

## **Creative Pedagogies for Fire Safety Education: Reflections from the Humanitarian Sector**

People all around the world who live in humanitarian settings, such as refugee and IDP camps, collective centres, and informal settlements, are exposed to fire hazards daily. As seen in recent devastating fires in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, that displaced 12,000 refugees, and in the Hargheisa marketplace fire in Somaliland in 2022, fire incidents are an all-too-common experience, causing loss of shelter, property and livelihoods, injury, and death to already vulnerable populations. In a broader humanitarian and development context that is only recently beginning to take note of the impacts of fire, where knowledge of fire safety, and access to resources for mitigation and response are all low, the need for contextualised fire safety education is stark. The unequal impact of fire demands a new approach to fire safety education that reflects how the range of people within a settlement community understand and experience fire risk, and of their capacities to reduce this risk.

Within this presentation, we explore the possibilities for rethinking fire safety education that emerge from creative pedagogies. Drawing on research and practice with communities living in tented camps and informal settlements in Lebanon and South Africa, and from interviews conducted with humanitarian practitioners, we reflect upon:

- The levels of knowledge and understanding of fire safety within the humanitarian sector, including at the community and practitioner levels, and consider what this means for future thinking around fire safety education.
- The challenges to and opportunities created by using creative methods such as learner/participant photography and visual mapping within fire safety education.

By reflecting on the possibilities of non-formal, informal, and experiential learning for developing knowledge and understanding to improve fire safety in humanitarian settings, we aim to build further cross-sector and interdisciplinary collaboration on a complex safety problem through a community-focused lens.

# Creative Pedagogies for Fire Safety Education: Reflections from the Humanitarian Sector

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ISES 2023: 7<sup>th</sup> International Safety Education Seminar  
Design Center in Linz, Austria: November 23rd and 24th, 2023





**Our mission** is to connect fire safety knowledge to local and global humanitarian and urban development efforts to reduce the unequal impact of fire on people, property and livelihoods in vulnerable communities around the world





# Our work

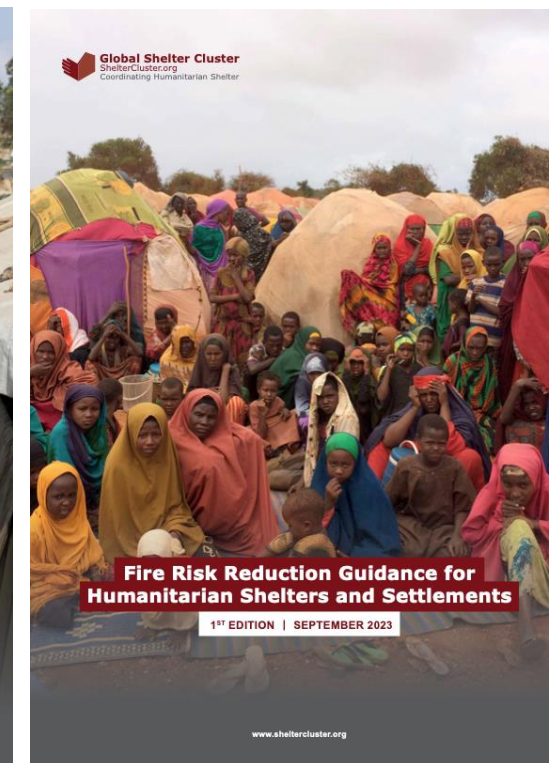
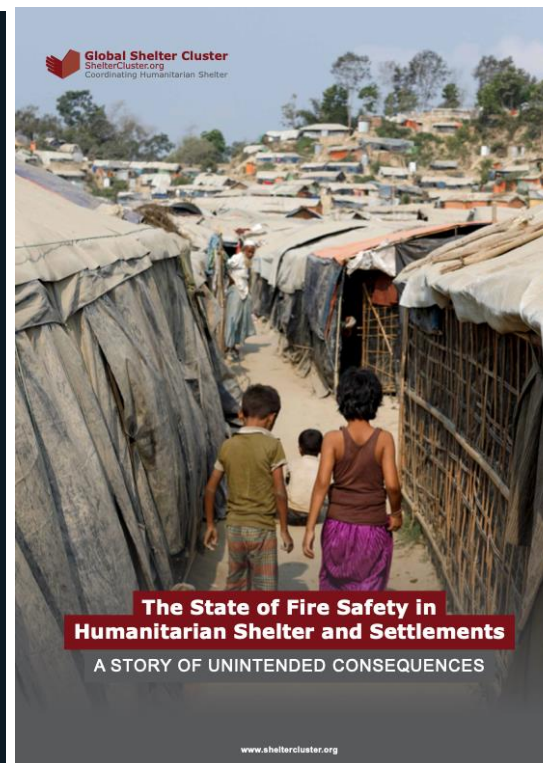
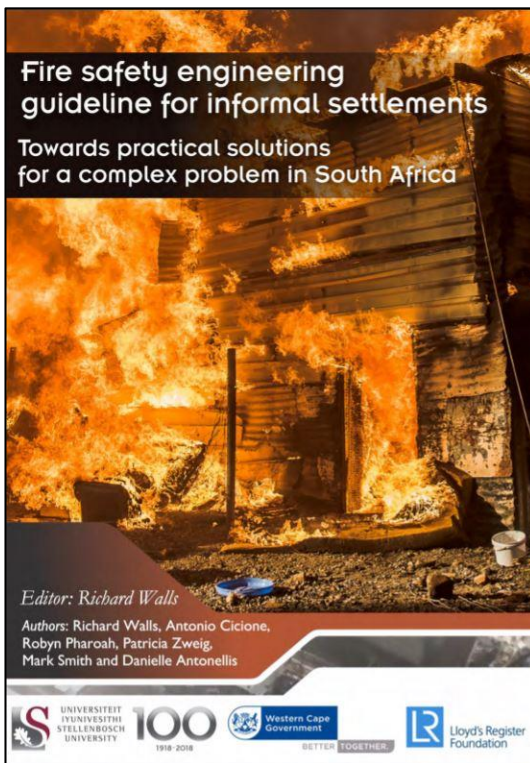
## A BURNING ISSUE FOR SHELTER PROGRAMMING

Reducing fire risk through better shelter program design and implementation

By Danielle Antonellis, Phil Duloy, Jim Kennedy and Liz Palmer



A comparative study of fire risk emergence in informal settlements in Dhaka & Cape Town





# 95% of fire deaths occur in LMICs



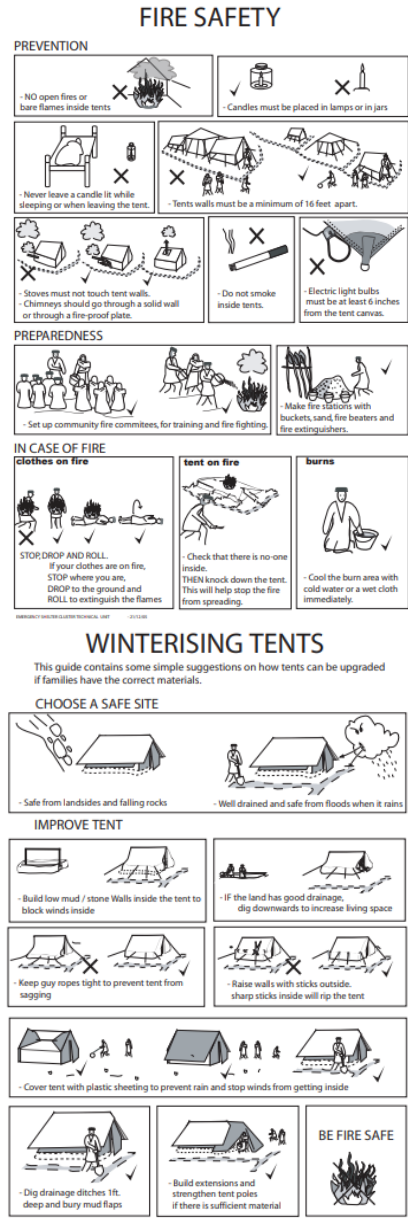




## Fires in Humanitarian Settings



# Current approaches to fire safety education in the humanitarian sector



Türkiye

## Fire Safety IEC Guidance | Poster Distribution and Awareness Raising [EN/AR/TR]

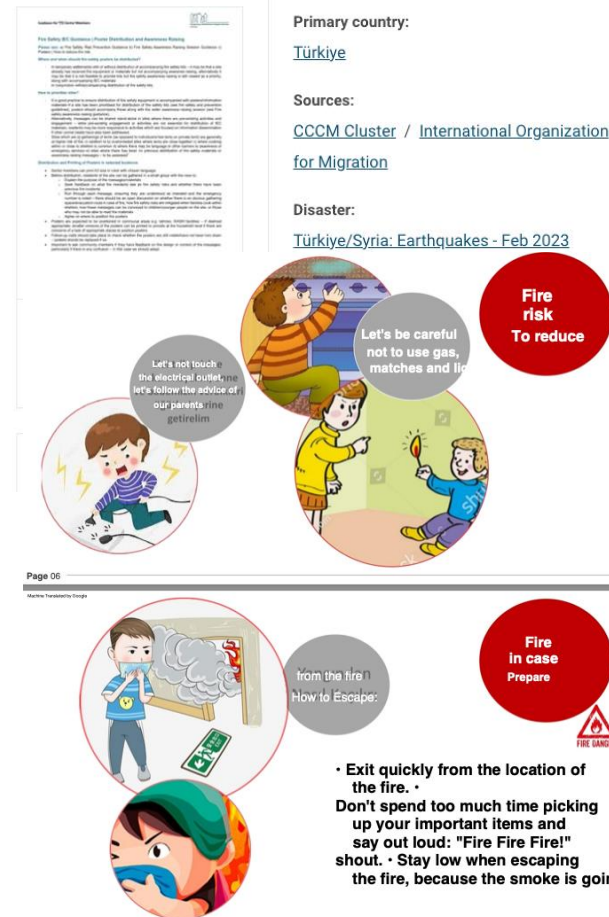
Manual and Guideline • Sources: [CCCCM Cluster](#) [IOM](#) • Posted: 18 Aug 2023 • Originally published: 18 Aug 2023

Please see: a) Fire Safety Risk Prevention Guidance b) Fire Safety Awareness Raising Session Guidance c) Posters | How to reduce fire risk.

### Where and when should fire safety posters be distributed?

- In temporary settlements with or without distribution of accompanying fire safety kits – it may be that a site already has received fire equipment or materials but not accompanying awareness raising, alternatively it may be that it is not feasible to provide kits but fire safety awareness raising is still viewed as a priority, along with accompanying IEC materials
- In conjunction with/accompanying distribution of fire safety kits

### How to prioritise sites?



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## Knowledge, Practice and the 'Expert'



# Towards contextually situated fire safety education: Lived Experience





# Education – The System – The Resistance

Paulo Freire: 'Pedagogy of the  
Oppressed' 1970





Critically  
Conscious  
Fire Safety  
Education



Creative  
Arts-based  
Co-created



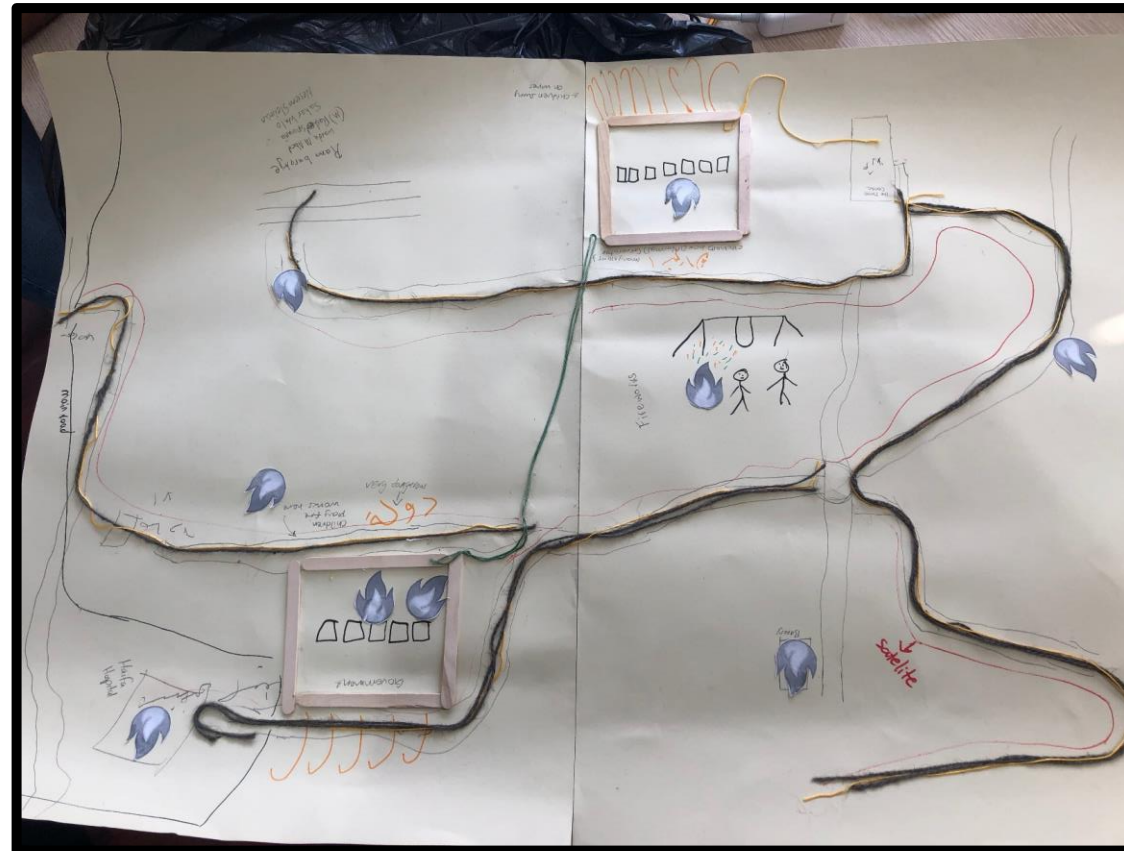
# A CRITICALLY ENGAGED CREATIVE PEDAGOGY FOR FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

- Identifying fire hazards
- Discussing hazard, exposure, vulnerability → fire risk
- Exploring solutions & constraints





# Inclusive and Collaborative





# Engaging & Creative





# Problem-posing

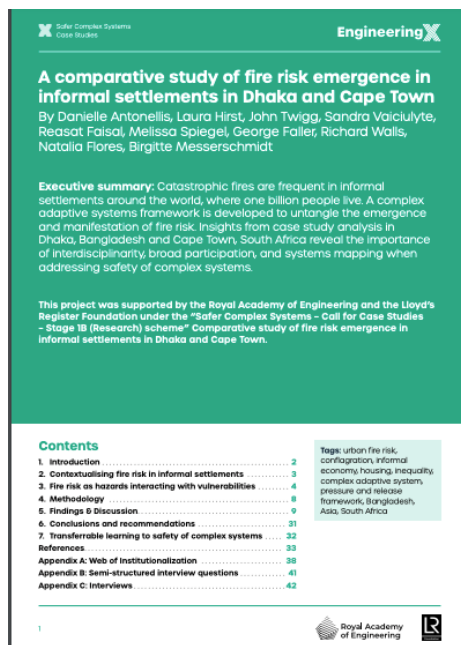
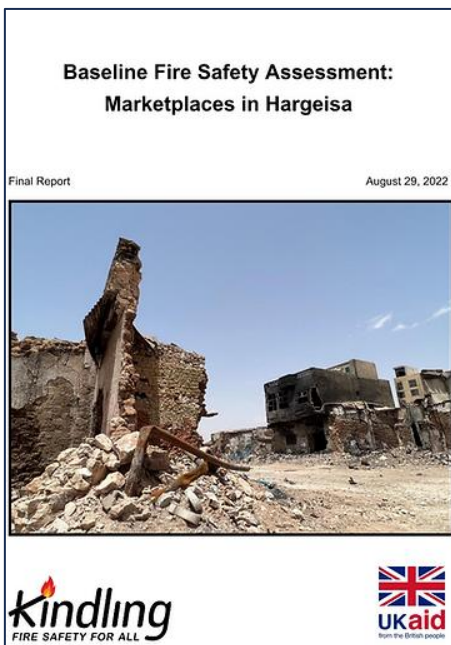




# Reflections

- We have a long way to go... more research is needed
- Reimagining Fire Safety Education for humanitarian and development settings requires:
  - Collaboration: range of partners, community-led, co-created
  - Openness: piloting, reflecting, revisiting, evaluating, unlearning.





Some publications...



# The State of Fire Safety in the Humanitarian Sector

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