



Photo by John Wessels



SAFE
WORKSHOP

Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Workshop

July 29 – 30, 2019 • Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EVENT REPORT

Overview



“Energy provision is one of the greatest challenges of humanitarian crises in my nation. The Workshop... has broadened my understanding, and I believe I can now expand my horizon in energy provision mechanism[s].”

2019 Participant

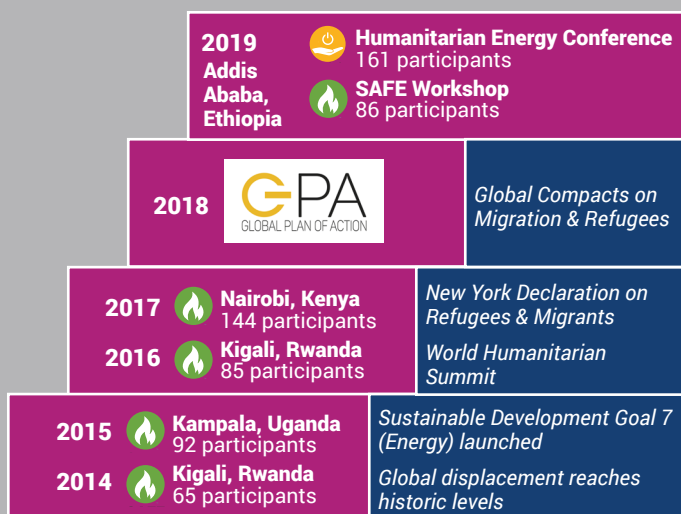


Energy access for cooking, lighting, powering, and other essential uses is a critical and under-served need among the 131 million people requiring humanitarian assistance today.¹ The global humanitarian system has historically struggled to bring energy aid up to par with food, shelter, and other basic services. In recent years, the community of practitioners working to bring fuel and energy access to crisis-affected populations has grown and diversified considerably, yet there **remains a critical scarcity of well-trained staff who can lead and support energy interventions in humanitarian settings.**

To address this gap, the Clean Cooking Alliance (Alliance) and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) co-hosted the fifth **Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Workshop** from July 29-30, 2019, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Shell International. Over two days, 86 participants selected from 53 organizations across 24 countries gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to learn the fundamentals of providing fuel and energy assistance to crisis-affected populations and develop cross-sector partnerships.

EVOLUTION OF THE SAFE WORKSHOP

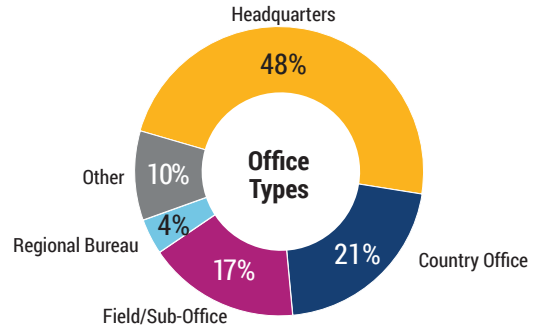
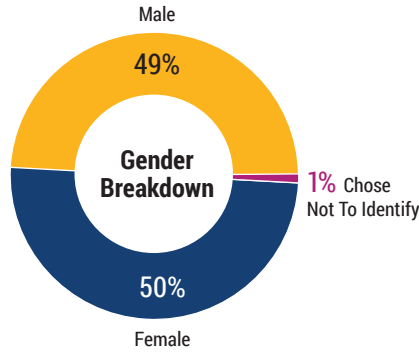
The Alliance has co-hosted five SAFE Workshops since 2014. What began as a small technical training for humanitarian field practitioners evolved into the only global forum that convened the entire humanitarian energy community. As international attention on both energy access and humanitarian crises increased between 2016 and 2018 (see right), there was an increasing demand for coordinated action among practitioners. The launch of the **Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA)** in 2018 provided a new framework to guide this process. The Alliance therefore partnered with UNITAR, the GPA’s host organization, to hold the first **Humanitarian Energy Conference (HEC)** back-to-back with the SAFE Workshop in 2019 to meet the parallel needs for capacity building and sector coordination.



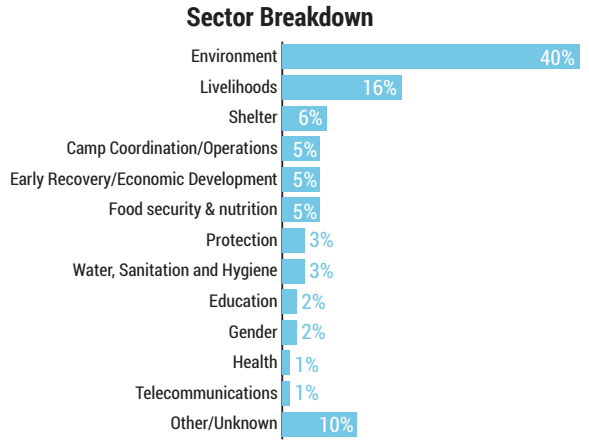
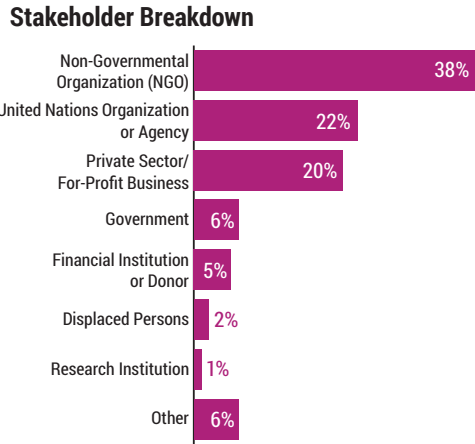
*Due to funding limitations, no SAFE Workshop was held in 2018.

Who Attended

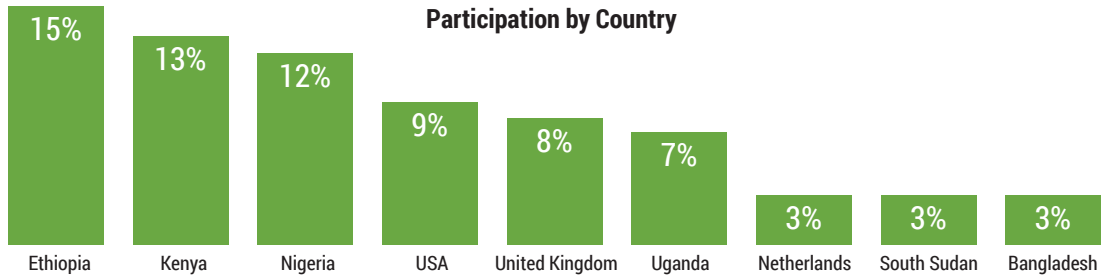
86
PARTICIPANTS



53
ORGANIZATIONS



24
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

To foster continued growth in the humanitarian energy community, participation in the 2019 SAFE Workshop was limited to newcomers. An application process also helped to ensure that attendees were as diverse as possible, enabling collaboration and learning across different sectors, professions, national borders, and gender divides.

Gender: Workshop participants reflected a nearly equal balance of men and women. Among applicants, however, men outstripped women 72% to 27%. Consequently, all eligible female applicants were accepted into the workshop.

Geography: A concerted effort was made to admit at least one participant from every applicant country and to prioritize countries that host large displaced populations. Participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda represented a combined 47% of participants.

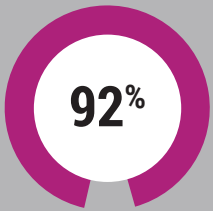
Stakeholder Types: The proportions of NGO and UN agency representatives at the workshop versus those from private enterprises, government, or other institutions reflect a need to enhance outreach to the latter stakeholders. More importantly, crisis-affected people themselves have very few opportunities to participate in SAFE Workshops.

Sectors: Environmental professionals vastly outnumbered applicants and participants from other sectors. Energy plays a vital role in numerous humanitarian sectors, however, and awareness should be raised among these groups.

Program



ACTIONS	ACTORS & RESPONSIBILITY	COST	TIMELINE
① Assessment	INFRASTRUCTURE NGO/CONSULTANT	5-10K \$	4 Weeks
② Develop Business Case	Consultant + Own Org.		



of evaluation respondents reported that they were satisfied with the workshop's methodology.

PARTICIPATORY METHODS

To promote knowledge exchange and mutual understanding of the unique perspectives offered by each participant, the 2019 SAFE Workshop was designed to be a participatory learning experience. Attendees were asked to demonstrate their enthusiasm to learn, dedication to collaborating outside of their own “silo,” and commitment to the good of the sector beyond (in addition to) that of their own organizations. No panels were held, and expert presentations were kept to a minimum in favor of interactive exercises, facilitated discussions, and small group assignments.

In this photo (right), for example, Raffaella Bellanca of WFP plays the character of a refugee representative delivering news in the middle of a simulated emergency response scenario, to which the group must adapt. Participants also completed a “yearbook” exercise (see page 5) to reflect on their own goals and expertise and enable them to identify others who could be helpful to them. In this way, the workshop enabled participants to learn from each other as much as from the facilitators.

“Excellent workshop format, maybe the best I’ve ever attended.”

2019 Participant

Historically, SAFE Workshops were designed to provide humanitarian actors with practical knowledge about energy technologies and fuels. In 2019, however, the workshop hosts shifted its focus to best practices for planning, implementing, and evaluating humanitarian energy projects. **“The biggest mistake we’ve seen implementers make, over and over, is prioritizing the solution over the method for delivering it,”** said Kathleen Callaghy, the lead facilitator from the Alliance. **“The technology is not the point.”** The growing interest in this topic from private companies and development agencies has created a demand for information about how the humanitarian sector operates.

With this in mind, the Alliance and UNITAR designed a curriculum with two primary objectives: (1) Equip participants with the tools and knowledge needed for them to decide when, whether, and how to intervene with an energy solution in humanitarian contexts, and (2) promote mutual understanding and trust between participants from different sectors. The workshop employed participatory methods to ensure that attendees were able to interact with each other as much as possible (see left), and real-life case studies were used to connect concepts to actual practice.



Session Snapshots



Day 1 of the SAFE Workshop sought to bring all participants to the same baseline of understanding on fundamental concepts. RedR UK kicked off the morning with a simulation exercise to expand participants' understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and challenges faced by all parties in responding to humanitarian energy needs, by enabling them to experience (in some measure) the "reality" of rapidly changing crisis scenarios.

RedR UK then provided participants with an overview of how the humanitarian sector is organized, how typical responses are coordinated, key ethics and principles of aid, and what differentiates humanitarian from development settings. The Alliance followed up with an introduction to basic SAFE concepts, such as how common energy challenges impact the safety, livelihoods, and health of crisis-affected people, and introduced the SAFE multi-sectoral approach for integrating improved technologies and alternative fuels into humanitarian response.

Emphasizing the importance of improving programming as well as energy products, Day 2 guided participants through a typical project management cycle (above) and highlighted specific tools and best practices for humanitarian energy interventions. Practical Action introduced the group to several tools and approaches for assessing energy needs, feasibility, and markets. Consultant Paul Quigley led a session on design and planning, which included evaluation of value chains and market ecosystems, the process of engaging key actors, project plan development, and anticipating challenges. International Lifeline Fund emphasized user trainings and trust-building as critical practices in a session on effective implementation, and monitoring and evaluation was highlighted in every session.

“ My colleagues in the field are always running around; there is not this structure; we don't use it, we didn't even know about it...but now I can take this back to them and tell them what I learned.

2019 Participant



Gaia Clean Energy conducts a baseline assessment in Bonga refugee camp, Ethiopia.

Results & Feedback



The SAFE workshop has been a very illuminating learning experience...

2019 Participant

I loved the 'change' in facilitating the workshop. The simulation exercise, group work session.

2019 Participant

The information shared by the facilitators was simple and easy to understand. The workshop was well organized and with a wide scope of sectors.

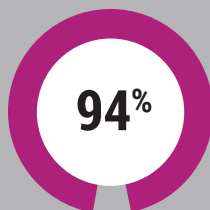
2019 Participant

Overall, the SAFE Workshop was very well received by participants. In post-event surveys, **96% of respondents reported that the workshop was relevant to their work, 94% indicated they would use what they learned, and many provided positive feedback on the workshop's style, content, and organization.** Participants also completed pre- and post-event assessments to evaluate the workshop's impact on improving their SAFE-related knowledge. These findings are limited, however, as only 25 and 50 participants, respectively, completed the pre- and post-assessments. This appears to be due to participants taking time to network instead of completing the assessment on Day 1, as well as some difficulties accessing the online survey link. Although paper surveys were available, this may have prevented a higher response rate.

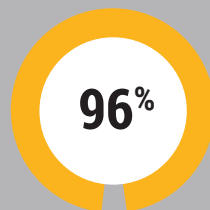
Despite the above, overall knowledge and confidence scores did improve. The percentage of correct answers increased from 69% to 78% between the pre- and post-workshop evaluations, and participants' average confidence scores improved by 17%. Participants were also asked to rate their skill level regarding the workshop's learning objectives before and after the workshop. The strongest improvements were on the following:

- Summarizing the history of SAFE and the Humanitarian Cluster System, including guiding principles such as "do no harm";
- Summarizing the concepts of value chain and market ecosystems;
- Naming different strategies to build trust with project stakeholders; and
- Identifying key variables to consider in designing effective user trainings.

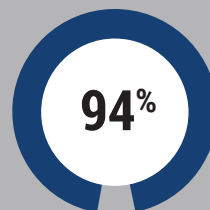
POST-WORKSHOP EVALUATION



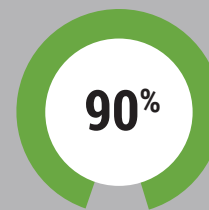
of respondents were satisfied with the workshop overall



reported that the workshop content was relevant to their job












intend to use what they have learned



would recommend the workshop to a colleague

Looking Forward

The 2019 SAFE Workshop re-affirmed that the humanitarian energy sector is larger and more diverse than ever before. If not for the application process and the cut-off point for the number of attendees, the group would have been much larger with numerous repeat participants. In an effort to move forward strategically and effectively as a community, the Alliance has developed the following recommendations for future SAFE Workshops based on a combination of participant feedback, partner consultations, and team observations.

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS	EVENT RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase outreach to non-humanitarian actors, especially host country governments, private sector actors, and financing institutions. Significantly increase the participation and inclusion of displaced populations in the design and development of energy solutions that affect their lives. Continue to improve coordination efforts, particularly as the number of stakeholders grows and diversifies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold multiple SAFE Workshops per year as needed to build capacity on humanitarian energy access at the regional, national, and local levels. Develop a formalized SAFE Workshop training curriculum with a training-of-trainers component, such that more organizations are certified and empowered to continue integrating new actors and maintain best practices. Increase the representation and participation of crisis-affected people in future events, for example through advance coordination with refugee associations in key countries and language support. Increase focus on non-refugee populations and urban displaced people in future event programs. Keep the established criteria for participants (see Who Attended section for details) to maximize the benefit of the event and peer-learning. Increase the number of workshop days to three minimum when possible to ensure ample time for collaboration, coordination, and coverage of priority topics.



STAY ENGAGED

- ✓ **Join the SAFE Community** and follow **@SafeFuelEnergy** on Twitter to receive updates on upcoming events, new research, and the latest news in humanitarian energy access.
- ✓ Contact **energy@unitar.org** to inquire about the Global Plan of Action (GPA).
- ✓ Visit **ENERGYCoP** and **EnergyPedia** for access to resources and tools.
- ✓ Contact **info@safefuelandenergy.org** with questions or requests.



Photo by Practical Action/David Nkurunziza

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Norad



AND OUR LOCAL
PARTNER



The 2019 SAFE Workshop was a joint production of



The SAFE Humanitarian
Working Group
www.safefuelandenergy.org



The Global Plan of Action
for Sustainable Energy
Solutions in Situations of
Displacement

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