

Minutes of Meeting: Energy and Environment Working Group

Date: 2 November 2017

Time: 10:00AM

Location: UNHCR Conference Room

Chaired by: Kristine Hambrouck (Assistant Representative: Program)

Facilitators: Deribe Gurmu, Getachew Muche

Objectives 1: To discuss and get an update on:

- current refugee populations and new arrivals
- current energy/environment activities in refugee/host communities
- Integration assessment results
- Mapping of capacities of actors in energy and environment and plans for 2018
- Introduction of the cash modality for the provision of domestic energy

Kristine Hambrouck, Assistant Representative-Program gave a well-coming address to the participants on behalf of the Deputy representative Matthew Crentsil and updated the meeting with the current refugee population status and the continued influx of refugees to Ethiopia including the challenges that both UNHCR and its partners are facing in all refugee camps with regards to energy supply and environmental protection; in the pace of the impact that the refugees and the host communities cause on the environment. She mentioned that even if there is an encouraging attempt from all parties involved in the field of domestic energy for cooking and alternative energy supply for lighting and productive use; and in environmental rehabilitations activities; these are rated as insufficient if not insignificant compared to the demand of the refugees for domestic energy for cooking and lighting and productive use and to the amount of forest land degraded each year for cooking and shelter construction, in particular. She stressed that this is partly due to the shortage of funding and partly due to lack of coordination at field level while providing these services. She, in her speech underlined that this working group is required to:

- evaluate, coordinate and oversee the energy supply and environment interventions by all parties involved across the refugee camps
- establish a regular meeting forum to discuss on the issues related to energy supply and environmental rehabilitation and protection interventions, to share experiences and recommend/suggest actions to be taken to achieve the intended goal of the energy and environment interventions.
- Advocate for Energy and Environment, through representing Energy and environment in all forums available for its significance and cross-cutting effect across humanitarian operations
- Develop an implementable fund raising strategy

- Play the role of a pressure group that energy and environment be given equal priority while planning and allocating budget for the operation including on the effective use of resources availed
- Initiate the creation of similar working groups in all camps
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the Energy and environmental interventions

Upon the conclusion of her remarks/speech, Ato Girmay Kassa of ARRA, hailed the address made by the Assistant Rep. and the concern she has of the sector and ascertained her that this was the first time in the UNHCR history to boldly admit that the sector was functioning below standard and disclosing the factors that limited it. He also expressed his expectation that the sectors' delivery services will be improved by far with the strong support from UNHCR, ARRA and the working group whose coordination and monitoring and evaluation of the activities are vested upon. He also uttered for all to stand for optimum use of the limited resources and maximum output.

Objectives 2: current energy and Natural Resource Management and Environmental Rehabilitation activities in and around refugee/host communities' settlements

Getachew Muche the Energy expert and Deribe Gurmu; aided by power points/slides, gave an up-date on the status of the [Safe Access to fuel and Energy](#) and [Natural Resources Management strategic plan for Ethiopia](#). The slides on the *"Energy"* presented by the energy expert focused mainly on baseline, achievements and target of the SAFE strategy 2015-2018 (slides attached). The contents of the slides, among others, included the following:

- The SAFE 2015-2018 strategic goals and objectives
- Achievements and targets for; domestic fuel for cooking, lighting, electricity and energy for productive use.
- Institutions involved in the supply and implementation of the SAFE activities
- What worked and what didn't work among the planned targets of the SAFE strategy
- The achievements and gaps of the SAFE strategy per refugee camp
- The current domestic energy for cooking, lighting and productive use situation in the refugee camps of Ethiopia; proposed mixed energy and the budget requirement. and
- Planned budget and allocated gap for energy interventions in 2015-2017

Discussions/Questions:

A number of questions were raised from the participants: including on the quality and types of stoves and solar lanterns distributed; the sporadic supply of liquid fuels and the problems attached to it; the need to see energy supply at the center of the planning and programming process, the need for reviewing the targets indicated in the safe strategy 2015-2018 against what has been achieved and the lessons learnt and sharing the revised plan for the working group; explore the possibilities of getting ethanol free of charge or get the price of ethanol further reduced for it to contribute to the environment; the need to coordinate tasks related to energy supply, to avoid duplication, maximize resource use to ensure sustainability.

In light of the above issues; a very engaging discussion/debate was undertaken by the participants with constructive ideas injected together with recommendations to better improve the energy supply service to the refugees with actions and responsibilities attached. The recommendations touched upon the identification of areas of:

- targeted assistance or target assistance for maximum impact
- selected/focused energy/alternative energy sources to ensure sustainability in the supply chain
- integrated holistic/ approach to energy supply than single solution
- limitations to sustainable energy supply (e.g. lack of continuous feed stock to produce briquette, bio-gas, bio-ethanol, bio-mass based energy etc., lack of skill and knowledge and or capacity, or both etc....)
- the critical un-met needs and the drivers for converting energy items to meet the un-met needs by the refugees and tackle these through cross-sectoral budget support
- improve the in-house procurement procedures, rules and regulations,
- support the IPs engaged in energy supply to build their capacities to qualify for procurement etc.

Actions and responsibilities

The participants unanimously agreed the “Energy and Environmental unit” to:

- evaluate the safe strategy 2015-2017 against the planned targets, achievements and beneficiaries’ satisfaction in collaboration with members from the Working group
- revise and prioritize the 2018 targets against the resources allocated and share the same with the working group
- ensure the procurement and delivery procedures are improved for continuous and timely supply of ethanol procured with the budget allocated
- provides technical assistance to all implementing and operation partners involved in the energy supply
- solicit areas of quick intervention for energy supply such as institutionalization of CBI, where possible.

2.1. Natural Resource Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (NRM & ER) activities

Deribe Gurmu; aided by power points gave an up-date on the status of the [Natural Resources Management and Environmental Rehabilitation activities](#). The slides on the “[Natural Resources Management and environmental Rehabilitation](#)” focused mainly on the baseline, achievements and targets as specified in the SAFE strategy 2015-2018 (slides attached). The contents of the slides, among others, included, but not limited to:

- Environmental rehabilitation and natural resource activities
- Seedling plantation, land development and area enclosure
- Achievements, targets and challenges of environmental intervention activities
- Planned budget and allocated gap for NRM & ER activities

Following the presentation, issues regarding the knowledge on the rate of deforestation, impact associated; and shared responsibilities between the refugees and host communities on the impacts and rehabilitation of the degraded lands were raised and discussed. Upon the conclusion of the discussion, the assistant Representative-Program asked if the data for the rate of deforestation and the extent of land degradation in and around the refuges settlement areas can be explored for ease of planning and shared protection and rehabilitation purpose. Deribe responded that these information can be found from the Ministry of Natural resources, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate change, research institutes and development planners such as the World Bank, UNDP, Regional bureaus etc. which can be accessed easily. He, however, added that the study on the impact of refugees and host communities on the environment must be studied with the initiative from UNHCR and its partners to have an objectively verified information on the rate of deforestation and land degradation in all camps

Objective 3: Mapping of E & E Partners

The various implementing partners involved in energy and environmental rehabilitation activities across the refugee camps together with the main activities they are involved including their plans for 2018 was displayed.

Issues on the insufficiency of the number of partners involved in E & E; the need for an energy IP for Gambella; was raised and discussed. The discussion was concluded by a quick summary on some initiatives taken by the UNHCR and its partners including: carbon credit registration for clean Ethanol stoves by Gaia in Jijigiga camps; grid connected electricity for communal kitchen by EECMY and briquette making by OSD in Afar camps; grid connected electricity for communal kitchen, street lights and productive use by Alianza–Shire, i.t.d. UPM, and briquette production by ZOA for shire camps; assessment of cooking fuel energy demand and alternative energy sources by OSD and woodlot development by FAO for Gambella camps; biogas production by LWF and briquette production by Gaia/PRM and grid connected communal kitchen by ARRA for Assosa camps; assessment and testing the potential for cooking energy options by Gaia for SOMEL-camps and the National energy assessment plan by Integration: all to the best service of the benefiting refugees and the host communities .

Objective 4: Introduction to cash modality for the provision of domestic energy

The Snr. Cash Based Interventions (CBI) Officer gave an overview of the Cash Based Intervention; it's potential for domestic fuel supply and natural resources management in and around the camps. The presenter stressed that with the experience that exists in some camps in Ethiopia; as attested by WFP; CBI, will work well to provide quick response in areas of domestic energy supply and rehabilitation of refugees and host communities impacted environments, if employed. Cash for work (CFW) or food for work (FFW) is also not a new modality in Ethiopia, and this in itself supports the feasibility of introducing CBI to quickly respond to the energy supply and environmental rehabilitation demand of the refugees as well as the hosting communities. She added that an initiative has already been taken to pilot CBI for Briquette making and selling and for liquid fuel supply in two of the Assosa camps and in some camps in Shire.

Conclusion and closing remarks

The assistant representative, gave her gratitude for the participants for their active participation and the concern they expressed and the commitment they all showed to find responses to issues related to the Energy supply and the environment collectively. She also expressed her wish to expand the members of the working group by including all partners INGOs, NGOs, Ministries, research organizations etc. engaged in energy and environment. She pointed out that the meeting of the group will be once in a month, preferably the 3rd week of each month, the next meeting being on November 21st, 2017. With this closing remark underlined; the meeting was adjourned at **12:00 P.M**, sharp

Rapporteurs:

Getachew Muche

Deribe Gurmu

**Annex I: NATIONAL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP
MEETING**

THURSDAY: NOVEMBER 2, 2017

VENUE: UNHCR CONFERENCE HALL

Objectives: To discuss and get an update on:

- current refugee populations and new arrivals
- current energy/environment activities in refugee/host communities
- Integration assessment results
- Mapping of capacities of actors in energy and environment and plans for 2018
- Introduction to the cash modality for the provision of domestic energy

TIME	TOPIC/EVENT	RESPONSIBLE	RESPONSIBLE
10:00-10:10 A.M.	Welcome and Self-introduction	UNHCR	D/Representative
10:10-10:20 A.M	Purpose of the meeting and the current refugee population and new arrivals	UNHCR	Kristine Hambrouck; Assistant Representative: program
10:20-10:30 A.M	Discussion	Participants	
10:20-10: 50 A.M	current energy and environment activities in refugee and host communities	UNHCR	Deribe Gurmu & Getachew Muche
10:50-11:00 A.M	Discussion	Participants	
11:00-11:20 A.M	Mapping of capacities of actors in energy and environment and plans for 2018	UNHCR	Deribe Gurmu and Getachew Muche
11:20-11:30 A.M	Discussion	Participants	
11:30-11:50 A.M	Introduction to cash modality for the provision of domestic energy	UNHCR	Mary Karanja-Snr. Cash Based Interventions Officer
11:50- 12:00 P.M	Discussion	Participants	
12:00 P.M	Close up /wrap up	UNHCR	

Annex 2
List of the participants

No.	Name	Organization	Title	e-mail	Signature
1	Yemisrach Benalfew	SDC	Po. Migration and protection	Yemisrach Benalfew@admin.ch	
2	Rosalijn Both	ZOA	Pro. Advisor	Consortium.compliance@zoaethiopia.org	
3	Dave Moore	PRM	Ref. coordinator	MooreDT@state.gov	
4	Girmay Kassa	ARRA	E & E, Shelter officer	Girmaxum62@gmail.com	
5	Moses R. DAK	UNHCR	Snr. FS. Associate	DAKMOSES@8unhcr.org	
6	Mohammed Ahmed	OSD	Ex-directory	osd.org@gmail.com	
7	Desalegn Getaneh	Gaia Assoc.	Director	desalegn@projectgaia.com	
8	Kristine Hambrouck	UNHCR	Assist. Rep. program	hambrouc@unhcr.org	
9	Mary Karanja	UNHCR	Snr. CBI officer	karanjam@unhcr.org	
10	Abubakarr Jalloh	UNHCR	Snr. Prog. Officer	jalloha@unhcr.org	
11	Getachew Muche	UNHCR	Energy expert	muche@unhcr.org	
12	Deribe Gurmu	UNHCR	E & E Officer	gurmu@unhcr.org	