

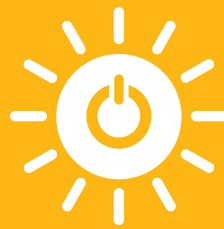


ACCELERATING SDG 7 ACHIEVEMENT

ACTION BRIEF 4

GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION
FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SOLUTIONS IN SITUATIONS OF
DISPLACEMENT

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



ACTION BRIEF #4

GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS IN SITUATIONS OF DISPLACEMENT

Developed by

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Food Programme, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UNDP, UNEP-DTU, GIZ, the UN Foundation, the Clean Cooking Alliance, Practical Action, the Moving Energy Initiative, SEforAll, and IRENA

Summary

Over 131 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disasters, and other complex global challenges. 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. Therefore, there is a need for systemic actions to address the challenges of integrating sustainable energy solutions into the humanitarian program cycle.

The Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) was created in 2018 to address current challenges that impede energy access in humanitarian settings, and to provide a framework that will deliver 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.”

A Work Plan, launched in 2019, outlines a set of concrete actions to deliver on the recommendations outlined in the GPA Framework Document. The purpose of the work plan is to provide clear, coordinated, and measurable activities, led by sector professionals, to deliver real, lasting, and progressive change that supports humanitarian actors and the displaced people they serve.

Status of Energy Access for Displaced People: need for systemic actions

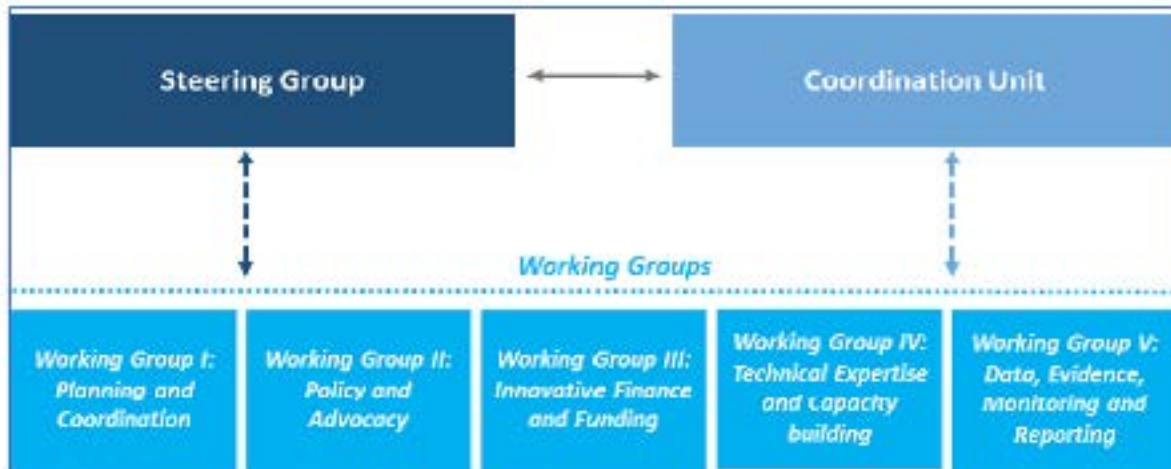
The UN estimates that in 2019, over 131 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (UN OCHA, 2019) due to conflict, natural disasters, and other complex global challenges. Access to fuel and energy is critical to essential activities such as cooking meals, heating shelters, cooling vaccines, charging communication devices, and powering humanitarian operations. Current energy practices in situations of displacement are often insufficient, inefficient, unsafe, and expensive for displaced people, harmful to the surrounding environment, and costly for implementers.

Given the complex nature of humanitarian operations 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 impacts in protection, health, food security, education, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) sectors.

In July 2018, the Framework Document of the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) was launched to address the current challenges that impede energy access in humanitarian settings. It provides a basis 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 document was 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 displacement settings.

In October 2018, a Steering Group and a Coordination Unit was established to develop a Work Plan and steer the activities foreseen in 5 Working Groups.

The Work Plan, launched in 2019, is a set of concrete actions that deliver the recommendations outlined in the GPA Framework Document. The purpose of the Work Plan is to provide clear, coordinated, and measurable activities, which are led by sector professionals, to deliver real, lasting and progressive change that supports humanitarian actors and the displaced people they serve.



Interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals

Environment

Improving energy response in displacement settings has a direct link to the environment. With access to renewable, reliable energy sources, negative environmental impacts of traditional energy use, such as forest degradation from firewood collection, and CO₂ and short-lived-climate emissions from burning solid fuels for cooking and from the use of diesel generators, can be mitigated.

Economic Development

Having access to sustainable energy enables livelihood opportunities. For example, micro-businesses like barbers and tailors can operate machinery, and use increased hours of light for income generating activities.

Gender Equality

Energy poverty directly impacts the quality of life and economic opportunities of women and girls, as they are traditionally the family members responsible for cooking. The hours spent procuring fuel and cooking over traditional fires or inefficient stoves negatively impacts their ability to attend school, generate income, or engage in rest and leisure. Collecting firewood, often over long distances in remote locations, additionally exposes them to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual assault. The lack of fuel for cooking and other household needs can also increase tensions, the risks of intimate partner violence, and conflict with surrounding communities.

Education

Reducing the burden of firewood collection on children and young people can improve school attendance and retention, increasing access to education.

References

UN OCHA (2019), 2019 Global Humanitarian Overview, Geneva.

More information about the Global Plan of Action: <https://www.unitar.org/ptp/sustainable-energy>

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**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

