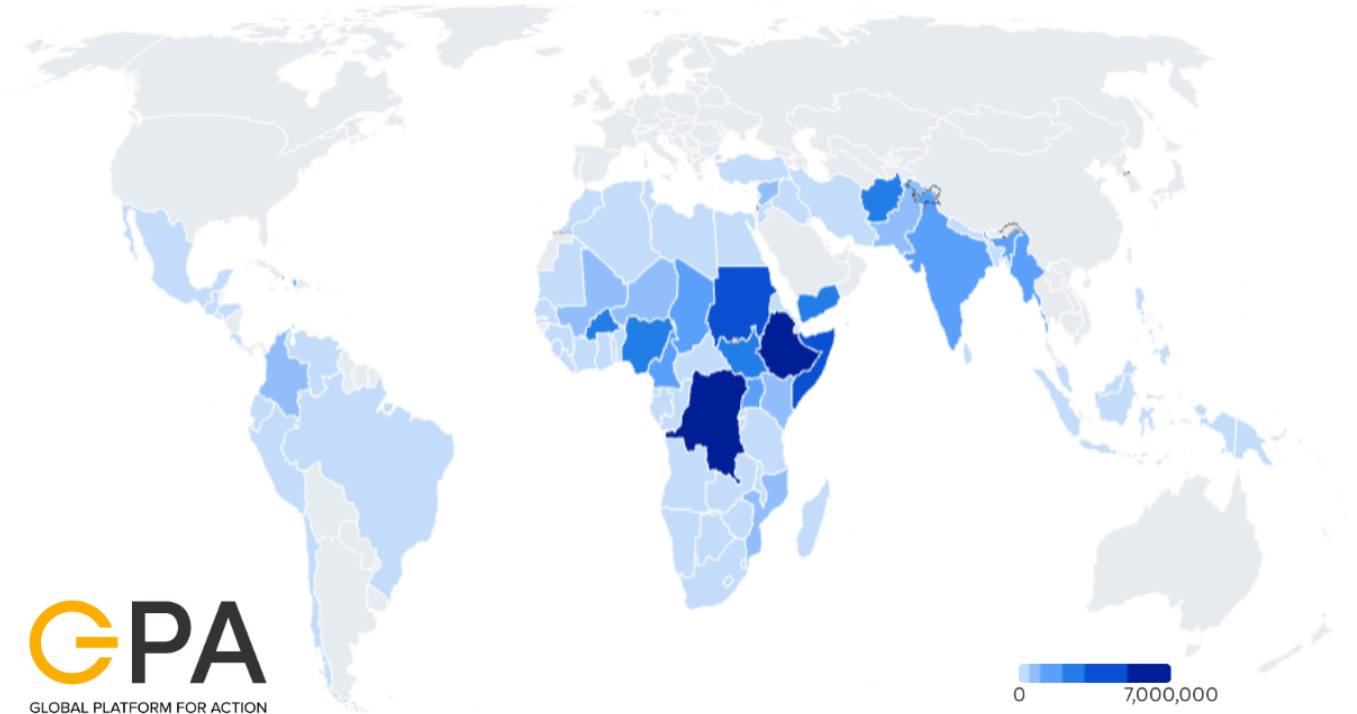


# Quantifying the global sustainable energy access gap amongst forcibly displaced people



The estimated number and distribution of FDPs without access to clean cooking. [Read this report online to explore the interactive visualisations.](#)

## Highlights

- Worldwide deficit:** 37 million FDPs lack access to electricity and 50 million FDPs lack access to clean cooking.
- Disproportionately affected:** FDPs represent 1.4% of the global population but 5.6% of the people without electricity and 2.5% without clean cooking worldwide.
- More support needed:** 71% of FDPs live in low income countries but these host 99% of FDPs without access to electricity and 97% of FDPs without clean cooking.

## The FDP energy access deficit

The GPA Secretariat estimates that 37.3 million forcibly displaced people (FDPs) lack access to basic electricity services. This includes 8.71 million refugees and 28.57 million internally displaced people (IDPs). Meanwhile 49.8 million FDPs lack access to clean cooking, including 10.47 million refugees and 39.35 million IDPs. Around half of FDPs without sustainable energy access live in camps and settlements: these settings are home to 53% of FDPs without access to electricity, and 43% of FDPs without access to clean cooking.

Access deficit in camps and settlements	All FDPs	Refugees	IDPs
Electricity	19.69 m (53%)	6.21 m (71%)	13.48 m (47%)
Clean cooking	21.61 m (43%)	6.55 m (63%)	15.06 m (38%)

The number of FDPs, refugees, and IDPs that live in camps and settlements and lack access to energy, and as a proportion of all of these populations who lack access.

Access rates in camps vary between continents:

- In camps in Africa, 78% of refugees and 88% of IDPs lack access to electricity, whilst 89% of refugees and 94% of IDPs lack clean cooking.
- In camps in Asia, 36% of refugees and 44% IDPs lack electricity whilst 13% or refugees and 61% of IDPs lack clean cooking.

These are broadly reflective of the differences in national access rates, as well as large-scale sustainable energy initiatives in camps in the Middle East and South Asia.

## Definitions

Definitions vary between countries so, for brevity, “refugees” refers to any FDPs who have been displaced across national borders whilst “IDPs” refers to FDPs displaced within their country of origin. “Camps” include formal and informal camps, refugee and IDP settlements, camp-like settings, and similar contexts.

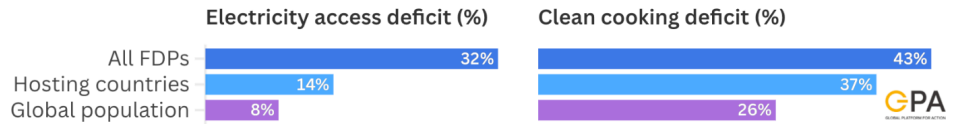
We assume that “access to basic electricity access” is aligned to MTF Tier 1 or above, and that “clean cooking” refers to the use of modern cooking stoves and fuels that minimise harmful pollution and environmental damage such as LPG, electricity, or biogas.

We use the World Bank classifications for country income levels (for 2026 or the most recent available year) and for countries affected by violent conflict or high levels of social and institutional fragility.

*FDPs are more likely to live in remote and conflict-affected settings, often have reduced access to rights and vital services, and are disproportionately more likely to lack access to sustainable energy.*

## FDPs and the worldwide energy access deficit

Worldwide, 32% of all FDPs lack access to electricity and 43% lack access to clean cooking. This is a higher rate than the countries they are hosted in (14% and 37% respectively, averaged across all countries in this analysis) as well as the global averages (8% and 26%).



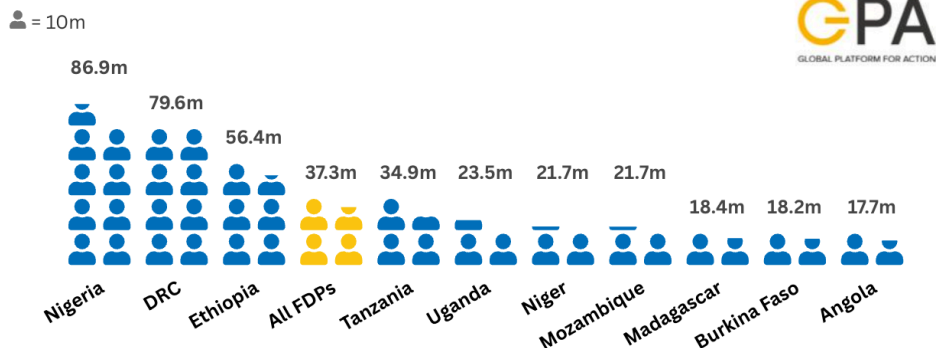
The proportion of FDPs without access to electricity and clean cooking (dark blue) compared with the rates across the hosting countries of this analysis (light blue) and worldwide (purple).

This means that FDPs represent a disproportionately large share of the worldwide energy access deficit. The 117 million FDPs around the world represent:

- 1.4% of the global population (8.2 billion)
- 5.7% of the global population without electricity (666 million)
- 2.5% of the global population without clean cooking (2.1 billion).

In the hosting countries, FDPs are around twice as likely to lack electricity access compared to the national average, and around 15% more likely to lack access to clean cooking.

Cumulatively, the number of FDPs without access is similar in scale to some of the highest national access deficits. The total number of FDPs without electricity worldwide would be the fourth-largest national deficit and those without clean cooking would be the ninth-largest national deficit.



The ten largest national electricity deficits (blue) and the number of FDPs worldwide without access to electricity (yellow). In total, FDPs would represent the fourth-largest national electricity deficit.

## Where FDPs without energy access live

Most FDPs without sustainable energy access live in fragile and conflict-affected countries. For refugees, 61% of people without electricity and 56% of people without clean cooking live in these settings. Rates are far higher for IDPs at 95% and 87% respectively: refugees from affected countries may have moved into a country unaffected by conflict or fragility, but IDPs often remain within them.

A disproportionate number of FDPs without access live in low- and lower-middle income countries. Whilst 71% of FDPs worldwide are hosted in these countries, 99% of FDPs without electricity access and 97% of FDPs without clean cooking are hosted in them. Overall, whilst the situation is usually more acute for FDPs, most of those without access live in countries which also have higher national access deficits.

## About the study

The GPA Secretariat has estimated the number of FDPs without access to sustainable energy worldwide, covering 99 million displaced people across 104 countries.

More results from the study, with greater analysis and accompanied by the methodology, will be published soon.

For further information contact Philip Sandwell (GPA Secretariat Research Lead) at [philiprs@unops.org](mailto:philiprs@unops.org).

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[Read this report online to explore the full interactive data visualisations.](#)

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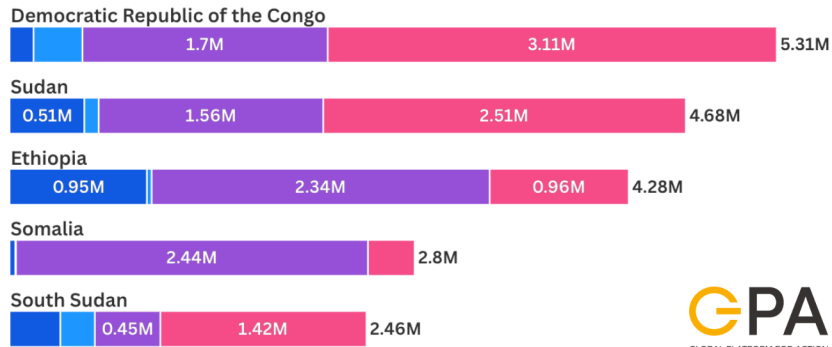
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The countries with the largest FDP populations without electricity access, showing refugees in camps (dark blue) and host communities (light blue) and IDPs in camps (purple) and host communities (pink).

## Recommendations

The path to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 for FDPs is intertwined with both the energy access and humanitarian sectors. Greater coordination and resource mobilisation will be required to meet the scale of the energy deficit and the specific challenges of operating in fragile and displacement-affected settings.

- FDPs should be integrated into national sustainable energy policies, local development plans, and investments.** The scale of the challenge is so large and widespread that governments will each need to develop dedicated policies to address its own national deficit.
- The needs of FDP communities are often more acute and will require specific support.** Accommodating these in policies and programmes should be driven by national governments, facilitated by humanitarian agencies, and implemented through market systems and blended public-private models.
- Additional resources should be dedicated to meeting the energy needs of FDPs.** Global initiatives (such as Mission 300) should be leveraged to dedicate more resources to displacement settings, both in total and per capita, to overcome the disproportionately high deficit amongst FDPs.

The Global Platform for Action (GPA) on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings is a global initiative aiming to ensure SDG 7—access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all—is inclusive of humanitarian and displacement contexts. The GPA Secretariat convenes a global network of over 100 partners working collectively toward this shared objective. It is financially supported by the IKEA Foundation and the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and receives in-kind support from NORCAP and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform. The GPA is advised by a group of 14 global humanitarian and development partners, including UNHCR, IOM, WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNEP-CCC, Mercy Corps, Practical Action, SNV, GIZ, NORCAP, MECS, SEforALL, and the Clean Cooking Alliance.

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