Vision

*Every person affected by conflict or natural disaster has access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services by 2030*

Context

Access to energy in the modern world is seemingly a basic human right, yet 1.1 billion people still live without access to electricity and more than 3 billion people are still cooking without clean fuels or efficient technologies. Of that population, those who have been displaced from their homes due to conflict or natural disaster are particularly vulnerable. Currently, over 128.6 million\(^1\) people need humanitarian assistance in the world today. Of the displaced people who are living in camp settings, around 90% are without electricity access and 80% rely on solid fuels.

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\(^{1}\) This includes refugees; internally displaced people (IDP); returnees to areas rebuilding after conflict or disaster; returnees settling other than in areas of origin. See Global humanitarian Overview 2017: https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO_2017.pdf
for cooking. While food aid is usually donated unprepared, it is left to the recipients to organize the required fuel for the preparation of their meals. During humanitarian crises, access to safe, reliable, and clean energy for crisis-affected people can be difficult to achieve. With a shortage of funding as well as limited policies and practice on sustainable and clean energy provision within the humanitarian sector, current energy practices are often inefficient, polluting, unsafe for the users and harmful to the surrounding environment. Yet the benefits of energy access for humanitarian populations are wide reaching. Safe and sustainable access to fuel and energy in these settings means that children can have light after dark to do homework, life-saving medical supplies can be refrigerated, entrepreneurs can create small businesses with electricity and women and girls need not risk their health and safety to collect fuel, cook meals or navigate public areas at nighttime.

Although there was no specific Millennium Development Goal (MDG) relating to energy, it was widely recognized that the MDGs cannot be met without providing affordable, accessible and reliable energy services. With the advent of the Sustainable Development Goals, energy received well-deserved policy attention and recognition of its importance to achieving sustainable development. Studies show that two-thirds of the SDGs depend on access to clean and affordable energy. Within Sustainable Development Goal 7, the international community agreed to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” through the following targets by 2030:

7.1 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
7.2 increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
7.a enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
7.b expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries

Achieving these targets relies on countries’ policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries for their citizens. However, the implementation of the SDGs requires broad engagement with various stakeholders including the private sector and civil society. Displaced people exist in a grey area, unlikely to be part of government plans to scale up energy access for various reasons. Often they live in isolated areas or informal settlements along-side others who are also disenfranchised, and less likely to be a priority. Refugees are non-nationals and are thus not prioritized in national development plans. If displaced people return to their home

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3 See para 41: “We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda”.
areas, they remain in a fragile post conflict/disaster situation which is often underserved. With over 80 percent of displaced people living in developing regions, often facing similar conditions of energy poverty to their host communities, solutions must involve all vulnerable populations. Both the SDGs and the Agenda for Humanity seek to “leave no one behind” and this must include crisis affected people. Country goals and targets will not be met if the displaced are left out of energy access. Therefore, there is a specific need for a streamlined action plan around sustainable energy access for displaced people and host communities to improve their lives, respond to their basic needs and advance their development through energy.

On January 15-16 in Berlin, the planned conference Energy for Displaced People: A Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement will invite governments, the UN system and other key stakeholders to develop a strategic Global Plan of Action (GPA) for the provision of sustainable energy in displacement settings in pursuit of global energy access by 2030 and tangible improvements for millions of persons affected by situations of displacement. The conference will focus on five strategic area: planning and coordination, innovative finance, policy, capacity building and monitoring. Attendees will develop realistic and appropriate aims and next steps within working groups for each area. Convening global actors in this sector and building on the momentum of ongoing energy initiatives, this conference will serve as a connecting point for streamlined action so that every displaced person is equipped with sustainable energy by 2030.

The Global Plan of Action is also aligned with and designed to support important international humanitarian initiatives:

*Agenda for Humanity*

In line with the Agenda for Humanity to deliver better for people affected by crises, the GPA contributes to Core Responsibility 4: Change people’s lives: from delivering aid to ending need as access to energy represents a practical measure to bridge the humanitarian and development divide.

*The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*

On September 19, 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. The New York Declaration outlines elements for a Comprehensive Response to Refugee displacement. Rather than responding through a purely, and often underfunded, humanitarian lens, the elements of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) are designed to provide a more systematic and sustainable response that benefits both refugees and their hosts, based on principles of international cooperation and burden sharing. To comprehensively meet the needs of migrants, the New York Declaration commits to a Global Compact for Migration (GCM), an intergovernmental agreement created to improve the governance on migration, address the challenges associated with today’s migration and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.
The GPA’s objectives are aligned with New York Declaration, which points out the impacts of large population movements on the environment and States’ political will to address the infrastructural and environmental protection needs resulting from such movements⁴:

“85. In addition to meeting direct humanitarian and development needs, we will work to support environmental, social and infrastructural rehabilitation in areas affected by large movements of refugees.” and “6. States, in cooperation with multilateral donors and private-sector partners, as appropriate, would, in coordination with receiving States: [...] e) provide assistance to protect the environment and strengthen infrastructure affected by large movements of refugees in host countries;“

The GPA further aims to support the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants by improving the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions.

⁴ https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/un-summit-refugees-and-migrants
Objectives of the Global Plan of Action

- To create a collaborative and inclusive framework for unified action regarding improved energy access for displaced people.
- To pool and generate awareness of existing resources, evidence, initiatives and ongoing efforts in the sector.
- To share and develop best practices, based on concrete evidence and proven examples of how energy solutions improve the situation in the field.
- To mobilise and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships involving governments, the private sector, aid organizations, civil society and academia, emphasizing cross-sectoral approaches that can simultaneously accelerate progress on energy access and other sustainable development goals.
- To formulate recommendations on energy standards and practices that organizations, active in situations of displacement, can apply to reduce ecological footprint and increase operational efficiency and sustainability.
- To engage existing and new partners in providing solutions, technologies, business models and investments that scale-up access to clean and affordable energy in displacement settings.
- To foster an open and strategic dialogue between global energy actors, development and humanitarian communities centred around energy, Sustainable Development Goal 7 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Core Responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity.
- To develop an advocacy plan to mobilize resources for the achievement of the above aims.
Specific Objectives of the Berlin Conference

1. Develop an outline for a global plan of action for improved energy services in displacement settings. This should include a roadmap to achieve the aims by 2030 – with milestones for the next five years. Target date to launch the Global Plan of Action: July 2018.

2. Set out roles and responsibilities for developing the Global Plan of Action, including the creation of working groups mandated to address each of the strategic themes, coordinated by a steering committee.

3. Review existing mechanisms of engagement between humanitarian and development agencies, governments, NGOs and the global businesses community, identify gaps, and establish new mechanisms for increased collaboration as needed.

4. Deliver and disseminate a conference report highlighting the outcomes of the discussions, key achievements of the conference, outlining long-term targets and objectives with relevant strategic follow-up actions.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The organisers invite:

- practitioners involved in humanitarian and development work;
- experts from donor countries, development banks and other financial institutions;
- representatives from the private sectors and
- partners from academia

to attend the conference and jointly develop ideas for the global plan of action.
ENSURING SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE
Main Elements of Global Plan of Action (2017-2030)
Agenda Themes

Strategic areas for discussion towards creating a Global Plan of Action

The conference will focus on several strategic breakout sessions for the purpose of enabling participants to jointly develop their sub-topic areas. For each strategic area, challenges and opportunities will be discussed and recommendations will be developed to achieve relevant follow-up action for positive change.

1. Planning and Coordination – Emergency and Protracted Crisis
   To transition from current unsustainable energy production and consumption methods to clean solutions in displacement situations, streamlined and comprehensive energy planning, programming and management is needed.

   Actions in this area will focus on developing models for effective coordination of energy supply and demand in humanitarian aid and development, including through comprehensive approaches to energy planning that involve all possible stakeholders. A first step will be to identify and convene key actors in an appropriate forum so that they can exchange information and establish terms and conditions for cooperation and coordination. This strategic area will focus on:

   - Integrating sustainable energy solutions into emergency and post-crisis operations
   - Multi-stakeholder partnerships – enhancing opportunities
   - Streamlined, fit-for-purpose energy assessments and informed decision making
   - Coordinated strategies and effective communication and collaboration across sectors
   - Building in appropriate incentives for country managers and field staff
   - Stakeholder identification and engagement of all actors from outset
   - Engaging the displaced and host communities we are trying to assist at each step

2. Policy, Advocacy and Host Country Resilience - Supporting National and Local Development Plans
   To effectively ensure safe and sustainable energy access in complex settings of displacement, an enabling policy environment on the local and national level is essential.

   Actions in this area include creating national plans (or regional/local plans where appropriate) with supportive policies and regulatory frameworks that create the right environment for long-term investments, develop institutional capacity to implement policy change, and use government procurement and other mechanisms to incentivise market transformation. Advocacy actions will include a broad set of coordinated interventions directed at placing sustainable energy access high on the humanitarian and development agendas, to secure international and national commitment and mobilize necessary resources. Innovative strategies, tools and materials will be developed to ensure proper dissemination of results achieved, provide up-to-date information on progress, support behaviour change and showcase best practices for scaled-up action. This strategic area will focus on:
- Displaced people and host community integration, local development planning
- Government engagement: institutions and ways of working
- Supporting host country institutions and markets
- Advocacy, communications and policy development
- Donor engagement, engaging international development audiences

3. **Innovative Finance: Public, Private and Public-private Models of Delivery for Sustainability**

Renewable energy solutions are economically viable and more environmentally friendly than traditional fossil fuel solutions but the high upfront costs very often hinder the implementation of these solutions. To mitigate this financing gap, sustainable business models are needed to accelerate investments that maintain a long term-approach, both by leveraging public funds more effectively and by developing sustainable capital markets.

This strategic area includes in line with SDG target 17.3\(^5\) approaches and instruments to mobilise the amount of capital required, to direct that capital to the appropriate priority opportunities, and to reduce the risk of private investments in sustainable energy solutions in humanitarian settings e.g., through the targeted use of philanthropic and public capital and the engagement of local financial institutions. Actions in this strategic area will focus on exploring new delivery models that can bring down costs through scaling up demand, developing appropriate and innovative payment models, and supporting technology innovation through actions such as funding for research and development, pilot demonstration of projects with a potential for replicability and knowledge transfer. This strategic area will focus on:

- Walking the last mile – private sector models for off-the grid situations
- Access to finance for infrastructural investments such as mini-grids
- Innovative financing for low cost energy items
- Understanding cash based assistance and local market formal and informal economies
- Matching public & private investments

4. **Technical Expertise, Capacity Building and Training**

With shortages of energy expertise in the humanitarian system, specialized technical capacity is essential to develop and deliver programmes of high quality.

This strategic area will include actions related to equip governments, companies and organisations with the relevant skills and knowledge to efficiently plan, manage and monitor energy interventions; build strong local institutions and promote local technical expertise, including by recruiting and training national staff. Capacity building programmes in line with SDG target 17.9\(^6\) and training will be based on prior needs assessments, local and traditional knowledge, and lessons learned in previous interventions. This strategic area will focus on:

- Engaging relevant and appropriate technical expertise

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5 ‘to mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources’

6 ‘to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals...’
- Developing/ensuring the long-term capacity and technical skills
- Local capacity building and training
- Raising awareness about energy use amongst humanitarian and development actors
- Creating employment opportunities for displaced populations and host communities through productive use of energy

5. **Data, Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting**

   *Facilitating collective access to data of high quality, streamlined analysis and evidence-based policy options is vital to objectively inform countries and all stakeholders in their decision-making on policy, implementation or monitoring of progress.*

Actions under this strategic area will focus on developing standardized processes for collection and reporting of disaggregated data on fuel use, energy practices and costs. The priority will be to specify and define the necessary data requirements, and to develop practical processes for effectively capturing and analysing the data. Lessons learnt and best practices will be documented and widely disseminated, to provide quality information that can help future planning and programming. This strategic area will focus on:

- Data essential for analysis of options and demonstrating the needs
- Evidence base for directing needs and making decisions
- Meaningful and measurable indicators of performance and impact
- Responsible reporting – failures and learning
- Reporting and use of knowledge to inform decision-making

**Cross Cutting Themes**

Several cross-cutting themes will also be explored, including:

- Age, Gender and Diversity
- Protection, GBV and Vulnerability
- Environmental Sustainability
For Berlin Conference on “Energy for Displaced People: A Global Plan of Action for sustainable energy solutions in situations of displacement”

Kathleen Callaghy and Krista Riddley: Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

\textit{December 20}^{th} \text{ 2017}

\textbf{Description}

Coordination is vital in humanitarian aid. It results in fewer gaps and duplication in humanitarian aid. “Good coordination,” notes the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), “strives for a needs-based, rather than capacity-driven, response. It aims to ensure a coherent and complementary approach, identifying ways to work together for better collective results.”\textsuperscript{1} The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) states that, “at its best, coordination can eliminate gaps and duplication in service, determine an appropriate division of responsibility and establish a framework for information sharing, policy agreements, program collaboration and joint planning.”\textsuperscript{2}

In the context of energy access in humanitarian settings, coordination is all the more important for two reasons. First, no formal mechanisms exist among UN or other international agencies to coordinate energy-related humanitarian interventions. Second, the issue of safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE) cuts across numerous sectors – health, food security, nutrition, protection, education, water and sanitation, telecommunications, and more. Moreover, it involves a broad set of actors, including humanitarian agencies, government representatives, the private sector, development professionals, technical experts, researchers, donors, investors, and others.

At present, energy-related assistance in humanitarian settings is still largely disparate – funded and implemented by individual agencies without reference to each other, to common strategies and principles, or to lessons learned in previous interventions. In recent years, however, the community of actors engaged in the nexus of energy and humanitarian aid has grown and cohered. The advent of SDG 7, combined with record levels of global displacement, presents an opportunity for this community to

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\textsuperscript{2} IFRC, 2000, \textit{Disaster Preparedness Training Programme}, p. 5.
expand and improve energy programming in humanitarian settings by finding better ways to coordinate, collaborate, and share knowledge.

**Problem Analysis**

The challenges facing practitioners seeking to better coordinate energy interventions in humanitarian settings include (but are not limited to) the following:

1) **Lack of a formal role**
   Although the need for energy impacts nearly every other sector in humanitarian aid (food security, health, etc.), and references to its importance date back over two decades, energy currently holds no formal role in the humanitarian system. It is not included in the Cluster Approach that is used for coordinating in non-refugee humanitarian emergencies. It is not a standard line item in the budgets of most major relief organizations, and it is frequently left out of strategic planning. It is neglected in key policy discourse, such as Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon’s report to the General Assembly on strengthening the coordination of UN humanitarian and disaster relief assistance following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

   In essence, there is simply no mandate to coordinate energy-related assistance. Consequently, it is up to individual agencies to coordinate their own activities. The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Humanitarian Working Group—a consortium of agencies working to facilitate a more coordinated, predictable, timely, and effective response to the fuel and energy needs of crisis-affected populations—acts as an informal central coordination mechanism for energy interventions in humanitarian emergencies, but its efforts are hampered by a lack of funding and trained, full time staff dedicated for this purpose.

2) **Competing Priorities**
   As in any a resource-constrained environment, humanitarian practitioners must prioritize key issue areas to receive funding in annual budgets. Consequently, energy programming (where it exists) is usually sparsely funded, extra-budgetary, or is one of the first areas to be cut. As a result, even those humanitarian agencies who do independently include energy in their work—mostly notably UNHCR, the World Food Programme, and Mercy Corps—struggle to dedicate additional time to coordination efforts.

   Within the humanitarian system, there also appears to be some level of “coordination fatigue.” In 2016, the SAFE Working Group applied to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to become a formal Reference Group for energy in humanitarian aid, similar to those that currently exist for gender and urban assistance. The IASC declined the application, citing a desire to limit the number of IASC subsidiary bodies.

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4 Note: Protection and assistance to refugees is coordinated and delivered through the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). The presence or lack thereof of energy in this model has not been assessed.
5 In March 2007, the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (IASC Task Force on SAFE) was established “to reduce exposure to violence, contribute to the protection of and ease the burden on those populations collecting wood in humanitarian settings worldwide, through solutions which will promote safe access to appropriate energy and reduce environmental impacts while ensuring accountability.” The Task Force’s mandate ended in 2009. Its work has been independently and informally continued in the current SAFE Humanitarian Working Group.
although the importance of the issue was acknowledged, and the SAFE Working Group was encouraged to continue its efforts.

Even in situations where there is a consensus on the need for an energy intervention, opinions on what kind of intervention is best differ, making coordination challenging.

3) Issue complexity
Energy access is a broad, cross-cutting issue that encompasses a multiplicity of actors, technologies, and delivery approaches. Energy interventions can also be extremely sensitive to context, requiring additional assessment to determine the most appropriate solution for the population of concern. Each of these issues poses a challenge to coordination efforts. For example:

- **Multiple actors**: Humanitarian professionals make up only one component of the diverse set of stakeholders involved in designing and delivering energy interventions to crisis-affected people. Private companies, national & local governments, local community organizations, and technical experts are just a few of the potential stakeholders in any energy intervention (see Key Stakeholders below). Moreover, their respective roles and levels of engagement vary by location, which complicates the initial assessment of identifying key partners in coordination efforts.

- **Existing markets**: In cases where local markets exist for energy products and services, humanitarian organizations risk causing market disruption by importing products and providing them for free to crisis-affected people. It is therefore necessary to assess the potential for market disruption, coordinate with local actors who may be impacted, and find ways to collaborate. The population of concern may also rely on unsustainable fuel and energy practices (e.g. selling firewood and charcoal) for income generation, which must be considered if the project intends to replace these practices.

- **Duplication**: In some long-established settlements of crisis-affected people, such as refugee camps in Rwanda or Kenya, there are in fact a multitude of energy interventions, but (usually due to funding constraints) they are frequently small, short term, and only meet the needs of a small group of residents. In many cases, there is no coordinating body to assess or ensure that similar energy initiatives collaborate or share information. As a result, lessons learned may not be applied to future projects and mistakes or failures may be repeated over time. The consequent waste of funding and resources can also create skepticism or mistrust among the affected population.

4) Communications
Another key challenge highlighted by numerous actors working on humanitarian energy projects is the difficulty of communicating and collaborating with other practitioners, both within and across organizations. This may partially stem from the lack of a formal role for energy in the humanitarian system; without that commitment, there is no mandate or established format for developing communication and information-sharing platforms specific to this issue. Reliefweb.int, humanitarianresponse.info, and the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) all serve as useful platforms for coordinating or learning about humanitarian interventions, but energy is not typically treated as a distinct topic on these platforms.¹

¹ Two exceptions: an “Energy” link, going to the SAFE website, was added under Community Topics on humanitarianresponse.info in 2016 and was then transferred to ReliefWeb in 2017. HDX contains a map using information from the SAFE Projects Database, but it has not been updated in at least a year.
Since 2014, the SAFE Working Group has maintained a website containing resources, tools, and profiles of humanitarian energy projects worldwide – acting as a point of reference for actors looking to work in the same areas. More recently, the SAFE Working Group and the Sustainable Energy Technologies for Food Security (SET4Food) project launched ENERGYCoP, a dedicated platform where practitioners can interact with each other and post public queries. Due to resource constraints, however, only one or two individuals are available to manage both platforms. Moreover, coordination through online resources depends on internet access and connectivity, which can be unreliable in remote rural areas where many practitioners work. Some popular online platforms (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox, or Twitter) are also banned in a few countries.

While internet connectivity can be ameliorated over time through advances in technology and infrastructure and the establishment of local coordinating bodies, perhaps the greatest obstacle to coordination is a commitment by practitioners to share information – i.e., to use the communication tools established for humanitarian energy issues. Each organization and individual has their own preferred platforms and ways of working, and these habits can be difficult to overcome. As IFRC notes, “perhaps the greatest challenge to coordination is the inherent difficulty of identifying a common purpose and approach among agencies whose mandates, methods, resources and systems are diverse.”

**Key Stakeholders**

*Population of Concern (PoC)* or the community affected by crisis, is the most important stakeholder in this space, and often the most neglected. Ultimately, the success of humanitarian energy initiatives depends on active participation and buy-in from PoCs (preferably at every stage of the project cycle) to ensure that the proposed energy intervention is accessible and appropriate to their needs.

*Local NGOs & Community Groups*, including women’s interest groups and youth organizations frequently interface with the PoC and are key partners in engaging them. These groups are also resources for local contextual knowledge, including the identification of other key actors on the ground.

*National & Local Governments* are important stakeholders in a humanitarian crisis, though in many cases they have limited capacity overall. The Sphere Handbook, the most widely recognized set of standards and principles for humanitarian response, states that the primary responsibility to provide timely assistance and protection to the affected population rests with the state; therefore, it is a best practice to work with local authorities. Any energy intervention in a humanitarian setting will need to consider national policies governing energy, fuel, and displaced people. Host governments also control taxes and duties that may be applied to imported products. Consequently, it is necessary to engage the relevant

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7 IFRC, p. 5.
8 Sphere Handbook 2018, Draft 2, Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) 1, “Existing Capacity,” p. 6. “Intervention by other humanitarian actors should occur only if the affected population and/or the state have insufficient capacity or willingness to respond (particularly during the early stages of the response). Intervention may also be justified if the state or authorities actively discriminate against certain groups and/or people living in an affected area.”
ministries and departments in coordination efforts. Relevant examples include the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) in Nepal, Ethiopia’s Ministry of Mining, Petroleum, and Natural Gas, and Rwanda’s Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), all of which were active partners in at least one humanitarian energy intervention within the past five years.

**UN Agencies**, chiefly UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). These organizations have in-country presence world-wide and are among some of the largest implementers of energy initiatives in humanitarian settings. They are also frequently (but not exclusively) involved in responding to protracted crises. UNHCR in particular acts as the “gatekeeper” for interventions in formal refugee settings.

**International NGOs & Development Organizations** such as Mercy Corps, Oxfam, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Medecins sans Frontiers, COOPI, and International Lifeline Fund. Like UN agencies, these organizations also have multiple country offices and have, to some extent or another, previously incorporated energy into their humanitarian work. Some also frequently act as first responders in acute emergencies, conducting needs assessments that may determine what relief items are delivered where. Other entities in this category, such as Practical Action, GIIZ, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Energy 4 Impact, and Project Gaia do not have large humanitarian portfolios but support or implement discrete energy access projects in humanitarian settings. Depending on their specific interests, this latter group may act as natural connectors between humanitarian professionals and the private sector, academia, and other entities, which can be useful in coordination.

**Private Companies** – the manufacturers and distributors engaged in producing energy products such as fuel, solar lamps, stoves, generators, and mini grids. These companies may be local or international, and historically have only engaged in humanitarian settings to the extent that agencies like those listed above are procuring their products for direct delivery to crisis-affected people. However, a growing number of private companies are now directly providing or selling their products and services to crisis-affected people. Pioneers in this approach include BBOXX, Little Sun, Schneider Electric, Inyenyeri, and others.

**Funders** – donors, investors, and other entities who provide the funding that supports current and future energy aid to crisis-affected people. While not typically engaged in the coordination of energy interventions, there is a good argument to be made for their greater inclusion. Better information sharing between and among funding agencies with similar priorities might help to reduce the duplication of pilot energy projects.

**Research & Development (R&D) Organizations** such as engineering companies, universities, or publicly-funded laboratories, are not typically vital stakeholders in coordinating the delivery of energy aid, but many are invested in learning about interventions that have previously been tried, which can feed into energy product design. Therefore, it is very likely they would be interested in any information and/or assessments shared by a coordinating body or bodies. Some specific organizations in this area include Berkeley Air Monitoring Group, MIT D-Lab, Lincoln Labs, Politecnico di Milano, Chatham House, the University of Coventry, and others.

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9 One frequent concern for energy interventions is whether or not the affected community is allowed to work and/or move freely within the host country. The Moving Energy Initiative provides a helpful summary of the energy and humanitarian policies in various host countries in Appendix D of its flagship report, *Heat, Light and Power for Refugees: Saving Lives, Reducing Costs.*
Outlining Options

Given the cross-cutting nature of energy as an issue, there is still an open question as to the best way to raise the profile of energy access as a key issue in humanitarian settings and, by so doing, prompt agencies to include it as a formal priority in budgets and strategies. Options include encouraging and/or educating existing cluster groups to include energy issues where it is relevant to their work. During the Nepal 2015 earthquake, for example, WFP was able to facilitate the inclusion of cooking questions in rapid assessments conducted by the Food Security Cluster. Having a dedicated energy focal point present within each cluster group might be one way to promote this, if feasible. However, this approach (which is to be embedded in the cluster system) would only cover non-refugee emergencies. For refugee emergencies sectoral coordination groups vary by context, but a similar model could apply if agreed by UNHCR given their leadership role.

Another option to consider is the establishment of national or local-level working groups to coordinate humanitarian energy activities. The SAFE Humanitarian Working Group has advocated for this approach, and nascent working groups of this kind exist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. During the 4th Annual SAFE Workshop in December of 2017, practitioners from Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya made preliminary commitments to establish similar groups within their countries. Like the global SAFE Working Group, however, each of these groups is informal in nature and depends on voluntary participation.

The questions in the next session are designed to prompt members of this Working Area to consider this issue and others as they outline options for addressing the challenge areas noted above.

Concrete Questions

1) What level of coordination should the community strive for?
   (There is a spectrum of options, including simple information sharing on assessments, plans, strategies etc; collaboration via joint assessments, problem solving and aligned responses; coordinated development of standards and guidelines; coordinated fundraising appeals; joint strategic planning in advance of crises; joint programming during crises)

2) Who should be a part of coordination mechanisms for energy interventions in humanitarian crises?

3) What skills, expertise and experiences are ideal/necessary for members of the coordination mechanism?

4) Is there a need for a formalized central coordination mechanism for the provision of energy services in humanitarian crises? Why or why not?
   ● Does this need exist for both acute emergencies and protracted crises?
   ● What alternate or complementary coordination approaches might be considered and what are the benefits and drawbacks?
     i. Inclusion in existing coordination mechanisms, e.g. fuel and cookstoves to food security sector/cluster, heating/cooling to health sector/cluster, lighting to protection sector/cluster, etc.
ii. Establishment of national and/or local working groups to take on coordination at that level (this could be complementary to a global coordination mechanism)

- Which agency or organization, if any, is the most natural “lead” for the coordination of energy activities in humanitarian settings? Is that agency already invested in this issue?

5) What are the differences in coordination needs between refugee vs. non-refugee related crises or sudden onset vs. protracted crises, if any? Should there be different coordination mechanisms for each?

6) Assuming that dedicated funding for energy activities remains a rarity within most humanitarian organizations, how can we overcome the challenges of limited staff time and capacity to engage in coordination efforts?

7) What lessons can we draw from existing and past coordination mechanisms and activities in the sector? (SAFE Working group experience in Nepal Earthquake, Bangladesh/Rohingya situation etc., SAFE working groups in countries)
Policy, Advocacy and Host Country Resilience: Supporting National and Local Development Plans

A Background Note

Rob Bailey, Glada Lahn and Owen Grafham
(Chatham House & Moving Energy Initiative) | December 2017
The Issue

Over 90% of refugees in camps have little or no access to electricity. Around 80% are cooking with the most basic fuels available and live in near darkness after sunset. This poor state of energy affects health, wellbeing, household finances and livelihoods. At the same time, many of the countries hosting refugees are facing their own energy challenges and are looking for investments and technologies that can help their countries to escape energy poverty and build cleaner, more cost-effective energy systems.

If the humanitarian system is to address energy challenges, we need to unlock policy change. At an international multilateral level, this means explicitly recognizing the issue of sustainable energy for the forcibly displaced in global policy agendas. At agency level, it means incorporating energy considerations and best practice into core programming. And at national host country level, this means showing where sustainable energy solutions can contribute to national and local sustainable development objectives and facilitating the relevant aid and investment.

At National Level

All governments of countries hosting refugees will have policies or ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and scale up efficiency and renewable energy. Energy interventions will have the greatest chance of being accepted and supported if they are designed to support these national goals - whether this is in the form of moving people away from reliance on solid biomass, expanding access to electricity, reducing pollution and congestion, or even contributing to change in an overall energy system which lessens reliance on fuel imports gas and/or energy subsidies.

However, longer term solutions are viable only if host populations and governments support them and very often this can be problematic. For a start, many governments want to maintain that displaced populations living in their territory are only temporary residents and this may be reflected in the restrictions on permission to work, to move around the country and to upgrades camp infrastructure or shelters. Secondly, host populations and host governments often perceive refugees to be a drain on strained energy (and water) systems, or a competitor for finite local resources such as trees. But the relationship is complex, countries also benefit from the additional consumers, cheap labour and aid spending in the country. Energy is usually a part of this (firewood and charcoal markets and kerosene and diesel suppliers may all stand to lose from change in the energy system). Overcoming these problems requires understanding of the needs of local communities, and of the economic linkages between communities and displaced people and between the humanitarian agencies and larger suppliers.

At Agency Level

There is a shortage of energy expertise in the humanitarian system and no systematic approach to planning for or managing energy provision. The design of energy solutions is technical, complex and highly dependent on context. The humanitarian system lacks dedicated energy experts with the requisite skills and knowledge. This lack of technical capacity holds back coherent responses from agencies and means that energy is rarely given the priority it deserves.

Despite this, progress in several areas in enabling the conditions for change. The 2017/18 revisions to the SPHERE Handbook, the most enduring and frequently referenced handbook for humanitarian action, now feature energy concerns throughout and paint a much more holistic picture of how energy concerns should be integrated into humanitarian response. In addition to this, an increase in cash delivery
mechanisms and pay-as-you-go financing models for energy businesses have enhanced the potential for markets. This has combined with the falling price of solar technology and affordable payment schemes to make sustainable energy options both more palatable and more affordable for displaced populations (and the agencies that serve them) than ever before.

**At the International Level**

On the international level, energy still has no formal place in the humanitarian cluster system and no-one has responsibility for ensuring that energy is delivered effectively or appropriately in humanitarian settings, or accountability for its costs.

However, across the planet, wider access to clean energy is a rising priority. This is crystallised in SDG 7 which commits countries to “affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” for 2030. Refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) – now standing at over 65.5million - are amongst those most likely to be ‘left behind’ from these efforts. In order to address this, clear signals are needed from the most senior levels and several announcements, processes and policy changes are paving the way for progress. Multiple processes – including the World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain, and World Bank meetings and discussions around the ‘New Way of Working’ – have catalysed efforts to define, implement and measure new ways to address and prevent crises. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) outline an explicit desire to ease pressures on host countries and enhance refugee self-reliance. To some extent this is being pioneered through the work of the response plans to the Syria Crisis in West Asia which specifically table development priorities alongside refugee needs requiring aid, including energy. Ongoing efforts to ease restrictions on refugees’ rights to work and access to land are crucial to the energy access conversation in protracted situations, and affect the ability to pay for and access energy services. The governments of Kenya and Uganda have provided refugees in their territory with the right to work and freedom of movement whilst the government of Jordan has agreed to the creation of 200,000 jobs for Syrian refugees. Visible examples of how clean energy investment and refugee self-reliance can create a virtuous circle of beneficial change in such host countries will be a powerful signal of what is possible in others.

In 2016 the Dutch government became the first government to include forcibly displaced people as part of their energy access targets; stating at the World Humanitarian Summit that: "We commit to reach 50 million people with access to energy by 2030, and will include a distinct target for refugees within this goal." In 2017 displaced people were mentioned for the first time in the 2017 Global Tracking Framework which is measuring progress towards achieving SDG 7.

**The Stakeholders**

Key stakeholders in this issue area include:

- Displaced people, whose views on energy and energy practices needs to inform the level of attention and priority that energy is given in a given situation
- Host communities, who will have been affected by the impact of the displacement crisis in a variety of ways. Their perceptions, needs and possible inequalities in comparison with services to the displaced group should not be ignored.
- Humanitarian Agencies who will need to reform their own policies to give more prominence to energy.
➢ Host governments, who will have set their own national energy targets and priorities and who are responsible for setting the legal limitations (and freedoms) that dictate how displaced people engage with energy, and the framework for facilitation or deployment of aid and investment.

➢ Local organizations and development actors working for sustainability, efficiency and local market development who could be partners with valuable knowledge and experience to incorporate into humanitarian energy programming.

➢ Private sector energy service expertise, local and international, who are interested in providing services and equipment in the humanitarian situations.

➢ Donors and International financial institutions, who will be needed to incentivize investments and enable agencies to do things differently, potentially through new financial instruments and arrangements.

Solutions

Today, more organizations and companies than ever before are interested in the humanitarian energy space. Governments globally are demonstrating unprecedented momentum to address energy access issues whilst migration continues to be a top foreign policy concern for many governments in the West. Therefore, we have a window of opportunity to influence the international policy agenda in ways that establish long-term mechanisms for better practice and policy around humanitarian energy.

In the long-term, energy assets that are delivered for refugee populations can also serve as a legacy asset for local communities. This is being pioneered in the solar farms at Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, and also in the forthcoming ‘South Amman’ solar farm that will provide energy for urban refugees and the host communities that accommodate them. The concept of donor countries or other types of funding bodies investing in energy infrastructure that can serve refugees and act as a legacy asset can be tested outside of Jordan and outside of the Middle East and more work is needed to show the true benefits of such schemes and how they can help countries in the transition away from aid dependence. More needs to be done to enable humanitarian agencies to budget over several years /and or gain access to capital funds, that would allow them to invest or engage services for efficiency and renewable energy that would save money over the cost of their lifetime.

In the short-term, sustainable energy solutions have the potential to reduce environmental and social pressures (for example by reducing firewood consumption through use of better stoves and alternative fuels), create livelihood opportunities (for example having access to energy allows micro-businesses like barbers and tailors to operate machinery) and even create opportunities for local energy service companies to help meet the needs of displaced populations (for example by offering solar home systems to customers who have a proven willingness to pay for such technologies, building more climate-proof, efficient shelters or affordable green housing). All of this presents opportunities to collaborate with donors and implementing agencies on energy solutions that both meet the needs of displaced persons and respond to national sustainable development priorities.

But none of this can be achieved without the humanitarian system changing their approach to energy – devoting more attention and resources to the issue and engaging private sector expertise to make sure that any systems that are introduced are maintained and sustainably financed.
Questions for the working group

Working group sessions can be structured as follows:

**Humanitarian policies and practice**

➢ What do (different types of) humanitarian agencies need in order to develop and implement an effective energy strategy which incorporates energy considerations and improvements into their programming?
  a) from outside
  b) from within

➢ What areas of humanitarian agency policy change would have the greatest impact? What kind of cooperation/ funding/technical support is needed to achieve these changes?

➢ Does the current Implementing Partner system pose problems for effective energy delivery and use (e.g. lack of accountability over diesel, many small energy projects rather than designing at scale)? If so, what changes/better models are possible/under discussion?

➢ What are the key messages that the NGO community should be delivering to external audiences? How can we best communicate these key issues over the next 4/5/6 months?

**Working with national governments and other local and development actors**

➢ Are there ways that government agencies, development, private sector and humanitarian community can better share lessons and outcomes from the existing work that is taking place? How can we showcase best practices to accelerate and scale up action?

➢ Can response plans – such as those rolled out in the Syrian refugee hosting countries – serve as a basis to propose energy win-wins to countries hosting long-term refugees? What would be needed to instigate this process? How can they best be geared towards the transition beyond aid-dependence?

➢ What are the opportunities that should be considered for investing in energy as a way to build resilience for the host community/off-setting humanitarian energy footprint? What communications, information, partnerships could make these work best?

**Donor policies and practice**

➢ What changes do donor governments need to make to the way that they fund and make requests of the humanitarian system in order to enable the above?

➢ Can donor governments include forcibly displaced people in their overall energy access targets? This would entail greater cooperation between energy, humanitarian and climate leads, how can we promote this?
➢ How can this agenda influence longer-term processes such as SE4All and the Global Compact? Can we build humanitarian energy into these ambitions more explicitly?

Engaging the private sector

➢ What would better facilitate a greater number of experienced companies to offer the relevant energy services to the sector? What would private sector companies need from the sector?

➢ What are the specific challenges with allowing companies with the relevant expertise to provide energy services or infrastructure management in camp settings? How might these be overcome?

Mapping what next

Discussion to draw together links between sections and map out the order of a ‘to do list’ with ideal roles and responsibilities and offers of work within the group.
Description

There are today an estimated 65.5 million displaced people globally. Energy issues are not at the forefront of humanitarian aid funding efforts, as more immediate needs like nutrition and health are prioritised over sustainable energy. The Moving Energy Initiative estimates that there is currently a funding gap of $335 million USD to provide all refugees with basic levels of energy access for cooking and lighting\(^1\). Moreover, in the context of camps for displaced people, electricity for the camp infrastructure is mainly provided through unsustainable diesel generator solutions, instead of applying renewable energy technologies. A transition towards more sustainable financing is required, since fuel alone costs camp operators an annual estimated of roughly 100 million USD.

To match the growing needs and achieve the targets of SDG 7, new ways and sources of funding energy should be explored. To start exploring, we would distinguish between financing and grants. For us, financing relates to the provision of debt and equity with certain return expectations that offer economically sustainable returns. We see the inclusion of financing by this definition as the key to enable structural change in the sector. In this session we aim to explore how financing efforts relative to grants can be increased and in which areas grants have to remain the key enabler for renewable energy initiatives in humanitarian settings.

Problem Analysis

Currently, funding in situations of displacement comes traditionally through grants and ‘energy’ has to compete with other needs. Commercial finance of energy plays virtually no role in this sector.

In addition, funding in general is often short term (max. 1-2 years), due to budget regulations from donors, internal procedures, and the fact that sometimes the duration of humanitarian operations are unpredictable. This short term thinking and unpredictability makes it difficult to cover higher upfront costs for renewable energy systems or plan power purchase agreements.

Many macro trends are changing the playing field and their influence on financing shall be introduced and discussed during the sessions. These macro trends most notably include a

\(^1\) Lahn and Grafham (2015), Heat, Light and Power for Refugees, Chatham House, London, pg 20
higher relevance of refugee and migration issues at global political level, growing political interest about Africa, awareness for the necessity to identify more sustainable energy solutions in the humanitarian aid context in view of reduced funding, global agreements such as the CRRF, the falling cost of renewable energy systems, interest of RE companies to support rural electrification, CAPEX free business models, negative interest rate environment, crowd investments, a shift in policy within independent donor foundations towards impact investments, peer to peer transactions, and blockchain backed applications.

Key stakeholders

Nowadays, donations are coming from:

- Traditional donor groups both, in the humanitarian and the development context
- Development finance institutions

In addition, many other partners from academia, NGOs are supporting the topic through numerous pilot projects.

To match the growing needs and achieve progress on a larger scale, other partners need to be involved, such as:

- Private finance institutions/Debt providers
- Private equity providers
- Impact investors
- RE Industry with appetite for new operating and delivery models
- Corporations with funds for CSR in the energy field
- Implementing agencies and NGOs

Outlining Options – What is needed to solve the problems – short, medium and long-term?

By increasing the uptake of commercial financing for renewable energy projects, humanitarian grants can be leveraged as more funds become available to focus on areas where they are indispensable. As shown below, the overall size of the grant funding available increases through an increase in commercial finance. To achieve this, innovative concepts that look beyond traditional grants and include the private sector and novel business models are needed - along with a concept to incentivise private companies to enter markets in remote regions that appear risky to them due to high investment on transportation and logistics. As a precondition, a “shift of culture” in the humanitarian aid community is required to move from free donations towards market based approaches.
The implementation fields for humanitarian grants and commercial financing will be mapped during the session.

Concrete Questions – What are key questions as a basis for the discussion in Berlin?

In which fields can commercial financing already be applied?

In which application areas are grants more needed and appropriate?

Who are the actors in the respective fields?

Which technologies and applications are most appropriate?

How are the macro trends changing this environment?

How can traditional grants be used to incentivise market based solutions?
Technical Expertise, Capacity Building and Training


January 2018

Aimee Jenks, Thomas Fohgrub: UNITAR;
input from Kathleen Callaghy: Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

1. Why Technical Expertise, Capacity Building and Training is Important for Energy for Displaced People?

Well-trained and coordinated staff who provide programmatic and technical support to energy projects is crucial in humanitarian assistance. Energy access is often overlooked in the strategies and budgets of organizations engaged in humanitarian assistance for health, protection, food security, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and other issues. A number of organizations have progressed in incorporating fuel and energy into their humanitarian work over the past decade, but often these activities are extra-budgetary or dependent on short term grants. Consequently, there is a severe shortage of well-trained technical and programmatic experts who can facilitate coordinated responses to energy needs in the field. This gap in expertise is exacerbated by high turnover rates of deployed staff among humanitarian agencies and NGOs. While many staff are often eager and willing to learn about energy, ease of access to and awareness of the right tools are often barriers that inhibit learning.

Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is a critical enabler for sustainable development, yet the fundamental energy needs of displaced people are majorly unattended due to this lack of institutional capacity. Narrowing this gap in humanitarian response through relevant technical expertise, capacity building and training is imperative for a transition away from an unsustainable procure and provide mind set to a more resilient, equitable and sustainable response. Equipping humanitarian organizations with technical expertise and incorporating local expertise to provide sustainable energy services improves safety and security, health and livelihoods for displaced people. Delivering capacity building and trainings around the productive use of energy, solution specific services and sustainable resource management empowers end users and camp managers with increased ecological, safe and effective energy practices. On top of the human centered benefits presented, the capacity to equip displacement situations with clean energy from the start presents a clear economic case resulting in long term cost savings for humanitarian organizations. Without the sufficient institutional capacity to address this need, energy provision in situations of displacement will remain dependent on unsustainable and unsafe practices, intensifying the common humanitarian issues faced in low access regions.

Delivering universal energy access by 2030 remains a challenge, but institutionally addressing this need will be an accelerator for sustainable development to meet global goals and effectively enhance the quality of life of people living in displacement settings. In response to the strong political will of global leaders in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and subsequent action being taken to improve humanitarian assistance for displaced people, there is a significant opportunity to rethink current energy provision methods and collaboratively equip all stakeholders with the necessary capacity and energy expertise for long term benefits.
2. **Analysis: What challenges are we facing?**

The design and implementation of energy solutions is technical, complex and depends on legal and governance frameworks. As the genesis of responses for displaced people are often fragile in nature and initial humanitarian response to crisis generally lacks capacity to serve continuous needs upon high volumes of arrival, energy is understandably not the first priority in emergency situations. This being said, a bulk of the challenges faced in sustainable energy adoption after initial emergency response could be mitigated through institutional capacity and awareness for the important role energy plays in quality response. Energy for displacement situations is still a niche area that affects many cross cutting themes but is not normally focused on as its own category. These challenges are important to understand so technical expertise can be acquired, capacity can be built institutionally, and appropriate trainings can be administered to relevant beneficiaries.

Some challenges that serve as barriers to providing adequate technical expertise, capacity building and training are as follows:

- Lack of institutional technical expertise in or reference point in field.
- Lack of standardized energy trainings and limited access to tools when they are available.
- Little awareness of the importance, benefits, potential and cross cutting nature of clean energy.
- Energy roles assigned to people who are unequipped with appropriate technical expertise or who have very limited time to provide attention to this issue.
- Lack of financing for humanitarian organizations to hire technical energy experts.
- ‘Procure and provide’ mind set, rather than tools and processes designed to enable an environment for private companies to enter.
- Reluctance of staff to receive energy training ‘on top of everything else’.
- Lack of entrance point for private sector to implement solution specific trainings.
- End users training needs or capacity are misunderstood.
- Disabling policies that hinder displaced people from capacity building.

Among other activities, experienced staff with a background on energy in humanitarian settings is needed to conduct solid assessments of energy needs and recommend context-appropriate solutions; provide training on the proper installation, use, maintenance, and benefits of energy products; develop energy strategies that incorporate considerations for the health, safety, livelihoods, and well-being of crisis-affected people – especially women and children – and their surrounding environment; and identify opportunities to transform short term solutions into long term income-generating activities, such as locally producing improved cook stoves or firewood alternatives. These activities build the capacity of crisis-affected communities to cope with future disasters and encourage humanitarian actors to consider longer-term strategies. Despite these many challenges, many tools and resources do exist for humanitarian practitioners, and with some adaptation and training these could be used to facilitate energy programming in humanitarian settings.

In response to these challenges, the humanitarian sector has been taking action in recent years to narrow the capacity gap. Current initiatives such as the Safe Access to Energy (SAFE) Humanitarian Working Group and the Moving Energy Initiative (MEI) have focused on specifically building institutional capacity through trainings, targeted reporting and building institutional awareness.
Recognizing the technical expertise gap, multiple organizations such as UNHCR, WFP and the SAFE working group have published open calls for experts in the form of Energy Expert Rosters. Different innovative online platforms such as ENERGYCoP and Sustainable Energy Technology for Food (SET4Food) use open tendering and transparent data to connect private sector expertise to field energy need.

Highlighting best practice cases can provide examples on innovative ways training and expertise have been used in light of longer term sustainable energy practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Practice Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical Expertise</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC has deployed a sustainability expert who can recommend appropriate sustainable energy infrastructure from the beginning of site planning in Cox’s Bazar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR, in collaboration with the IKEA foundation and Engineers Without Borders USA, introduced mini-grids for cost effective community lighting in Nepal. The mini grids were designed, installed and maintained with support from the community. (UNHCR, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Moving Energy Initiative has created the toolkits focused on private sector engagement and cooking systems for humanitarian actors to gain and streamline technical expertise. (Vianello, 2016; Van Landeghem, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM has established an institutional framework for Flash reporting of emergency response that includes energy needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing tools, such as Practical Actions’ “Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis” tool, which contains training and e-learning components, can be adapted to meet energy demands and used to build capacity institutionally and simultaneously understand local markets. (EMMA, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIZ commissioned a regional project in Egypt to create a Regional Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) to build institutional capacity in the Middle East and North Africa. This platform offers on-demand capacity development programs and has carried out assessments such as solar PV status in Yemen and capacity needs for regional green energy financing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A solar farm was constructed for Azraq, a Jordanian refugee camp, where local capacity was built through the contracting of a local Jordanian company to provide the solar solution and 50+ refugees were taught valuable skills through technical energy training (UNHCR, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chamber of Commerce of Djibouti supported by a German corporation partnered with the University of Djibouti to train local community members and refugees on the installation and maintenance of solar and wind technologies. (CCD, 2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sustainable Energy Technologies for Food project (SET4Food) offers e-learning courses and thematic webinars that serve as trainings for appropriate energy technologies for food utilization in refugee/IDP settings.</td>
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</table>
3. Key Stakeholders: Who is involved in this working area and who can support solving the problems?

Holistic evaluation when it comes to assessing current technical expertise and capacity needs in terms of energy is essential. Partnership and recognizing priority stakeholders is key to building capacity and delivering trainings that are comprehensive and end-used focused. For example in camp settings, the people who design, operate and use the energy systems are not the same and so is the level of responsibility.

From leadership level to field personnel to displaced people themselves, it is imperative for each party to understand the significant role energy plays in humanitarian response and how they can contribute appropriately. Recognizing that more resilient, sustainable energy practices lead to vast environmental and economic benefits, leadership can prioritize finance for technical expertise and organization wide capacity building. Including a technical expert in initial site planning as well as protracted situations can equip operations with the necessary capacity needed to effectively design, implement and sustainably maintain the energy systems. Training displaced people - in light of their capacity and socio-cultural contexts - in system building/maintenance and in safe fuel use can result in economic value and improved health conditions. Ensuring technology transfer is coupled with necessary training is important for effective use of distributed products such as solar lanterns. These examples further illustrate how capacity building and training are essential for all links of the value chain to accelerate sustainable development. Ensuring response in a more sustainable way with less economic impact will depend on how stakeholders can effectively work together towards quality technology transfer/adoption through appropriate training and if primary institutions can prioritize energy awareness, technical expertise and wide scale capacity building.

This working group will include actions related to equip governments, companies and organizations with the relevant skills and knowledge to efficiently plan, manage and monitor energy interventions in humanitarian response. The following stakeholders will join to understand the landscape of technical expertise, share best practices, identify relevant energy trainings for appropriate beneficiaries, and create methods for institutional awareness and capacity building:

- International, national and local NGOs: technical energy expertise in emergency planning and protracted to be incorporated into their priorities; capacity built institutionally to understand and implement energy needs
- Private sector technology providers: technical energy expertise could be outsourced to the providers who have the specific technical expertise to build, operate and maintain their market-based solutions
- Governments: creating enabling policies that encourage the capacity building and training of energy beneficiaries; creating enabling policies that encourage localized capacity to be utilized effectively
- Training and research institutions or academia: could create and facilitate standardized energy trainings that are adapted to field and end user needs for humanitarian staff and beneficiaries
- Displaced people and their host communities: local capacity to implement energy solutions is evaluated for a sustainable and economic approach; displaced people and their host communities can participate in vocational trainings enabled by improved energy services or energy technician trainings
By including members of the private sector with technical experience and market based solutions, government actors who can influence policy and create awareness and organisations who run camp operations, the goal is to more equitably engage each party and come up with solutions to advance the energy agenda from all sides. To leverage the capabilities, deep cultural understanding and economies of host communities, a strong emphasis on local capacity building will be prevalent throughout the discussion.

4. **Outlining options: What are the necessary actions to solve these problems?**

As momentum gains and agencies interests’ in sustainable energy increases, various pilot projects and new initiatives addressing the need for energy expertise provide insight on what action is to be taken for comprehensive organizational capacity building. To ensure quality delivery models, it is imperative to understand how to effectively gauge current capacity. A starting point would be to develop a thorough understanding of organizational capacity in HQ and the field and engage in transparent discussion to identify what gaps need to be filled and where. Gaining an in depth understanding through detailed stock taking of current capacity can provide the foundation necessary to plan for forward action and eliminate reinventing the wheel. Next steps could include creating a framework to implement end-user adapted trainings for field staff and displaced people. Creating positions for regional or national energy experts and leveraging local capacity wherever possible could better equip organizations. Engaging in partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders including the private sector who could own and operate energy systems and sell electricity as a service could ease the burden of technical expertise necessity in humanitarian operations. As 51% of refugees are children, an acute focus on training the young generations can be incorporated in these frameworks. In the long term, institutional capacity will need to be built to normalize the implementation of sustainable solutions.

5. **What are key questions as a basis for the discussion in Berlin?**

These questions will focus on how to create awareness for the vital role that technical expertise, capacity building and training play in sustainable development, how stakeholders with technical expertise can be innovatively incorporated into the energy transition, how finance can be prioritized for smarter energy planning, what potential training opportunities can create jobs for and transfer skills to displaced people and how the end user needs are understood.

- How much in-house technical expertise is necessary vs. outsourcing of technical capacity?
- How can field needs be well understood so technical expertise and capacity building can be provided effectively?
- How can end users be engaged in a way to understand their energy training needs?
- What are the greatest challenges to institutionalized capacity building around energy for international organizations and how can awareness be raised internally?
- What is the standardized energy knowledge necessary for field personnel to be trained in?
- What sources of funding is there for technical energy specialists or are there organizations with relevant technical expertise that would be interested in partnering?
- How can private sector, solution specific expertise be transferred to end users and camp managers alike?
❖ How can the private sector’s role increase in system ownership, operation and maintenance to lessen the necessity of energy expertise staff in humanitarian response?
❖ How can relevant stakeholders create institutional awareness around sustainable solutions and the importance of sustainable development rather than give and go in settings of crisis affected people?
❖ How can the various organizations collectively learn from best practices?

References


Chambre de Commerce de Djibouti (CCD), (2016). PERD Project, Launch of Renewable Energy Training at CCD. Online.


Background Paper: Data, Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting on Energy for Displaced People


Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen: Practical Action and University of Oxford
January 8th 2018

1. Why is Data and Evidence Important for Energy for Displaced People?

Delivering sustainable energy for displaced people is a relatively new area: as projects and programmes scale-up reliable data, hard evidence and clear monitoring and evaluation approaches are essential. Both to ensure that the energy needs and aspirations of displaced people are placed at the centre of humanitarian response, and also to facilitate long-term sustainable approaches for humanitarian organisations that make the best use of available resources. In this paper, the data and evidence needs of the sector are explored to start a discussion on how to provide clear and timely evidence for energy in humanitarian settings.

Delivering universal energy access by 2030 and meeting Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) requires meeting the energy needs of everyone, including displaced people. However, displaced people were not often included in national or international planning. The inclusion of data on displaced people in the Global Tracking Framework (2017) is a major step forward in drawing attention to the evidence needs in this area, but it is just a start.

Detailed evidence is critical for decision-makers to be able to deliver sustainable energy as part of humanitarian programmes and projects. Working in this area is also important to be able to understand how people use energy as part of a highly complex humanitarian system. Without good information and clear data, humanitarian agencies, NGOs and local governments will be unable to respond effectively. The energy needs of displaced people will not be understood, nor will community priorities be incorporated into decision-making. In addition to this, markets and private-sector suppliers will not have the information they need to invest in humanitarian energy projects or work with other organisations to develop market-based solutions. Data is critical for all these reasons, as without good evidence programmes will struggle to be successful and action on humanitarian energy will find it difficult to achieve global change.

2. Problem analysis: What are the challenges we are facing?

The scale of the challenge faced is considerable, as to date there is:

- A lack of general data and readily available information, and limited specific evidence on the issues or in-depth studies that compare cross-cutting issues or regional evidence.
- Very few detailed studies on the impacts of existing energy programmes in displaced settings, including data from monitoring, learning and the knowledge emerging from those programmes.
- Inadequate training for practitioners, field staff or researchers on existing evidence and tools.
- A lack of standardised or published information: where data is available, for example from pilots and start-up projects, it is not consistent or available openly. Each pilot often has its own set of indicators and reporting structures, making it difficult to compare evidence across programmes.
- Insufficient learning from existing programmes, as information is often not published or made available to other practitioners.

Evidence is lacking across several areas, including new research needed on specific information on technological solutions and how different business models could and do work, baseline data on the energy needs of displaced populations and their host communities, how much energy costs and who pays for it in refugee camps, and accurate information on how much energy is provided currently in many camps and informal settlements. As well as new primary research, there is a need for clear knowledge, training and learning opportunities so that new information can be used by decision-makers. For example, while some tools and methodologies for data collection do already exist, (for example D-Lab tools), decision-makers are often not aware of these or trained in how to use them.

While only a few examples of evidence in this area exist, research has been done in recent years to understand the lack of energy in humanitarian settings: it is now increasingly accepted that currently the energy needs of millions of displaced people are being met inadequately or not at all (Lahn and Grafham, 2015). For example, some initial analysis and evidence gathering has been done by the MEI, Bellanca 2014, Gunning 2014, Lehne et al 2016, and Grafham 2016. There are also several new academic research programmes emerging in this area on quantitative data and sensor measurement, as well as the new Energy COP Community of Practice hosted by the SAFE initiative.

There is a considerable need for new information and evidence in humanitarian energy, the table below has been compiled to suggest some specific areas for open discussion. Many of these areas are already topics of considerable research in the broader energy access sector, so could learn from those analysis and approaches to understand issues specifically in contexts of displacement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Data Gap</th>
<th>Potential New Data and Evidence Area for Humanitarian Energy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy technologies</td>
<td>- Appropriateness of technologies solar street lights, solar lanterns, or solar cooking stoves options for renewable biomass and biogas, wind generators, micro-hydro, geothermal, and waste recycling</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- How communities perceive and use kerosene or traditional biomass and firewood within different country contexts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Possibilities of smart micro-grids for humanitarian use</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What are the barriers to delivering decentralized clean energy services at scale and how information, business models and innovative financing can address developing country energy access gaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productive use and income generating opportunities</td>
<td>- How energy access can improve economic opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- How energy is used by businesses and in informal trade mechanisms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Key stakeholders – Who is involved in this working area and who can support solving the problems?

Working with partners is key to delivering vital data, evidence, monitoring and evaluation processes that meet the energy needs of displaced people in a safe, sustainable manner. There is an urgent need for multi-year humanitarian planning and research that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of vulnerable people. Multiple partnerships and modes of engagement will be necessary to deliver innovative research and evidence to understand the extent of the problem and identify challenges and potential solutions. To deliver substantial results of for this area, it is essential to facilitate collaboration between emergency responders and the energy community. Evidence must be delivered where it is needed, when it is needed, and convene actors throughout both the emergency and development sectors to support vulnerable people more effectively during short-term crises and with longer-term challenges. This working group of the conference is actively seeking to work with emergency responders and actors from across the humanitarian sector to adopt a collaborative approach and share knowledge and experience, including:

❖ Emergency relief agencies, medium-term development actors, first on the scene responders, and the wider humanitarian community: who often need detailed data and analysis to support their projects and programmes
❖ International, national and local NGOs: who are key suppliers of baseline data and communicators with displaced and local populations.
Researchers and academics: who can provide much needed evidence and methodologies for approaching problems, monitoring and evaluation needs.

Governments and international development donors: who fund and support research, evidence and data collection.

Technology developers and private sector entrepreneurs: who are critical participants and suppliers in the evidence chain

Refugees, displaced people, local and host communities, and on the ground actors: who should be at the heart of any data collection, evidence building, research and assessments.

The World Humanitarian Summit emphasised the importance of an inclusive model of humanitarian aid, suggesting one way of doing this is to focus on the affected communities and enhancing local capacities. Inclusive approaches need to engage displaced people as more than ‘beneficiaries’, partnering with them as actors to be directly involved in response programming by working through alternative models for involving displaced people as consumers and participants (Practical Action 2018, forthcoming). Inclusive approaches should also be extended both to private sector and market players within the energy sector who have the capacity to be involved in the supply of energy services for displaced people.

4. Outlining Options: What is needed to solve these problems

There are many options and areas of research for data and evidence on energy for displaced people. A first step in the short-term would be to understand what information is needed along the evidence chain: from understanding the issues, to the start-up and commencement of programmes, to designing suitable interventions, through to implementation, monitoring and evaluating change. A next step could be to develop integrated planning and assessment tools for humanitarian energy, which might combine current sources of data, with participatory energy market activities, and inclusive survey and data development with displaced and host communities. There are several sources of data and best practice toolkits already exist and could be adapted. For example, members of the EnergyCOP working group, who have produced new toolkits and resources for understanding humanitarian energy needs. There are also examples detailed surveys using participatory engagement methods for energy in camps in Burkina Faso and Kenya (ME) 2016.

Data and evidence must be developed alongside clear knowledge sharing, training and learning opportunities to ensure that new information can be used by decision-makers. In the long-term, it is hoped that the sector will be able take the data, evidenced and lessons of energy access practice and humanitarian action, and develop them within a broad geographic horizon to enhance development outcomes, scale-up impact, inform national and international policy, and provide evidence for humanitarian actors.

5. Concrete Questions: What are key questions as a basis for the discussion in Berlin?

Facilitating collective access to data of high quality, streamlined analysis and evidence-based policy options is vital to objectively inform countries and all stakeholders in their decision-making on policy, implementation or monitoring of progress. Concrete questions under this strategic area will focus on developing standardized processes for collection and reporting of disaggregated data on fuel use, energy practices and costs. The priority will be to specify and define the necessary data requirements, and to develop practical processes for effectively capturing and analysing the data. Lessons learnt and best practices will be documented and widely disseminated, to provide quality
information that can help future planning and programming. The table above provides some initial suggestions of areas of research and evidence needed in the humanitarian energy sector, and below are some key questions that could be used for starting discussions during the Berlin conference:

- What data is essential for analysis of energy intervention options and understanding needs?
- What evidence base is required for directing decision-makings and informing choices?
- What are the key areas for new research and evidence on humanitarian energy?
- Where are the sources of specialist energy sector knowledge of cost effective, off-grid energy technologies for low income households, communities and enterprises?
- What data is needed to prepare the ground for economically viable solutions, implemented by the private sector?
- Are there existing case studies and practical in-country experience that evidence can be drawn from?
- What are the possibilities for co-creating knowledge with refugee communities and rural communities?
- How can we understand the system requirements and barriers the complex issues underpinning humanitarian planning?
- What are the sources of funding and opportunities for collaboration on future data and evidence gathering?
- How is it possible to create meaningful and measurable indicators of performance and impact?
- How can we achieve responsible reporting, including integrating failures and learning?
- What information is needs for reporting and use of knowledge to inform ongoing programming decisions?

References


