The collection, supply and/or use of firewood and alternative energy – and consequences thereof, such as rape, murder, environmental degradation and indoor air pollution leading to respiratory infections – is a multi-sectoral issue which cannot be effectively addressed by a singularly-mandated agency or cluster acting alone.

This Matrix is targeted to field-based actors from a range of response sectors: camp coordination/camp management; emergency shelter; environment/natural resource management; food/nutrition; health; information/education/communication; livelihoods/development/food security; and protection. Its goal is to provide a practical tool for determining the priority activities that must be undertaken in the development of an effective, multi-sectoral fuel strategy, as well as the specific agencies with responsibility for ensuring that these activities are indeed undertaken and those agencies with additional relevant expertise on the topic. Advocacy by all involved is key to creating an enabling environment in which these activities can occur.

Some of the specific concerns associated with the collection, supply and/or use of firewood and alternative energies in humanitarian settings – whether induced by conflict or by natural disasters – include the following (divided by general issue area):

**Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM):** Environmental degradation caused/exacerbated by the harvesting of firewood, fodder or shelter materials. Displaced populations may be of concern to host governments, increase political pressures, cause tension with hosts, threaten soil fertility, and can force increased competition for scarce biomass resources between IDP/grazing and access to firewood. Tensions may also arise over property rights and use of land, such tensions are likely to increase over time and can lead to retribution or attacks on firewood collectors and displaced communities. Poorly-designed shelters and cooking structures also increase the risk of house fires.

**Emergency Shelter:** Excessive reliance on wood-based construction materials for shelters and other camp structures can exacerbate environmental degradation around camps, increasing tensions with hosts and forcing women and children to travel greater distances to find firewood, increasing their risk of attack. Poorly-ventilated shelters increase indoor air pollution (IAP) and associated health problems and can increase the risk of the house poorly-designed shelters can cause increased risk of indoor air pollution and accompanying use of cooking fuel for heating purposes. NFIs should include appropriate clothing/bunkets to decrease reliance on cooking fuel for heating and should include items to support fuel efficiency (such as pot lids). Improper site selection/planning can negatively impact local fuel consumption and protected natural resources, increasing tensions with host communities, possibly leading to retribution or attacks on firewood collectors.

**Environment & Natural Resource Management:** Environmental degradation caused/exacerbated by the harvesting of firewood, fodder or shelter materials. Concentrated displaced populations lengthen the distance women and children must travel outside of camps to collect firewood, putting them at greater risk of attack. Environmental degradation can result in soil erosion, flash flooding, surface water pollution and loss of natural habitat, possibly limiting livelihoods opportunities and negatively impacting food security, in addition to increasing tensions with hosts over access to or availability of natural resources, possibly leading to retribution or attacks on firewood collectors.

**Food & Nutrition:** Lack of safe access to sufficient cooking fuel can lead to unsafe cooking techniques and domestic practices which can also negatively impact nutritional intakes. These negative impacts include sale of portions of rations to buy fuel and/or to mill food; trading rations for more appropriate/easier-to-cook food items; undercooking food to save time/fuel (which can lead to foodborne disease and digestive problems); skipping meals; and improperly cooking unfamiliar food items, reducing nutritional uptake.

**Health:** The use of biomass fuels for cooking or heating leads to high levels of IAP, especially when burned on traditional stoves/open fires indoors. Use of unsafe/proparetory fuel sources (plastic, waste) can lead to acute respiratory diseases. Women and children are disproportionately affected by IAP. Families, and especially children, are at risk of burns and death resulting from fires caused by improper use or storage of cooking fuels or poorly-designed shelters. Gender-based violence (GBV) and physical assault during firewood collection can cause lasting physical and psychosocial damage and increased risk of contracting HIV; frequently carrying heavy loads of firewood over long distances also has negative health consequences. Undercooking because of lack of fuel can lead to foodborne disease. Access to clean and sufficient household energy is also important for general health care purposes.

**Information, Education & Communication (IEC):** Young girls are disproportionately kept from school in order to collect firewood. Schools are typically constructed of wood, further depleting area resources, and often use firewood for school feeding programs and/or heating. Formal and non-formal educational opportunities and information management structures can be used to teach fuel-efficient cooking techniques, benefits of environmental conservation, general usage techniques, safety and nutrition issues for unfamiliar food and fuel types, etc.

**Livelihoods, Development & Food Security:** Women and children spend significant time and labour to secure sufficient cooking fuel, which can lead to deforestation. Population pressure on already degraded natural resources endangers the local environment, food security and livelihoods of both displaced and host populations and can foster tensions resulting in retribution or attacks on firewood collectors.

**Protection:** Lack of firewood, fodder or shelter materials near areas of displacement means that women and children must travel great distances to find firewood, increasing risk of physical/sexual attack and/or harassment. Women and children who cannot collect firewood (due to disability, urban location, etc.) may have to buy fuel and therefore may be forced to sell food rations and/or are at increased risk of sexual exploitation. Children who have to collect wood may be obliged to leave work long hours because of the distances they are forced to travel to collect wood, threatening overall welfare and depriving them of time for productive activities, including livelihoods activities and education.

This Matrix is one of three main outputs of the IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (IASC Task Force SAFE). The other two outputs are the “Decision Tree Diagrams on Factors Affecting Choice of Fuel Strategy in Humanitarian Settings” and the International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings and its informational website, www.fuelnetwork.org. All three outputs provide practical guidance on developing effective, holistic coordination and response mechanisms for the range of concerns associated with the collection, supply and use of household energy in humanitarian settings. This Matrix should be read in conjunction with the Decision Tree Diagram, for additional technical information, please refer to www.fuelnetwork.org and to the pre-loaded flash drive which accompanies the hard copies of the outputs.

**How to Use This Matrix**

The Matrix is divided into eight entry points (outlined to the left side of this page), based on the key issue areas most clearly associated with the collection, use and supply of household energy in conflict and disaster settings. It should be read as a holistic document, as greater overall effectiveness will be achieved across issue areas through proper coordination of activities. Each entry point outlines priority fuel-related activities that should occur in the preparedness and planning phase; during acute emergency response; and in the protracted care and maintenance or transition phase. The final column notes those agencies responsible for ensuring that these activities are undertaken, as agreed and committed to by the humanitarian agencies of IASC Task Force SAFE and as endorsed by the IASC Working Group. Implementing partners can and should be engaged in the actual carrying out of these activities.

According to the global cluster leads are responsible for working through their cluster partners at country level to ensure that these activities are integrated into their efforts to achieve predictable and accountable humanitarian response. Where clusters have been introduced in field settings, these leads will maintain that overall responsibility. In other settings, humanitarian partners should look to those organisations that have committed to be "primarily responsible" for ensuring that the activities are undertaken.

Because individual agencies and organisations may not be present in all conflict and/or disaster settings, agencies with relevant expertise on household energy concerns and/or programming within the specific issue areas are also indicated in the final column of the Matrix. These partnerships enable the design and implementation of the listed activities. Evaluations of ongoing fuel-related programming are also essential to ensuring an effective response over the longer term.

**Coordination Responsibilities**

Given the cross-sectoral nature of an integrated and holistic strategy on household fuel supply, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), where present, also has responsibility for ensuring that fuel-related issues are considered by the relevant sectoral coordination bodies and in the country strategy development, consistent with the agency’s role in promoting implementation of IASC guidance. Specifically, OCHA acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the issue with the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC), the country teams and sectoral leadership, and to take steps to use this Matrix as a guide in supporting information management, advocacy and operational programming.

**Acronyms:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCCM</td>
<td>Camp coordination and camp management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FE</td>
<td>Fuel-efficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FES</td>
<td>Fuel-efficient stove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-based violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAP</td>
<td>Indoor air pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, education and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income-generation activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non-food item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Phase I: Emergency Preparedness & Contingency Planning

#### Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)

- Incorporate fuel into humanitarian contingency planning documents/guidelines, including site selection/planning.
- Ensure fuel supply is defined and implemented as a priority within humanitarian policy/strategy.
- Where relevant, ensure that landmines are cleared or marked in firewood collection areas as part of site selection/planning.

#### Emergency Shelter

- During site selection/planning, undertake rapid assessment of forest/biomass resources/anticipated demand for biomass.
- Develop/promote appropriate, sustainable shelter/constructor materials.
- Ensure site planning accounts for the site's physical carrying capacity (availability of natural resources, space, vegetation cover, risk of conflict with goats).

#### Environment & Natural Resource Management

- Mandate the undertaking of Rapid Environmental Impact Assessments during site selection process and sharing of relevant findings/information before camps are established.
- Determine fuel needs via immediate assessments; undertake investigation of alternative fuel/energy technology options (preferably locally available/producible; imported if necessary).
- Support development/use of alternative fuel/energy technologies as means of reducing firewood consumption/deforestation.
- Lead development of short-term natural resource management programmes, including conservation (forest protection) and controlled extraction.

#### Food & Nutrition

- Include fuel needs and available sources in emergency food assessments.
- Provide pre-cooked food (such as biscuits) as part of rations where cooking fuel is scarce.
- Supply quick-cooking-to-cook foods whenever possible.
- Work to supply foods with which beneficiaries are familiar to avoid improper cooking/fuel waste.
- Develop disseminate information and/or cook demonstrations on cooking times/ methods for unfamiliar foods (to avoid overcooking/fuel waste).
- Provide additional rations for milking, allowing for shorter cooking times/cooling of rations for milking costs.
- Work with camp managers to promote FE cooking practices.
- With UNHCR/emergency shelter partners, support distribution of FE items (tight-fitting lids, etc.).
- Require (when feasible) use of FE in therapeutic/acute feeding programmes.
- Support development/use of alternative fuel/energy technologies as nutrition intervention.
- Promote camp layout that allows access to household gardens (produce need not be cooked).

### Phase II: Acute Emergency

#### Food & Nutrition

- Provide meal options for all participants that are culturally appropriate.
- Promote benefits (including food security, economic, timesaving) of environmental conservation/use of alternative fuels/energy technologies through formal/non-formal education opportunities, awareness-raising campaigns.

### Phase III: Protracted Crises, Transition & Durable Solutions

#### Food & Nutrition

- Continue training/demonstrations of cooking times/promotion of FE cooking practices to avoid overcooking/fuel waste.
- Support development of alternative cooking fuel/energy technologies (including testing/demonstrating in institutional cooking programmes).
- Continue to require (when feasible) use of FE or other sustainable fuel in all institutional feeding programmes.
- Facilitate multi-household cooking where possible.
- With UNHCR, undertake cash transfers to beneficiaries for fuel purchases where markets and conditions permit.
- Provide milking facilities (through Food for Work/Food for Training) as part of early recovery efforts and feeding programmes.
- With IEC partners, open information centres on types of fuels/energy technologies available in the area.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Global CCCM Cluster Lead**: UNHCR (conflict), IOM (natural disasters)
- **Primarily responsible agencies**: UNHCR, IOM
- **Relevant expertise**: NGOs (including CARE, DRC, IRC, IW, NRC)

- **Global Emergency Shelter Cluster Lead**: UNHCR (conflict), IFRC (natural disasters)
- **Primarily responsible agencies**: UNHCR, IFRC
- **Relevant expertise**: UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNEP, OCHA, Shelter Centre, NGOs (including CARE, CHF, NRC, Oxfam)

- **Intra-Cluster Working Group Lead**: UNEP
- **Primarily responsible agencies**: UNHCR, FAO
- **Relevant expertise**: UNEP, UNDP

- **Global Nutrition Cluster Lead**: UNICEF
- **Primarily responsible agency**: WFP
- **Relevant expertise**: UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, WHO, NGOs (Including AAR, IMC, IRC, Merlin, Oxfam, Save Alliance, World Vision)

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IASC TASK FORCE SAFE
Matrix on Agency Roles & Responsibilities for Ensuring a Coordinated, Multi-Sectoral Fuel Strategy in Humanitarian Settings

**KEY ACTIVITIES PER ENTRY POINT**

*Version 1.1., April 2009*
Phase I: Emergency preparedness & contingency planning

Health

- Provide technical advice on development and use of cleaner fuels and energy technologies for reducing health risks from fuel collection and use
- Ensure health care and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual violence
- Undertake awareness-raising on harmful consequences of fuel collection and use and on benefits of cleaner household energy interventions

Information, Education & Communication (IEC)

- Disseminate information on fuel-related issues/programming at all relevant levels and across all relevant sectors
- Engage local stakeholders to support non-woodfuel-intensive livelihoods programmes (non-wood forest products, farming/agro-forestry, fisheries, gardening, etc.) at earliest response stages, including through subsidies if needed
- Support development of alternative fuel technologies as means of reducing time spent collecting firewood/coal and increasing time available to women to participate in productive activities
- Develop information-sharing systems to track fuel use patterns and availability
- Facilitate information sharing and coordination across sectors

Protection

- Undertake participatory assessments with all relevant actors on protection risks related to cooking fuel and preferred use options with community leaders, community members, and residents
- Host workshops/awareness-raising campaigns with beneficiaries/UN/NGO staff/hosts and local community leaders on protection risks associated with firewood collection, encourage discussion of alternatives
- Where feasible, make accessible, negotiable access to safe collection areas with local authorities
- If protection assessment shows firewood collection may result in gender-based violence (GBV), Whirlpool support in alternative education methods (as applicable) and on cooking techniques for women and children to reduce the risk
- Undertake awareness-raising campaigns on protection risks during firewood collection reducing IAP, environmental conservation activities, etc.
- Develop/disseminate information notes on use of kiosks and other alternative cooking equipment

Livelihoods, Development & Food Security

- Include fuel needs/available sources in emergency food security assessments
- Conduct assessments to support non-woodfuel-intensive livelihoods programmes (non-wood forest products, farming/agro-forestry, fisheries, gardening, etc.) at first response stages, including through subsidies if needed
- Support development of alternative fuel technologies as means of reducing time spent collecting firewood/coal and increasing time available to women to participate in productive activities
- Assess local options to support non-woodfuel-intensive livelihoods programmes (non-wood forest products, farming/agro-forestry, fisheries, gardening, etc.) at earliest response stages, including through subsidies if needed
- Support development of alternative fuel technologies as means of reducing time spent collecting firewood/coal and increasing time available to women to participate in productive activities
- Develop information-sharing systems to track fuel use patterns and availability
- Facilitate information sharing and coordination across sectors

Phase II: Acute emergency

Health

- Undertake capacity-building training of health and related professionals to ensure appropriate treatment for sexual violence, GBV, and respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases
- Continue to provide technical advice on the development and use of cleaner fuels and energy technologies for reducing health risks from fuel collection and use
- Continue to undertake awareness-raising on harmful consequences of fuel collection and use, benefits of cleaner household energy interventions
- Gather information on health risks from fuel collection (injuries, sexual and reproductive health, IAP (respiratory disease), open fires (burns) and fuel availability (smoke) over time, for analysis, advocacy, trend monitoring

Information, Education & Communication (IEC)

- Support development of alternative fuel technologies to ensure children are not forced to leave school or engaged in fuel-related activities
- Facilitate training opportunities on fuel-related issues for camp managers
- Provide training on alternative fuel technologies to camp managers
- Support development of alternative fuel technologies as means of reducing time spent collecting firewood/coal and increasing time available to women to participate in productive activities
- Develop/disseminate information notes on use of kiosks and other alternative cooking equipment

Protection

- Undertake participatory assessments with all relevant actors on protection risks related to cooking fuel and preferred use options with local community leaders and residents
- Host workshops/awareness-raising campaigns with beneficiaries/UN/NGO staff/hosts and local community leaders on protection risks associated with firewood collection, encourage discussion of alternatives
- Where feasible, mitigate, negotiable access to safe collection areas with local authorities
- If protection assessment shows firewood collection may result in gender-based violence (GBV), promote alternative education methods (as applicable) and on cooking techniques for women and children to reduce the risk
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Phase III: Protracted crises, transition & durable solutions

Health

- Undertake capacity-building training of health and related professionals to ensure appropriate treatment for sexual violence, GBV, and respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases
- Continue to provide technical advice on the development and use of cleaner fuels and energy technologies for reducing health risks from fuel collection and use
- Continue to undertake awareness-raising on harmful consequences of fuel collection and use, benefits of cleaner household energy interventions
- Gather information on health risks from fuel collection (injuries, sexual and reproductive health, IAP (respiratory disease), open fires (burns) and fuel availability (smoke) over time, for analysis, advocacy, trend monitoring

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Responsibilities:

Global Health Cluster lead:
- WHO
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - WHO, UNFPA
- Relevant expertise:
  - UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, NGOs (including CARE, IMC, IRC, MDM, Women’s Refugee Commission)

Global Agriculture & Food Security Cluster lead:
- FAO
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - FAO, UNDPA
- Relevant expertise:
  - UNHCR, WFP, NGOs (including Action Aid, Mercy Corps)

Global Protection Cluster lead:
- UNHCR
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF
- Relevant expertise:
  - WFP, OCHA, NGOs (including DRC, IRC, NRC, Oxfam, Save Alliance, Women’s Refugee Commission, World Vision)

Global Early Recovery Cluster lead:
- UNDP
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - UNDP
- Relevant expertise:
  - UNHCR, WFP, NGOs (including Action Aid, Mercy Corps)

Global Education Cluster lead:
- UNICEF
- Save the Children
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - OCHA, UNHCR
- Relevant expertise:
  - UNICEF, WFP, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)

Global Information, Education & Communication Cluster lead:
- IEC
- UNICEF
- WFP
- Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)
- Relevant expertise:
  - UNICEF, WFP, NGOs (including Action Aid, Mercy Corps)

Global Protection Cluster lead:
- UNHCR
- Primarily responsible agencies:
  - UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF
- Relevant expertise:
  - WFP, OCHA, NGOs (including DRC, IRC, NRC, Oxfam, Save Alliance, Women’s Refugee Commission, World Vision)

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- UNHCR
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  - UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF
- Relevant expertise:
  - WFP, OCHA, NGOs (including DRC, IRC, NRC, Oxfam, Save Alliance, Women’s Refugee Commission, World Vision)
The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) was established in 1992 in response to General Assembly Resolution 46/182, which called for strengthened coordination of humanitarian assistance. The resolution set up the IASC as the primary mechanism for facilitating inter-agency decision-making in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. The IASC is formed by the heads of a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian organisations. For further information on the IASC, please visit its website at www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc

Additional information on this publication can be found on the accompanying pre-loaded flash drive, or on the website of the International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings: www.fuelnetwork.org

For feedback and suggestions for the improvement of this publication, please e-mail: iasc@fuelnetwork.org

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (IASC Task Force SAFE) wishes to thank all of the people and organisations that collaborated on the development of these publications during 2007 and 2008, especially the Task Force member agencies:

- American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) – Co-Chair²
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)*
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)¹
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)² *
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)²
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)¹
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)² *
- UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)¹
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)¹
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Co-Chair¹
- UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)¹
- UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Khartoum*
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)¹
- Women’s Refugee Commission (working under the authority of InterAction) – Co-Chair and Secretariat
- World Food Programme (WFP) – Co-Chair¹
- World Health Organization (WHO)¹

Other standing invitees of the IASC are:

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs
- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
- World Bank

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