







# **Clean Energy Challenge**

Affordable, Reliable and Sustainable Energy for Displaced and Host Communities

September 2020

### What is the Clean Energy Challenge?

The Clean Energy Challenge is about multi-stakeholder initiative to **provide cleaner and safer energy** to forcibly displaced populations.

In order to take on the energy access challenges faced by humanitarian organisations, displaced and host communities, the UNHCR launched a <u>Clean Energy Challenge</u> at the <u>2019 Global Refugee Forum</u>, gathering an Action Group of partners, including individuals, businesses and organizations from all over the world to work toward the vision that *all settlements of forcibly displaced people and nearby host communities will have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.* 

The Challenge outlines four outcome areas for integrated action:



Meeting energy needs in emergencies



Energy for cleaner cooking



Electricity access for households



Energy for community facilities (Water education, health)

## **Guiding principles**

## How does the Challenge link with national plans and existing initiatives?

The Challenge aims to support host governments' own energy agendas and ease the pressure on host countries and local communities.

We aim to build on national capacities and support both host communities and refugees. This way refugees can live in dignity and contribute to the country hosting them until they have an opportunity to return home.

#### The Challenge pursues 'market-based' approaches

We are working to build sustainable private sector solutions and develop local market capacities. Our guiding principles are participation, disaggregated data, and gender-aware programming that ensures access for all and enhances refugee self-reliance.

#### The Challenge seeks an integrated approach to settlements

We are linking together projects and initiatives in the sectors of Shelter and Settlements, WASH, Protection, Food Security, Education, Livelihoods, Health and Energy.

#### The Challenge supports approaches that offer alternatives to camps

While focusing on refugee settlements, we will also support and promote efforts for forcibly displaced populations to live and thrive in rural and urban areas, boosting host country capacity and infrastructure.

#### The Challenge aligns the humanitarian community with Climate Action

Most of those displaced seek refuge in some of the most vulnerable and ecologically fragile areas in the world. This poses significant humanitarian and environmental challenges. We are working to ensure that those forced to flee are able to meet their basic energy needs in exile while also minimizing environmental degradation and improving the lives of the communities around them.

#### The Challenge is aligned with the UN's efforts in Greening the Blue

UNHCR is working to measure, reduce and offset the carbon footprint of its facilities and operations, reduce waste, conserve water and energy, phase out our use of fossil fuels, and establish a fund for the internal use of green energy and sustainability. Together with the Clean Energy Challenge we have the ability and the opportunity to make changes at significant scale.

### **Joining the Challenge**

**To join the Challenge, please write to the Secretariat** by emailing Christina Gkouvali, Associate Liaison Officer at UNHCR (GKOUVALI@unhcr.org), and Aimee Jenks, Desk Officer at the GPA Coordination Unit (aimee.jenks@unitar.org).

