

Market Based Energy Access (MBEA) III Project



Country	Kenya
Technology	Solar, stoves & PUE
Project period	Jul 2023 – Dec 2024
Partners	Sunken, Sunvine, Nyalore, Access and Move, Solaria and Total Energies Marketing Kenya PLC.
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accelerate access to household lighting for vulnerable communities in refugee camps.• Facilitate adoption of affordable solar systems for business use by MSMEs.• Strengthen local production of cookstoves.• Improve the enabling environment to enhance private sector investment

On average, they can produce 500-1000 stoves per month. However, the availability of higher-performing biomass stoves and Electric Pressure Cookers (EPCs) is low, and uptake is limited due to high upfront costs and limited access to formal financial services for refugees. While there is awareness of the benefits of improved cooking, knowledge of stove quality assessment, operation, and maintenance is limited.



Background

Kenya has 577,492 refugees and asylum-seekers as of January 31, 2023, with 42.2% residing in the Kakuma refugee camp. The camp is located in Turkana, northwestern Kenya, and it was established in 1992. Currently the camp is divided into four sections and includes the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, which is about 20 kilometers away from Kakuma.

Most people in Kakuma and Kalobeyei (94-96%) use firewood and/or charcoal for cooking, which can harm health and the environment if inefficient stoves and methods are used. This causes respiratory diseases as reported by the local healthcare providers and deforestation which has been a problem in Turkana County for a long time.

Energy access in Kakuma and Kalobeyei varies from KPLC-operated diesel mini-grid (3%) to solar lanterns (29%), SHS (16%), component-based solar systems, diesel/petrol generators, and solar mini-grid systems (11%). Other sources for lighting are torches, mobile phones, firewood, and candles.

There is a wide range of biomass stoves available in the camp that are locally produced with varying quality and production capacity.

The project will use a market-based approach and focus on the private sector, particularly the manufacturers, producers, and distributors of stoves and solar products. The goal is to develop the market for energy access technologies for homes and businesses.

Project Approach

The project will strengthen the supply, distribution, and uptake of clean cooking and solar-powered solutions for use by households and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Kakuma refugee camp, KIS, and the host communities.

This will be achieved through a market-based approach involving the provision of technical assistance (TA) to the private sector and specifically the stove and solar supply side actors (including manufacturers, producers, and their local distribution teams and partners including stockists, sales agents, technicians, and resellers/LMEs) including those already operating in the refugee market and the new market entrants.



1. The TA will include refugee market intelligence, business linkages, and partnership development (especially for the new entrants).
2. The business support will entail the implementation of market development activities by the project to enhance the distribution and uptake of the energy products, therefore, business support will involve procurement of goods and services including.
 - (a) awareness/marketing platforms/venues, services, materials/tools.
 - (b) training venues, materials, facilitators.

To enhance implementation and achieve results, market development activities will be carried out in close collaboration with supply-side actors.

Technical assistance support will be customized to address the needs of private sector actors, promoting ownership and institutionalization of project interventions. The project will also collaborate with relevant agencies in the refugee market to complement activities, co-finance initiatives, and maximize impact.

Existing value chains, infrastructure, and market channels will be utilized to accelerate access and adoption of stoves and solar-powered solutions promoted by the project, while also building capacities for long-term sustainability.

Impact

The project seeks to achieve the following specific objectives within the refugee context:

- Increased access to quality energy products and services in the refugee market including the increased market share for the high tire cookers (HTC) and productive use of energy (PUE) technologies.
- Contribution towards emission reduction, and reducing the use of kerosene, firewood, and charcoal at the household and business levels.
- Capacitated supply and demand side actors to enable market-led supply/distribution and adoption of quality solar and cooking technologies (SHS, PUE, ICS, and HTC).
- Enhanced access to end-user credit to bridge the affordability gap.
- Improved incomes for the vulnerable communities (refugees and host communities) from job creation, time and energy cost savings, and higher productivity.
- Enhance sustained use and benefit by ensuring quality assurance mechanisms (warranties, user technical support, and after-sales)

Outlook

The project partners with solar distributors and stove distributors/stockists/producers focused on this market segment and includes those already operating in the refugee market or new entrants. The project in addition collaborates with UNHCR to enhance the enabling environment in the refugee camp.

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