



***** MEDIA ALERT *****

**First-ever Guidance on Safe Cooking Fuel for Refugees
Is Focus of Launch on April 30**

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Program, to Speak at Launch

WHAT: Launch and wine/appetizer reception for release of IASC Task Force SAFE's guidance documents on safe access to cooking fuel for refugees

WHO: Hosted by **Ambassador Dr. Martin Ney**, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations. With remarks by:

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Sir John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Program

Carolyn Makinson, Executive Director, Women's Refugee Commission

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 6:00 PM EDT

WHERE: Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations

871 UN Plaza (1st Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets.), 23rd floor, New York City
(Entrance accessible for the disabled.)

The issue of safe fuel in refugee settings has not been systemically addressed—until now.

Refugee and displaced women and girls are at risk of rape, beatings and murder when they leave camps to search for wood to cook for their families, or to sell. When burned inside the home, firewood releases toxic fumes that threaten the health of the entire family. The mass cutting of trees leads to severe deforestation in already unstable environments.

The first-ever global guidance documents focus on the need to ensure safe access to appropriate cooking fuel in humanitarian settings from the start of every emergency. As part of the global initiative, 20,000 user-friendly posters and 10,000 flashdrives pre-loaded with background documents will be distributed to field offices of all major UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations worldwide. Workshops for practitioners will be conducted in sites such as Kenya, Sudan, Thailand and Congo.

RSVP by April 27 to: caitlink@wrcommission.org SPACE IS LIMITED.

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For more information on the Fuel and Firewood Initiative, go to: www.getbeyondfirewood.org