

Talking Points Energy and Infrastructure HL Dialogue

Thank you for organizing this Dialogue and especially for recognizing the importance of energy and infrastructure in addressing the needs of host communities and refugees.

The World Bank has a long track record of supporting the expansion of energy access both on and off-grid, and to rural and urban electrification. A quick summary of the lending portfolio for renewables:

1. Between 2015-2019, the Bank lent \$9.4 billion in clean energy, including hydropower, renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is almost a third of our total lending portfolio to the energy sector;
2. The share of Lending for Renewable energy (non-hydro) in relation to our overall energy portfolio has continuously increased, from 7% in FY14 to 18% in FY19;
3. By volume, this represents an almost doubling of the annual lending for renewables.

The Bank has much to offer through its lending and its technical assistance programs, especially the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). ESMAP is funded by donors - many of you here in the audience, incl Norway and France - and the World Bank, and administered by the Bank. It provides analytical and advisory services to LDCs, LLDS and SIDS countries, including on how to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions.

ESMAP's program for Energy Access for Host-Communities and Refugees provides support for electrification of displaced persons and their host communities, where there is frequent lack of access to legal, safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Let me provide you with three specific examples of what the Bank does on energy for forcibly displaced:

First, The World Bank has had a substantial engagement with the **Kingdom of Jordan**, amounting to 500 million dollars.

The Bank provided a Development Policy Lending series, for Energy and Water Sector Reforms. Following a successive series of external shocks the long-term structural vulnerabilities of the utility sector were exacerbated. Without this intervention the financial sustainability of electricity and water services to both host and refugee populations was under severe threat.

Through the help of the Bank, the financial viability of these utilities were improved, efficiency gains in the two sectors were promoted, and the additional demand for services generated by the Syrian refugee crisis could be met. Structural reforms guaranteed sustainable electricity and water supply for the host population and the refugees. This helped the government to avoid forcing a trade-off between future fiscal and sector resilience against meeting the demands of accommodating Syrian refugees.

Second, in **Yemen**, the ongoing conflict has significantly worsened the electricity supply situation. The Bank is involved through two projects: the "Emergency Electricity Access Project" and the "Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project". These two projects amount to 200 million, all in grants.

The first project set up financing windows for high-quality small-scale solar solutions for rural and peri-urban households and provides grants to beneficiaries to make the systems more affordable. So far 142 health clinics, 190 schools and 10 water wells have received new or improved electricity service as a result of this project. Currently, 2.35 million people have benefited from the installations.

The other project's objective is to restore access to critical urban services. So far, it has provided rooftop solar systems for 33 health facilities and schools. Additionally, some 3000 solar street lights have been installed, generating about 11,000 Megawatts of power.

Third, In the **Sahel** and **Lake Chad Regions**, ESMAP is providing resources to conduct socio-economic studies and assess solar off-grid market development for host-communities and refugees. The activities seek to fill data and knowledge gaps. These assessments will allow for the preparation of investment operations on access to electricity in fragile and conflict areas, with a specific focus on host communities and displaced people. Similar assessments are planned for the Horn of Africa and the Venezuelan refugee crisis.

Clean cooking solutions are also important. At the recent Climate Action Summit, the World Bank/ESMAP launched a planned \$500 million Clean Cooking Fund (CCF) to scale up public and private investments in the clean cooking sector. The CCF will co-finance UN and MDB projects primarily using the Results-Based approach for climate, health and gender benefits from clean cooking interventions. We appreciate the early support of Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and the UK.

Moderator, let me end an issue close to my heart. The Global Compact was very clear about the limited data available on displaced people. To effectively assess the energy needs and the best method of delivery, we need - collectively - to better understand the situation on the ground. We believe that this is an area where we would particularly benefit from collaboration with many of you here today. At The World Bank and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement - which is my day-job - we will do our part to create a step-change

improvement in the amount and quality of data on this group of vulnerable people, incl energy.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the World Bank's activities and programs. We look forward to continuing working with you.