A DECISION COMPANION

A home needs more than a light

Winter survival depends on the services electricity makes possible, and whether help reaches the people who cannot move.



Conceptual illustration. See source and provenance notes.

01 Follow power into heat, water and care.

02 Measure working services, not equipment delivered.

03 Judge support by the last reachable household.

Companion to the complete WTM article. A practical synthesis, not personalised financial, legal, medical or safety advice.

What makes a home habitable?

A power cut can interrupt several services at once. The effect depends on the building and the people inside it.



Conceptual dependency map, not an engineering schematic. Sources: IEA November 2026 assessment and WHO winter health assessment.

Start with the people least able to move

A practical check should be made with the person affected and the relevant service provider.



Conceptual illustration. See source and provenance notes.

01

Which service is essential?

Identify heat, water, care or accessibility needs.

02

What happens if it stops?

Ask the provider about safe, realistic continuity.

03

Can the person reach help?

Check transport, lifts, mobility and a support contact.

04

What is the verified route?

Use current local guidance and official assistance channels.

Health-related equipment and medicine plans require individual professional advice. This guide does not replace local emergency instructions.

Delivered is not the same as operational

Backup capacity needs installation, safe connection, fuel, maintenance and people able to run it.

01
Delivered
Equipment reaches the site

→

02
Connected
Safe installation and controls

→

03
Supplied
Fuel, parts and maintenance

→

04
Tested
Works in an outage

→

05
Useful
Critical service stays available



Conceptual illustration. See source and provenance notes.

A non-negotiable safety boundary

Portable fuel-powered generators belong outdoors, at least 20 feet (about 6 metres) from doors, windows and vents, following CDC guidance. Never use them inside a home or garage.

Use qualified installation and local safety guidance. Do not improvise mains connections.

IEA documents delays between equipment delivery and connection. CDC generator guidance is a safety minimum, not a site-design plan.

Measure the service that reaches the doorstep

The UN winter plan asks for US$358.4 million to support 2.1 million people. An appeal is not money received or help already delivered.

EVIDENCE TEST

Check the promise

Is the number a target, a commitment, money received or people reached?

Keep the period attached: the plan covers October 2026 to March 2027.

ACCESS TEST

Check the route

Verify the organisation and current programme through official channels.

UNHCR services are free. Treat fee requests and unsolicited messages cautiously.

OUTCOME TEST

Check the result

Can residents stay warm, get safe water and receive essential care?

Ask whether assistance reaches people with limited mobility or few resources.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Resilience is not a photograph of new equipment. It is a household able to use essential services safely through winter, supported by functioning local systems and protection of civilians.

Sources: UN 2026-27 winter appeal, UNHCR fraud guidance, IEA and WHO. No current funding total or local outage schedule is asserted.

What the evidence can carry

Linked primary sources, reporting periods and boundaries. Figures are dated evidence, not live operational advice.

01 UN HRMMU: civilian casualties and energy attacks (16 October 2026)

02 IEA: Ukraine's Energy Security 2026, key findings

03 WHO: Ukraine winter health assessment (September 2026)

04 UNICEF: winter 2026-27 appeal (24 July 2026)

05 CDC: avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning

06 UN: winter response plan, 2026-27 (22 July 2026)

07 UNHCR Ukraine: recognise online fraud schemes

08 ICRC: general international humanitarian law principles

SOURCE REVIEW + VISUAL PROVENANCE

Sources reviewed 11 November 2026. AI-assisted research, drafting and visual production. Illustrations depict fictional people and scenes, not documented individuals, properties or events. No original interviews or field reporting are claimed.

EDITORIAL BOUNDARIES

No current ceasefire, latest-strike, funding-received or facility-status claim.

The appeal figures are targets. Casualty numbers in the full article are verified minima for September 2026.

The ICRC link explains general principles, not a legal ruling on a specific incident.

Refresh local conditions before publication or use.

Editorial review edition. Publication approval remains outstanding. Source and visual checks do not replace local professional advice.