

Forests and Woodfuel in Emergency Situations

19 July 2016, 13:00 - 14:30

Canada Room, FAO HQ, Rome



Agenda

The event will be held in English

Light lunch buffet will be served from 12:30

Moderated by Shukri Ahmed, FAO

- 13:00 – 13:05** “Resilience in Protracted Crises”, a video prepared by the Governance and Policy Support Unit and the Community of Policy Practitioners (CoPP) of FAO, in collaboration with OCC
- 13:05 – 13:15** Opening remarks and launch of the new FAO-UNHCR Technical Handbook
Dominique Burgeon, Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, FAO
- 13:15 – 13:25** Contribution of forest resources to food security and rural livelihoods in crisis-affected areas
Eva Müller, Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO
- 13:25 – 13:35** Overview of FAO’s work on Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) initiative
Andreas Thulstrup, FAO
- 13:35 – 13:45** The role of environment and energy in humanitarian action
Amare Gebre Egziabher, UNHCR
- 13:45 – 13:55** Community forest to support SAFE interventions around displacement settings
Tania Osejo Carrillo, WFP
- 13:55 – 14:05** FAO’s tools for assessing and monitoring forests and woodfuel in emergency situations
Arturo Gianvenuti, FAO
- 14:05 – 14:15** Remote sensing potential to detect woody biomass and changes in crisis-affected areas
Inge Jonckheere, FAO
- Screening of the trailer “The invisible city [Kakuma]”, directed by Lieven Corthouts
- 14:15 – 14:30** Discussions and closing remarks





Background

The number of people forcibly displaced at the end of 2015 had risen to a staggering 65.3 million compared to 51.2 million just two years earlier and 37.5 million a decade ago. Most of which have minimal access to energy, with high dependence on traditional biomass fuels, particularly fuelwood and charcoal for cooking and heating. Fuelwood is one of the key sources of energy for cooking, and plays a vital role in ensuring food security and nutrition for these populations. The influx of forcibly displaced people may have a significant impact on forests and natural resources in the areas in which they seek refuge. A sudden demand increment of fuelwood and charcoal as energy sources for cooking may lead to forest degradation or deforestation in the areas surrounding displacement camps or improvised settlements. In addition to the detrimental impact on the environment, displaced and host communities face a multitude of other challenges related to the lack of energy access, which include malnutrition, protection risks, unsustainable livelihood activities, health complications and social conflicts. In these contexts, it is very important promoting a sustainable use and conservation of forests to preserve their multiple functions and to contribute to food security and to the resilience of displaced and host communities.

Decades of FAO experience in promoting afforestation and reforestation, sustainable natural resources management and livelihood diversification in various contexts including in protracted crises, can contribute to create the conditions for collaboration among different stakeholders to support improved management of forests and other natural resources in these particular challenging contexts.

FAO, in collaboration with UNHCR, has recently developed a methodology for the assessment of woodfuel supply and demand in displacement settings. This methodology is presented in a technical handbook to support the preparation of a baseline for planning, monitoring and evaluating interventions and to improve forest resources management and energy access around displaced population camps. This methodology, encompassing both the assessment of woodfuel supply and demand, has been used and tested in two refugee camps in Ethiopia where impacts on an already fragile and degraded environment has been exacerbated by an increasing influx of refugees in recent years. FAO has conducted assessments of fuel demand in a number of countries, including Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Myanmar. The coupled supply-demand methodology tested in Ethiopia has great potential to build on this work through replication in relevant settings.



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