

2017 ANNUAL WORKSHOP REPORT

November 28 – December 1, 2017
Nairobi, Kenya



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SAFE

SAFE ACCESS TO
FUEL AND ENERGY



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
CLEAN COOKSTOVES

EVENT SNAPSHOT



November 28 – December 1, 2017
Nairobi, Kenya

The SAFE Humanitarian Workshop trains practitioners to provide fuel and energy solutions to crisis-affected people worldwide.

Energy access is a critical and under-served need among the 128 million people in need of humanitarian assistance today. Despite the key role that energy access plays in health, livelihoods, protection, and other key issues, it is frequently neglected in humanitarian strategies and budgets. This leads to a critical gap in well-trained staff who can provide programmatic and technical support to energy projects in crisis settings.

Every year, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (the Alliance) hosts the SAFE Humanitarian Workshop to fill this capacity gap and convene the diverse group of actors engaged in providing energy solutions to crisis-affected people. It is a critical opportunity to exchange knowledge, develop best practices, and facilitate collaboration between aid organizations, development agencies, and the private sector.

The 4th annual SAFE Humanitarian Workshop took place from November 28 – December 1, 2017, in Nairobi, Kenya. It featured four days of classroom learning, panel discussions, and interactive sessions designed to build the capacity of practitioners to implement effective energy solutions in humanitarian contexts, as well as discuss key issues.

DAY 1 Framing the Issue Participants received a high level overview on the current state of energy in humanitarian assistance and discussed sector-wide challenges, gaps, and opportunities for SAFE practitioners. Afternoon breakout sessions addressed the various impacts of fuel and energy (or lack thereof) on health, water provision, the environment, livelihoods, protection, and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings.

DAY 2 Designing, Delivering, and Assessing Solutions Participants delved into specific energy interventions such as cookstoves, fuel, standalone lighting and powering, and heating and cooling solutions. Best practices on designing and implementing context-appropriate solutions were emphasized, as well as how to assess impact through rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

DAY 3 Looking Forward, Planning Action Participants discussed key issues facing the SAFE sector, such as funding challenges and the increasing role of the private sector, in expert-led panels. Country-specific breakout groups then shared existing work and challenges in their locations, and small groups with common interests gathered to discuss alternative fuels, women's empowerment, and other topics.

DAY 4 Mini- and Micro- Grids in Refugee Camps The United Nations Foundation hosted a day-long side event addressing the barriers, potential, and opportunities for the deployment of larger scale renewable energy technologies to provide modern energy access to refugees, host communities, and camp operations.



ATTENDEES



Coming here has really been quite eye opening, very enlightening, because I've been able to see just how much need there is for energy in a crisis. This has actually enabled me to know that we could play a bigger role as Oxfam. We could become a leader in driving some aspects of providing energy access to our beneficiaries.

— *ASENATH NDEGWA, OXFAM KENYA*

The 2017 SAFE workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from the humanitarian, development, private, and public sectors. These included:

- **International humanitarian & development organizations** including field and headquarter-level staff from UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), GIZ, the International Organization on Migration (IOM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and Oxfam.
- **Local NGOs** such as the Gaia Association of Ethiopia, the Raising Gabhdo Foundation in Uganda, Food for the Hungry in Kenya, and the Zambia Energy and Environmental Organization.
- **Private companies**, including stove manufacturers such as Biolite, Envirofit, and Potential Energy, as well as energy service providers such as Kube Energy, SolarGen Technologies, and Strauss Energy.
- **Government representatives**, from Uganda, Ethiopia, and Norway.
- **Research institutions**, including Bristol and Coventry Universities, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the University of Tokyo, Politecnico di Milano, the World Agroforestry Center in Kenya, and Nyabyeya Forestry College in Uganda.



REFUGEE VOICES

Successful humanitarian assistance must include crisis-affected people as partners instead of passive recipients. In partnership with UNHCR Kenya and the Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (RRDO), the Alliance invited four representatives from Dadaab, the second largest refugee camp in the world, to share their personal stories about the energy-related challenges they face.

“If refugees stay in Dadaab 10 more years, the surrounding environment will be destroyed, and the host community

itself will be displaced,” said Abdullahi Ali Aden, highlighting the urgency of addressing rapid environmental degradation caused by firewood collection for cooking. Although at least nine stove interventions and five fuel alternatives to firewood have been implemented in Dadaab camp, the representatives noted that only about half of Dadaab’s massive population have benefitted from them. “We cannot live in a camp for 30 years, we need to move out and do some business,” said Rukia Ali Rage, describing how prohibitions on refugee movement and ability to work limit their ability to earn livelihoods and access much-needed supplies outside of Dadaab.

We have benefitted a lot from the training. We got some experience we were never expecting...whatever we have learned we will also apply back to Dadaab.

— *RUKIA ALI RAGE*

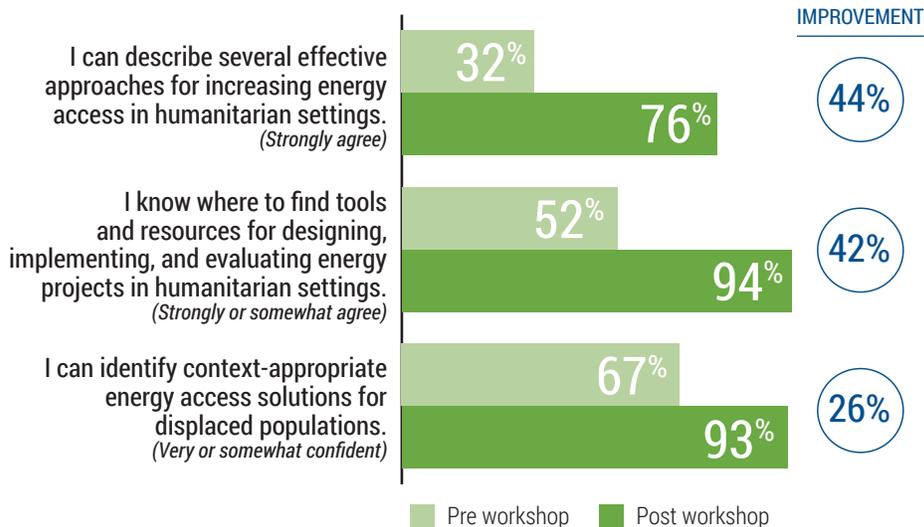
LEARNING IMPACTS



Compared to other conferences, the SAFE Workshop touches the common person. We are relating with people who need energy access, and I think that is where the future of renewable energy is.

-- Joyce Wango,
Ecoplus Enterprise, Kenya

PARTICIPANT LEARNING OUTCOMES



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Feedback on the 2017 SAFE Workshop surveys and interviews overwhelmingly positive. Participants expressed their eagerness to implement what they have learned, stay connected to one another, and formalize their coordination efforts at the field level. Of those who completed feedback surveys:



Reported that they learned something new



Reported that they were able to meet people who will be helpful to them in their work



Agreed that their understanding of energy access in humanitarian settings has improved thanks to the workshop



Reported that they have taken away concrete ideas/activities from the workshop that they can apply to their programs/projects



Highly useful and relevant event!



Well organized and excellent facilitation.

KEY THEMES

Stoves & Fuels

Cooking energy and related issues such as food security, livelihoods, and the environment remained a key focus area at the 2017 SAFE Workshop. Daphné Carliez of WFP highlighted the importance of understanding user's cooking needs, noting that inappropriate stove solutions may not be used at all. "If you are selling your food to get fuel, you will sell your stoves as well," she said. Stove and fuel experts Christa Roth of Food and Fuel Consultants and Dan Sweeney from MIT D-Lab built on this theme in a technical session covering the range of stoves and fuels available in humanitarian settings. Participants also discussed alternative fuel solutions in a thematic roundtable session on Day 3.

“Stove design starts with the fuel, and the user sits at the center of the decision-making process.”

– Christa Roth, Food and Fuel Consultants

Despite the existence of numerous stove and fuel solutions, however, SAFE practitioners face challenges in scaling, funding, and coordinating interventions. Insufficient access to cooking fuel remains a serious issue for crisis-affected people. Isnino Maalim Dakane, a refugee representative from Dadaab, shared that some women are single mothers with many children, and it is these women who are collecting and selling firewood to get income for their family, risking their safety. She requested that UNHCR and other partners assist such families with firewood and charcoal, so that fewer women experience gender-based violence while collecting firewood. She was also happy to hear about the Ugandan government's more integrated refugee policies during a panel discussion Day 3, and hoped that a similar approach could

NEW IN 2017

Due to the SAFE Working Group's origins as an IASC Task Force addressing cooking fuel and gender-based violence (GBV), past SAFE Workshops have focused more heavily on cooking and protection issues. As the SAFE community expands, however, additional topics are gaining visibility. The following topics were addressed at the SAFE Workshop for the first time in 2017:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH)

Energy plays a major role in nearly all water or wastewater treatment and supply.

Alberto Llario of IOM led a session on the use of solar energy for water provision and the game changing possibilities that this technology is bringing for the future of water supply projects in both humanitarian and development contexts.



Heating & Cooling

– Cooling and heating solutions are essential for refrigerating vaccines, preserving food, and controlling temperature in shelters. Both require significant amounts of energy and intelligent design. Panelists from UNF, UN Habitat, the SET4Food Programme, and MSF discussed several ongoing challenges in this area, including a lack of data to inform decisions and set standards.



Humanitarian Operations

– Humanitarian agencies spend millions of dollars per year on diesel-fueled energy to power their operations and community structures. UNITAR, Kube Energy, Schneider Electric, and other actors discussed opportunities for cost savings and reduced environmental impact through energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies such as mini- or micro-grids.

be taken in Kenya. "The international community has been supporting us a long time," she said. "We don't need only aid assistance. We want to do business."

Finance & the Role of the Private Sector

Insufficient, short-term funding is one of the greatest challenges constraining all practitioners working to improve energy access to crisis affected people. Participants explored this challenge, including the potential for solutions that incorporate market-based approaches and collaboration with private sector organizations. "It's not simply a case of attracting money...but also about attracting expertise," said Ben Good of Energy 4 Impact.

Kate Montgomery, a Strategic Partnerships Advisor at Acumen Fund, noted that humanitarian issues need to be mainstreamed into the energy sector as much as the other way around. "The energy sector doesn't know enough about the opportunity," she said, highlighting the need for humanitarian and private actors openly discuss the costs and risks of providing energy solutions in humanitarian settings, as well as for other agencies to facilitate these relationships.

“There's real bridge building that needs to happen...Forums like these and other types of initiatives are going to be really important to get the kind of big wins in the beginning to provide examples for others.

– Kate Montgomery, Acumen Fund

Still, mainstreaming energy into humanitarian assistance remains a key goal. "Humanitarian agencies need to make energy a priority within their own organizations before we can fund it," said Hans Olav Ibrekk of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing the perspective of traditional donors who currently fund most humanitarian energy projects. "We need to prioritize on both sides."



Together Towards Change

For the second year in a row, the SAFE Workshop featured country roundtable discussions, which provided an opportunity for workshop participants operating in the same countries to gather and reflect on opportunities for coordination and collaboration. The groups opened by sharing information regarding SAFE-related projects in their country and discussed existing and potential coordination mechanisms and/or efforts. Participants were asked to think critically about any potential or actualized negative outcomes due to a lack of coordination among stakeholders and how those could be overcome.

Given that the vast majority of the countries did not already have SAFE working groups established, participants largely focused on the feasibility of setting up this coordination mechanism. They brainstormed about information needs and gaps, as well as current trends among donors in regard to joint programming and how a coordination mechanism could help to support joint project proposals. Ultimately, four country roundtable groups – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda – committed to launching SAFE working groups in their respective countries identified point people to lead the effort.



A photograph of four men sitting in a row in a panel discussion. The man on the far left is wearing a patterned shirt and a light jacket. The man next to him is wearing a blue button-down shirt and light-colored pants, and is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The man next to him is wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt and glasses. The man on the far right is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. They are all sitting in dark chairs. A white text box with the words 'LOOKING FORWARD' in blue capital letters is overlaid on the left side of the image.

LOOKING FORWARD

The SAFE sector is expanding. The 2017 SAFE Workshop featured more participants, from a greater variety of backgrounds, discussing a wider range of topics than in past years. Moreover, discussions reflected an improved and more nuanced understanding of energy access in humanitarian settings. The event focused less on describing challenges and more on solving problems and developing solutions.

As we progress into 2018 and beyond, the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group calls upon all actors working in the nexus between energy access and humanitarian assistance to take the following actions.

Support an Annual SAFE Conference

The SAFE Workshop has evolved from a basic training workshop to a high-level forum for networking and knowledge exchange. This forum should continue. Funding and logistical support are needed to accommodate the increasing number of actors and initiatives working on this critical issue.

Support Local SAFE Workshops

There is still a critical need for basic training and capacity building on humanitarian energy programming among implementers at the field level. Actors working in the same locations also benefit from opportunities to share and coordinate their work. Funding, logistical support, and local leadership is needed to host local SAFE workshops that can meet these needs, as well as enable crisis-affected people to participate.

Share Your Work on ENERGYCoP

Drive the adoption of best practices and help new partners find useful information by joining ENERGYCoP, the SAFE Working Group's online community of practice dedicated specifically to practitioners working in the humanitarian energy nexus. Visit energycop.safefuelandenergy.org to learn more.

Spread the Word

Energy access is still not recognized as a formal priority in humanitarian assistance. Raise awareness about the critical importance of energy access for crisis-affected people among your partners. Consider how your organization can contribute. Advocate to the UN and within your own organization to allocate funding and programmatic support for this issue.



2017 SAFE Workshop Hosts



With the generous support of:



Government of the Netherlands



The SAFE Workshop is an initiative of the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group

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