

Qatari energy consultancy GreenGulf brings solar technology and training to Syrian refugees in Jordan

Doha, Qatar November [22] 2015: Qatar-based renewable energy development firm GreenGulf Inc. has begun gearing up to deliver a program for Syrian refugees in Jordan that aims to improve living conditions by fitting solar power systems and create a career pathway to electrical engineering.

The training program will be delivered in the Zaatari camp, a settlement of some 83,000 people located just south of the Syrian border, and is in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council, which has been running courses to train residents between 16 and 30 in skills such as carpentry, welding and electrical engineering, and iPlatform, a London-based not-for-profit organization.

The program plans to install solar power systems that provide supplementary sources of electricity, improving the quality of life and security in camps that are afflicted by power shortages.

GreenGulf Inc. hopes that the introduction of solar power technology will inspire a new generation of Syrian electrical engineers, and has partnered with the University of Jordan to provide students with academic and vocational training in the subject.

Omran Al-Kuwari, Co-Founder of GreenGulf Inc. explained that the program was initiated in response to the Syrian refugee crisis that presents the biggest challenge facing the international community.

“The Syrian people have suffered tremendously, with many millions living in limbo as refugees with a bleak future ahead. This program has been designed to improve their lives, and give them a chance to create a future, be it in Syria or a host country.”

He added: “This program is far more than providing a source of much-needed solar power to the Zaatari camp. It is about providing knowledge too, which we hope will assist the refugees’ future employment opportunities.”

More than half the Zaatari camp’s population are between the ages of 13 and 25, but have limited ability to gain a secondary education and almost no access to undergraduate-level study due to fees at Jordanian universities being charged at a higher rate for foreign students than for nationals.

The University of Jordan has one of the best masters degrees in the region in renewable energy, and the expertise of GreenGulf Inc. and iPlatform will bring together industry best practice, so that students will have access to a combination of academic and vocational tuition.

The program's promoters are hoping to launch it next year. If it proves a success the intention is to scale up the solar power training and deploy it in other disaster zones, and also extend it to other professional skills that can be taught using online platforms.

Altogether, about 3 million people are thought to have fled Syria.

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