



# ENERGY IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

## **A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS & FUNDERS**

BY INTERNATIONAL LIFELINE FUND





# FORWARD

This document has been developed from the collective learnings and experiences of Lifeline's team throughout 15+ years of work in post-conflict, displacement, and emerging market settings in Uganda, Burundi, Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Darfur.

How to use this document:



This guide is a compass - it is one tool to help keep you on track towards developing and implementing an energy initiative that improves the impacts, lowers the risks, and increases the longevity of your targeted results.



This guide is not a standalone resource; rather, it is intended to supplement other resources in your toolkit. For optimal results, consult a variety of sources that center the perspectives of community members, field-level practitioners, and third-party researchers.



Like our own team, this document will continue to grow and evolve over time.



Learning through relationships occurs in a positive feedback loop. Share this guide widely and share your thoughts with us on how it can be updated and improved.



In order to maximize the benefits of your findings and experiences, you are encouraged to create avenues for dialogue with communities, local governments, implementers, and funders in order to move the industry forward together. What is progress if we do not grow together in partnership and in community?

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## & SHARED VALUES

Lifeline promotes the guiding principles set forth by the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA):

- Ensure priority involvement of displaced people, host communities and host governments from planning to implementation.
- Develop context appropriate solutions, no 'one size fits all' approaches, as energy is not an end in itself, but a means to enable human development.
- Promote recovery and self-reliance.
- Integrate gender sensitive approaches.
- Focus on local solutions and financial sustainability.
- Adhere to the 'do no harm' principles.





# FOOL ME ONCE

## LEARNING FROM PAST MISTAKES

Consult the following table of common mistakes made in the planning and implementation phases of energy initiatives. Learning from past experiences is not only a way to increase our efficiency and effectiveness, **it is part of our ethical responsibility to do no harm.**

### INSTEAD OF...

### TRY...

Designing an energy initiative around a specific technology/product/service,	Designing an energy initiative around a demand driven by the target community.
Assuming the target community understands the benefits and use of the energy technologies/products/services at the focus of your initiative,	Conducting an extensive consumer awareness campaign and user training sessions with product/service demonstrations.
Training/engaging any available member of the targeted household or institution,	Training/engaging the member of the household or institution who will be the main user of the technology/product/service.
Planning a tight implementation schedule,	Planning buffer time into your work plan to accommodate any unexpected delays.
Conducting activities in remote, sparsely populated areas with only your project team,	Conducting activities in well-populated areas, and always stay within reach of security personnel.
Conducting monitoring and evaluation only at the end of the initiative,	Conducting monitoring and evaluation throughout the entire course of the initiative.
Dressing independently of your team,	Wearing bright, coordinated colors that are easily visible and show you are part of a team.

# PRE-ASSESSMENT

## FOR DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION



Before designing and implementing an energy initiative in a humanitarian context, consult the following checklist and steps to reduce risks and increase your potential for long-term impact.

COMMUNITY	1. Is the <b>target community</b> involved in the design, implementation, and long-term ownership of the initiative?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	i. Have <b>local leaders and power structures</b> (i.e. local government, community elders, religious leaders, refugee representatives, etc.) been involved in the design and implementation of the initiative?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	ii. Have <b>vulnerable or at-risk populations</b> (i.e. single mothers, unaccompanied minors, people with illnesses, elderly, disabled, etc.) been involved in the design and implementation of the initiative?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
TECHNOLOGY	iii. Does the initiative <b>equitably represent and engage</b> all factions of the target community to avoid benefitting one group over another?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	2. Has this initiative been designed to serve a <b>demand as voiced by the target community</b> ? (Conversely, has this initiative been designed to serve a demand as voiced by a funding partner?)	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	3. Has the energy technology/product/service been tested in the target community for <b>usability, affordability, efficiency, durability, safety, and cultural suitability</b> ?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
GENDER	4. Is the energy technology/product/service <b>locally produced</b> , supported by <b>local supply chains</b> , and able to be <b>locally maintained</b> ?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	5. Has a comprehensive <b>gender assessment</b> been performed to consider the social dynamics of the target community?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	6. Has a comprehensive <b>market assessment</b> been performed to consider the other energy technologies/products/services available and the <b>existing demand</b> for your solution?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
MARKET	7. Have other humanitarian actors, community-based organizations, and government agencies been consulted on the design and implementation of the initiative to <b>prevent duplication of efforts</b> ?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	8. Is the energy technology/product/service part of a model that is <b>scalable and replicable</b> ?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
SCALE	9. Is the energy initiative part of a <b>comprehensive program</b> that also addresses <b>environmental</b> and <b>livelihood</b> conditions?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know
	10. Is this energy initiative the <b>first of its kind</b> that has been attempted in this context?	A. Yes	B. No	C. Maybe	D. Don't know

### How did you score?

Mostly A's - Well done, you are on your way to implementing a comprehensive energy initiative with meaningful participation from the target community.

Mostly B's - Go back to the drawing board. Reconsider how this initiative is meeting the demands of the target community and assessing risks to long-term success.

Mostly C's - This initiative might bring the intended impacts, but carries a high degree of uncertainty and risk. Consider what additional steps can be taken to mitigate these risks.

Mostly D's - There are too many unknowns to responsibly move forward with this initiative. Consult with more key stakeholders before proceeding.



# CONTACT US

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