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Conference

“Energy for Displaced People: A Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement”

GlZ Representation, Berlin, Germany
15-16 January 2018

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 million¹ 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 for cooking. While

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

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 energy². 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 society³. 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 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

² <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/energy/news/2017/nov/press-release-equality-peace-and-prosperity-all-depend-affordable-and-clean-energy>

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”.

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:

⁴ <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/un-summit-refugees-and-migrants>

“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.

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.



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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 environmental 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 17.3⁵ 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 17.9⁶ 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
- Developing/ensuring the long-term capacity and technical skills

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...'

- 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

Preliminary Overview of the Agenda

Day 1

09:00-10:00	Registration
10:00-12:00	Opening and High Level Panel Discussion
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-18:30	Working in groups to develop ideas, aims and concrete next steps for the global action plan along the five strategic areas
19:00	Close of day and networking evening hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy

Day 2

9:00-12:30	Continuation of group work from day 1
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Presenting results of working groups and brainstorming to create skeleton Global Action Plan - further development of actions to be worked on over following 6 months, setting out possible roadmap of targets and action, agreeing timelines, establishing working groups, possible technical workshops, using existing platforms for information sharing etc.
16:00-17:00	Public launch of new initiatives, reports and photos
17:00	Closing