

## SPAIN-STATEMENT HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- The progresses made in the international agenda have been a salutary lesson for humanitarian action.

The **2030 Agenda** stresses the advantages and potentialities of the alliances, and in order to do so it calls for a Global Alliance for Sustainable Development through SDG 17, around the construction of partnerships and the mobilization of knowledge, technical ability, technology and resources, with the participation of all the possible partners.

On the other hand, the **World Humanitarian Summit** contributes to increase the sensitivity on humanitarian issues in an international scale as it has emphasized the specificity of this area and forces donors and organizations to work with new approaches.

- All this has shown the need for innovative working practices, looking for complementarities and synergies between both the humanitarian and the development agendas that ensure **leaving no one behind**. But it is not only a matter of linkage. We, the humanitarians, should weave alliances that go beyond our traditional frames of thinking and benefit from the great assets of knowledge and capacities that other stakeholders such as the academia and the private sector can provide.
- Spain is engaged with this vision of partnership and does so convinced of the success of this formula, as we have tested it in a pilot project and will continue to expand it the next to years with the Shire Alliance.
- This is the first multi-actor alliance of the Spanish humanitarian action with the aim of developing innovative solutions for the access of refugees and displaced populations to energy. It is participated by the private sector –through Acciona.org, Iberdrola and Signify-, the public sector –through the Office of Humanitarian Assistance of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID)-, UN humanitarian bodies –through UNHCR-, and the academia – through the Center of technological Innovation for Human Development of the Madrid Polytechnic University. The Alliance works in the search of energy generation and supply systems that may be of easy access, reliable, sustainable and adapted to the needs of populations of refugees, displaced and in extreme vulnerable situations due to humanitarian crises. Spain is also highly recognized internationally for its capacities in certain sectors such as energy, as we enjoy in this field the existence of universities, companies and experiences at the avant-garde of knowledge and innovation

A pilot project was launched in 2015 at the refugee camp of Adi Harush in Northern Ethiopia, improving the illumination and connecting community services such as the primary school, the community kitchens and a business center to the electric grid.

The pilot project had a relevant impact, mainly in three aspects: security, environment and economic savings. The illumination reduces the risk of being assaulted in the dark hours. The connection of community services produced both an economic saving in the acquisition of diesel fuel for the generators and reduced the recollection of burning wood and the emission of green house gases.

- In this second phase we have managed to extend the impact to other 3 camps and its host communities and also we have included new solutions of sustainable energy, such as solar energy, that would help to create new sources of employment.

With the support of the European Union we are working in more camps and contributing to the welfare of more people, making tangible in an actual project what the Comprehensive Refugee Responsive Framework, CRRF, promotes. We are exhibiting this compromise in all its amplitude in the Marketplace.

- The intervention in the energy field makes the global response more sustainable and transforms an action of provision of basic services in a greater protection of the most vulnerable, becoming a multidimensional response.