

The Smart Communities Coalition Pledge

High Level Dialogue on Energy and Infrastructure

- Co-chaired by Mastercard and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Smart Communities Coalition (SCC) is a platform for collaboration between public and private organizations to improve the delivery of essential services and create economic growth and livelihood opportunities to forcibly displaced individuals and host community members via technology and partnership solutions.
- Since its inception in January 2018, SCC has deployed the collective expertise and resources of its membership to develop innovative pilot projects and partnerships addressing energy, livelihoods, and financial inclusion; stimulate the expansion of refugee and host-owned businesses; and build a knowledge base around emerging business models in the humanitarian context in areas like off-grid connectivity, pay-as-you-go (PAYG) energy service delivery, and last mile distribution.
- With an initial focus on refugee camps and settlements in Kenya and Uganda and recent expansion to explore the needs of the displaced in Latin America, SCC is pleased to announce pledges by over 35 members to contribute to the GRF advancing energy, connectivity and digital tools for displaced persons and the communities that host them.
- These pledges represent multi-national and local private sector organizations, such as Microsoft, BRCK, Accenture and EDP Renewables, as well as international NGOs and local not-for-profit organizations, such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, and the Response Innovation Lab.
- The SCC is also pleased to support the UNHCR Clean Energy Challenge, which, as far as possible, will pursue 'market-based' approaches working to build sustainable private sector solutions. The Challenge goal of 90 % of refugee settlements and nearby host communities having access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030 is consistent with the efforts of SCC.