

## Executive Summary The Global Plan of Action

### *For Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement*

Today, over 134 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disasters, and other complex global challenges. Access to safe fuel and energy is critical to essential activities such as cooking meals, heating shelters, cooling vaccines, charging mobile phones, and powering humanitarian operations.

Current energy practices in situations of displacement are often inefficient, polluting, unsafe, expensive and inadequate for displaced people, harmful to the surrounding environment, and costly for implementers. Given the complex nature of humanitarian situations and the challenges of integrating sustainable energy solutions into the humanitarian program cycle, there is a need for systemic actions to mobilise resources, build capacity, raise awareness, and use the opportunity for energy solutions to enhance positive impact in sectors such as health, protection, food security, and WASH.

This *Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement* (GPA) is a non-binding framework that will provide 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.*” Its mission is to equip all stakeholders with the capacity to mainstream sustainable energy solutions into programming and implementation, with the goal of delivering improved protection, dignity, and energy-related social, environmental, and economic benefits to displaced people.

The GPA 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. It seeks to strengthen and coordinate, rather than duplicate, existing initiatives working to improve energy access in situations of displacement.

#### **11 July 2018, Expert Meeting**

On 11 July 2018, the steering group will present the recommendations of the GPA Framework in an expert meeting before the Framework launch. The purpose of this meeting will be to gain feedback and inputs on the recommendations in the respective working areas. The audience will split up into the 5 working areas in rotating 15 minute sessions to provide feedback and define priority action to take as a community. ***The attendees of the expert meeting are asked to review the GPA Framework recommendations in preparation for this meeting and evaluate which are priority actions. This will start the process of translating the GPA Framework into an actionable, accountable Work Plan.***

## Planning and Coordination

### Challenge IA: Lack of internal and external planning and coordination mechanisms

1. **Formally recognize sustainable energy access as a priority within the humanitarian system.** (Policymakers – UN agency leads, member-state representatives)
  - Advocate internally and externally for the recognition of sustainable energy access as a formal priority in humanitarian assistance (all)
2. **Build energy activities into other humanitarian assistance priorities** (aid agencies)
  - Conduct an internal review of your organization's humanitarian activities and identify where energy plays a role. (aid agencies)
  - Develop a business plan to incorporate or support energy programming (or the transformation to sustainable energy) in your activities (aid agencies)
  - Support the creation (or expansion) of energy-related activities/initiatives within at least two organizations that provide humanitarian aid. Consider innovative financing mechanisms in this endeavour (see Working Area III) (donors and funders)
3. **Define or adopt a global coordination mechanism for energy interventions in situations of displacement.** (Policymakers (UN agency leads, member-state representatives)
  - Update and adopt the IASC Matrix to include all energy services across all cluster groups. (Policy makers - UN agency leads)
  - Fund a project to update the IASC matrix to cover all energy applications and current cluster approaches (donors and funders)
4. **Update existing humanitarian tools with information on how to assess energy needs and risks in collaboration with Working Areas IV and V.** (aid agencies and policy makers – UN agency leads, member state representatives)

### Challenge IB: Barriers to participation by all stakeholders

5. **Broker partnerships that build relationships and understanding between humanitarian and non-humanitarian stakeholders, such as private companies and investors** (all)
6. **Foster 'bottom-up' collaborations on energy and environment interventions between displaced people, host community members, local experts and energy product/service providers.** (all)
7. **Work to align energy programming with national government development objectives for effective partnership.** (all)
  - Identify and partner with existing initiatives that work to overcome limited internet access and data connectivity (all)
  - Identify and partner with existing initiatives that work to overcome language and literacy barriers through translation, alternative communications or other means

## Policy, Advocacy and Host Country Resilience

*Challenge II. A. Displaced people are often among the most vulnerable in terms of energy poverty but they are rarely part of national plans for energy access*

- 1. At the international and national levels, displaced people should be brought into the SDG 7 agenda and the Global Tracking Framework with a clear link to the response and resilience agenda**

*Challenge II. B: Energy service is not yet internationally recognized as an essential enabler in the transition from emergency relief to self-reliance and host-country development*

- 2. Commit to the ambitions of the GPA, foster actions to achieve its vision and integrate energy-service priorities throughout their programming (Aid Agencies, Donors and Funders and Host Country Governments)**
  - Communicate the energy needs of a humanitarian crisis to donors as part of campaigns and communication (aid agencies)
  - Engage in energy-rationalization programmes throughout their offices, logistics and operations to reduce their emissions footprint and reduce costs (aid agencies)
  - Ask questions about sustainable energy needs and opportunities in related funding programmes towards building a measure of evaluation for sustainable energy access in situations of displacement. (donors and funders)

*Challenge II. C: Given the supposedly temporary nature of displacement there is a high perceived risk among donors and business that long-term investments in energy risk being undermined by lack of government policy frameworks*

- 3. Develop a clear framework with guidance on how funds should be channelled to avoid duplication with existing national initiatives and processes and build donor confidence in terms of project need. (UN Agencies, Donors and Funders, Host Country Government)**
- 4. Encourage and support the design and implementation of response and resilience plans in all countries suffering large-scale or protracted displacement crises (UN Agencies, donors, host countries)**
- 5. Support energy (and related plans) in a way that fosters preparation for sustainable financing and local market development (donor countries, humanitarian agencies)**
- 6. Actively engage, steer and enable national response and resilience plans (host governments, local private sector, aid agencies)**

*Challenge II. D: The national and local policy framework is not conducive to providing sustainable energy access or developing local energy markets*

- 7. Foster national-level dialogue to enable successful sustainable energy-access interventions at the country level. Provide examples of how clean energy investment and self-reliance create a virtuous circle of beneficial change (Donors and Funders)**

## Innovative Finance

### *Challenge III A and B: Lack of long-term investments, Limited data on what is viewed as a low-return market*

- 1. Conduct further mapping and research on the different types of projects or parts of the value chain that require financing, the instruments that would be best suited to each, and how they can be developed through discussions with different stakeholders (Implementers, finance specialists and research organizations)**
- 2. Collect data from any existing projects and potential cash flows, and map out returns and market data for example projects.**
- 3. Identify or develop standards and guidelines that define benchmarks that enable planners, implementers and operators to make investments in energy interventions that maximize efficiency and return on investment.**

### *Challenge III C: Lack of holistic approach for funding sustainable energy solutions*

- 4. Hold discussions to identify potential sources of funding to test new financing instruments. (donors, funders, implementers)**
  - Organize a global event among donor and investor agencies that support (or are interested in supporting) humanitarian energy initiatives to better understand goals, identify funding gaps, reduce overlap and discuss innovative options for future initiatives. (Donors and Funders, aid agencies or convening partners)
- 5. Raise the call for additional funding for energy and provide information on the types of energy interventions required. (Aid Agencies)**
- 6. Design a financing facility or financial instruments that could be used to support energy investments in displacement settings (Aid Agencies, Implementers, Private Sector, Donors and Funders)**

## Technical Expertise, Capacity Building and Training

### Challenge IV A: Lack of capacity and technical expertise

1. **Build in-house capacity and strengthen internal staff at the international level to plan for multi-year interventions and energy strategies, and to implement projects regionally/locally that are contextual to the situation of displacement.** *(aid agencies)*
  - Provide secondments from development organizations and private-sector companies with technical knowledge to humanitarian organizations. Earmarked funding is necessary. *(Aid Agencies, Academia, Donors, Private Sector)*
  - Add technical expertise on energy to job descriptions for programme and procurement staff. *(Aid Organizations, Donors)*
2. **Partner with stakeholders outside the humanitarian context are developed to enable capacity development.**
  - Develop tighter relations with energy-sector associations and programmes (such as GOGLA, Lighting Global, the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), eurelectric, etc). *(Aid Agencies, Academia, Donors, Private Sector)*
3. **Develop tailored training packages according to stakeholders' capacity needs.**
  - Identify institutions offering engineering for development, build linkages, and create opportunities for fieldwork in humanitarian settings. *(Aid Agencies, Academia, Donors)*
  - Assess need to develop new curriculum by analysing existing training material that can be adapted to the humanitarian context and identify existing training facilities. *(Aid Agencies, Academia, Donors, Private Sector)*
  - Develop standard curricula for energy experts and encourage the use of external consultants and energy organizations for technical tasks, building on existing knowledge *(aid agencies, donors)*
  - Develop and deliver trainings to senior staff of humanitarian organizations, donors, decision-makers and local governments. *(all)*
  - Compile and operationalize trainings for displaced people and host community as workforce and/or users of energy products. *(all)*
  - Identify/develop and deliver trainings to private sector and academia on humanitarian response *(all)*

### Challenge IV B: Lack of knowledge sharing and common repository

4. **Create or adopt a common repository to exchange knowledge, discuss issues and receive support from peers and experts**
  - Identify platform and associated funding sources for a central humanitarian energy knowledge exchange, ideally building on already existing platforms. *(all)*
  - Identify additional features to meet the specific need of GPA users. *(all)*
  - Design competitions or introduce theme-specific categories in existing ones from both the energy and humanitarian spaces. *(all)*
  - Organize one yearly conference as a multi-stakeholder space to accelerate energy action in humanitarian space. *(aid agencies)*
  - Organize monthly calls for humanitarian energy practitioners. *(aid agencies)*

## Data, Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting

### *Challenge V A: Overall lack of data on energy issues in humanitarian settings (All)*

#### **1. Collaborate to develop primary research and core data (all)**

- Assess existing information on the above topics and develop an overview of core data gaps.
- Explore options to work with data custodians.

*Suggested core data and primary research topics:*

- Assessment of appropriate technologies, socio-cultural factors and community adoption of renewable and sustainable energy;
- How displaced communities perceive and use energy sources for cooking, including primary data collection on the use of kerosene or traditional biomass and firewood and their health impacts across different country contexts;
- Analysis on productive use and income-generating opportunities – how energy/electricity enables businesses and livelihoods within refugee and displaced settings;
- Understanding electricity use within infrastructure systems and institutional use of energy; and
- Evidence on the connection between energy poverty and sexual violence against women and children

### *Challenge V B: A lack of harmonized standards for gathering and reporting of data*

#### **2. Integrate energy indicators into planning and assessment tools for the humanitarian sector, in collaboration with Working Area I.** (These could combine current sources of data, with participatory energy market activities and inclusive survey and data development with displaced and host communities) *(Aid Agencies, Donors and Funders)*

- Conduct a full review of existing tools for energy assessments in displacement contexts. (aid agencies, donors, funders)
- Gain a common understanding 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, reporting and evaluating change. (aid agencies, donors, funders)
- Define additional criteria for feasibility assessments to be undertaken to support programme design prior to implementation, even in emergency situations. (aid agencies, donors, funders)

#### **3. Harmonize and standardize the types and forms of data collected to enable comparison and to facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation. Main humanitarian agencies should foster the use of the standards.** *(Aid Agencies, Donors and Funders)*

- Develop standards and a common set of measurable indicators for energy assessments.

#### **4. Establish and support feedback mechanisms for information from local populations – displaced people, host-community members and local providers – to be formally received and integrated in programme design, measurement and evaluation by humanitarian operators.**

**GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FRAMEWORK**  
**Summary, Challenges and Recommendations**

*Challenge V C: Limited evidence on the effectiveness of some of the current approaches and narratives, and lack of in-depth studies that compare crosscutting issues or regional evidence.*

- 5. Design and deliver of holistic monitoring, evaluation and learning tools for humanitarian energy programmes. *(Aid, donors, funders)***
  - Conduct a full review of existing tools and indicators for performance and impact. Create additional meaningful and measurable indicators as needed.
  - Integrate measurement tools for humanitarian energy interventions into standard project reporting.
  - Explore economically viable technical solutions for long-term energy monitoring; for example, through sensors.
- 6. Understand the ethnographic evidence base for displaced communities and behavioural change opportunities, focused on inclusive approaches. *(Aid, donors, funders)***
  - Creating usable and reliable evidence for humanitarian resonance on sustainable energy along some key areas such as:
    - o Nexus between energy and health, food security, education, protection and sexual and gender-based violence needs
    - o Environmental impacts including carbon dioxide generation and emissions levels from current energy use; data on the negative environmental impacts of diesel and kerosene use; reducing the high costs associated with conventional energy generation in camp settings; and cost-benefit analyses.
    - o Evidence on the barriers to delivering decentralized clean energy services at scale and how information, business models and innovative financing can address developing country energy gaps.

*Challenge V D: Data, research and evidence is not shared or readily available*

- 7. Develop ways to share data and best practices between the humanitarian and development sector to improve the effectiveness of response.**
  - Adopt standardized processes for reporting of disaggregated data on fuel use, energy practices and costs.
  - Analyse information gaps for decision-makers and procurement experts when it comes to technical specifications or supporting evidence.
  - Raise awareness of existing resources and inform policymakers and other partners about their existence and how to use them.
- 8. Share non-personalized data digitally shared openly between stakeholders.**
- 9. Develop open-source technical solutions (or preferably use existing ones) that can facilitate collective access to data, streamlined analysis and evidence-based policy options to objectively inform countries and all stakeholders in their decision-making on policy, implementation or monitoring of progress.**