



TWO YEARS REPORT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INTERVENTIONS IN KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN WESTERN UGANDA

Submitted by:

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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) is a legally registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the NGO Bureau in the Ministry of Internal affairs (Registration No. INDR31123889NB). The organization operates nationally in Uganda and implements international programs in partnership with other development partners. The main objective is fostering social and economic development through Energy and Environment by promoting clean and affordable cooking solutions, health, water and sanitation programs, Shelter, food security and promoting income generating projects within local poor communities. AAID has been in existence for more than 20 years in Operations.

AAID has over the last 20 years been implementing various environment and energy initiatives in Uganda aimed at promoting efficient utilization and management of natural resources, energy and environment with full participation of communities, refugees, private sector, NGOs and government institutions for an inclusive green growth economy. AAID specifically promotes efficient energy cook stoves, bio-gas, solar energy and briquette making. It also supports natural disaster management initiatives, massive tree planting including establishment and management of community tree nurseries and restoration of degraded forests.

Project Description/Introduction

In 2023 African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) applied for support from The Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda on the Project of Energy and Environment in Kyaka II Refugee settlement. The Project aimed at promoting clean cooking solution where AAID was given funding for promoting clean cooking solution, training and advocacy for women and youth and providing outstanding support to the communities in western Uganda.

The funding was worth \$ 50,000 to be utilized in one year and in accordance to the agreed terms and conditions that was signed between AAID and The Ministry of Water and Environment and provide a six monthly update on the progress and status of the project. The Project was an expansion of the Previously Implemented Project of the same kind in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.

PART III

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

Progress Narrative

The first six months a number of 5 activities which include; conducting an inception meeting which was the entry point in the settlement describing what AAID is going to be doing in the one year project scope, Distribution of 200 improved cook stoves, Training of Trainers of Trainee (ToTs) on operation and maintenance of improved cook stoves and Training ToTs on making and utilizing charcoal briquettes

AAID staff and board project orientation: It's a governance and management practice at AAID to orient staff and governance about new projects that come in the organization. The purpose was to create ownership of the project and a wider understanding of the AAID strategic direction. In the orientation the Board and staff were given a background to the project, its objectives, and activities to be implemented and how the project fits in AAID strategic direction.

Beneficiary and leadership mobilization and project orientation: Various meetings of technical and political leadership and representatives of the beneficiary Refugees were conducted in Kyaka II Refugees settlement. During these meetings, participants were introduced to the project, its objectives, areas of implementation and their specific roles and responsibilities were shared and discussed in detail. In order to understand the Project Operations.

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.

Distribution of improved cook stoves. A total of 200 cook stoves were distributed to 200 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 and the local leaders in the refugees settlement and the host community.

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

A total of 20 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 20 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 5 days.

Training on Briquette making: A total of 20 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.

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 20 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 20 trainees (5male and 15 female) were trained and they agreed to act as trainers of trainees in that they will train their group members on how to make a 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 **Community awareness on Energy and environment initiatives** using Boda talk-talk in Itambabiniga and Sweswe 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. This campaign ran for a period of five months in the three zones of Sweswe, Mukondo and Itambabiniga Kyaka II refugees' settlement.

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.

