

Meeting notes for the Clean Energy Challenge Action Group Meeting

09-April-2020; 15:00-17:00 CEST

Participants:

Organisation	Name
Act Alliance	Christian Wolff
Catholic Relief Services	Jamie Richardson
Clean Cooking Alliance	Kathleen Callaghy
Centre for International Politics of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.	Noelia Blascovich
Federal Foreign Office of Germany	Markus Leick
Food and Agriculture Organization	Florent Eveille
Food and Agriculture Organization	Wiryia Khim
Food and Agriculture Organization	Olivier Dubois
German Development Agency (GIZ)	Cathleen Seeger
Globesight	Aline Atie
Globesight	Duygu Morel
IFC	Nicole Silvy Bouris
IFC	Muhammad Taif Ul Islam
International Council of Voluntary Agencies	Loise Dai Rocheteau
IOM	Eva Mach
Kube Energy	Kristen Petillon
MERCY CORPS	CECILIA RAGAZZI
Millennium Water Alliance	Laura Brunson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands	Frank van der Vleuten
Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS)	Anh Tran
Norwegian Mission	Andersen Magnus Forberg
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Nina Birkeland
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Elias Jourdi
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Richard Evans
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Cecilia Roselli
PAC International Energy Team	Dean Cooper
Permanent Mission of Portugal in Geneva	Ângela Dourado
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Kamran Seyfullayev
Schneider Electric	JOHN GRAHAM
Shell	Linda Boll
Shell	Eva Hatzidemou
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation	Merijn Havinga
Spain	Ainhoa Fabrega
Sustainable Energy for All	Luc Severi
UNITAR/The Global Plan of Action (GPA) Coordination Unit	Thomas FOHGRUB
UNITAR/The Global Plan of Action (GPA) Coordination Unit	Mark Gibson
UNITAR/ The Global Plan of Action (GPA) Coordination Unit	Aimee JENKS
UNHCR Wash	Emmett Kearney
Victorn Energy	Yoann le Fol

World Economic Forum
World Food Programme (WFP)
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World Food Programme (WFP)

UNICEF
EEAS-GENEVA
UK Mission
Solidarites International

Andrej Kirn
Raffaella Bellanca
Maarten KLEIJN
Andy COLE
Omar NAMAQUI
Emma GILSON
Patricia FACULTAD
Desmond PAGE
Rakshya Rajyashwori Thapa
Katarina CLIFFORD
Dilan Winder
Julien BARBIER

Welcome and Update

- Welcome address by Jaime
- Update on COVID-19 situation is mentioned. The role of energy in refugee situation is very crucial in such situation including stable power supply for health facilities and others.

Recap: What is the Clean Energy Challenge? – Thomas

- The vision of the Clean Energy Challenge and key targets are reiterated.
- The action group is growing, and more partners are showing interest for contribution.
- It is a multisector challenge and there are different ways to contribute and support the efforts.

Governance and Entry Points for Action Group Members

The suggestion for the governance structure is as follows:

- The challenge secretariat - UNHCR Energy team and GPA Coordination Unit (hosted at UNITAR) – facilitates and monitors the processes, and will meet regularly
- The core action group members commit to concrete support – meets every two months.
- Everyone else could become an observer and could participate in the activities and receives communication from the secretariat – meets twice in a year.

Role of action group members

- The roles of the action group members will be on specific aspects of both the supply and demand sides in achieving the goals. Different parties have different areas for contribution, and the CEC secretariat needs all possible support to achieve the goal.

Priorities for 2020

- Key workstreams – Data, Project Pipeline(s), Fundraising/financing
- A) Data activities are focused on two tracks:
 1. Necessary data to set up global/regional and country baselines.
 2. Data needed to develop high quality energy projects. It is necessary to understand what are important indicators, what kind of data is needed for energy projects, and how they can be efficiently obtained.

- 100 sites were analysed for the Global Refugee Forum but it is necessary to deepen the analysis with more data and properly understand the needs.

B) Project Pipeline:

To achieve an energy transition in displacement setting on a large, global scale, it is key to develop high quality and fundable/bankable projects under the three key pillars of the CEC:

- Clean and sustainable electricity for households
- Clean cooking for households
- Decarbonizing the energy infrastructure in displacement settings

The work under the Data workstream will be provide relevant informations. It is also crucial to identify key partners in respective countries for project proposals and determine how they can contribute.

It is suggested to work on the Project Pipeline for Decarbonizing the energy infrastructure first, since this is the most advanced and there is a clear engagement model for the private sector. The GPA CU, together with UNDP and, GIZ and other partners will kickstart this process end of April.

C) Fundraising/Financing:

Under this workstream additional financing sources will be discussed, as well as how to use alternative delivery models (e.g. leasing/renting of electricity solutions). It will also be discussed how to incentive private actors to provide solutions.

Process management

- Action group meetings will be held every 2 months
- A TOR will be developed and open application process to actively contribute to become a core member of the Action Group.
- The governance will be accompanied by a communication structure. First activity is to map the action group – who is working for what and how to work together.
- Identify and facilitate other processes.

Questions/comments

- Question from Practical Action on resources: Where do the resources come from? Where the CEC fits into this? What is the coordination value? What is the exact role of CEC, also in comparison to the GPA?
 - Answers: The GPA is the global framework to achieve SDG7 in displacement setting, launched in July 2018 and driven by UN humanitarian and other energy actors. The membership of the CEC is much broader. It was launched at the margins of the Global Refugee Forum and can be seen as the externalisation of the UNHCR energy strategy and a very concrete agenda for an energy transition under the mandate of UNHCR in the light and the spirit of the GPA framework. Both initiatives share the same goal (achieving SDG7) and values. The GPA Coordination Unit agreed to take on the role of the Secretariat for the CEC and ensures synergies are used between the two initiatives.
 - It is noted that resources for the secretariat of the CEC still need to be secured.
- Question from IFC on the planned task forces:

- Thomas answers, the task force would emerge out of the actions and work processes. The challenge is practicality oriented and follows the UNHCR energy strategy. CEC is driven by concrete need. We won't be successful if we don't work together.
- Jaime – CEC is the campaign broadening the space of support. GPA is a relevant partner.
- Comment from Schneider Electric: - to move towards clean energy from conventional energy system, there is a challenge and lack of capacity in the local level. We need to take this into account.
 - Thomas: Point very well taken. One key challenge is having expertise on sustainability, which also means energy efficiency. We are looking forward to a large-scale energy transition. We need to think about a sustainable and scalable model and developing the capacity is crucial. We also need to include the capacity of private actors.

Entry Points for Action Group Members

- Entry points for action group members in different workstreams are explained (see slides).
 - Invitation to join the “Humanitarian Energy Group” under LinkedIn.
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12310695/>
 - A questionnaire will be sent out to understand interest of potential action group members.
 - A second survey will focus on data needed to develop projects.
 - Under the finance workstream, interested members are invited support the discussion, how energy project can be financed in the future, for example through climate financing solutions.

Discussion session:

- Question from the French mission: How does it fit in the global response? How could we support the process? Do we have any discussion on national level?
 - Answer from UNHCR (James): we have a suggestion to establish a task force to build up the data work and support is strongly needed for that. It is an essential first building block.
 - Help is also greatly appreciated in supporting host countries in any way.
- Comment from MercyCorps: regulatory framework is important. Bringing in private sector partners is challenging because regulatory frameworks might not be favourable.
- Comment from CRS: Request for a bilateral discussion to learn how to support and commit to the challenge.
- Comment from Kube energy: Data is important and regulatory framework is important. What would be the structure of this project? Lot of things can be done remotely, if data is available. Not necessarily need to go to the field while limiting our carbon footprint.
- Comment from Globesight: interested in organizing a high-level meeting in Turkey. There are a lot of interest. However, we would like to know more about the regulatory framework.
- Comment/Question from GIZ: Coordination is key, not only on global level but also on country level. Have you thought about including UNDP?
 - Answer: yes, UNDP is part of the challenge and a key supporter of the GPA.

- Comment from the Spanish Mission: very much appreciated the CEC. On the data workstream Alianza Shire could be an interesting partner.
 - Answer (Thomas): we already have contact with these colleagues
- Comment from Practical Action: concern for the project pipeline is that if we don't know what the financing opportunities or options are before developing a project it can be problematic. Sharing information is important to determine how everyone can link up together. If we know which donors have funding for which actions, we can have systematic approach.
- Comment from the German Federal Foreign Office: very much appreciated the initiative. Highlighted the work from the GPA Coordination Unit in Djibouti to make Djibouti the first country where all camps from UNHCR are powered by Solar only. In addition, Germany offered to solarize an additional UNHCR compound. Savings generated through this project could be paid back in the UNHCR revolving fund and therefore make this project highly effective.
 - Answer (from Jaime): UNHCR thanks for Germany for this offer. The revolving fund is currently under development and it will be explored how this offer could be used.
- Comment from UNICEF: UNICEF is working with a conceptual framework for solar power installation. Immediate collaboration can be made on assessments, defining the market, developing the framework and designing. SE4all and UN Foundation are also working in similar projects.
- Information from Thomas: UNDP developed a 7 steps process to plan, design and implement energy projects. A similar service is offered by GIZ. We have partnered with UNDP and GIZ to adapt these models to the humanitarian settings.
- Comment/Question from MECS: MECS will support the work in displacement settings financially. How do we develop/engage a national policy for the renewable energy system?
 - Answer: The support is very appreciated. The project pipeline would need country specific assessments and regionalised strategies.