

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WEEKLY MEETING

Summary Notes

14 February 2007
Geneva

I Women's Commission's Fuel & Firewood Initiative

Ms. Erin Patrick (Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children), Consultant, Fuel and Firewood Initiative

Ms. Erin Patrick briefed participants on the Women's Commission's Fuel & Firewood Initiative and her recent field research in Sudan and Nepal.

The Fuel & Firewood Initiative began in 2006, based on the findings and recommendations in the Women's Commission's *Beyond Firewood* reports. The key goal of the reports was to examine methods for reducing vulnerability to Gender Based Violence (GBV) during firewood collection, including alternative fuel technologies. The field research was carried out in Darfur and Nepal and investigated a variety of initiatives such as direct provision, physical protection as well as the role of firewood collection as an income generation activity.

The main finding of the field research was that fuel in emergencies is not only connected to the issue of protection but constitutes a multi-faceted problem that requires a multi-sectoral and inter-agency approach. Ms. Patrick stressed the need to mainstream fuel concerns into the humanitarian agenda.

The Fuel & Firewood Initiative proposes the creation of an IASC Task Force on Fuel [issue is on the agenda for the upcoming IASC Working Group in March 2007]. The goal of the Task Force would be to provide practical strategies and solutions for use in the field and to disseminate information and best practices. In addition to the Task Force the Initiative suggests the creation of a Working Group that would outlive the TF in mandate. This group would serve to broaden the field-based network of NGOs and other relevant actors as well as monitor the implementation of the IASC TF guidance and ensure continued relevance and sustainability

The following main points arose from the discussion:

- The issue of Fuel could be included in the work of the Cluster on Camp Coordination and Management.
- The World Economic Forum can provide a good link to private companies producing and developing fuel and cooking / heating related products that can be used in humanitarian settings.

For further details on Ms. Patrick's briefing please see the presentation she made at the meeting on: <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/documents/docsdetails.asp?meetID=1220&agendaID=1689>

Participants

	Name	Organization	Email
1	Mr. Paul Paredes-Portella	FAO	pparedes-portella@unog.ch
2	Mr. Norwin Schafferer	IASC Secretariat	schafferer@un.org
3	Ms. Darla Silva	IASC Secretariat	silva12@un.org
4	Ms. Marilena Viviani	IASC Secretariat	viviani@un.org
5	Mr. Pär Werner	IASC Secretariat	werner1@un.org
6	Ms. Lisa Carl	ICRC	lcarl@icrc.org
7	Ms. Amy Christofferson	ICRC	achristofferson@icrc.org
8	Ms. Manisha Thomas	ICVA	manisha@icva.ch
9	Ms. Christine Bloch	JRS	christine.bloch@jrs.net
10	Ms. Julie Breen	OCHA	breen@un.org
11	Ms. Nina Sreenivasan	UNFPA	sreenivasan@unfpa.org
12	Ms. Diana Arango	UNHCR	arango@unhcr.org
13	Ms. Jane Janz	UNHCR	janzej@unhcr.org
14	Ms. Joanina Karugaba	UNHCR	karugaba@unhcr.org
15	Ms. Allison Van Pelt	UNHCR	vanpelt@unhcr.org
16	Ms. Miriam Azar	UNICEF	miazar@unicef.org
17	Mr. Serge Koller	WFP	geneva.guest1@wfp.org
18	Ms. Tanja Sleuwenhoek	WHO	sleuwenhoek@who.int
19	Ms. Erin Patrick	Women's Commission	erinp@womenscommission.org