

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Fire Mitigation and Response Task Force

Context

A significant portion of the population in north-west Syria (NWS) continues to experience protracted displacement, which is exacerbated by the unprecedented economic downturn. As of May 2021, the CCCM database includes 1,401 IDP sites that host 1,704,008 IDPs or 321,998 families. Of these, 80% are women and children, and 27,961 IDPs are reported to be persons with specific needs. In May, 22 new sites were added, and 21 sites were inactivated in the database due to duplicated reporting of sites, as well as the depopulation and subsequent closure of some sites. The majority of the IDPs sites are self-settled camps in NWS. Most of these sites are lacking proper infrastructure, and are therefore badly affected by fires and other incidents. Throughout the previous years, CCCM has witnessed regular fire incidents in NWS resulting in damage to shelters and non-food items (NFIs) in these sites. Regardless of the shelter types in these sites, it is visible how these sites are severely affected due to the poor infrastructure. Some of the best practices in the camps/sites reflect how important and useful it is to establish a fire mitigation and response with an integrated approach to protect both the sites and the IDPs hosted there.

IDP sites in NWS lack crucial infrastructure and regularly experience severe fire incidents, while all emergency or improvised response materials require regular replacement and maintenance as well as continued humanitarian support. In 2021, over 138 fire incidents occurred, which resulted in the death of 8 cases, 31 injuries, 225 destroyed tents and 6 fully damaged tents.

Activation of the Task Force

In coordination and collaboration with the relevant CCCM Cluster members, mainly organizations involved in the SCHF allocations, the CCCM Cluster initiated the Fire Mitigation and Response Task Force in response to the fire incidents that regularly occurred and badly affected the IDP sites in NWS. Several CCCM Cluster members are implementing various fire mitigation and response projects and programmes without any specific and concrete recommendations and guidance to involve an inter-cluster intervention. Due to the challenges faced in the IDP sites in NWS, in particular the self-settled ones, it is necessary to ensure an effective, coherent and adequate response to the fire incidents.

The CCCM Cluster has activated a Fire Mitigation and Response Task Force to develop the technical guidance, provide recommendations and share lessons-learned from the implementation of fire mitigation and response projects, in order to produce a joint guidance that will be useful for all CCCM Cluster members as well as other clusters' members.

Aim of the Task Force

The Fire Mitigation and Response Task Force aims to compile and share best practices, with the aim of producing guidelines on the fire mitigation and response activities and implementation in IDP sites within the context of NWS, in order to protect IDPs living in these sites that are exposed to fire danger and the items loss as well as improve access to other clusters services.

The Task Force will provide final outputs/recommendations to CCCM Cluster stakeholders in plenary coordination meetings in oral and written form for feedback and comment.

CCCM Cluster Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibility of the CCCM Cluster Coordination Team within this Task Force is leading the process of setting-up the appropriate composition and terms of reference to ensure it can identify the best practices, recommended actions, technical guiding and prioritizing sites; whether this be through using existing resources, or advocating for additional resources through the usual channels of the cluster.

Terms of Reference

- Develop guidance on the establishment of fire points.
- Develop guidance on the fire mitigation and response training.
- Develop guidance on fire mitigation committees (selection criteria, incentive, inclusion etc).
- Identify, follow up, revise and analyse fire mitigation and response activities (capture status, timeframe, funding, donor, scope of intervention, implementation, sites prioritizing, targeted population, challenges and lessons learned, etc).
- Ensure that the implemented activities are based on collected evidence and field experience from the Syrian context, focussing mainly on the IDP sites.
- Ensure that the principles of fire safety improvements are integrated in implementation.
- Ensure that the principles of fire safety are integrated into the selection of location, in order to facilitate prevention and protection against fires.
- Proceed on technical analysis of the projects and programmes.
- Ensure collaboration and engagement of the integrated approach of the CCCM, SNFI, WASH, ERL and Logistic Clusters.
- Provide regular recommendations where fire mitigation and response activities could be applied.
- Update the CCCM Cluster on the status of work-in-progress and present final outputs/recommendations of the Task Force to Cluster members and stakeholders in plenary coordination meetings in oral and written form for feedback and comments.

Task Force Composition/Membership

- CCCM Cluster members involved in SCHF allocations (NGO, INGO and UN): **mandatory**.
- CCCM Cluster members, observers and individuals: **optional**.
- The participants in the Task Force should be able to provide valuable inputs/technical support, feedback and updates from the field, as well as guidance.

Task Force Duration and Frequencies of Meetings

Due to the significant needs in camps and informal settlement settings, as well as the urgency of the interventions and the timely planning, the CCCM Cluster advocates for the Task Force to meet once a month. The Task Force will be supported by relevant members and technical staff of the Cluster Coordination Teams.

While the duration of the Task Force membership will be for a period of two years. In case a NGO and/or member of the Task Force missed three meetings in a row, and did not actively participate in the meetings, the membership of the organization will be suspended.