

JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSIONS – TECHNICAL GUIDANCE SHEET NO. 5 – ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

This TGS highlights the issues surrounding fuel and shows how it links food security and nutrition.

5.1 FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND FUEL

Refugees spend significant amounts of time, money and effort securing fuel to cook. In most situations, particularly in remote camp settings, this means firewood and charcoal. While this leads to environmental degradation, often with impacts on the ecosystem that are irreparable, firewood collection also exposes refugees, especially women and children, to social, economic and protection-related risks.

The food security and nutrition situation of refugees is impacted by the need to secure fuel for cooking. It has been observed that many people will sell a significant amount of their food ration to secure cooking fuel, especially in areas where firewood is no longer an option (where resources have been depleted or the local authority has banned firewood collection). In addition, lack of access to cooking fuel can lead to undercooking meals or skipping meals, both of which negatively affect the refugee's nutritional status.

To address this, fuel-efficient stoves as well as alternative energy such as solar, bio-gas, recycled briquettes and ethanol are promoted in many operations. Rehabilitation of fuel wood through tree planting may also take place.

The JAM team needs to understand issues surrounding fuel and the links with food security and nutrition prior to making any recommendation for programming.

5.2 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

TASK FORCE ON SAFE ACCESS TO FIREWOOD AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS (<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-products-products&bodyid=67&publish=0>)

HANDBOOK OF EXPERIENCES IN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS: COOKING OPTIONS IN REFUGEE SITUATIONS [UNHCR]
(<http://www.unhcr.org/406c368f2.html>)

WFP AND SAFE ACCESS TO FIREWOOD (<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp225419.pdf>)

COOKING FUEL SAVES LIVES: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COOKING IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS [WOMEN'S REFUGEE COMMISSION]
(<http://womensrefugeecommission.org/programs/firewood>)

FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVE PROGRAMS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS: AN IMPLEMENTER'S TOOLKIT (http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADT959.pdf)