

# Energy in situations of displacement

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*Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement*  
(GPA) Launch, German Representation to the UN, New York, 11 July 2018



1. who are we talking about?

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# 134 million

in need of humanitarian aid

## 68.5 million

forcibly displaced people  
worldwide

## 40 million

internally displaced persons

25.4 million refugees

3.1 million asylum seekers

## 2. the scale of the problem

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# HDX Viz Moving Energy Initiative

% of Refugees and Displaced People  
Cooking with Biomass in Camps

84.6%

Estimate from the Moving Energy Initiative

[Data](#) - Jan 11, 2018

% of Refugees and Displaced People  
Off-Grid in Camps

96.9%

Estimate from the Moving Energy Initiative

[Data](#) - Jan 11, 2018

Total Annual Energy Spending by  
Refugees and Displaced People

\$ 3,215 million

Estimate from the Moving Energy Initiative

[Data](#) - Jan 11, 2018

No. of Countries Hosting Refugees  
and Displaced People

144

Estimate from the Moving Energy Initiative

[Data](#) - Jan 11, 2018



Many displaced people do not have access to enough energy to cover their basic needs.

Coping strategies include:

- Undercooking meals
- Skipping meals
- Selling food rations to buy cooking fuel

*80 % of the 8.7 million refugees in camps have absolutely minimal access to energy, with a high dependence on traditional biomass for cooking and no access to electricity.*

## Very limited access to modern forms of energy



Out of 8.7 million refugees and displaced people in camps, only 11% have access to reliable energy sources for lighting (estimate: Moving Energy Initiative).





Reliance on firewood endangers  
safety (women and girls  
exposed to attack outside of  
camps, outbreaks of fire

Photos: UNHCR Goudoubo camp, Burkina Faso, 2017

Extreme temperatures in inadequate shelter endangers lives; indoor fires cause respiratory and a host of other lung and heart conditions

Child refugees burning rubbish to keep warm in a disused warehouse in Belgrade, Serbia (Amnesty)





86 percent take refuge in developing regions already under severe environmental stress



Kutupalong Camp, Bangladesh. (FAO Emergencies)



Bank of Info, Bangladesh



60% of refugees & over 80% of IDPs are dispersed amongst host communities



...meanwhile, humanitarian agencies are paying over the odds for the energy they generate

**\$6.7million**

total annual spending on diesel for generators of just seven agencies we spoke to in Kenya.

Estimate humanitarian sector spends c.  
**\$400 million /year**

# 3. challenges

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## *Global/Institutional Challenges:*

- Energy not prioritized, no targets, no strategy, no reporting, no funder demand
- Data and evidence
- Short-term approach with budgets to match
- Procurement – specifying equipment rather than services
- Lack of understanding between expert companies & humanitarian agencies

## *National challenges:*

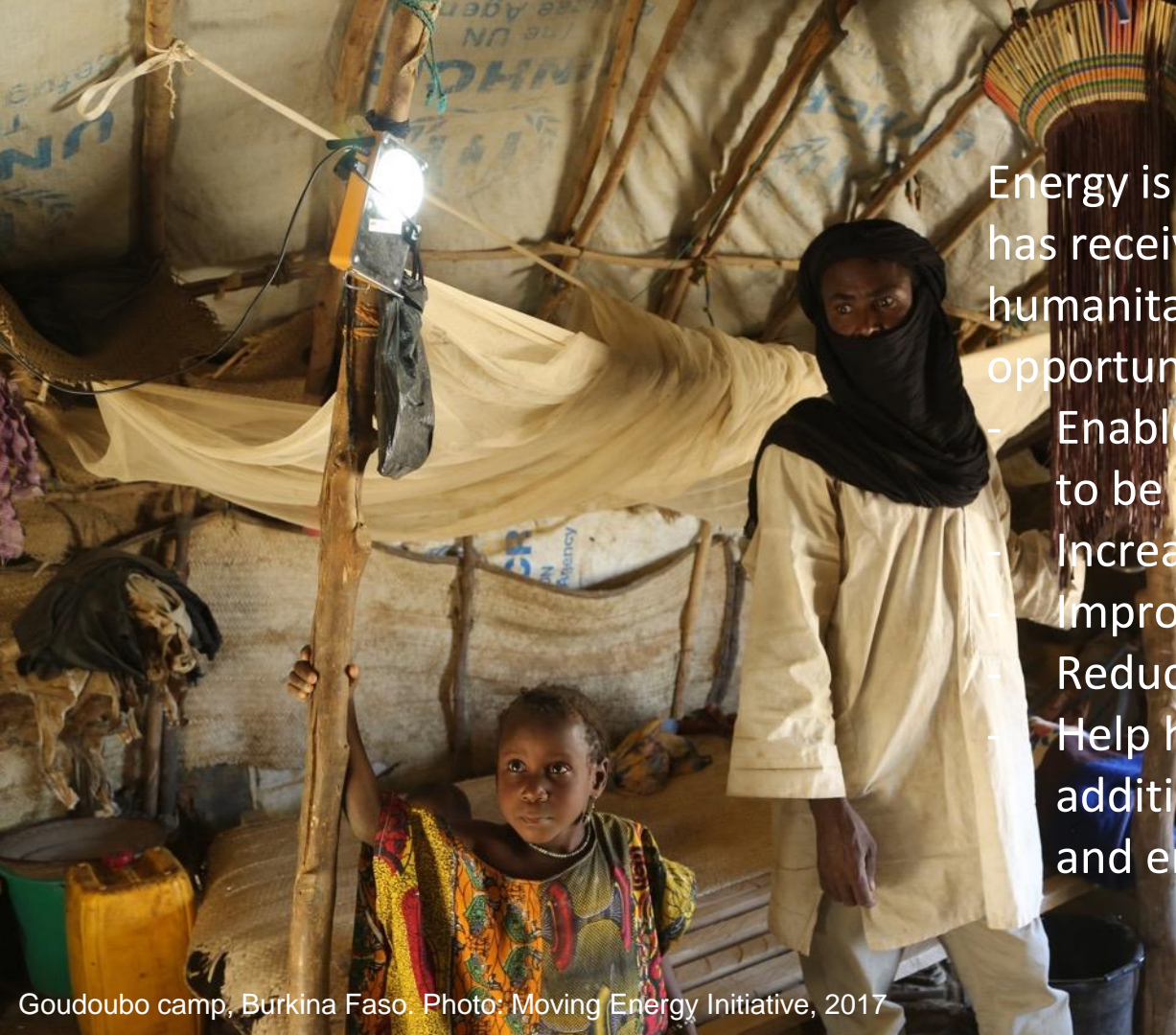
- Translating policy into practice
- Duration of stay
- Legal arrangements

## *Local challenges:*

- Social acceptability
- Local hosting population facing the same problems
- Instability and security
- Geographical location and climate

## 4. opportunities





Energy is just one of many needs but it has received little attention in the humanitarian field and presents huge opportunities to

- Enable other humanitarian priorities to be met
- Increase dignity
- Improve refugee self reliance
- Reduce environmental footprint
- Help hosting countries to manage additional pressures and achieve SDG and energy security goals

# together, we can do things better

## Reduced environmental and social pressures



Sustainable energy solutions can reduce environmental and social pressures and create market opportunities for local businesses.

## Engaging private-sector expertise



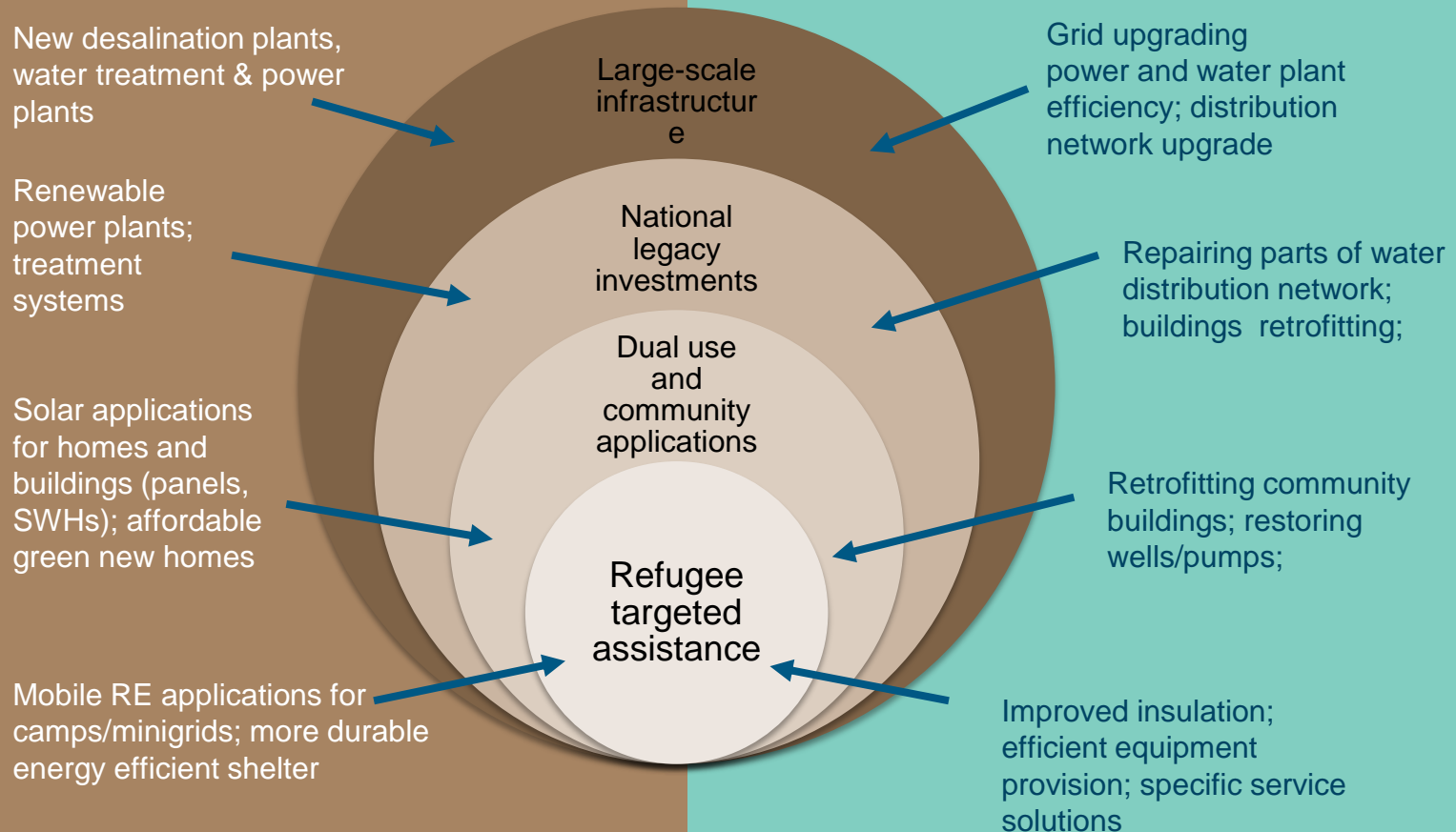
A growing number of private-sector companies have developed sustainable energy services appropriate for low-income households. This expertise could be harnessed to benefit displaced communities.

## Extending solutions to local populations



Energy solutions for refugee camps could be shared with host countries to boost energy access and security for all.

# multi-level opportunities to reduce pressures for a refugee-host country



## 4. The Global Plan of Action

# why do we need a plan of action?

- Because everyone has parts of the picture – better information and research will support the case
- Organizations are moving – it makes sense to share knowledge, data and experience and speed up the learning curve
- To get things done takes high level political will  
...as well as bottom up engagement and innovation
- At present, there are a lot of energy pilots springing up but a danger that without institutional change, these will remain adhoc pilots



# GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION SECURING ENERGY FOR THE DISPLACED

## BACKGROUND

**134  
MILLION**

people around the world are currently in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disaster, and other global challenges. For them, as for anyone else, **having access to safe energy is critical for survival.**



## ENERGY IS ESSENTIAL TO:



PROVIDE  
LIGHT



COOK



STORE  
VACCINES



HEAT



CHARGE  
MOBILE PHONES

## LEARN MORE AT

<http://onlinelearning.unitar.org/global-plan-of-action/>



# why now is the time

- Numbers of forcibly displaced people at an all time high & pressure to do more with less as crises become protracted
- Morally wrong to increase the environmental stress on hosting countries when it can be avoided; UN's commitment to carbon neutrality
- The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Global Compact work – particularly the response and resilience frameworks
- The Agenda for Humanity, esp. Core Responsibility 4: 'Change people's lives: from delivering aid to ending need'
- SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy & (also 3, 11, 13...)

Nuru Access Center and Learning Hub in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, delivered by Crown Agents' in partnership with Swiss Contact and SAVIC commissioned by the Moving Energy Initiative, 2018.



## what are the challenges it aims to address?

- Energy is not a formal priority in humanitarian assistance
- Displaced people are not included in national or international energy- access agendas
- Energy in displacement settings is under-funded
- Expertise and capacity to implement humanitarian energy solutions is limited
- Data on humanitarian energy needs and solutions are limited and not widely shared





IRC Clinics 5 and 6, Kakuma camp, Kenya, solarized by Kube Energy and PowerGen under the Moving Energy Initiative, 2018.



so, we grouped approaches to solve these challenges under 5 themes

- Planning and Coordination
- Policy, Advocacy and Host-Country Resilience
- Innovative Finance
- Technical Expertise, Capacity Building and Training
- Data, Evidence, Monitoring and Reporting

# what is the role of the Global Plan of Action?

- Turning all the great work, research, pilot schemes and good will that we have seen in the last few years into action at the policy, governance and strategic levels so that good practice in energy becomes part of the system
- Facilitating cooperation and progress amongst peer groups across sectors
- Working with national governments to increase capacity for sustainable solutions
- Institutionalizing good practice so there are not just adhoc pilots in future, but energy gets done better

= real change, better cleaner access to energy for displaced people and less environmental pressure and cleaner energy solutions for hosting countries

The Green Affordable Homes project in Jordan, led by Jordan Green Buildings Council and Habitat4Humanity, commissioned by the Moving Energy Initiative, 2018



thank you for listening, let's make it happen!

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**Any questions?**