



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement From: March 2021 to January 2023

Energy and Environment in the Refugee settlement in Uganda

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PART I.

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR EQUIVALENT

To

Our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Kisembo Asuman
President

PART II.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) was established to vigorously stimulate local community for social progress and economic development. It's an international NGO in Uganda Registered by the Ministry of Internal affairs under the NGO board, Uganda Government (Registration No. INDR 31123889NB). It has its headquarters in Fortportal western region and operates internationally, AAID is

partnering with development Partners in UN system of ECOSOC supporting the Implementation of SDGs in African countries and beyond.

AAID has other development Partners doing different development Programs and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), OPEC Fund for International Development, Local Governments are the Main Partners of AAID.

AAID mission is to strengthen the marginalized and needy among the community to come up with sustainable, low cost and gender responsive solution to their problems and with a vision of effectively transformed living conditions of community through information dissemination and implemented long term sustainable programs Basing on the ten principles of SDGs African Agency for Integrated Development is mostly centered on the environment principle in that the change in the environment and climate is affecting Uganda where by a lot of insures have happened affecting the local community in the following ways due to climate change:

In 2021 African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) applied and was awarded as the winner of the Annual Award for Development (AAD) an award given annually by OPEC Fund for International Development to celebrate outstanding contributions of various agencies towards sustainable development. The theme for last year's award was promoting clean cooking solution where AAID was recognized for promoting clean cooking solution, training and advocacy for women and youth and providing outstanding support to the Refugee communities in western Uganda. The OPEC Fund Each year recognizes a different theme of particular relevance to the global development agenda The award was worth \$100,000 utilized in one year and in accordance to the agreed terms and conditions that was signed between AAID and The OPEC Fund and provide a six monthly update on the progress and status of the project to OPEC FUND.

Project Inception meeting: After leadership and beneficiary mobilization and project orientation to key stake holders, the project was officially launched in Kyaka II Refugees settlement and this inception meeting was held at Good Neighbors hall. The project was officially launched by the then commandant of Kyaka II refugee's settlement Mr. Mark Mutawe. The project inception meeting was attended by members from the OPM office that is to say the deputy commandant in charge of energy and livelihood, the leader of Refugees welfare council (RWCs) RWC3, RWC1 from the three zones of operation that is Mukondo, Sweswe and Itambabiniga and members from other development partners operating in the settlement. The other participants included the media and representatives from Kyegegwa District. In this meeting the whole project was presented to the participants and they committed to support AAID through participating in Technical advice in project implementation. The Settlement commandant highlighted challenges related to energy and GBV that the Refugees and the community are facing highlighting that in the past there camp had a lot of trees around but all have been cut in search of charcoal to prepare a meal therefore suggesting that with AAID coming to distribute and train the community on making improved cook stoves, making and using charcoal briquettes as opposed to use of the normal charcoal which leads to cutting of trees and hence affecting the environment and increasing carbon emission from the burnt charcoal, it will help in conserving the few trees that are remaining in the

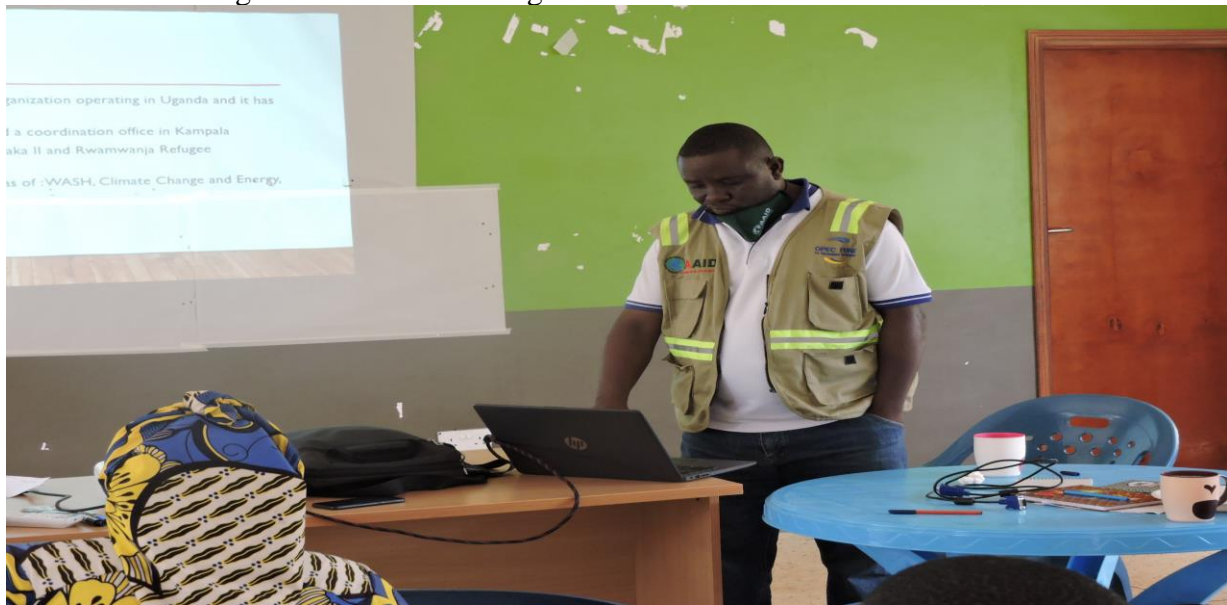
settlement and also reduce on the gender based violence cases that women and youth face in looking for firewood to prepare a meal.

PART III.

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) has put an initiative of starting the project of sensitizing Refugees in western Uganda, this has been done in the refugee settlements plus the Host community are now Conserving the Environment from the Refugee settlement which is a greater achievement of AAID. The Refugee have played a unique role and vital role in transforming the SDGs into new sustainable markets, services and products. Trees have been planted within settlement areas as Planned in the Previous AAID Plan. AAID through involvement of different Partner Organizations have Planted 15,000 trees within the Community Villages, schools and Churches in the Refugee settlements of western Uganda. These trees are Protecting the soil erosion and the Source of attracting rainfall in the area. **WAY FORWARD ON THE FURTHER**

IMPLEMENTATION AAID Plans to Implement Sustainable water supply and Sanitation through Institutional/Private Sector and Community Capacity Building with the Major focus in Sustaining Water Facilities in Uganda



AAID's programs coordinator presenting the project details to the participants in the Inception Meeting at Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in western Uganda



The commandant and deputy commandant in charge of energy and livelihood giving their speech in the inception meeting in Kyaka II Refugee settlement western Uganda



Some of the participants who attended the Inception meeting

2.1.4. Distribution of improved cook stoves. A total of 500 cook stoves were distributed to 500 beneficiaries (households). AAID use criteria that its giving them to people who can be able to use them hence avoiding instances where after giving out stoves today and tomorrow you find them in the market being sold which has been a very big challenge sited by other implementing partners. So avoid this AAID came up with the ideal of giving

to those who can afford to use them and be able to buy or make charcoal briquette at household level. This strategy was welcomed by the OPM, UNHCR and other development partners as a solution to avoid cases of finding the stoves meant to be used at home but being sold. The beneficiaries were selected in close coordination with the OPM, UNHCR and the local leaders in the refugees settlement and the host community.



AAID team during the distribution of cook stoves in Kyaka II refugee's settlement



Beneficiaries with their cook stoves which were distributed from AAID with support from OPEC FUND AWARD

2.1.5. Training of trainers of trainees (ToTs) in operation and maintenance of improved cook stoves distributed

A total of 21 ToTs were trained on how to make the improved cook stoves and also how to repair them in case they are damaged. The criteria for selecting these was in a way that

among the beneficiaries of cook stoves we get some who are willing to learn to be trained such that they act as trainers for others in their communities. Among the 21 trainees, 15 were from the refugees' community in the zones of operation that is Sweswe, Mukondo and Itambabiniga while the 6 were from the host community neighboring the settlement. The training took 3 days.



ToTs showing and explaining what they were trained on.

2.1.6. Training on Briquette making: A total of 21 ToTs were trained on how to make the charcoal briquettes using the available materials like maize leaves, grass. The main reason was to make these appreciate the use and making of briquettes using the local raw

materials available to them. This was done in order to reduce cutting of trees for charcoal but use briquettes as an alternative since the materials are always available. The criteria for selecting these was in a way that among the beneficiaries of cook stoves we get some who are willing to learn to be trained such that they act as trainers for others in their communities and also appreciate the use of briquettes. Once these appreciate the use of briquettes then they will be examples to others and also encourage others to adopt to the same culture of using briquettes as compared to the normal wood charcoal. Among the 21 trainees, 15 were from the refugees community in the zones of operation that is Sweswe, Mukondo and Itambabiniga while the 6 were from the host community neighboring the settlement.



Trainees being trained how to mix the materials to get the best quality briquettes



2.1.7. Coordination meetings. These are always monthly attended by all partners in the energy and Environment sector to meet and present the activities they have been implementing for the whole month and share the challenges and propose some solutions. For the six months AAID has always been represented and all its activities for each month presented, these Meetings are always conducted in Kyaka II refugee settlement.

2.1.8. Training women in making heat retention Baskets.



Heat-retention cooking is an age-old method that can be used to conserve energy not only during times of crisis, but anytime. Depending on the food item and amount cooked, the use of a Heat- retention basket or insulated cooker saves between 20% and 80% of the energy normally needed to cook a food.

AAID in coordination with UNHCR coordinated the training of selected 21 members (5 males and 16 women) from 20 women groups to undertake the training in making and marketing heat retention basket. Heat retention basket is a local form of a food flask which works on the principle that once food has reached at the boiling point its then transferred to the basket and because its insulate to avoid heat loss the food boils at the same rate as it was when on a stove and it is kept hot until served. This reduces the amount of fuel (charcoal, briquettes, gas and wood) used in the normal cooking and also reduces the emission of carbon since food is left to cook in the vacuum.



A total number of 21 trainees (5male and 16 female) were trained and they agreed to act as trainers of trainees in that they will train their group members on how to make and



use the baskets. The criteria of selecting these was based on the willingness to learn and train other members.

These trainees were introduced on what heat retention is and how it is used and constructed/made. The materials used to make the basket include; the basket, kitenge cloth, bucket, waste cotton, thread, a pair of scissors and a needle.

The training was participatory and hands

on where by each trainee was given the materials and he/she had to make one for him/herself. The reason was that they should have a hands-on training and practice how it is used.

The benefits of the heat retention basket include

- It can be used as a flask where food is cooked, covered completely with its steam to maintain the heat then covered into the HRB.
- It can also be used as a cooker; it uses the principle that once cooking has reached the boiling point, it does not need more heat than that to cook the food. So when the food reaches the boiling point its then transferred to the basket which is insulated to contain the heat and the food continues to boil at the same temperature/heat till it's ready to be served

- Reduces on carbon emission since food is cooked till it reaches the boiling point



and then placed in the basket to continue cooking without fuel as compared to the traditional means of use of fuel till food is ready.

- Saves on fuel used for cooking.

At the end of the training each trainee went with his/her retention basket used and

promised to train their group member and also the other community members

2.1.9. Community awareness on Energy and environment initiatives using Boda talk-talk in Itambabiniga, Sweswe and Mukondo zones. This mainly focused on sensitizing



the community on ensuring the environment is well conserved in a way of adopting to strategies that save the environment like reduction on cutting of trees, embracing the use of charcoal briquettes and reducing the use of wood charcoal which in the

long run reduces carbon emission. The main agenda was to promote clean cooking at household level, embracing the use of charcoal briquettes and heat retention baskets which in the long run reduces cases of gender based violence faced by women, youth and men when going to collect fire wood from the nearby forest since much emphasis will be put on making charcoal briquettes for cooking a meal other than wood charcoal

and or firewood. This campaign ran for a period of five months in the three zones of Sweswe, Mukondo and Itambabiniga Kyaka II refugees' settlement.

2.1.10. Integration of GBV in Energy.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread in Uganda among the refugee



as well as the national population and calls for special attention. Despite a lack of representative statistics and data about the scope of the violence, all stakeholders agree that the levels of SGBV are unacceptably high and must be adequately addressed. According to a national prevalence study conducted by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development in 2008, 39% of women and 11% of men have ever experienced

sexual violence and 60% of women and 53% of men have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Particularly, refugees are at heightened risk of SGBV due to forced



displacement and other factors. Most of the SGBV cases reported in Kyaka II refugees' settlement are related to energy in that they are mostly encountered whenever women, youth and men crave for wood fuel to cook a meal. These cases include sexual violence among women and girls and severe beating to men especially when they go to nearby forests in search of wood fire. It's from this

background that AAID adopted a program on integration of GBV in Energy trying to train

women, youth and men to adopt to alternative energy solutions like use of charcoal briquettes instead of wood charcoal and fire wood since these briquettes can be made locally using the available material which does not need moving to the forests. This in long run reduces the cases of GBV in the settlement. Furthermore, appreciating the use of heat retention baskets which can save up to 80% of fuel used for normal cooking. This helps in reduction on the number of times one can go to the nearby forest to collect wood fire and also saves on the amount of charcoal briquettes used in cooking a meal. AAID undertook this program using the boda boda talk talk sensitizing the people on the alternative clean cooking solutions which can help in reducing GBV cases in the community. Since AAID had trained a group of people within the three zones of Sweswe, Mukondo and Itambabiniga in making charcoal briquettes locally and making and using heat retention baskets, the community in these zones can easily approach these people to train them in making the same. This program ran for a period of five months to ensure that the community appreciate and understand the need to fight GBV cases related to energy.

2.1.11. Monitoring and evaluation.

AAID's monitoring and Evaluation team is coordinating with the RWCs and the office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to conduct a monitoring and evaluation exercise to identify the possible impacts the project has caused on the communities/zones where it was being implemented. Some of the key issues to be assessed include how best the beneficiaries of improved cook stoves are using them and how their lives have changed in using them and the number of households which benefited from the distribution, the adaption of the use of charcoal briquettes and whether the Trainers of Trainee (ToTs) have undertaken the initiatives to train other community members on making charcoal briquettes locally and making heat retention baskets. The other component to assess is the extent to which the sensitization campaigns have impacted on the community in preserving the environment and also reduction in GBV cases related to energy.

3.0. Implementation Challenges:

- **Demand for supply of cook stoves:** The leadership and beneficiary community appreciate the energy programs being implemented by AAID however they wanted the improved stoves to cover at least all the three zones to full capacity as many wanted and were able to use them as specified by AAID therefore because of limited funding from AAID could not full fill the leaders and community request to supply cook stoves to all Refugees. The three zones had a population of around 3,000 households out of which only 500 were catered for. Some other leaders from other zones were also requesting AAID to extend their operations to their zones but this was not possible due to limited funds.

- **Demand for a large incinerator:** The OPM also requested AAID in energy programs that it should think about how best the hazardous wastes in the settlement especially sweswe which is a hindrance to environment growth could be solved suggesting to have an incinerator that can consume all the waste in that particular zone at least.
- **Limited project scale:** Kyaka II refugees settlement has 9 zones and yet AAID was covering only 3 zones and not to full capacity basing on these we have received several demands from key stakeholders in the in the refugees community and the district to extend this Energy and GBV project to other zones.

4.0. Innovations.

AAID as an NGO always comes up with new innovations related to the project being implemented and gets the views of the community members and leaders from the implementation area on how they see and value the innovations. From the past experience all innovations brought by AAID has always been welcomed and appreciated by the community and Development Partners.

When AAID received the award from The OPEC Fund for international Development it started to think of which innovation it can make from the project. The first innovation was;

Hybrid cooking stove. During the six months of implementation, AAID has innovated a more improved and hybrid solar cook stove which is multifunction in that it can be used for clean cooking, providing light and also used for charging mobile phones. This stove uses solar energy to power the inbuilt battery which provide light for lighting while cooking at night and charging mobile phones also used to run the inside fan that speeds up the burning and (catching fire) of the briquettes used. It's a new innovation that uses fewer charcoal briquettes which are environmentally friendly and also serves as a source of lighting in a house hold through the solar energy. The Hybrid Improved Cook stove has more functions than LPG.

Most people in the settlement liked the innovation and are requesting AAID to also look at training and supplying this hybrid cook stoves to Refugees. But due to limited funds this was not possible. AAID Plans to request for support to this Initiative from **OPEC FUND for International Development.**



Hybrid cook stove an innovation by AAID

5.0. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

For purposes of ownership and sustainability, AAID has ensured strong involvement of all stakeholders that is Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR and local leaders. Specifically, AAID is working with Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNCHR energy focal persons and all the Refugee Welfare council (RWCs) in the three zones and the UNHCR implementing and other energy operating Partners.

Appendix: some of the project photos captured



