

ToR for Landscape Study on Refugee-Led Energy Initiatives & Investment Opportunity in Uganda and Ethiopia

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

As part of the Transforming Humanitarian Energy Access (THEA) programme, funded by the UK Government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform, which is managed by Carbon Trust, Ashden are seeking consultant(s) with expertise in humanitarian energy access to conduct a study into refugee-led energy initiatives in Uganda and Ethiopia.

1.2 Background

According to UNHCR, the UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, as of May 2024, an estimated 130 million people around the world are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 120 million have been forcibly displaced. If refugees and displaced people were the population of a single country, it would be the 12th or 13th largest in the world, with sub-Saharan Africa hosting around 20% of the global refugee population. Many camps and settlements for refugees and displaced people in sub-Saharan Africa are situated near national borders, in remote locations which are far from large cities, and beyond the reach of electricity grids.

Estimates suggest that refugee households collectively could be spending as much as \$2.1 billion on energy each year, without accounting for humanitarian agencies' costs to hand out rations of firewood for household cooking. But with millions now living in displacement as a result of protracted crises, such vast sums still only equate to the most basic levels of energy provision and come at considerable cost to some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in the world. Spending for cooking and lighting by displaced people is estimated to be around \$200 per family per year for less than 4 hours of energy a day. According to 2022 Chatham House research, 94% of forcibly displaced people living in camps have no meaningful access to electricity, and 81% rely on firewood or charcoal for cooking.

As far as energy is concerned, humanitarian provision has generally been limited to NGOs supplying firewood for cooking, and basic torches for lighting. According to the UNHCR's 2023 Report on Sustainable Energy, over half a million solar lanterns have been distributed as part of rapid emergency response. Indeed small solar lanterns and solar home systems are well suited to refugee and displacement contexts. They are portable in case households are relocated, and sometimes provide enough power to charge mobile phones, radios or laptops - devices which are as crucial for the day to day life of households in displacement settings as they are to anyone else in the modern world. In long established displacement settings, where humanitarian agencies no longer hand out large numbers of solar lanterns for free, falling costs mean that solar lighting solutions and small solar home systems can be purchased for \$10 - \$150. Though affordability remains a challenge, the success of several commercial entities providing sustainable energy products and services to refugee households - including five Ashden Award winners - serves to demonstrate the high demand for energy in displacement settings, and the viability of market-based solutions.

While the mainstream humanitarian system struggles to meet the increasing energy needs of households and enterprises in displacement settings, and faces continuing resource constraints, there has been a noticeable growth in the participation of refugee-led organisations and refugee entrepreneurs in providing critical energy solutions to communities in long-term displacement situations. This ToR sets out the assignment for a landscape study to gain both quantitative and qualitative data on these refugee-led energy initiatives; the technologies and business models utilized; and challenges faced by these initiatives in sustaining and scaling their operations. The study will also

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provide insights into the investment need and impact opportunity that supporting such initiatives could present towards achieving universal clean, affordable energy access in displacement settings.

2. THE STUDY

2.1 Objectives of the Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to conduct desk and field research in order to provide an indicative assessment of the number and nature of refugee-led initiatives (both enterprises and not-for-profits) who are providing energy products and services in displacement settings in Uganda and Ethiopia. The study is intended to focus on both renewable and fossil-fuel based energy providers, with the aim of understanding the investment need to transition and scale these activities towards achieving widespread access to clean energy for households and (micro)enterprises in displacement settings.

2.2 Audience for the Study

- i. **THEA consortium partners and other humanitarian stakeholders:** the study will provide data and evidence to organisations already active in the humanitarian sector to support them in adapting their programming to work with more refugee-led initiatives in their energy delivery.
- ii. **Energy Access Funders:** the study will provide insights into the investment needs of actors already involved in energy provision in displacement settings, encouraging energy access funders to pursue opportunities in displacement settings as a critical part of their wider efforts towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- iii. **Climate & Environmental Funders:** the study will provide persuasive insights into refugee-led clean energy projects to inspire climate and environmental funders to support clean energy in displacement settings as a means of contributing to efforts in combatting climate change and environmental degradation.

3. Scope of Work & Key Tasks

3.1 Scope of Work

The consultant(s) will conduct desktop research and field work in **up to** four refugee/IDP settlements in each of Uganda and Ethiopia. Consideration should be given to the size of the settlements, the security situation in each settlement, the length of time that the settlement has been established for, and other key characteristics which define the settlement.

The consultant(s) will identify stakeholders, and undertake key informant interviews (KIIs) and well as other semi-structured interviews with relevant parties identified during the course of the research. Fieldwork should include high level mapping/enumeration in trading centres within refugee settlements, to identify key providers and consumers of energy, and the technologies/fuels which they are using.

The study will not include energy use at individual household level, but should focus on the enterprises/organisations who are providing energy products and services to households and (micro)enterprises.

3.2 Key Tasks

- i. **Desktop Research**

The consultant(s) will undertake a literature review and desktop research to:

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- To document the number, population and area of all official refugee settlements in Uganda and Ethiopia
- To understand which agencies are involved in energy provision in each settlement (if any)
- To understand whether the settlement is already served by the national grid or has access to electricity from local mini-grids (irrespective of whether refugee households and businesses can access this)
- To start to characterise each settlement in terms of how rural/urban it is, how close it is to other major (host community) settlements where people might access markets and services, and what are the main income generating/economic activities for people living in each settlement
- To develop an inception report and detailed methodology for subsequent activities

ii. Stakeholder Mapping & Consultations

The consultant(s) will engage will key stakeholders in the humanitarian ecosystem (e.g. UNHCR; IOM: the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda; business/CSO registration authorities) to determine, amongst other things:

- The number of refugee-led organisations registered in each settlement, of which how many are undertaking activity in energy delivery, and what kind of activity
- The number of businesses registered in each settlement, of which how many might be involved in energy delivery
- The number of humanitarian agencies or private sector actors providing energy products and services within each settlement
- The number of agency owned sites (for example, offices, schools and clinics) who have solar or other renewable energy installed

Ashden recognise that this information will be estimates based on the best information available to the relevant stakeholders, and cannot be treated as an accurate or up-to-date picture of the situation in any settlement.

iii. Fieldwork & Key Informant Interviews

Based on the desktop research and stakeholder consultations, and with guidance from Ashden, the consultant(s) will select **up to** four refugee settlements in which to conduct fieldwork. The consultant(s) will prepare a research plan for the proposed fieldwork, which shall be reviewed and approved by Ashden prior to making any travel plans.

The fieldwork should include, but not be limited to:

- High level survey / walk around to assess energy service providers within each settlement (for example, by conducting walk-throughs of trading areas in the settlement, and identifying enterprises selling energy-related products and services such as power supply or genset rental; mobile phone charging; charcoal sales; cookstove sellers etc.)
- High level survey / walk around to assess enterprises using energy within each settlement (for example, by conducting walk-throughs of trading areas in the settlement, and identifying enterprises using small

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gensets to power their activities; providing grain milling services; using refrigeration in their shops; using fuel to power ovens or other cooking devices for sales of food, etc.)

- Key informant interviews (KIIs) with enterprises and organisations selling or using energy as a core part of their operations
- Key informant interviews with humanitarian agencies, refugee-led organisations and other stakeholders involved in energy delivery in the settlement
- Photo/video records of energy use within each settlement; collection of GPS coordinates for the main trading areas

iv. Analysis of research findings

The consultant(s) will review the research findings to provide insights into the scale of investment that might be needed to:

- Transition existing energy service providers and users in displacement settings to clean energy solutions
- Seed, replicate and scale market-based clean energy solutions to serve the energy needs of households and enterprises in these displacement settings

The consultant(s) will also provide a preliminary cost-benefit analysis, illustrating how such investment might support job creation and local economic growth, reduce long-term energy costs in displacement settings, support improvements to the local environment and air quality, and other positive impacts which might be derived from the transition to clean energy in displacement settings. The research analysis will also include case studies and proposed solutions derived from the field work.

v. Develop final landscape study report

The consultant(s) will present a draft report on each country to the THEA team at Ashden and THEA consortium partners for review and agreement. Following this, any proposed changes shall be incorporated in the report, allowing for up to three re-drafts on the report prior to final acceptance.

4. Length of Assignment

The high level timeline and allocation of days is as follows. This is will agreed in detail with the selected consultant(s) upon appointment.

Task	When	Anticipated duration	Anticipated deliverables
Desk research	Dec '24 – Jan '25	Not more than 20 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of desktop research findings and inception report • Overview of settlements in each country and characterisation/typology of settlements • Preliminary stakeholder mapping and consultation plan (incl. outline interview questions)
Stakeholder consultation	Jan – Feb '25	Not more than 15 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of findings from consultations • Updated stakeholder mapping (inc. contact details and detailed interview notes where appropriate)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline fieldwork plan and structure for KIIs
Fieldwork	Feb – Apr ‘25	Not more than 25 days (incl. planning and travel time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final fieldwork plan and KII structures agreed with Ashden (inc. safety and security risk assessment) Summary activity reports to be provided after each settlement visit
Analysis	May – Jun ‘25	Not more than 20 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KII transcripts and survey / walk around findings Scale of investment for green transition, and calculations/assumptions used to develop the assessment Cost-benefit analysis of transition, and calculations/assumptions used to develop the assessment
Write up	Jun – Jul ‘25	Not more than 20 days	<p>Workshop to present draft report to THEA team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated draft(s) of the landscape study Final landscape study reports for Uganda and Ethiopia

Note that a separate synthesis report may be commissioned at a later date.

5. Key requirements

Successful candidates will meet the following requirements:

Research and analysis capabilities

- Ability to design, adapt and implement suitable research methodologies which are sensitive to the unique aspects of data collection and research in displacement settings
- Experience developing and deploying suitable research tools, including surveys, semi-structured interviews, mapping, case studies and other desk research.
- Experience in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills, including survey analysis, and ability to apply data to develop outline models and cost-benefit analyses

Expertise in displacement contexts and with affected communities

- Lived experience of forced displacement within an East Africa context
- Language skills to communicate effectively with research participants and stakeholders
- Sensitivity to the unique contexts in which this research is to be conducted

Project management skills

- Demonstrable track record of timely delivery of previous research work
- Demonstrable track record of travel planning and organisation in the context of conducting field research

Other

- Excellent skills in drafting reports and incorporating feedback from reviewers
- Ability to deliver presentation/review workshops and take on board feedback
- Availability to join update calls with Ashden team, at least every other week, and join coordination calls with other researchers and THEA partners on at least a monthly basis
- Experience of and willingness to travel to displacement settings and other complex environments for work

6. Budget

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The maximum budget available for this consultancy is £13,750 per country, excluding in-country travel and accommodation costs, which will be agreed with Ashden as part of the finalisation of the fieldwork plan

A additional budget to cover honoraria for research participants will be agreed with the consultant(s) as part of the finalisation of the fieldwork plan.

Interested parties should submit a CV, cover letter, representative writing/report samples, expected day rate, and details of referees from two previous research projects to isona.shibata@ashden.org by midday GMT on Monday 25th November 2024.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity before submitting an expression of interest, please feel free to contact Isona at the email address above.