



# Fire Prevention Guidelines for CCCM Partners

CCCM Cluster Somalia

## Introduction:

Fire risk remains a pertinent issue within IDP sites in Somalia. Due to the self-settled and improvised nature of settlements in the Somali context, IDP sites commonly face overcrowding due to insufficient site planning. This results in sites having shelters that underperform against SPHERE standards when it comes to spacing of built environment therefore exposing residents to grave risks. According to SPHERE standards for fire safety, sites “should include the provision of a 30-metre firebreak between every 300 meters of built-up area, and a minimum of 2 meters (but preferably twice the overall height of any structure) between individual buildings or shelters to prevent collapsing structures from touching adjacent buildings” (2.8 Fire Safety, the Sphere project). While such standards may not be achievable within the Somali context where landowner dynamics render complete reconfiguration impossible, partners have the ability to administer a number of activities that greatly reduce the threat of fire, improve a community’s response to fire and mitigate the scale of damage from fire. This document works to highlight activities that can be implemented by CCCM partners to promote fire safety within IDP sites and curtail damages that may occur from fire.

## Mobilization of Committees:

Committees operating within IDP sites and host communities such as Camp Management Committees can serve as an entry point to understanding the threats at site-level and improving the settlements broader response to fire.

### 1. Fire Prevention Trainings

The most obvious tool that partners can utilize are fire prevention trainings with Camp Management Committees. Trainings should be tailored to specific site needs highlighting civil defense or fire brigades that are available within the area, contact numbers for this response and other valuable resources locally that can be mobilized in case of fire. Furthermore, site-specific trainings should highlight ways in which fire risks can be immediately reduced with the committee actively engaging and creating systems that are to be used. This can occur through removing faulty wiring, advocating for cooking to occur outside shelters or supporting relocation of some shelters to create critical fire breaks. Therefore, having designated sections on reducing fire risks, community fire responses, role and responsibilities of

committee members when it comes to fires and further understanding firefighting tools that are available at site-level (if applicable) are extremely valuable. Ideally, trainings will have the intention of committee members replicating trainings and knowledge gained during the exercise to individuals living in their sector/block within the site. Ensuring that action plans and reduction methods are adequately transferred from committee members to site resident is imperative in creating a community that is able to properly respond to fire.

## **2. Evacuation and Fire Response Plans**

Through fire prevention trainings or committee meetings, partners can discuss evacuation routes and responses to disasters both related and unrelated to fire. During this exercise, it is important for committee members to actively discuss proper escape routes that should be used in case of an emergency. These routes should be accessible for all populations living within a site and should include host communities if the site has mixed populations. Once an evacuation route has been created for all sections of the site, committee members should go back to their geographic area of the site and work on relaying to residents what the evacuation routes are, and why it is important for residents to know this information. Additionally, partners can articulate routes through constructing signs and posting routes on information boards or in information centers (if available in district). Evacuation routes that are posted should be comprised of maps and images and should include as little writing as possible.

## **3. Fire Warden Representatives**

Camp Management Committees offer partners an auspicious ability of appointing fire officers or fire wardens for respective sites. Through conducting fire prevention trainings, partners should have the ability to see what committee members are vigorously engaged in the material and have the capacity of becoming fire wardens for their respective site. Fire wardens will take on great responsibilities and must be supported frequently by partners ensuring that these individuals have all the tools, contact information and plans for action necessary to report and respond to fire. Based on size and fire risk, partners can appoint 1-5 individuals as fire wardens with residents understanding their roles. Fire wardens are responsible for reporting fires to civil defense or fire brigades, local authorities and other stakeholders in the area that can immediately respond to fire. In addition, fire wardens are versed on the fire prevention tools that are used at site level (such as fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire safety units if applicable). In order for fire wardens to be successful, civil defense and local authority must meet with these individuals, exchange contact information and go over procedures for fire response. Partners should actively facilitate these meetings and record procedures and civil defense contact information which can be disseminated throughout the settlement so that residents can contact important first responders in case a fire is reported.

## **4. Relocation of Shelters for Fire Breaks**

As previously mentioned, informal IDP settlements in Somalia tend to be overcrowded further exposing the site to widespread fire risk. While the relocation of shelters from overly dense areas of the site to locations where more spacing is available is a delicate issue, camp management committees can facilitate conversations with site residents about moving. Committees that have been trained in fire training should also be equipped with knowledge of important fire breaks for built up areas and identify problem areas within a site. Once these areas have been identified, committees can facilitate dialogue

between residents and site managers/landowners about possible relocation spaces within the site. While SPHERE standards may not be adhered to within various sites, they can serve as a goal for fire prevention within a site with committees actively engaging with residents on forming suitable fire breaks and shelter spacing. Committees can mobilize within their respective area of the site discussing the benefits of small-scale shelter relocation and further advocating for improved site layouts which will drastically diminish the threat of widespread fire.

## **Provision of Fire Safety Infrastructure:**

There are three predominant fire safety methodologies that are often used in camp-like settings: fire extinguishers, fire safety units and fire blankets. Each of these responses has the ability to curb fire damage while also presenting some challenges that partners are to be aware of.

### **1. Fire extinguishers**

While expensive at \$40 per unit, fire extinguishers are a viable method for fire safety at the site-level especially if extinguishers are handed over to fire wardens. If trained and equipped with fire extinguishers, fire wardens will have the ability to respond quickly and appropriately to fire within a site ultimately becoming the most efficient and effective fire safety method within a site. Partners that wish to handover fire extinguishers to wardens must include a training component on how to use these items. In addition, partners should understand that extinguishers will need to be refilled after use and should be used occasionally in order for them to be effective. Like with all infrastructure handed over to the community, the threat of theft or infrastructure sales exists.



### **2. Fire Safety Units**

Fire safety units cost approximately \$125 per unit and cover around 75-100 shelters (depending on site density). Units include a stand, four buckets for sand and water, and one small shovel. While cost effective and successful when operational, fire safety units face the challenge of community sensitization and ownership. To reduce theft of items, partners must commit a high-level of community engagement within respective sites.



### 3. Fire Blankets

Fire blankets cost \$20 per unit and are very effective against ground-based fires such as a fire that is sparked by a cooker or kitchen appliance. Unfortunately, fire blankets are not effective in large fires such as when a shelter ignites. Furthermore, fire blankets are only effective when there is full coverage within a site. Distributing fire blankets to all households may be expensive for partners and carries the risk of items being sold by residents.



### Fire Prevention Workshops:

Partners working in IDP sites have the ability of holding district-wide fire prevention workshops with the objective of putting into practice fire safety methods and cementing fire safety plans with stakeholder buy-in. Such workshops should include committees, site fire wardens, site managers, partners, local authorities and respective government branches such as civil defense and the Ministry of Interior. If workshops are planned within a given district, it is vital that concrete objectives are agreed upon by stakeholders and that decision-makers attend the workshop.

## Annex 1:

### Fire Safety Offices TOR

#### *TERMS OF REFERENCE*

### Fire Prevention and Safety Roles and Responsibilities for Fire Safety Officers in Bor PoC

#### Background and Purpose

1. In order to maintain the safety of residents within Bor PoC, fire safety procedures are being established in order to mitigate fire risks. Accompanied by the provision of basic equipment at fire safety points around the site, will support the effective control of fire hazards and appropriate response to fires.
2. 30 individuals have been selected to act as Fire Safety Officers within Bor PoC due to their key roles in the community: 25 community watch group members, 1 teacher, 1 grinding mill operator, 1 health worker, 1 PSS worker, 1 church member.
3. Fire Safety Officers will be responsible for sensitising residents to fire hazards and fire prevention and response strategies. They will also be responsible for the care and maintenance of essential equipment and supporting with response in the case of an incident.

#### Fire Officer Roles and Responsibilities

1. The following tasks and activities will be undertaken on a *one-off basis* by the Fire Safety Officers:
  - a. Attendance of a 2-days Fire Prevention and Fire Control Workshop, plus attendance at refresher training if necessary to be organised by ACTED once a year.
2. Fire Safety Officers are responsible for undertaking the following on an *ongoing and regular basis*:
  - a. Caring for and maintaining the fire safety points and equipment – including regular reporting to ACTED on need for more sand/new fire extinguishers/other items.
  - b. Regularly monitoring fire hazards within their block and communal areas within Bor PoC site; advising households to reduce small risks, and reporting major fire risks to ACTED.
  - c. Help ACTED in conducting training sessions for the residents for the residents of the blocks
3. Fire Safety Officers are responsible for the following *in the event of a fire incident*:
  - a. Immediately reporting the fire to ACTED, UNPOL or any humanitarian that can provide support and report fire to UNMISS;
  - b. Assisting with putting out small fires and ensuring easy access to fire safety equipment in their care to community members.
  - c. Assisting with the orderly movement of community members to the agreed emergency assembly points in the case of a serious fire incident.
4. The following fire safety points are assigned to the Fire Safety Officers:

Fire Safety Point	Designated Fire Safety Officers
<b>A</b> Healthlink clinic	
<b>B</b> Block 1	
<b>C</b> Block 2	
<b>D</b> Block 3	

<b>E</b>	Block 4	
<b>F</b>	Block 5	
<b>G</b>	Block 6	
<b>H</b>	Block 7	
<b>I</b>	Block 8	
<b>L</b>	Block 9	
<b>M</b>	Block 10	
<b>N</b>	Block 11	
<b>O</b>	Block 12	
<b>P</b>	Block 13	
<b>Q</b>	School/IOM centre	
<b>R</b>	Community tukul	
<b>S</b>	Grinding Mill	

5. The Fire Safety Officers agree to observe the below values and working principles at all times:
  - a. No favouritism or discrimination.
  - b. A positive and responsible attitude in the completion of tasks.
  - c. A cooperative attitude in interaction with ACTED staff and Bor PoC residents.
6. The fire Safety Officers will be supported by ACTED with capacity building and logistic support.
7. These assigned duties/work stations may be amended or terminated as required by ACTED (Camp Management).

**Agreement**

1. We, the Fire Safety Officers of Bor PoC, accept the above roles and responsibilities, and we will abide by the code of conduct:

S/N	Name	Position	Block	Signature	Date
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

2. Signed on behalf of ACTED:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:


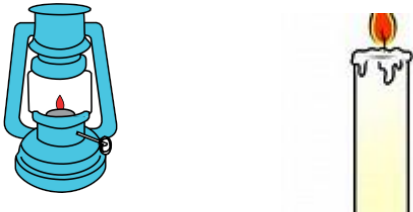
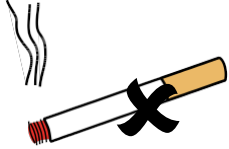
Annex 2:

Example of IEC for Fire Prevention

# Gään maac

## FIRE SAFETY

### Baŋ mac - PREVENT FIRES

<p>Tiyε mac puɔny duël - KE Kuyi Jo<sup>9</sup>m dère Chiëŋ waŋ KEPETH</p>  <p>KEEP FIRE AWAY from shelter walls- with wind, it can spread very easily</p>	<p>Yuɔp duël ε chiëŋ puɔth</p> <p>Good housekeeping - keep the site clean</p>
<p>Titre cameni kenε lambä.</p>  <p>Be careful with candles and lamps.</p>	<p>Cuo mäth ke tap rey duël.</p>  <p>Do not smoke inside shelters.</p>

Titre gaat bēkā cučkni that.



Keep children away from hot cooking pots

Ɛ gaat ci ŋar ke mac k̄ε kipritni.



Children should not play with fire or matches.