



Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) 2015

Saving lives through SAFE cooking

WFP works to ensure that the food assistance we provide can be consumed as safely and nutritiously as possible. While cooking seems like a safe activity, in many circumstances, especially humanitarian settings, it poses serious health, safety and environmental risks.

A 2010 survey conducted by WFP in 17 countries found that women and children often resort to negative coping mechanisms in an effort to cook their food.

FACTS

- Women and girls spend hours travelling long distances to collect firewood in dangerous environments, exposing themselves to **sexual and other forms of violence**;
- Women 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.

How does SAFE help?

WFP's SAFE Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) programme aims to meet the energy needs of displaced people worldwide through energy-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**; and
- Technical **training** and gender-based violence sensitization.

In 2014, WFP reached 2.8 million people with SAFE including in Burundi, D.R.C., Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.



WFP's SAFE Approach



Working towards sustainable solutions

The **success of SAFE** relies on an innovative combination of energy- and livelihoods-related activities 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 family, caregiving and income-generating activities to achieve food security and resilience.

Environment: Fuel-efficient stoves and briquettes, and alternative livelihoods help mitigate the negative impacts of firewood collection on already fragile environments. Additionally, SAFE promotes environmental activities such as tree nurseries and community forests.

Nutrition: In an effort to save firewood, women can resort to undercooking their food or selling food rations to buy cooking fuel. This has a number of negative impacts on the nutrition of their entire family, even leading to malnutrition. SAFE activities aim to break these vicious coping mechanisms.

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

Education: In many settings, children are often required to contribute firewood for school meal preparation, which can 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.

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

In 2014, WFP committed to reach 10 million people through SAFE activities by 2020. To raise awareness and secure funds necessary to scale up SAFE projects, WFP has launched the "10 x 20 campaign" supporting this commitment.

