



## The Problem

Cooking is a vital but under-resourced need among the millions of people who are impacted by conflict, violence, and natural disasters each year. While the global humanitarian system provides food, shelter, and medical assistance, crisis-affected people often lack adequate fuel and cleaner, more modern stoves to safely cook their meals. Many rely on polluting open fires or inefficient stoves that produce toxic smoke. Women and girls often walk for hours to collect fuel, putting themselves at risk of physical injury and attack, while the time they spend on cooking tasks negatively impacts their ability to attend school or engage in income-generating activities. Excessive wood fuel harvesting can also lead to environmental degradation and exacerbate tensions between displaced and host communities.

## The Solution

The Alliance's targeted humanitarian program complements and leverages its market-based work, diverse partner base, and geographic reach to increase energy access in humanitarian settings. The Alliance advocates for the increased prioritization of energy access in the humanitarian system, and is helping to build an effective coalition of diverse stakeholders to address the energy needs of crisis-affected people. The Alliance also supports key organizations by strategically planning and coordinating activities; sharing information; building the capacity of implementers in humanitarian settings; developing tools and resources; and mobilizing support for humanitarian energy initiatives among donors, investors, and the broader aid sector.

## Humanitarian Aspects of Cooking

- **134 million people are in need** of humanitarian assistance today.
- **85% of displaced people living in camps** are cooking with biomass fuels.
- **45% of Rohingya refugees** living outside registered camps in Bangladesh reported selling food rations to buy cooking fuel.
- **Refugee women spend 5 hours collecting firewood** on an average trip, according to studies in Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.
- **42% of refugee households in Chad experienced incidents of sexual or gender-based violence** during firewood collection over a 6-month period.

## Priorities for Action

The Alliance's humanitarian strategy is structured around the following pillars:

- 1 Coordination:** Through the SAFE Working Group, the Alliance coordinates the delivery of energy-related assistance in emergencies, including over 86,000 stoves, lights, charging devices, and other products to Nepal earthquake victims in 2015. The Alliance also administers the SAFE website and communication channels.
- 2 Capacity building:** The Alliance has trained over 330 practitioners from 34 countries to incorporate energy into humanitarian programming. The Alliance also co-developed and hosts ENERGYCoP – a database of over 300 projects, resources, and tools for practitioners – and has partnered with NORCAP to develop a global roster of experts to support humanitarian energy initiatives. In addition, the Alliance supports aid agencies to incorporate clean cooking into their work. From 2014-2016, the Alliance co-authored UNHCR global and national SAFE strategies and developed technical specifications for cookstove procurement. The Alliance also assisted the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to update specifications for improved stoves in their Emergency Items Catalogue.
- 3 Advocacy:** In partnership with aid agencies such as UNHCR, the World Food Programme, and Mercy Corps, the Alliance advocates for clean cooking and energy access to be standard components of humanitarian assistance. The Alliance is also a steering member of the *Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement*, a multi-stakeholder framework to accelerate and improve the provision of safe and sustainable energy access for displaced people.
- 4 Research:** The Alliance has conducted assessments of clean cooking interventions for refugees in Rwanda and commissioned research on gender-based violence and firewood collection. The Alliance's 2016 report, *Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings: Cookstoves and Fuels*, examines existing evidence and calls for increased and improved data collection on this topic.
- 5 Mobilizing Resources:** The Alliance educates donors, investors, and private companies on the needs and opportunities in the sector. The Alliance's Humanitarian Clean Cooking Fund supports the scale-up of projects working to bring cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions to crisis-affected people.

## SAFE Humanitarian Working Group

The Alliance co-chairs the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Humanitarian Working Group, an inter-agency consortium that facilitates energy assistance – including cooking, lighting, powering, heating, cooling, and water supply – for crisis-affected people.



## About the Clean Cooking Alliance

The Clean Cooking Alliance works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Established in 2010, the Alliance is driving consumer demand, building a pipeline of investible businesses, and fostering an enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive. Clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and environment, empowering women, and helping families save time and money. Learn more about our work at [www.CleanCookingAlliance.org](http://www.CleanCookingAlliance.org).

