

Fire safety in humanitarian settlements

CCCM Practitioner's Day
23 June 2021



Photo credit: Sullivan Photography

Introduction

Our goal is to develop and promote good practice to reduce deaths, injuries and losses from fire in humanitarian contexts through inter-agency and inter-cluster coordination



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Agenda

- Brief overview of fire risk
- Insights from recent GSC panel discussion on fire preparedness
- Fire safety opportunities in the **Minimum Standards for Camp Management**
- Opportunity to input to ***Current State of Fire Safety in Humanitarian Shelter & Settlements*** research project

Bangalore, India 2019
Photo credit: Danielle Antonellis





Fire undermines humanitarian progress

Maiduguri, Nigeria 2019. Photo Credit: Jessica Mamo, IOM



Photo credit: Free Yezidi Foundation

Sharya camp, Duhok, Iraq housing displaced Yezidis
June 4th fire destroyed 290 tents, displaced 130 families,
and injured 35 people

“Fires are common in IDP camps, both from heating machines and poor electricity systems. Plenty of people have died, and hundreds of tents burned.” – Pari Ibrahim, Founder & Executive Director, Free Yezidi Foundation

“today was worse than 3rd of August, 2014 when ISIS attacked us” – Yezidi women affected by the fire



Photo credit: OCHA Iraq



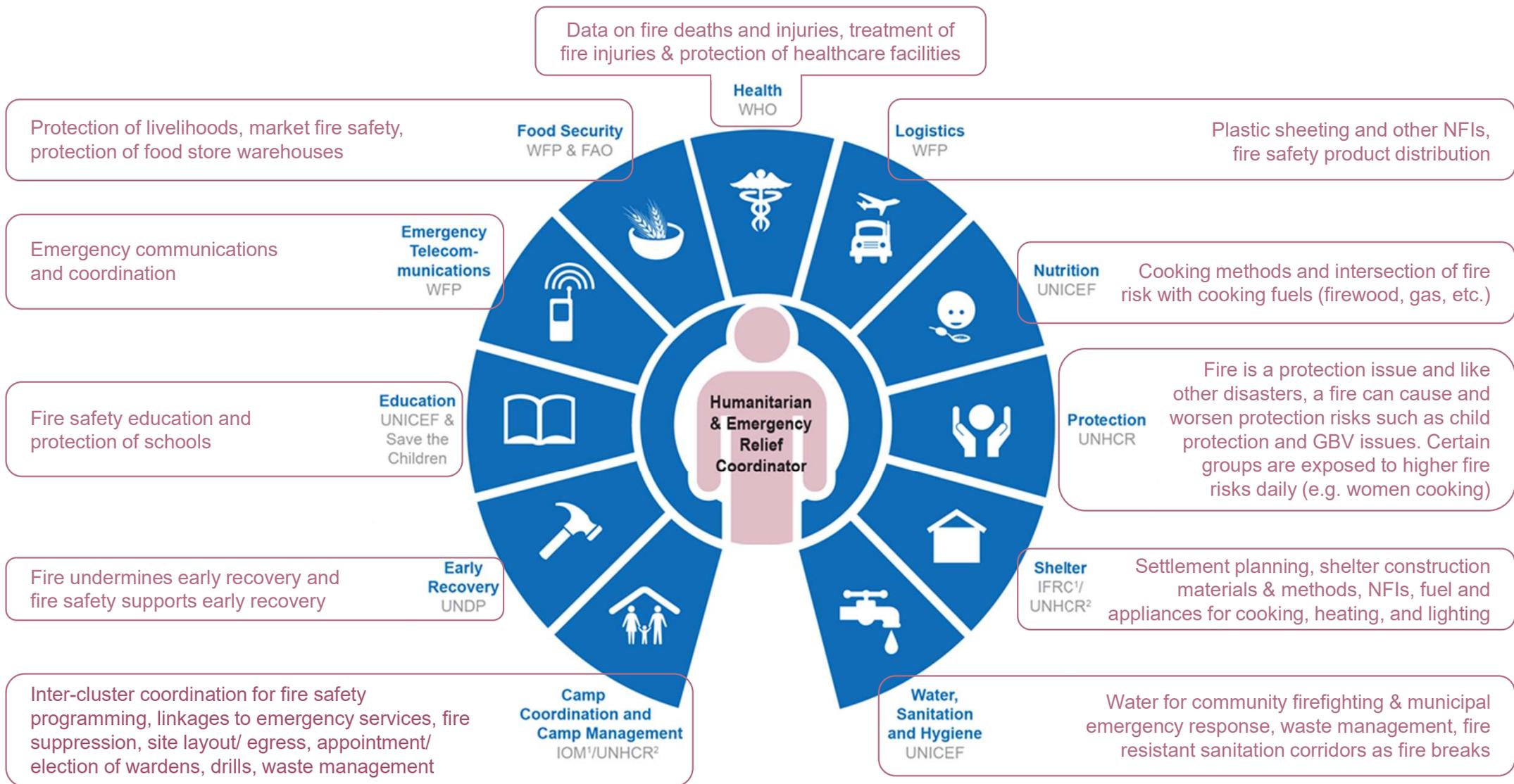
KURDISTAN24.NET

Photo credit: Star Ahmed / Kurdistan 24



- April 2021: fire in Fulatari IDP camp in Borno State, Nigeria **killed 11 people** and destroyed 2,217 shelters
- March 2021: fire in Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh killed at least 11 people, injured 560, and directly **affected 48,000 individuals**
- September 2020: fire at Moria Reception and Identification Centre on Lesbos Island displaced over 12,000 refugees





Panel discussion: *Fire safety in humanitarian shelter & settlements*

Global Shelter Cluster Annual Meeting
Open Session on June 16th

Event hosted by:

Global Shelter Cluster Construction
Standards Working Group



Event supported by:



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Mazen Yachoui, Shelter & WASH
Technical Advisor, Save the Children



Laura Hirst, PhD researcher at
Global Development Institute



Steve Jordan, Fire Risk Reduction
Project Manager for Refugee
Camps, Operation Florian



Danielle Antonellis, Founder &
Executive Director, Kindling
Moderator



Richard Walls, Professor of
Structural and Fire Engineering
at Stellenbosch University



Paul Chamberlain, Emergency
Preparedness and Response Specialist,
Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS)

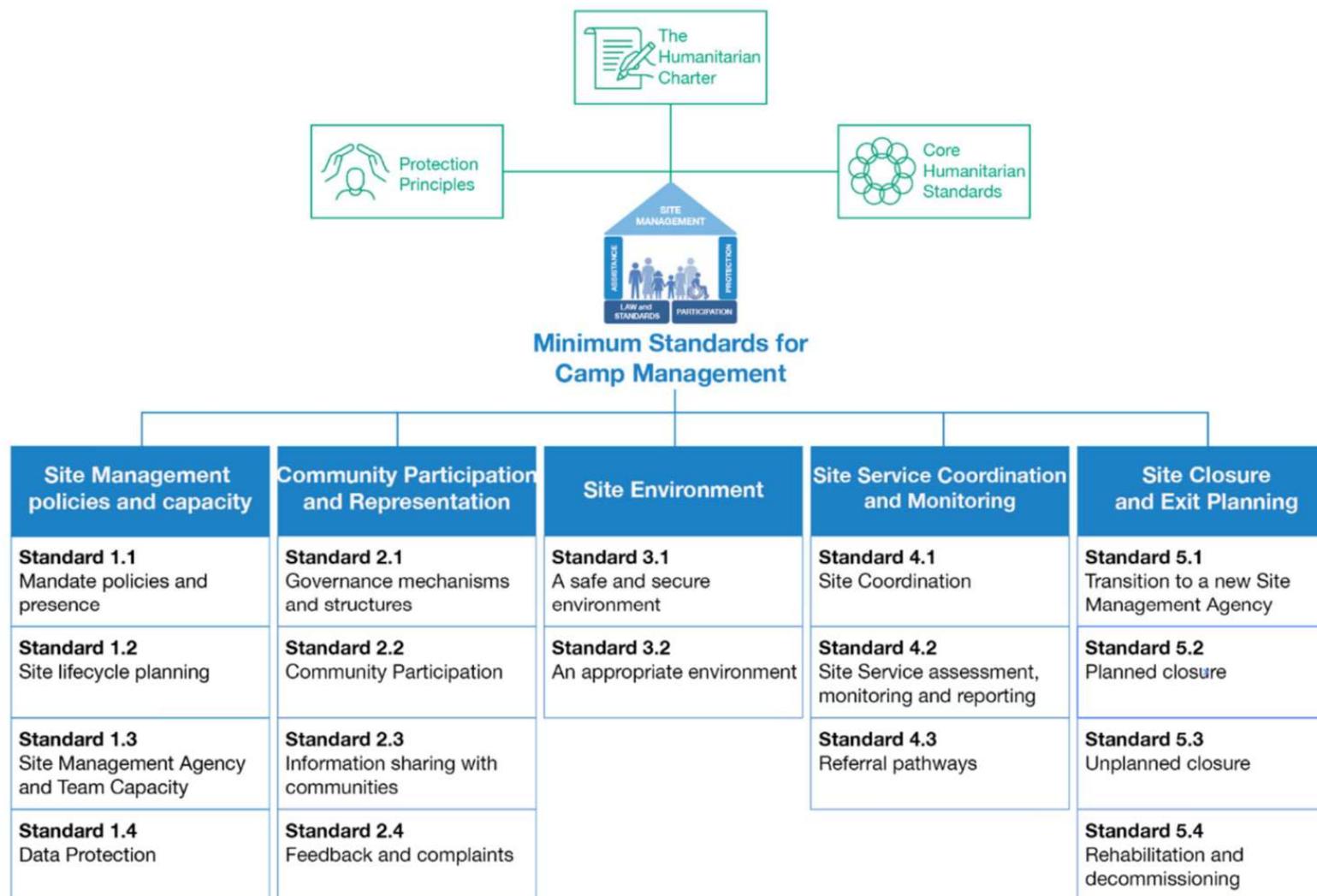


David Rush, Senior Lecturer in Structural
Engineering – Researcher of Fire
Resilience, University of Edinburgh

Key takeaways

- 'Fire response' is the time during actual fire when there is an opportunity to control the hazard and limit consequences
- People's capacities, vulnerabilities and past experiences shape their responses to fires (e.g., repeated experiences of fire, age, gender, disabilities)
- There are many options for physical and social interventions to reduce fire risks... communications, coordination and community empowerment are most essential
- Key stakeholders – site population, humanitarian agencies, local fire services
- As a cross-cutting issue, fire safety needs to be mainstreamed into humanitarian action – it is a multisectoral issue requiring a holistic cohesive approach

Minimum Standards for Camp Management



Q & A



Photo Credit: Save the Children Lebanon

Project kicking off

State of Fire Safety in Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

- Fire safety knowledge and practices
- Context specific fire safety programming
- Decision making related to fire risk emergence / avoidance
- Fire incidence investigation, reporting and data sharing
- Common fire risk factors
- Fire risk reduction guidance

Project led by:

Global Shelter Cluster Construction
Standards Working Group



Project generously supported by:



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Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Please fill out our survey to share your insights or
to register your interest in getting involved!**



<https://bit.ly/3xnEH0r>

Thank you for your time!

Survey



<https://bit.ly/3xnEH0r>



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