





Mid-term review (MTR) of the Decarbonizing Humanitarian Energy Multi-Partner Trust Fund (DHE MPTF)

DHE MPTF OVERVIEW










The DHE MPTF was established in 2022 as a 10-year intervention to address two persistent challenges facing humanitarian operations: the emissions and costs associated with humanitarian agency energy systems, and the lack of reliable energy access for the displaced populations that those agencies serve. Established as an MPTF, it intended to enable pooled contributions from multiple donors and support joint coordination across multiple implementing partners. Currently, it receives contributions from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), through the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

The DHE is implemented by three Programme Partners: UNITAR, UNDP and NORCAP. A DHE Secretariat, hosted by UNITAR at the time of the review, was established to coordinate programme delivery. The MPTF Office acts as the DHE’s Administrative Agent, responsible for fund administration and fiduciary oversight.

MID-TERM REVIEW METHODOLOGY

 Purpose	 Scope	 Data Sources & Methods	 Challenges
To guide the necessary structural changes and strategic realignment of the fund, to set it on track to achieve its intended results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Timeframe: February 2023 – March 2025Evaluation Criteria: Effectiveness and EfficiencyFocus: design, governance and operational efficiency of the DHE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Document reviewKey informant interviewsBenchmarking exerciseToC reviewObservation (DHE strategy workshop)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stakeholders multiplicity of perspectivesOverlap with internal restructuring processHeavily reliant on qualitative data

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

 The rationale for the DHE remains strong.	 Ambiguous strategic direction of the MPTF at the design stage (energy access or decarbonisation).
 The MPTF modality was not well applied but remains appropriate.	 blurred clarity of roles and limited Secretariat capacity led to fragmented DHE governance.
 Limited engagement from humanitarian agencies during inception phase.	 Approach to localisation and energy transition partners onboarding was overly centralised.
 Lack of mechanisms to support implementation finance or derisking.	 Monitoring and evaluation was not meaningfully operationalised.
 The Secretariat’s current leadership and approach to restructuring have restored confidence in DHE’s direction.	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1

GFFO should maintain its commitment to the DHE MPTF.
- 2

The DHE Secretariat should be moved to a new host institution.
- 3

The DHE Secretariat should be stabilised with a core of fixed-term staffing.
- 4


The major UN humanitarian agencies should be invited to become full members of the Steering Committee.
- 5


The restructuring timeline should be extended until March 2026.
- 6

Start approaching new potential contributors sooner rather than later.
- 7

Build a systematic approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning, starting with reformulation of the theory of change.

LESSON LEARNED

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The timeline and sequencing of activities during the restructuring process need to be set up to allow for MTR recommendations to be implemented. In that sense, having the MTR completed early in the process helps to enable such sequencing.
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Regular assessments should be built into the implementation cycle. Theories of change are always meant to be 'living' to some extent to reflect the normal changes, innovations and developments in a sector that can be expected over time.