

# REFUGEE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (REP) FUND

Kick-off meeting for Request of Expression of Interest (REOI)

January 2025



# Today's presenters



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# Agenda

- 1 Background
- 2 REOI scope
- 3 Procurement process
- 4 Selection parameters
- 5 Q&As



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# Ambition and Vision

Innovative Finance is a range of new or nontraditional mechanisms that go beyond typical grantmaking to bring **more sustainable, efficient, and effective resources** for the benefit of refugees, forcibly displaced populations and host communities.



# The REP Fund: magnified impact, financing, and carbon offsets



## Key challenges

- 1 90M displaced people** living in countries **with high-to-extreme exposure to climate-related hazards** (3 in 4 people)
- 2 20–25M trees** used by refugees, IDPs and stateless people each year, with 90% burnt for cooking fuel
- 3 Climate and social challenges** including SGBV, protection, and peace & security issues
- 4 Lack of sustainable funding** available for long-term environmental and social programs impactful projects



## The solution

### The UN's Refugee Environmental Protection (REP) Fund

- An **innovative and sustainable financing mechanism** to invest in reforestation and clean-cooking programs in climate-vulnerable communities worldwide
- Carbon impact of these programs registered to **generate the first-ever refugee-generated carbon credits**, while **creating 'green' jobs** for refugees and host communities
- Co-developed in partnership with **expert agencies** bringing strong experience in **carbon & environmental** project development



## Identified goals

### A 10-year ambition

to mitigate environmental and social effects at scale, in a socially responsible and financially sustainable manner

### Goals

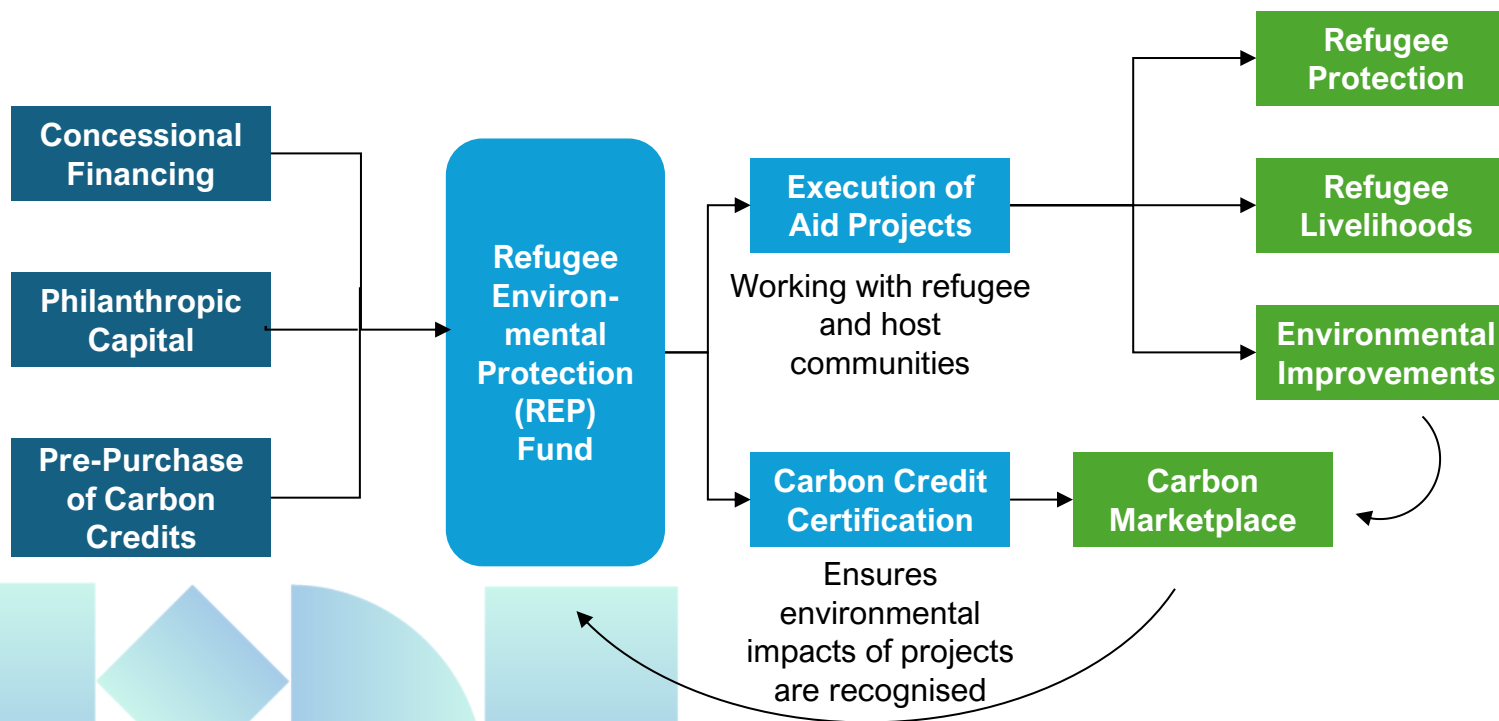


Plant 120 MM+ trees



Enable 1 MM+ more refugees & hosts to access clean cooking

# The Fund is self-sustaining, generating a multiplicative effect on source funding

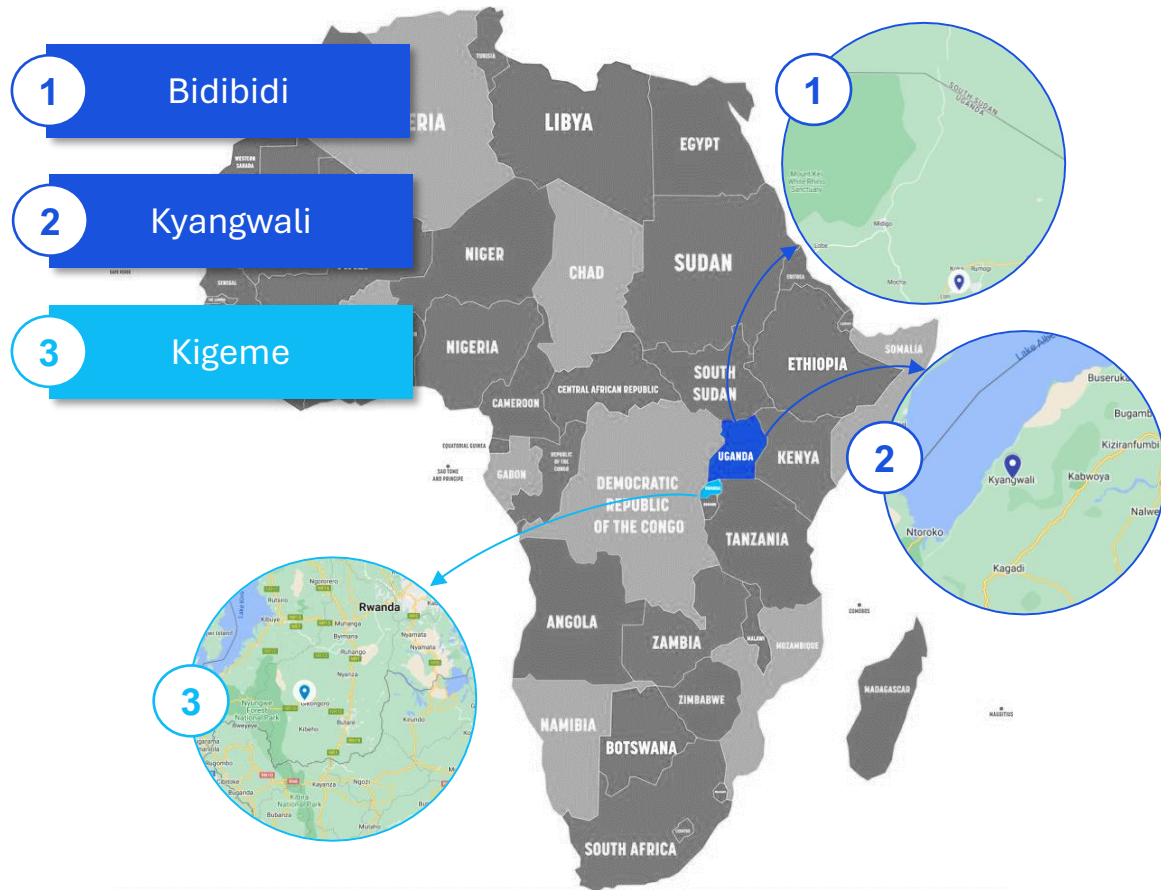


# Progress to date

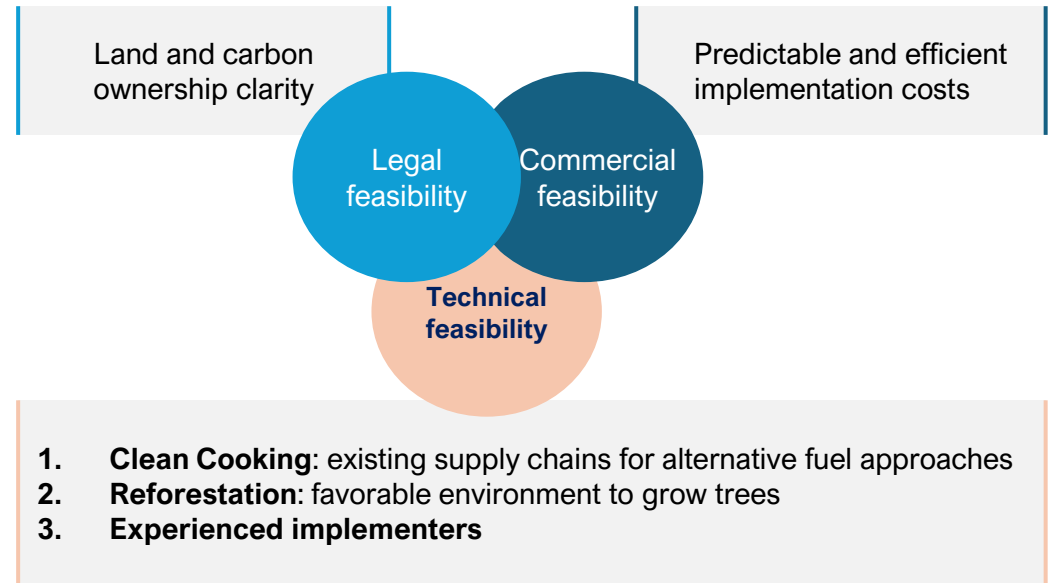
**\$7M** grants raised to date  
 (+5M expected by Q1)  
**\$30M** target

**Feasibility Studies in 11 sites across 4 countries:** Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan  
**+ 3 confirmed countries in 2025:** Bangladesh(\*), Brazil (\*) and Cameroon; **2 tentative in the pipeline:** Kenya, Mozambique

Selection of pilot project location in Uganda (1 and 2) and Rwanda (3) (\*)



## Key criteria for designing the pilot projects



(\*): procurement processes already in progress





# Feasibility studies highlighted key findings for pilots' success



Reforestation	Improved Cookstoves
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final designs to align with Forest Landscape Plans.</b> Slight deviations possible if confirmed by govt</li> <li>• <b>Some activities ineligible for carbon crediting,</b> (e.g. short rotation woodlots for fuelwood), but key to project long term success</li> <li>• <b>Pilot on government-owned land</b> –within settlement or CFR. Privately-owned lands require more extensive consultation with host communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trade-off between affordability and scalability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E-cooking:</b> more expensive and only affordable to a few (even with subsidies)– scalability not granted</li> <li>• <b>Mud and clay stoves (Lorena):</b> lower Thermal Efficiencies but quick scalability and can be produced/repaired locally</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Existing supply chains:</b> same designs across all sites, different models/solutions possible based on knowledge of local context/partners and existing supply chains</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limited land availability and land fragmentation</b> preventing scalability and heighten the risk of encroachment.</li> <li>• <b>Equitable benefit sharing between host community and refugees <u>very important</u></b> given project areas are mostly on farmer-owned lands, limiting refugees' involvement</li> <li>• <b>Transfer of carbon credit ownership</b> requires:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval from Government (REMA)</li> <li>• Benefit Sharing Agreement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subsidized LPG Pay-as-You Cook model:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subsidies to be adapted to end-users living income to ensure adoption</li> <li>▪ Progressive LPG divestments and introduction of alternatives (i.e., biomass, e-cooking) possible</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Investment required to expand existing business operations and supply chains</b> close to sites</li> </ul>

- **Awareness campaigns** for clean cooking options and environmental preservation benefits
- **Equal and fair benefits sharing amongst Refugees and Host Communities.** Final project designs to include additional activities (VSLA, training, in-kind benefits, etc) or models (community-based)
- **Combine reforestation and clean cooking interventions** to maximize impacts and financials

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# Scope of the REOI

## The pilots aim to:

- Develop scalable models for carbon credit generation driven by refugees and host communities
- Align with local contexts, national priorities, and innovative solutions

**Objective:** assess the market and avail capacity of suppliers to implement carbon projects in the selected sites—Bidibidi and Kyangwali in Uganda, and Kigeme in Rwanda.

UNHCR eventually aims to establish new Frame Agreement(s) with qualified and experienced carbon project developer(s) to implement reforestation and clean cooking initiatives—with the objective of generating verified carbon credits through these activities. Final project design parameters will evolve through a collaborative process involving selected developers after this stage.

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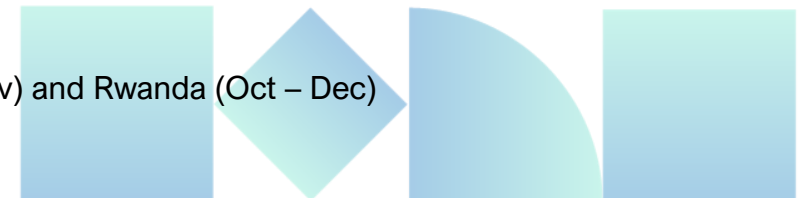


# Procurement process

Note: timelines post Phase 1  
only tentative, not to be  
considered final

1. **Phase 0 – Pre-engagement webinar and Q&A session**
  1. Deadline for receipt of clarifications: **23:59 hrs CET on 7th February 2025**. Responses will be broadcasted to everyone by 14th February 2025 EOD
  2. Closing date for receipt of EOI **23:59 hrs CET on 28th of February 2025**
  
2. **Phase I – Pre-selection of developers:** developers will submit an Expression of Interest, including details on their capacity to implement carbon-credit projects. Interested suppliers will be evaluated against specific criteria, with weighting distributed across five key areas: technical expertise (30 points), financial viability (25 points), governance and stakeholder collaboration (15 points), scalability and replicability (15 points), and impact measurement and assurance (15 points).
  1. Goal for Phase 1 selection closure: **beginning of April 2025**
  
3. **Phase II – Requirements review and finalization:** shortlisted developers will participate in a collaborative process to refine project designs. During this phase, UNHCR and stakeholders will work with developers to incorporate findings from feasibility studies, establish detailed requirements, and tailor activities to the local needs of each pilot site. This ensures alignment with national plans and supports the testing of diverse methodologies in reforestation and clean cooking.
  1. Goal for Phase 2 co-creation closure: **June 2025**
  
4. **Phase III – Final selection and implementation readiness:** developers will submit final proposals, which will undergo a technical and financial evaluation. This includes assessing the feasibility of initial investments, projected outcomes, and detailed workplans. Proposals will be selected based on their potential to deliver measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits, including scalability and sustainability.
  1. Goal for Phase 3 co-creation phase closure: **July 2025**

Goal for agreements in place **August 2025** – to utilize key raining seasons in Uganda (Sep - Nov) and Rwanda (Oct – Dec)



# Implementation parameters and strategic approach for Phase 2



- Project designs should incorporate **biodiversity restoration** and align with **national frameworks**.
- **Refugees and host communities** should **actively participate** in all project phases
- Feasibility considerations should ensure projects can generate **high-quality, verifiable carbon credits**



- Project designs should include innovative combinations of **fuels and stove designs**, balancing efficiency, community needs and carbon reduction
- Developers are encouraged to **build on feasibility studies**, proposing innovative, locally relevant models
- Solutions should **enhance local production capacity and integrate market-based approaches**

Evidence-based, community-driven solutions reducing emissions and improving livelihoods/resilience

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# Evaluation criteria and minimum requirements for Phase I pre-selection (I/II)

Note: Please refer to the REOI document for detailed requirements

Criteria		Score	Min Req
Technical expertise	<b>Project design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8+ years in reforestation and clean cooking innovation</li> <li>5+ years in scalable, community-driven market solutions (demonstrated in resource-constrained environments)</li> <li>5+ years implementing integrated projects, linking core activities with co-benefits.</li> </ul>	15 points	18/30
	<b>Carbon-credits management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track record of 5+ carbon-financed projects meeting recognized standards and delivering measurable impacts</li> <li>Proven experience registering projects under Gold Standard, VCS, or ICVCM-approved frameworks</li> <li>Expertise in carbon credit issuance, ensuring additionality, permanence, and third-party verification</li> </ul>	15 points	
Financial viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial readiness with evidence of at least 3 secured funding agreements ensuring project viability</li> <li>Demonstrated ability to mobilize and manage diverse funding streams, securing USD 5M+ for similar projects</li> <li>Proven expertise in carbon markets, including structuring and monetizing carbon credits (5+ years of experience)</li> <li>Track record of financial sustainability and resilience, successful completion of comparable long-term projects</li> </ul>	25 points	15/25
Governance and Stakeholder collaboration	<b>Government engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven experience engaging with government entities at local, national, and international levels</li> <li>Demonstrated ability to navigate regulatory frameworks and secure national-level approval for carbon projects</li> <li>Track record of leveraging government partnerships for co-financing or access to public resources</li> </ul>	10 points	11/15
	<b>Multi-Stakeholder collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven ability to engage diverse stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, and academic institutions</li> <li>Demonstrated linkage with global climate and development initiatives</li> <li>Experience empowering refugees and host communities as active co-creators in project design/implementation</li> </ul>	5 points	



# Evaluation criteria and minimum requirements for Phase I pre-selection (II/II)

Note: Please refer to the REOI document for detailed requirements

	Criteria	Score	Min Req
<b>Scalability and replicability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proven ability to scale at least 3 projects across diverse contexts, showing measurable improvements in beneficiary reach, coverage, and outcomes</li><li>• Demonstrated expertise in leveraging pilot results to inform replication strategies and successfully adapt projects to new settings while maintaining core objectives</li><li>• Successfully tested and refined at least 3 innovative technologies or approaches, with documented adoption and impact by stakeholders</li></ul>	<b>15 points</b>	<b>9/15</b>
<b>Impact measurement and assurance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expertise in M&amp;E frameworks with validated environmental, social, and economic impacts across 3+ projects</li><li>• Proven success in carbon credit issuance under recognized standards with compliance evidence</li><li>• Demonstrated ability to quantify biodiversity, soil restoration, and GHG reductions through rigorous methodologies</li></ul>	<b>15 points</b>	<b>9/15</b>

If submitting as consortia, please refer to section 5 of the REOI document

# Submission guidelines

Proposals must include the following documents to demonstrate eligibility. Submissions must adhere to specified page limits and be presented in PDF format. Please use font size  $\geq 11$ pt with clear section headings.



+ Annexes (optional)

- 1 Technical expertise (max 5 pp).** Provide organizational credentials demonstrating 8+ years of experience in reforestation and clean cooking projects. Include summaries of 3 projects highlighting co-benefits and land tenure solutions, documentation of 5 carbon-credit projects with measurable outcomes, proof of registration under recognized standards (e.g., VCS), and expertise meeting ICVCM criteria
- 2 Financial viability (max 5 pp).** Provide evidence of secured funding commitments or pipelines (e.g., donor agreements, investor letters). Include a financial sustainability strategy with cash flow projections, funding mix, and return mechanisms. Summarize successful financial management in comparable projects, demonstrating resilience over the crediting period.
- 3 Governance and stakeholder collaboration (max 3 pp).** Provide case studies of collaboration with government entities, including regulatory approvals and co-financing. Include examples of multi-stakeholder engagement, demonstrating alignment with local contexts and the empowerment of refugees and host communities.
- 4 Scalability and impact measurement (max 4pp).** Submit case studies of at least 3 scaled projects, showcasing replication strategies and outcomes. Provide an overview of your M&E framework, highlighting impact tracking, third-party validation, and use of scientifically rigorous methodologies.
- 5 Impact measurement and assurance (max 3pp).** Provide summaries of M&E frameworks applied in at least 3 completed projects, highlighting measurable indicators. Include third-party validation reports from recognized standards (e.g., Gold Standard, VCS) and technical summaries demonstrating biodiversity, soil restoration, and GHG emission reduction outcomes.

**Note: Please refer to the REOI document for detailed requirements**

# Practical information

Any request for clarification in respect of this REOI can be sent by e-mail to [hqrepfund@unhcr.org](mailto:hqrepfund@unhcr.org) with Simona Paola Mosconi [mosconi@unhcr.org](mailto:mosconi@unhcr.org) in copy

Deadline for receipt of questions:  
23:59 hrs CET on 7th February 2025

Responses will be broadcasted to everyone by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 EOD

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Closing date for receipt of EOI:  
23:59 hrs CET on 28th of February 2025



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# Addressing few questions received across critical points

- **Submissions for subset of locations/activities.** Developers who are considering a submission for a subset of the proposed locations and activities are encouraged to form consortia to streamline operations and pool expertise / financials into a unified bid (for each chosen activity or site, developers are free to select different partners)
- **Eligibility of alternative solutions to those identified in feasibility studies.** Applicants are encouraged to propose solutions that align with the Fund's objectives. The preselected solutions are activities that have been identified during feasibility studies as possible solutions in the specific locations. Bidders are encouraged to suggest alternative solutions or models based on their knowledge of local contexts, provided they can demonstrate that implementation is feasible and scalable.
- **Scalability and replicability.** Organizations without prior experience scaling across multiple contexts can strengthen their case by outlining clear plans for expansion and demonstrating readiness through scoping activities or existing partnerships showcasing strong local implementation capacity. Collaborations with experienced partners may also help address this criterion.
- **Benefit Sharing Agreements (BSAs).** Revenue from carbon credit sales is central to the REP Fund's financial sustainability. While exact allocations are subject to discussions, a portion will replenish the REP Fund to support ongoing and future projects. Additional shares may cover operational costs and be distributed to host governments, aligning with local priorities. Benefit-sharing with refugee and host communities is essential, aiming to enhance local livelihoods and project sustainability. Investor returns will depend on the financing structure, risk distribution, and project performance, with detailed arrangements to be defined during project development.

# Thank you for attending and for your interest!

