

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS)-Kenya

Support to UNHCR in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (SUN)

By the end of 2018, 70.8 million people had fled their homes worldwide, with the refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate doubling since 2012 from 10.5 million to 20.4 million. Humanitarian-, peace- and development actors need to coordinate closely with each other to provide assistance and protection, and to find sustainable solutions for the large numbers of displaced people globally. Acknowledging this, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) represents the political will and ambition of the international community to strengthen cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host communities and countries. Its four key objectives are to:

- Ease the pressure on host countries;
- Enhance refugee self-reliance;
- Expand access to third-country solutions;
- Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

The BMZ commissioned global programme “**Support to UNHCR in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**”, implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), seeks to support UNHCR as a facilitator of the GCR in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus.



Households, businesses and institutions connected to electricity supply from Kalobeyei settlement mini grid. © GIZ Kenya, 2022

The programme is part of the German Special Initiative “Tackling the Root Causes of Displacement, (Re-)integrating Refugees”. It currently implements projects with UNHCR in specific displacement settings (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda), provides advisory services to UNHCR on a global level, and supports UNHCR in creating and mainstreaming knowledge on the operationalization of the GCR.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project name	Support to UNHCR in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus (SUN)
Project component	Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) – Kenya
Donor	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Locality	Turkana West Sub–County
Partner	Ministry of Energy (MoE)
Duration	July 2019 – September 2024

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) in Kenya is implemented in Turkana County which hosts approx. 244,286 refugees in Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement (UNHCR Kenya, October 2022). The objective of the project is to strengthen Turkana County Government (TCG) in the implementation of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDPP) focusing on access to sustainable and

affordable energy solutions through promotion of market-based approaches.

Project Approach

1. Improving the policy framework

The project is providing advisory services to strengthen TCG structures to integrate energy needs of refugees into local development plans (such as KISEDPA and County Energy Plan); integrate service delivery structures for refugees into the national system; intensify the coordination of energy development stakeholders (such as private sector, development partners and NGOs); and to develop a county energy policy.

Capacity development measures are provided to TCG to strengthen it in assuming its role under the CRRF and in steering, implementing and maintaining renewable energy solutions in the County.

Activities and Achievements

- Finalization of draft Turkana County Energy Plan, incorporating refugee energy needs completed and handed over to TCG for approval.
- Development of an inclusive draft Turkana County Energy Policy and handed over to TCG for approval.
- 59 County officers and facility managers trained on effective policy development, project management, energy efficiency and conservation measures.



Stakeholder validation workshop on draft Turkana County Energy Policy. © GIZ Kenya, 2022

2. Greening infrastructure in displacement settings

ESDS project seeks to implement best practices for the replacement of diesel generators that power humanitarian operations, to allow for cost and energy savings. Advisory services are provided to UNHCR on engineering, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure as well as viable business models to sustain green and energy efficient operations.

Activities and Achievements

- Energy load assessment of UNHCR Kakuma and adjacent humanitarian compounds to determine the current and future energy demand and sizing of the appropriate solar PV renewable energy solutions completed.
- Technical designs and specifications, energy efficiency studies and financial modelling for greening of UNHCR infrastructure completed.
- Advisory services to UNHCR Kakuma sub-office on solarization of health facilities and field posts have been provided.

3. Increasing energy access for refugees and host communities

Kenya's access to electricity stands at over 75% with off-grid counties like Turkana having access rates as low as 20%; and even less in refugee camps and settlements.

The ESDS project promotes improved access to clean, reliable and affordable electricity through market-based approaches, benefitting both refugees and host communities. This is achieved through advisory on viable renewable energy

business models & financing instruments for private sector developers and end users; collaboration with partners in promoting productive use of energy and de-risking mechanisms to attract investments in displacement contexts.

Activities and Achievements

- Feasibility studies conducted in Kalobeyei and Kakuma to support private sector development or expansion of existing solar mini grids.
- Technical designs, environmental and social impact assessment and advisory services provided to one private developer towards the expansion of Kalobeyei settlement solar mini-grid generation infrastructure from 60kWp to 541kWp.
- Construction works for expansion of low and medium voltage power distribution network completed in Kalobeyei settlement and 2,500 connections (households, businesses and social institutions electrified).



*A business owner connected to the Kalobeyei settlement solar mini grid.
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Promoting productive use of energy in Kalobeyei settlement to enhance the self-reliance of refugees. © GIZ Kenya, 2022

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