

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS Uganda)

Support to UNHCR in facilitating the operationalisation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Background

Uganda is one of the largest refugee hosting countries worldwide, with approximately 1.4 million refugees, mainly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Somalia, and Burundi. Despite the substantial number of refugees, Uganda provides refugees with land, freedom of movement, equal access to social services and the right to work and set up businesses.

Uganda is applying an integrated approach, whereby refugees are included into the national planning framework and national statistics. By doing so, Uganda closely follows the paradigm of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the adoption of the New York Declaration and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and especially focuses on:

- Easing the pressures on host countries
- Enhancing refugee self-reliance



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The influx of refugees has placed overwhelming demands on already strained capacities and resources of the government, the host communities, and the environment.

Lack of access to sustainable energy is one of the great challenges that Uganda faces these days, in both host as well as refugee communities. Households, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and social institutions like schools and health centres often have very limited access to energy and are not able to cover essential needs.

Moreover, electricity infrastructure in refugee and host communities is minimal and usually generated through expensive and environmentally harmful fossil fuels. Lack of sustainable energy results in heavy pressure on and degradation of natural resources that can result in social tension.

The SUN Global Programme

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the Global Programme “Support to UNHCR in facilitating the operationalisation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus”, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with UNHCR. The programme seeks to support the UN refugee agency in facilitating the operationalisation of the GCR in the HDP Nexus. It consists of four components that include a range of activities in eleven countries, including

the energy project in Uganda. The programme consolidates and analyses lessons learned from all four components for comprehensive and coherent approaches within the operationalisation of the GCR in the HDP Nexus.

Project Information Uganda

Name	Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS)
Commissioner	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partners	Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and UNHCR
Duration	August 2019 – December 2022

The project *Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) Uganda* seeks to address the lack of sustainable energy supply in refugee hosting areas through advisory services and the implementation of measures in three main areas.

1. Improving the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Access to Energy

The project provides advisory services to MEMD and UNHCR concerning strategic energy planning and promoting the inclusion of refugees into national service delivery systems. For example, GIZ supported the development of the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) in line with the National Plan of Action to implement the GCR and its CRRF. ESDS supported the establishment of the respective task force within MEMD and in cooperation with UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister, the CRRF Secretariat, the Rural Electrification Agency and World Bank.

2. Greening UNHCR Infrastructure

ESDS Uganda develops market-based approaches for the replacement of diesel generators to power offices and base camps with cost-efficient renewable energy.

ESDS conducts energy assessments and develops guidelines and project proposals for UNHCR to implement solar-hybrid systems based on private sector energy delivery models.

3. Sustainable Energy Access for Households, Social Institutions, and SMEs

ESDS pilots and promotes market-based solutions for access to sustainable cooking energy and electricity for households, social institutions and small businesses, benefitting both refugees and host communities. This involves stimulating demand through awareness raising campaigns and product marketing, developing financing schemes for end users and de-risking private sector involvement in the spirit of the GCR.

ESDS establishes solar-powered Energy Kiosks with local entrepreneurs to offer phone charging, secretarial services as well as improved cook stoves and quality solar products.

The project supports the solarisation of social institutions like health centres which provide isolation units as part of the COVID-19 response.



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Issuer	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Referat 221
Status	03/2022
Contact	RL221@bmz.bund.de , www.bmz.de
Address	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin T +49 (0)30 18 535-0 BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn T +49 (0)228 99 535-0

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
www.giz.de

Location of the Agency
Bonn and Eschborn

Contact person: Bettina Baesch
E-mail address: bettina.baesch@giz.de