



CASE STUDY

Piloting Sustainable Energy Solutions at Refugee Camps in Need

THE CHALLENGE

A large camp in Kenya currently hosts refugees from more than five different nations, currently serving a population of over 200,000, delivering services in protection, safety, dignity, and security, with specialized support to women and children's mental health. Divided into four areas, the camps are not currently connected to any power grids, with power connections to neighboring communities an unreliable solution. IRC healthcare facilities are currently reliant on diesel to power their services.

Nearly 100% of the basic needs of the camp's population are delivered through development partners and funded by aid. For example, humanitarian organizations provide cash transfers to clients, many of whom spend these resources on energy for cooking and lighting. Current conditions are unsustainable.

THE PILOT

IRC innovative finance is working to address these challenges in partnership with a local mini-grid project company, who has been contracted to implement and pilot multiple solutions. IRC will be partnering with the company with technical assistance, advising on stakeholder engagement strategy to be reflective of local realities, norms, and nuances. And third, as a potential procurer of power from the company.

Construction is set to begin in mid-2024. This project aims to be socially inclusive, affordable, environmentally conscious, and prioritize community acceptance.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Our partnership with this African mini-grid startup reflects our view that gaps in funding and infrastructure can be met by innovative partnerships at the nexus of humanitarian aid and investment, and that humanitarian organizations can help to mitigate risk and expand community engagement for potential investors when they are working with new and unfamiliar customer bases in more fragile contexts.

Through this project and others, we're demonstrating proof of concept that if humanitarian actors are able to provide advisory services rooted in client-centered, localized expertise to investors financing projects in fragile/conflict settings then the humanitarian impact of investments on crisis-affected populations will increase and risks to investments will decrease, incentivizing further such investments.

Learn more [here](#) about the *Advisory Model for Investor + Humanitarian Partnerships*.