

The 3rd Humanitarian Energy Conference (HEC) 2024

Conference Report



Contents

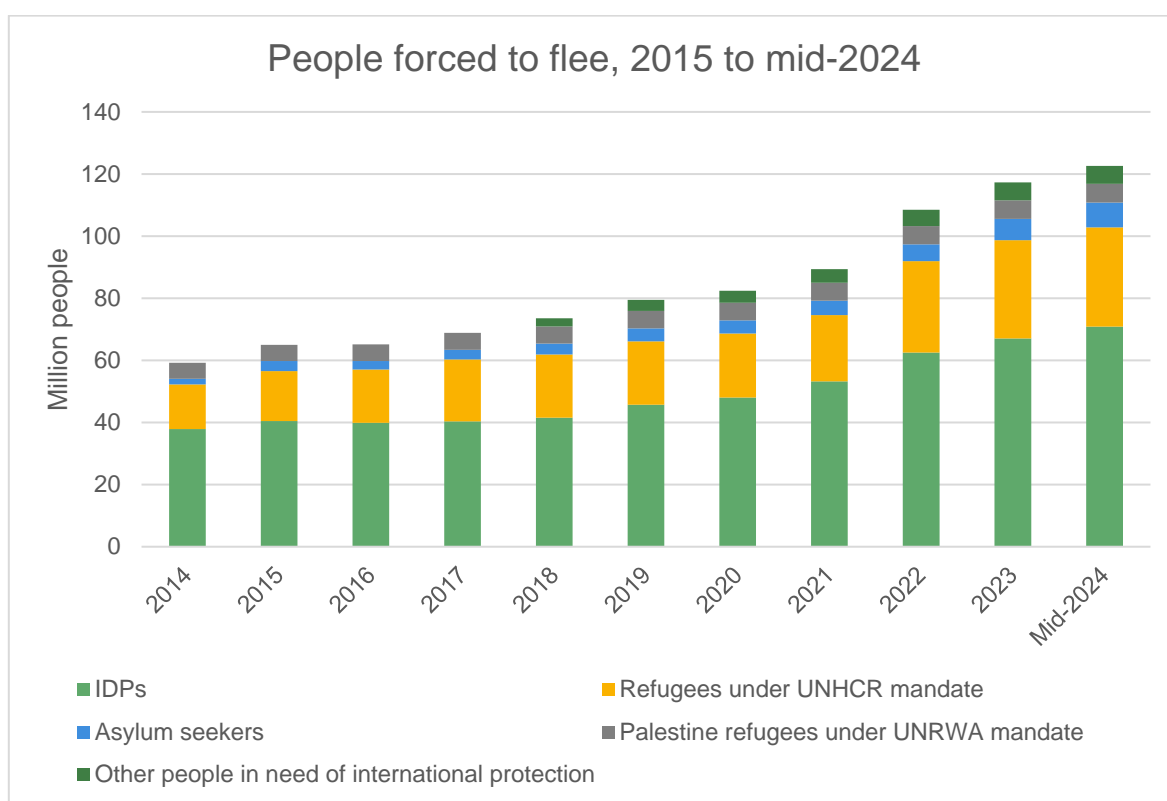
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Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
GPA	Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings
HEC	Humanitarian Energy Conference
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
O&M	Operations and maintenance
PPP	Public-private partnership
PURE	Productive Uses of Renewable Energy
PUE	Productive Uses of Energy
P-RECs	Pease Renewable Energy Certificates
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WFP	World Food Programme

Conference Overview

As of mid-2024, the UNHCR estimated that 122.6 million people were forcibly displaced, this represents an increase of over 100% in the last decade.¹ The number of displaced people globally will also continue to grow as conflict persists around the world and the impacts of climate change worsen. Thus, it is more crucial than ever to identify both effective strategies to meet immediate protection needs in humanitarian emergencies and holistic approaches to address the long-term development and livelihood requirements of displaced communities. Sustainable energy access is a crucial enabler of both of these goals, yet the majority of displaced people globally lack access. Among those living in camp settings, it is estimated that 94% are without electricity access and 81% rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking.²



Source: [UNHCR \(2024\)](#)

In this context, the third Humanitarian Energy Conference (HEC) was held on October 7, 2024, at the Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. HEC 2024 was led by the Global Platform for Action (GPA) on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings under the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It was co-hosted by NORCAP, SNV, and Practical Action, and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), NORAD, and IKEA Foundation.

¹ [UNHCR \(2024\). Mid-Year Trends: Key Displacement Solutions and Trends in the First Half of 2024.](#)

² [UNITAR \(2022\). State of the Humanitarian Energy Sector.](#)

The third HEC aimed to:

- Assess progress on achieving SDG 7 (clean and affordable energy access for all) in humanitarian and displacement settings
- Highlight the contribution of decarbonising humanitarian operations and providing clean energy for displaced people to SDG 13 (climate action)
- Promote knowledge sharing, partnerships, and innovations in pursuit of these goals

While the challenge of delivering sustainable energy access in humanitarian settings has grown, so too has the community of stakeholders committed to tackling it. HEC 2024 convened a record 300 delegates from over 150 organizations working to advance the humanitarian energy agenda. This HEC also welcomed the active participation of 18 people with lived experiences of displacement. An additional 337 viewers participated online.

The third HEC was strategically organised in Nairobi in the same week as the Global Off-Grid Solar Forum & Expo 2024 to increase engagement from private sector and government stakeholders who are crucial to the humanitarian energy space. NORCAP also organised its Annual Technical Workshop, attended by over 60 humanitarian energy experts, with the aim of bringing the humanitarian angle into discussions being had within the SDG 7 community.



Session Highlights

In addition to the two plenary and nine breakout sessions held throughout the day, the conference featured three designated networking sessions to promote cross-sector collaboration. Participants from humanitarian organizations, governments, the private sector, and displaced communities were encouraged to engage in discussions about regional challenges and best practices in energy access.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The conference opened with a welcome from GPA Team Lead Mark Gibson. In an address, Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action from the Government of Germany, who emphasised that for displaced communities, “access to clean energy improves safety. It enables education, it powers healthcare, it creates pathways for livelihood opportunities, all of which contribute to restoring self-reliance and dignity.” She called for urgent action to close the \$10 billion gap in funding needed to meet the energy needs of displaced people by 2030.



Opening session Humanitarian Energy Conference 2024, Nairobi, Kenya © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Mamadou Dian Balde, Director of the UNHCR’s Regional Bureau addressed the challenges of providing energy access in humanitarian settings, citing restricted funding cycles and fragmented collaboration efforts as key issues. John Burugu, Commissioner for Refugee Affairs of the Government of Kenya spoke about why providing displaced people with access to modern renewable energy sources is crucial to preventing environmental degradation and enhancing resilience in parts to the country which are already experiencing climate change.

GPA Inclusivity Advisor Joelle Hangi then led a high-level discussion on progress, challenges and the vision for humanitarian energy through 2030, which included panellists representing the humanitarian agency, development agency, and host government perspectives. Ted Lawrence, Deputy Coordinator of USAID’s Power Africa programme highlighted the reality that many displaced people are unlikely to go back to where they came from. As such, “looking for a pathway for these people to become part of the local economy” is crucial, and energy access, particularly for productive use, is a key part of this.

Mulualem Desta, Deputy Director General for Refugee and Returnees Services for the Government of Ethiopia, then elaborated on the steps that Ethiopia is taking to provide energy access for displaced people, including by integrating these communities into the country’s national energy plan. He also highlighted that investments in local capacity building and local ownership models are essential to the development of lasting solutions. Echoing the sentiments of her fellow panellists, Nihan Erdogan, Deputy Regional Director for Operations for the IOM, called for creativity and collaboration, particularly between the public and private sectors, to develop and scale sustainable approaches to delivering energy access in humanitarian settings.

Breakout Session Learnings

1 Reducing Emissions and Saving Costs: Advancing Decarbonisation of Energy Infrastructure for Humanitarian Operations

This session brought together representatives from key UN organisations and humanitarian partners to discuss progress on reducing the emissions of humanitarian operations through the transition to renewable energy sources. In addition to the environmental benefits of greening humanitarian operations, clean energy transitions offer significant cost-saving potential. Initial estimates project that widescale energy transitions could save humanitarian operators \$70 million per year in fuel costs while avoiding 126,000 tCO₂e.³ Renewable energy used to supply humanitarian operations, as through solar mini grids, can also serve as the anchor load that enables the extension of electricity access to displaced communities.



Reducing Emissions and Saving Costs: Advancing Decarbonisation of Energy Infrastructure for Humanitarian Operations session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Data collection to inform a better understanding of humanitarian energy profiles, access to funding, and the establishment of public-private partnerships were identified as key needs. Panellists also highlighted that, to bring in private sector partners, it will be essential to de-risk investments and bundle procurement of energy services to make the solarisation of remote humanitarian sites economically viable and achieve economies of scale. Other emerging sources of funding, such as climate finance and [Peace Renewable Energy Credits \(P-RECs\)](#) can be used to unlock up-front capital or create additional revenue streams for

³ [UNITAR \(2023\). Estimating the Use of Diesel Generators in Displacement Settings.](#)

projects, respectively. Lessons learned from dedicated technical assistance programmes and funds, such as UNHCR's [Green Financing Facility](#) and the [Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) delivered by UNITAR, UNDP, and NORCAP were shared, emphasising the challenges and learnings of setting up de-risking facilities within the UN.

Audience members also called for greater collaboration with African energy access companies that have been innovating around energy access challenges for decades and are best positioned to carry forward work on small-scale solar energy projects. The session concluded with the announcement of an interagency taskforce on decarbonising humanitarian energy hosted by the GPA, the Sustainable UN Facility, and Greening the Blue to coordinate and mobilise efforts within the humanitarian-peacebuilding nexus.

Concrete Action Point: *The GPA and Greening the Blue will manage the Inter-Agency Taskforce for Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy Supply. Wider partners in the humanitarian energy sector are invited to contact energy@unitar.org if interested to join.*

2 Community-Led Energy in Displacement Settings: Investing in Locally and Refugee-Led Businesses

This session showcased the role of refugee and community-led businesses in not only supplying energy but also creating jobs and protecting the environment in displaced communities. Representatives from eight refugee-led entities shared their experiences and challenges faced while delivering clean energy within refugee settings. Through the roundtable discussion, access to finance, product affordability, regulatory barriers, and limited exposure to networking and partnership opportunities were identified as key roadblocks to scaling refugee-led businesses. While these challenges are commonly experienced by off-grid energy companies, the barriers are often higher for refugee-led businesses, who face challenges such as mobility restrictions, lower purchasing power among their target customers, and difficulty navigating host government bureaucracies.

The session honed in on concrete steps the humanitarian energy community can take to support refugee and community-led businesses, including the development of dedicated funds and incentives tailored to their financial needs, greater advocacy for policy reforms, and the establishment of networks to connect refugee-led enterprises with support from investors and established energy businesses. The Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access programme managed by Mercy Corps is one example of a programme aiming to mobilise funding and financing for refugee-led businesses. Further information on the needs of these businesses and calls for support can be found in the [session summary blogpost](#).

Concrete Action Point: *Energy access partners supporting the development of local energy enterprises will work with humanitarian energy partners to include refugee-led businesses and organisations in their support programmes.*



Green at Mind



Clean cookstoves



Turkana County, Kenya



Friends of Nature



Clean cooking fuel production



Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya



Okapi Green



Solar mini-grid operation and training



Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya



Solar Freeze



Solar cold storage and training



Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya



Live in Green



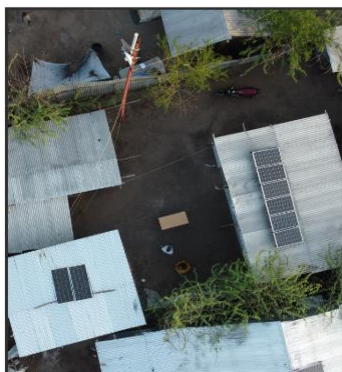
Improved cookstoves



Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, Uganda



Kakuma Ventures



Solar electricity and digital connectivity



Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya



Fena Solar



Solar lighting and cooking



Uganda

3 Energy Enablers: Powering Healthcare Facilities and Productive Uses of Renewable Energy (PURE)

This session explored the role energy plays in enabling access to services that enhance safety and security, improve livelihoods, and foster sustainable development. A first fishbowl discussion round focused on the role of electrification in improving healthcare access in displaced communities. Panellists from the WHO, UNHCR Pakistan, SEforALL, and the World Resources Institute engaged in conversation with one another as well as audience members about challenges and next steps in expanding healthcare electrification.



Energy Enablers: Powering Healthcare Facilities and Productive Uses of Energy session at HEC2024 ©UNITAR/ GPA-CU

Participants emphasised the need for greater collaboration between energy and healthcare practitioners to direct system design and ensure that solutions developed are sufficient to power real healthcare impact. It was concluded that at the funding level, a shift is needed in the thinking of donors, investors, and government partners toward supporting projects that aim to provide reliable energy services, including adequate operations and maintenance (O&M) planning to ensure sustained delivery over the long term. A forthcoming report from the GPA and NORCAP titled “The Landscape and Case Studies of Electrification in Humanitarian Healthcare in Sub-Saharan Africa” will further unpack challenges and opportunities around healthcare electrification in humanitarian settings.

In a second fishbowl discussion, panellists from the Centre on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, SNV, and Energy Saving Trust dove into the challenges of developing market-based approaches to deploying productive use technologies in displacement settings. The participants identified key challenges on both the supply and demand side, as well as potential solutions. On the supply side, companies lack access to financial resources for purchasing stock and scaling. Speakers stressed the importance of carefully assessing business model sustainability to avoid the risk of stranded assets. There were calls for donors to understand and develop tailored solutions to meet businesses' diverse financing needs, including by allocating more funding to scale up proven solutions. On the demand side, customers often lack awareness of productive use appliances available, potential cost savings, and how to grow their businesses. Participants also noted the importance of integrating development in host communities into planning with the aim of creating market linkages that can sustain businesses over the long term. It was highlighted that development partners have an important role to play in identifying customer needs and preferences as well as stimulating demand via awareness and technical training campaigns.

Concrete Action Point: *Humanitarian energy practitioners will involve healthcare and livelihood practitioners in data-driven project planning to ensure that the energy services provided are adequate to power healthcare and business needs over the long term.*

4 Transformative Clean Cooking: Sustainable Delivery Models

This session featured presentations of several projects and an in-depth discussion of strategies for designing more holistic and sustainable approaches to delivering clean cooking solutions in humanitarian settings. Presenters highlighted several cross-cutting challenges, such as policy and regulatory barriers, supply chain difficulties due to infrastructural issues, and limited private sector presence in certain regions. They also noted perceived cost and safety risks of using certain cooking technologies, limited awareness of the benefits of clean cooking, high product costs, short project timeframes, political instability, and security concerns as prevalent issues.

One common theme highlighted was the need for a deep understanding of the behaviour and the context of target customers when designing interventions. Working with local companies and partners, including the target communities themselves, can support this, as well as enhance project sustainability and scalability. It is crucial to provide significant support to host and local communities as well to minimise conflicts. Most of the presenters also stressed that it is important to recognise that fuel and technology stacking will remain prevalent in the process of transitioning to cleaner cooking solutions. Ultimately, a cleaner cooking stack might be the most viable medium-term ambition.



Transformative Clean Cooking: Sustainable Delivery Models session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Access to funding and financing for private sector providers of clean cooking solutions, was also identified as a main challenge in the sector. Supporting retailers by involving them in planning; offering training and technical support; and providing commissions, tax incentives, and other financial aid is essential. It is also necessary to develop and implement sustainable demand-side subsidies that are scalable and tailored to the target population's context. Customer eligibility screenings were identified as a crucial tool for designing subsidy schemes that ensure affordability for vulnerable customers while reducing the risk of market distortions. There are also ample opportunities to adapt and utilise models that have already been developed in selected countries and contexts. Blended and carbon finance were highlighted as promising financing mechanisms for clean cooking projects, though there are many barriers to deploying such mechanisms, especially in humanitarian settings.

Concrete Action Point: *Development and humanitarian partners will work together to provide technical and financial support to retailers directly, as well as to grow total addressable market through the development of demand-side subsidies and demand stimulation activities.*

5 Making Energy Markets Affordable in Displacement Settings: Experiences with Subsidies and Other Financial Interventions

This session kicked off by acknowledging the recent evolution within discussions on SDG 7 from expecting the private sector to deliver solutions to solve the energy access gap, to designing business models that enable market-based energy access through smart subsidies. Panellists recognised some emerging successes of smart subsidy programmes and financial interventions, such as [EnDev's Demand Side Subsidy programme](#) and the [World Bank's Electricity Access Scale Up Project](#), which have enabled displaced people and host communities to pay for energy at affordable prices. Several speakers underlined the

risks of potential market distortions through subsidy schemes, the continuous need to coordinate across implementers to ensure coherent market development, and the importance of tailoring subsidies to specific local contexts based on accurate data inputs. GOGLA's Leaving No-One Behind (LNOB) working group and the [End-User Subsidy Lab](#) run by GOGLA, EnDev, ESMAP, and the Clean Cooking Alliance were highlighted as useful hubs for partners to share learnings from effective subsidy design in humanitarian contexts, such as the [Subsidy Design Toolkit](#) highlighted by RVO during the panel discussion.



Making Energy Markets Affordable in Displacement Settings: Experiences with Subsidies and Other Financial Interventions session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Participants discussed other important barriers to the broader use of market-based approaches that sector stakeholders can work together to collectively address. In particular, the need for effective credit risk management tools was identified as necessary for ensuring the long-term financial health of energy product and service distributors and reducing their costs over time. Panellists also agreed on the need to advocate to national and local governments on key policies – including freedom of movement and the right to work for refugees – that can create a better enabling environment and enhance the purchasing power of customers in displacement contexts.

Concrete Action Point: *The GPA Coordination Unit and partners will work together to consolidate learnings on end-user subsidies and innovative financing mechanisms in humanitarian contexts. Humanitarian partners should join the GOGLA-hosted LNOB working group to sync with the stakeholders in the off-grid energy sector working on this topic.*

6 Delivering Energy Access in Urban and IDP Settings

The breakout session opened with the presentation of two case studies on the successful implementation of market-based energy delivery approaches by the IOM for IDPs in Mozambique and urban displaced communities in Somalia. The presentations demonstrated the ways that engaging local public and private stakeholders in a co-creative design process can enhance the impact and long-term sustainability of projects.



From Crisis to Development: Mainstreaming Energy in Humanitarian Clusters session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

This was followed by a discussion between expert panellists and audience members. In urban contexts, simultaneously addressing host community energy needs is essential for encouraging the acceptance of displaced groups. It was concluded that public-private partnerships between municipal government entities and local companies have potential to contribute to faster and more inclusive delivery of electricity services for both urban displaced and host communities. Including the voices of displaced and host communities as well as consulting with private sector partners during the planning and procurement phases of energy access projects can support the design of more sustainable and holistic projects.

Concrete Action Point: *Partners will engage community stakeholders, including local authorities, to develop energy solutions that not only supply energy to displaced people but also contribute to the development goals and needs of host communities.*

7 Public-Private Partnerships: Business Models and Financing for Electrification at Scale

This session sought to unpack and showcase the learnings from public-private partnerships (PPPs) which have succeeded in delivering sustainable, affordable energy access to displaced communities through blended financing approaches. An opening presentation from GET.Invest highlighted key technical and financial challenges to PPP development. In particular, all projects require some portion of grant funding, while its availability is limited. Investors also perceive the sector as risky and potentially unviable. There is a need too for donors, investors, and partners to develop financing solutions tailored to the different business models and scaling potential of larger international and smaller local businesses.



Making Energy Markets Affordable in Displacement Settings: Experiences with Subsidies and Other Financial Interventions session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Partners implementing PPPs in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia unpacked their business models and identified common drivers of success, which include tailoring partnership models and financing to fit the country context and the scaling potential of the energy business. In Somalia, the IOM partnered with the local utility and Baidoa municipality to develop a hybrid solar mini grid in the Barwaaqo IDP settlement. A results based financing model was used to de-risk the project for funders, and the [Peace Renewable Energy Credits](#) accreditation enables an additional revenue stream for the project.



Public-Private Partnerships: Business Models and Financing for Electrification at Scale session at HEC2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

In Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, [Renewvia](#) and GIZ partnered to deliver a 500 kWp solar mini-grid serving 3,000 homes and businesses through an initial subsidy which lowered the upfront capital costs so that refugee households could afford the electricity, purchased through a pre-paid metering system. Renewvia aims to expand to 2.4 MW capacity and reach 19,000 homes through a blended finance model that combines grant funding, debt, and equity. In Sheder, Ethiopia, Mercy Corps and Rensys Engineering invested in [Humanitarian Energy PLC](#), which is delivering the first fully commercially viable solar mini-grid in a refugee camp serving over 20,000 people.

Overall, the effective integration of subsidies into PPPs was noted as an area where trialling and further learning is needed. Several panellists also emphasised the importance of aligning project impacts with government partners' development plans to ensure buy-in and long-term sustainability. Capacity building and business support for refugee entrepreneurs is also essential to their success, as these entrepreneurs have a key role to play in building companies that will meet local energy needs.

Concrete Action Point: *Partners will work together on codifying the operational PPPs in displacement settings to use as advocacy and reference points for donors, investors, the private sector, and humanitarian/development partners.*

8 Resilient Futures: Linking Clean Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings to Climate Adaptation

In this session, panellists first identified the ways that energy can support adaptation, by enabling access to information during emergencies, strengthening food and agricultural

supply chains, and complementing afforestation and environmental conservation activities. While the situation is starting to change, at present, energy is rarely included in country National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), is given limited consideration by climate funds focused on adaptation, and is often overlooked in the development of community-level adaptation programmes. The panellists identified a number of ways to address these issues, including developing case studies and a value proposition demonstrating the role of energy access in supporting the adaptation of displaced and host communities. Continued advocacy for the inclusion of energy access in NAPs and project criteria for climate adaptation funds is also essential. Panellists highlighted the importance of humanitarian partners both using models and consulting directly with displaced communities to understand the impacts of climate change they are experiencing, then co-creating plans that leverage energy access to support adaptation needs.

Concrete Action Point: *Humanitarian energy partners will work together to conduct research and build evidence for how energy access in humanitarian contexts contributes to wider climate adaptation goals and aims. This research and evidence can then be used to link energy access to the work of wider climate adaptation policies, funds, and programmes.*

9 From Crisis to Development: Mainstreaming Energy in Humanitarian Clusters

This session saw expert panellists and audience members engage in a lively debate about the most effective ways to incorporate energy planning into the humanitarian system. Fragmented approaches, a lack of funding, the scarcity of reliable, up-to-date data on energy needs and implemented solutions, competing needs in the humanitarian response, and a failure to understand and prioritise the enabling role of energy access were identified as key barriers to its integration into wider development planning. Some speakers supported the idea of creating a new humanitarian cluster dedicated to energy. Others suggested that because energy is a cross-cutting issue, the emphasis should instead be on increased coordination among cluster leads within a humanitarian response to facilitate joint procurement of energy services, and eventual transitions to longer-term approaches after initial emergency response phases. Speakers also emphasised the need for procurement reform and particularly a transition away from least-cost procurement and toward more innovative models co-designed with private sector players in order to effectively incentivise participation from clean energy companies.

Concrete Action Point: *Humanitarian energy partners will coordinate with each other and the private sector on joint procurement of energy services in humanitarian settings and developing innovation-friendly procurement models.*

Closing remarks

The day concluded with a return to the plenary hall, where a diverse range of experts who attended the conference was asked to share impromptu reflections on the day. Rafaella Bellanca, Senior Energy Advisor at WFP emphasised that to unlock the full enabling potential of energy access, the sector must use data and effectively demonstrate energy's

health, education, economic development, and climate adaptation impacts to potential partners in these sectors. Luc Severi, Programme Manager of Powering Healthcare at SEforALL emphasised the need for cross-sector and cross-agency collaboration in order to achieve SDG 7 for displaced communities, stating that the sector should embrace the age-old proverb “to go fast, go alone; to go further, go together.” Nina Meyer Stensholt, Director of Innovation and Business Development for NORCAP, echoed these sentiments, emphasising the need to develop financing arrangements that encourage holistic approaches to tackling energy access, humanitarian aid, and development.

Jolanda van Ginkel, Head of the Renewable Energy Portfolio at the IKEA Foundation noted the encouraging increase in people with lived experience of displacement in attendance at the third HEC and called on participants to continue thinking about how they can do more to include displaced people in their work. Epa Ndahimana, Humanitarian Energy Advisor, echoed this need for inclusion, calling for dedicated funding to support refugee-led businesses and organisations.



Per Heggnes, Special Advisor on Energy and Economic Development, UNHCR © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Per Heggnes, Special Advisor on Energy and Economic Development at UNHCR, then gave closing remarks in which he highlighted that access to energy is the basis for economic development. He called for the sector to design workable business models that enable displaced communities to build livelihoods and then develop the energy services needed to realise these models. Finally, Alexander Fierley, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Nairobi concluded the conference with a call for the participants to channel the day’s momentum into new action and partnerships.

The State of the Humanitarian Energy Sector & The Way Forward

Over the course of the conference, the speeches, conversations and reflections contributed to the identification of six key trends that are shaping the humanitarian energy sector going forward. Some of these trends represent headwinds, while others threaten to derail the progress of recent years. All of these trends present opportunities to forge new partnerships and develop innovative solutions for delivering energy access in displacement settings. Recommendations on how the humanitarian energy community can build on each trend are provided below:

Trend 1: A growing focus on the inclusion of displaced people’s voices in decision-making and energy delivery. Humanitarian energy partners are recognising the need to not only include displaced people and host communities in discussions but empower them to lead the development of effective solutions. The sector is also coming to understand that community entrepreneurs are in the best position to develop energy interventions that are culturally appropriate for their communities and that improve the environment and create livelihood opportunities for their neighbours. A number of partners have begun centering displaced people’s voices and business in their work, such as Ashden, Last Mile Climate, Merch Corps through its Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access programme.

- **Recommendation:** Donors and investors should do more to support refugee and local entrepreneurs by allocating dedicated funding and providing technical and business support. Humanitarian partners must continue working to co-create energy delivery models with displaced and host community partners.

Trend 2: Growing evidence for the effectiveness of public-private partnerships and innovative financing approaches. Partners including GIZ, Mercy Corps, and IOM have pioneered public-private partnerships to deploy solar mini-grids in refugee and displacement settings. Their success demonstrates the viability of using PPP models and innovative financing approaches to decrease reliance on humanitarian funding for procurement of energy services as well as to enhance the sustainability and quality of services delivered.

- **Recommendation:** The sector should continue studying and piloting PPP models for delivery energy. At the same time, donors and investors should increase the amount of funding and financing available to scale identified solutions through tailored blended finance models.

Trend 3: Waning attention on clean energy programming in an environment of funding cuts. Representatives of multiple humanitarian organisations emphasised that UN agencies are reducing their humanitarian energy programming as they focus on delivering core mandates with reduced funding.

- **Recommendation:** The humanitarian energy sector must intentionally develop stronger partnerships and engage in more fundraising efforts, particularly by engaging non-traditional partners in the space. This can include building the case for the economic and security benefits of enabling development for people in protracted situations of displacement.

Trend 4: Long-term energy programmes shifting or ending. Long-term funding and technical assistance programmes are essential to success in the complex process of building energy markets in displacement settings. Yet multiple long-term energy programmes in humanitarian contexts are ending or shifting strategy.

- **Recommendation:** Effective advocacy is more essential than ever, and humanitarian partners must continue to call for access to long-term funding programmes to support the sustainable delivery of energy services in humanitarian settings.

Trend 5: Promising and inclusive policy signals at the country level. Through the ongoing advocacy stimulated by the Global Compact for Refugees and Migrants and associated bilateral technical support programmes on humanitarian energy, multiple governments have included refugees in their national and local energy policies, including Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

- **Recommendation:** The international community should continue driving progress by ensuring that refugee-hosting governments have the capacity to implement and realise the policies in practice. The GPA Coordination Unit's advocacy and host country engagement work, and the Global Refugee Forums offer spaces for ongoing follow up.

Trend 6: Growing attention on the interrelationship between clean energy access and broader climate goals. Delivery of clean energy in humanitarian contexts contributes to climate adaptation and mitigation in communities, as well as to the climate goals of humanitarian stakeholders. Multiple climate action initiatives, including the Climate and Environment Charter, Climate Action Accelerator, and others have emerged to increase action on climate goals within humanitarian contexts.

- **Recommendation:** The sector must continue to build the evidence base and practical linkages to integrate energy solutions into climate adaptation strategies, ensuring energy access for food security, environmental conservation, and emergency response.



The GPA Coordination Unit at the Humanitarian Energy Conference 2024 © UNITAR / GPA-CU

Annex: List of Speakers & Session Reference Materials

High-level Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Session Snapshot
Session Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc5ai_VEyr4
Moderator: Joelle Hangi, Inclusivity Advisor, GPA Coordination Unit
Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Gibson, Team Lead, GPA Coordination Unit • Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action, Government of Germany • Riad Meddeb, Director, Sustainable Energy Hub, UNDP • John Burugu, Commissioner for Refugee Affairs, Government of Kenya • Mamadou Dian Balde, Director for the Regional Bureau of the East, Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes, UNHCR • Joelle Hangi, Inclusivity Lead, GPA Coordination Unit • High-Level Panel on Progress, Challenges and Vision for Humanitarian Energy in 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muluaem Desta, Deputy Director General, Refugees and Returnees Services, Ethiopia • Nihan Erdogan, Deputy Regional Director for Operations, IOM • Ted Lawrence, Deputy Coordinator, Power Africa
Reference Material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement: Framework for Action • GPA Inclusivity Strategic Outlook • The State of the Humanitarian Energy Sector 2022

Breakout Sessions

1 Reducing Emissions and Saving Costs: Advancing Decarbonisation of Energy Infrastructure for Humanitarian Operations

Session Snapshot
Session Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc5ai_VEyr4
Facilitator: Adrian Taylor, HEC Lead Facilitator, 4sing GmbH
Moderator: Yanal Al-Madanat, Decarbonisation Lead, GPA Coordination Unit & NORCAP Energy Expert
Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Gibson, Team Lead, GPA Coordination Unit & NORCAP Energy Expert

- Betty Nutokha, Regional Energy Expert for East and Southern Africa, NRC
- Bogi Hojgaard, ZE-Gen Programme Lead, The Carbon Trust
- Cleo Forster, Project Coordinator for the Green Finance Facility, UNHCR
- Linda Wamune, Programme Director, Energy Peace Partner
- Maria Knodt, Energy Access Advisor, UNDP

Reference Material:

- [Webinar Series on Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy Infrastructure](#)
- [Four Ways to Accelerate Solar-Powered Electrification in Humanitarian Settings](#)
- [Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy – A Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Solarising Humanitarian Infrastructure at Scale](#)
- [Identification and Analysis of Standard Clauses of PPA and Leasing Agreements for Energy Provision in the Humanitarian Sector](#)
- [Feasibility and Applicability of a Global Guarantee Mechanism in Humanitarian Energy Contracts](#)
- [Estimating the Use of Diesel Generators in Displacement Settings: Preliminary Results and Recommendations for a Solarisation Programme](#)

2 Community-Led Energy in Displacement Settings: Investing in Locally and Refugee-Led Businesses

Session Snapshot

Session recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXwAZjR0EM8>

Moderators:

- Joelle Hangi, Inclusivity Advisor, GPA Coordination Unit
- Nyayow Deng Chuol, Executive Assistant, Afritise Company Limited

Speakers:

- **Opening Remarks:**
 - Andhira Kara, Researcher, Ashden
- **Expert Commentators:**
 - Bisimwa Mulemangabo, Advisor, Refugee-Led Research Hub at University of Oxford
 - Temesgen Futsumbrhan Gebrehiwet, Academy Associate, Chatham House Environment and Society Centre
- **Clean Cooking and Environment Restoration Entrepreneurs:**
 - Bajirenge Pascal Blaise, Founder, Friends of Nature
 - Marcelin Munga Petro, Founder & CEO, Farming and Health Education
 - Solomon Bhaghabhonerano, Executive Director, Live in Green
 - Vincent Ubeling, Founder, Green at Mind
- **Renewables Energy and Associated Services Entrepreneurs:**
 - Harriet Nongoola, CEO, Fena Solar
 - Moise Byachiboneka, Lead IT Support, Kakuma Ventures
 - Vasco Amisi, CEO, Okapi Green Energy
 - Pascal Zigashane, Solar Freeze

Reference Material:

- [The Failure to Fund Refugee-Led Organisations](#)

- [GPA Inclusivity Strategic Outlook](#)

3 Energy Enablers: Powering Healthcare Facilities and Productive Uses of Renewable Energy

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvb9ILRDjNA>

Moderators:

- Salvatore Vinci, Technical Lead for Healthcare Facilities Electrification, WHO
- Vivek Shastri, Senior Research Associate, Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University

Speakers:

- Concepta Ojwang, Programme Assistant Powering Healthcare, SEforALL
- Tanvir Ahmad, Energy Officer, UNHCR Pakistan
- Jakub Vrba, Senior Research Lead, Energy Savings Trust
- John Njogu, Project Advisor, SNV
- Robert Mutalindwa, Market & PUE Specialist, Practical Action Rwanda
- Dheeraj Kumar Gupta, Programme Manager, World Resources Institute

Reference Material:

- [Decarbonizing Healthcare to improve Service Delivery and Reduce Emissions in India](#)
- [Energy Access Explorer](#)
- [Exploring Synergies Between Health Care and Energy in India](#)
- [The Status of Mini-Grids in Rural India](#)

4 Transformative Clean Cooking: Sustainable Delivery Models

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc5ai_VEyr4

Moderators:

- Suzanna Huber, Climate, Energy and Water Advisor, WFP Regional East Africa Bureau
- Laura Clough, Global Technical Advisor for Clean Cooking, SNV

Speakers:

- Olivia de Vesci, Advisor, EnDev/GIZ
- Yvette Ingabire, Advisor, EnDev/GIZ Rwanda
- Emma Wheeler, Energy Advisor, NORCAP
- Beryl Onjala, Research Associate, Gamos East Africa/MECS
- Moustafa Sowou, Energy Access Advisor, Mercy Corps
- Simon la Cour, CEO and Co-Founder, Pesitho & ECOCA East Africa
- John Njogu, Project Advisor, SNV
- Emmanuel Odayotoo, Technical Advisor Clean Cooking, Private Sector Foundation Uganda

- Simon Marot Touloung, Energy Officer, Energy Officer, Last Mile Climate & Team Lead at African Youth Action Network
- David Ereng, Energy and Environment Officer, Department of Refugee Services Kenya
- Dawit Tibebe Kumilachew, Director, Ethiopian Clean Cooking Alliance
- Andrea Blanco Toro, Regional Energy Advisor, WFP
- Alain Patience Niyibizi, Results-Based Financing for Refugees Project Coordinator, Practical Action
- Geoffrey Ndegwa, Food Security Advisor, WFP

Reference Material:

- [Breaking Barriers: Improving Access to Clean Cooking in Displacement Settings](#)
- [Clean and Modern Energy for Cooking: A Path to Food Security and Sustainable Development](#)
- [Funding and Delivery Models for Modern Energy Cooking Services in Displacement Settings: A Review](#)
- [Landscape Analysis of Modern Energy Cooking in Displacement Settings](#)
- [The State of Cooking Energy Access in Schools: Insights from an Exploratory Study](#)

5 Making Energy Markets Affordable in Displacement Settings: Experiences with Subsidies and Other Financial Interventions

Session Snapshot

Session recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXwAZjR0EM8>

Moderator: Mattia Vianello, Head of Energy, Practical Action

Speakers:

- Rebecca Rhodes, Senior Strategy and Programme Manager, GOGLA
- Andrea Arricale, Energy Specialist Consultant, The World Bank
- Myrte van der Spek, Programme Advisor EnDev, RVO
- Richard Dusabe, CEO, ReNewGen Burundi
- Samuel Oyaku, Energy Advisor, GIZ Uganda

Reference Material:

- [Toolkit: Designing Responsible End-User Subsidies for Energy Access](#)
- [Learning Brief: Consumer Protection in Displacement Settings, IOM and GOGLA](#)
- [Webinar: Designing Subsidies to Prioritize the Most Vulnerable](#)
- [World Bank Publication: Energy Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Hosting Communities – Closing the Financing Gap](#)
- [GOGLA, ESMAP/Lighting Global, EnDev and Clean Cooking Alliance: Webpage on the End-User Subsidy Lab](#)
- [Energizing Development – Overview of Demand Side Subsidies Work](#)
- [Energy and Extreme Poverty - Practical Action's work on Enabling Market-Based Energy Access](#)

6 Delivering Energy Access in Urban and IDP Settings

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvb9ILRDjNA>

Moderator: Bisimwa Mulemangabo, Advisor, Refugee-Led Research Hub at University of Oxford

Speakers:

- Richard Morison, Power Technical Specialist, IOM Somalia
- Zelda Kerubo, Regional Coordinator Africa, World Green Building Council
- Phanice Ombati, Urban Energy Officer, NORCAP & UN-Habitat
- Anaïs Matthey-Junod, Project Officer Environmental Sustainability, IOM

Reference Material:

- [2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement](#)
- [UNHCR Guidance for Responding to Displacement in Urban Areas](#)
- [Urban Transitions: Clean Energy in Urban Recovery](#)

7 Public-Private Partnerships: Business Models and Financing for Electrification at Scale

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc5ai_VEyr4

Moderator: Cecilia Ragazzi, Director of Energy Access, Mercy Corps

Speakers:

- Mark Hankins, Advisor, GET.invest Finance Catalyst
- Andrea Ranzanici, Business Development Advisor, Humanitarian Energy Plc
- Wilkista Akinyi, Energy Specialist, GIZ Kenya
- Douglas Cox, Director of African Project Development, Renewvia
- Sedania Gebre, Sector Transaction Advisor, RTI International
- Richard Morison, Energy Specialist, IOM
- Vasco Amisi, CEO, Okapi Green
- Linda Wamune, Programme Director, Energy Peace Partners
- Emmanuel Aziebor, Enter Energy Programme Manager, Mercy Corps
- Abdullahi Ali Watiin, Mayor of Baidoa Somalia

Reference Material:

- [Blended Finance Solutions for Clean Energy in Humanitarian and Displacement Settings](#)
- [Clean Power Generation: The Case of Renewvia Energy](#)
- [Enter Energy: Inclusive Energy Markets in Humanitarian Communities](#)
- [HumEn: The Partner of Choice for Humanitarian Energy](#)
- [Renewvia Energy Kenya - Proposal: Full Electrification of Kakuma and Dadaab Refugee Camps](#)

8 Resilient Futures: Linking Clean Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings to Climate Adaptation

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXwAZiROEM8>

Moderator: Temesgen Gebrehiwet, Academy Associate, Chatham House Environment and Society Centre

Speakers:

- Thomas Stevenson, Energy and Climate Officer, Practical Action
- Amadou Diallo, Energy and Environment Expert, UNHCR Chad
- Purity Kendi Gituma, Energy Access Advisor, Mercy Corps & NORCAP
- Suzanna Huber, Climate, Energy and Water Advisor, World Food Programme Regional East Africa Bureau
- Ayoo Irene Hellen, Partnership Officer, Last Mile Climate

Reference Material:

- [Policy Brief: Integrating Displaced Communities into National Climate Change Planning](#)
- [Adaptation and Resilience in the Face of Climate Disasters in Mozambique: The Role of Solar and Off-Grid Energy Access](#)
- [Powering Progress: Market Creation Strategies for Solar E-Cooking Technologies in Off-Grid and Displaced Communities](#)
- [Understanding the Links Between Climate Adaptation and Energy Access](#)
- [WFP Climate Resilient Investment Pipeline](#)

9 From Crisis to Development: Mainstreaming Energy in Humanitarian Clusters

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvb9ILRDjNA>

Moderator: Luc Severi, Head of Energy Access, SEforALL

Speakers:

- Sergio Rivero, Energy & Environment Programme Officer, FAO & UNHCR Regional Offices for East Africa
- Ray Gorman, Business Development Director, Differ Community Power
- Elena Fumagalli, Assistant Professor, University of Utrecht
- Nicole Silvy Bouris, Independent Energy Access Consultant
- Kullein Ankunda, Learning Specialist, U-Learn Uganda

Reference Material:

- [Clean Energy Access Tool for Mapping Energy Needs in Refugee Settlement: Africa Knowledge Platform](#)
- [A Case Study of the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh](#)
- [Rohingya Refugee Response Bangladesh Energy and Environment Network](#)
- [Uganda Energy Products Providers Mapping](#)

- [Venezuela Shelter, Energy and NFI Cluster Dashboard](#)

Closing Remarks

Session Snapshot

Session Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc5ai_VEyr4

Spontaneous reflections:

- Epa Ndahimana, Independent Humanitarian Energy Consultant
- Raffaella Bellanca, Senior Energy Advisor, WFP
- Jolanda van Ginkel, Head of Portfolio – Renewable Energy, IKEA Foundation
- Luc Severi, Programme Manager for Powering Healthcare, SEforALL
- Nina Meyer Stensholt, Director of Innovation and Business Development, NORCAP
- Peter Scott, CEO, BURN Manufacturing

Closing remarks:

- Alexander Fierley, Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy Nairobi
- Per Heggenes, Special Advisor on Energy and Economic Development, UNHCR

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