

Assessing and Addressing Fire Safety Awareness of Isheri-North Residents in Lagos, Nigeria

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Background

- Fire outbreaks are a major cause of death and injury in homes across Nigeria. More so, a lack of awareness about preventative and mitigative safety practices increases the risk of a fire outbreak, and the extent of casualty in the event of a fire.
- In Isheri-North, a residential community in Lagos, South-West Nigeria, there is limited data on the fire safety knowledge and practices of residents.

Community Partner

- Isheri-North is a town located on the borders of Ogun and Lagos States in South-West Nigeria, West Africa. It is a residential community comprising a small consortium of neighbourhoods called Isheri Estates Community (ISECOM).



Fig. 1. Community entrance

- We partnered with ISECOM in conducting this research and service project.
- A community member was contracted as an on-site liaison. He travelled door-to-door surveying eighty households.

- We also partnered with 10+ businesses and stores that serve the Isheri-North community to disseminate fire safety information.



Fig. 2. Local stores

Objectives

- We sought to:
 - assess Isheri-North residents' knowledge of preventative and mitigative fire safety practices;
 - disseminate knowledge of fire safety practices within the community.

Project Description

- We administered a cross-sectional, door-to-door survey to eighty households in the Isheri-North community assessing possession and maintenance of fire safety equipment, and other safety practices such as first aid kit possession and knowledge of the state emergency telephone number. Survey respondents who indicated not having a fire extinguisher at home were entered into a raffle to receive one of 24 six-kilogram multi-purpose fire extinguishers. These extinguishers were delivered to raffle-winners after all survey data were collected.
- After conducting the survey, we developed an informational resource sheet (see Figure 3 below) including fire safety recommendations and fire department numbers provided by the Lagos State Fire Prevention and Inspectorate Services. Additional safety recommendations by the Red Cross were included in the leaflet alongside an infographic demonstrating how to use a fire extinguisher. This resource was distributed to households in Isheri-North and other towns in Lagos through 10+ businesses and stores.

Outcomes

- Table 1. Fire Safety Practices of Survey Respondents

Practice	Response	
	Yes N (%)	No N (%)
Fire extinguisher in household	29 (36.3)	51 (63.7)
At least one smoke detector in home	7 (8.8)	73 (91.2)
Knowledge of where to purchase fire safety equipment.	50 (62.5)	30 (37.5)
Knowledge of Lagos State Emergency Toll-Free phone number	39 (48.8)	41 (51.2)
First aid kit at home	52 (65.0)	28 (35.0)

Outcomes

- Of the 80 surveyed households, 29 (36.3%) were in possession of fire extinguishers.
- Only 7 (8.8%) households had one or more smoke detectors.
- 48.8% of survey respondents knew the state emergency telephone number.
- More than one in four households (28.8%) surveyed did not have a fire extinguisher or know where to purchase fire safety equipment.
- Of the 51 households that did not have a fire extinguisher, 23 (45.1%) of respondents indicated that they did not know where to purchase one.
- Fifty-two (65.0%) households were in possession of a first aid kit.

Lessons Learned

- Survey data highlight a need to increase fire safety awareness among Isheri-North residents and improve access to fire safety equipment.
- Further data collection and analyses can be used to inform appropriate community strategies to increase fire safety knowledge within Isheri-North.

Next Steps

- In the final phase of the project, we look forward to further data analysis, sharing survey results with community leaders and initiating conversations on what efforts can improve fire safety practices of residents.



Figure 3. Fire Safety Resource Sheet