

INVITATION TO
A VIRTUAL BRIEFING

Tuesday, 15 Sept. 2020
10:00 - 11:00 CET



Energy in times of crisis: Briefing for Member States on the Clean Energy Challenge

- *How can clean and reliable energy bring short-term and long-term benefits to the displaced and local communities when responding to COVID-19?*
- *What can Member States do to support refugees on the ground in the midst of the two interconnected crises of COVID-19 and the longer-term climate crisis?*
- *How can clean energy become a formal priority in humanitarian assistance?*

These are among the questions that will be addressed during a virtual briefing for Member States, which aims to provide an update on the progress made since the launch of the Clean Energy Challenge by the High Commissioner for Refugees during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

Target audience: Member State staff working on humanitarian affairs, development, climate change and energy in capitals and Permanent Missions.



OPENING REMARKS

Ms Marianne Hagen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

SPEAKERS

Mr Raouf Mazou, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations

Mr Thomas Fohgrub, GPA Secretariat Lead

Mr Jaime de Bourbon de Parme, UNHCR Senior Adviser, Private Sector Partnerships

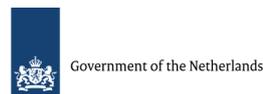
Mr Andrew Harper, UNHCR Special Adviser on Climate Action

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Tine Mørch Smith, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway

MODERATED by The New Humanitarian

Ms Sarah Noble, Director of External Relations, TNH



Energy in times of crisis



UNHCR Andrew McConnell

Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic presents unique risks to the world's 70.8m forcibly displaced people, who are often living in densely populated settlements with poor public services, in which highly communicable diseases can spread quickly. The investment in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy for all) during the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be important to help mitigate infection risks and improve the medical response.

On top of the short-term needs posed by the COVID-19 crisis, the climate crisis poses a longer-term challenge. People who flee conflict tend to find refuge in climate hot spots and increasingly feel the impacts of climate change and environmental destruction. Lacking better alternatives, they are forced to burn wood and fossil fuels for energy, causing further damage to the environment and intensifying the negative impacts they experience.

The Clean Energy Challenge is instrumental in ensuring that those forced to flee can meet their basic energy needs in exile, while also minimizing environmental degradation and protecting the livelihoods of host communities. The commitment is to achieve an ambitious goal:

“All settlements of forcibly displaced populations and nearby host communities will have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030”

This briefing is hosted to galvanize support for the Clean Energy Challenge from Member States around the need for clean energy in displacement settings within the current COVID-19 crisis and the longer-term climate crisis. It also aims to provide an update on the progress made since the launch of the Challenge by the UNHCR High Commissioner during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum.

The event is hosted by the government of Norway, and co-organized by UNHCR and the Global Plan of Action (GPA) Secretariat.

[Co-sponsors: Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Uganda](#)

