

The forest-energy-livelihood nexus in displacement settings:

opportunities and challenges

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Forest-Energy-Livelihood nexus in displacement settings

Livelihoods systems

Income generation, employment, wood products (such as timber, fuelwood, and other fiber materials), non-wood forest products, ecological services, as well as social cultural functions

External pressures Conflicts, drought, floods, famine

Energy access

Energy supply/demand, alternative energy sources, cooking and heating technologies

Biophysical conditions

Vegetation, forest/woodland, land use, level of deforestation/land degradation, soil type and health, rainfall pattern, water availability

Population dynamics

Refugee/IDP, type and duration of settlement, migration driver (conflict, climatic)

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Legal framework to support displaced people, land tenure

Forest and treebased interventions in displacement settlements

Rehabilitation, multi-purpose woodlots, protection measures, agroforestry

Why addressing the need for planning forest resource management in displacement settings is important?

- To ensure energy access and livelihood opportunities for both displaced and host communities; and
- To create long-term stability, both environmentally and economically through the sustainable use of natural resources



The challenges

80% of displaced people in rural areas rely on traditional fuels such as wood, charcoal and agricultural residues for household cooking

Sudden increases in population and **over-exploitation** of natural resources pose <u>multiple risks and threats</u>:

- Deforestation and land degradation
- Lack of energy for cooking undermining nutrition and food securty
- Unsustainable livelihoods
- Tensions between host and displaced populations
- Indoor air pollution leading to health problems
- Increased greenhouse gas emissions

Main obstacles and participatory solutions

Obstacles	Possible solutions
Lack of accessible and accurate data	Improve the collection, management, analysis and sharing of environmental and energy data
Short term vs long term planning for a responsible management of natural resources	Assessing, planning, monitoring
Complex drivers to be considered when designing integrated responses regarding forests, energy and livelihoods	Assessing, planning, monitoring
Recognize the need for effective awareness raising and behavior-change strategy on the sustainable use of NR	Adequate resource allocation (financial and human)
Lack of coordinated efforts to improve the forest-energy-livelihood nexus	Improve governance and strengthen partnerships (e.g. FAO-UNHCR)

Opportunities

- Integrate displaced people in the local socio-economic dimension
- Improve livelihoods for both displaced and host communities by diversifying incomes and providing greater ecological and community resilience
- Reverse deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss
- Ensure energy access to efficient and clean bioenergy
- Maintain healthy and productive forests and control harvest levels so as to increase carbon stocks in forests
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of results achieved across humanitarian and development initiatives

Examples of forest interventions

Mapping tree cover loss

Uganda - Refugee settlement Kyaka II



Mapping tree cover loss

Uganda - Refugee settlement Kyangwali



Targeted forestry interventions

The objectives of forestry interventions are diverse, and can be mixed to meet the requirements of specific locations and needs:

- \checkmark Land restoration
- ✓ Natural regeneration
- \checkmark Plantations of fast-growing species for energy supply
- ✓ Plantations for timber production
- ✓ Agroforestry
- \checkmark Forest food



Examples of positive forest and tree management

Getting contextually appropriate options

- Land availability and location (size, soil type..)
- Land access
- Water availability

Forest/ tree management objective People involved (gender, culture, livelihood opportunities)

Legal and institutional framework



Agroforestry – Kakuma, Kenya



Fruit tree around shelter -Dadaab

Plot boundary -Rhino camp, Uganda

Greenbelt in Kakuma, Kenya

Recommendations

- Planning forest and tree-based interventions always requires site-specific considerations to address various socio-economic and biophysical complexities
- The adoption of clean and efficient cooking solutions can reduce health risks from household air pollution, support a more inclusive, green, and healthy recovery
- Promote a holistic approach to sectoral issues in relation to forests, energy and livelihoods
- Systematic changes in governance should be encouraged at the various levels (local, national, international) to enable the access to clean and efficient energy systems and to reduce unregulated access to forest resources
- Increase the engagement of local stakeholder: displaced and host communities including women, youths and other marginalized groups in decision-making for sustainable management of natural resources
- Ensure technical assistance and capacity building, collect best practices to be scaled up in similar contexts.



Thank you!

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