

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

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

Background:

Today, over 130 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disasters, and other complex global challenges. For many of these people, access to fuel and energy is critical for survival, and how they access it impacts their health, livelihoods, safety, and well-being. Fuel and energy are a precondition for essential activities such as cooking meals, heating shelters, cooling vaccines, charging mobile phones and powering humanitarian operations. Lack of access to safe and sustainable energy exposes displaced women and girls to heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence as they travel long distances to collect firewood and navigate poorly lit communal spaces.

Energy access for displaced people is not prioritized in the global humanitarian system. Current energy practices in situations of displacement are often inefficient, polluting, unsafe for users, and harmful to the surrounding environment. Moreover, institutional humanitarian operations such as water pumping, community lighting, and health clinics rely heavily on unsustainable fossil fuels, costing over 100 million USD annually. Given the complex nature of humanitarian response and the challenges of integrating energy into the humanitarian program cycle, there is not just one solution but a need for systemic actions to mobilise resources and build capacity on this issue. On the other hand, there is also an opportunity for energy solutions to enhance impact in other aid sectors, including (but not limited to) health, protection, food security, and WASH.

Our Commitment:

We, the committed parties, declare our intention to work collectively and within our own agencies to accelerate and improve access to safe and sustainable sources of fuel and energy in situations of displacement.

We, alongside a diverse range of partners, therefore started in January 2018 to develop the **Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA)**. It is a non-binding framework and entails concrete actions for accelerated progress towards the vision of safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services for all displaced people by 2030. The framework is the result of extensive consultation among humanitarian and development organisations, the private sector, governments, academia, and other stakeholders involved in the provision of fuel and energy to displaced people. It is a contribution to the review process of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) and is intended to align with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Agenda for Humanity, and other international initiatives such as the Paris Agreement.

Mission and Objectives:

The Mission of the Global Plan of Action is to equip stakeholders with the capacity to mainstream sustainable energy solutions into programming, with the goal of delivering improved protection, dignity, and energy-related social, environmental, and economic benefits to displaced people.

The Global Plan of Action accomplishes this mission by providing a strategic, multi-sector framework for addressing current challenges and barriers to achieving sustainable energy access for displaced people. The framework addresses five key areas: **coordination and planning, policy and advocacy, innovative financing, training and capacity building, and data, evidence and monitoring.**

The **Guiding Principles** of the Global Plan of Action are as follows:

- Displaced people, host communities and host governments must be involved from planning to implementation, to ensure that their needs and priorities are reflected.
- Energy solutions must be context-appropriate. There is no “one-size fits all” solution.
- Energy is not the goal in and of itself, but a crucial enabler for humanitarian aid and development.
- Where possible, energy solutions should promote recovery and self-reliance among beneficiaries, as well as be financially and environmentally sustainable.

The **Strategic Objectives** of the Global Plan of Action are:

- **Promote:** Foster an open and strategic dialogue between global energy and humanitarian actors to enhance humanitarian response through access to sustainable energy solutions.
- **Partner:** Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilise sustainable and innovative approaches to finance energy solutions in situations of displacement.
- **Learn:** Generate awareness of existing resources on this issue and share evidence-based best practices.
- **Activate:** Create a collaborative and inclusive framework for unified, multi-stakeholder action to improve sustainable energy access in situations of displacement.

Call for support:

Recognizing that development and implementation of this comprehensive framework will be a long-term process, the committed parties hereby invite you to **become a Partner** in the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement at one of the following levels:

- 1) **Level I – Commit to the development** of the GPA by joining as a *representative* of your organization or agency (i.e., acting with its authority). In so doing, you declare your *commitment* to the GPA by direct participation in, and/or financial support of, its development, in addition to self-defined, public commitments to be shared with the GPA Steering Group.
- 2) **Level II – Endorse the goals** of the GPA by joining as a *representative* of your organization or agency (i.e., acting with its authority). In so doing, you declare your *intention* to accelerate and improve access to safe and sustainable sources of fuel and energy in situations of displacement through self-defined, public commitments to be shared with the GPA Steering Group, as well as potential participation in the GPA Working Areas.
- 3) **Level III – Express interest** in the GPA by signing as an individual or as a *member* of your organization or agency. In doing so you *indicate your interest* in the GPA and potential to increase your participation at a later stage.

To participate in the Global Plan of Action at any of the above levels or for additional information, email energy@unitar.org.

The GPA Steering Group

