

Decision Tree Diagrams on Factors Affecting Choice of Fuel Strategy in Humanitarian Settings

Version 1.1., April 2009

How to use these Decision Tree Diagrams

These Diagrams are one of three main outputs of the InterAgency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (IASC Task Force SAFE). The other two outputs are the "Matrix on Agency Roles and Responsibilities for Ensuring a Coordinated Multi-Sectoral Fuel Strategy in Humanitarian Settings" and the International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings and its informational website, www.fuelnetwork.org. All three outputs provide practical guidance on developing effective, holistic coordination and response mechanisms for the range of concerns associated with the collection, supply and use of household energy in humanitarian settings. These Diagrams should be read in conjunction with the Matrix for guidance as to which clusters/agencies are responsible for ensuring that specific fuel-related activities are undertaken. For additional technical information, please refer to www.fuelnetwork.org and to the pre-loaded flash drive that accompanies the hard copies of these outputs.

The goal of these Diagrams is to address the range of and difference between fuel-related needs in the field – recognising that there is no single fuel or energy technology appropriate for use in all humanitarian contexts. Thus, the Diagrams present a clear means of determining which factors should influence the choice of fuel strategy in an individual setting, based on simple responses to a series of questions about local priorities, access, availability, etc. The term "strategy" is used to reflect the fact that many settings may require more than one type of fuel or energy technology, especially over the long term.

Recognising that short- and long-term fuel strategies may by necessity be different, the Diagrams cover two response phases: acute emergency and protracted settings. The acute emergency Diagram is particularly intended for emergency response teams, site selectors/site planners and camp managers at the outset of a new emergency and, as such, focuses on only the most essential fuel-related concerns. The protracted settings Diagram is intended for all field-based actors with responsibility for determining a long-term fuel strategy and, as such, provides guidance on the inter-linkages between a series of considerations and the cross-sectoral ramifications of each.

Importance of Participatory Assessments

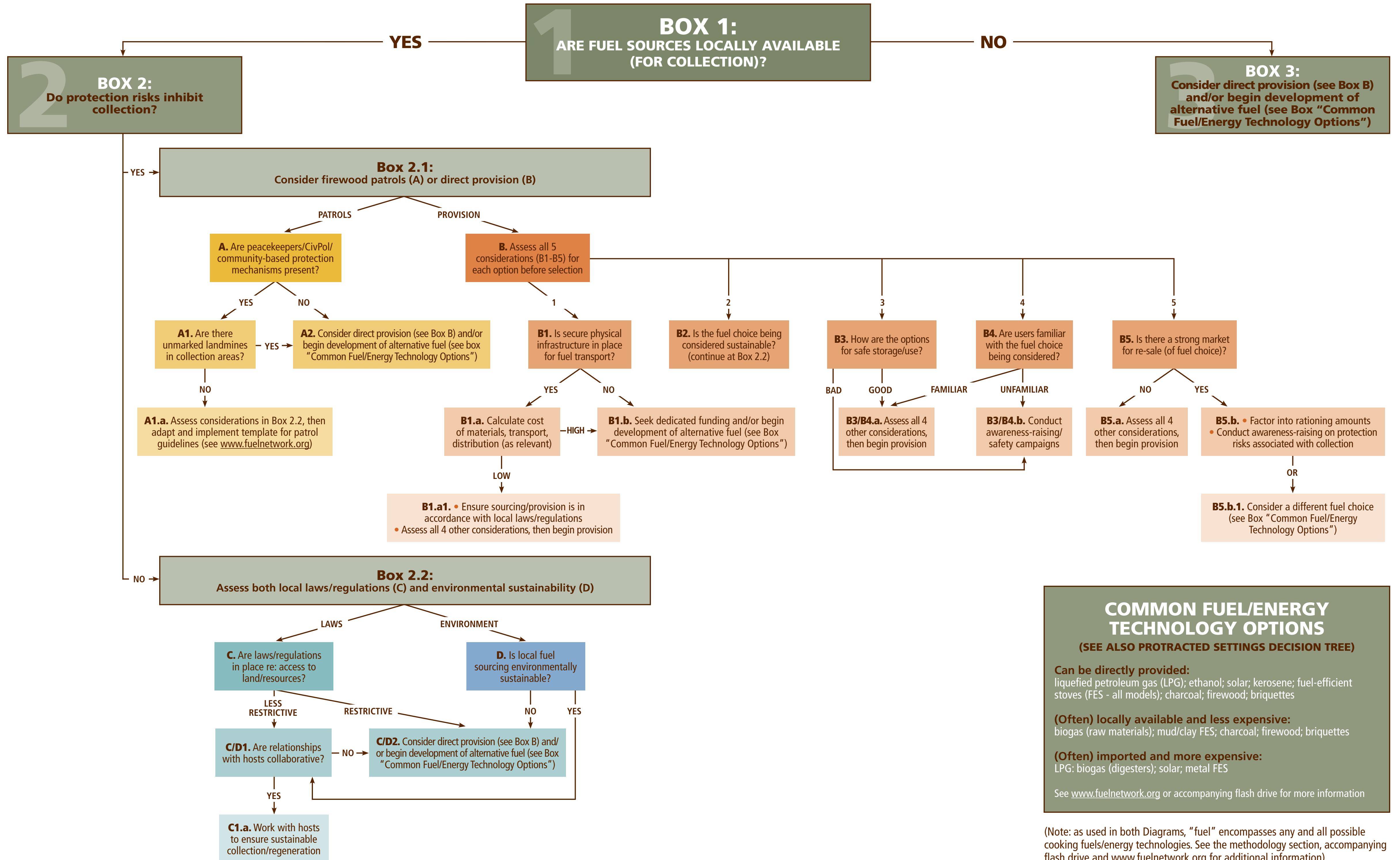
Participatory assessment is a process of building partnerships with displaced communities by promoting meaningful participation by people of all ages and backgrounds through structured dialogue. An in-depth participatory assessment with refugee and IDP communities, as early as possible after their displacement, is important for a variety of reasons outlined in more detail at www.unhcr.org/protect.html. Specific to fuel, however, participatory assessments are key to ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of a fuel strategy. Simply put, if the fuel strategy does not respond to the needs, habits and preferences expressed by the community itself, the community will seek other fuel options – including perhaps the unsafe or unsustainable options that these Diagrams are attempting to minimise.

A detailed methodology for conducting multifunctional participatory assessments is available at www.unhcr.org/protect.html. In addition, a questionnaire for beneficiaries specific to cooking fuel needs and preferences is available on the accompanying flash drive or can be downloaded from www.fuelnetwork.org.

It is imperative that participatory assessments with beneficiaries are conducted alongside the use of these decision tree Diagrams, as an integral part of the process for determining the most appropriate and effective fuel strategy in a particular setting.

Decision Tree Diagram for Choosing a Cooking Fuel Strategy in Acute Emergencies

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COMMON FUEL/ENERGY TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS
(SEE ALSO PROTRACTED SETTINGS DECISION TREE)

Can be directly provided:
liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); ethanol; solar; kerosene; fuel-efficient stoves (FES - all models); charcoal; firewood; briquettes

(Often) locally available and less expensive:
biogas (raw materials); mud/clay FES; charcoal; firewood; briquettes

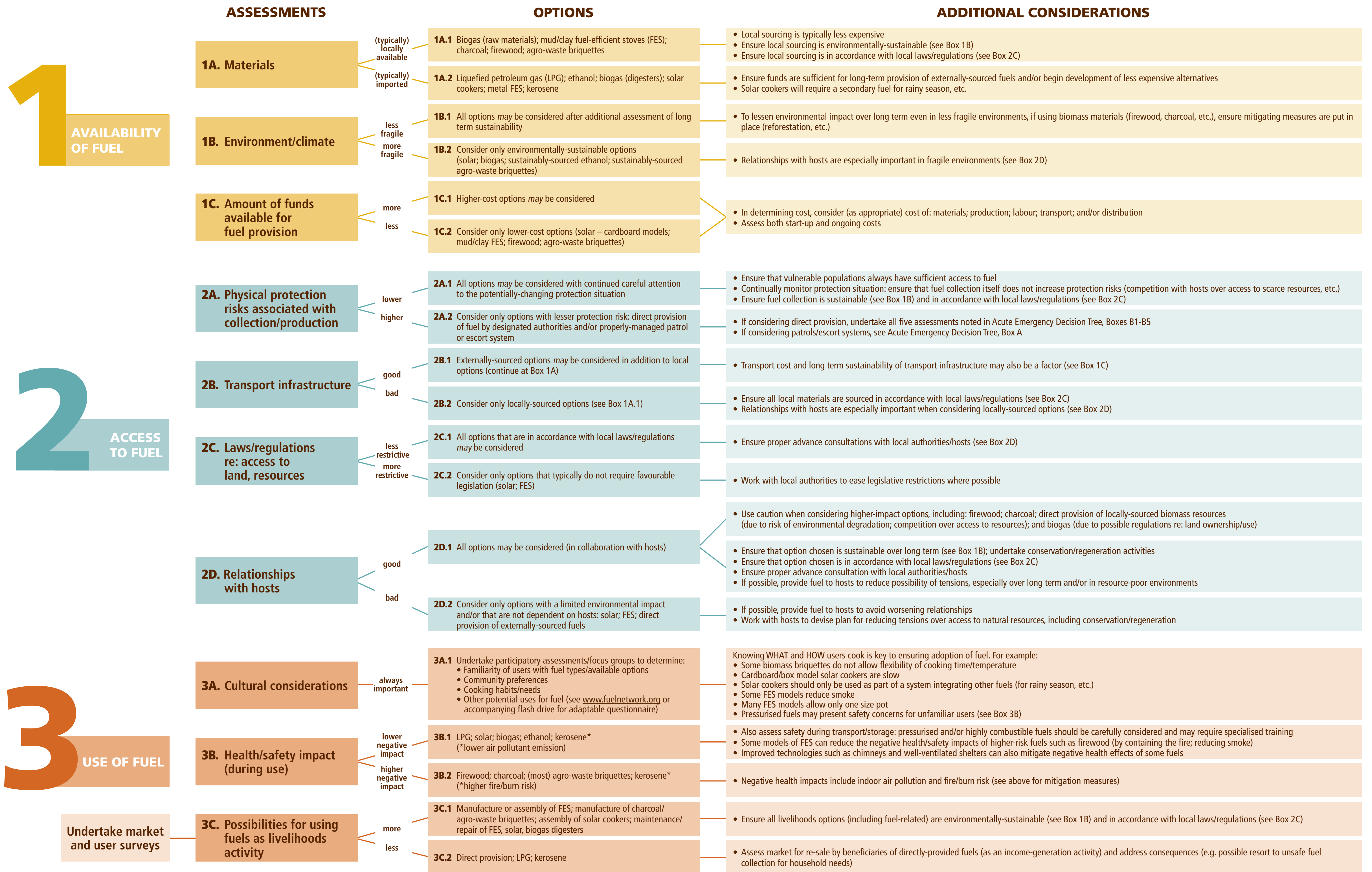
(Often) imported and more expensive:
LPG: biogas (digesters); solar; metal FES

See www.fuelnetwork.org or accompanying flash drive for more information

(Note: as used in both Diagrams, "fuel" encompasses any and all possible cooking fuels/energy technologies. See the methodology section, accompanying flash drive and www.fuelnetwork.org for additional information).

Decision Tree Diagram for Choosing a Cooking Fuel Strategy in Protracted Settings

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) was established in 1992 in response to General Assembly Resolution 46/182, which called for strengthened coordination of humanitarian assistance. The resolution set up the IASC as the primary mechanism for facilitating inter-agency decision-making in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. The IASC is formed by the heads of a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian organisations. For further information on the IASC, please visit its website at www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc

Additional information on this publication can be found on the accompanying pre-loaded flash drive, or on the website of the International Network on Household Energy in Humanitarian Settings: www.fuelnetwork.org

For feedback and suggestions for the improvement of this publication, please e-mail: iasc@fuelnetwork.org

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- American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) – **Co-Chair**²
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)*
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)¹
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)^{2,*}
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)²
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)¹
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)^{2,*}
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)¹
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)¹
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – **Co-Chair**¹
- UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)¹
- UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Khartoum*
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)¹
- Women's Refugee Commission (working under the authority of InterAction) – **Co-Chair and Secretariat**
- World Food Programme (WFP) – **Co-Chair**¹
- World Health Organization (WHO)¹

Other standing invitees of the IASC are:

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs
- Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
- World Bank

Significant contributions to these publications were made by dozens of field offices from the above-mentioned agencies during a field review process from June to September 2008, as well as from the following partners: the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap); the IASC Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action (Gender SWG); the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises; the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE); the International Rescue Committee (IRC); the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR); and the Sphere Project.

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