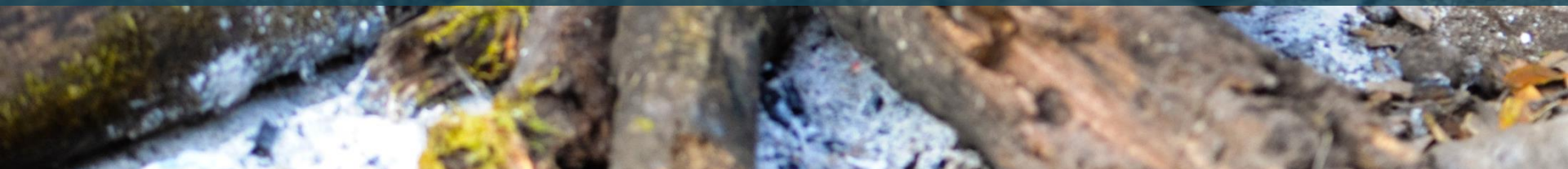




Humanitarian Engagement: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) in emergencies





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# Lack of access to cooking solutions impacts crisis-affected populations in many serious ways...



## Protection

- Displaced women walk for hours to find firewood and carry very heavy loads back to camp leading to risks of dehydration, physical injury, and attack.
- When they leave the relatively safety of the camp, they face an increased vulnerability to the risk of gender-based violence, such as rape.



## Health

- Open cooking fires can increase burns and devastating fires, which can spread quickly and cause widespread damage in the camps.
- Boiling water insufficiently to save fuel can lead to consumption of contaminated water.
- Scarcity of cooking fuel may force households to switch to lower quality food, eat fewer meals, undercook food, or trade food rations for fuel.
- Exposure to household air pollution kills 4 million people every year.



## Environmental Degradation

- Harvesting of firewood for cooking fuel contributes to deforestation, soil erosion, and loss of agricultural and grazing environments.
- Deforestation and erosion of land increases the risk of natural disasters. It also degrades arable land, reducing yields.
- Environmental impacts exacerbate tensions between humanitarian populations and host communities.



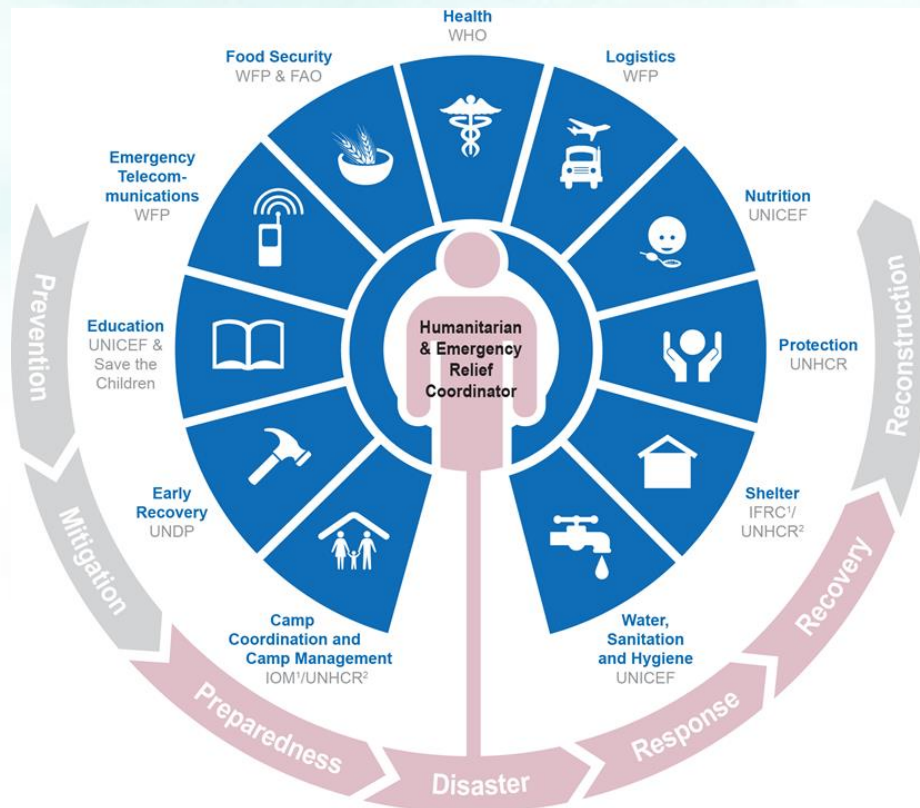
## Unsustainable Livelihoods

- Firewood and charcoal sales are often the only source of income for refugees and IDPs.
- Environmental degradation caused by fuel collection can seriously hamper livelihood opportunities for both agricultural and pastoralist communities.

# and intersects with every area in humanitarian response

As a cross-sectoral issue within the UN Cluster System, SAFE impacts:

- Protection
- Food security & nutrition
- Health
- Shelter
- Camp management
- Education
- Livelihoods
- Environment



# What is SAFE?

Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) is the humanitarian community's response to addressing the basic energy needs of displaced people in order to reduce the negative impacts.

SAFE is a cross-sectoral issue that ensures access to fuel and energy for cooking, heating, lighting, and powering for crisis-affected populations.

Crisis-affected populations include refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), host communities, communities affected by natural disaster, and others suffering from the effects of war and conflict.



# State of the SAFE Sector in Humanitarian Response

- Access to fuel-efficient stoves, cooking fuel, and lighting is a **minimum standard** in humanitarian response and has been since 2000 (Sphere Project).
- However, while stoves, fuel and lighting are all recognized as life saving non-food items, this minimum standard is rarely met.
- Changes in the humanitarian system are critical in order to meet this standard. The SAFE sector does not yet have its own cluster or formal designation, is not included in humanitarian funding mechanisms, and is not mainstreamed into humanitarian activities on the ground.

# SAFE Steering Committee

As with other humanitarian sectors like water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), activities within the SAFE sector are coordinated by a consortium of humanitarian organizations.

The consortium of organizations that coordinate SAFE activities is called the **SAFE Steering Committee**. Current members include the Alliance, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, Women's Refugee Commission, International Lifeline Fund, Mercy Corps, and ProAct.

# SAFE Steering Committee Vision & Mission

## **Vision**

The SAFE Steering Committee envisions a world in which all crisis-affected populations are able to satisfy their fuel and energy needs for cooking, heating, and lighting in a safe and sustainable manner, without fear or risk to their health, well-being, and personal security.

## **Mission**

The mission of the SAFE Steering Committee is to facilitate a more coordinated, predictable, timely, and effective response to the fuel and energy needs of crisis-affected populations.



# The Alliance works within Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) to achieve scale.

- Ensuring access for vulnerable populations has been a component of the Alliance strategy since its launch. These individuals often can't afford to purchase clean cookstoves and fuel, yet they suffer the most from the consequences of lack of access.
- The Alliance's expert Humanitarian Working Group recommended that the **Alliance's strategy fit within SAFE and build on the foundation of the UN SAFE Task Force.**
- **Working within SAFE increases the effectiveness of the Alliance's humanitarian approach by:**
  - Building on existing foundation and expertise
  - Streamlining resources by reducing duplication
  - Ensuring collaboration among key implementing partners
  - Strengthening and scaling implementation on the ground
  - Ensuring negative impacts are reduced by meeting energy needs more broadly

# The Alliance's role on the SAFE Steering Committee

The Alliance co-chairs the SAFE Steering Committee and coordinates the group's global activities. The Alliance also provides technical expertise and guidance to humanitarian implementers on cooking-related programs.

The Alliance's internal humanitarian strategy contributes directly to the vision, mission, and global strategy outlined by the SAFE Steering Committee.

# SAFE Sector Goal for 2020

*By 2020, safe access to fuel and energy is integrated into existing humanitarian response mechanisms, and implementation is strengthened and scaled.*

## **Indicators of success:**

- SAFE is designated and formally recognized as part of the UN humanitarian response system, whether as a Cluster, Cross-Cutting Issue, or similar designation
- SAFE is included as an option for funding in OCHA's Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and Flash Appeals
- Internal budgetary allocations for SAFE is increased in at least 75% of SAFE Reference Group member organizations
- Number of SAFE programs implemented at the field level increases by at least 25%
- Secured government commitments to SAFE as part of calls to action process
- SAFE integrated into humanitarian rapid assessment tools (MIRA, etc.)
- SAFE is incorporated into the post-2015/Sustainable Development Goals
- Sphere Project standards on fuel-efficient stoves, fuel, and lighting are being met



## Phase 2 Focus - Scaling and Strengthening SAFE projects to reach 1 million households by 2020

- **51.2 million** forcibly displaced people in the world
  - *3.7 million of these are refugees and IDPs in 3 Alliance focus countries*
  - *6.3 million more are in 14 other SAFE partner countries*
- Interim target of **1 million households** (5 million people) in humanitarian contexts with access to cooking solutions by 2020
- Alliance SAFE focus countries are Kenya, Rwanda and DRC



**3.7 million**  
Refugees & IDPs in  
Alliance SAFE Focus  
Countries (end-2013)

- **DRC: 3,077,161**
- **Kenya: 534,938**
- **Rwanda: 73,349**

# Alliance SAFE Focus Countries

The Alliance is currently finalizing its SAFE Focus Countries – 3 have been confirmed.

	# of refugees and IDPs	Reason country was selected	Critical SAFE interventions	Impact target
Kenya	534,938 refugees	Largest refugee population in Africa. Partnering with UNHCR.	Identify appropriate technologies & fuel; develop M&E framework; conduct energy baselines; procure stoves for deployment by UNHCR	<b>77,450</b> refugee HHs gain access to household energy for cooking and lighting
Rwanda	73,349 refugees	Small, well-organized refugee camps where impact can easily and quickly be measured on a country-wide scale. Partnering with UNHCR.	Identify appropriate technologies & fuel; develop M&E framework; conduct energy baselines; create strategy for alternative fuel production; support refugee stove/fuel enterprises	<b>10,740</b> refugee HHs gain access to household energy for cooking and lighting
DRC	113,362 refugees 2,963,799 IDPs	Largest population of IDPs in Africa. Partnering with WRC.	Develop M&E framework; conduct energy baselines; support stove and fuel enterprises	<b>307,716</b> displaced HHs gain access to household energy for cooking and lighting

There are six strategic areas where the Alliance can engage in the SAFE sector to ensure crisis-affected populations have access to cooking solutions.

**Pillar 1:** Coordinate the sector and share information

**Pillar 2:** Commission research and build evidence

**Pillar 3:** Provide technical support, tools, and guidance for implementation

**Pillar 4:** Build human resource capacity

**Pillar 5:** Advocate for the sector

**Pillar 6:** Mobilize resources

*Global entity like the Alliance is needed to push SAFE agenda forward globally because implementers are focused on projects*

All implementing agencies benefit from Alliance's engagement, and SAFE becomes more integrated into humanitarian response.



# Alliance's strategic engagement in SAFE

The Alliance's engagement in the SAFE sector falls into six strategic pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Coordinate the sector and share information
- **Pillar 2:** Commission research and build evidence
- **Pillar 3:** Provide technical support, tools, and guidance for implementation
- **Pillar 4:** Build human resource capacity
- **Pillar 5:** Advocate for the sector
- **Pillar 6:** Mobilize resources

The activities under each pillar will take place globally, as well as in SAFE focus countries.

## Moving from Phase I to Phase II:

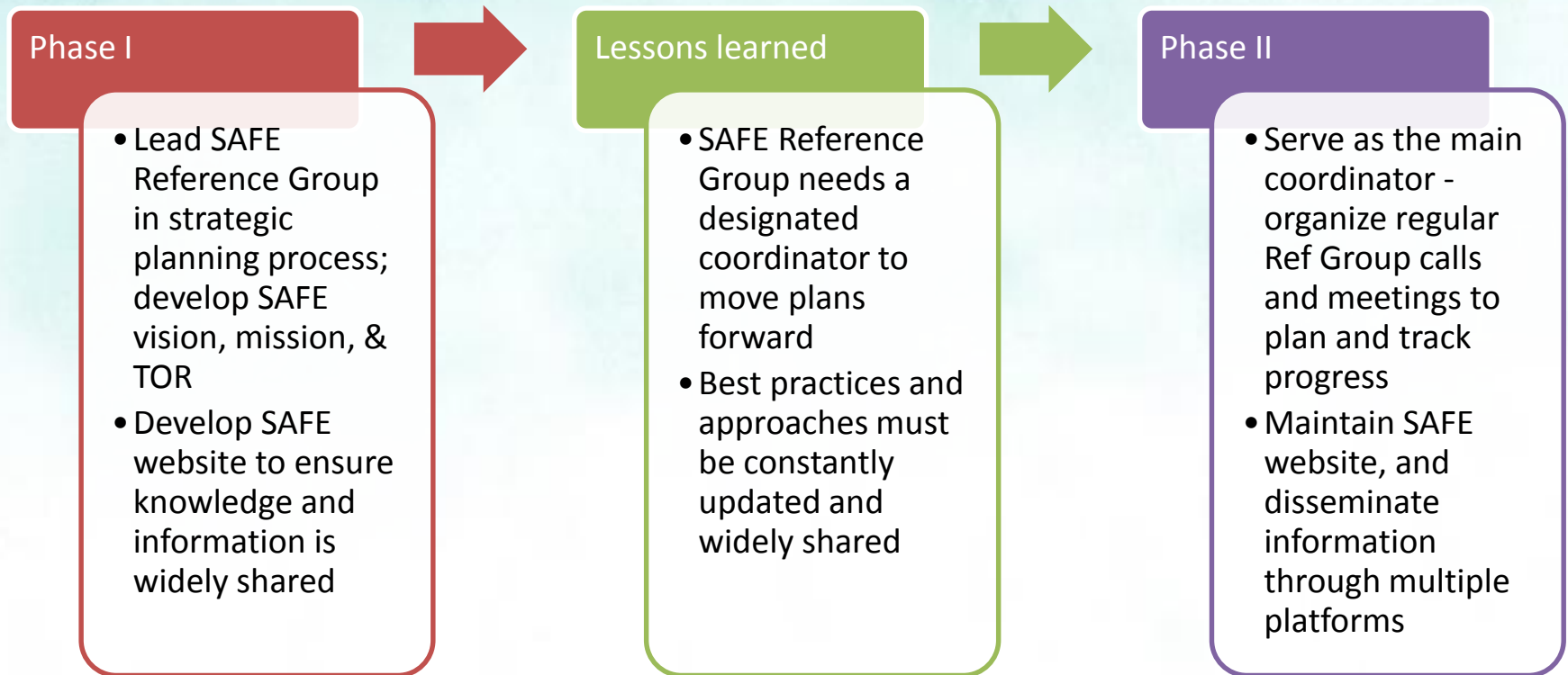
*Transitioning from building consensus to strengthening and scaling implementation*

The Alliance's **Phase 1** (2012-2014) humanitarian activities were focused on partnership and building a working foundation for the SAFE Reference Group members to engage their organizations on issues around safe access to fuel and energy.

**Phase 2** (2015-2017) is focused on scaling and strengthening implementation of SAFE projects and establishing an effective enabling environment to ensure that SAFE is integrated into humanitarian response mechanisms.

# Strategic Pillar 1:

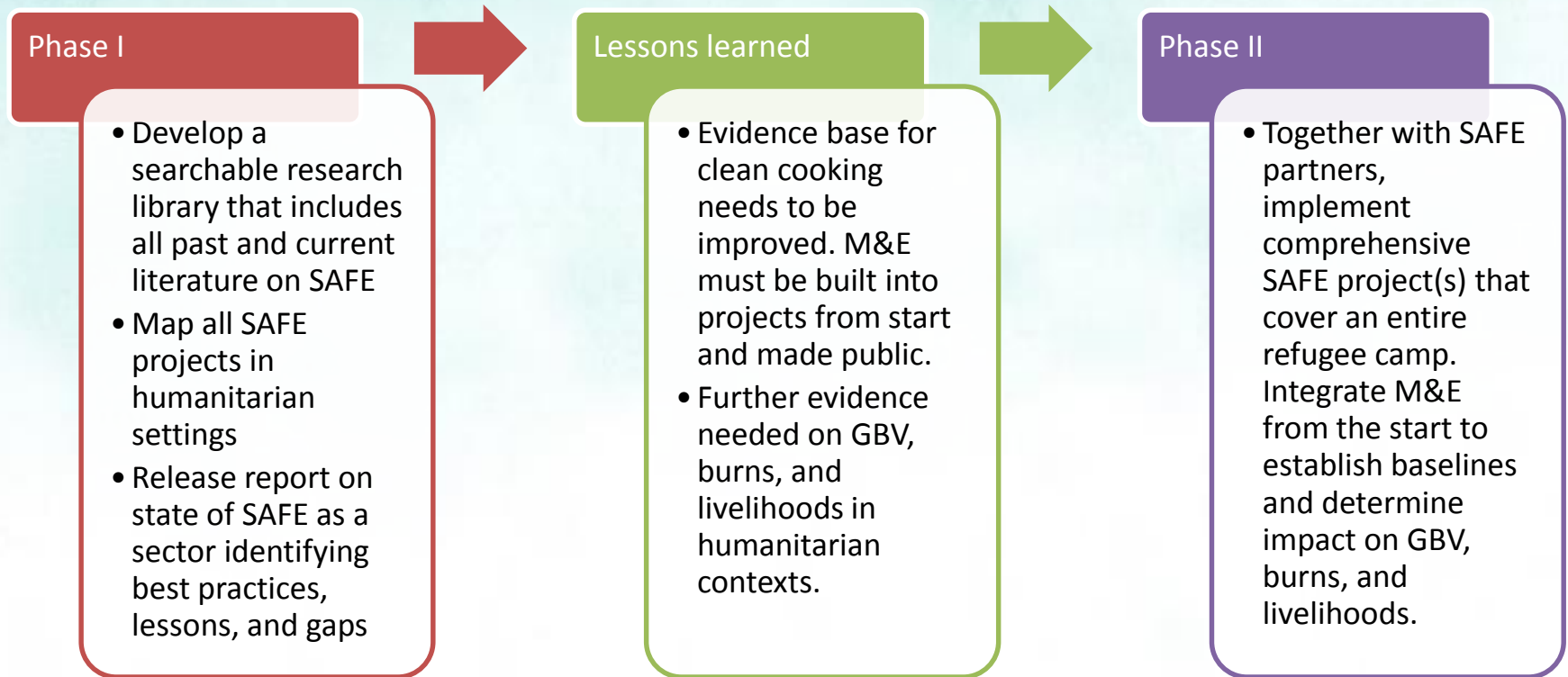
The Alliance is coordinating the sector and facilitating information sharing





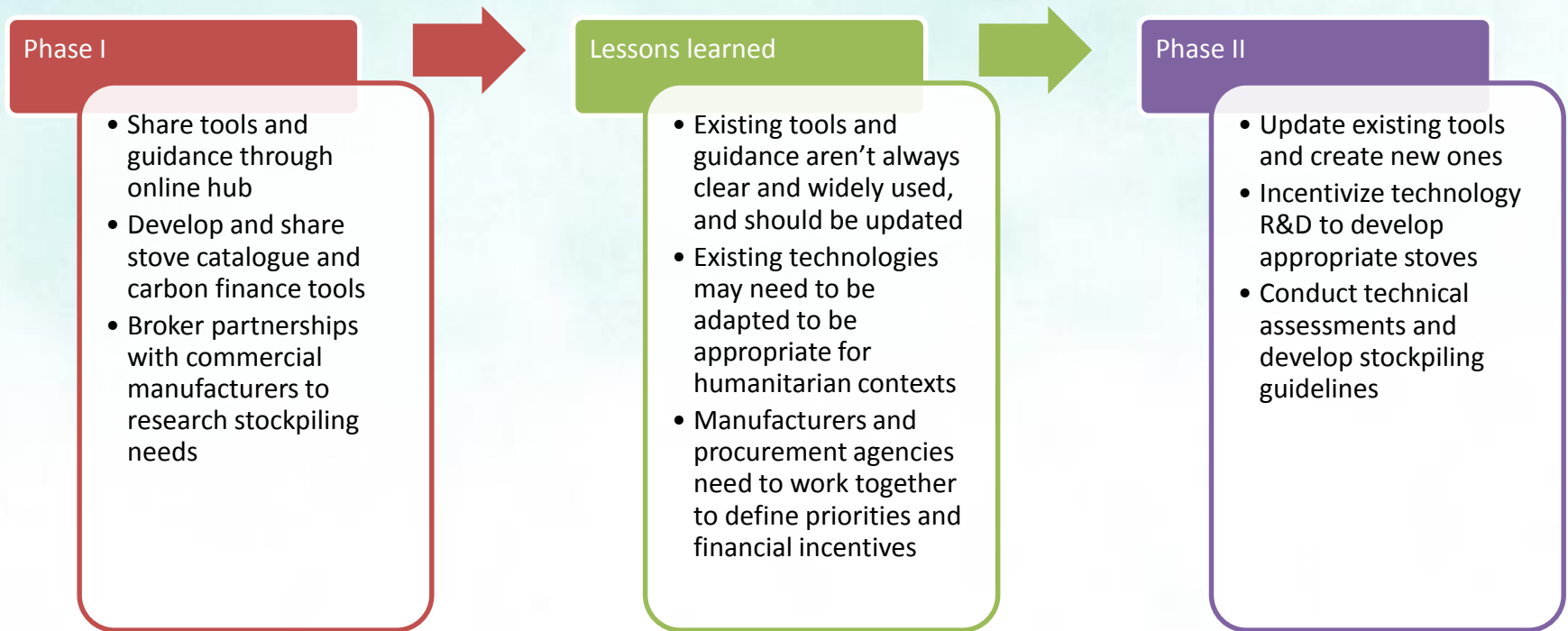
## Strategic Pillar 2:

The Alliance is commissioning research and building evidence



## Strategic Pillar 3:

The Alliance is providing technical support, tools, and guidance for implementation



## Strategic Pillar 4:

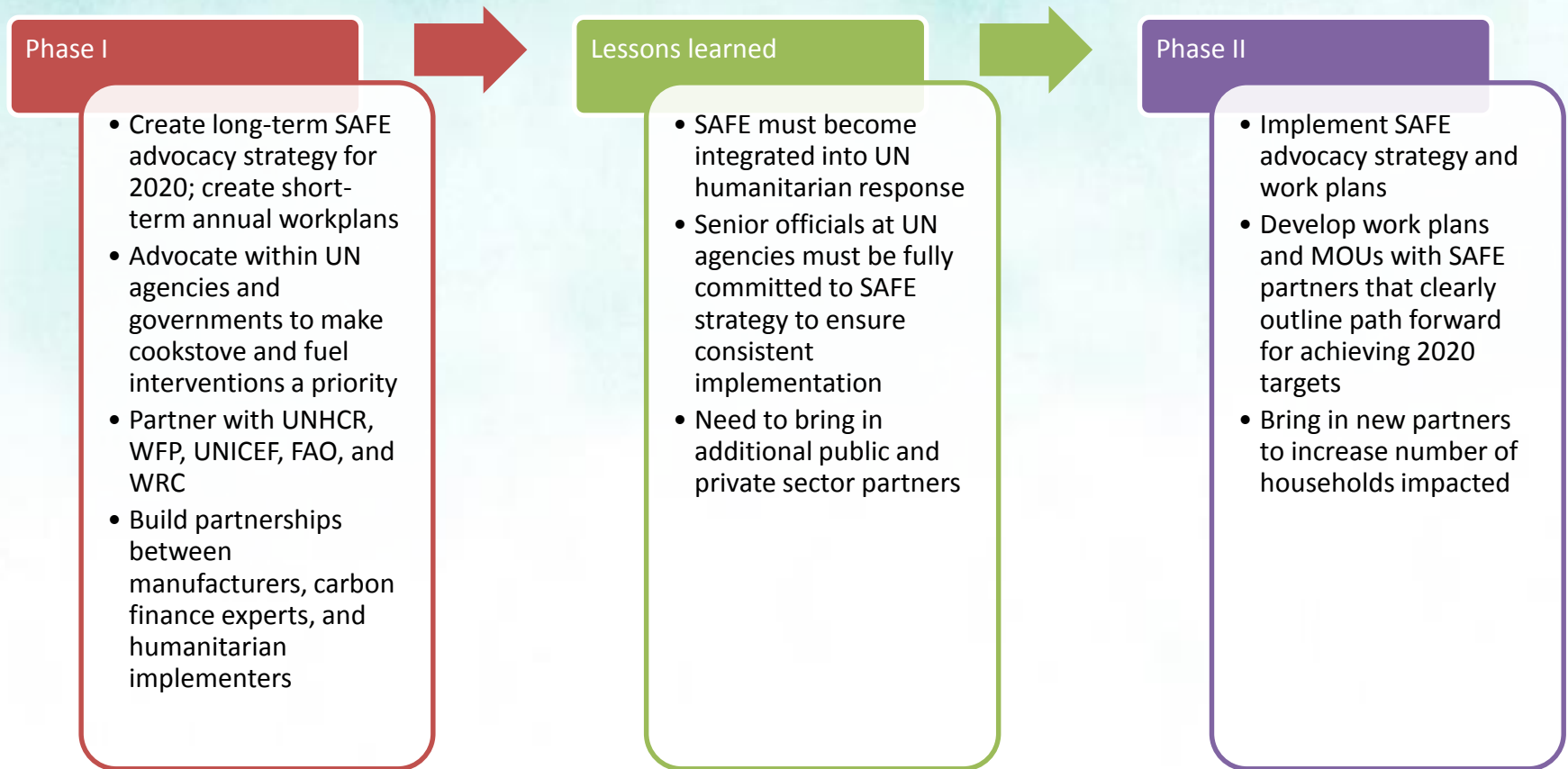
The Alliance is building human resource capacity of humanitarian implementers





# Strategic Pillar 5:

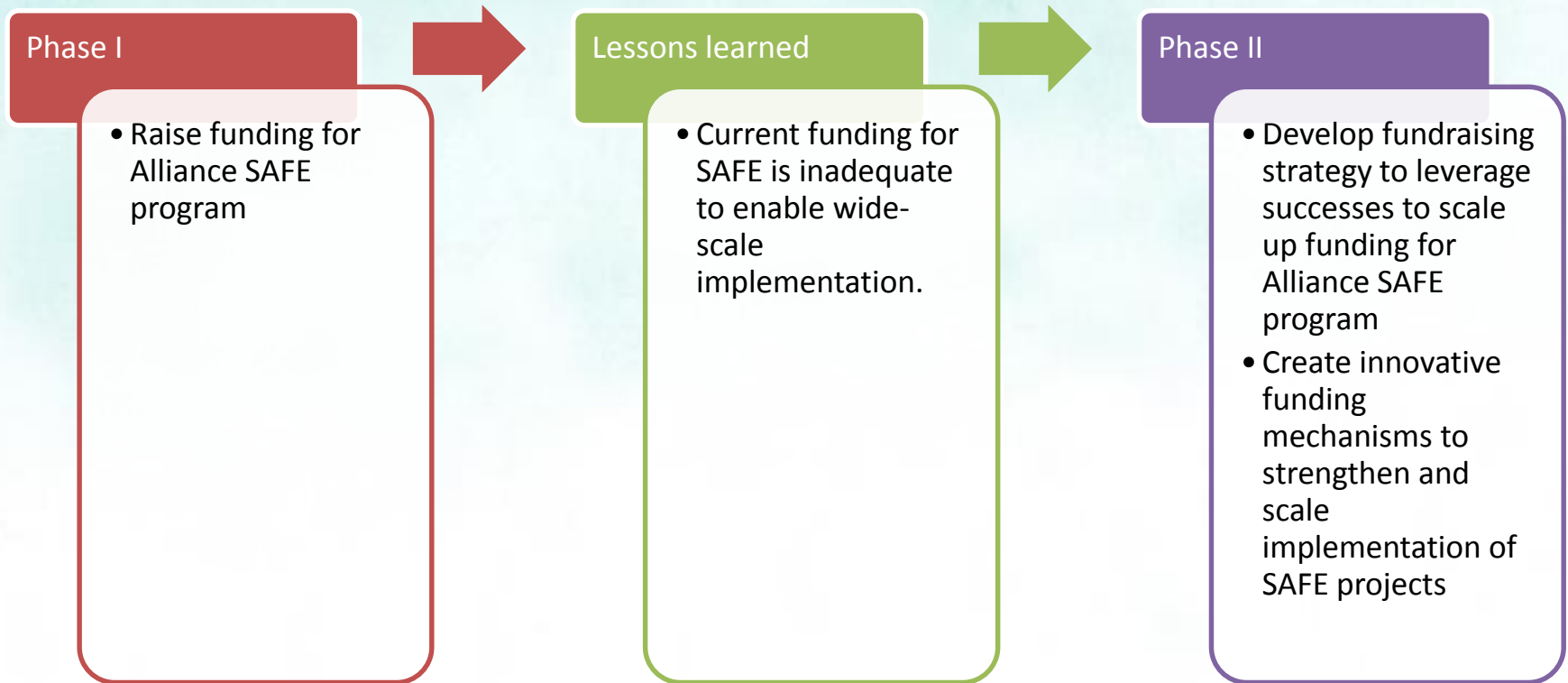
The Alliance is advocating for the sector and building key partnerships



**Budget required for Pillar 5 in Phase II: \$200,000**

## Strategic Pillar 6:

The Alliance is mobilizing resources for implementation



# How the Alliance's SAFE activities fit into the 3 stages of humanitarian response

**Preparedness** - A continuous process that occurs before an emergency takes place.

- The Alliance trains SAFE experts, develops processes for their deployment, facilitates cookstove and fuel stockpiling, and mobilizes resources for the SAFE sector.

**Response** - Immediate actions to save lives, protect the environment, and meet basic needs during the emergency.

- The Alliance mobilizes resources, deploys SAFE experts to assess needs and advise on programs, and supports implementation of SAFE projects.

**Recovery** - The transitional stage from emergency response to longer-term support and durable solutions.

- The Alliance brokers partnerships between humanitarians and the private sector, encourages long term market-based SAFE solutions, and supports cookstove and fuel enterprises to work within crisis-affected communities.

# Appendix



# SAFE impacts each area of humanitarian response

- **Protection** – Women are at heightened risk of physical and sexual attack when collecting firewood. In Farchana refugee camp in Chad, 90% of confirmed rapes occurred during firewood collection.
- **Food security & nutrition** – Dried food rations require long cooking periods and large amounts of fuel. In North Darfur, 80% of IDPs reported selling food from their WFP ration to buy firewood. On average they missed 3 meals a week due to lack of fuel.
- **Health** - Open cooking fires, combined with crowded living conditions and temporary shelters, lead to increased risks of burns and fires in refugee and IDP camps. Household air pollution, the cause of 4.3 million global deaths each year, affects refugees who cook inside plastic tents and poorly-constructed shelters.
- **Shelter** - In humanitarian settings, firewood is often in direct competition with materials needed for shelter construction. Construction of the camp itself can deplete the surrounding area's firewood supply, forcing women to travel farther away for fuel.

- **Education** - School feeding programs conducted in emergency settings typically use wood and open fires to cook for hundreds of children, making schools among the largest institutional users of firewood. WFP Kenya found that some schools charged 2 shillings a day if a child did not bring firewood for the lunch meal.
- **Livelihoods** - Refugees are often legally denied employment outside of camps, and other displaced populations have difficulty finding jobs in their host communities. Adopting alternative fuels and energy technologies can create new jobs in fuel-efficient stove or briquette production.
- **Environment** - Harvesting of firewood for cooking fuel by refugees and IDPs contributes to deforestation, soil erosion, and loss of agricultural and grazing environments. In 1995, 3,758 hectares of forest land were lost within the first 3 weeks of Rwandan refugees' arrival in DRC. This exacerbates tensions with host communities.
- **Camp management** - Struggles over limited natural resources can cause tensions between host communities and camp residents. In Doro refugee camp in South Sudan, 97% of respondents who reported incidents of sexual violence indicated men from the host community as the alleged offenders.



# PROTECTION



**When displaced women and children walk long distances to collect firewood, they are at heightened risk of physical and sexual attack by armed groups and host community members. In Farchana refugee camp in Chad, 90% of confirmed rapes occurred during firewood collection.**



# FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION



Food rations provided to refugees and IDPs consist of dry grains, beans, and flours that require long cooking periods and large amounts of fuel. In North Darfur, 80% of IDPs reported selling food from their WFP ration to buy firewood. On average they missed 3 meals a week due to lack of fuel.



# HEALTH

A woman wearing a vibrant green and pink checkered shawl over a floral-patterned dress is seated in the foreground. She holds a silver metal pot with a green plastic lid. In front of her, a fire burns in a simple, open hearth. The background shows a crowded, temporary shelter with other people, including a man in a blue shirt and another in a red shirt, sitting or standing. The shelter is constructed with plastic sheeting and wooden poles, situated in a wooded area. The overall scene depicts a refugee or IDP camp with basic living conditions.

Open cooking fires, combined with crowded living conditions and temporary shelters, led to increased risks of burns and fires in refugee and IDP camps. Household air pollution, the cause of 4.3 million global deaths each year, affects refugees who cook inside plastic tents and poorly-constructed shelters.



# SHELTER



In humanitarian settings, firewood is often in direct competition with materials needed for shelter construction. Construction of the camp itself can deplete the surrounding area's firewood supply, forcing women to travel farther away to find cooking fuel.





# CAMP MANAGEMENT

Struggles over limited natural resources can cause tensions between host governments and camp residents, as well as between refugees and local communities. In Doro refugee camp in South Sudan, 97% of respondents who reported incidents of sexual violence indicated men from the host community as the alleged offenders.



# EDUCATION



School feeding programs conducted in emergency settings typically use wood and open fires to cook for hundreds of children, making these programs among the largest institutional users of firewood. WFP Kenya found that some schools charged 2 shillings a day if a child did not bring firewood for the lunch meal.





# LIVELIHOODS

**Refugees are often legally denied employment outside of camps, and other displaced populations have difficulty finding jobs in their host communities. Adopting alternative fuels and energy technologies can create new jobs in fuel-efficient stove or briquette production.**



# ENVIRONMENT



Harvesting of firewood for cooking fuel by refugees and IDPs contributes to deforestation, soil erosion, and loss of agricultural and grazing environments. In 1995, 3,758 hectares of forest land were lost within the first 3 weeks of Rwandan refugees' arrival in DRC. This exacerbates tensions with host communities.



# History of SAFE Reference Group

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on  
Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in humanitarian settings  
(IASC TF SAFE)

May 2007-November 2009

## Co-Chairs

- Women's Refugee Commission
- WFP
- UNHCR

## Full members

- FAO
- IOM
- OCHA
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UN-Habitat
- UNICEF
- WHO

## Purpose

- Reduce exposure to violence, contribute to the protection of & ease the burden on those populations collecting wood in humanitarian settings worldwide.

## Outputs

- Matrix on Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Decision Tree Diagram
- International Network on Household Energy (Fuel Network)

# The Alliance co-chairs the SAFE Steering Committee, which sets global fuel and energy strategies for humanitarian contexts

Evolved out of UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force and is a consortium of leading humanitarian agencies.

## Co-Chairs

- Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- Women's Refugee Commission

## Full members

- FAO
- UNHCR
- WFP
- UNICEF
- Mercy Corps
- International Lifeline Fund
- ProAct

## Strategic Pillars

- Conducting advocacy
- Commissioning research & building evidence
- Building human resource capacity
- Mobilizing resources
- Creating tools and guidelines



# Alliance's work with SAFE partners

- UNHCR
  - MOU to work together in Kenya & Rwanda refugee camps
- WFP
  - Working towards long-term agreement for institutional stoves in all WFP school-feeding centers
- WRC
  - Coordination and research on GBV in DRC
- Mercy Corps
  - MOU to work on market-based approach in crisis-affected settings
- International Lifeline Fund
  - Conduct appropriate technology assessments in Kenya, Rwanda, and DRC