IASC TASK FORCE ON SAFE ACCESS TO FIREWOOD & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Version 1.1: Decision Tree Diagrams on factors affecting choice of fuel strategy in humanitarian settings

How to use these Decision Tree Diagrams

These Diagrams are one of three main outputs of the InterAgency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (IASC Task Force SAFE). The other two outputs are the "Matrix on Agency Roles and Responsibilities for Ensuring a Coordinated Multi-Sectoral 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. These Diagrams should be read in conjunction with the Matrix, for guidance as to which clusters/agencies are responsible for ensuring that specific fuel-related activities are undertaken. For additional technical information, please refer to www.fuelnetwork.org and to the pre-loaded flash drive that will be distributed with the hard copies of these outputs.

The goal of these Diagrams is to address the range and difference of fuel-related needs in the field – recognizing that there is no single fuel or energy technology appropriate for use in all humanitarian contexts. Thus, the diagrams present a clear means of determining which relevant factors should influence the choice of fuel strategy in an individual setting, based on simple responses to a series of questions about local priorities, access, availability, etc. The term "strategy" is used to reflect the fact that many settings may require more than one type of fuel or energy technology, especially over the long term.

Recognizing that short- and long-term fuel strategies may by necessity be different, the Diagrams cover two response phases: acute emergency and protracted settings. The acute emergency Diagram is particularly intended for emergency response teams, site selectors/site planners; and camp managers at the outset of a new emergency and, as such, focuses on only the most essential fuel-related concerns. The protracted settings Diagram is intended for all field-based actors with responsibility for determining a long-term fuel strategy and, as such, provides guidance on the inter-linkages between a series of considerations and the cross-sectoral ramifications of each.

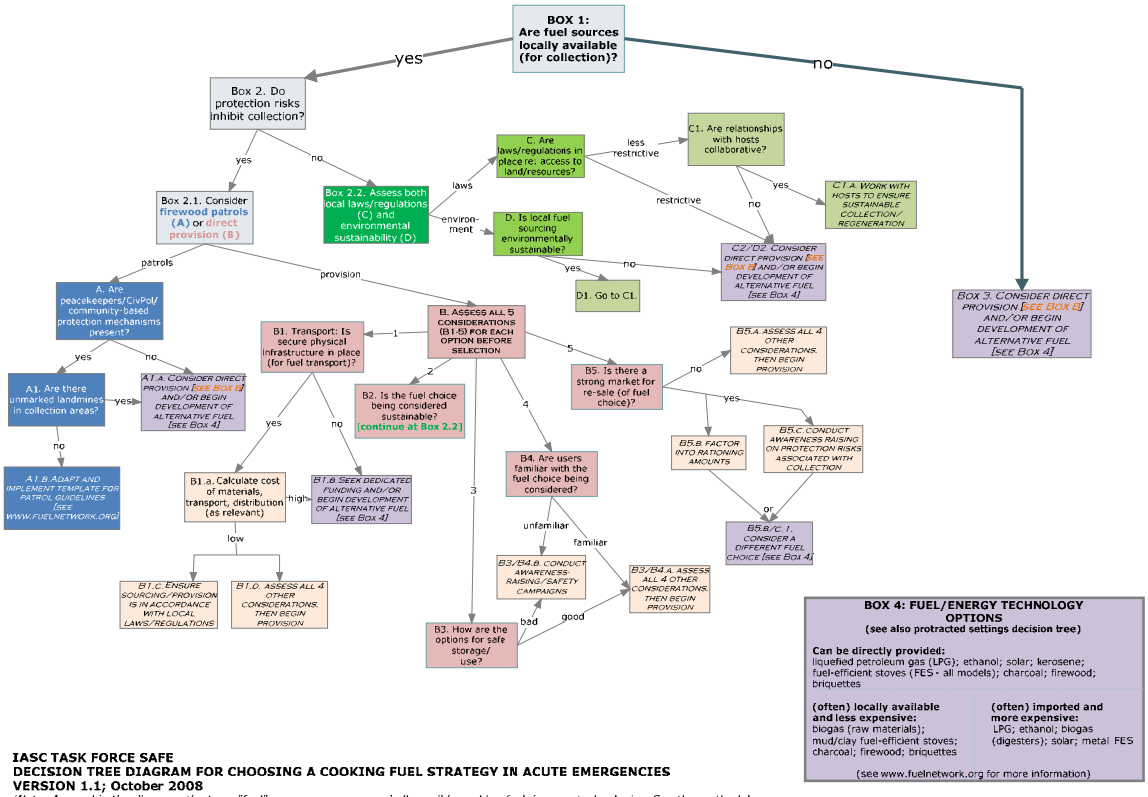
Importance of Participatory Assessments

Participatory assessment is a process of building partnerships with displaced communities by promoting meaningful participation by people of all ages and backgrounds through structured dialogue. An in-depth participatory assessment with refugee and IDP communities, as early as possible after their displacement, is important for a variety of reasons outlined in more detail at www.unhcr.org/protect.html. Specific to fuel, however, participatory assessments are key to ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of a fuel strategy. Simply put, if the fuel strategy does not respond to the needs, habits and preferences expressed by the community itself, the community will seek other fuel options – including perhaps the unsafe or unsustainable options that these Diagrams are attempting to minimize.

A detailed methodology for conducting multifunctional participatory assessments is available at www.unhcr.org/protect.html. In addition, a questionnaire for beneficiaries specific to cooking-fuel needs and preferences is available for download at www.fuelnetwork.org.

It is imperative that participatory assessments with beneficiaries are conducted alongside the use of these decision tree Diagrams, as an integral part of the process for determining the most appropriate and effective fuel strategy in a particular setting.

For questions on this document please contact Erin Patrick, Senior Program Officer, Fuel and Firewood Initiative, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children at erinp@womenscommission.org



BOX 4: FUEL/ENERGY TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS
(see also protracted settings decision tree)

Can be directly provided:
liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); ethanol; solar; kerosene; fuel-efficient stoves (FES - all models); charcoal; firewood; briquettes

(often) locally available and less expensive:
biogas (raw materials); mud/clay fuel-efficient stoves; charcoal; firewood; briquettes

(often) imported and more expensive:
LPG; ethanol; biogas (digesters); solar; metal FES

(see www.fuelnetwork.org for more information)

IASC TASK FORCE SAFE
DECISION TREE DIAGRAM FOR CHOOSING A COOKING FUEL STRATEGY IN ACUTE EMERGENCIES
VERSION 1.1; October 2008
(Note: As used in the diagram, the term "fuel" encompasses any and all possible cooking fuels/energy technologies. See the methodology section and www.fuelnetwork.org for additional information.)

IASC TASK FORCE SAFE
DECISION TREE DIAGRAM FOR CHOOSING A COOKING FUEL STRATEGY IN PROTRACTED CRISIS SETTINGS
VERSION 1.1, October 2008
(Note: As used in the diagram, the term "fuel" encompasses any and all possible cooking fuels/energy technologies. See the methodology section and www.fuelnetwork.org for additional information.)