

Collaboration with host governments to promote inclusive market-based energy solutions

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) in Kenya

Background

According to UNHCR, by end of June 2022, Kenya hosted about 568,325 registered refugees and asylum seekers. They are mainly based in Daadab (41.1%) and Kakuma (43%) and 15.9% in various urban centers across the country. The formal application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in Kenya was announced following the 68th Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in October 2017. Among the progressive steps that followed the formal announcement as CRRF country is:

- Refugees are included in planning for Kenya's new UN Development Assistance Framework 2018 – 2022.
- For the first time, the Turkana and Garissa County Integrated Development Plans include refugees.
- In October 2020, the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) published Kenya's CRRF themed 'support for host community and refugee empowerment (SHARE).
- In November 2021, Kenya gazetted a Refugees Act, 2021 which provides for integration of refugees into host communities and consideration of refugee matters in national and county sustainable development and environmental plans.

Germany contributes to UNHCR's Clean Energy Challenge with the Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (SUN-ESDS) project to advise on its 2019–2025 energy strategy. The strategy aims to meet refugees'

and host communities' energy needs safely and sustainably. The project implements innovative energy approaches in Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia and shares lessons learned. The project supports Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia develop national and regional strategic energy plans. By facilitating local market structures, the goal is to encourage communities' energy self-reliance. Its main approach is to help national and regional government stakeholders and UNHCR share knowledge, lessons learned, and good practices.

Summary of the project

Project name	Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings Kenya (ESDS)–Kenya
Com-misioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project re-gion	Turkana West Sub-County
Partner	Kenyan Ministry of Energy, Turkana County Government (TCG) and UNHCR
Duration	July 2019 – December 2024

Policy, Capacity Development and Coordination

The project is providing advisory services to strengthen TCG structures to integrate energy needs of refugees into local development plans; to integrate service de-



- Partners at the ESDS 2023/2024 planning workshop.
- Stakeholder Validation Workshop on draft Turkana County Energy Policy held in Lodwar, October 2022

livery 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 has been 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.

Activity 1: Improving the Policy Framework

In Kenya, ESDS has been working with Turkana County Government (TCG) to finalize the draft Turkana County Energy Plan as provisioned by the Kenya Energy Act of 2019. The plan incorporates priority projects required to accelerate energy access for both refugees and the host community residence of Turkana County. As well, the project is supporting the development of the inaugural Turkana Energy Policy, which mirrors the provisions of the National Energy Policy of 2018 but is uniquely tailored to encompass the county's designated areas (refugees' camps and settlement) as provisioned by the Kenya Refugee Act of 2021. Further policy development for the sector and lobbying for integration of refugee energy needs in national electrification and clean cooking strategies will also be supported.

Activity 2: Energy Stakeholders Coordination

ESDS works with UNHCR and Turkana County Government (who both co-chair the implementation of the Kalobeyi Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan

(KISEDIP) sustainable energy solutions (SES) component in Turkana West sub-county. KISEDIP SES convenes quarterly stakeholders' forums which provide a platform for knowledge exchange, cooperation and joint review of progress made in the achievement of development objectives targeted at both refugees and their host communities. ESDS will intensify its coordination support to UNHCR Kenya in its role of facilitating the implementation of the GCR in the humanitarian development peace nexus within Kakuma and Kalobeyi.

At county level, the project supports TCG in its facilitation role of county-wide energy stakeholders' coordination and promotion of energy access to households, businesses, and social institutions through market-based energy access solutions. Activities include the convening of partners and engagement in inclusive policy development processes. Consultative forums to facilitate adequate participation and input by stakeholders in the development or implementation of policies are also supported.

Activity 3: Capacity development of county government officers

To strengthen the capacity of the host government to facilitate the implementation of the Kalobeyi Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan, ESDS Kenya conducted a capacity needs assessment of Turkana's energy sector in partnership with TCG. A capacity development strategy was consequently developed, and its implementation has been ongoing. As of November 2022, 59 County officers have been trained in energy management, effective policy development or project management. Measures to facilitate regional exchange or international exposure to public private partnerships for successful deployment of energy infrastructure will also be considered.

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