

THEMATIC SESSION

**Renewable energy for displaced communities
May 14th, 2019/ 14:00 – 15:30 hrs. /Room 4**

Organizers	UNDP
Context	<p>Providing sustainable energy solutions in the context of communities impacted by conflicts and disasters is critical but also very challenging.</p> <p>The ability of displaced communities to cope with and rapidly recover from crisis depends in many ways on their ability to regain sustainable access to energy. It fuels displaced communities' access to water, to social services like health and education, to transport and communication needs, and is critical for regenerating livelihoods and local economies. It is this recognition that defines the focus of the global collaborative efforts of the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) which aims at providing concrete actions for accelerated progress towards energy for the displaced communities.</p> <p>Renewable energy solutions for restoring livelihoods allow faster re-integration while accelerating recovery for internally displaced communities, returnees of conflict and refugees. This holds importance in the Arab region, where communities face an escalation of conflict, generating more than 20 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Most places hosting refugees and IDPs also face high levels of energy insecurity. While setting the foundations for long-term resilience, decentralized solar solutions have emerged as one potential solution to meet the emergency needs of crisis affected communities, of which a majority are women and children. The goal of scaling up solar solutions in crisis contexts is in many ways a litmus test for the aspired goal of making crisis response more inclusive and helping communities build back better.</p> <p>UNDP is the UN's largest provider of grant assistance for issues of climate change, energy and the environment, with over \$4 billion of ongoing initiatives in over 140 countries, of which over \$500 million of grants are specifically dedicated to countries in the Arab region. This includes UNDP assistance to accelerate the use of solar solutions for displaced communities in Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Palestine, Libya and Lebanon.</p>
Session Objectives and expected Outcomes	<p>The objective of the session is to discuss how to scale up the use of renewable energy solutions for resilient recovery in displaced communities and showcase emerging success stories in the Middle East and Horn of Africa region including Yemen and Sudan.</p> <p>The expected outcomes will be (i) a better understanding of how solar solutions can meet emergency needs such as access to water, health and education services, and regeneration of livelihoods, and (ii) an understanding of what</p>



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	constitutes innovative finance allowing the scale up of renewable energy solutions for displaced communities.															
Key elements for the discussion	<p>Representatives from participating countries will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present how they are using decentralized energy solutions today for inclusivity, to meet the gender differentiated needs of displaced communities by expanding access to water, health and education services, and regenerate livelihoods; • identify ways by which innovative finance and partnerships can help scale up solar solutions for displaced communities in the region and beyond. 															
Panellists	<p>MODERATOR: Stephen Gitonga, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Panellists</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Representing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Selva Ramachandran</td> <td>Resident Representative</td> <td>UNDP Sudan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arvind Kumar</td> <td>Project Manager</td> <td>UNDP Yemen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aimee Jenks</td> <td>Desk Officer</td> <td>Global Plan for Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valentina Villoria (TBC)</td> <td>Programme Manager</td> <td>EU DEVCO Climate and Energy Unit</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Panellists	Title	Representing	Selva Ramachandran	Resident Representative	UNDP Sudan	Arvind Kumar	Project Manager	UNDP Yemen	Aimee Jenks	Desk Officer	Global Plan for Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement	Valentina Villoria (TBC)	Programme Manager	EU DEVCO Climate and Energy Unit
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Discussion agenda and structure	<p>00:00 min Welcome and Key note presentation by the moderator on regional trends regards energy needs of displaced communities</p> <p>00:05 min Brief interventions by panelists</p> <p>00:37 min Open discussion and Q&A with audience</p> <p>00:85 min Conclusions by moderator</p> <p>00:90 min Session ends</p>															
Expected number of participants	50															
Technical Equipment Required	<p>Laptop, projector and screen</p> <p>Microphones and speaker system</p> <p>Panel and audience seating</p>															