

Terms of Reference – GPA Strategy Review and Plan for 2026-2030

Vacancy Type: Consultancy

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) Central European Time, 15 September 2025

Indicative Start Date: 01 October 2025

Assignment Duration: Approximately 3 months

Overview

The *Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA)* was established in 2018 to improve access to sustainable energy solutions in displacement settings. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 7, the GPA is guided by the vision that: “displaced persons, host communities, and associated humanitarian response mechanisms have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services by 2030.”

Our collective vision is to ensure communities affected by conflict and crisis are integrated into global, national and local SDG7 efforts. Through strategic collaboration and partnerships across humanitarian, development and energy access stakeholders, we aim to ensure that energy access is included and integrated into longer-term development plans. This approach contributes to the global *Leave No One Behind (LNOB)* 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supports last-mile and hard-to-reach energy access initiatives.

Critical to achieving this goal is the GPA’s work to facilitate effective delivery of projects in the field of humanitarian energy, using our coordination, facilitation and convening mandate to improve enabling environments for commercially viable, sustainable energy solutions in fragile and displacement-affected contexts (FCV/FDP settings). In doing so, the GPA supports actors—including impact investors and energy access companies—to navigate the operational and policy barriers that affect viability, scale and impact in these environments.

The GPA Coordination Unit (CU), comprised of a team of experts with energy access and humanitarian sector experience, leads the day-to-day delivery of activities and serves as the operational hub of the GPA.

The strategic direction and activities of the GPA are guided by a Steering Group of 15 members, including UNITAR, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNEP-CCC, Mercy Corps, Practical Action, SNV, GIZ, SEforALL, Clean Cooking Alliance, MECS and NORCAP.

Information on members, supporters, strategy, framework, vision and activities can be found at: <https://www.humanitarianenergy.org/>.

Outline of the Assignment

The GPA is seeking a consultant (or consulting team) **to reflect on GPA's value add on facilitating sustainable energy access in forced displacement settings, and facilitate the design process for GPA's 2026-2030 strategy**, which foresees **closer engagement with private sector actors**.

The assignment will be funded and contracted directly with its donor, an energy access-focused technical assistance facility.

The consultancy will include desk research, a review of GPA materials, a series of stakeholders' interviews, and consultations workshops with the GPA CU and partners. Additional methods can be proposed in the submission.

The Consultant will assess the GPA and recommend a strategy (2026-2030) and covering the following themes, including but not limited to:

1. Review of GPA's impact and alignment with its vision.
2. Review its draft 2026-2030 strategy.
3. Evaluate GPA's hosting situation and possible alternatives.
4. Assess resource mobilization, donor engagement, and funding for the Coordination Unit, its partners, and how to attract private finance for sustainable energy access in forced displacement settings.
5. Analyze GPA's advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and external communications.
6. Refine internal processes to boost efficiency and strengthen the value proposition and service offering.
7. Review governance, partnerships, and coordination mechanisms - with a particular focus on engagement and facilitation of partners providing on-ground private sector-led solutions.
8. Explore growth opportunities and funding strategies, prioritizing high-potential activities.
9. Identify KPIs for measuring growth and success.
10. Enhance market responsiveness and readiness for future challenges.
11. Boost GPA's influence on systemic change and financing in displacement and FCV contexts.

Particular emphasis should be placed on public-private partnerships (PPPs) and the role of the GPA in enhancing the commercial viability, and long-term sustainability, of energy access solutions for displaced and conflict affected communities.

Schedule of Deliverables

- Inception meeting to finalise methodology, outputs and timelines.
- Presentation of key insights, outcomes and recommendations from stakeholder consultations.
- Draft strategy report and work plan.
- Repository of background information and data collected during the assignment.
- Final short evaluation report.
- Review and refinement of the GPA 2026–2030 strategy and 2026-2028 work plan.
- Presentation of final report and recommendations at GPA Steering Group meeting and with key external stakeholders.

Requirements of Consultancy

Education:

- Advanced university degree at Master's level or equivalent in a relevant field (e.g. monitoring and evaluation, business management, international development, sustainable energy, international affairs, political science, etc.)

Experience:

- At least 7 years of demonstrable experience in evaluating strategies, policies, programmes and projects at the international level.
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation, system change facilitation, private sector engagement, funding and financing, strategic foresight and multi-stakeholder collaboration at international level is desirable.
- Expertise in qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods.
- Prior exposure to the humanitarian and/or energy access sector.
- Knowledge of infrastructure financing in fragile settings including blended finance, guarantee mechanisms, concessional loans, etc.
- Understanding of the mainstream energy sector including on-grid and off-grid electricity generation and distribution.
- Knowledge and experience of policy and practices in humanitarian response, displacement and fragile settings, and access to sustainable energy.
- Understanding of the UN system and UN evaluation norms and standards is desirable.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality and effective results within strict deadlines.

Languages:

- A high standard in both oral and written English is required, as all deliverables will be written in English.

Application Process

Interested candidates must submit the following documents via email to energy@unitar.org by **12:00 (noon) Central European Time, 15 September 2025** with the email subject line: **"GPA Strategic Plan – 2026-2030"**

1. A copy of the team's curriculum vitae (max 2 pages, each individual)
2. A short proposal describing how the consultancy will approach and deliver the assignment, including demonstration of relevant skills, qualifications and experience, and suggested project timeline (max 3 pages)
3. Copies of two evaluation or reports or similar in which the consultancy has been the sole evaluator or team leader in the last five years.
4. A statement confirming availability to conduct the assignment during the required period and the proposed professional fee (in USD). No travel costs are anticipated with work being delivered completed remotely.
5. A statement confirming the absence of conflict of interest in performing the above-mentioned duties.