mukiibi@lutheranworld.org
10.	Musa Wamala	Lutheran World Federation	musa.wamala@lutheranworld.org
11.	Emmanuel Adowa	DanChurchAid	aemm@dca.dk

Absent with Apologies:

1. Emmanuel Aziebor – MercyCorps
2. Onesimus Muhwezi – UNDP
3. Charlène Cabot – Innovation Response Lab

Agenda topics:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Self- Introductions
3. Remarks from the Co-Chairs and Announcements – 2020 Outlook for the sector (5 Min each)
4. Working Group Management – Election of Co-Chairs and Secretariat
5. Review of Last Minutes and Actions (20 min)
6. Presentation from the Host – OPM (10 minutes)
7. Presentations of Updates/Concept Notes (5-10 minutes each)
8. Sustainable Energy Refugee Response Plan (SERRP)
9. Sector priorities for 2020 - Discussion
10. National Tree Planting Day (April 2020) - Emmanuel
11. Tour de Table (30 min)
12. Next Meeting

1. OPENING PRAYER

Led by Ms. Justine Akumu.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Members present introduced themselves for purposes of knowing one another.

3. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. John Paul Magezi from OPM-DOR chaired the meeting. ii. He welcomed Miriam Natabo the Associate Environment and Energy Officer at UNHCR to the group who shall be taking up the portfolio for Ranya Sherif at national level and wished her all the best in work she will do for the sector. iii. He appreciated Ranya's efforts in coordinating members and for following up actions agreed upon in the meetings. iv. An overview of the reports submitted by 11 partners through ActivityInfo with regards to the E&E sector's achievements for Q4 2019 has been submitted for validation. Emmanuel Ekakoro has shared the draft report with field teams, who should submit feedback by Friday 14th February 2020. v. He noted there are IPs starting implementation of partnership agreements, some of which are new. vi. The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) was very successful with different Ministries in attendance as well as online participation having various people giving their input on various refugee issues. vii. The CRRF will organize a debrief to disseminate the GRF outcomes. The CRRF team was not in attendance to share when and where the debrief would take place. viii. There is need to strengthen collaboration among the agencies and Ministries. ix. Several E&E partners have signed PPAs but a few crucial ones have not yet been signed including DCA (undergoing QA) and NFA (in final stages of entry to Focus). x. Partners should focus on long-term impact of project interventions as opposed to immediate project deliverables as per the PPAs e.g. tree planting should be followed by maintenance to ensure survival in the field. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

4. WORKING GROUP MANAGEMENT

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The WorkGrEEn is currently co-chaired by OPM, UNHCR and UNDP; however, UNDP has not participated in 2019 and there is need to confirm their continued involvement or otherwise. ii. The Chair discussed the possibility of establishing a Working Group Secretariat to provide programme support (including stakeholder engagement, communication and other duties to be defined in the TOR) to the Technical Working Group. The Secretariat would also preside over meetings in absence of the Chair and Co-chair to ensure deadlines are adhered to. iii. CARE had initially expressed interest in hosting the Secretariat. There is need to designate a partner to host the secretariat. iv. The matter was not concluded, and it was agreed that a final decision on whether or not to establish the secretariat would be made at the next meeting once a) UNDP confirms their continued membership to the Working Group and b) the Chair presents a justification for establishing one. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. UNHCR and OPM will call a meeting with UNDP to clarify their position regarding the matter.	John Paul Magezi	21 st Feb 2020
ii. OPM to provide a detailed justification in favor of	John Paul Magezi	11 th March

establishing a secretariat including what its role would be.		
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5. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Monitoring of field interventions by different partners should be done jointly. ii. Information sharing should also extend to the WhatsApp platform. iii. Nursery preparation commenced towards the end of 2019 and seedlings are currently maturing in the nurseries. iv. Data generated for the Energy Dashboard is being validated by the end February to know what activities took place in the sector in 2019. v. A standard form for tracking tree survival in the field has been developed jointly by NFA and UNHCR. vi. RGF stated that some of the people went to visit Coca Cola but others are yet to go. vii. The minutes were adopted as a true record.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. Future minutes should have a section for signature once adopted.	Emmanuel Ekakoro/Miriam Natabo	Next meeting
ii. Members encouraged to share any relevant information via the WhatsApp platform in addition to the other platforms.	All to note	NA

DISCUSSION

6. Presentation from the Host – OPM

- i. The Global Refugee Forum was very successful with different Ministries in attendance as well as online participation having various people giving their input on various refugee issues. CRF is to organize a debrief on what came out of the Forum.

Mercy Corps Access to Energy – STARRE/AMPERE/EEMRG Programmes

The updates were presented by Emmanuel Ekakoro

- i. Mercy Corps collaborated with D.light and Village Power to implement the Phase 1 of the results-based subsidy mechanism. Phase targeted lanterns and solar home systems on both cash and PAYGo. 3,639 solar products (lanterns and home systems) have been installed. 56% of the systems were bought by females and 44% by males. Phase 1, which begins this week, will focus on PAYGo systems by the two suppliers with a reduced subsidy of 50%. We anticipate a phase 3 in March 2020 with a further reduced subsidy.
- ii. The 4 innovation grants under the AMPERE project are progressing very well. The pilots have commenced field intervention. A monitoring field trip is planned for next week and a half -day CONVENE workshop was to be held on 20th February in Bidi Bidi, coordinated by the Response Innovation Lab to discuss the findings of implemented innovative programmes on access to clean energy.
- iii. Mercy Corps and other partners are collaborating with the East African Centre of Excellence for

Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREEE) on a regional workshop planned for March. Mercy Corps will make a presentation on its inclusive energy approach.

- iv. An “Inclusive Energy for Humanitarian Actors” workshop is planned for March 24-26, 2020 in partnership with the Women Refugee Council and UNITAR. Humanitarian practitioners in Uganda will be invited.
- v. A learning workshop for the AMPERE grant, highlighting key approaches and results is planned for March 2020. Specifics will be communicated later.
- vi. Dalberg Advisors will be conducting an energy assessment in the Bidi Bidi settlements (last week of Feb 2020) as part of a 3-country energy-in-refugee settings study.

DanChurchAid – Presented by Emmanuel Adowa

- i. DCA undertook a study on the adoption of alternative fuel and energy technologies in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement. Consultant was hired execute the task and the final report available
- ii. DCA is soliciting for applications from reputable startups, business entities and NGOs to address the green challenges in west Nile, deadline is 27th/Feb/2019.
- iii. DCA also following up on the survival rate for the 1 Million trees planted in 2019 in west Nile.
- iv. DCA has expanded its program portfolio to implement Environment and Energy in west Nile and Kirandongo as an IP to UNHCR, proposal submitted to UNHCR pending PPA signing. The implementation arrangements are both through self and twinning arrangement with two local partners RICE and HADS.

GIZ – Presented by Samuel Eyaku

- i. GIZ providing solar systems in social institutions in displaced settings
- ii. Two (2) additional energy kiosks are being constructed and a contract has been awarded for this activity.
- iii. A regional workshop is being organised in collaboration with EACREEE and UNREEEA scheduled for 3rd – 4th March 2020.
- iv. Technical designs for solar mini grids to be installed in Base camps as part of the initiative for Greening Base camps were developed. The intervention will ascertain the most economic mini grids in displaced settings.
- v. GIZ is supporting MEMD in the development of the SERRP. Terms of Reference (Draft zero) for the consultant to help with developing the detailed draft of the Response Plan were developed.

UNHCR – Presented by Emmanuel Ekakoro

- i. UNHCR attended an annual retreat for the Water and Environment Development Partners Group in Fort Portal (28th – 30th January 2020) to discuss the challenges in the sector and to identify priorities for 2020. This included a field visit to Kyaka II settlement and 2 villages in Kyegegwa district hosting community.
- ii. A priority matrix will be developed by all the partners elaborating the priorities that each Development Partner will support in Uganda.
- iii. The Water and Environment Response Plan will be launched on 12th March.

Raising Gabdho Foundation – presented by Sarah Basemera

- i. RGF in partnership with DCA (UNHCR funding) enabled 100 HH to access LPG in Kampala, we are continuing to engage with Total to support the sensitization. The beneficiaries are to pay 50,000 as contribution to LPG access. This money will be used to subsidise the cost and enable the next 100HH to access LPG.
- ii. We plan to have a cooking demonstration to show case the various cooking solutions other than the fuel wood in Kampala, we hope that various partners can pick interest in this activity.
- iii. In Kyangwali a current activity is ongoing to enable 100HH learn how to weave, assemble and use the cooking basket (each household will receive one cooking basket), we hope that later this

can be taken up as a business.

- iv. RGF is also to set up a community carbonizer to ease the carbonising process in Kyangwali with the 100 households already we are working with.
- v. RGF with funding from DCA conducted a study in Bidi Bidi in 200 households to find out if people understood clean cooking, and a final report shall be shared with members.

Lutheran World Federation – Presented by Musa Wamala

- i. LWF is identifying households to engage in tree planting interventions.
- ii. Two (2) tree nurseries, one in Palorinya and another in Amuru. Infrastructure is being put in place.
- iii. Monitoring assessments were carried out to ascertain the survival rates in different refugee settlements. In Kyangwali it was 75% and in Rwamwanja 78%.
- iv. LWF is identifying beneficiaries to be supported with energy saving stoves and tree planting.
- v. LWF is also working with GIZ to establish mini grids to provide energy for productive use in Lamwo. Currently baseline assessments are ongoing to establish the current demand, existing opportunities, economic activities, etc to support the design of mini grids.

8. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (SERRP) – Justine Akumu

- i. MEMD initiated the development process for the SERRP in 2019 for refugee and host communities as part of the CRRF. The SERRP will strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus coordination of interventions and investments to enable access to affordable, reliable, appropriate, sustainable and modern energy for all refugee and host communities.
- ii. Key strategic interventions from the SERRP will provide input into the NDP III and the SDP to ensure the integration of the development and humanitarian approach in providing sustainable energy solutions among refugee settlements and host communities.
- iii. Key issues driving the development of SERRP include:
 - a. the significant refugee population and population growth leading to increasing demand for energy services;
 - b. over 60% of the refugee population is under 18 years of age; heavy reliance on biomass for cooking on inefficient stoves and low access to sustainable alternative cooking fuels or improved cook stoves;
 - c. protection risks to women and children while collecting firewood;
 - d. insufficient access to sustainable energy in households for lighting and other uses; insufficient lighting in rural villages and communities;
 - e. insufficient access to sustainable energy services for productive uses; low ability to pay for renewable technology such as solar home systems, solar lanterns, sustainable fuels or improved cookstoves;
 - f. inadequate structures in place for operations and maintenance of outdoor lighting and institutional solar energy systems;
 - g. humanitarian operations rely heavily on diesel generators for power; and unsafe fuel storage and handling.
- iv. **Composition of the SERRP Task Team:** MEMD- CHAIR; MEMD- Secretariat; OPM- DoR Member; OPM- CRRF; MoLG- Member; REA; UNHCR; GIZ; Other members co-opted depending on the subject of discussion.
- v. **Focal areas for the SERRP** include Clean cooking appliances; Clean fuels and distribution; Rural electrification; Energy for productive uses; Efficient utilization of energy technologies; Safe and efficient supply and handling of diesel; and Energy for service delivery e.g. street lighting.
- vi. **Format of the SERRP:** The Foreword, Executive Summary, Section One: Introduction Section Two: Sector Situation Analysis (Profile/Current Situation/Baseline), Section Three: Strategic Guidance to the Sector, Section Four: Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of the Plan, Section Five: Financing Strategy, Section Six: Monitoring & Evaluation Arrangements, Annex 1: Cost Implementation Matrix.
- vii. TORs for consultant to develop detailed Response Plan are being finalised.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. UNHCR to report whether MEMD can get access to information shared by partners on ActivityInfo to help in their decision making.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	12 th Feb 2020
ii. To enquire from UNHCR Information Management whether government partners should submit reports in ActivityInfo.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	12 th Feb 2020
iii. Partners to share written submissions for accurate inclusion in the minutes.	All to note	NA

9. SECTOR PRIORITIES

DISCUSSION		
<p>i. On 28th – 30th January partners in the Water and Environment Sector held a retreat in Fort Portal. Key Partners present included the EU, USAID and FAO showed interest to work to work the sector stakeholders and implement some identified priorities.</p> <p>ii. EU took interest in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering a revised Global Biodiversity Strategy in partnership with NEMA. Tracking of SDGs in the Energy and Environment sectors. <p>iii. FAO and USAID expressed interest in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation to assist Uganda to meet her targets and support NFA to deliver on their mandate. Support civil society and activism in the area of sustainable energy and management. FAO to support National Tree planting Day, a programme in Ministry of Education and Sports on greening schools, finalisation of the Climate Change Bill for Uganda and the organisation of the Water Week. <p>iv. A call for abstract was published as part of the Water Week.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
i. Share final Priority Matrix with members to identify available priorities and interested partners.	Emmanuel Ekakoro	
ii. Partners should submit their abstracts for Water and Environment Week	All to note	
iii. Follow up with UNHCR Snr. Technical Coordinator to clarify whether E&E partners can participate in the Water Week, and how.	Miriam Natabo	14 th February

10. NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

DISCUSSION		
<p>i. UNHCR is targeting to plant 1.4 million trees during the National Tree Planting Day (1 tree per refugee). A meeting with UNHCR's Field Officers has been called to agree on a strategy for implementing this activity. NFA shall provide the seedlings.</p> <p>ii. Other WorkGrEEen partners to indicate if they are interested in participating.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

11. TOUR DE TABLE

DISCUSSION

DRC

- Co-funding secured by ICRAF from Netherlands to implement the Resource, Re-use and Recycle project in Rhino under the Climate Smart Agriculture theme.
- Shea butter value chain being explored in collaboration of Global Shea Alliance.

CARE

- Exploring non-biomass cooking and recycling and bids for feasibility studies have been received.
- Piloting communal cooking using solar energy in refugee settlements, host communities. By April 2020, a pilot should be running.
- EU is supporting strengthening Emergency Response in Kikuube.

RGF

- A refugee will be representing RGF in subsequent meeting.
- A study around 200 households to establish whether people are aware of alternative clean cooking technologies. A report is in place.
- Rolling out LPG use in Kampala by targeting people who would never think about using LPG without awareness. This can be combined with the cooking basket.
- Collaborate with CARE and LWF to train briquette makers among refugee settlements. They are also being engaged in weaving baskets.
- Plan to do a cooking demonstration for instance at City Square to promote sustainable cooking in urban settings.

MEMD

- MEMD is planning an LPG roll-out project worth UGX 2.3 Trillion from MFPED.

UNHCR

- Continued firewood use in the long-term is not sustainable and indications are that NFA will outlaw firewood collection in Central Forest Reserves hence the need to find alternatives.
- LPG is the preferred option in the long-term as has been tried out in refugee camps in Tanzania and Rwanda. There is need to raise awareness and sensitize communities to address negative perceptions about LPG and promote safer cooking practices. Sector stakeholders under MEMD leadership should structure and resource a responsive communication strategy.
- Cooking interventions should consider not only the engineering and environmental aspects, but should also consider socio-cultural aspects, if they are to be widely adopted. Interventions should be practical and serve to meet the priority needs of those respective communities.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

12. Next Meeting – March 11th @ DanChurchAid