

SAFE North-East Nigeria

Working Group Meeting 12 June 2018: Minutes

Organizational update:

- **FAO - ICEED:** Linked to the recently established production centers, 1,000 locally produced fuel-efficient stoves have been distributed in MMC. 4,000 more stoves are planned to be distributed in the next 3 weeks (MMC: 900, Jere: 1,600, Konduga: 1,500). Before the end of the year, so far at least 6,000 more stoves have been planned to be distributed.
- **FAO:** 2,500 emergency SAFE kits, consisting of a light-weight metal stove and a solar lantern, will be distributed in August in hard-to-reach areas. FAO is also working with the Borno State Ministry of Environment to re-establish tree nurseries (exact locations to be determined).
- **DRC:** 500 metal firewood cookstoves will be distributed in Mafa (250) and Bama (250). Waiting for the cookstoves to arrive in Maiduguri. At the selection stage now (community-based approach, FGD with community leaders, members and other actors). Criteria: pregnant and lactating women, with secondary criteria (female headed households, etc.).
- **WFP:** in procurement process for procuring 7,000 cookstoves. Main target will be Banki. Longer term plan is to work with resources on ground and link up with production centers of FAO – ICEED. Also including ‘openness to innovation’ and ‘access to fuelwood’ in protection risk assessment, to have a better view on high risk areas.
- **Oxfam:** in procurement process for procuring 500 cookstoves (in 3 different sizes, depending on household size). No type determined yet, looking for most efficient cookstove to receive samples. Main target will be Pulka. This will be complemented with a pilot activity to build clay ‘cooking houses/kitchen’ (possibly through cash for work). This structure also has a role for food preservation. Oxfam is also working with MSF Spain on briquetting in Pulka.

Discussion:

- **Sensitization** on the issue of firewood use, to go with distribution of cookstoves. Explain how to safely use a fuel-efficient stove, in appropriate language.
- **Engaging men.** Firewood collection and selling is a commercial activity for men, and interventions of fuel-efficient cookstoves might cause friction in communities. In most cases, firewood collectors and seller are vulnerable people, with few other livelihood options. Need to work with them to promote more sustainable livelihoods.
- **Complementarity.** Distribution of energy inputs should go together with other inputs. When food is distributed, provisions should be made to also ensure energy access. There is room to improve collaboration and coordination. Raise the issue of energy access at higher coordination level, to

ensure that complementarity among humanitarian actors is increased and energy access gaps are filled.

- **Briquetting.** The notes from the FSS Meeting Abuja have been taken into account. There is need to be careful when looking into briquetting, in order not to do more harm by increasing conflict over natural resources, especially when this would happen on a larger scale. An in-depth understanding of the local context is essential. An assessment of the availability of biomass waste materials, from a conflict sensitive perspective, is advised.
- **Two way approach.** Focus on distribution of firewood cookstoves for immediate need relief, while at the same time thinking about sustainable alternatives for longer term (e.g. briquetting, biogas, solar power). This will require a behavioral change.

Update on Minimum Expenditure Basket:

- A pilot MEB for MMC, Jere and Konduga is being developed. Energy access has been included in the MEB, under the Food Security Sector. Based on a basic needs assessment, the minimum requirements for energy access are (1) a fuel-efficient cookstove (yearly) and (2) fuel (monthly). Intersectoral validation is in progress, and will be communicated back to the FSS and SAFE WG. Completion is expected by 3rd week of June 2018.

Action points:

- Mapping of interventions: SAFE has been included in the 5W matrix of the FSS, and interventions on stove distribution, etc. should be indicated there. The SAFE WG will also follow up bilaterally.
- Develop a draft of suggested selection criteria for energy-related interventions: this needs to be flexible, for different areas (urban/rural, etc.).
- Update SAFE WG Workplan before next meeting.