

Conference Wrap-Up

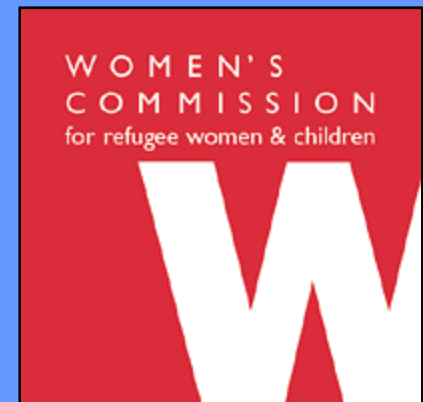
Women's Commission for Refugee Women & Children

PRESENTATION FOR BEYOND FIREWOOD CONFERENCE

December 2008

Erin Patrick
Senior Program Officer, Fuel and Firewood
Initiative

erinp@womenscommission.org



Objectives

- Bring together developers, implementers & users of fuels & energy technologies in humanitarian settings; or which are applicable to humanitarian settings
- HQ and field based; UN and local and INGOs; donors; governments; enviro agencies; appropriate technology groups, etc.
- Create evidence base for fuel-related interventions in humanitarian settings

Did we succeed?

- Representatives from “hard” and “soft” sides of fuel & humanitarian programming – rare
- Different types of technical experts (also rare!)
- Social scientists/ experts in protection, livelihoods, energy economics, etc.

Accomplishments

- Created new linkages; can lead to new partnerships
- Brought new actors into the humanitarian fold
- Opened the eyes of humanitarians to potential new options for fuel response
 - Context & user behavior imp't to any designer/engineer: humanitarian focus on this aspect is not unique
 - Focus on these similarities to bridge “language” gaps.

Findings: General Themes

- Challenges are great, but knowledge is greater. The keys are **communication & coordination**.
- **Multi-sectoral** nature of the issue: there is no effective way of addressing any *part* of fuel response in isolation

Key Findings (con'td)

- No magic bullet solutions:
 - Diff't needs in diff't regions
 - Diff't types of populations: refugees/IDPs; natural disaster-affected; urban/rural; climate change refugees
 - Diff't phases of response: acute emergency; protracted; return
- Means we need *more* options

Findings (con'td)

- Gap between policy and implementation
- Link between (field-based) analysis and advocacy
 - One won't work without the other
 - Analysis informs advocacy; advocacy can help create policy & promote implementation; implementation must then be analysed

Findings (con'td)

SUSTAINABILITY

- Importance of engaging beneficiaries in product *and* program design – product must be valued by its user
 - Need to form linkages with product designers (Engineers without Borders, etc.)
- Do not “parachute” in new technologies
- Importance of (internal) monitoring and evaluation *and* external evaluation – one key to long term donor support

Findings (con'td)

PROTECTION

- Protection is much broader than issue of sexual assault during firewood collection
 - Livelihoods links
 - Environmental links
 - Health links (indoor air pollution)
- Protection-related fuel programming must also reflect this diversity
- Conflicts over wood scarcity not limited to humanitarian settings

Findings (con'td)

LIVELIHOODS

- Income-increasing AND cost-decreasing
- Link with household-level livelihoods, but also market development (enhance long term sustainability)
- Other uses of wood besides fuel: sale of firewood; fuelwood-intensive livelihoods activities

Findings (con'td)

LIVELIHOODS

- Income-increasing AND cost-decreasing
- Link with household-level livelihoods, but also market developm't (enhance long term sustainability)

Specific Findings

- Issues re: relevance of solar cookers and how to adapt them to specific settings. It *is* possible, but training/awareness-raising is key (...and not just to solar cookers)
- Concept of integrated cooking: illustrates the “no magic bullet” idea

Specific Findings

- Some contradictions in findings of FES evaluations
 - Difficult to clearly determine both technical efficacy and impact – highly dependent on user behavior/interview skills
- Need for agreed-upon monitoring & verification standards
 - Link to donors/need for empirical evidence

Next Steps

- All presentations to be posted on website of Int'l Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings (www.fuelnetwork.org)
- Send additional conference/presentation-related documents to Erin (erinp@womenscommission.org) for posting on website
- Conference report to all registered participants

Next steps

- 2009: Focus on dissemination, trainings/workshops & implementation of Task Force SAFE outputs
- Enhance Network (become a member!)
- Dependent on conference participants & network members to help:
 - Increase capacity of website
 - *BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION; BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERTS & HUMANITARIANS*

**Beyond Firewood
Exploring Alternative
Fuels & Energy
Technologies in
Humanitarian Settings**

**A Conference by the
Women's Commission
for Refugee Women &
Children**

**New Delhi, India
December 11-12, 2008**

THANK YOU!

