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Global Plan of Action For Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement

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Today, over 134 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disasters, and other complex global challenges. Access to 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, 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, education and WASH.

The Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) was created to address current challenges that impede energy access in humanitarian settings, and thus provides a framework that will provide concrete actions for a more systemic, collaborative approach towards the vision of “safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services for all displaced people by 2030.” 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.

At present, a Work Plan is being developed to deliver the recommendations of the GPA, which will present concrete actions to deliver sustainable change.

Why do we need the GPA?

There are more displaced people who are at risk and providing energy is part of the solution to help them: 68.5 million people are displaced from their home from conflict and an additional 25 million are displaced per year due to natural disasters.

Low energy access for displaced people: 90% of refugees in camps have no electricity access. 80% rely on solid fuels for cooking, causing poor health conditions and an estimated 20,000 premature deaths annually.

The Humanitarian System is under-pressure and under resourced: Humanitarian organizations have very little capacity to design and implement energy interventions. In addition, funding and technical assistance is underserved.

The Global Plan of Action aims to:

Promote: Foster an open and strategic dialogue between global energy, humanitarian and development actors to enhance humanitarian response through access to sustainable energy solutions.

Partner: Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilise sustainable and innovative approaches to finance energy solutions in situations of displacement.

Learn: Generate awareness of existing resources on this issue and share evidence-based best practices.

Activate: Create a collaborative and inclusive framework for unified, multi-stakeholder action to improve sustainable energy access in situations of displacement.

Protecting refugees and providing durable solutions requires sustainable energy: Ensuring reliable modern energy services is necessary to protect and assist displaced people more effectively and economically. Energy is essential to grow businesses, escape poverty, support families, create healthy homes, and give children the energy they need to flourish.

Vision

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

Mission

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

Guiding Principles

- Ensuring priority involvement of displaced people, host communities and host governments from planning to implementation
- Developing context appropriate solutions
- Promoting recovery and self-reliance
- Recognizing that energy is not an end in itself, but a means to enable human development
- Developing gender sensitive approaches
- Focusing on local solutions and financial sustainability
- Adhering to the 'do no harm' principles

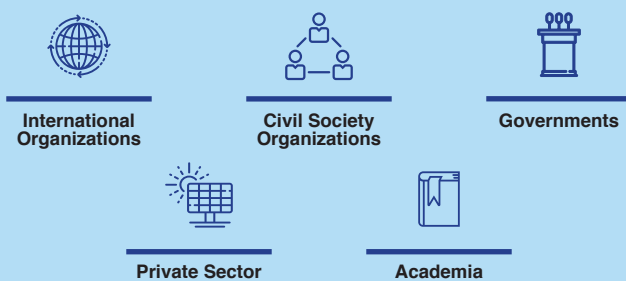
GPA Support Structure

The GPA is to be Delivered by:

- **The Steering Group**, which provides strategic leadership, direction to the Working Groups, and oversight of the resulting Work Plan.
- **The Coordination Unit**, which provides day-to-day support to the Steering Group and Working Groups, and coordinates the activities of the Work Plan.
- **The Working Groups**, who develop and deliver, in their own capacity, the activities of the Work Plan across five areas: Planning and Coordination; Policy, Advocacy and Host Country Resilience; Innovative Finance; Technical Expertise and Capacity Building; and Data, Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting.



Partners



How to support?



If you are interested in supporting the Global Plan of Action, please email energy@unitar.org with your desired contribution.