



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
CLEAN COOKSTOVES

COOKING IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

THE CHALLENGE

Over 128 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance today. As of 2016, more than 65 million of them were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, and violence, while millions more have been affected by natural disasters. Although a robust humanitarian system exists to provide food, shelter, and medical assistance, many crisis-affected people lack access to adequate fuel and technologies to safely cook their meals.

Food provided by humanitarian agencies is typically dry and energy dense, and must be cooked for long periods of time before it can be eaten, yet clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels are rarely provided. As a result, many families rely on solid fuels such as wood or charcoal for cooking, which create smoky fires that damage respiratory health. Crisis-affected women must often walk for hours to find firewood and carry heavy loads back to camp, which puts them at risk for physical injury and attack. The time spent collecting firewood also negatively affects women's and girls' ability to attend school and engage in income-generating activities.

Photo Credit: UNHCR B. Bannon Kenya 2011

KEY STATS

- 128 million** People in need of humanitarian assistance today (UN OCHA, 2018).
- 84%** Estimated percentage of refugees in camps cooking with biomass fuels (Moving Energy Initiative, 2018).
- 45%** Percentage of Rohingya refugees outside registered camps in Bangladesh reporting that they sold food rations to purchase cooking fuel (WFP, 2017).
- 5 hours** Average time spent per trip to collect firewood among refugee women in Chad, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda in 2014.
- 42%** Percentage of refugee households in Chad that experienced incidents of sexual or gender-based violence during firewood collection over a six-month period (UNHCR, 2014).

THE SOLUTION

Since 2010, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves has been committed to **reaching the world's most vulnerable populations** through its targeted humanitarian program, which complements and leverages its market-based work, diverse partner base, and geographic reach to increase energy access in humanitarian settings. **The Alliance has spent years building an effective coalition of humanitarian and energy stakeholders to address the needs of crisis-affected people, as well as advocating for the increased prioritization of energy access in the humanitarian system.** Additionally, the Alliance has supported key organizations by strategically planning and coordinating activities, sharing information, building the capacity of field implementers, developing tools and resources, and mobilizing support for humanitarian energy initiatives among donors, investors, and the broader aid sector.

THE ALLIANCE'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY: SIX STRATEGIC PILLARS



COORDINATION The Alliance serves as Co-chair of the [Safe Access to Fuel and Energy \(SAFE\) Humanitarian Working Group](#), the central global coordination mechanism for the energy needs of crisis-affected people, including cooking, lighting, powering, heating, and cooling. Through the SAFE Working Group, the Alliance leads the coordination of energy-related assistance in emergencies, including the delivery of over 86,000 energy products to Nepal earthquake victims in 2015. The Alliance also developed and maintains the SAFE Working Group website.



BUILDING CAPACITY The Alliance has trained over 330 humanitarian, energy, government, and private sector staff from 34 countries in humanitarian energy access programming and related issues through annual SAFE workshops, facilitating cross-sector collaboration and the implementation of best practices. The Alliance also co-developed [ENERGYCoP](#) – a database of over 300 projects, resources, and tools for practitioners – and has partnered with NORCAP to lead the development of an expert roster to support humanitarian energy initiatives.



ADVOCACY The Alliance advocates for energy access to be recognized as a formal priority in humanitarian assistance. It maintains close partnerships with leading global aid agencies such as UNHCR, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and Mercy Corps, as well as several national governments, in order to foster the development of clean cooking programs for crisis-affected people. The Alliance has provided technical guidance for cooking programs in the Sphere Handbook and is a co-author of the [Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement](#).



RESEARCH In order to build the evidence base that cooking interventions can have life-saving impacts for crisis-affected people, especially women and girls, the Alliance has conducted assessments of clean cooking interventions for refugees in Rwanda, as well as commissioned research on the relationship between gender-based violence and cookstove and fuel access. Its 2016 report [Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings: Cookstoves and Fuels](#) examines existing evidence and calls for increased and improved data collection on this topic.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE The Alliance provides ad hoc and formal assistance on clean cooking and SAFE programming to aid organizations worldwide. From 2014-2015, the Alliance supported UNHCR in the development of global and national SAFE strategies, setting the stage for high quality programming. In 2016, the Alliance developed technical specifications for [UNHCR cookstove procurement](#) and assisted the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to update its entry for efficient solid fuel stoves in the [Emergency Items Catalogue](#).



MOBILIZING RESOURCES The Alliance works with its partners to enhance funding support for energy access programs in humanitarian settings. The Alliance's [Humanitarian Clean Cooking Fund \(HCCF\)](#) supports the scale-up of projects working to bring cleaner and more efficient fuels and cooking technologies to crisis-affected people.



The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves supports the SAFE Humanitarian Working Group

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