

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRE SENSITIZATION AND PREVENTION MEASURES

CCCM/SHELTER Nigeria

OVERVIEW

Fire risk remains a pertinent issue within IDP settlements. Due to the self-settled and improvised nature of settlements in most accessible areas in Northeastern Nigeria, IDP sites commonly face overcrowding due to insufficient site planning. This result in sites having shelters that underperform against SPHERE standards (30-metre firebreak between every 300-meters of built up area and a minimum of 2-meters between individual buildings or shelters to prevent collapsing structures from touching adjacent buildings). While such standards may not be achievable within the accessible areas where land dynamics render complete reconfiguration impossible, partners have the ability to administer a number of activities that greatly reduce the threat of fire, improve a community's response to fire and mitigate the scale of damage from fire. This document works to highlight activities in three phases to help promote fire safety within IDP settlements and curtail damages that may occur from fire.

The three phases are [Prevention](#), [Preparedness](#) and [Response](#), which are all cut-across by the community sensitization.

PHASE: I

Prevention: - the most obvious tool that partners can utilize are fire prevention training with camp management committees. Trainings can be tailored to specific site needs highlighting Fire wardens within camps, allocation of cooking spot, community engagement, and Information campaign fliers.

This phase should be done rapidly and concurrently in camps and camps like settings bi-weekly to ensure proper awareness and sensitization achieved.

Phase: II

Preparedness: - this the second phase highlights the steps taken to prepare for risk of fire outbreaks. Hence, there is a need to have designated fire stations in camps with all necessary fire control kits, communication strategy, alarming systems, capacity building on fire outbreak control.

This phase should be monitored by camp management agencies by engaging the various committees on actively maintaining fire stations, alarming systems and information sharing.

Phase: III

Response: - Through fire prevention trainings or committee meetings, partners can discuss evacuation routes and responses to fire outbreaks, proper use of the fire station tools. Once a proper training on fire response guide have been conducted, committee members should go back to their geographic area of the site and work on relaying to residents why there is a need for fire stations, alarming systems, first AID, alerts raising and why it is important for residents to know this information. Additionally, partners can articulate fire stations through constructing signs and posting routes on information boards or in information centers (if available in district).

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I. Background

This version includes key considerations and measures to adopt in preventing and/or mitigating the negative impact of fire outbreaks within the camps and camp like settings. Due to the prevalent fire incidences in camp and camps like settings as well as anticipation of the 2018 hot season, the CCCM/Shelter Sector drafted a fire sensitization strategic guidance note to present to partners for relevant inputs, comments and or recommendations, hence developing final guidance document for CM partners to adopt in 2018. In view of the existing congestion on site as well as the materials used by families to build shelters, such as thatch, representing risk factors, the principle objective is to lay out the basic approach to both fire prevention and firefighting (Fire risks, prevention and response) in camps and camp like settings in North Eastern Nigeria with defined steps and approach to ensure effective measures are put in place and utilized by the affected population. ***The fire sensitization guidance is followed by an action plan based on level of congestion and amount of makeshift shelters.***

II. **Capacity building I Three level approaches**

In order to ensure effectiveness of key messages delivered at various camp level, it is important that measures are put in place to build capacities of affected population in camp or camp like settings giving priority to three levels of approach as bulleted below:

- **Community approach**

- CM partner to map out practices and understanding of local practices, to understand the reasons behind at risk conducts (i.e. is it because there are no common kitchen or that the community traditionally cooks by the shelter; How do people react or respond to fire outbreaks, etc.)
- In order to ensure adapted community engagement measures, mapping of adapted communication means to ensure a core dissemination of messages – i.e. language, appropriateness of left lets and usage of communication means, etc.
- CM partners to properly conduct Site mapping to form clusters or camp zones in light to ensure proper segregation of responsibility to tackle fire incidents in smaller groups;
- Identify fire committee (FSO), build the capacity of identified fire safety official on fire prevention measures: a recommended figure of 1 fire fighter per an average of 20 shelters. Note that due to camp dynamics with regards to community, it is recommended to have more fire fighters.
- Awareness raising through FGDs with Bulama's, women and women groups, schools, youth, religious places being the target.
- Train and sensitize the camp committees and sectoral committees on prevention and mitigation of fire outbreaks
- Put in place a monitoring system to follow the roll out of trainings and sensitization by different committees to camp residents
- Display the prevention and mitigation flyers in visible and open space locations within the camps and camp settings
- Creation of smoking space distant to shelters and sensitize camp residents on this matter.

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- **Household approach**
 - Sensitize affected population on safe cooking practices using IEC materials to reflect key fire safety information
 - Contextualizing safe cooking practices by creating kitchens in highly congested areas and self-made mud kitchens (Community representatives and camp lead to identify areas which mud can easily be fetched to avoid creating pockets of potential flood prone zones in camps and camp-like settings) in planned camps and less congested camps.
- **Child friendly approach**
 - Identify all child friendly spaces and schools and establish at least one fire safety stations (see below for more details)
 - Developing key messages on fire-outbreak - **Prevention** (Not to play with/around fire), messages to be child engaging (e.g. video presentation using cartoons or comics);
 - Developing key messages on - **Reaction** to fire outbreak (Stop, drop and roll);
 - Locate fire stations in schools and also build capacities of tutors.

III. Fire fighting

- Establishing fire stations in camps and camps like setting with a distance of 300m from one station to another. Toward this email, the below is recommended:
 - ⇒ **Fire station kits:** -
 - To develop further a fire station, map locally available tools from the community to receive consent and have a core understanding of practices.
A fire station kit could be composed of: Large metal drum of water with cover; Whistle with neck string/emergency bell/ Mega phones; Hip of sand; Metallic bucket; Powder detergent; Sign posts; Fire beaters Long sticks (Aluminum posts or bamboo stick), **bags of sand and bare wells** to fight the fire.
 - ⇒ **Treating Injuries from fire incidents:**
 - Basic first aid training to be incorporated to committee trainings.
 - Camp management agencies to confirm with health partners available facilities where burn wounds can be treated – it would dependent on level of wounds - as a contingency plan to respond to any casualties.

IV. Solid Waste Management

Burning disposed solid waste close to tents within camp premises is a potential risk factor for fire outbreak, it is important for partners to;

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- Form clusters of households to benefit from solid waste management kits such as incinerator dump provided in camps to avoid refuge dumps and burning beside tents;
- Camp management agencies to work closely with camp groups to identify solid waste disposal pits within or outside camp premises.
- Encourage camp residents not to burn the solid waste disposals but to let them decomposed and used them as fertilizer for agricultural fields.

Annex 1_List of camp at high level of congestion and level of makeshift shelters

Annex 2_Fire sensitization tools & flyers

Annex 3_ Fire prevention I Routine Checklist