

**RAPID ASSESSMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN
(RADEAP) FOR SELECTED
INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION
CAMPS**

PILOT STUDY, DARFUR, SUDAN

**DEVELOPED BY LIVES ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE
JOINT UNEP/OCHA ENVIRONMENT UNIT**

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NOTE

This Guideline is intended as a first step towards elaborating a systematic approach to addressing environmental issues in and around settlements for internally displaced people, especially those issues which might have an urgent negative impact on the health and welfare of these people. It is intended as a pilot tool and will be revised further as field tests are carried out. Drafting of the Guideline has included input from many international agencies and individuals and thanks are expressed to them. The Guideline also draws on the FRAME Toolkit (2005) developed by UNHCR and CARE International, and the Planning Web, © Peter Cuming, Sustainable Futures Australia.

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1.

INTRODUCTION

Internally displaced people (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable victims of conflict and constitute probably the largest at-risk population in the world. At the end of 2004, there were an estimated 25 million IDPs, the vast majority – more than 13 million – in Africa. Although many millions of IDPs have returned to their homes over the years, this overall figure has remained unchanged for the past four years as fresh crises have erupted elsewhere forcing people to abandon their homes. There seems little prospect for this situation changing in the coming years.

People move for many different reasons, but many have no choice but to flee – often without possessions – conflict or civil strife, one of the main root causes of human displacement. While those who manage to flee across an internationally recognised border can claim protection and assistance under the 1951 Refugee Convention and can turn to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for assistance, no such system

DARFUR

The Darfur conflict is an ongoing conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan, mainly between the Janjaweed – a government-supported militia recruited from local Arab tribes – and the non-Arab peoples of this region. The conflict has been widely described as ethnic cleansing” and “genocide”. Some 2.9 million people have been affected by this conflict, with 1.89 million internally displaced people living in some 130 settlements in western Sudan, while another 200,000 people have fled across the border to neighbouring Chad. The UN estimates that 180,000 people have died in the 18 months following the outbreak of the conflict.

Darfur Humanitarian Emergency Fact Sheet 44, July 2005

exists for internally displaced people. These people therefore remain largely dependent on their governments who have the primary responsibility to protect and assist them, but who often lack the interest or means to do so. Consequently, large numbers of IDPs live under poor conditions and have few possessions or immediate prospects, all of which combine to place an additional burden on what is often an already stressed local environment. Competition over natural resources invariably increases as large numbers of people gather and are obliged to live in crowded conditions, with poor services and often little assistance.

Many useful lessons have been learned from environmental management with refugee populations, some of which have helped heighten awareness of the problems and possible responses which might be considered to prevent or mitigate the environmental impacts of displaced populations of people. This Guideline has been prepared by an independent consulting group, Livelihood and Environmental Security (LIVES) Advisory Group, Switzerland, for the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit to help identify and start to address issues that relate to the natural environment which can negatively impact the well-being of IDPs. Devoid of possessions or any form of livelihood security, IDPs commonly turn to and become dependent on natural resources: vegetation, for example, is cut for shelter and cooking, but may also be transformed into charcoal or woodfuel as a means of generating an income. Any such activity, given the scale of most of the world's

IDP camps, can only have negative environmental and, in turn, social and economic implications.

This Guideline is intended to allow users to quickly identify some of the main environmental issues and concerns in and around an IDP camp. The tool it describes – Rapid Assessment and Development of an Environmental Action Plan (RADEAP) – represents an important move to try and ensure that environmental concerns and issues are factored into the overall planning and management of IDP camps and facilities. Realizing that funds and resources to address these issues are often seriously constrained, the Guideline advocates taking a participatory approach to identifying and trying to solve problems, since this not only responds to the priority needs of the affected people, but it is also the best means of identifying how many problems can be avoided or solved from within the community itself.

Although similar guidance has been prepared by UNHCR for use with refugee and returnee populations, no such direction was formerly available for use in IDP situations. Moreover, given the differences between a refugee/returnee situation and that of an IDP caseload (see box), it was felt that existing materials would not respond adequately to the latter situation. As an example, environmental considerations are now an integral consideration in most refugee operations, the environment being one of UNHCR's policy priorities. Agencies managing IDP camps, however, are unlikely to have this priority so it is possible that environmental impacts will go unheeded in many instances, as indeed experience shows happens. The focus of this guideline therefore is closely aligned to participatory approaches which would allow community members themselves to be more actively and intricately involved in identifying which environmental issues affect them most of all, where the problems lie and how they might begin to address these.

IDP AND REFUGEE OPERATIONS: SOME DIFFERENCES

- IDPs are not legally recognised under an international instrument.
- IDP lack rights, such as protection, afforded to refugees.
- IDP settlements are usually less well structured and less well equipped than refugee camps.
- Management of an IDP settlement is often under national authorities. Accessing IDPs is often more difficult than compared with refugees.
- Co-ordination of relief activities is less well organised in IDP settlements. In a refugee context, a single agency may have overall country or regional responsibility for water provision or training in the use of fuel-efficient stoves. In an IDP situation, many organisations may assume this role, with little or no co-ordination.
- IDP operations – and Darfur is no exception – often receive less international and national assistance.
- As one of UNHCR's policy priorities, environmental management is a clear responsibility in refugee camps: this is not the case with regards IDP settlements.
- Information on environmental management is well documented for refugee and returnee situations: this is less the case for IDP settlements.
- Security issues are often, but not always, of greater concern in IDP settlements.

For reasons such as this, the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit has designed the current Guideline with the intention of field testing this pilot version in one of the world's largest IDP operations, Darfur. Feedback from this process will allow revisions to be made to this Guideline, possibly enabling its wider use in other IDP situations in the future.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this tool is to:

- a) identify urgent environment-related problems in IDP camps, which are or might negatively impact on the quality of human life, health or welfare;
- b) identify methods and approaches by which these problems can be addressed through camp-level or other appropriate interventions;
- c) through consultation and agreement with members of the IDP population, implementing agencies and local authorities, as appropriate, develop a specific action plan through which urgent environment-related issues identified can be addressed; and
- d) enable and support implementation of the action plan.

3. USING THIS GUIDELINE

3.1 OVERVIEW

This tool is designed to be as flexible as possible so as to allow its use in many different situations and by people who may not necessarily be environmental experts.

In this pilot phase, this Guideline is intended to be used by a core team of people, some if not all of whom have previous experience with environmental issues, and have had at least some exposure to assessment/monitoring techniques ideally in a refugee or IDP situation.

This Guideline assumes that users of this tool will be arriving at a site and situation with which they have no or little previous experience. Some contact with agencies active on the ground may have been established ahead of time but this will need to be re-inforced – by the Team Leader in particular – as early in the process as possible.

The RADEAP is designed to give quick initial results – since some of the problems may pose an immediate threat to human welfare – as well as more concrete actions which will be developed with the active participation of individuals selected from amongst the affected community. The time required to complete this activity will vary from one situation to another depending mainly on the availability and quality of information, the scale of the enquiry as well as the experience of the users. In most situations, however, the RADEAP should be completed within 14 working days – an average of 2-3 days for the initial scoping exercise and 10-12 days for the development of the action plan. It is

unlikely though that this will be a continuous process as it would be too demanding to expect full time input and participation from most people during this time.

An overall facilitator or Team Leader should be nominated/selected to drive the RADEAP process: s/he should have prior experience in the use of participatory processes, the structure of this tool and have environmental expertise, ideally with displaced people such as refugees, IDPs or migrants.

Community involvement is strongly advised in the RADEAP process, but recognition is given to the fact that this may require more time than might be available in many situations. It may not be possible, for example, to engage IDPs in early discussions during the assessment but representative should be consulted as soon as feasible to allow their input from their direct experiences of living at the particular location. Their involvement will likely range from providing information to actively working with the RADEAP team to identify and begin to implement solutions to the most urgent problems identified.

3.2 PROCESS

The RADEAP process is designed around two distinct but inter-related phases as outlined below. Each phase involves a number of steps, some of which are guided by following a checklist and through completing a form, while others are based on information gathering, discussions and analysis, and summarising information in the form of recommendations and identifying next steps. It is important though that the core team carrying out this exercise realises that these forms and other pointers provided can and should be modified to suit conditions and requirements at a particular situation.

Experience shows that conducting work of this nature is often more appropriate when this is done with active involvement of the affected people through a series of participatory approaches. This may not prove possible in all situations but users of this guideline are advised to at least try and include some of the affected population – as well, ideally, as representatives from any local community – in the RADEAP process. This guideline is designed with the active inclusion of displaced people in mind **for at least part of the** process, particularly Phase II. It assumes that the process is not fully participatory from the outset – the initial and quick assessment of the situation and identification of key problems and issues being exempt, mainly on the basis of time and the need to act quickly to allow rapid action to be taken to prevent or mitigate serious environmental problems from arising.

PHASE I RAPID ASSESSMENT

Step 1 Situation overview (Form I)

Step 2 Identification of actual environmental problems/concerns (Form II)

Step 3 Response of the relief operation and impact(s) on the environment (Form III)

Step 4 Data (and gap) analysis; preliminary assessment summary (Form IV)

Note: Phase I would ideally be conducted by a core team of 4-5 people, of whom at least one would have some degree of environmental management experience, and another a good understanding of the actual situation on the ground. Time required to complete this phase is 48-72 hours.

Information gathered through this process is a combination of qualitative and quantitative data. To help prioritise a number of issues, a simple system of ranking (H=high, M=medium, L=low) is used to complete Form III. This is preferred to a numerical system but it can be adapted if users feel more comfortable with an alternative format.

PHASE II ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Step 1 *Community mobilisation and engagement* (explanation of exercise participation, expectations, approaches to be taken and workplan)

Step 2 *Status of natural resources* (community mapping)

Step 3 *Root cause analysis* of threats and risks

Step 4 *Determination of goals*

Step 5 *The Action Plan*

Phase II requires much more time (perhaps as much as two weeks), input and resources. It should engage selected members of the affected community – not the entire community as this would be impractical – in the above-mentioned exercises, ensuring that a range of experiences are represented within the working group, and that attention is given to age and gender.

3.3

CAMP SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria have been identified as being pertinent in the selection of IDP camps in Darfur for assessment and remedial/preventive work. **Adequate security and access are the two main criteria.** Without adequate levels of either, work will not be able to proceed. Input from individuals with experience of the local situation will also be an important part of the final decision on where to work. The following points should be noted:

3.3.1

Security

- The Department for Safety and Security should have identified the camp as being safe for UN humanitarian operations (phase IV or below).
- Relative freedom on the part of camp residents to move outside the camp, during which time they might harvest natural resources in the area around the camp.

3.3.2

Access

- Transport: the camp should be capable of being reached from lodging/base office without undue difficulty.

- Accommodation: facilities should exist in or near the camp for lodging if the camp is outside a reasonable travel distance from a state capital (maximum of two hours each way). All facilities should meet UN security criteria.

3.3.3 Size

- The population should number between 5,000 to 20,000 persons. Working in a large camp would require a sample population to be made which is not ideal.

3.3.4 Counterpart Organisations

- Presence of NGOs/international organisations/government entities involved in the following areas, either in their role as camp manager or supporting agency:
 - water
 - sanitation
 - environmental sanitation
 - protection
 - fuel-efficient stoves and/or fuelwood distribution
 - livelihood support
 - agriculture, including animal husbandry
 - education
 - food supply/distribution
 - health services
- Resources from existing NGO/international organisations/government entity projects to support issue-linked activities, e.g. funds available to upgrade water points.

3.3.5 Local Capacities

- Presence of Water and Sanitation (or similar) committees
- Presence of Stoves Committees (training and/or user groups)
- Presence of youth groups or schools
- Level of organization of camp activities/management systems by residents
- NGO/international organisation/government entities staff interested in environmental issues

3.3.6 Environmental Setting

- Greater environmental diversity in area around camp than around other camps.
- Rural or peri-urban.
- Area around the camp still inhabited, i.e. not all residents from the area have moved into the camp.

4. APPLYING THE RADEAP

4.1 PHASE I – RAPID ASSESSMENT

This phase of the RADEAP comprises four forms.

FORM I SITUATION OVERVIEW

It is important for the team completing this phase of the RADEAP to get a general overview of the situation – as it relates to environmental issues – which is best done through consultation with a small group of stakeholders. Most likely a representative from camp management, representatives from agencies engaged in environment-related activities and possibly a representative from the local/IDP community. It is also expected that the team would spend some time in the settlement to view the situation at first hand.

1. WHERE IS THIS ASSESSMENT BEING CONDUCTED?

Country:
Province/County:
Township:

2. TIME OF YEAR/SEASON:
.....
.....

3. RESULTS ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR WHOM?

IDPs:
Local community members:
IDPs and local community members:
Camp management
Other

4. DEFINE THE AREA /SCALE OF THIS STUDY (E.G. GIVE GPS CO-ORDINATES OR DESCRIBE THE PHYSICAL BOUNDARY AND THE POPULATION LIKELY TO BE CONSULTED)

5. AFFECTED PEOPLE:

Origin of the displaced people:
Estimated overall number of affected people in camp.....
Number of registered people (if different):
Ethnic groups represented:
.....

Approximate number of people covered by this study:

6. HAS THIS REGION PREVIOUSLY HOSTED IDPs OR REFUGEES? IF SO, PLEASE GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO DESCRIBING THE ORIGINAL STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS ANY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WHICH HAVE SINCE BEEN EXPERIENCED.

7. HOW LONG HAVE THE CURRENT DISPLACED PEOPLE BEEN AT THIS LOCATION?

8. DESCRIBE THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION (E.G. PAY ATTENTION TO VEGETATION/GROUND COVER, PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF DENSE FOREST, ARID TERRAIN, SURFACE WATER, ETC

9. WHICH ORGANIZATION(S) IS/ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL CAMP MANAGEMENT? HAS THIS CHANGED SINCE THE CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED?

10. IS ANY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE OR PLAYING A ROLE WITH REGARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR MANAGEMENT? IF SO, HAVE THEY BEEN CONTACTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ASSESSMENT?

11. WHAT OBVIOUS LIVELIHOOD OR COPING STRATEGY/STRATEGIES ARE BEING USED BY IDPs?

12. ARE ANY IDPs OPENLY OR ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ANY INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES THAT DEPEND ON NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION (E.G. CHARCOAL MAKING)?

13. WHO/WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS SERVED AS THE ENTRY OR FOCAL POINT FOR THIS ASSESSMENT (E.G. WATER ASSESSMENT TEAM)?

14. WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES/CONCERNS LEARNED FROM THIS ANALYSIS THUS FAR?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

15. WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS ASSESSMENT (NAME, ORGANIZATION, EXPERIENCE)?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

16. NOTES AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

FORM II

IDENTIFICATION OF ACTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IDP SETTLEMENT

WHAT ARE THE MOST URGENT ENVIRONMENT-RELATED ISSUES/CONCERNS THAT COME TO THE FORE?

WATER	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOMESTIC ENERGY	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHELTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANITATION	<input type="checkbox"/>
WASTE DISPOSAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIVESTOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>

For each box selected above, further investigation is required using the questions below as guidance. Users should, however, feel free to adapt and expand this list of questions to help identify key problems which are impacting the environment and well-being of IDPs. Answers to these questions will help identify solutions that should, in turn, improve environmental management within and around the camp. To help arrive at such solutions, it is recommended that a “needs summary” be completed at the end of each section below. Discussions centring around the physical sectors may best be held in small groups where specialist advice can be sought.

WATER

1. AVAILABILITY

Number	Question	Response
1.1	From where do IDPs obtain water? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap stand • Water tanker/carrier • Spring/stream • Well • Other (please specify) 	

1.2	Do people have to walk more than 500m to the nearest water point?	
1.3	From where do local communities obtain their water?	
1.4	How much water is provided per person per day? (Note: Sphere standard is at least 15 litres per person per day)	
1.5	Have periods of water shortage or unavailability been recorded? Are these seasonal or related to supply/logistics problems?	
1.6	Has an assessment of water needs and availability been carried out for the current caseload? If so, does this identify any problems such as exploitation?	
1.7	How many people regularly access the main water distribution facilities (e.g. tap stand, well or similar)?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2. QUALITY

Number	Question	Response
2.1	Has the water quality ever been tested? If so, what were the results?	
2.2	Is water quality being routinely monitored? If so, by whom?	
2.3	Does the water quality meet internationally recognised standards (i.e. there should be no faecal coliforms per 100ml of water at the delivery point)?	
2.4	Is water treated before being made available for consumption?	
2.5	Do IDPs have to boil water before drinking it?	
2.6	If centralised water collection points are being used, is drainage adequate?	
2.7	Have separate washing areas been established?	
2.8	Have separate watering areas been identified or set up for livestock to prevent disease transmission?	
2.9	Is there any evidence of water pollution? If so,	

	what is the point source(s) and extent of pollution?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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3. SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Number	Question	Response
3.1	Do all IDPs (including vulnerable groups) have equal access to water?	
3.2	Have any environmental or social problems been identified with relation to the availability or lack of water? Please list.	
3.3	What are the consequences (social, environmental, economic) of water provision, e.g. is this or will this deprive local communities of water (perhaps during the dry season)?	
3.4	Are there any security issues related to people accessing water?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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4. SITE ASSESSMENT

Number	Question	Response
4.1	Has the location of the camp had any environmental impacts, especially with regards water availability, extraction, storage and use?	
4.2	Has the construction of the camp had any impact on locally available water resources?	
4.3	Is the site subject to occasional inundation – is drainage adequate?	
4.4	Have measures been taken to ensure that drainage waters do not pollute surface or	

	groundwater reservoirs?	
4.5	Might any alterations to the landscape to accommodate this camp have environmental implications, e.g. altered run off or reduced water percolation?	
4.6	Have sedimentation levels of local water bodies altered since the camp was established?	
4.7	Do other sectors/activities contribute to water quantity/quality problems, e.g. agriculture or vector control?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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5. SUMMARY

LIST THE THREE MAIN CONCERNS LINKED TO WATER AT THE TIME OF THIS ASSESSMENT

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DOMESTIC ENERGY

1. NEEDS

Number	Question	Response
1.1	What are the main food items provided which require cooking? What form are these in (whole meal, milled, powdered...)?	
1.2	What substance(s) is/are currently being used to cook meals?	
1.3	Are the IDPs already familiar with the use of these substances?	
1.4	Are food items being appropriately prepared before cooking to minimise cooking times? If not, what can be done?	
1.5	Is energy required for other purposes, e.g. heating or lighting for security purposes?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2. AVAILABILITY AND USE

Number	Question	Response
2.1	What is/are the main type(s) of energy source(s) being used?	
2.2	Where are these materials sourced?	
2.3	Which, if any, of these is having a visible environmental impact?	
2.4	Are energy-efficient stoves being used? If so, by what percentage of the population?	
2.5	Has training been provided on appropriate fire management (e.g. putting out fires which are not needed)? If so, is this being practised?	
2.6	If fuelwood is the primary source of cooking, is this being prepared (dried, split...) before use?	
2.7	Has an assessment been conducted on the availability and needs for fuelwood? If so, what were the main observations and have particular concerns been identified?	
2.8	What is the average amount of fuelwood/charcoal/kerosene being used per household per day?	
2.9	Are alternative fuel(s) available locally? If so, what would be required to introduce these to the camp?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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3. ACCESS TO ENERGY SOURCES

Number	Question	Response
3.1	Has access to energy sources such as fuelwood changed over the past 6 months? If so, what are the main reasons and	

	consequences?	
3.2	Is there a security issue related to accessing energy sources such as fuelwood?	
3.3	If fuel is being provided are appropriate systems in place to discourage resale and use of natural resources?	
3.4	Is there competition over energy resources with local communities?	
3.5	Has communal cooking been considered as an option to reduce the amount of energy required?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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4. SUMMARY

LIST THE THREE MAIN CONCERNS LINKED TO COOKING FUEL AT THE TIME OF THIS ASSESSMENT

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SHELTER

1. SITE SELECTION

Number	Question	Response
1.1	What is the topographical suitability of the site chosen for temporary dwellings?	
1.2	What is the environmental suitability of the site?	
1.3	Are any immediate risks evident, e.g. prone to flash flooding or drought?	
1.4	Have camp establishment standards been applied in the design and construction of the settlement?	
1.5	What are the issues of concern for the host community?	
1.6	Has there been an impact on local communities since this settlement was established?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2. CONSTRUCTION IMPLICATIONS

Number	Question	Response
2.1	Do all households (including vulnerable members of the community) have adequate shelter?	
2.2	What materials are being used for shelter (cover and supporting materials)?	
2.3	Where are these materials sourced – i.e. are they being provided or not?	
2.4	Are the materials used the same as those used by local communities?	
2.5	Are these materials scarce or is there already competition over accessing them?	
2.6	How are construction materials typically obtained and by whom?	
2.7	If wooden poles are being used for supports, are these obtained from designated sites and under controlled management?	
2.8	Are there obvious environmental impacts from use for any of these materials?	
2.9	What opportunities exist for improving local shelter?	
2.10	What alternatives, if any, exist for alternative shelter materials?	
2.11	What environmental impacts might these have (e.g. clay brick making)?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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3. SUMMARY

List the three main concerns linked to shelter at the time of this assessment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SANITATION

1. EXISTING SERVICES

Number	Question	Response
1.1	What type of sanitation is offered to the IDPs, e.g. communal or household?	
1.2	Do people avail of these facilities or is defecation taking place in open areas?	
1.3	Has assistance and guidance been provided to households with regards the siting and construction of latrines?	
1.4	Are current sanitation services adequate for the population? (Sphere standard is a maximum of 20 people per toilet.)	
1.5	Are toilets located less than 50m from dwellings?	
1.6	Has the vulnerable component of the population been taken into consideration in the design and location of sanitation facilities?	
1.7	If the entire population does not have access to safe sanitation, what proportion does?	
1.8	If household latrines exist have these been properly sited and constructed?	
1.9	If communal toilets are being used have effective measures been put in place to ensure personal security?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2. GOOD MANAGEMENT

Number	Question	Response
2.1	Have people been consulted with regards the location and construction of latrines?	
2.2	Are there existing or threatened water and/or sanitation related diseases? If so, how are these being addressed?	
2.3	Are latrines being routinely managed to ensure that conditions are as safe as possible?	
2.4	Have provisions been made to ensure proper water management (e.g. drainage) at water points to avoid standing water bodies?	
2.5	Is proper use being made with regards the storage, handling and disposal of any chemicals used for sanitation purposes?	
2.6	Is ground water analysis being routinely carried out to ensure that there is no seepage from latrines into groundwater reservoirs?	
2.6	If additional latrines need to be constructed are there environmental implications?	
2.7	Are sanitation facilities, and the regular use of these by IDP, being monitored?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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3. SUMMARY

List the three main concerns linked to shelter at the time of this assessment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. WASTE GENERATION

Number	Question	Response
1.1	What is/are the main source(s) of solid waste among the IDPs within the settlement?	
1.2	Do the institutions providing relief generate an excessive amount of solid waste, e.g.	

	packaging materials?	
1.3	Have measures been taken to address, e.g. reduce, these? If so, are they adequate?	
1.4	Has a system of waste collection been established within the settlement? If so, is this effective?	
1.5	Does solid waste from markets pose a health or environmental hazard?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2. WASTE COLLECTION

Number	Question	Response
2.1	Are medical wastes being separated and disposed of correctly?	
2.2	Are waste collection sites well identified within the settlement?	
2.3	Has the physical location of collective waste sites been carefully chosen, e.g. avoiding duping in dry river beds or swamps?	
2.4	Are people who collect/handle waste provided with adequate and appropriate protective equipment?	
2.5	Is organic waste being recycled, e.g. as compost?	
2.6	Can any other waste material be recycled, e.g. plastics?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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3. WASTE DISPOSAL

Number	Question	Response
3.1	Have safe sites been identified for the central disposal of waste?	

3.2	Is refuse being removed from the settlement before it becomes a health risk or nuisance?	
3.3	Is disposed waste being treated to prevent insects and rodents being attracted to it, e.g. by proper burying?	
3.4	Have the environmental consequences of waste disposal sites been considered?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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4. SUMMARY

List the three main concerns linked to shelter at the time of this assessment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

LIVESTOCK

1. PRESENCE OF LIVESTOCK

Number	Question	Response
1.1	Did IDPs bring livestock with them?	
1.2	Has the total number of animals been estimated?	
1.3	What is the ratio of IDP livestock to local that of local communities? (The higher his ratio the more likely that problems will occur.)	
1.4	Does the presence of livestock in or around the settlement have security implications for the IDP population, e.g. could livestock keeping or theft become a source of conflict?	
1.5	Has the carrying capacity of the rangeland around the settlement been estimated?	
1.6	What are/have been the main environmental, impacts from the presence of livestock since the establishment of the settlement?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

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2 LIVESTOCK WELFARE

Number	Question	Response
2.1	Are veterinary facilities available for IDP livestock?	
2.2	Have any outbreaks of disease been detected since they arrived at this site?	
2.3	Is there adequate pasture and forage for IDP livestock?	
2.4	Have separate areas been identified for watering animals?	
2.5	Has any conflict emerged between local communities and IDP livestock owners over access to resources? If so, has this been resolved and how?	
2.6	Are extension services available to those IDPs who keep livestock?	
2.7	Has a needs assessment been conducted among livestock owners?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

3. GENERAL

Number	Question	Response
3.1	Have access rules been established for livestock owners to enable their animals safe access to pasture and water?	
3.2	Who among the IDPs are the main livestock owners?	
3.3	What are/have been the immediate impacts of livestock on the local environment?	
3.4	Are livestock tended by day and night or are they left to wander unwatched?	
3.5	Is livestock keeping a problem in the settlement?	
3.6	Is livestock keeping an important coping mechanism for certain members of the IDP community?	

3.7	Has a management plan been discussed among camp authorities and livestock owners, e.g. to promote and enable zero grazing?	
Other		

Needs Summary:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. SUMMARY

List the three main concerns linked to shelter at the time of this assessment

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

FORM III

RESPONSE OF THE IDP RELIEF OPERATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT¹

Use this form – modifying the list of activities or impacts as needs be – to identify urgent environmental concerns which are directly related to the humanitarian relief operation. Make judgments based on observations and discussions. Applying a simple ranking to columns 4-8 can help prioritise issues: a score of “HHHM”, for example, would indicate that that activity is probably more important than one which received a score of “HHMM”, and so forth.

Relief activity	Recommended standard or “best practise”	Possible environmental impact (multiple checks possible)	Severity of impact	Extent of impact	Irreversibility of impact	Likelihood of occurrence	Urgency of response	Total score (add row)
SITE IDENTIFICATION								
Settlement location	At least 15km from ecologically sensitive or protected areas, and between camps/settlements Above flood prone areas, preferably on gently slopes (2–4%). Avoid slopes steeper than a 10% gradient	Encroachment on protected areas						
		Deforestation						
		Flash flooding						
		Erosion						
		Others (please list)						
SETTLEMENT PLANNING/CONSTRUCTION								
Settlement size	Preferably less than 20,000 people and 30-45m ² of land per person	Natural resource depletion						
		Others (please list)						
Ground cover and top soil removal	Minimal: avoid indiscriminate bulldozing	Lack of shade						
		Dust						
		Erosion						
		Others (please list)						
Settlement layout (shelter orientation)	Minimum disturbance of natural drainage pattern Clustered layout to facilitate shared cooking (stable food)	Erosion						
		Flooding						
		Firewood consumption						
		Others (please list)						
Roads construction	Along contour lines – not up and down slopes	Drainage problems						
		Erosion						
		Flooding						
		Others (please list)						

¹ Much of this information is based on experience and resulting standards for refugee camps. Source: Modified from UNHCR/CARE International, 2005. Rapid Environmental Assessment: A Handbook on its Use in Refugee and Related Operations. UNHCR, Geneva.

Relief activity	Recommended standard or “best practise”	Possible environmental impact (multiple checks possible)	Severity of impact	Extent of impact	Irreversibility of impact	Likelihood of occurrence	Urgency of response	Total score (add row)
SHELTER								
Use of poles in shelter construction	If feasible, use earth or other materials for building	Deforestation						
		Excavation pits						
		Others (please list)						
Sourcing of shelter materials from natural surrounding environment	Control of access to and use of harvesting areas. Apply rotation harvesting	Natural resource depletion						
		Deforestation						
		Others (please list)						
WATER								
Water supply	Water source sustainable – management plan in place for surface and ground water sources	Depletion of source (surface or ground water)						
		Disturbance of watershed						
		Increased population density						
		Others (please list)						
Water treatment	Safe disposal of chemicals	Contamination						
		Others (please list)						
Water points construction	Drained and protected from waste, livestock and pollution	Mosquito breeding grounds						
		Pollution (water)						
		Others (please list)						
SANITATION								
Latrines	Minimum of 30m horizontal distance to water sources. Bottom of pit should be a minimum of 2m over groundwater table.	Contamination of groundwater						
		Contamination of other water sources						
		Others (please list)						
Drainage system	Maintain natural drainage patterns as far as possible.	Downstream pollution (other communities)						
		Erosion						
	Drain along contour lines.	Flooding						
		Others (please list)						
Drainage of waste water (households, washing, laundry, businesses)	Drain along contour lines, away from water sources. Washing and laundry facilities located downstream	Pollution (soil, water, air)						
		Erosion						
		Others (please list)						

Relief activity	Recommended standard or “best practise”	Possible environmental impact (multiple checks possible)	Severity of impact	Extent of impact	Irreversibility of impact	Likelihood of occurrence	Urgency of response	Total score (add row)
Solid waste management systems	Maximise re-use and recycling. Collection point (100l) per 10-15 families. Impermeable landfills to protect ground water. Incinerate hazardous waste.	Pollution (soil, water, air)						
		Pollution of living environment						
		Increased disease transmission						
		Others (please list)						
LOGISTICS								
Transport of relief materials	Avoids damage to infrastructures	Roads and/or bridges damaged						
		Erosion						
		Others (please list)						
Procurement	Prioritise recyclable and/or easily disposable materials. Reduce packaging.	Excessive solid waste						
		Pollution (soil, water, air)						
		Others (please list)						
FOOD AND COOKING								
Food distribution and change in cooking practices	Promote fast cooking foods. Promote energy saving (pre-soaking, milling, use lids, double cooking and improved stoves.	Deforestation						
		Conflict with local communities						
		Air pollution						
Firewood distribution	Only in exceptional cases (except vulnerables) and in return for refugee work. Household energy needs must be assessed.	Deforestation at considerable distance						
		Tension with local authorities						
		Others (please list)						
AGRICULTURE								
Expansion of area or type of farming often supported by seeds and tools distribution.	Sustainable farming practices encouraged. Land-use plan agreed by stakeholders.	Loss of habitats and bio-diversity						
		Deforestation						
		Land degradation/erosion						
		Shortened fallow period						
		Invasive species						
		Disturbance of traditional seed management						
Others (please list)								
Use of fertilizers and/or pesticides	Minimal – avoid soil nutrient overload and contamination of watercourses.	Contamination (soil, water)						
		Increased resource extraction						
		Others (please list)						

Relief Activity	Recommended standard or “best practise”	Possible Environmental impact (multiple checks possible)	Severity of impact	Irreversibility of impact	Extent of impact	Probability of occurrence	Urgency	Total Score (add row)
LIVESTOCK								
Livestock keeping practised or expanded	Sustainable numbers with adequate fodder and separate water sources. Slaughter sites located at periphery, away or downstream from watercourses. Land-use plan agreed by stakeholders.	Loss of habitat and biodiversity						
		Introduction/expansion of animal diseases						
		Land degradation/erosion						
		Pollution from slaughter sites						
		Conflict over grazing rights						
		Others (please list)						
FORESTRY								
Tree planting	Natural regeneration encouraged. Promote native over exotic species in mixed forests.	Conversion of farm land						
		Monocultures, loss of habitats and/or species						
		Others (please list)						
Wood harvesting from surroundings	Available forest resources assessed. Management plan agreed by stakeholders.	Deforestation						
		Conflicts with existing users of forests						
		Others (please list)						
INCOME GENERATION								
Income generation activities practised	Alternatives to environmentally unfriendly activities (charcoal making, wood cutting, illegal hunting) promoted.	Natural resource depletion						
		Waste (solid, liquid)						
		Pollution (soil, water, air)						
		Others (please list)						

SUMMARY

What are the top five priority issues that can be concluded with regards the humanitarian relief operation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

FORM IV RESULTS SUMMARY

Information provided in the summaries at the end of forms I-III should provide a detailed snapshot of the actual situation within the physical delimitations outlined in Form I. Review of these points should enable the core team conducting this assessment to begin to be able to identify possible solutions to address the most important concerns identified thus far.

FORM I SITUATION OVERVIEW

THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES/CONCERNS LEARNED FROM THIS ANALYSIS THUS FAR?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

FORM II IDENTIFICATION OF ACTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE IDP SETTLEMENT

What were the most important concerns identified with regards:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| WATER | 1.
2.
3. |
| ENERGY | 1.
2.
3. |
| SHELTER | 1.
2.
3. |
| SANITATION | 1.
2.
3. |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT | 1.
2.
3. |
| LIVESTOCK | 1.
2.
3. |
| OTHER | 1. |

4.2

PHASE II ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

4.2.1

INTRODUCTION

Rather than using forms or checklists, as above, phase II of the RADEAP is based largely on structured working group discussions, with on-site visitation and consultation. Participants are selected from the community, with due respect being given to ensuring that different experiences (as relating to natural resource use and management), age groups and gender balance are fairly represented. This phase makes extensive use of a limited number of participatory tools, using these to help participants identify what they view as being the main threats to the environment, helping them relate to the manner in which they interact with and perhaps depend upon the environment, and helping them elaborate a suitable and appropriate response to addressing their needs in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

4.2.2

STARTING THE ACTION PLANNING PROCESS

This phase of the RADEAP builds on a strategic planning model called The Planning Web², a modified and expanded form of which is outlined below. Developing an action plan through the RADEAP process hinges on four key activities – establishing baseline data on the state of the environment, carrying out a root cause analysis of some of the most pressing environmental concerns, identifying goals to help address these concerns and developing a clear vision – supplemented by many other practical actions such as clarifying roles and responsibilities, and identifying actions and targets.

STEP 1.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The RADEAP takes as its starting point the key issues identified during the above-mentioned assessment (Phase I). If the latter has not been conducted with participation from the affected community, the first task is Community Mobilisation and Engagement. This step effectively allows the Team Leader/ facilitator(s) to:

- mobilise interested representatives from within the community;
- explain the purpose of the exercise;
- outline and agree upon rules of participation;
- determine expectations, including those of the facilitator; and
- agree on approaches to be taken – i.e. which exercises will be used – and a workplan.

A decision needs to be taken early on in this process regarding working group composition. Women, for example, may not be allowed to participate, or may feel uncomfortable participating in a mixed group of people. Likewise, separate working groups might be required if IDPs and local community representatives are participating in

² ©Peter Cuming, Sustainable Futures Australia (1996)

the same meeting. Attention will also need to be given to the group size: too large a group will become difficult to manage so the formation of smaller groups, each of 8-10 people is therefore recommended. Each such group should have an appointed facilitator who is comfortable with and knowledgeable about their role.

A meeting are that is agreeable to all should be identified and prepared ahead of each meeting. The Core Team should plan ahead and time how they would suggest organising such meetings and then seek approval for this plan from the participants.

Preparing for Phase II

As with Phase I, an overall Team Leader or Facilitator should be selected. Representation of IDPs and possible local community members is essential to this part of the process so contact must be established with these groups – if not already done during Phase I. The purpose of this exercise must be clearly explained and participation requested from the communities. If elders from the community are not actually participating in the exercise, it would be important for the Team Leader/Facilitator to occasionally meet with these people and brief them on progress or seek their advice regarding certain issues arising from discussions..

The Team Leader/Facilitator must at this stage be clear about what is expected of participants, what they can hopefully be expected to gain from actually engaging in this process and what the conditions for their participation should be. The issue of remuneration, or some similar arrangement, will need to be addressed: advice on this matter should be sought from other agencies working on the ground to determine their practices.

STEP 2.

STATUS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A key aspect to the action planning process is knowing the status of natural resources, from the community perspective, and understanding how the community, or certain parts of the community, interact with different parts of the environment. A livestock herder, for example, will have different needs and perspectives than an agriculturalist although they may both depend on a few common needs and resources.

As a simple, practical exercise ask the grouped participants to explain their understanding of the “environment” and to then list the main environmental problems or concerns which they perceive. This may become quite lengthy – often 30-40 issues might be identified, not all of which might have obvious links with environmental management – but many can then be grouped under broader categories. “Loss of vegetation cover” for example could be used to cover the following concerns: fuel wood collection, overgrazing, excessive collection of medicinal plants, logging, and bush fires. Now ask participants to again examine this list and to this time prioritise these in order of importance, as a threat – real or potential – to their own well-being. This list will form an important point of reference which will be referred to throughout the action plan process.

Once the group has successfully identified its priority list of issues and concerns, the Team Leader/Facilitator should then help the group(s) to visualise the different components of the environment and to see how these might interact with one another. Environmental mapping – having participants draw their interpretation of the local surroundings and indicate their relationship with natural resources – is not only a way to quickly obtain an overview of the immediate situation, but also an appropriate form of team building within the working group(s).

Participants should be encouraged to sketch their situation on a suitable substrate – blackboards, flip chart paper or smoothed sand are all useful for this purpose. It is important in this exercise that all members of each group are allowed to participate and that no one person dominates the drawing exercise. Revisions must be expected as discussions are carried out. At the end of the exercise, each group should be requested to nominate someone to transcribe the map onto flip chart paper for future consultation and safe keeping. Such maps should remain available throughout the entire action planning process – some elements may even be added or removed as further discussions unfold.

If time permits, direct observations through for example walking one or several transects through the area being described can be a useful aid to the mapping process. It can be a useful occasion when specific problems are identified and allows discussions to already start with regards identifying particular solutions to these problems.

Discussions on the maps of each group – for example a group of women might draw a very different situation than a group of men, even if both were describing the same area – will help the participants and Team Leader/Facilitator(s) also reach a better understanding of the status of natural resources and the relationships which people have to the environment in that location.

Advantages of this mapping exercise are that it:

- can quickly give a broad overview of the evolution and nature of community land use;
- is less time consuming than many other information gathering tools as many interventions can be identified using this one tool;
- allows community members to visualise and analyse links and inter-relationships with regards land use; and
- helps present community members with a sense of ownership of the process.

At the same time, however, the Team Leader/Facilitator especially needs to be aware that such an exercise can, if not carefully managed, easily lead to conflict if inequities are made apparent or old hostilities rekindled. Comparing maps may also bring out feelings of inadequacy or unwillingness to acknowledge specific ownership of land or use of particular resources, all of which should be carefully teased out by the Team Leader/Facilitator(s).

STEP 3.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

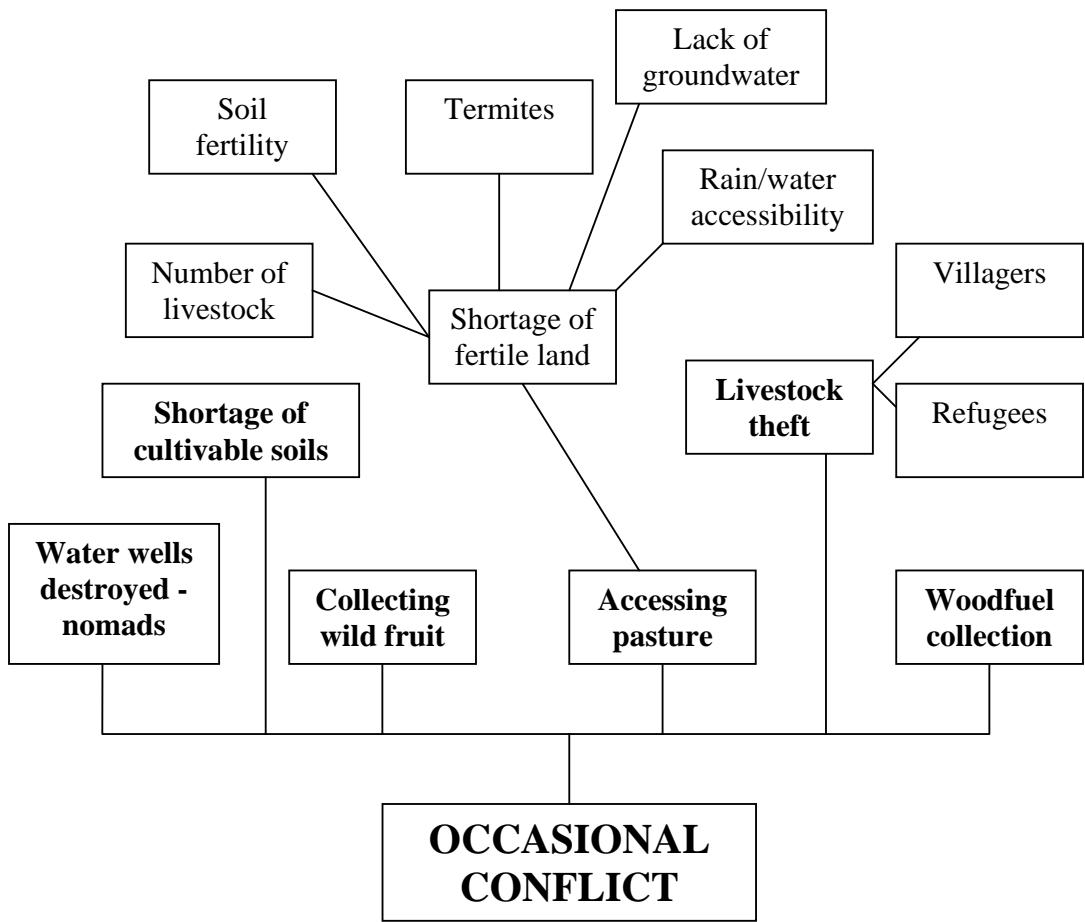
As the groups discuss various environment-related issues in the area with which they are most familiar, this is also the moment to revisit the priority environmental issues noted above. Determining the root causes to these problems is an important step and should again be determined by individual groups once the basic elements of the exercise have been explained. This exercise is best carried out by means of a tree analysis, which should be conducted for each of the priority problems.

Root cause analysis is a process designed for use in investigating and categorising the root causes of events with environmental and social (in this case) impacts. It is a process designed to help identify not only what and how an event occurred, but also why it happened in the first instance and what can be done to prevent it happening again. Only when investigators are able to determine why an event occurred in the first instance will they be able to specify workable corrective measures that prevent future events of the nature observed from occurring.

This process involves four basic steps:

- data collection, to understand the event which has or is taking place;
- cause charting, which describes the events leading up to the event;
- root cause identification, which identifies the underlying reason for each causal factor; and
- recommendation generation, during which appropriate and achievable recommendations are formulated based on the knowledge gained above.

This process is best carried out by elaborating a diagram such as that shown below.



In this simplified example, conflict over accessing and using natural resources was identified as a key environmental problem by the community – within the community itself as well as with neighbouring communities (although some of the issues were seasonal). Following a period of assessment and reflection of the information the community possessed, the causes, or events leading up to the problem were elaborated. In this instance, six causal factors were identified – wells being destroyed by nomads, shortage of cultivable soils, the collection of wild fruit, etc. as shown above.

Each causal factor is then discussed in more detail to begin to identify the root cause(s) of the problem. This can lead to many layers of data emerging, but each cause should in turn be investigated to see if there is some other factor behind this level of information. The Team Leader/Facilitator must be willing to help group members to probe the data to determine what actually happened, to describe how it happened and to help understand why the event took place in the first instance. Only when no additional data can be found to support a particular cause can one be sure that this is one of the root causes of the identified problem.

As with other tools used in this exercise, the Team Leader/Facilitator(s) must be careful to guide and not lead discussions. Establishing the root causes of priority environment-related problems is usually a slow process which is again an important reason to earlier agree on a small number of priorities rather than conducting such an exercise for every issue identified by the community.

At this stage of the process, it is already useful to begin to formulate some recommendations on how to address the root causes for those priority problems. The following table provides a simple mechanism for capturing these data, using the example of “livestock” as the environmental problem.

Problem	Causal Factor(s)	Recommendations
1. Livestock theft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecurity • Market opportunities • Tradition 	Improved system of livestock herding, including zero grazing
2. Number of livestock	Tradition of keeping large numbers of animals as a means of household security	Improved animal husbandry – better breeds of animals and extension service support
etc		

STEP 4.

DETERMINATION OF GOALS

Once the community members have a better understanding of the causal factors which underlie the main environment-related problems which they have encountered and exposed, it should be possible to begin to think about how these might be addressed and resolved. This is achieved by establishing a small number of goals or targets, based on the information emerging from the exercises carried out this far, as shown in the example below.

In this example, to help further prioritise needed action(s), a simple ranking scheme is introduced, similar to what was used to complete Form III of the assessment component of this RADEAP. The Team Leader/Facilitator(s) should explain this activity to participants who should if they wish be allowed to substitute an alternative form of ranking, e.g. by distributing a number of pins, cards, pebbles or similar to each participant, allowing each one to then place these against whichever option s/he thinks is the most important. The scores are then added up when everyone has completed their turn, and the resulting priorities noted. These should, however, be again discussed within the group to establish whether there is agreement or not on these matters, since it is these which will now become the focus of future attention.

Goal 1. Promoting the use of Energy-Efficient Cooking Mechanisms and Practices

Strategy	Key Actions	Responsibility	Priority ³	Timeframe ⁴
1.1 Encourage widespread use of fuel-efficient stoves	1.1.1 Establish demonstration centres of people making and using improved stoves	Agency XXX IDP Council leaders	H	I
	1.1.2 Demonstrate incentives of regular stove users	Agency XXX Community extension agents	H	I
1.2 Demonstrate best practices of preparing foods prior to cooking				
Etc				

This process should then be repeated for any additional goals which the community might express.

If the process of identifying clear goals proves complicated or laborious, a simple **Problem and Solution Assessment Chart** might be used. In this example, after having identified the causes of each priority problem (see also Root Cause Analysis above), the group(s) should consider the actually means which they have been employing to address it – their “coping strategies” – and try and identify more appropriate and sustainable solutions for future use, as shown below.

Example of a Problem and Solution Assessment Chart

Problem	Cause(s)	Coping Strategies	Proposed Solutions
Livestock disease Effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of livestock • Declining milk yield • Sanctions on retail (loss of revenue) • Restricted movement of livestock 	Lack of veterinary services High cost of drugs Insecurity Poor animal husbandry Lack of finances	Consult traditional livestock healers Use medicinal plants	Form a livestock owners association to promote better breeds and co-ordinate drug supplies

³ High (of critical importance to the immediate success of the Action Plan); Moderate (would benefit and accelerate the success of the Action Plan, but the Plan will most likely be achieved in any case); low (not essential to the immediate success of the Plan; uncertain (this action requires more detailed investigation or consideration)

⁴ Immediate (I) – within 2 months ; Medium-term (M) – 2-6 months; Longer term (L) – up to 12 months; Ongoing (O)

• Hunger			
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STEP 5. THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan – the goal of this exercise – is a statement of a community’s development priorities and a description of what and how it intends to do to achieve its development objectives. The Action Plan component of the RADEAP exercise represents the culmination of many discussions, data collection, analysis, prioritisation and consolidation.

At this stage, it is important to once again revisit the purpose of this exercise and to explain and discuss the reason for making a formal plan with the participants engaged in this process. It is also advisable to include leaders from the communities represented at this stage if they have not been present thus far.

The RADEAP process should be reviewed briefly, with attention being to the information emerging from the process. Specific attention should be given to the priority environment-related problems identified and the tentative solutions being proposed to address these. Using the following table, this process can now be taken further, by agreeing on proposed actions, by assessing what needs might be required – from within the community as well as perhaps external agencies – and by assigning a clear responsibility for overseeing each of these actions.

Example of how to identify proposed actions and responsibilities

Problem	Proposed Action	Target Audience	Needs		Responsibility	Timeframe
			Community Contribution	External Resources		
Bushfires	Controlled burning of scrub	Farmers	Community will sponsor funds for three patrols	3 bicycles	Village elders	Immediate
	Awareness raising	Hunters/bee keepers		Uniforms	Notices for posting	Agency YY Community members

A timeframe should also be established for implementation of the above identified actions, again in full consultation with concerned participants. A long-term horizon should ideally be considered but full details of such a plan need not be elaborated at this stage, suffice top have the immediate priorities considered and addressed. Revisions can always be made to this during the regular review periods required in this process.

Specific fundraising activities might be required for some of the actions proposed, or additional meetings might be required between members of the community and the settlement management, for example.

It is important at this stage to stress that this action plan is the property and responsibility of the community itself, as elaborated through a smaller number of chosen/nominated representatives from the community. Broader presentation and discussion of the action plan should now follow, with the community itself – or perhaps with one or two agencies – determining how exactly it intends to take this process further forward and translate this action plan into reality.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FEEDBACK FORM

As a guide to help improve this tool, feedback is invited from the pilot test.

Comments should be addressed to each of the phases, as well as any general comments on the overall RADEAP.

PHASE I RAPID ASSESSMENT

PHASE II ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

GENERAL COMMENTS

THANKS!

Please return any comments to Roy Brooke (brooker@un.org)