
CHALLENGE BRIEF DRA CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON SAFETY AND PROTECTION

1. MAIN DETAILS

CARE Nederland

Graciela van der Poel, Gender and Humanitarian Specialist

vanderpoel@carenederland.org (0031685563858)

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

“How can we better facilitate communities to drive the design and implementation of the responses to their safety and protection challenges?”

3. CURRENT CHALLENGE

Since 2013, there has been an armed conflict that has limited safe access to cooking energy. Food preparation in South Sudan is gendered, relying on women to gather the fuel and food and do the cooking to prepare it. Having the time is equally important to women and girls, as they are often double burdened with their reproductive and productive roles. Women and girls who leave their settlement to collect firewood are frequently attacked and raped or subjected to other forms of sexual violence by armed state and non-state parties to conflict and criminal gangs. **Despite the risk, women and girls still move out of their settlement, displacement sites for fuel as a life-saving, household necessity to provide food for their families, and to sell the fuel to generate income.**

The cooking culture of the women necessitates the use of more than one cooking stove per household. Different stoves are required to be used for different pot sizes, to allow them to prepare a variety of foods for their families to enhance nutrition. It is common for women to have three small stoves. Firewood and charcoal is the most common source of fuel. Women traditionally gather the firewood, and men make the charcoal. In more rural areas or in periods of displacement when no stoves are available, firewood is the direct, primary fuel source when women cook over “three stone” fires.

Women do not enjoy freedom of movement or adequate services to have other sufficient livelihood options. Further, as the conflict persisted, female headed households comprise a large proportion of the population in displacement sites. Hence, humanitarian fuel intervention strategies are essential to mitigate GBV risks for displaced women and girls in South Sudan. Likewise, identifying suitable income generating opportunities are crucial as a means of GBV risk mitigation.

4. IMPACT GOAL

Humanitarian partners have pursued a range of alternative fuel strategies since 2014 across different sectors, including Protection, NFI/Shelter and FSL, primarily in PoC sites. In addition, UNHCR and WFP piloted alternative fuel strategies programs in refugee areas in Maban and the strategies included provision of firewood, charcoal and civilian and military-led patrols to accompany women when they gather firewood. **CARE proposes a way forward that builds on existing initiatives, not duplicating but rather strengthening the design allowing for multi-purpose stoves as a means to address both the protection needs of women and girls,**

in addition to facilitating suitable income generating opportunities. The multi-purpose cooking stove is a stove with multiple plats where multiple cooking can take place, providing a time and space efficient solution for women. The multi-purpose cooking stoves also creates enough space in the kitchen for multiple purposes and it is hygienic. The stove is attached to the wall of the kitchen therefore, it can be used while standing instead of kneeling and preventing children from getting burnt. The stove uses both charcoal and firewood.

Well-coordinated and sustainable fuel strategies not only enhance protection for women and girls as part of risk mitigation and GBV prevention efforts, but can also have positive impacts on nutrition, livelihoods and health of communities. Furthermore, humanitarian fuel interventions can help to minimize the damage to the environment in and around areas of displacement.

Ultimately, CARE and local partners wish to reduce the exposure of women and girls to protection / GBV risks. This also entails reducing the work burden and improves quality of life for women and girls. Facilitating increased economic opportunities for women (putting women at the centre), through suitable solutions that address their needs. Through the alternative fuel working group which care leads coordinating together with a wide diversity of other member partners, continued learning, sharing, analysis of challenges and best practices will be explored to continue identifying opportunities for strengthening proposed solutions.

5. ASSUMPTIONS MADE

Humanitarian actors understand the importance of risk mitigation measures, and provide special consideration to ensure that risks associated with fuel collection and other activities that involve movement in insecure or volatile areas are identified and properly addressed;

Likewise, humanitarian actors understand the importance of investing in fuel efficient cooking stoves, as a means of supporting community based strategies for GBV risk mitigation;

Technology based approach to charcoal production is attainable, and there is desire for multi-purpose stoves;

Open to further innovation of designs;

Available fora or spaces were women and meet to discuss, assess continued risks and strategize on their own solutions/innovations.

6. RISKS IN PURSUING THIS CHALLENGE

Reinforcing unequal gender norms and traditional division or roles and responsibilities, with additional burden on the workload of women and failing to address root causes;

Continued or increase of violence against women and girls related to the conflict dynamics and displacement;

During the acute emergency, risk factors are continually evolving; therefore, it is important to monitor risks on a regular basis, often with a combination of tools, that that go beyond any initial assessment;

Consultations with women and girls through focus group discussions are not appropriate for personal accounts of GBV, but may be used to explore the concerns of a particular group related to security and protection (e.g. focus groups conducted with girls or women of a similar age).

7. NEXT STEPS

Scoping of existing fuel strategies and learnings;

Exploring new types of partnerships and collaborations for innovation and learning;

Targeting (beneficiary and location) and conducting participatory consultation. Conduct listening sessions with women and girls regularly to identify risks and develop risk-mitigation strategies;

Piloting at beneficiary level: phase 1 exploration, sensitization and training of trainers; phase 2 trainer trial period; phase 3 beneficiary training; and phase 4 Fuel efficient stoves trial period of beneficiaries;

Ensure user feedback mechanisms, to ensure continued improvements to the solution in line with user satisfaction and preferences.

Continued monitoring, real time mid-evaluation and feedback for improvement;

Dissemination of lessons.