

# GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE)

A UNHCR Strategy 2014-2018

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Cover photo: Ethiopia / Woman distributing fuel-efficient stoves / UNHCR / J. Ose / June 2012

Back cover photo: Ethiopia / Hilaweyn refugee camp / UNHCR / J. Ose / June 2012

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## ACRONYMS

AGD	Age, Gender and Diversity	UNICEF	United Nations Fund for Children
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	WHO	World Health Organization

# VISION

All refugees are able to satisfy their energy needs for cooking and lighting in a safe and sustainable manner, without fear or risk to their health, well-being and personal security.



# STRATEGY AT A GLANCE



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - UNHCR AND PARTNERS WILL:

1. Integrate energy into emergency preparedness and response
2. Develop and implement country level energy strategies
3. Improve access to household fuel and lighting using appropriate technologies and renewable energy
4. Increase access to energy for schools, health centres and other institutions.
5. Establish and manage woodlots for fuel provision and environmental protection.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Protection
- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
- Equity
- Access
- Sustainability
- Community empowerment
- Appropriateness and reliability

## STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Partnerships and Coordination
- Capacity-Building
- Communication and Advocacy
- Integrated approaches
- Measurement
- Innovation



Kenya / Women in Dadaab carrying firewood / UNHCR/C. Shirley/ December 1997

## HOW TO REACH RESULTS

- Develop methodologies to collect data, and use data to make decisions
- Forge new partnerships, including with national entities
- Harness the talent and resourcefulness of the refugee community
- Create synergies with other sectors from onset
- Translate innovative energy approaches and technologies into humanitarian settings
- Identify appropriate combination of fuels and stoves to match needs
- Provide lighting at household and community levels
- Increase UNHCR and partner expertise
- Capitalise on new and innovative funding opportunities to address needs
- Document good practices in camps and apply beyond camps

## SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Priority countries according to needs and specific criteria
- Refugees in camp settings and surrounding communities
- Lessons learned will be documented, and implementation expanded to non-camp settings

## WHO HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

- Refugee communities
- Government including relevant line ministries and host communities
- UNHCR at all levels and sectors
- Donor community
- UN agencies and other international organisations
- National and international NGOs, including faith-based organisation
- Academic and research institutions
- Private sector





# INTRODUCTION

## **UNHCR'S FIRST GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE) AIMS TO ENABLE REFUGEES AND OTHER PERSONS OF CONCERN TO MEET THEIR ENERGY NEEDS IN A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE WAY.**

The Strategy will strive to promote appropriate household fuel and energy technologies, including the expanded use of renewable energy, to improve the protection and wellbeing of refugees. It will also seek to integrate energy requirements into emergency preparedness and response. Likewise, the Strategy aims to increase access to energy for schools, health centres and other institutions, as well as the planting of trees for fuel provision and environmental protection.

Safe and reliable access to energy, for cooking, lighting, and powering, is a basic need for everyone, and necessary for economic development. However, for refugees, cooking a meal or having light at night, something that many people take for granted, is a daily struggle.

As a core component of UNHCR's protection mandate, the Strategy aims to safeguard refugees from protection risks such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which often occurs in the search for firewood and during dark hours. This will be done through the provision of lighting, energy technologies and fuel in camps. It will also help to realise other rights related to health, nutrition, education and livelihoods as well as decrease tensions that may arise between refugees and host communities due to competition over energy resources.

The Strategy will bring new partnerships and innovative approaches to support interventions that promote sustainable and economically viable fuels that limit environmental degradation. Such approaches include UNHCR's first carbon financing agreement, which began in October 2013 and will bring fuel-efficient stoves to refugees in Rwanda.

UNHCR's Energy and Environment Unit will steer the implementation of the Strategy, which will be a long term responsibility for the organisation. This will include providing targeted support to camp settings in priority countries when developing country-specific energy strategies and implementing a new monitoring system to support effective measurement under the Strategy. While the Strategy focuses on meeting the energy needs of refugees in camp situations, much of its content is also relevant to all persons of concern to UNHCR and surrounding host communities. The inclusion of persons other than refugees will be determined at the country programme level.

The framework of the Strategy, including Guiding Principles, Strategic Objectives and Strategic Approaches, will guide the development of country specific energy strategies. Good practices and lessons learned will be collected, and will inform replication and scaling-up of successful interventions elsewhere.

The Strategy is one in a series of new UNHCR strategies from 2014 – 2018 for Public Health, Settlement and Shelter, and Livelihoods. It should be seen as a companion to these and other UNHCR strategies, including Education and SGBV.

## STRATEGY DEFINITIONS

### **Energy**

In this Strategy, 'energy' refers to the cooking, lighting, heating and powering needs of refugee households and of institutional facilities such as schools and health centres.

### **Renewable Energy**

In the context of this Strategy, renewable energy refers to renewable energy options that provide an alternative to the current use of firewood, such as ethanol, biogas and solar energy.





# CONTEXT AND SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## **WHY ENERGY?**

Being able to cook a meal without having to consider collecting or purchasing firewood, having a light to move around more securely at night, or being able to study at home during darkness is a luxury beyond the hope of most refugees. Without this access to energy, refugees, mostly women and children, may be exposed to multiple health and safety risks and their time available for livelihood, educational, social and other activities is significantly reduced.

At the household level, the several hours spent searching for cooking fuel exposes women and children to safety risks, such as SGBV. It detracts from a woman's time to support their families through livelihood activities. Women and children are also exposed to health risks, including respiratory infections from smoke produced by inefficient stoves and fuels such as firewood. Children who collect firewood, or accompany their mothers, cannot attend school. Refugees may also engage in coping strategies, such as survival sex or selling food rations, to be able to afford cooking fuel. Such coping mechanisms can have serious consequences including malnutrition and loss of livelihood options, and is a risk to personal safety and dignity.

In situations where firewood is the main source of fuel, such as in sub-Saharan Africa, the competition for dwindling natural resources is a trigger for tension between refugees and host communities. It also has negative impacts on local ecosystems, which often contribute to the livelihoods of refugees. In these situations, environmental degradation is inevitable and can be long lasting and difficult to reverse. It can also lead to a total ban on firewood collection, which has significant implications for refugee well-being.

Having a light at night means that refugees are able to study during dark hours and can move around the camp in safety. Likewise, having electricity can power refugee camps, giving schools, training centres and medical centres light, or a means with which to power computer systems or refrigerate life-saving medication. It can also power livelihood activities in the evening; income-generating activities do not have to stop at dusk, and shops can stay open longer. Public spaces, such as communal meeting areas and latrines, can also become safer in the evening.

## **UNHCR INTERVENTIONS**

Investing in the provision of fuels and energy technologies, including stoves and solar lanterns, has considerable logistical and financial implications for UNHCR and partners. Current energy interventions often do not meet the actual energy needs of refugees. At present, however, UNHCR and humanitarian organisations are becoming increasingly aware that fuel programmes are unsustainable, both financially and environmentally.

UNHCR must improve its understanding of the socio-economic impact of energy interventions, including fuels and technologies, and explore new approaches to energy programming. Rarely do we question the choice of stove to use and how it meets the needs of refugees. These decisions must be taken together with all relevant stakeholders, including the refugee and host communities and host governments. Decisions should also be informed by data, assessments and feasibility studies.

Energy must become an integrated part of UNHCR country operations and should be seen as part of a multi-sector response. Strengthened partnerships with host governments, donors and humanitarian actors are essential in the search for sustainable energy solutions that meet the needs and improve the well-being and protection of refugees. Likewise, new partnerships with the private sector and academic institutions will support bringing in innovative approaches and ideas to energy response in humanitarian situations.

## A WIND OF CHANGE

At the global level, the socio-economic and environmental impacts of limited access to sustainable energy are increasingly being investigated and discussed at higher levels. Positive developments include the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)<sup>1</sup> initiative and the United States of America Government's Power Africa<sup>2</sup> initiative. In addition, recent research on energy technologies has provided important findings on energy solutions for communities living in rural off-grid settings. Existing financial mechanisms can also support the scaling-up of innovative programmes that are based on proven strategies and technologies. UNHCR must actively engage in international research and developments to ensure that refugees benefit from funding opportunities and the most appropriate energy and fuel technologies and approaches.



Kenya / Somali refugees / UNHCR / B. Bannon / August 2011

1 The Sustainable Energy for All initiative is an initiative to drive action and ensure that all persons globally have access to clean and sustainable energy by 2030. More at: <http://www.se4all.org>

2 Power Africa is an initiative that seeks to improve energy access for economic development in Africa <http://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica>





# HOW WILL THIS STRATEGY IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR REFUGEES?

THROUGH THIS STRATEGY, AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH REFUGEES AND PARTNERS, UNHCR HOPES THAT A CONTEXT-APPROPRIATE AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO ENERGY PROGRAMMING WILL ALLOW REFUGEES TO LIVE UNDER SAFER CONDITIONS, WITH ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE.

## REACHING RESULTS




1. **Data for monitoring:** Methodologies are developed to collect data on the cross-sectoral impact of energy access, and to monitor interventions.
2. **Data for decision making:** All interventions, including choice of stoves, energy technologies, and fuels, are based on relevant assessments, including needs assessments, feasibility studies and stakeholder consultations.
3. **Technology:** The innovative use of appropriate technologies, for both energy provisioning and reducing demand, will see considerable measurable impacts on peoples' health and safety.
  - a. Cooking and lighting systems are introduced to as many camps and households as culturally acceptable and economically feasible.
  - b. A strategic combination of fuels and stoves is matched to assessed needs.
  - c. Methods for reducing the demand of energy, such as reducing heat loss in shelters, are explored across sectors.

4. **Local talent:** The resourcefulness of refugees and the host community is explored and harnessed to enhance livelihood opportunities, local innovation, and awareness-raising.
5. **Training:** This will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of UNHCR staff and its partners to design and manage energy interventions, considering its cross-sectoral nature.
6. **Lessons learned:** Knowledge gained and good practices are documented, shared globally and applied to similar camp settings, and beyond camps to the extent feasible.
7. **Awareness-raising:** Global awareness is heightened on the links between peoples' safety and dignity with energy access for refugees.
8. **Funding:** Tailored funding streams, from traditional and new sources, are identified and in place for specific components of the Strategy.
9. **Partnerships:** New and strategic partnerships are forged with technological innovators, the private sector, academic institutions and media.

Being of a global scale, this Strategy recognizes that UNHCR works in varying contexts and with various cultures. Contexts include operations where firewood is the main source of fuel, to operations where providing electricity to households and camps is a priority. While the strategy will initially focus on operations where the use of firewood is the main energy concern, energy needs are not limited to this. UNHCR also recognises that over 50% of the worldwide refugee population is in urban and non-camp settings. Throughout the implementation of this Strategy, lessons learned and experience on the possibilities for energy for refugees in urban and rural out-of-camp settings will be gathered and implemented in subsequent years.

In operations where firewood is the main source of fuel, three broad scenarios can be identified, representing situations and options that might be considered in terms of energy planning and management.

## Scenarios where firewood is the main source of fuel

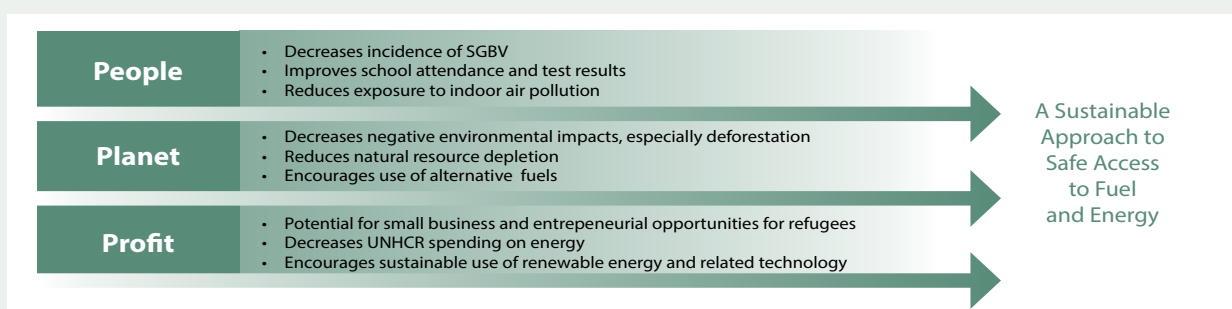
SCENARIO	PREVAILING CONDITIONS	ACTIONS TO CONSIDER
	<p>Firewood is relatively abundant and there are currently no access restrictions to wood collection.</p>	<p><b>Introduce clean and more efficient energy technologies.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder consultations</li> <li>▪ Undertake a biomass survey</li> <li>▪ Develop a management plan of the available biomass</li> <li>▪ Designate harvesting zones</li> <li>▪ Implement a monitoring plan</li> <li>▪ Monitor and evaluate</li> <li>▪ Strengthen cross-sectoral coordination</li> </ul>
	<p>Firewood is scarce and there is a possibility of conflict over diminishing resources.</p>	<p><b>Solutions should focus on renewable energies, load-sharing and maximizing options.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder consultations</li> <li>▪ To prevent further environmental degradation, alternative solutions, such as alternative fuels, need to be explored</li> <li>▪ Consider cultural acceptance and user needs</li> <li>▪ Consider environmental rehabilitation and establishment of woodlots</li> </ul>
	<p>The use of firewood is not an option.</p>	<p><b>Solutions should focus on renewable energies, load-sharing and maximizing options.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder consultations</li> <li>▪ Review the situation to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If wood was previously supplied?</li> <li>- If so, why has this ended?</li> <li>- Has host government, local authority or community introduced a ban on collection?</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Consider environmental rehabilitation and the establishment of woodlots</li> </ul>

Maarkabo Kasoora



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Protection:** Safe and sustainable access to energy is increasingly being acknowledged as a basic necessity in supporting the enjoyment of rights associated with protection, education, safety, health, nutrition, WASH, food, and livelihoods. Energy programmes will aim to further respect human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In addition, programmes will be designed to support an operation's overall protection strategy and related protection priorities. Energy interventions will strengthen protection against SGBV, and, if done in a sustainable manner, will build peaceful co-existence with the host community.
- 2. Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD):** Through the AGD approach, energy interventions should suitably address the different energy needs, and ensure that all energy-related technology is appropriate and applicable to the different groups within the refugee community<sup>3</sup>. Special measures to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for specific groups of concern, including women, adolescent girls and boys, older persons, the young, persons with disabilities, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual or intersex, and women and men belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or indigenous groups will inform and guide implementation of the Strategy.
- 3. Equity:** Provision of energy must ensure equity for all refugees. Support should be extended to surrounding communities when feasible. Host communities may require particular assistance in coping with the presence of a humanitarian operation, or in addressing their energy needs. This will support establishing and maintaining good relations and ensuring that the energy challenges of operations do not jeopardise the livelihoods or security of refugees and the host community.
- 4. Access:** In humanitarian situations, having access to a sustainable source of energy can create income-generating and educational opportunities, improve health, and foster a safe environment for refugees. However, refugees, particularly women and children, are too often exposed to risks once they leave a settlement in search of firewood, or when they move around camps at night. To address these risks and enhance opportunities, UNHCR will support safe access to a clean and sustainable source of energy for refugees.
- 5. Sustainability:** By understanding the energy needs of refugees, identifying appropriate energy technologies and fuels, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of staff and partners, UNHCR will ensure the sustainability of energy interventions. Extensive consultation with the host and refugee communities, awareness-raising and lessons learned will also be used to continually improve energy programming.



- 6. Community Empowerment:** Meaningful consultations with all relevant stakeholders and ensuring that their voices are heard is imperative to develop interventions aimed at meeting energy needs. Refugees and the affected population should participate in all stages of programming from needs assessments to monitoring and evaluation. Energy interventions can facilitate livelihood activities and learning for community members by providing schools and training centres with electricity to run computers that can teach refugees new skills, or connect them to the global economy and a wealth of knowledge.
- 7. Appropriateness and Reliability:** Energy needs and fuel availability can vary greatly among operations. As a result, appropriate and reliable energy interventions need to be context-specific and must consider how technology can address the social and cultural aspects of that community. This Strategy should facilitate operations in designing energy policies that will be appropriate for their specific contexts, taking into account socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors.

<sup>3</sup> See UNHCR, Age, Gender and Diversity Policy, 8 June 2011. <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4def34f6887.html>



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**Objective:** To integrate energy needs into emergency planning and response.

**Expected Result:** During an emergency response, priority energy needs are met in a timely manner.

**Indicator:<sup>4</sup>** Percentage of refugees using appropriate cooking, lighting and heating technologies within a designated timeframe in an emergency.

Refugee household energy needs must be met from the onset of an emergency to allow refugees to cook their food rations, move safely in darkness and keep warm. Many will be in an unfamiliar and unsafe landscape, which may pose certain risks to those who have to leave the camp in order to find firewood or other biomass materials with which to cook. Providing refugees with a means to cook their food, together with lighting for security, are important components of providing protection and respecting and maintaining their dignity in light of an emergency.

## Enabling Actions

**Preparedness:** Prior planning for energy response with UNHCR, partners and government counterparts is essential to ensure that energy needs are included in contingency plans, with clear links to regional/national stockpiles. Timely links also need to be established with governments and development actors, who may already be engaged on energy provision with surrounding communities.

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<sup>4</sup> UNHCR and partners are working on defining energy indicators stated in this plan to ensure objective measurement while taking into account context. This is further discussed under the measurement section.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)/Mugunga-Goma camp/UNHCR/M. Sibiloni/June 2012

**Provision of a cook stove, fuel and solar lantern:** As part of the Non-Food Item (NFI) Kit, refugees should be provided with a suitable cook stove and compatible fuel, and a solar lantern, upon arrival in a camp. Where needed, heaters should also be considered. UNHCR's partners should provide initial awareness raising and training to refugees on the use of these technologies. Providing such materials at the beginning of an emergency has large and important cost implications for UNHCR, its partners and donors, and may not always be feasible.

**Coordination and monitoring:** Close coordination across sectors is essential in an emergency to ensure that all households are provided and comfortable with using the distributed technology and fuel. Regular monitoring and analysis of observations is essential to address issues of concern and to ensure proper use and maintenance of stoves and lanterns.

**Identification of longer-term solutions:** From the onset of an emergency, immediate consideration needs to be given to switching to a more suitable and alternative means of cooking, ideally one that is clean, renewable, sustainable, user-friendly and complies with local policies. Country operations are encouraged to work with governments and development actors to identify a mix of energy options that address health, safety and environmental impacts, and cost and availability. Such solutions should not, however, compromise the protection or safety of refugees or the livelihoods of the host community.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Contingency plans should consider the regional context, including cultural preferences and possible household and institutional energy requirements.
2. Ways to mitigate environmental degradation should be considered where firewood collection can take place. This, and related activities can have long-lasting impacts on the environment.
3. Where possible, priority should be given to purchasing locally made stoves, lanterns and heaters, and/or promoting home construction of stoves, such as mud stoves, as long as health and safety considerations are met and a suitable fuel can be acquired, safely stored and transported.
4. Stoves should be easy to assemble, should not require frequent maintenance and should not be composed of many small, irreplaceable parts.
5. Regional stockpiles of energy technologies, both household and institutional, and fuel should be established, taking into account the energy needs and cultural preferences of users. Such stockpiles should be based on established criteria for procurement and delivery.
6. Stockpiled materials should include instructions for use, safety and local adaptation and must meet currently acceptable standards in terms of emissions and efficiency.
7. Established criteria are routinely applied to inform the selection of partners in terms of providing and supporting energy programmes. The capacity of partners responsible for introducing new energy systems needs to be assessed, with accompanied technical capacity-building as required.
8. Implement a locally adapted monitoring system, with an inbuilt compliance mechanism, as soon as possible after technology and fuel distribution.

KEY OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
Incorporate potential refugee energy needs into preparedness and response planning	% of country operations with emergency contingency plans that include appropriate key recommended energy components
Ensure energy and cooking kits are available	Emergency procurement procedures are in place for fuel, cook stoves and lanterns

## COUNTRY PROGRAMME ENERGY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

**Objective:** To support the achievement of identified energy goals through the development of comprehensive country programme energy strategies and action plans to meet refugees' energy needs.

**Expected Result:** Solutions are in place to ensure that refugees' energy needs are met through an appropriate combination of technologies and management.

**Indicator:** Percentage of country programmes with holistic and context-appropriate strategies and action plans to address household and institutional energy needs.

## PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

Each programme strategy will have unique qualities and needs, but consistency will be applied to ensure that key, common and recurrent issues and subjects will be addressed in each, e.g. political and social contexts, contingency planning, monitoring and evaluation, preconditions for establishing woodlots, financing opportunities and cross-sectoral integration.

Countries experience different situational conditions, which influence the amount and nature of resources potentially available as a source of energy. The environment in many refugee-hosting countries varies from arid semi-desert conditions to abundant woodland, which calls for different responses (see earlier firewood scenarios) when it comes to dealing with energy management and satisfying energy needs in specific situations.

In addition to environmental considerations, the social, economic, and political context needs to be examined and understood in providing and managing household and institutional energy.

The development of context-specific country programme energy strategies will help place UNHCR and its partners in a better position to determine what might be the most appropriate solutions for specific camps. Each strategy will also provide a framework for UNHCR operations to learn lessons, share good practices and improve energy programming.

## Enabling Actions

**Energy needs assessments:** Energy needs assessments and profiling exercises, information on the availability of natural resources for energy use, and security of access should be acquired before developing the country programme energy strategy. Assessments should also consider what fuels might be available in local, national, and regional markets. In operations where firewood is the main source of fuel, availability should be based on assessments conducted up to 50 km around camps.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)/Central African refugee camp/HCR/B. Sokol/2013

**Stakeholder consultations:** All key stakeholders must be included in the development of country strategies. These include but are not limited to refugee and host communities, pastoralists, relevant government departments, UNHCR partners and staff in related sectors, development actors, donors and the private sector. Stakeholder consultations will also help UNHCR identify individuals within the refugee and host communities who have the skills to create and maintain energy technologies. These individuals can also advocate for energy amongst the communities.

**Review of past experience:** A desk review should be undertaken of all relevant national and regional experience of energy programming and implementation to serve as a knowledge base of what has and has not worked in respective countries. This should also include information on new technologies, and alternative methods and approaches that may be used to inform former activities.

**Strategies and action plans:** Country strategies and action plans should respond to real and identified needs, which require them to be closely monitored and adjusted over time if necessary.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Developing a country programme strategy and action plan entails meaningful consultations with different stakeholder groups including local and refugee communities, government authorities, development actors, and humanitarian staff covering related sectors. They should be considered jointly owned among all stakeholders.
2. Recognizing that no refugee community is homogenous with exactly the same needs, programme strategies and actions will reflect on the AGD approach.
3. Strategies and actions should aim to broaden the range of possible options for alternative energy systems, prioritising those with the least negative safety, health and environmental implications.
4. Livelihood and educational opportunities must be assessed, including the possibilities for local stove production, and powering of schools, training centres and shops run by the refugee community.
5. Country strategies and actions should conform to the underlying principles of this Strategy.
6. Financing energy initiatives needs to become an integral part of each strategy.
7. Country programme strategies and actions need to be regularly modified, adapted and updated.

KEY OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
Develop country programme strategies and action plans	% of operations with strategies and action plans that address household and institutional energy needs based on assessments.
Holistic strategies are implemented and monitored	% of operations implementing context-specific energy strategies, with appropriate monitoring.
	% of household and institutional energy needs met in an operation.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FUEL-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES

**Objective:** To enable access to fuel-efficient technologies and renewable energy at the household level.

**Expected Result:** The number of households using improved technologies and renewable energy to address their energy needs is increased.

**Indicator:** The percentage of household energy needs met by improved technologies and renewable energy.

Recent years have seen a number of new and improved stoves, lighting designs and other alternative energy technologies appearing on the market, some of which have already been introduced to camps and villages. UNHCR has recently promoted a combination of different cook stoves, recognizing that there is not one universally accepted model. Not every improved stove is appropriate for use in a refugee setting, mainly due to a lack of familiarity with new technologies, a cultural preference to cook in a certain way, or a dislike of the manner in which certain food items might be cooked. Refugees may also express a preference for a particular type of household lighting. In addition to household lighting and cooking, heating should be considered as well as methods of reducing energy demand such as appropriate ventilation in shelters, or drop ceilings to minimise heat loss.

Using certain renewable energy such as solar, wind and hydropower, offers a steady and clean supply of energy, and can reduce long-term-costs associated with fuels such as kerosene and charcoal. UNHCR, in consultation with refugees, will continue to explore renewable energy options that provide an alternative to firewood, for cooking, lighting and heating. In exploring these options, UNHCR will ensure that refugee traditions and preferences are respected and prioritised.

### Enabling Actions

**Document evidence:** Undertake an independent review that documents and analyses experiences from humanitarian and development actors, and local/national governments on different fuels and fuel-efficient/renewable energy technologies that have been used in camp contexts.

**Map needs:** Known or anticipated energy needs for the refugee community, matched with scenarios for the most appropriate solutions that reflect community preferences, should be mapped.



Pakistan/Afghan refugee/UNHCR/D.A. Khan/October 2013

**Vibrant partnerships:** Engage with current and new partners, including technology partners, to explore potential of different approaches to energy programming, and using energy technologies based on renewable and other forms of energy suitable to camp conditions and contexts. Internally, collaborate with other sectors such as protection, health, WASH, livelihoods, and education to ensure integration and provide the most appropriate solutions.

**Awareness raising and training:** In consultation with stakeholders from the refugee community, develop an accompanying awareness-raising and training package for any new technology/fuel being introduced. Refugees should be directly involved in planning and implementing awareness raising and training.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Refugees must be consulted prior to selecting and distributing new energy technology, including stoves, fuels or lights, and throughout the entire process, to respect traditions and preferences.
2. Any introduced technology should bring added benefits to users, such as reduced emissions and indoor air pollution, increased safety and greater efficiency.
3. Any pilot trials with new stoves, fuels and lighting systems must be well planned, be at an appropriate scale and be fully supported by technical, training and monitoring expertise.
4. Hands-on training needs to be provided to each household receiving energy technologies or a new fuel, with this being repeated and closely monitored. Members from the refugee and host communities can be identified to facilitate awareness-raising on energy.
5. A local market assessment should be conducted prior to distributing any new energy technology, to determine what might already be available in the market and to assess the risk of refugees selling products.
6. Any benefits or challenges faced from using energy technology or fuels should be clearly documented and used to promote good cooking and other energy practices.
7. Lessons from trialling and scaling-up energy technologies should be widely shared. Where appropriate, these should result in developing and supporting local energy-related business enterprises.

## CASE STUDY: ETHANOL AND PROJECT GAIA IN ETHIOPIA

Since January 2006, the Gaia Association has been an implementing partner for UNHCR, working to supply ethanol and ethanol stoves to Somali refugees in Kebribeyah refugee camp, in the Jijiga region of Ethiopia. By the end of 2007, the entire camp, around 2,000 families, were provided with a stove, with one stove per household. In mid-2008, the project was scaled up to Awbare refugee camp in Jijiga where currently around 1,844 households are benefitting from ethanol and ethanol stoves.

The stoves burn ethanol without smoke or soot, are easy to use, are highly efficient, and affordable to run. They are stable, and the fuel is stored safely in a non-spill fuel tank. It is also portable, so refugees can cook in various parts of their homes, or even outside. The ethanol is procured from a local sugar factory, and transported to Kebribeyah and Awbare for distribution to refugees who receive a certain amount of ethanol based on their family size.

This programme has reduced firewood collection, increased security for women and children, improved indoor air quality in the homes of refugees contributing to better health, increased time for children to attend school, and has had a positive impact on the natural environment around the camp.

KEY OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
Enable access to appropriate fuel and technologies at the household level	% of households using improved and more efficient stoves
	% change in the amount of firewood consumed
	% reduction in time spent collecting fuel
	% of households using solar lanterns
	% increase in number of evening study hours for children

## INSTITUTIONAL ENERGY

**Objective:** To increase support for institutional energy needs through fuel-efficient technologies and renewable energy.

**Expected Result:** Institutional energy needs are increasingly satisfied through improved technologies and renewable energy.

**Indicator:** Percentage of institutions' energy needs met by improved technologies and renewable energy.

Energy is a constant and often overlooked need for institutions such as schools, feeding centres and health centres. Many of these institutions continue to prepare food on open fires that consume considerable quantities of wood with protection and safety hazards, or don't have adequate lighting.

School meals often require considerable time for cooking and expose people to a range of unhealthy conditions. Improved institutional stoves are expensive, but can be more comfortable to use, are cleaner in terms of emissions and are more efficient by cooking faster and with less fuel.

Many institutions lack a continuous source of energy that can power lights and other appliances such as refrigerators in medical centres, or computers in training centres. This can hinder the provision of basic services. Lighting in strategic parts of camps can improve safety of refugees. Furthermore, replacing diesel generators with hybrid power systems (wind and solar) can cut long-term fuel costs. Increasing engagement with the private sector and academic institutions is expected to help realize such off-grid solutions in humanitarian situations.



## Enabling Actions

**Energy surveys:** Prior to the introduction of an institutional stove, the amount of fuel being consumed on a daily basis has to be assessed in order to monitor subsequent progress. For lighting and other energy needs such as water pumping, required data might relate to the number of users, the number of hours of usage and office hours.

**Options review:** A rapid review of possible options should be undertaken following the baseline to determine what alternative fuels and lighting systems might be available and at what cost. This review should also consider local skills in maintaining the technologies. Partnership with local and global technological partners, including academic institutions, will help identify and adapt adequate off-grid energy technologies.

**Material acquisition:** UNHCR and its partners will provide each institution with institutional stoves and/or a sustainable lighting/powering system, in addition to providing training for their use and maintenance.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Institutional stoves and lighting systems should be sourced from reliable suppliers, approved by certified institutions if imported, and be accompanied by spare parts. Preference should be given to locally available technology and skills if these can match the identified needs.
2. Provision of institutional energy systems must be accompanied by adequate and appropriate training.
3. The use of institutional stoves and other energy technologies should be closely monitored to ensure their continued cost-effectiveness, efficiency and added value, e.g. for health purposes.
4. For centralized cooking within institutions, the use of alternatives sources of fuel, such as ethanol, biogas or briquettes, should be considered where reliable access is available.
5. Incorporate energy efficiency into the structural design of institutions, e.g. to reduce the need for artificial lighting during the day.

KEY OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
Promote and enable the use of cleaner, healthier and more efficient cooking practices	% of institutions where energy-efficient institutional stoves have replaced traditional forms of cooking and are being used on a consistent basis
	% of institutional energy needs met using clean fuels/renewable energy that is not firewood (e.g. ethanol, biogas) for cooking
Reduce the amount of fuel (firewood) required for cooking	% change in the amount of fuel (firewood) used per institution for cooking
Promote and enable the use of renewable energy systems (for lighting and powering)	% of institutions where renewable energy systems are installed and being used on a consistent basis
	% of public places that have lighting (such as solar street lights).



## **REFORESTATION, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**Objective:** To promote community-managed, multi-purpose plantations and agroforestry activities as resource banks, both in and around settlements/camps.

**Expected Result:** The number of communal woodlots providing fuel, food and income to refugees and host communities is increased.

**Indicator:** Number of hectares of planted and surviving trees.

Deforestation and environmental degradation are two of the most prominent and lasting impacts of a humanitarian operation. UNHCR has supported a range of measures that address environmental degradation, both within and around settlements/camps, including the establishment of woodlots and community forestry training and management. UNHCR is adapting and improving reforestation, using selected native, fast-growing trees at designated sites close to existing camps. These should become available as a partial solution to meeting some of the energy needs of refugees and surrounding communities. Livelihood enhancement and income generation are additional benefits expected from this approach. Prior agreement will, however, first need to be reached with government and land owners on access and right of use to such woodlots. Furthermore, when camps eventually close, such resources are expected to continue to serve a beneficial role for host communities, as skills for the successful management of such woodlots will have been passed on. This approach will strengthen and maintain good relations with host communities and governments, both from an environmental and livelihoods perspective.

### **Enabling Actions**

**Feasibility study:** Prior consultation and feasibility studies are essential with all likely stakeholder groups. Some stakeholders may object to having productive land transformed to woodlots from which they may not immediately benefit. Environmental conditions, such as a shortage of water, are likely to be a major constraint to establishing woodlots in some camp settings.

**Access, ownership and site selection:** Identify, together with local land owners and government, possible sites for woodlots, agroforestry and environmental rehabilitation. There must be complete clarity on ownership and use of land, and management of natural resources, before any reforestation activities take place. This can be achieved through written agreements on access to and use of land between the host and refugee communities and government agencies. Environmental conditions also need to be considered in site selection.

**Woodlot establishment and maintenance:** In the first instance, all necessary equipment and seeds would be provided to existing or newly-formed forest committees, to allow the

establishment of woodlot nurseries and successful after-care of tree seedlings. Materials needed for future planting should be obtained using some of the revenue generated from the woodlots themselves.

**Develop management plans from an early stage:** Both refugee and host communities need to be involved in the development of woodlot management plans, as they are the ultimate owners and guardians of these resources. As woodlots mature, harvesting can begin, based on agreed off-take rates for provisioning to camps and host communities. Agroforestry activities will already allow some return of produce after just a few years, whereas plantations may take up to five years before they can start to be exploited.

**Training and awareness-raising:** In many instances, specific training may need to be given to institutional partners, refugees and local people, particularly where new or unfamiliar tree species or management skills are involved. Training should be based on prior needs assessments and local, traditional knowledge.

**Gender and livelihoods:** Where possible, women’s groups should be organized and supported in tree-planting activities, from the initial establishment of tree nurseries to after-care and harvesting of fruit and other resources. Particular attention should be given to encouraging some women to develop this as a form of income generation, for example through the sale of surplus seedlings.

KEY OUTPUTS	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT
Establish woodlots and plantations with management plans	% of woodlots with management plans
	# of hectares of planted and surviving trees that have reached maturity to be used for energy provision
	# of hectares of woodlots used for food production
Combine agroforestry activities with woodlots	% of woodlots that combine food and energy products
	% of household income generated from forest products





# STRATEGIC APPROACHES

## **PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION**

Effective coordination calls for a multi-pronged approach to be developed and maintained. While continuing to engage with traditional UN and non-governmental organization partners, UNHCR is seeking to broaden its engagement with the private sector and explore opportunities for partnerships with academic institutions, research and technological innovators. UNHCR will also strive to find new and committed means of funding for energy programmes from non-traditional donors. Development actors should begin to play a more prominent role in working with UNHCR and its partners as soon as possible in the humanitarian process, considering early recovery. The Agency will seek to capitalize and build on existing platforms and circles of expertise, such as that of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves<sup>5</sup> and the SAFE coalition.<sup>6</sup>

UNHCR recognizes that energy programmes require an internal collective response based on effective interrelations among various divisions, bureaux, and regional and country offices within the organization. SGBV, child protection, education, shelter and settlement, health, nutrition, WASH, livelihoods and environmental issues should be streamlined throughout the process of implementing energy interventions.

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5 The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a UNHCR partner, and a global public-private partnership dedicated to scaling adoption of clean and efficient cooking technology. [www.cleancookstoves.org](http://www.cleancookstoves.org)

6 The SAFE coalition is based on the former SAFE Inter Agency Standing Committee task force, and is a group of organizations working on SAFE issues globally. <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-common-default&sb=67>

### Enabling Actions

1. Wide promotion of this Strategy, and country programme energy strategies, to all institutional partners with key messages and opportunities identified.
2. In line with the efforts from the Energy and Environment Unit at UNHCR headquarters, explore relevant and potential partners, both local and global, from the private sector and academic institutions. This will allow for the expansion of existing partnership roles and engagement in new areas relevant to energy provision and management. It will also allow UNHCR to learn from partners' relevant experience
3. Establish a local communication and coordination mechanism that enables both existing and potential partners to engage in supporting refugee energy programmes and which serves as a means for information and idea sharing. This should also enhance inter-sectoral coordination as many of UNHCR's institutional partners may focus on only one strategic area as part of their humanitarian response.



## **CAPACITY-BUILDING**

All energy programmes will have a training component and other capacity-building activities to equip individuals and organisations with the relevant skills and knowledge. UNHCR will ensure that staff, partner organizations, local governments, refugees and host communities benefit from energy knowledge generation as direct participants or indirect beneficiaries. Participatory trainings combining theory with practice are essential for energy programmes, and can be organised nationally with local partners and global expertise. When feasible, training of refugees and nationals to make fuel-efficient stoves, and maintain technologies and micro-grids will occur.

Specialized technical capacity is essential to develop and deliver quality programmes. The pool of expert positions available within UNHCR needs to expand to respond to emergencies and to ensure continuity after the emergency phase. It is also important to promote local technical expertise by recruiting national staff. Local capacity-building ensures sustainability of the process including the further deployment of this capacity in the region when necessary.

### **Enabling Actions**

1. Conduct a capacity needs assessment of UNHCR personnel most closely linked with, and responsible for, energy programming and management. This will allow capacity-building support to directly target the identified needs of refugee and host communities, and organisations.
2. Conduct an institutional needs assessment of the capacity of government and partners in relation to energy management.
3. Identify new energy partners with skills and expertise that could enrich UNHCR programming and technological experiences.
4. Based on the above findings, develop a training programme as a key support to implementing this Strategy. This will allow for continued interventions necessary for sustained capacity-building.
5. Provide targeted training to build/strengthen the capacity of key personnel responsible for energy programming in focal countries.
6. Monitor the effectiveness of training delivery through feedback analysis and apply learning to future training courses. Operations should also ensure that staff are able to learn from experiences in other countries, including in partaking in regional trainings.
7. Actively promote and apply the SAFE Handbook<sup>7</sup> through training and capacity-building.

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7 The WFP Handbook on SAFE can be found at <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp252989.pdf>

## COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

UNHCR will communicate information on and advocate for energy strategies, programmes, and related activities to internal and affiliated staff, partners, governments, donors, refugees and host communities. Practical considerations for campaigns might include reducing household fuel consumption through combined technology and practices, explanation and promotion of good cooking practices, health and safety care in the cooking area, stove manufacturing, and maintaining lighting systems in communal areas.

Key to successful advocacy is the constant flow of information among the refugee community, host community, humanitarian actors, development actors and the government. Advocacy activities can be helpful in preventing or reducing conflict or competition over natural resource use between host communities and refugees. UNHCR will engage in stronger information-sharing platforms and open discussion fora to share knowledge, promote sectoral innovation and networking, and to create awareness of the sector's priorities. Achievements against strategy expected outputs can be published through the UNHCR web page, dissemination of updates and other means of communication including through social media, such as the UNHCR Energy and Environment Facebook and Twitter pages<sup>8</sup>.

### Enabling Actions

1. Each campaign, whether global or national, should have a clearly-identified and strategic target audience such as the media, donors or technology partners. At the global level, links will be strengthened with existing initiatives and networks including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.
2. Country programme energy strategies should have an integral component of awareness-raising, including a constant flow of information shared with headquarters for further advocacy on a global scale.
3. Awareness-raising campaigns at the local level, particularly those relating to cooking needs, should include both refugee and surrounding communities and combine visibility with practical actions.

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<sup>8</sup> UNHCR Energy and Environment Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/UNHCREnviro>; Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/UNHCREnv>





Sudan / Mukjar, Darfur / WFP / D. Fernandez / 2005

4. Awareness-raising campaigns should relate to the education, health, safety, welfare of refugees, and the state of the environment, and should be repeated frequently to have lasting impacts. Influential spokespersons, women and men, in settlements/camps and surrounding villages who would act as ambassadors for energy should be identified to support awareness-raising.
5. Other means to improve and sustain two-way communications between refugees and humanitarian actors should be explored to better understand needs and build trust.



Turkey / Syrian refugee / UNHCR / A. Branthwaite/ September 2012

## INTEGRATED APPROACHES

The energy requirements of a household, institution or settlement are integral to many sectors and must be seen with a protection lens. Consider the links, for example, with SGBV<sup>9</sup>, education, health and nutrition, WASH, environment, livelihoods, shelter and settlement. Currently, however, energy is rarely and inconsistently considered in country programmes, projects and budgets.

These concerns apply both to UNHCR-managed programmes and those of its government counterparts and partners. Energy programmes need to take into account government policies and development plans. UNHCR will ensure that policies and interventions in the energy sector for refugees take into account national policies and practices to ensure their sustainability.

Energy planning, programming and management must become a truly cross-cutting activity in all operations, from emergency response to durable solutions. This broad reaching sector must also be included in UNHCR's strategies and planning for climate change and disaster risk reduction.

<sup>9</sup> The "provision of safe environments and safe access to domestic energy and natural resources" is one of the six Action Areas of UNHCR's 2011 Global SGBV Strategy.

## **CASE STUDY: LIGHT YEARS AHEAD IN CHAD**

In 2013, Chad received funding for energy as part of the UNHCR Light Years Ahead fundraising initiative. With these funds, the operation was able to procure solar street lights, solar lanterns and set up fabrication centres for Afrah stoves. The Afrah stoves are locally made fuel-efficient stoves that are made by and distributed to Sudanese refugees in east Chad.

The production and use of these stoves creates livelihood opportunities for refugees who fabricate the stoves, with 38 refugees already trained and employed. Members of the host community are also taking part in this activity. The stoves can reduce protection and safety risks associated with firewood collection. Additionally, this reduces deforestation, preserving the natural resources used for other livelihood opportunities for both the refugee and host communities.

### **Enabling Actions**

1. Baseline assessment on the extent to which energy is currently considered and programmed by other sectors needs to be undertaken, particularly given its cross-cutting nature.
2. Conduct awareness and needs assessment of UNHCR staff to gauge the level of understanding in other sectors on how energy relates to their work, with findings reflected in future policy deliberations and programmes.
3. Conduct awareness and needs assessment among government counterpart agencies and partners to determine the extent to which camp-based energy supply is seen as an integrated subject. Commitment is required from all partners, including government counterparts, to find acceptable solutions without negatively impacting the welfare of refugees and jeopardising the institution of asylum.
4. Undertake a sectoral mapping exercise to identify areas of overlap with camp-based energy and identify strategic entry points where related sectors can then start to integrate and streamline planning and actions.

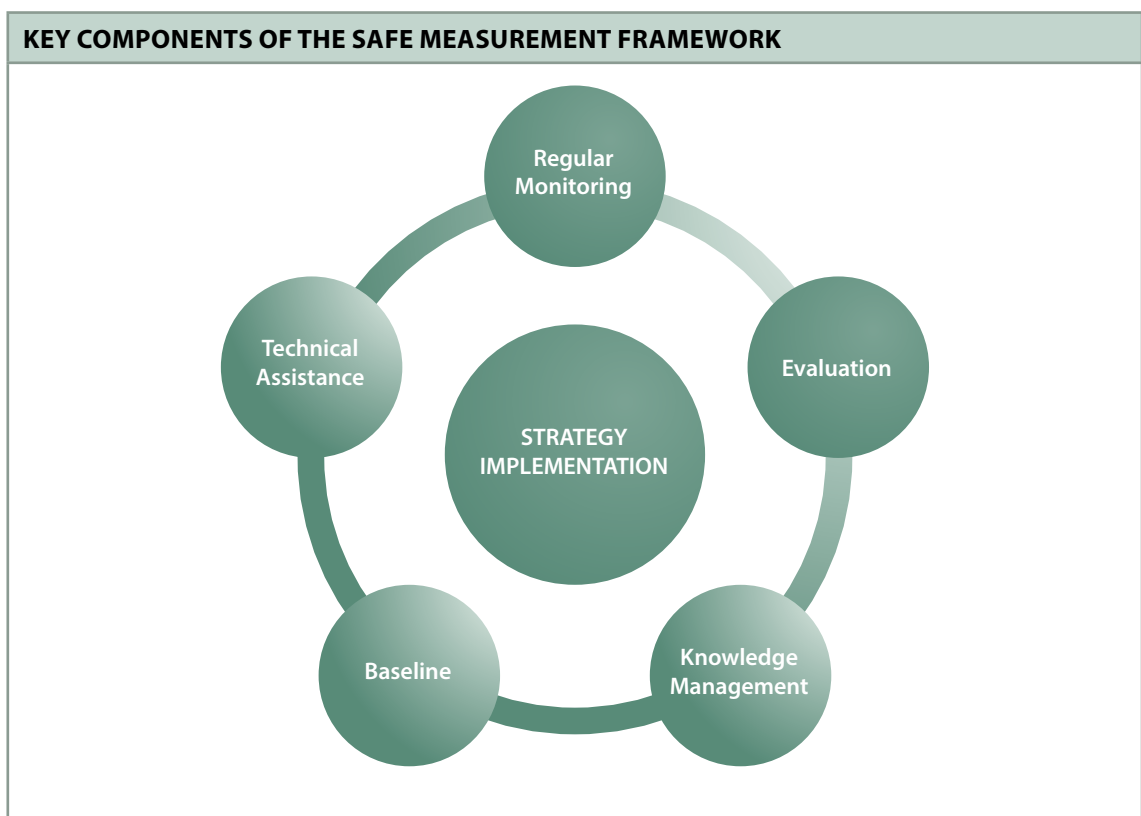
## MEASUREMENT

Assessment and baseline data are fundamental starting points for measurement. This data will allow reliable monitoring and reporting, including on the socio-economic impacts related to energy. It will also ensure that energy programming is tailored to the needs of refugees and the host community.

It is important to know how much energy a family needs on a weekly or monthly basis to cook their meals or power their homes. Equally, where natural resources are meeting partial or full needs for cooking, data is required on how much biomass is actually available within a given radius of a camp, and how much of this could be accessible to the humanitarian operation. Information on what energy options, technologies and alternative fuels might be available in local and national markets will allow the operation to consider options to reduce the use of firewood and other unsustainable fuels.

FOCUS, UNHCR's results-based management tool, is currently the main source of energy data. In 2013, the Energy and Environment Unit at UNHCR Headquarters began the process of developing indicators with a specific focus on documenting energy baselines and measuring progress. This work will be completed in 2014 and will inform the future measurements of energy through a Measurement Framework.

The overall aim of the Measurement Framework is to ensure that UNHCR is equipped to systematically generate, capture and disseminate knowledge to strengthen the impact and effectiveness of energy-related interventions in refugee camps. Key components of the Framework, which are deliberately kept simple and few, are shown below.





## Enabling Actions

1. Develop a standard, simple methodology and timeframe for baseline data assessments for use by field staff and partners. This data should be collected before programme start-up, and considered in contingency planning.
2. Train and support field staff and partners in relation to improved and more consistent data collection and analysis. This will enhance accountability for refugee safety and dignity, which underpins what UNHCR represents. More rigorous, independent reviews and evaluations will help demonstrate and document where impacts are greatest and where certain activities are not meeting their intended goals.
3. Develop and provide training on an appropriate monitoring and evaluation toolkit utilizing existing materials such as the Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Environment in Refugee-related operations (FRAME Toolkit)<sup>10</sup>.
4. Consistently review and advise Country Operation Plans to ensure that appropriate energy-related indicators are included for all relevant sectors and in partner sub-agreements. Results from these indicators need to be actively analysed to track progress and impact of energy interventions, and improve programming.
5. Document lessons from both positive and negative experiences, and apply this to learning to improve services, support and planning. Such experiences can also be gathered from and shared with partners, other actors in the field of energy, and other country operations.

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<sup>10</sup> More on the FRAME toolkit can be found at <http://www.unhcr.org/4a97d1039.html>



Chad / Djabal camp / UNHCR/F. Noy/ December 2011

## INNOVATION

In engaging with new partners, such as the private sector and academic institutions, UNHCR is seeking to change the way in which energy provisioning is planned and managed. This will allow UNHCR to take advantage of external experiences and tailor these to its institutional context. Knowledge from some of these partners will allow for the application of a business model approach where opportunity allows. In addition, collaboration with in-house tools, particularly through UNHCR Innovation<sup>11</sup>, will facilitate exploring and applying innovative technologies and approaches into energy programming.

Launch of thematic competitions, including research and development of energy technologies, can result in creative pilot projects for existing and renewable energy solutions, while promotion of regular market surveys can inform availability of new and evolving energy products. Apart

### CASE STUDY: CARBON FINANCING IN RWANDA

In October 2013, UNHCR engaged in its first carbon financing venture in Rwanda with a climate protection organisation. This agreement will enable the distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to refugees in Rwanda, with the intention of addressing the cross-cutting impacts that using harmful cooking fuels and inefficient open fires has on the well-being and protection of refugees.

As of January 2014, around 4,000 fuel-efficient stoves have been distributed to refugees in Rwanda, with about 7,000 more soon to be distributed. The carbon credits generated through this scheme will be used to purchase additional fuel-efficient stoves for refugees in Rwanda, and help UNHCR protect their wellbeing and rights.

A monitoring system will be introduced to verify that the stoves are used properly and efficiently. Through the use of carbon reduction certificates, the carbon financing agreement will help both the lives and livelihoods of refugees in Rwanda while also working to mitigate the carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR Innovation is a multi-year initiative that focuses on finding solutions to field-based challenges through a multi-pronged approach.

from global technological advances, UNHCR will nurture local innovations, taking advantage of the resourcefulness that exists within refugee and host communities. These will have myriads of positive impacts on the communities such as building skills for self-reliance, awareness-raising on energy issues, and enhanced trust between humanitarian actors and beneficiaries.

UNHCR will also explore ways of creating platforms, networks and communities of practice that enable sharing knowledge and expertise on thematic issues related to innovation. Likewise, innovative funding mechanisms, such as carbon financing, will be explored to capitalise on global investments in energy.

### **Enabling Actions**

1. Engage with the refugee and host communities on their needs, skills and possible training that may interest them in the realm of energy, and encourage brainstorming and local innovation. Sharing ideas, such as solar water bottle lights, can also mobilise the community to consider other ways in which they can satisfy their needs with material immediately available to them.
2. Consider creative ways in which to engage with all groups within the refugee and host communities, including hosting small energy challenges (for example, building a lantern from local materials and a kit provided by UNHCR).
3. Engage with selected private sector, academic and financial institutions to determine what opportunities might exist for enhancing current energy programming and management, and to elaborate how these might be translated into practice.
4. Identify, together with partners, including through the SAFE coalition, potential areas and opportunities for appropriate and tested innovations to be considered for introduction to refugee camps.
5. Identify opportunities for applying innovative approaches to selected field operations, such as mechanisms to distribute stoves that allow for income-generation. These opportunities should be based on established criteria, including experience of success in situations similar to camp settings, and extensive consultation with the refugee and host communities.
6. Carefully document lessons learned and past experiences in order to identify next steps, and to present evidence of engagement, discussion and potential implementation to share with other UNHCR offices and humanitarian actors. Some of the current cooking practices implemented are already an improvement on traditional practices, and the energy and social gains from these are acknowledged by refugees.





# STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

## **FROM 2014-2018, PRIORITY COUNTRIES WILL BE SUPPORTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEXT-SPECIFIC COUNTRY PROGRAMME ENERGY STRATEGIES.**

Each strategy will ensure that refugee energy needs are reflected and integrated into related programmes such as health, WASH, nutrition, livelihoods and education with an overall focus on protection. Specific camps will in turn be selected within each country programme, based on a review of the peoples' and institutional needs, the energy and environmental situation, strategic partnerships and opportunities. Flexibility will, however, be retained with regard to implementation of this Strategy to enable a timely and co-ordinated response to any new or potential emergency.

The Energy and Environment Unit at UNHCR Headquarters will support the implementation process, particularly on the following components integral to achieve the objectives and vision of this Strategy:

1. Assistance in developing context-specific country programme energy strategies.
2. Provision of training to UNHCR field staff, partners and government counterparts, based on a needs assessment.
3. Technical assistance with respect to the procurement of appropriate stoves/fuels and lanterns prior to and during an emergency.
4. A deployment roster of experts to assist with baseline assessments and monitoring.

5. Identification of strategic partnerships for energy, particularly with regard to renewable energy and their adaptation to camp settings.
6. Advocacy and fundraising.
7. Support with Information Management, to share good practices and lessons learned among UNHCR and partners.

In selecting priority countries for strategy implementation, the following criteria will be used:

1. Operations already experiencing protracted situations where meeting refugee energy needs is a priority issue.
2. Country operations where access to natural resources is a known protection issue, and may already be subject to government restrictions on firewood collection.
3. Country operations that have a dedicated Environment or Energy focal person.
4. Situations where there is a clear need to build the capacity of partners and technical government agencies.
5. Identified opportunities for scaling up successful or proven interventions.
6. Instances where lessons learned could be beneficial if implemented, e.g. in cross-border circumstances where prior working experience with one refugee community applies.
7. Countries in which strategic partnerships, including funding opportunities, have been identified with the private sector.



Ethiopia / Somali refugees / UNHCR / J. Ose / June 2012



