

# Global Refugee Forum: Clean Cooking Alliance Intervention during the High-Level Dialogue for Energy and Infrastructure

## Context

In 2018, the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) was affirmed at the UN General Assembly as a framework for multilateral cooperation on sustainable solutions to refugee situations. Through this framework, governments, international organisations and other stakeholders are called to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations through ensuring equitable resourcing to host communities and displacement situations. The first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) will be held on 17-18 December 2019 as the first space to monitor the Global Compact objectives and to highlight key achievements and good practices with the global community. “Energy and Infrastructure” is one out of six workstreams of the Forum.

The High-Level session, addressing this topic, will be held on Wednesday, 18 December from 09:00 to 11:00 in Room XVIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The session will consist of the following components:

- 9:00 to 9:45: Moderated Panel (three sub-panels) and Launch of Challenge by UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner; and
- 9:45 to 11:00: Statements (or “interventions”) from the Floor, maximum of two minutes per intervention. The Alliance will participate contribute a statement.

The High Level Panel will include:

- **Moderator:**
  - Mr. Jaafar Abdul Karim, Host of Jaafartalk & Award-winning Journalist, Deutsche Welle.
- **Chair:**
  - Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.
- **Speakers:**
  - **Ms. Joelle Hangi, Refugee Representative**, Kakuma Camp, Kenya.
  - **Mr. Rasmus Prehn**, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark.
  - **Hon. Kitutu Kimono Mary Goretti**, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda.
  - **Mr. Ferid Belhaj**, Regional Vice President, Middle East and North Africa, World Bank Group.
  - **Mr. Per Heggnes**, CEO, IKEA Foundation.
  - **Mr. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

## Draft Remarks

Madame Chair, distinguished colleagues:

My name is Kathleen Callaghy. I lead the humanitarian portfolio of the Clean Cooking Alliance, a global network of partners working to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. This three billion includes approximately 80% of displaced people living in camps, who are cooking with firewood or charcoal in traditional stoves.

My colleagues from have already attested to the importance of energy access in humanitarian response. I am here to emphasize that cooking is a *crucial* component of the energy picture – one that cannot be missed. Why? For three very simple reasons:

First, **cooking is necessary for survival**. Most humanitarian food aid consists of dry goods that must be cooked to be eaten. If one cannot cook, one cannot eat.

Second, **cooking is – by far – the largest component of household energy needs in crisis settings**. Boiling a pot of water for one hour requires *50 times the amount of power* needed to light a 50-Watt incandescent lightbulb for the same amount of time. In the immediate future, cooking is not a challenge we can solve with electrification alone. We must be open to all fuels and technologies that offer incremental improvements in efficiency, cleanliness, or sustainability until such time that until such time that modern and sustainable energy for all is a reality.

Third, the **act of cooking encompasses far more than a simple stove**. It's about the fuel that is burned in that stove; where it came from; what it cost; the risks experienced by the women who collected it; the meals they skipped or they food they undercooked to make it last. It's about the vitality of the children who eat that food – their nutrition; performance in school; their happiness and wellbeing. It's about the smoke this family inhaled, and the drudgery of repeating this process multiple times every day.

For these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, *we must address cooking*. We must do it *now*, and we must think beyond stoves. Improving cooking solutions for displaced people requires strengthening and expanding fuel supply chains, reducing the burden of affordability through cash-based assistance, and funding that assistance with multi-year commitments. It requires enabling market-based approaches in humanitarian settings; partnering with principled private actors who offer expertise and innovation; and working with the global financial community to offset risks.

Above all, we must partner with displaced people and host communities at every stage to ensure that solutions are appropriate, accessible, and meet their needs. My friend Alima Mohammad in Nakivale, Uganda, once said “if we get light and fuel for cooking, we can work more, study more and enjoy our time together more. And if we can do all that, I believe we will be able to do anything.” Cooking is not just about survival, ladies and gentlemen. Clean Cooking...is life.

Thank you for your attention.