

# Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS Kenya)

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

By the end of 2020, 82.4 million people had fled their homes worldwide, with the refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate doubling since 2012 from 10.5 million to 20.7 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 the Global Programme “Support to UNHCR in facilitating the operationalisation of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus”, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with UNHCR, seeks to support UNHCR as a facilitator of the GCR in the HDP\_Nexus.

The programme is part of the German Special Initiative “Tackling the Root Causes of Displacement, (Re-)integrating Refugees”. The programme consists of four components that include a range of activities in eleven countries implemented by GIZ, by UNHCR or jointly by both actors. 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.

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (SUN-ESDS) in Kenya is being implemented in Turkana County which hosts refugees in Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei

Settlement. The objective of the project is to strengthen the Turkana County Government (TCG) in the implementation of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDPA) focusing on access to sustainable and affordable energy solutions through promotion of market-based approaches.



A self-reliant refugee in Kalobeyei Settlement operating a shop connected to mini-grid electricity supply. © GIZ Kenya

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Programme name	Support to UNHCR in facilitating the operationalisation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus
Project component	Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) - Kenya
Commissioner	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Locality	Turkana West Sub-County
Partner	Ministry of Energy UNHCR Turkana County Government
Duration	July 2019 – December 2022

## 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; to integrate service delivery structures for refugees into the national system; to intensify the coordination of energy development stakeholders (refugee & host communities, private sector, development partners, NGOs etc.); and to develop a county energy policy. Capacity development shall be provided to TCG officials to strengthen them in assuming their role under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and in steering, implementing and maintaining renewable energy solutions in the County.

#### Current Activities

- The Turkana County Energy Sector Plan (TCESP) has been finalised and validated; approval and operationalisation by the TCG is pending.
- Development of TCG energy policy has been initiated to be completed by December 2022.
- Human capacity development measures for TCG staff have been conducted on energy efficiency and conservation, energy policy development, communication, and project management.

### 2. Greening infrastructure in displacement settings

SUN-ESDS seeks to implement best practices for the replacement of diesel generators that power humanitarian operations, in order to allow for cost and energy savings. Advisory services shall be provided to UNHCR on engineering, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure as well as viable business models through market-based approaches.

#### Current Activities

Solarisation of the UNHCR Kakuma sub-office is at the tendering stage with technical assistance from the SUN-ESDS project.

- A technical and financial study is on-going for the solarisation of the Dadaab Sub-Office.

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Kakuma sub-office solarisation measures is ongoing.
- Completion of energy efficiency and feasibility studies for UNHCR-supported institutions and field offices (eight hospitals, six field posts, two RAS offices) in Kakuma.
- Electrification of three health facilities, four schools as isolation facilities, a World Food Programme (WFP) horticultural farm and medical staff accommodation facility as COVID-19 response measures in Kalobeyei Settlement and Kalobeyei Host Town.

### 3. Increasing energy access for households

Kenya's access to electricity stands at approximately 75% with off-grid counties like Turkana having access rates as low as 20%; and even less than 5% in refugee camps and settlements. The SUN-ESDS project will promote improved access to clean, reliable and affordable electricity through market-based approaches, benefitting both refugees and host communities.

Electricity supply to refugee and host communities will build self-reliance as they will be able to engage in productive uses of electricity e.g. welding, tailoring, barber shops and salons, etc. It will also contribute to security within and outside the camps and settlement.

#### Current Activities

- Technical assistance has been provided to the private sector for the expansion of the 60kWp solar PV hybrid mini-grid to 541kWp and 1.1 MWh storage.
- An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the mini-grid expansion has been completed and a license obtained.
- Construction of Medium Voltage (MV) and Low Voltage (LV) power distribution network is ongoing to potentially connect approximately 2,500 more households, businesses and social institutions in Kalobeyei Settlement and Host Town.

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