GPA

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION

ENERGY ACCESS IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS IN 2025

A COLLECTIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Click on images to access all the resources throughout the report

ENERGY ACCESS IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS: KEY UPDATES FROM 2025

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THE ENERGY GAP IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS

As of mid-2025, an estimated 117 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, many residing in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where energy poverty remains acute. Energy access in displacement settings is not a peripheral issue; it is central to protection, dignity, livelihoods, and long-term resilience. Despite important progress, critical gaps persist:

40 million displaced people lack access to electricity

50 million displaced people lack access to clean cooking solutions

Humanitarian operations rely on 11,000+ diesel generators, costing over USD 100 million annually

About this Report

This report documents progress on access to sustainable energy and transitioning humanitarian operations to renewables in 2025 — building long-term resilience for both displaced populations and the organisations serving them. Recent updates from work of GPA partners are highlighted to demonstrate how partners are increasingly transitioning away from short-term distributions towards establishing sustainable energy systems at larger scale and speed.

Methodology

This report synthesises data from partner submissions, public documentation, and internal GPA records. Information was aggregated, categorised, and cross-referenced to identify sector trends and lessons. Findings reflect reported activities within the GPA network and associated partners. They do not represent an exhaustive global census. Quantitative impacts are based on partners' respective methodologies.

GLOBAL FUNDING AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE SHIFTS IN 2025

In 2025, the humanitarian sector faced a USD 30 billion funding shortfall, with budgets reverting to 2015 levels despite a doubling of global displacement. Programme contractions and reduced technical capacity followed, even as needs intensified. Geopolitical instability and climate impacts further constrained humanitarian access and operations, particularly in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

Within this constrained environment, our community adapted. Partners strengthened collaboration, embedded cost-recovery approaches where feasible, and piloted more flexible delivery models to maintain services in hard-to-reach settings. Financial pressure accelerated a structural shift towards blended finance, carbon financing mechanisms and market-based delivery approaches as pathways to long-term financial sustainability.

Energy access has solidified its role as a critical enabler of protection, livelihoods, healthcare, and education. Under the Humanitarian Reset, sustainable energy is increasingly recognised as a core component of resilient response, reinforcing the need to integrate displaced communities into national energy policies, regulatory frameworks, and investment flows.

At the same time, momentum in the wider energy sector presents an opportunity. The World Bank and African Development Bank's Mission 300 (M300) accelerated in 2025, reaching 32 million people with new electricity connections. Ensuring that displacement- and conflict-affected communities are intentionally included in such large-scale electrification efforts will be critical to achieving equitable progress towards universal energy access.

SUMMARY OF COLLECTIVE PROGRESS IN 2025

Despite financial and operational constraints, 2025 was marked by meaningful expansion in geographic reach, institutional collaboration, and sector maturity. This report covers a collective result of the sector achievements as follows:

15+ KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS & TOOLS

The global knowledge base on sustainable energy access in displacement and conflict-affected settings was significantly strengthened, through 15+ new reports, technical tools, and guidance resources for practitioners and policymakers - enhancing decision making based on evidence and sector learnings.

10+ PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Across key displacement-hosting countries, a diverse set of 10+ sustainable energy partnerships and programmes continued and moved into scaling - serving affected communities with clean cooking and access to electricity for income generation.

20+ POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

GPA partners strategically advocated at 20 key events and in 3 key high-level policy processes, influencing decision-making toward inclusion of displacement settings into energy policies. The GPA coordinates with over 100 partners and 7,000 individuals in an online group, reflecting a growing professional community.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM 2025

The collective experience of 2025 highlights four strategic imperatives for transformational impact.

Sustainability is Rooted in Local Agency

Durable outcomes require investing in and partnering with local and refugee-led enterprises from project inception. Long-term success is strengthened through integration with local development plans and energy programmes.

Evidence Must Drive Investment and Policy

Robust data, feasibility assessments, and project pipelines are critical to secure investment and influence policy. It is equally important that transparent reporting of challenges and failures are shared to avoid repeated mistakes and strengthen credibility.

Strategic Finance is Foundational

Bridging the persistent funding gap requires mainstreaming blended finance, carbon revenue streams, and de-risking instruments into core programme architecture. Innovations such as dedicated financing facilities signal a shift from grant-dependent pilots towards structured, scalable investment models.

Energy is a Cross-Cutting Enabler

Maximising impact requires intentionally linking energy interventions to health, livelihoods, economic inclusion, climate adaptation, and protection outcomes. Energy must be embedded across humanitarian and development programming and not treated as a standalone topic - especially within Mission 300 and wider national energy planning and policies.

A FORWARD-LOOKING AGENDA FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

To translate 2025's momentum into systemic change, three strategic priorities should guide collective action.

1) Scale and Adapt Proven Models Through Expanded Partnerships

The priority must be to scale what works by forging deeper partnerships and collaborations. Instead of awaiting top-down institutional change, we must actively engage diverse actors around concrete energy policies and delivery structures, including the private sector, development financiers, and local governments. Successful models, such as solar e-cooking and integrated green finance, should be transitioned from isolated pilots to widely adapted, partnership-supported programmes. This requires building foundational systems for sector-wide learning, sharing and replication through contextual adaptation.

2) Leverage Evidence for Policy Integration

The growing evidence base must be actively deployed to secure high-level commitments. Key policy and programmatic opportunities - such as Mission 300, the Global SDG 7 Review, Global Refugee Forum Pledges, and national energy programs implemented under M300 Compacts - must be leveraged, with the objective of not leaving displacement- and conflict-affected communities behind in the global access to energy goals.

3) Catalyse Advanced Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Achieving scale requires moving beyond coordination to deep, structured collaboration. The focus must be on aligning the incentives and capabilities of humanitarian actors, development financiers, the private sector, and host governments to co-create and finance a pipeline of viable projects.

CALL TO ACTION

Sustainable energy transitions in displacement settings are at an inflection point. Foundations in policy, finance, and partnerships have been laid, and these must work in concert as a unified ecosystem to break down silos and scale progress. Opportunities such as M300 and the integration of displacement settings into national systems driven by government-led initiatives, such as Kenya's Shirika Plan, are ready for implementation. The task ahead is to build upon this foundation with greater coordination, investment, and strategic purpose. The following recommendations call stakeholders to action to continue advancing on SDG 7 in displacement and conflict-affected regions.

Donors and Investors

Champion multi-year, flexible funding and actively embrace innovative financing mechanisms that enable scale.

National Governments

Formally include displaced communities within national energy policies, regulatory frameworks, and investment plans.

Implementing Partners

Promote evidence-based practices and sustainable delivery models, using public funding to unlock private investment in energy solutions. Prioritise rigorous learning, adaptive implementation and transparent knowledge sharing.

Private Sector

Engage through structured, long-term partnerships that recognise the viability and importance of displacement-affected markets.

An entrepreneur intervenes during the THEA workshop in Uganda ©MercyCorps

Through renewed and collective commitment, we can transform energy access from a persistent humanitarian challenge to a powerful driver of resilience, dignity, and self-reliance for millions of displaced people worldwide.

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS ACROSS KEY AREAS FOR IMPACT

Click on images to access all the resources throughout the report

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Progress was driven by a commitment to rigorous analysis and knowledge dissemination, sharing critical lessons learned for both replication in practice and change in policy.

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

The year saw progress in scaling energy access in displacement settings, with innovative initiatives showing how sustainable energy can be effectively delivered through market systems. This reflects advancements in financing, market models, and partnerships across the sector.

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

In 2025, progress was made in senior advocacy and policy influencing to include displaced communities in national energy policies, programmes, and investments - specifically leveraging momentum from M300.

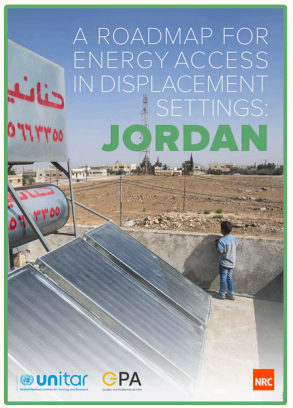
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

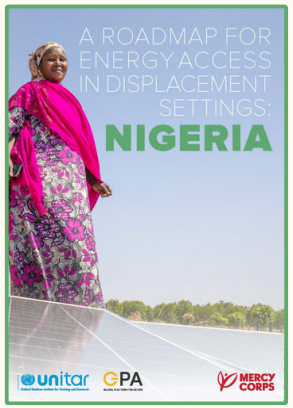
Roadmaps for Energy Access in Displacement Settings (READS)

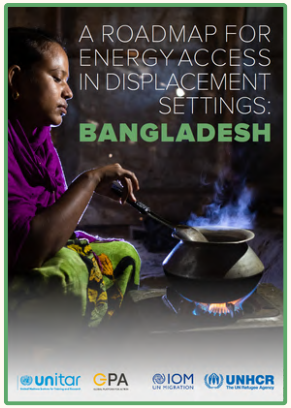
Led by the GPA Secretariat with support from the IKEA Foundation, in close collaboration with NRC Jordan, Mercy Corps Nigeria, UNHCR Mauritania, IOM Mozambique, UNHCR Bangladesh, IOM Bangladesh - and with contributions from NORCAP experts - the READS programme advanced practical pathways for integrating displacement settings into national energy systems.

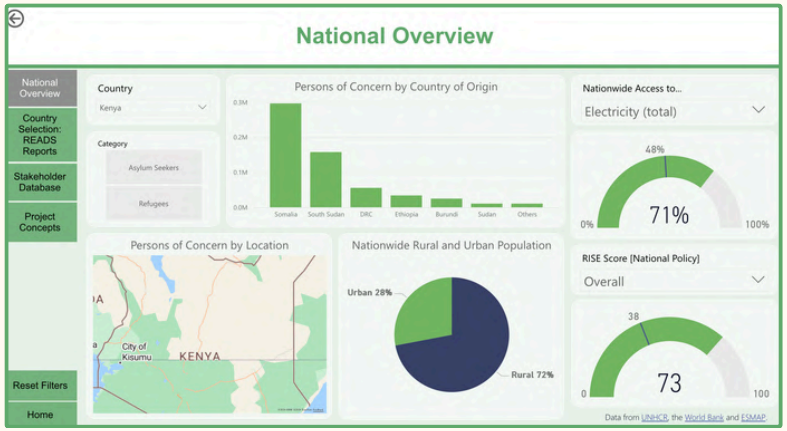
In 2025, READS produced five evidence-based, context-specific country roadmaps for Jordan, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mozambique and Bangladesh by combining desk research, in-country stakeholder workshops, and fieldwork. Across these contexts, more than 30 high-impact project concepts were developed, spanning clean cooking, electricity for households and community facilities, productive use of energy and institutional solarisation. A dedicated data platform was also published, consolidating key findings to inform humanitarian, development, and financing partners.

By translating analysis into structured project ideas and accessible data, READS strengthens the integration of displacement settings into national energy planning — moving from stand-alone pilots to scalable, investable solutions.









KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

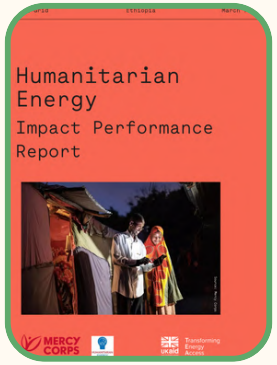
Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA): Using Evidence to Inform Practice in Uganda and Ethiopia

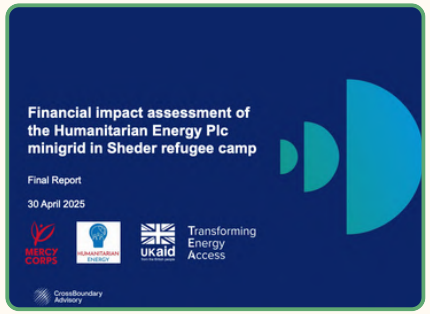
The Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA) programme, funded by FCDO through the TEA platform, made significant steps to document evidence through independent consumer feedback and financial impact assessments of Mercy Corps' ongoing work in Uganda and Ethiopia.

Ethiopia

Two impact assessments were delivered on customer satisfaction and the financial model of a solar PV mini-grid delivered by Humanitarian Energy PLC, providing power to 17,000+ users in Sheder camp.

60 Decibels assessed consumer satisfaction with the mini-grid, finding that 94% of customers gained first time, sustained electricity access and 90% reported reduced spending on energy.





Crossboundary assessed the financial model of the mini-grid, with power consumption exceeding typical mini-grid utilisation in the region.

Uganda

60 Decibels assessed the energy access landscape in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. Providing critical baseline data on energy awareness and demand helped to inform the design of targeted, market-based interventions in one of Uganda's largest refugee settlements.

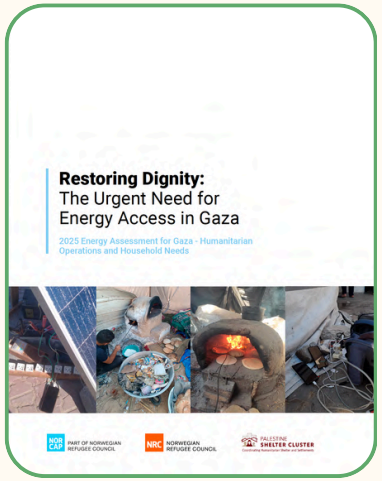
The assessment highlights wood as the primary source of cooking fuel for 89% of residents in BidiBidi. For lighting, refugees mostly rely on torches for less than 5 hours per day, paying 2-3 times the price for light compared to surrounding host community members.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Energy Access Needs in Gaza

Energy in Emergencies

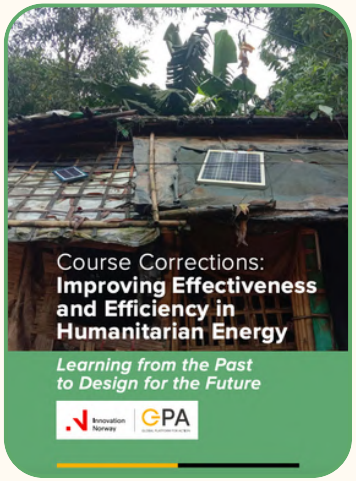
In 2025, NORCAP, the Palestine Shelter Cluster, and NRC assessed energy infrastructure gaps in conflict-affected Gaza to prioritise life-saving interventions. This assessment guided UNRWA's energy response and gained international attention, highlighting the critical role of energy in humanitarian efforts, supporting health services, shelter, water systems, and civilian protection in conflict zones.



Learning to Drive Success

Course Corrections

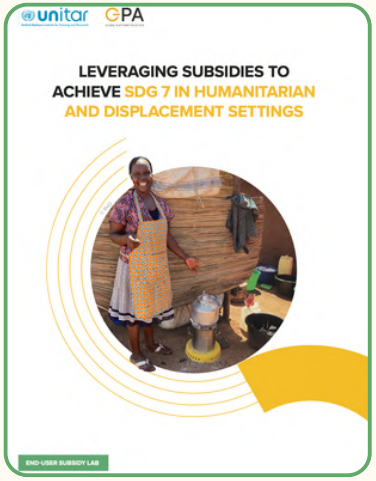
The report, led by GPA and Innovation Norway, examined lessons from successes and failures in humanitarian energy to improve evidence-based delivery. It culminated in sector endorsement of the the Humanitarian Energy Learning Platform (HELP), a proposed AI-backed digital tool to integrate past lessons learned from the ground into future project and funding design.



Catalytic Subsidies

Learning from Subsidy Programmes

Led by the GPA and End-User Subsidy Lab with support from NORCAP experts, this report presents five case studies across Sub-Saharan Africa that demonstrate how well-designed subsidies, especially when delivered through results-based financing, can de-risk private-sector entry and bridge the affordability gap for over 90 million displaced people lacking sustainable energy.

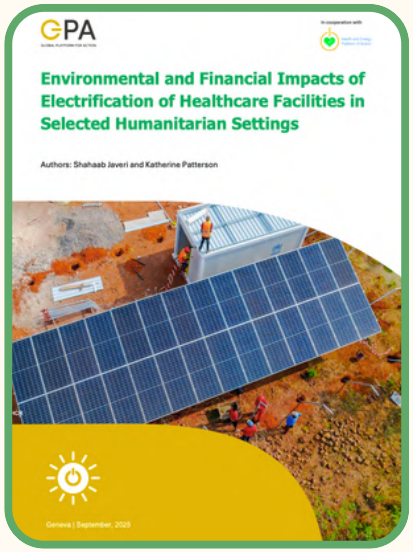


KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Healthcare Electrification in Humanitarian Settings

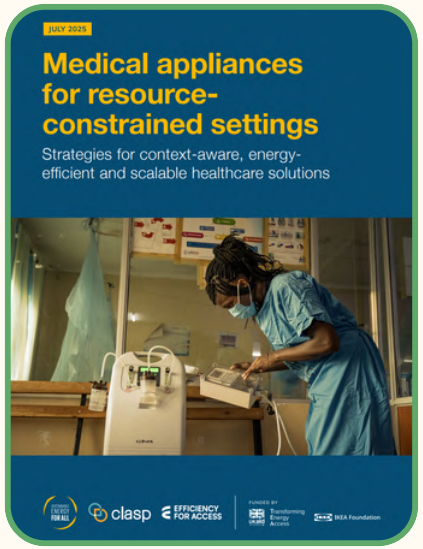
GPA and Partners: Closing the Healthcare Electrification Evidence Gap

To highlight the need for healthcare electrification in displacement settings the GPA, with support from NORCAP, delivered a Briefing Note and Short Advocacy Paper on how to close the gap in fragile regions. They were launched at the 2025 Powering Healthcare Conference via a roundtable, and a follow-on webinar. Working with global and field partners WHO, SEforALL, UNHCR, IOM and UNDP, the GPA Secretariat identified a pipeline of 175 healthcare facilities in 12 countries that require urgent electrification at an estimated cost of USD 2.5 million. The reports provide further evidence-based case studies and partnership models to mobilise the financing and multi-stakeholder action needed for sustainable humanitarian energy solutions.



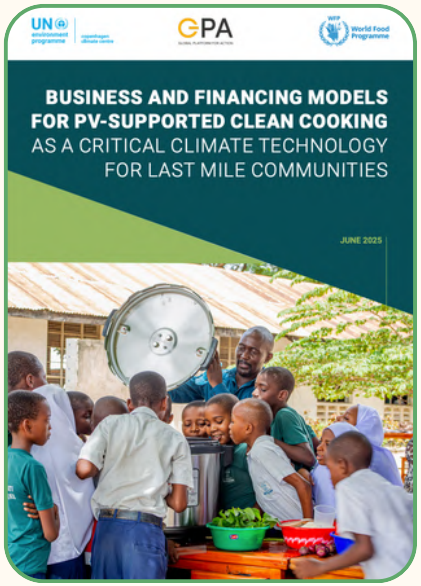
SEforAll, CLASP, Efficiency for Access: Report on Medical Appliances for Resource-Constrained Settings

Highly applicable in displacement settings, this report by SEforALL, CLASP, and EFA analyses the "health-energy nexus" by evaluating how mismatched medical equipment and unstable power grids hinder healthcare in 29 facilities in Kisumu County, Kenya. It provides a data-driven investment case for prioritising energy-efficient appliances to ensure that solar-powered health interventions are both sustainable and life-saving.



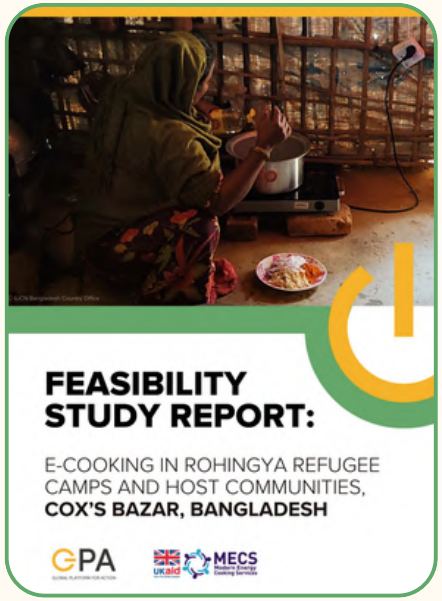
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Research on Electric Cooking (E-Cooking)



Financing and Innovation for Clean Cooking

The Business and Financing Models for PV-Supported Clean Cooking report - co-published by UNEP-CCC, WFP and the GPA - analyses and documents viable investment pathways and affordable financing mechanisms to accelerate the adoption of solar-powered electric cooking in "last mile" and displacement settings, directly informing the SOLCO partnership's scale-up strategy targeting 250,000 households by 2027.



E-Cooking Feasibility in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

This research, led by the GPA, IUCN, and Practical Action with support from MECS, assesses the technical and socio-economic viability of diversifying fuel options alongside continued use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar. The study provides the evidence base needed to design follow-on pilots and carbon-finance models that sustain provision of clean cooking for mitigation of environmental impact in Cox's Bazar.

While high user acceptance was seen, challenges with financial feasibility of e-cooking, particularly in this context of low ability to pay, persist. A follow-on small-scale e-cooking pilot targeting 300 users was designed and will be implemented in 2026 - in coordination with ongoing LPG delivery by UNHCR and IOM - through the Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA) programme.

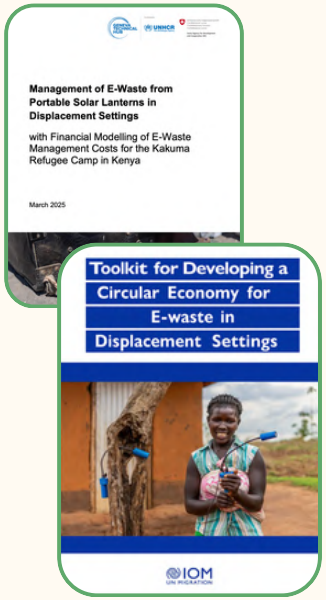
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

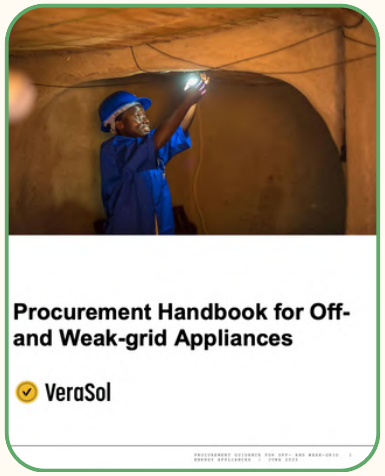
TOOLKITS, GUIDANCE AND OPEN-ACCESS RESOURCES

Electronic Waste (E-waste) Toolkit

IOM, with contributions from the GPA-led E-waste Task Force, developed a toolkit to provide guidance on managing electronic waste from solar products in displacement settings and setting up local repair shops.

In addition UNHCR, through the Geneva Technical Hub, published a report on financial modeling for e-waste costs in Kakuma refugee camp.





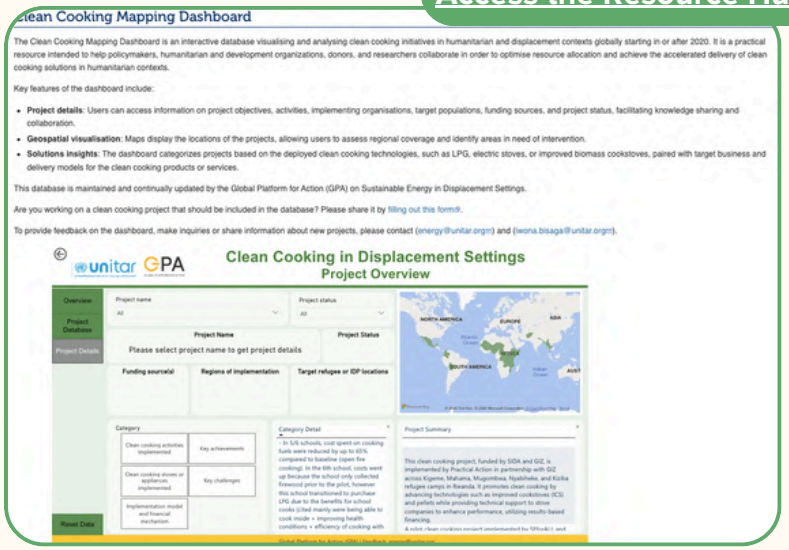
Procurement Handbook for Off- and Weak-Grid Appliances

Developed by Efficiency for Access, CLASP, VeraSol, and Practical Action, the handbook covers five technology categories used across three refugee camps in Rwanda.

Humanitarian Clean Cooking Resource Hub

Managed by the GPA and hosted on energypedia, the Humanitarian Clean Cooking Resource Hub serves as a centralised, open-access knowledge platform to consolidate technical data and project mapping for practitioners. In parallel, the Institutional Clean Cooking Community of Practice (CoP), a collaboration between the GPA, WFP, and NORCAP, convenes diverse stakeholders to standardise technical guidance and accelerate the transition to sustainable energy for schools and health clinics.

Access the Resource Hub



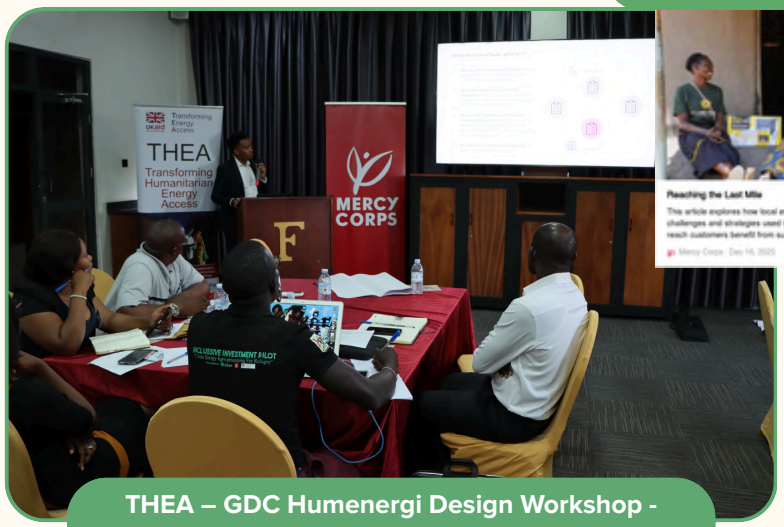
PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Uganda

Bridging the Finance Gap: Humenergi Facility in Uganda

A critical barrier to scaling energy access in displacement settings is the lack of working capital for last-mile distributors. In response, the Humenergi financing facility was launched under the Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA) programme. This dedicated entity provides concessional loans and risk-tolerant capital to off-grid energy companies operating in refugee settlements, addressing a major gap in the humanitarian energy financing landscape and enabling businesses to scale in hard-to-reach markets.

Read the blog here



THEA – GDC Humenergi Design Workshop - Uganda ©Mercy Corps

MECS Evidence: Solar Electric Cooking Studies in Urban Slums and Refugee Settlements

Led by MECS in partnership with Wana Energy Solutions, Makerere University, and the University of Washington, these studies demonstrate that transitioning to solar-electric cooking in both refugee settlements and urban slums provides a life-changing alternative to expensive, hazardous charcoal, significantly improving household health and economic resilience through cleaner air and reduced fuel costs.

Report: E-cooking in Yumbe

Report: E-cooking in Urban Slums

Cooking demonstrations in Yumbe refugee settlement, Uganda

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Ethiopia

Sheder refugee camp: E-Cooking and Telecom Tower Mini-Grid Anchor Load

Key anchor loads were connected to the 254 kWp mini-grid in Sheder refugee camp, Ethiopia, developed and operated by Humanitarian Energy PLC to improve lives in the camp and host communities, boost utilisation, and enhance financial viability. In partnership with Ethiotelecom, Humanitarian Energy connected the telecom tower near Sheder refugee camp, reducing diesel consumption and improving access to more reliable connectivity.

A MECS-supported "Testing Adaptive Business Models for E-Cooking (TABLE)" pilot connected 60 key users of e-cooking to develop and test the viability of the business model on the HumEn mini-grid. The experience showed a high uptake of e-cooking, especially when economic barriers were reduced. E-cooking significantly reduced charcoal use and resulted in time and financial savings.

Ethiotelecom tower, powered by the Humanitarian Energy PLC mini-grid in Sheder refugee camp, Ethiopia

Somalia

Partnering with Local Utilities and Financial Institutions

Implementing the Enter Energy Somalia project (September 2024–March 2025), Mercy Corps and the Baidoa Electric Company (BECO) - with IOM and IBS Bank - successfully extended reliable electricity to over 2,200+ households and 150 small businesses in the Barwaaqo resettlement site. By combining infrastructure development with a productive use of energy (PUE) programme, the initiative enabled entrepreneurs—75% of whom were women—to access appliance grants and tailored credit through IBS Bank, directly increasing local economic activity and financial inclusion.

Read the full project brief here

A resident of the Barwaaqo 1 resettlement site switches on newly installed electricity in her shop in Baidoa ©Mercy Corps

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Kenya

Unlocking Private Financing for Refugee Electricity

In Kakuma - a refugee hosting area in Northern Kenya hosting around 300,000 displaced people - Renewvia leveraged public funding and strong performance to unlock financing for the expansion of its mini-grid from 500 kW to over 2 MW. In 2025, Renewvia Energy secured a USD 8.7 million blended financing package from CEI Africa, comprising a USD 4.5 million senior secured loan and a USD 4.2 million results-based grant. Following expansion, the solar mini-grid will power 14,000 new connections.

Renewvia 2.5 MW mini-grid expansion in Kolobeyei, Kenya

Results from Development Energy Market Systems: SNV MBEA

The Humanitarian Market-Based Energy Access (MBEA) project, funded through EnDev and implemented by SNV, aimed to facilitate energy market development for clean energy solutions in humanitarian settings in Kenya. The project focused on strengthening the supply, distribution, and uptake of solar products and cleaner cooking technologies for households and MSMEs in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and surrounding host communities.

After 8 years, the initiative came to a close in 2025. Last year's activities focused on consolidating results, addressing persistent market barriers, scaling local production of cookstoves, evaluation and learning documentation. In the final programme phase (July 2023 - September 2025), 8,145 improved and clean cooking products, 2,307 solar lanterns and 3,886 PUE/SHS solar products were sold, through supported private sector companies, enabling access for over 40,000 people.

Read the Institutional Clean Cooking Case Study here

Read the Brief on Localised Higher-tier Stove production here

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Rwanda

Humanitarian Productive Use of Renewable Energy (H-PURE)

In partnership with Practical Action, Energy Saving Trust and Efficiency for Access are delivering the H-PURE demonstrator, co-funded by the UK government via the Transforming Energy Access platform, the British High Commission in Kigali, and the IKEA Foundation. The project is part of the Low Energy Inclusive Appliances (LEIA) programme.

H-PURE supports refugee and host entrepreneurs to increase self-reliance through access to solar-powered appliances for productive use, while strengthening local energy markets and business skills.

Results-Based Finance for Refugees (RBF4R)

Led by Practical Action in partnership with GIZ EnDev, MINEMA, UNHCR, and WFP, this pilot is built on the learnings from the RBF scheme implemented under the Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (ESDS) programme. RBF4R introduced a top-up subsidy to reduce the cost of Tier 3 and 4 pellet stoves for the most vulnerable refugee households. The programme resulted in 1,238 subsidised stoves sold. It generated valuable evidence on customer preferences, affordability barriers, and effective subsidy design to inform future clean cooking interventions in displacement settings.

Support for Women Entrepreneurs via Productive Use of Energy

In partnership with GIZ EnDev and private sector companies, Practical Action linked sustainable energy access with women's economic support through productive use of energy (PUE) appliances. The project supported 50 women entrepreneurs to strengthen and expand their businesses, with 26 acquiring solar fridges and enterprise kits.

Farm-to-Market for Refugee Youth (F2MARY)

Delivered in collaboration with Practical Action, Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, and the Rwanda Agriculture Board, F2MARY aims to increase incomes and employment through solar irrigation and improved market access within the chilli and poultry value chains. The three-year programme aims to create 2,000 youth jobs and improve 30 hectares of farmland through introduction of solar irrigation systems, expanding climate-smart agricultural production.

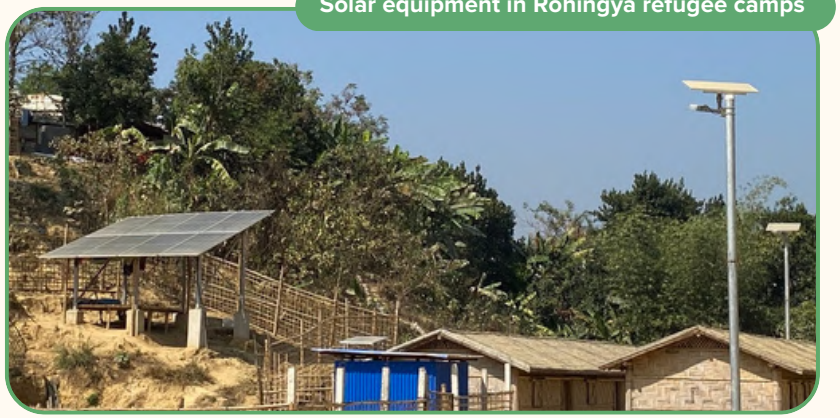
Farming project in Rwanda
©Practical Action

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Bangladesh

Innovative Financing and Carbon Finance Integration in Cox's Bazar

In 2025 partners in Cox's Bazar coordinated efforts to integrate carbon finance into operational delivery. UNHCR advanced a model linking LPG distribution and reforestation to carbon finance, while IOM explored leveraging environmental and social attribute credits to finance shelter and WASH outcomes. Both initiatives respond to drastic aid funding decreases by leveraging alternative financing mechanisms to reduce reliance on grants. Complementing these efforts, the GPA and Mercy Corps launched a feasibility pilot for solar electric cooking, testing market readiness and paving the way for scalable clean cooking transitions.



Solar equipment in Rohingya refugee camps

Mozambique

Energy Access for IDPs in Mozambique

IOM, in partnership with NORCAP and with support from Innovation Norway, continued the EMPOWERING Displaced Communities project. Between 2021 and 2025, the project delivered clean energy access to 1,961 households in Mozambique through innovative financing, improved cookstoves, and premium carbon credits, with a future goal of reaching 4,000 households.

Re-greening around displacement settlements ©IOM Mozambique

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Multi-country

Scaling Market-Based Clean Cooking Access

The Solar Electric Cooking (SOLCO) partnership saw substantial growth in 2025, with new pledges and locally led implementation across Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda. SOLCO operates through national partnerships aligned with government energy strategies, rather than standalone projects - working closely with clean cooking companies and distributors through market-based delivery models.

In 2025, SOLCO grew to over 60 organisations, integrating refugee-led enterprises into value chains and targeting cooking transitions for tens of thousands of households. This expansion reflects a maturing, market-based approach to clean cooking aligned with national strategies and economic inclusion goals.

A woman uses a solar-powered electric pressure cookers supported through SOLCO

Solarsing UN Operations to Reduce Costs and Emissions

By completing its largest global solarisation project to date IOM, with contributions from NORCAP experts, has transitioned all nine humanitarian hubs in Northeast Nigeria to hybrid solar power, installing 1,250 kWp to reduce operational costs by 40% and ensure a sustainable energy supply for aid workers serving 1.3 million people. Annual savings include 360,000 litres of diesel, USD 338,000, and 1,200 tonnes of CO_2e.

Read the Blog here

Workers install solar panels on the roof of the Humanitarian Hub in Maiduguri ©IOM

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Multi-Country

Micro Grants and Technical Support for Refugee-Led Organisations

Through the THEA programme, Ashden has awarded micro-grants and technical assistance to 18 refugee-led organisations (RLOs), strengthening locally managed energy delivery across East Africa and fostering the growth of sustainable energy ecosystems. In addition to providing direct financial support, these grants have served as a catalyst, unlocking new partnerships, enhancing organisational credibility, and opening doors to additional funding opportunities.

Read the stories of Ashden grantees

A refugee enterprise supported by a THEA micro grant produces briquettes ©Ashden

Two energy entrepreneurs in Kenya describe the transformative impact:

Blaise shares:
"The KSH 3 million (USD 23,000) grant we received from Ashden helped us expand our operation, secure a large piece of land, and build a facility for briquettes. We have gone to another level with this fund."

Vincent adds:
"The Ashden Fund has given us credibility for more partnerships and collaboration. After this fund, we won a tender from a local NGO to supply 200 cookstoves. This is great progress for the development of our company."

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Multi-Country

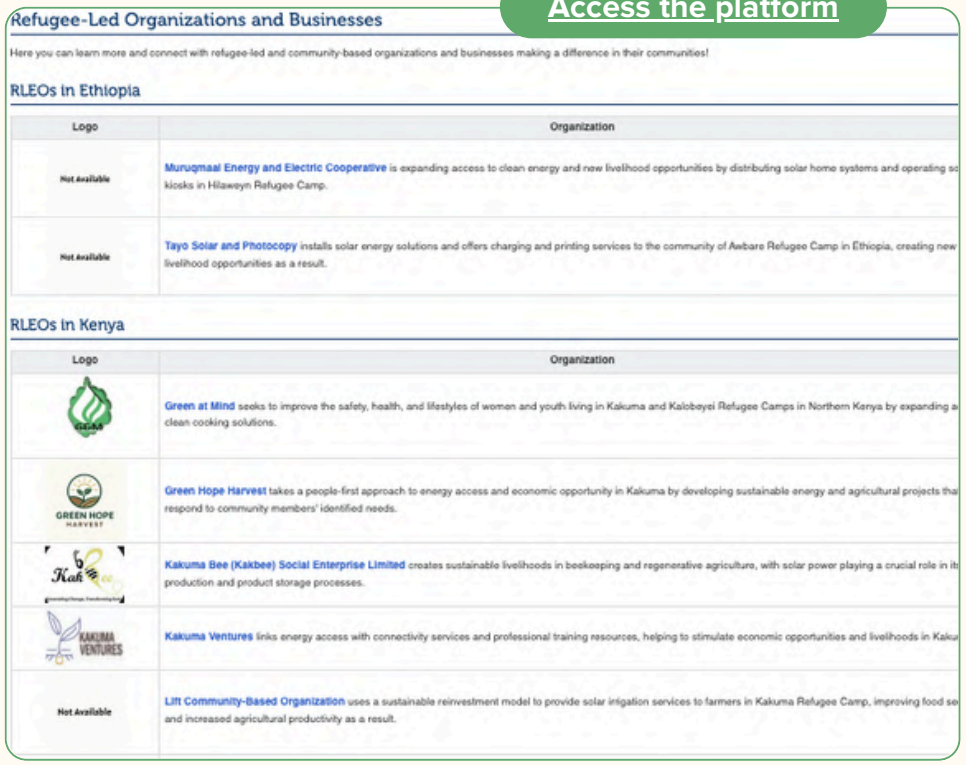
Launching the Refugee-Led Energy Organisations (RLEO) Hub

Developed by the GPA Coordination Unit, energypedia, and refugee-led organisations with support from THEA, the RLEO hub is a centralised platform showcasing and connecting refugee-led energy initiatives globally. More than a repository, the Hub has unlocked tangible opportunities: expanded funding, new partnerships, and exposure for RLEOs to shape their business growth and impact in displacement settings, and access to national and global events.

For Solomon, an entrepreneur in Uganda, this support has been transformative:

"Through the exposure and support I received from the GPA, we were awarded a grant of 50,000 GBP, which ***enabled us to acquire a truck that has significantly strengthened our supply chain across refugee settlements in Uganda.*** *With this support, we have scaled up the production of eco-stoves and biomass briquettes—a true game changer for our operations. GPA support further enabled us to secure additional funding of 30,000 CAD, which helped us acquire biomass pellet machines. This investment has allowed us to expand clean cooking alternatives in Uganda, reaching more communities with sustainable, affordable energy solutions. This progress has greatly expanded our reach, strengthened our operations, and increased our impact in transforming access to clean energy."*

Access the platform



Refugee-Led Organizations and Businesses

Here you can learn more and connect with refugee-led and community-based organizations and businesses making a difference in their communities!

RLEOs in Ethiopia

Logo	Organization
Not Available	Muruqmaal Energy and Electric Cooperative is expanding access to clean energy and new livelihood opportunities by distributing solar home systems and operating so kiosks in Hilaweyn Refugee Camp.
Not Available	Tayo Solar and Photocopy installs solar energy solutions and offers charging and printing services to the community of Awbare Refugee Camp in Ethiopia, creating new livelihood opportunities as a result.

RLEOs in Kenya

Logo	Organization
	Green at Mind seeks to improve the safety, health, and lifestyles of women and youth living in Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camps in Northern Kenya by expanding a clean cooking solutions.
	Green Hope Harvest takes a people-first approach to energy access and economic opportunity in Kakuma by developing sustainable energy and agricultural projects tha respond to community members' identified needs.
	Kakuma Bee (Kakbee) Social Enterprise Limited creates sustainable livelihoods in beekeeping and regenerative agriculture, with solar power playing a crucial role in its production and product storage processes.
	Kakuma Ventures links energy access with connectivity services and professional training resources, helping to stimulate economic opportunities and livelihoods in Kaku
Not Available	Lift Community-Based Organization uses a sustainable reinvestment model to provide solar irrigation services to farmers in Kakuma Refugee Camp, improving food se and increased agricultural productivity as a result.

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMES

Multi-Country

UNHCR REP Fund: Refugee Environmental Protection Fund

In 2025, the REP Fund completed a first-of-its-kind, transparent procurement process to identify delivery partners for pilot implementation in Uganda and Rwanda. Framework agreements are now in place with two consortia to implement integrated interventions in Bidibidi and Kyangwali settlements in Uganda and in Kigeme camp in Rwanda.

Across the initial pilot sites, projects are designed to restore a minimum of 7,000 hectares of degraded landscapes and deliver clean cooking solutions to approximately 90,000 refugee and host community households. Over the project lifetime, the pilots are expected to generate an estimated USD 95 million in carbon revenue under conservative pricing assumptions.

Following the pilots in Uganda and Rwanda, feasibility studies have been finalised in Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar) and Brazil (Roraima, including Indigenous Lands), confirming technical, legal, social, and commercial viability.

Project Flow - Solarising UNHCR's Water Systems

Project Flow - UNHCR's internal fund for solarising water systems - made progress in 2025 in multiple countries.

Five boreholes in the M'bera settlement in Mauritania were solarised, now operating on solar power during the day, with diesel generators used only in the evenings. In the first month of operation alone, fuel consumption was reduced by 50%, generating significant cost saving for the Mauritania operation.

In Rwanda and Ethiopia, works are ongoing to solarise 3 health facilities and a hospital, while in Sudan, a contractor has been selected for the solarisation of five water treatment plants. Offers for the solarisation of water systems in Ethiopia are currently under evaluation. Altogether, these projects will reach 1.2 million people, with every dollar invested through Project Flow delivering savings of USD 0.30.

Refugees at a water point at a hosting site in Rugombo, Cibitoke Province
©UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Global SDG 7 Influencing

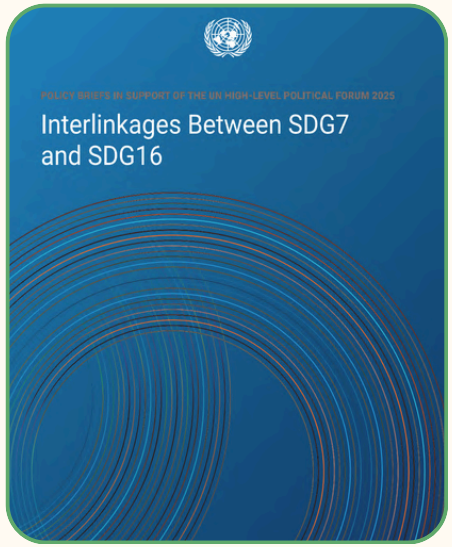
High-Level Policy Brief: SDG 7 and SDG 16 Linkage

The GPA continued delivering high-level advocacy within the UN Energy platform to ensure displacement and conflict-affected contexts are included in global SDG 7 policy processes. This included developing a policy brief on the linkages between SDG 7 (energy) and SDG 16 (peace) - shared with senior decision makers in the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group. The policy brief was developed with IOM and UN-DESA, building on the 2021 policy brief. Updated recommendations guide governments and multilateral institutions to deliver on a displacement-inclusive SDG 7.

Donor Greening Group

GPA and NORCAP **delivered donor guidance** for Common Greening Humanitarian Assistance Priority Actions 8 (fossil fuel generator phase out) and 9 (clean cooking), aiming to support donors to shape policies and programming which prioritise sustainable energy solutions in the humanitarian response.

Donor Greening Working Group



Strategic Influencing in Humanitarian and Development Institutions During the Humanitarian Reset

GPA and its partners continued convening and advising key stakeholders - UNHCR, WHO, SEforAll, GOGLA, FCDO, Norway, SDC, EU and more - to raise visibility and strengthen political commitment for sustainable energy in humanitarian contexts.

GPA centred energy within the ongoing Humanitarian Reset, as a key solution to deliver on the Reset Roadmap around green humanitarian responses, leveraging alternative sources of capital (from DFIs and private finance), and shifting to shared services. GPA also engaged in strategic advocacy in the Cluster System reform process to preserve energy as a cross-cutting theme in the merged Shelter, Land and Site Coordination (SLSC) Cluster.

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Influencing Inclusive National Policy

Advocacy for Inclusion in National Energy and Environmental Policy
GPA and its partners engaged in targeted advocacy to include displacement settings in national plans and programmes – with a focus on national energy plans and national determined contribution (NDC) processes in Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya.

M300 Country Compact Engagement
GPA partners advocated for inclusion of displacement settings into M300 compacts for displacement hosting countries, including Kenya, Chad, DRC, Mauritania, Niger, Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania. Whilst the goal was to include refugee hosting areas into M300 plans, few specifically mention forcibly displaced communities – presenting a key area for continued lobbying and support to hosting governments.

Policy Integration: Powering Inclusion
The Powering Inclusion policy brief tackles a key barrier to sustainable energy, offering actionable recommendations to integrate displaced populations into national energy policies, planning frameworks, and financing mechanisms.

Policy frameworks in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Bangladesh are analysed on their level of inclusion of displaced communities. It recommends an urgent shift away from standalone humanitarian-led projects toward systemic inclusion - including national utilities, private investors, and development banks - to scale up energy in displacement settings.

Mission 300 (M300): Working Group on Forced Displacement

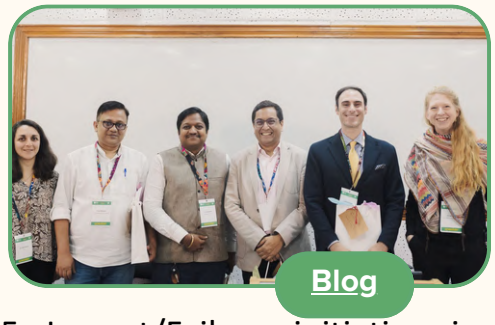
A specific working group on displacement settings with leading humanitarian and development actors was established and co-led by the GPA Secretariat and Rockefeller Accelerator with two key sub-priorites: project pipeline structuring and highest-level advocacy. 20+ organisations are moving into 2026 to deliver on the working group aims and increase financing to humanitarian energy at scale. Send and email to: energy.gpa@unops.org to join.

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Participation in Key Advocacy Events and Sector Convenings

Energizing Healthcare Conference 2025

The GPA, in collaboration with NORCAP, launched the "Briefing on Healthcare Electrification in Humanitarian Settings" at the Energizing Healthcare Conference 2025 hosted by SEforALL and the WHO-led Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA) in Nairobi, Kenya on 3-4 February.



Impact/Failure 2025

At the SELCO Foundation's 2025 Impact/Failure initiative in Bangalore, the GPA and Innovation Norway hosted a panel with World Bank, Schneider Electric, and India-based energy access NGOs highlighting structural, non-technical barriers limiting the effectiveness and sustainability of energy interventions. The session underscored the need to shift from ad-hoc approaches to systematic learning from successes and failures.

Empowering Vulnerable Populations and Refugee-Led Businesses

The session at the Alliance for Rural Elctriciation's (ARE) Energy Access Investment Forum 2025 explored how to stimulate private sector engagement to establish long-term, market-driven energy access in forced displacement settings and invest into local energy enterprises delivering energy products and services to the last mile.

Global Refugee Forum Review

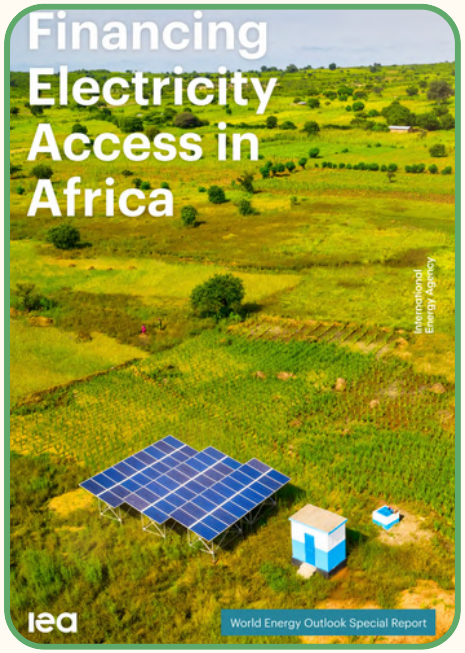
The GPA participated in UNHCR's Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, convening a roundtable with the UK FCDO and partners to examine how sustainable energy can strengthen localisation, economic resilience and climate action in displacement settings amid shrinking humanitarian budgets.

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Inputs to Strategic Processes, Platforms, and Documents

Influencing Global Energy Policy and Financing Agendas

The GPA contributed to IEA's Financing Electricity Access in Africa report, ensuring displacement settings were reflected within this landmark publication on scaling investment to achieve universal electricity access. By showcasing inclusive national policies and innovative delivery models in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Jordan, the GPA highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships, targeted financing and integrated planning to ensure displaced populations benefit from sustainable energy transitions.



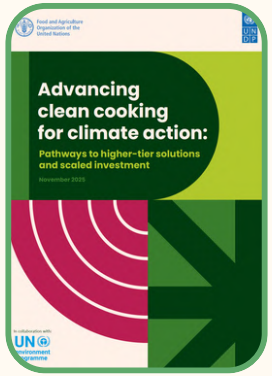
Clean Cooking in Schools

The GPA joined the Platform for Clean Cooking in Schools, launched by SEforALL, to advocate for the integration of schools and humanitarian settings into national clean cooking strategies and investment plans.

Clean Cooking in Schools Initiative ©SEforAll

Input to the Advancing Clean Cooking for Climate Action Report and FAO-GBEP Bioenergy week

The GPA provided input to the Advancing Clean Cooking for Climate Action report led by UNDP in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, reinforcing the role of clean cooking in climate mitigation and resilience. At the FAO-GBEP Bioenergy Week, GPA highlighted clean cooking in humanitarian settings, influencing discussions on the inclusion of displaced populations in national bioenergy strategies.



POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Technical Workshops and Strategic Convenings

READS Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

The GPA-led READS programme held stakeholder engagement workshops in Bangladesh, Mauritania, and Mozambique in 2025. These strategic convenings brought together stakeholders from displaced and host communities, governments, NGOs, and research institutes to inform country analysis and generate viable project concepts aligned with national energy planning and financing opportunities. Participants with lived experience of displacement made up 20% of attendees, ensuring discussions reflected community realities.

READS Bangladesh workshop

READS Mauritania workshop

READS Mozambique workshop

Fostering Public-Private Partnerships in Uganda

Following engagement in Uganda through the READS programme, the in-person Energy Delivery Model (EDM) workshop held in Kampala in February 2025 convened NGOs, UN agencies, government, private sector, financial institutions and refugee-led organisations to refine sustainable business and financing models for energy access in displacement settings. The training was delivered by the GPA Secretariat, over two days of tailored mentoring and co-creation with technical and finance experts from Mercy Corps, CLASP, UECCC, NORCAP, USEA, NREP, U-Learn/Impact Initiatives, and Access to Energy Institute (A2EI).

Partner groups discuss project ideas at the EDM workshop, Uganda

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Strategic Convenings

Strategic Convening and Private-Sector Engagement: UNHCR's Special Advisor on Renewable Energy and Economic Development

In 2025, UNHCR's Special Advisor on Renewable Energy and Economic Development advanced efforts to enhance sustainable energy access and self-reliance for displaced and host communities.

Collaborations with the private sector, NGOs, and development partners were strengthened through convening a high-level roundtable in Kenya; supporting specific electrification initiatives in refugee hosting areas in East Africa; convening ecosystem stakeholders at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre to discuss private sector solutions in forced displacement contexts; contributing to UNHCR's strategy on refugee self-reliance; and initiating jointly with the GPA a taskforce on displacement as part of the World Bank's and AfDB's Mission 300 initiative.

In 2026, efforts will continue to promote renewable energy solutions for economic inclusion and resilience.

UNHCR, IFC and Rockfeller Foundation Strategic Convening - Building a Global Coalition for Private Sector Solutions in Forced Displacement Contexts

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Technical Workshops and Strategic Convenings

Technical Expertise to Strengthen Institutional Capacity

Building its Energy and Environment programme since 2019, NORCAP continued strengthening the humanitarian sector's capacity on sustainable energy and environment, providing essential energy expertise to UNHCR, IOM, ICRC, NRC, UNICEF, WHO, Mercy Corps, and the GPA. In 2025 alone, more than 45 experts were on mission across 25 countries, contributing to a growing cumulative impact of on-ground delivery of energy in displacement settings by embedding technical energy expertise within frontline response settings.

IOM presents at the 2025 Carbon Finance and Migration Forum in Seoul ©IOM

Building Humanitarian Expertise on Carbon Finance

NORCAP has taken steps to bolster the sector's capacity to leverage carbon finance, recruiting carbon experts and hosting a training as part of its Annual Technical Workshop.

A NORCAP carbon finance expert was deployed to IOM Mozambique to support project scoping and feasibility assessment, providing essential additional capacity as IOM, with support from Innovation Norway, scales up its Participatory and Inclusive Marketplace for Sustainable Energy Access, which generates high-quality carbon credits from clean cooking to sustain the project.

Building on learnings from Mozambique and Bangladesh, IOM held multiple convening in 2025 on different aspects of carbon finance and its role in advancing clean energy solutions in displacement settings - a significant step for diversifying funding in humanitarian settings.

POLICY & STRATEGIC INFLUENCING

Technical Workshops and Strategic Convenings

Decarbonisation Task Team

The GPA and Sustainable UN Facility launched the inter-agency Decarbonisation Task Team (DTT) at its inaugural workshop in March 2026. The DTT aims to improve coordination of UN-wide efforts to reduce emissions from on-site generation and humanitarian supply chains. By facilitating knowledge and data sharing as well as cooperation on contracts and green finance, the DTT will support the adoption of shared services under the Humanitarian Reset and drive progress toward the target of 45% reduction in UN greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Decarbonisation Task Team workshop, March 2026

Shifting to Energy as a Service Models for UN institutions

Building on the Decarbonisation Task Team request, the GPA teamed up with the Access to Energy Institute (A2EI) with support from the Zero-Emmissions Generator (ZE-Gen) programme to meter diesel generators, build business cases for saving costs and emissions by switching generators to solar, and transition from standard procurement to energy as a service (EaaS) models to power humanitarian operations. The partnership will continue in 2026, offering a comprehensive generator replacement support service to humanitarian partners.

GPA, A2EI, ZE-Gen workshop, December 2025

MOVING AHEAD

Contributions to this report were made by GPA partners NORCAP, IOM, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, Ashden, SNV, UNEP-CCC, Last Mile Climate, Practical Action, and MECS. The GPA is deeply grateful to its partners and donors for their collective support and delivery of SDG 7 - Sustainable Access to Energy for All - in displacement and conflict-affected contexts.

This Briefing Note was developed by the GPA Secretariat as part of the [Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA)](#) programme, which aims to build evidence on how to increase energy access in displacement settings. THEA is funded with UK Aid from the UK government via the Transforming Energy Access platform and is delivered in partnership with Mercy Corps, Ashden, and Global Platform for Action (GPA).