

The Fuel and Firewood Initiative

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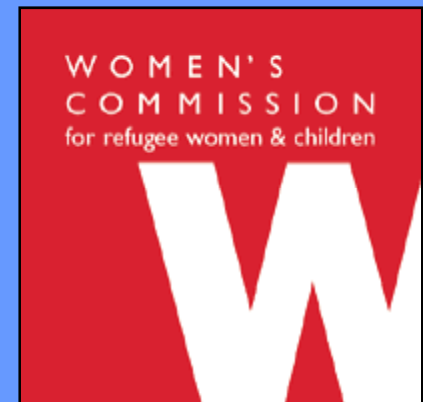
IASC Task Force SAFE

PRESENTATION FOR IAWG-RH CONFERENCE

November 2008

Women's Commission for
Refugee Women & Children

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Women's Commission's Fuel & Firewood Initiative:



Background:

- Began with investigation of reducing vulnerability to GBV during firewood collection
- Field work in Darfur, Nepal – interviews with beneficiaries/stakeholders
- 2006 Beyond Firewood reports & recommendations
- KEY: Need to develop multi-sectoral coordination strategy

Fuel & Firewood Initiative, cont'd

- Co-chairing (through InterAction) IASC Task Force SAFE
- Secretariat role for technical network
- Field sites



IASC Task Force SAFE

- Duration: May 2007 – November 2008
- Co-chairs:
 - InterAction/Women’s Commission
 - UNHCR
 - WFP
- Purpose statement:

“to reduce exposure to violence, contribute to the protection of & ease the burden on those populations collecting wood in humanitarian settings worldwide, through solutions which will promote safe access to appropriate energy & reduce environmental impacts while ensuring accountability.”

Multi-sectoral approach:

Task Force's issue areas:

- Camp coordination/
camp management
- Emergency shelter
- Environment
- Food/nutrition
- Health
- Information/education/
communication
- Livelihoods/development/
food security
- Protection



Main Task Force outputs:

provide practical tools for the field

- International **Network** on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings and website (www.fuelnetwork.org)
- Task Force = policy level; Network = technical level

***Purpose:** To link developers & implementers of alternative fuels & energy technologies: info-sharing & info-receiving*



Fuel Network (cont'd)

- Will enhance and sustain the work of the Task Force and ensure the continued relevance of the outputs after dissolution of the Task Force
- Encourage all interested UN agencies, NGOs and individuals to join, provide reports, articles, etc. for posting

Main Task Force Outputs, cont'd

- **Matrix** on cluster & agency roles and responsibilities for ensuring the development of a coordinated, multi-sectoral fuel strategy in humanitarian settings: *who needs to do what, when?*
- **Decision-tree diagrams** on factors affecting the choice of fuel strategy: *addresses the fact that there is no “magic bullet” fuel solution*



Matrix

- Divided between the 8 Task Force issue areas
- Presents the key fuel-related activities (per issue area) that must occur in the contingency planning; acute emergency and protracted phases of response
- Outlines which agency/ies are responsible for ensuring that those activities are undertaken

Decision Tree Diagrams

- Present factors affecting the choice of fuel strategy in specific settings
- Begins from the understanding that there is no single fuel/technology that is universally applicable: different regions/populations have different needs
- Divided into acute and protracted phases, understanding that availability/sustainability of certain choices will change over time

Field review process:

- June – September 2008 (will seek IASC endorsement in November 2008)
- Targeted as many regions/
issue areas as possible





Research Conference: December 11-12, 2008
New Delhi

- Bring together developers/users of alternative fuels and energy technologies & physical protection strategies appropriate for use in humanitarian settings
- Create new linkages between development/humanitarian spheres
- Build empirical basis for fuel-related interventions in humanitarian settings
- Link experts and technology with sites and regions that are urgently in need of such interventions

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 safe access to appropriate cooking fuels



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