



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
CLEAN COOKSTOVES

COOKING IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

THE CHALLENGE

During 2014, 156 million people were affected by violent conflict or natural disaster. More than 59 million of them were refugees or people internally displaced within their home nation. While a robust humanitarian system exists to provide food, shelter, and medical assistance, many crisis-affected people lack access to adequate fuel and technologies to safely cook their meals.

Food provided by humanitarian agencies is typically dry and energy dense, and must be cooked for long periods of time before it can be eaten. Yet clean and efficient cookstoves and fuel are rarely provided. As a result, many families rely on solid fuels such as wood or charcoal for cooking, which create smoky fires that damage respiratory health. Crisis-affected women must often walk for hours to find firewood and carry heavy loads back to camp, which puts them at risk for physical injury and attack. The time spent collecting firewood also negatively affects women and girls' ability to attend school and engage in income-generating activities.

Photo Credit: UNHCR B. Bannon Kenya 2011

KEY STATS

- 59.5 million** Number of refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers in the world today.
- 80%** Percentage of internally displaced people in North Darfur that reported selling food from their rations to buy firewood.
- 42%** Percentage of refugee households in Chad that experienced incidents of sexual or gender based violence during firewood collection over a six-month period in 2014.
- 10-17** Mortality rates from acute respiratory infection among refugees in Nepal were 10-17 times higher than among their non-displaced peers.
- 5 million** Target number of people the Alliance and its partners aim to reach with access to cleaner, more efficient cooking solutions in humanitarian contexts by 2017.

THE SOLUTION

Since 2010, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves has been committed to **reaching the world's most vulnerable populations** through its targeted humanitarian program, which complements and leverages its market-based work, diverse partner base, and geographic reach to increase energy access in humanitarian settings. **The Alliance has spent five years building an effective coalition of humanitarian and energy stakeholders, garnering commitments, and advocating for the increased prioritization of humanitarian energy access.** Additionally, the Alliance has supported key organizations by strategically planning and coordinating activities, sharing information, building the capacity of key staff, developing tools and resources, and implementing a global advocacy strategy to make the case for energy access in crisis settings to donors and the broader aid sector.

THE 6 STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE ALLIANCE'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY



COORDINATION The Alliance serves as Co-chair of the [Safe Access to Fuel and Energy \(SAFE\) Humanitarian Working Group](#), the central global coordination mechanism for humanitarian response to cooking, lighting, heating, and powering needs among displaced people. The Alliance developed the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group website, which serves as the central coordination resource for humanitarian energy. It includes a searchable database of more than 300 project pages, evaluations, and tools for practitioners.



BUILDING CAPACITY The Alliance has trained over 160 humanitarian, energy, government, and private sector staff from 25 countries on how to incorporate energy access and related issues into their programming through annual SAFE trainings, facilitating cross-sector collaboration, and the implementation of best practices.



ADVOCACY The Alliance has a formal partnership with UNHCR and has secured high-level energy commitments from leading global humanitarian aid agencies such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mercy Corps, and several national governments. For example, UNHCR has committed to provide improved cookstoves and solar lanterns to 800,000 refugee households by 2018, while the World Food Programme has committed to reach 2 million crisis-affected households with improved cookstoves by 2020.



RESEARCH In order to build evidence that cooking interventions can have life-saving impacts for crisis-affected women and girls, the Alliance has commissioned research on the relationship between gender-based violence and cookstove and fuel access. The Alliance is also working with UNHCR to improve monitoring and evaluation of cookstove and fuel programs for refugees.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE In addition to developing standardized technical specifications for UNHCR cookstoves procurement – ensuring that the products distributed to crisis-affected people meet minimum standards for fuel efficiency and safety – the Alliance provides written and technical support for the development of UNHCR national SAFE strategies, setting the stage for high quality programming and implementation.



MOBILIZING RESOURCES The Alliance works with its partners on the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group to enhance donor funding of energy access programs in humanitarian settings.

Together, the members of the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group facilitated the delivery of over **85,000 energy products** to Nepal earthquake victims in 2015 by connecting stove and lighting manufacturers with humanitarian agencies and the Government of Nepal, reducing duplication and leveraging expertise.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS REAL. THE MARKET IS POISED TO SCALE. THE IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION IS OURS.