



SAFE

SAFE ACCESS TO
FUEL AND ENERGY

2015 Co-chairs:

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves,
United Nations Foundation
Women's Refugee Commission

**Steering Committee
members:**

Energy Access Practitioner Network,
United Nations Foundation
Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies
International Lifeline Fund
Mercy Corps
United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees
United Nations World Food Programme
World Vision Kenya

Associate members:

Chatham House
Food for the Hungry Kenya
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH, HERA
Global Village Energy Partnership
Médecins Sans Frontières
Potential Energy
ProAct Network
United Nations Children's Fund

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang

Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (ASG/DERC)
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

November 11, 2015

Dear Ms. Kang,

The members of the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE) Global Interagency Working Group would like to formally request to become a Reference Group within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

Including the SAFE Working Group as an official IASC Reference Group would strengthen the humanitarian community's ability to ensure that those affected by crises have access to energy. When displaced people do not have access to energy to cook their food or heat and light their homes, there are dire consequences for their health and safety, as well as huge impacts on their livelihoods and the environment.

At present, there is no formal place for energy in the humanitarian response system. As a result, access to household and institutional energy for cooking, lighting, heating, and powering is systematically left out of humanitarian programming, both in emergencies and in protracted contexts. As an IASC Reference Group, the members of the SAFE Working Group would provide the IASC with much-needed expertise and guidance on how to assess fuel and energy needs, incorporate energy technologies and systems into humanitarian programming and response, and use the private sector's knowledge and resources to improve access to energy.

The SAFE Working Group grew out of the IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings which had a mandate from 2007 to 2009 to determine agency roles and responsibilities for the coordination of a multi-sectoral fuel strategy in humanitarian settings. The Task Force produced two critical tools – the Matrix on Agency Roles and Responsibilities and the Decision Tree Diagram – both of which are due for an update in 2016. Since the end of the Task Force mandate in 2009, its members have operated independently from the IASC as the SAFE Working Group with a focus on coordination, research, technical support, capacity building, advocacy, and resource mobilization.

During the 2015 Nepal earthquake response, the SAFE Working Group acted quickly to fill a gap in coordination on energy access when its co-chairs realized that a number of aid agencies, NGOs, and private companies were distributing solar lanterns, cookstoves, fuel, and mobile phone chargers without any mechanism to coordinate their efforts. The SAFE Working Group set up a response website with a

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www.safefuelandenergy.org

map of all response activities, and began hosting weekly coordination calls that brought together the humanitarian community, the government, and the private sector to assess and meet the energy needs of those affected by the earthquakes. The SAFE energy coordination website was the only energy-related resource listed on OCHA's humanitarianresponse.info Nepal emergency site. After several months, the SAFE Working Group fully transitioned coordination of the response and recovery to the Government of Nepal to ensure sustainability.

The members of the SAFE Working Group recognized that energy access must become a more formal part of humanitarian mechanisms to better facilitate coordination and knowledge sharing. The SAFE Working Group has collectively determined, in consultation with our colleagues at the IASC, that becoming an IASC Reference Group would make our coordination mechanisms, knowledge-sharing platforms, technical guidance documents, and events more visible to the humanitarian community and will enhance the ability of the humanitarian sector as a whole to address energy challenges for the most vulnerable.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the SAFE Working Group's Terms of Reference and membership list. We hope that you will strongly consider our request to transition from the SAFE Working Group into the IASC Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Reference Group.


Sincerely,

The SAFE Global Interagency Working Group

X 

Radha Muthiah

Chief Executive Officer, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, United Nations Foundation

X 

Sarah Costa

Executive Director, Women's Refugee Commission

X 

Richenda Van Leeuwen

Executive Director, Energy Access, United Nations Foundation

X 

Betsy Lippman

Chief of Section, Operational Solutions and Transition, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

X 

Dominique Burgeon

Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience

Director, Emergency Rehabilitation Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

X 

Neal Keny-Guyer

Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Corps

X 

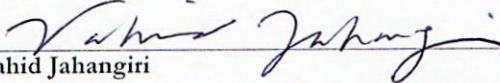
Ben Good

CEO, GVEP International

X 

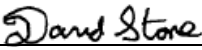
Joan Sang

Environment and Technical Specialist, World Vision Kenya

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Vahid Jahangiri

Deputy Director, International Lifeline Fund

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David Stone

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