

## Terms of Reference – Independent Evaluation of the GPA

**Vacancy Type:** Consultant

**Deadline for applications:** 26 January 2025

**Indicative Start Date:** 17 February 2025

**Duration of the contract:** 3 months

**Duty station:** Geneva or Remote (homebased)

**Division/Programme Unit:** Peacekeeping Training Programme Unit (PTPU)

**Project title:** Global Platform for Action for Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA)

**Area of Specialization/Thematic Areas:** Monitoring and Evaluation, Organisational change, Strategy, Foresight, Humanitarian and Development Fields

### **Overview:**

The Global Platform for Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (GPA) was established to enable increased access to sustainable energy solutions in displacement settings. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 7, the GPA is guided by the vision that: “every person affected by conflict or natural disaster has access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services by 2030.” Its mission is to equip all stakeholders with the capacity to mainstream sustainable energy solutions into programming and implementation, with the goal of delivering improved protection, dignity, and energy related social, environmental, and economic benefits to displaced people.

The GPA is contributing through five thematic working areas that address current challenges and barriers to achieving access to sustainable energy for displaced people, namely: coordination and planning, policy and advocacy, innovative financing, technical expertise and capacity building, and data. The process is guided by a steering group consisting of members from the UNITAR, UNHCR, IOM, GIZ, WFP, FAO, Chatham House, Practical Action, UNEP, UNDP, Clean Cooking Alliance, Mercy Corps, Sustainable Energy for All, SNV, NORCAP, and MECS. The Coordination Unit of the GPA is housed at UNITAR, within the Peacekeeping Training Programme Unit (PTPU).

The GPA was established in 2018 and is now in the process of analysing the next phase of delivery from the 2025-2030 period. This consultancy is to critically evaluate the impact of the GPA Support Structure (e.g. Coordination Unit, Steering Group and partners), assess current ways of working, and suggest recommendations for improvement. By using mixed methods including desk research, interviews and surveys, the consultant will produce an evaluation report and strategic recommendations through the assessment of:

1. **Relevance:** Is the GPA's mandate and strategy aligned with the energy access needs of displaced populations and the enables partners to achieve the global energy access agenda in humanitarian contexts?;

2. Effectiveness: How well is the GPA achieving its intended outcomes and objectives?;
3. Efficiency: Are resources being used optimally to deliver results?;
4. Impact: What changes have occurred due to the GPA's (i.e. both Steering Group and Coordination Unit) interventions?; and
5. Sustainability: Are the results likely to be sustained beyond the immediate timespan of the impact?

**General objectives of the contract:** The Consultant will conduct an independent evaluation of the impact of the GPA, its structure, process, activities and outcomes. The consultant will deliver a detailed evaluation report including actionable strategic recommendations.

### **Responsibilities/description of professional services:**

#### **1. Evaluate the GPA's Mandate and Strategy.**

- Analyse alignment of the [GPA Framework](#) with global frameworks (e.g., SDG 7, Global Compact on Refugees, Climate and Environment Charter, UN Sustainability Strategy, etc).
- Assess clarity and coherence of the GPA's mission, vision, and strategic objectives.
- Evaluate the adaptability of the strategy – changing needs, new initiatives, stakeholders coming into play, etc.
- Assess GPA Coordination Unit's geographic level of engagement (e.g. engagement at global, regional, national, local levels) and provide recommendations on way forward in terms of geographic scope of GPA Coordination Unit engagement.

#### **2. Evaluate the GPA Coordination Unit's performance and partnerships.**

- Review the GPA Coordination Unit's impact in 5 GPA Thematic Areas (Coordination, Policy/Advocacy, Innovative Finance, Capacity Building and Data).
- Review and assess the impact, relevance of the GPA Coordination Unit's flagship programmes to the overall GPA Coordination Unit mandate and wider needs within the humanitarian energy sector (READS, THEA, DHE, EDM, etc.).
- Evaluate how the GPA Coordination Unit partners with different groups of stakeholders, and the effectiveness, impact and inclusivity of existing partnerships.
- Assess the extent to which the GPA has advanced the agenda for promoting and deploying sustainable energy access solutions (e.g., clean cooking and electricity access for communities, solar for decarbonisation, innovative financing models).

#### **3. Evaluate the GPA Coordination Unit's Leadership and the GPA Governance mechanisms.**

- Examine the governance structure and decision-making processes of the GPA Coordination Unit and Steering Group, including review and feedback of the GPA TOR by key partners.
- Evaluate the current composition of the GPA Steering Group and provide recommendations on how to further professionalise the Steering Group.
- Evaluate the GPA Support Structures' (e.g. Coordination Unit and Steering Group as a whole) processes for engaging with key stakeholders such as donors, members states, private sector and displacement affected communities.
- Assess the GPA Coordination Unit's role in facilitating the GPA and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation.

- Assess the need for a 5-year collective Humanitarian Energy strategic plan or roadmap, aligned with SDG7 efforts until 2030. If the need emerges, provide high-level recommendations on how to deliver such plan.

#### **4. Review the GPA Coordination Unit's approaches to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Resource Mobilisation, and Inclusivity.**

- Review the GPA Coordination Unit's funding model and financial sustainability.
- Review the GPA Coordination Unit's support to Partnerships within the Steering Group and Resource Mobilisation for the Steering Group and other sector partners.
- Review the GPA Coordination Unit's hosting arrangement.
- Review the existing MEL frameworks (if in place) and assess the GPA Support Structure (e.g. Coordination Unit and Steering Group as a whole) capacity to use evidence and learning to inform strategy and operations.
- Review the current efforts of the GPA to ensure inclusivity within its work.

#### **Measurable outputs/deliverables/schedule of deliverables:**

- Evaluation report including strategic, operational and policy recommendations to guide the next phase of the GPA Coordination Unit and Steering Group.
- Repository of background information and data collected through surveys, interviews, etc.
- Presentation with key insights, outcomes and recommendations from the evaluation.
- Attendance at the GPA In-Person Steering Group meeting in March 2025 (in-person or online attendance, TBC).
- Set of scenarios for future pathways for the GPA Coordination Unit.

#### **Performance Indicators for evaluation of results:**

- Quality submission of deliverables.
- Activities implemented with a high degree of effectiveness and efficiency, demonstrating a high degree of professionalism of the consultant, and contributing to an increase in the professional image of the Institute.

#### **Required skills and Experience**

##### **Education**

- Advanced university degree at Master's level or equivalent in evaluation, international development, humanitarian action, sustainable energy, international affairs, political science, research, or another field related to the responsibilities.

##### **Experience**

- At least 7 years' demonstrable experience in evaluating strategies, policies, programmes and projects at the international level.
- Experience in conducting evaluations for UN and non-UN international organizations, including, strategy and programme evaluations, change management, theory of change, etc.
- Expertise in qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods; experience of utilizing online methodologies of data collection would be an asset.
- Advanced knowledge of humanitarian action, displacement settings, sustainable energy policies and practices in fragile and conflict-prone locations.
- Understanding of the UN system, the UN evaluation norms and standards is desirable.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality results within strict deadlines.

**Languages:** A high standard in both oral and written English are required. Knowledge of French or another United Nations official language is an asset.

**Application Process:**

Interested candidates must submit the following documents via email to [energy@unitar.org](mailto:energy@unitar.org) by **26 January 2025** with the email subject line, "**Independent Evaluation of the GPA**".

1. A copy of the candidate's updated curriculum vitae (CV).
2. A short cover letter describing how the candidate's skills, qualifications and experience are relevant to the required qualifications of this assignment (maximum 2 pages).
3. Copies of two evaluation reports in which the evaluator has been the sole evaluator/ team leader in the last five years. (Optional)
4. A statement confirming their availability to conduct this assignment, and the professional fee package expressed in US dollars (travel, if required, will be costed separately).