

# *Fire safety in humanitarian settlements*

CCCM Practitioner's Day  
23 June 2021



Photo credit: Sullivan Photography

# Introduction

Our goal is to develop and promote good practice to reduce deaths, injuries and losses from fire in humanitarian contexts through inter-agency and inter-cluster coordination



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# Agenda

- Brief overview of fire risk
- Insights from recent GSC panel discussion on fire preparedness
- Fire safety opportunities in the **Minimum Standards for Camp Management**
- Opportunity to input to ***Current State of Fire Safety in Humanitarian Shelter & Settlements*** research project

Bangalore, India 2019  
Photo credit: Danielle Antonellis





# Fire undermines humanitarian progress

Maiduguri, Nigeria 2019. Photo Credit: Jessica Mamo, IOM



Photo credit: Free Yezidi Foundation

Sharya camp, Duhok, Iraq housing displaced Yezidis  
June 4th fire destroyed 290 tents, displaced 130 families,  
and injured 35 people

*“Fires are common in IDP camps, both from heating machines and poor electricity systems. Plenty of people have died, and hundreds of tents burned.”* – Pari Ibrahim, Founder & Executive Director, Free Yezidi Foundation

***“today was worse than 3rd of August, 2014 when ISIS attacked us”*** – Yezidi women affected by the fire



Photo credit: OCHA Iraq



KURDISTAN24.NET

Photo credit: Star Ahmed / Kurdistan 24



Photo credit: Mal Yusuf Gulumbo Mohammed

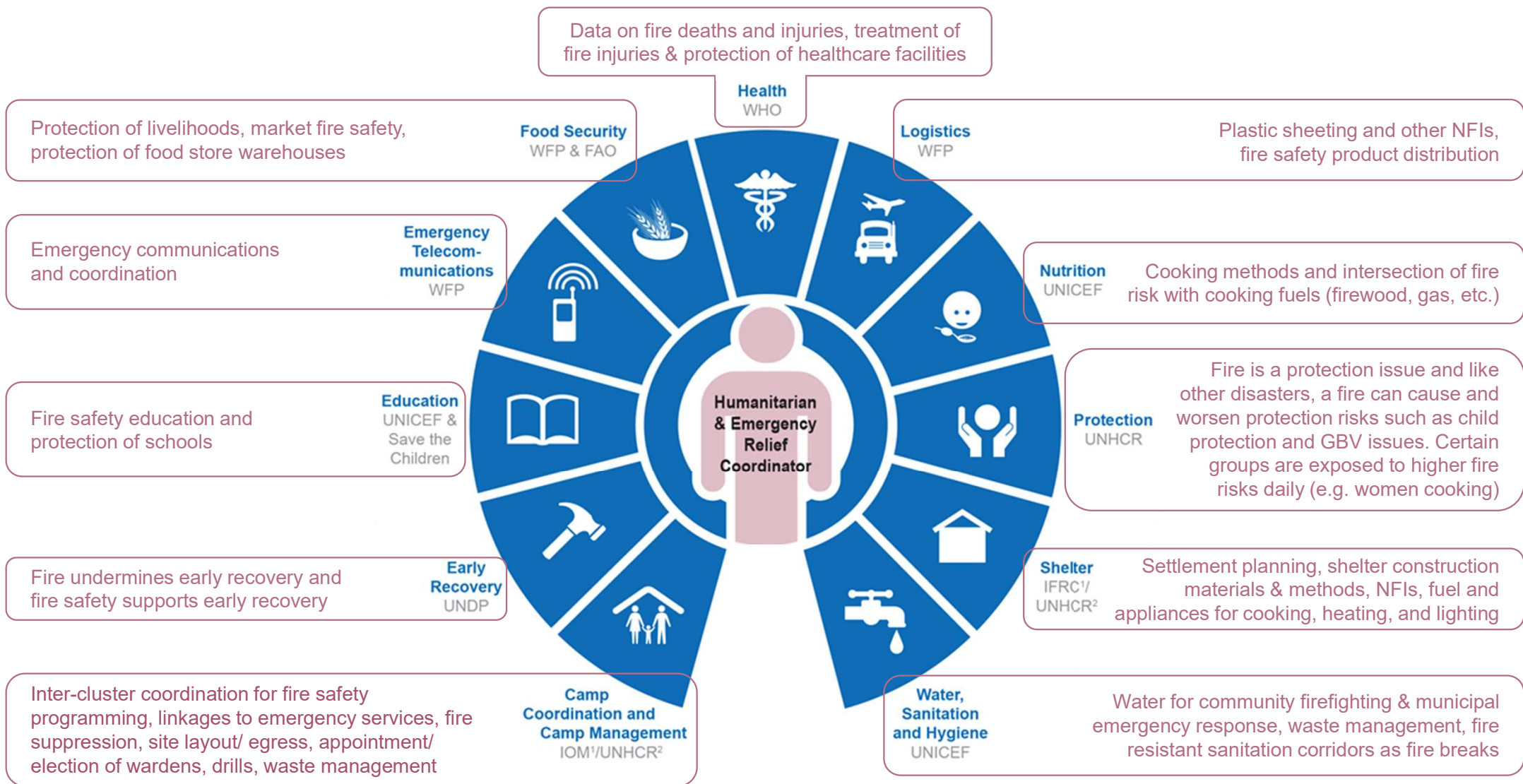


Photo credit: Paul Chamberlain, MOAS

- April 2021: fire in Fulatari IDP camp in Borno State, Nigeria **killed 11 people** and destroyed 2,217 shelters
- March 2021: fire in Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh killed at least 11 people, injured 560, and directly **affected 48,000 individuals**
- September 2020: fire at Moria Reception and Identification Centre on Lesbos Island displaced over 12,000 refugees



Photo credit: Panagiotis Balaskas/AP Photo



# Panel discussion: *Fire safety in humanitarian shelter & settlements*

Global Shelter Cluster Annual Meeting  
Open Session on June 16<sup>th</sup>

Event hosted by:

Global Shelter Cluster Construction  
Standards Working Group



Event supported by:



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Mazen Yachoui, Shelter & WASH  
Technical Advisor, Save the Children



Laura Hirst, PhD researcher at  
Global Development Institute



Steve Jordan, Fire Risk Reduction  
Project Manager for Refugee  
Camps, Operation Florian



Danielle Antonellis, Founder &  
Executive Director, Kindling  
**Moderator**



Richard Walls, Professor of  
Structural and Fire Engineering  
at Stellenbosch University



Paul Chamberlain, Emergency  
Preparedness and Response Specialist,  
Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS)



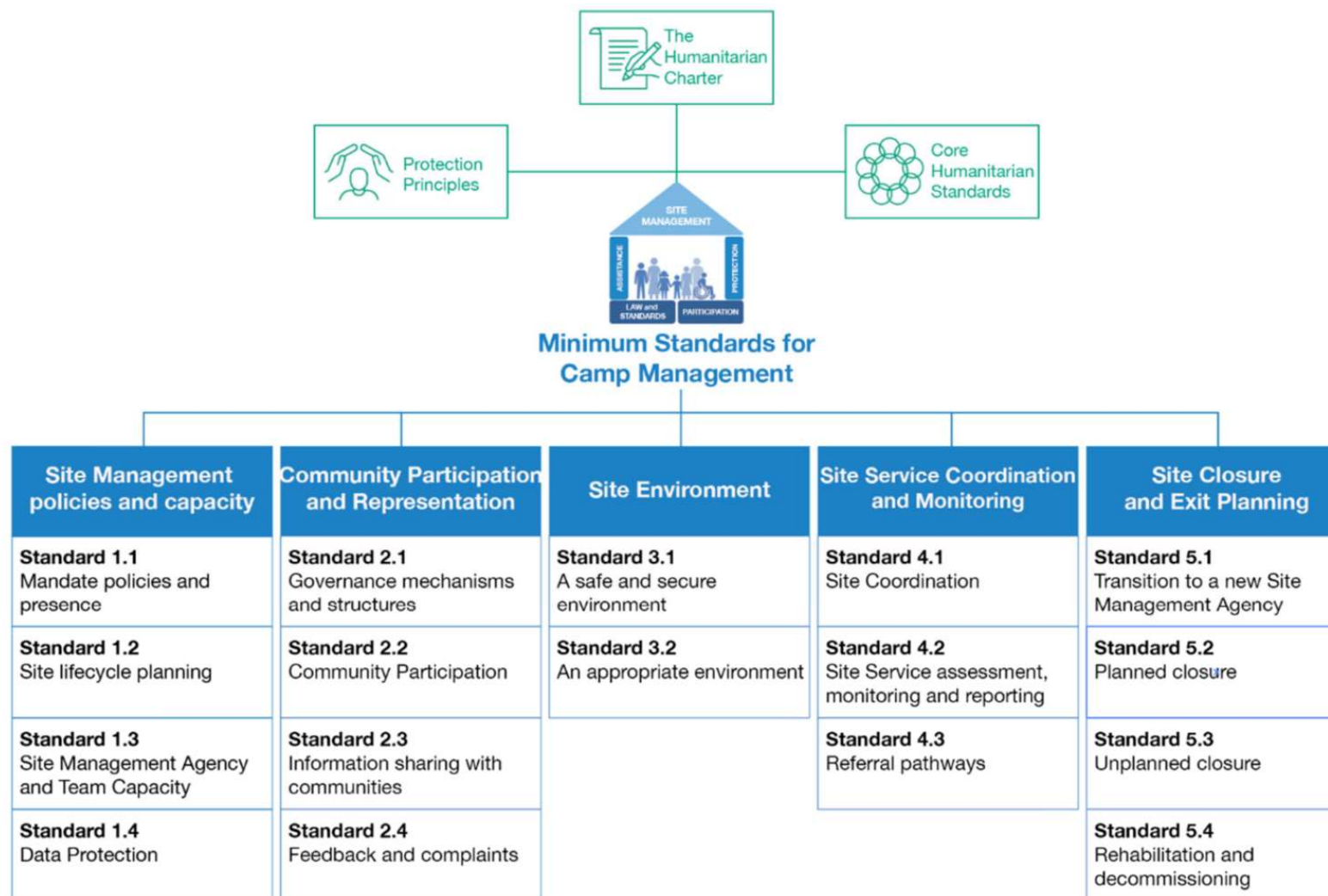
David Rush, Senior Lecturer in Structural  
Engineering – Researcher of Fire  
Resilience, University of Edinburgh



# Key takeaways

- 'Fire response' is the time during actual fire when there is an opportunity to control the hazard and limit consequences
- People's capacities, vulnerabilities and past experiences shape their responses to fires (e.g., repeated experiences of fire, age, gender, disabilities)
- There are many options for physical and social interventions to reduce fire risks... communications, coordination and community empowerment are most essential
- Key stakeholders – site population, humanitarian agencies, local fire services
- As a cross-cutting issue, fire safety needs to be mainstreamed into humanitarian action – it is a multisectoral issue requiring a holistic cohesive approach

# Minimum Standards for Camp Management



# Q & A



Photo Credit: Save the Children Lebanon

# Project kicking off

## State of Fire Safety in Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

- Fire safety knowledge and practices
- Context specific fire safety programming
- Decision making related to fire risk emergence / avoidance
- Fire incidence investigation, reporting and data sharing
- Common fire risk factors
- Fire risk reduction guidance

Project led by:

Global Shelter Cluster Construction  
Standards Working Group



Project generously supported by:



**Global Shelter Cluster**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Please fill out our survey to share your insights or to register your interest in getting involved!**



<https://bit.ly/3xnEH0r>

**Thank you for your time!**

**Survey**



<https://bit.ly/3xnEH0r>



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