

The Fuel & Firewood Initiative

Women's Commission for Refugee Women & Children

PREPARED FOR
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Phase One:

Beyond Firewood: Fuel Alternatives and Protection Strategies for Displaced Women & Girls

Key Goals:

- Investigate methods for reducing vulnerability to GBV during firewood collection
- Assess protection strategies and alternative fuels and fuel technologies

Phase One (cont'd)

- Field research in Darfur and Nepal
 - Diversity of factors/interventions
- Investigated variety of initiatives –
 - Direct provision
 - Physical protection
 - Fuel efficient technologies & cooking techniques
 - Alternative fuels & fuel technologies
- Key role of IGAs

Main themes of Women's Commission's findings:

- Need for a multi-sectoral approach
- Need for coordination among sectors/agencies in the field and at HQ level

Phase Two:

The Fuel & Firewood Initiative

- IASC Task Force SAFE
- Field work in Darfur and eastern Chad
- International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings

Key Objectives

IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE)

- Determine what aspects of a multi-sectoral fuel strategy must be put in place at specific phases of response
- Ensure all actors aware of and implementing their specific responsibilities per sector
- Disseminate information and best practices

Key Objectives (cont'd):

Year-long Pilot Programs

- 2 sites (Darfur; eastern Chad)
- Fuel a key issue in both sites; high incidence of GBV; many actors
- Model coordination mechanisms
- Promote expansion of effective fuel-related initiatives, including protection strategies
- Ensure continuous feedback between field + HQ level

Key Objectives (cont'd):

International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings

- Informal, field-based network of NGOs, research institutes and other relevant “non-traditional” humanitarian actors
- Will outlive mandate of IASC TF
- Serve as central repository and “go-to” place for new fuel technologies
- Monitor implementation of IASC TF guidance; ensure continued relevance and sustainability

What will the Fuel & Firewood Initiative achieve?

- Cooking fuel seen as a central, multi-sectoral humanitarian issue at all phases of an emergency
- Effective fuel strategy in place from earliest phase of new emergencies
- New actors involved in developing alternative fuels/technologies
- Women participating in safe IGAs instead of collecting/selling firewood

What will the Fuel & Firewood Initiative achieve? (cont'd)

- Lessened environmental degradation
- Fewer tensions with host/local communities and governments
- Reduced health risks to women and children associated with GBV and burning solid fuels

Displaced women and girls have sufficient, effective alternatives to unsafe firewood collection



“Cooking fuel is much more than just the means to cook food. It lies at the heart of effective protection and assistance efforts.”