

Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) 2016

Saving lives through SAFE cooking

WFP works to ensure that the food assistance provided can be consumed as safely and nutritiously as possible. While cooking may be thought of as a safe activity, in many circumstances, especially humanitarian settings, it poses serious health, safety and environmental risks. SAFE (Safe Access to Fuel and Energy) adopts a multi-faceted approach to meet the energy needs of displaced people worldwide through sustainable energy-related activities.

SAFE FACTS

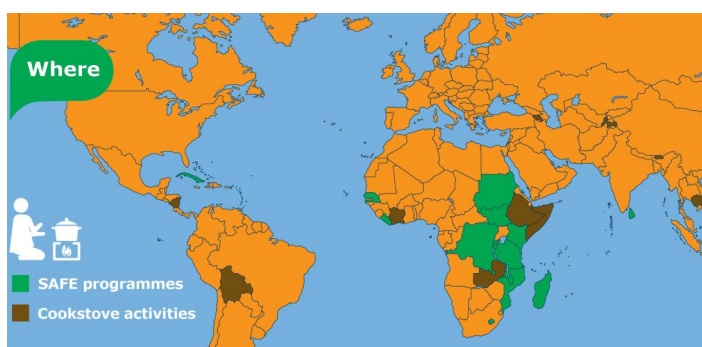
- Women and girls spend hours travelling long distances to collect firewood in dangerous environments, exposing themselves to **sexual and other forms of violence**;
- Families often feel forced to skip meals, undercook or sell food just to buy or save on firewood, **jeopardizing their nutrition**;
- One-third of the world's population depends on biomass to cook. Every year 4.3 million people die from health problems related to **inhaling smoke** from burning solid fuels. Women and children in humanitarian settings inhale this smoke while cooking on open fires or inefficient cookstoves;
- Collecting fuel is a major contributor to the **deforestation** of already fragile ecosystems. In humanitarian crises, this often causes further environmental degradation and tensions between assisted populations and host communities.
- Due to lack of resources, students often have to **spend time away from studies** to collect firewood, contributing to cooking school meals.

How does SAFE help?

WFP's SAFE programme contributes to improving livelihoods, human and social capital, empowerment, energy poverty and environmental degradation through a set of energy- and livelihood related activities:

- Provision and production training of **fuel-efficient stoves** and briquettes;
- **Sustainable natural resource investment**, such as planting tree seedlings and community forests;
- Promotion of alternative **livelihood options**;
- Technical **training** and gender-based violence sensitisation.

To date, WFP's SAFE initiative supported over 6 million people with energy and livelihood needs in 18 countries including Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Sudan, and Tanzania.



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WFP's SAFE Approach



Working towards sustainable solutions

The **success of SAFE** relies on an innovative combination of interventions addressing various challenges linked to the access of cooking fuel. These activities focus on:



Protection and Gender: The production and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves and alternative cooking fuels reduces the exposure of women and girls to gender-based violence by decreasing their reliance on firewood. Additional sensitisation activities empower women through training and education. SAFE also frees up time for women to focus on studies, caregiving and income-generating activities to achieve food security and resilience.



Nutrition: Lack of cooking fuel may lead to poor food utilisation. To save firewood, families can resort to undercooking their food or selling food rations to buy cooking fuel. This has a number of negative impacts on the nutrition and food safety of families, even leading to malnutrition. SAFE activities aim to break these negative coping mechanisms.



Health: Indoor household air pollution from burning solid fuel is the second worst health risk for women and children worldwide, as they are the ones that spend the majority of time cooking. In many developing countries, it even ranks first. Fuel-efficient stoves reduce indoor air pollution making cooking safer for women and children.



Education: In many settings, children are often required to contribute firewood for school meal preparation. This may take time away from education and raise protection risks. SAFE fuel-efficient cookstoves reduce the dependence of schools on firewood. Adequate cooking also increases the safety and nutritional content of school meals.



Environment: Fuel-efficient stoves and briquettes, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection activities help mitigate the negative impacts of firewood collection on already fragile environments. More so, SAFE promotes environmental activities such as tree nurseries and community forests restoring depleted resources.



Livelihoods: The selling of firewood and charcoal can be unsustainable livelihood options in humanitarian settings. SAFE trains communities in alternative livelihood opportunities, including the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, tree nurseries and community forests, helping households become more self-sufficient and resilient.

WFP has committed to support 10 million people through SAFE activities by 2020. To raise awareness and secure funds necessary and scale up SAFE projects, WFP launched the "10 x 20 campaign" supporting this commitment.

A global survey conducted by WFP in 54 countries in 2015 indicated that two thirds of these countries had energy-related concerns affecting people's food security, nutrition or safety. WFP has cookstove activities in 27 of its country offices.