

MECS Humanitarian Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Organised jointly with the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA)

15th December 2020



The goal of the workshop was to discuss the recently released "*Landscape Analysis of Modern Energy Cooking in Displacement Settings*" with the focus on the strategic priorities identified for the MECS humanitarian stream. The workshop also offered an opportunity to better understand who among the stakeholders would be interested in partnering and collaborating under the 5 focus themes, as listed below.

The workshop was centred around questions on the key opportunities and barriers for MECS in displacement settings, themes or areas that seemed to be missing, as well as ways to create and strengthen synergies with the existing projects/programmes, and future plans among the participants. A summary of the feedback received during breakout group discussions is presented below.

	 Urban & peri-urban displacement	 Institutional & community-scale cooking	 Financing MECS (beyond grants)	 Quality data	 Inclusive models of provision
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Chatham House and RE4R Jordan Promotion of higher-tier cookstoves (e.g. gas and electric) E-cooking in grid-connected areas Include urban displaced in the CRRF and national policies Work with Governments to strengthen national grids NFI cluster as entry point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment for MECS in humanitarian institutions and registration centres Demonstrate opportunities through real-world cases Focused advocacy to influence agencies providing cooking fuel Energy efficiency measures in large-scale cooking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blended financing + targeted pools of investment funds using blended RBFs and traditional investment Link with national electrification programmes End users to pay for energy services by selling surplus to community Integrate payments with solar systems (bundled pay plans), incl. PAYG Carbon credits for e-cooking (reduce cost + reach scale) Focus on locations with highest spend on biomass Bundle projects for economies of scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use standardised energy indicators based on GPA's work Focus on ability + willingness to pay and income data Use MEI's modelling data which split populations into urban, urban/peri-urban/slum and camp Compile existing data and evaluation reports from different orgs Work with country operations of leading UN agencies and act upon their recommendations Infer data from lessons learnt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-poor RBF schemes Use technologies that look at cooking + powering/lighting; PAYGo/PAYCook Test vouchers or other mechanisms to facilitate MECS transition Leverage MECS commercial experiences in non-humanitarian markets Involve communities in project development Embrace the 'assessment to investment' journey articulated by the GPA
Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often unreliable access to electricity Identification of the displaced Building supply chains for fuels Smaller humanitarian focus and budget on urban interventions Permanent infrastructure a challenge as settlements where the displaced often reside get categorised as temporary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of or limited financing O&M needs + lack of tested business models Limited awareness of MECS and innovations in the market No/few policies supporting the switch to MECS Opaque or unsuited procurement systems + weak supply chains Lack of data, incl. energy use in institutional cooking Uncertainty about market-based solutions Overlap of activities in other sectors and donor fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of sufficient data to inform the right financing mechanisms Limited or lack of support from the host countries Mechanisms or funds to absorb the increased/unique risk of financing MECS in displacement and conflict Need for subsidies or one-off grants to overcome the capital barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for continued data collection efforts (not just one-off) Balance between data for emergency response vs data for long-term project development Urban refugees' choice to remain anonymous or 'under the radar' Energy not a pressing issue for urban refugees Access to specific situation field data Managing expectations that come with data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income and affordability (i.e. ability to pay) Cultural aspects/characteristics as a barrier for e-cooking Too much 'experimentation', too few success stories/lessons learnt Money collection and payment schemes for market-based approaches (i.e. financing)
What's missing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we bring food security cluster and NFI (shelter) closer together to provide joined up solutions? Understanding of some of the national legal and regulatory environments that affect energy regulation Partnerships with active on the ground organisations Some programmes (e.g. EnDev) cannot work with all fuels Recommendations on what is to be considered differently than in camps or rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness of institutions/organizations to change and make investments to enable change Local players and local capacity building Scarcity of existing sturdy technologies Building on fuelling cooking for institutions and trickling it down to the household level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration for ongoing payments for electricity + O&M costs Commercially viable, modern technologies Flexibility of service/product repayments Thorough business models analysis & adequacy for displacement Transparency and dialogue with suppliers/technology providers (e.g. data on customer base, willingness to pay, true cost, etc.) Review of targeted CBI and/or vouchers to kick start markets Cost-benefit analysis of traditional vs other approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiation in approaches for energy needs assessment depending on the type of displacement settings (urban, peri urban, rural, camp, etc.) Common approach to data collection (incl. M&E) across all agencies A Theory of Change and what data is needed for it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work directly with the displaced, include their voices/perspectives + build tools to enable this inclusive approach Understand other costs (e.g. health-related) to advocate for clean energy transitions Entrepreneurial approaches for POCs to take ownership of their future, and be a central part of planning and implementation of new income-generating opportunities
Boosting synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRC urban displacement work Link with UNDP's work on supporting local energy infrastructure in refugee/displacement hosting areas FCDO cities programme, or circular economy programmes, or climate neutral cities work ODI's work on urban settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use community and institutional facilities to showcase the opportunity for electric cooking and innovative delivery models Build on existing programmes(e.g. agri-programming could fuel biogas or briquette production) Increased and improved information/data sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combining cooking and other needs to determine what financing could work for a holistic approach Alignment with private sector + lessons learnt from successful cases Work with GPA household cooking + electrification workshop series Tap into GOGLA's work on end-user subsidies Work with development orgs + financial institutions + Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of workshops with practitioners to jointly devise a framework and approach to data collection Academia's support to use data for decision making based on evidence Conduct holistic analysis, build partnerships and get approvals from host Governments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream the usage of co-design tools etc. and inclusive energy access Conduct cooking assessments together with livelihood, health, etc. sectors Bring displaced people within the value chains (e.g. retail opportunities, and through existing community-based groups) Work with CCCM cluster - working group on sustainable site planning, connectivity and energy Closely collaborate with the private sector
Who wants to be involved?	IOM, NORCAP, SNV, EnDev, Mercy Corps, GPA, CEEZ, Chatham House, RE4R Jordan	IOM, NORCAP, SNV, EnDev, Mercy Corps, GPA, GIZ ESDS	WFP, Energy Saving Trust, Practical Action, GPA, IOM, UNEP-DTU, GIZ ESDS, GET.invest	WFP, IOM, NORCAP, UNEP-DTU	IOM, NORCAP, WFP, Energy Saving Trust, Practical Action, SNV, Mercy Corps, GPA, Bristol University, GIZ ESDS, UNEP-DTU, University of Edinburgh