

Reliable Energy Supply in Displacement Settings

A new solar mini-grid in Kenya creates new opportunities



Background: In the Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya, **48,000 refugees** and **3,500 members** of host communities **have limited access to reliable energy**.

The „**Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings**“ (ESDS) project promotes access to sustainable energy for refugees and host communities. ESDS supports the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and county governments in developing regional energy laws and plans.

Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings (ESDS) Kenya

Duration: July 2019 - December 2024

Budget: 4,5 million EUR

Commissioner: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Partner: Ministry of Energy & Petroleum Kenya, Turkana County Government, UNHCR

The project is an example of cooperation in the **nexus of humanitarian aid, development, and peace**: GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is working closely with UNHCR and the local government to reduce the pressure on humanitarian aid and build lasting structures.



Project: A solar mini-grid (541 kilowatt peak) was built with the support of GIZ, providing electricity to around **2,000 households, 275 businesses, and 17 social institutions**.



Results: **10,000 refugees** and members of host communities have direct access to electricity. **48,000 benefit indirectly**, through social institutions such as health centers and schools.

The **quality of life** of refugees and members of host communities has improved, as they can use appliances such as refrigerators and cooking stoves at home. The **local economy** is strengthened by access to electricity and new **income opportunities** are created. The private sector is established in the market and participates in shaping the energy landscape.



People talk a lot about the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. They need to visit the Kalobeyei Settlement minigrid and experience the Nexus in 30 minutes.

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 23.10.2022



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Context: ESDS supported the technical, financial, and administrative planning and implementation of the mini-grid, as well as the private sector's access to funds from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). This enabled the exploration of investment opportunities, with the aim of unlocking the economic potential of refugees and host communities in Turkana County. **Two additional villages** of host communities will be connected to the mini-grid and an **additional mini-grid** (60 kilowatt peak) will be built.

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