

Energy & Environment Network (EEN):

## **Ad hoc EEN Coordination Meeting Notes**

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Date: 02 July 2025

Location: ISCG Conference room

### **Agenda:**

1. World Environment Day – recap
2. Shelter damage and forest management
3. Solar guidelines – RRRC comments
4. Partner updates

### **World Environment Day - recap**

EEN partners have carried out various events and activities during the week 15 to 18 June commemorating the World Environment Day 2025. The activities were delayed due to the Eid holidays around the 5 June which is the actual date for the WED. The EEN organized a round table discussion on 18 June together with the RRRC, IFRC, the WASCH sector and LSDS sector. During this event NRC presented an assessment on the use of plastic bags in the camps. There will be follow up discussions on plastic bags and how biodegradable bags could be used in Cox's Bazar as well as how the molding of plastic waste into marketable items can be discussed with private sector through the LSDS sector.

In tandem, partners have carried out awareness sessions to highlight the problem of plastic waste in the camps involving volunteers and refugees. Due to funding constraints not, all planned activities took place.

In future the celebrations should be targeted on the date of the WED to harness attention and focus activities.

### **Shelter damage and forest management**

UNHCR and IOM have reported significant numbers of incidences that trees or branches are damaging shelters during the ongoing rainy season. The cause is mostly soil erosion around the roots of the trees which contributes to uprooting. Additionally, some of the tree species do not have sufficient deep roots to prevent uprooting.

FAO is planning trainings to humanitarian partners on forest management, i.e. protection against soil erosion, identification of trees at risk of uprooting and branches that are at risk of breaking off.

At the moment problematic trees are reported to Site Development focal points who then inform the CiC who consult with the Forest Department. The EEN will further explore the process and clarify reporting lines. Further, the EEN has in the past worked on a pruning guideline that can be reviewed to guide partners on identifying and removing dangerous trees and branches.

### **RRRC feedback on the solar energy SOPs**

The RRRC has given comments to the solar energy and SSL O&M SOPs. EEN will call a dedicated meeting with IOM and UNHCR to discuss the comments and finalize the two documents.

### **Partner updates**

UNHCR informed the group that its Energy and Environment unit has been dissolved. Dedicated energy and environment staff is still present but report under different units. Further, the company that supported e-waste collection is currently present in Cox's Bazar and can be contacted regarding potential e-waste disposal.

LGD shared that with WB funding 825 lightning arrestors have been installed in the camps. Lightning arrestors are crucial to protect refugees and equipment in the camps which is an area with high occurrence of lightning strikes.

CARE is working on a pilot testing e-stoves. This will complement IUCN's and UNITAR study on e-cooking in the camps and the EEN coordinator will follow up with UNITAR to present their findings in the EEN group.