ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS

Enabling humanitarian logistics partners to reduce their impact on the environment

WREC Project

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MEASURING, REVERSE LOGISTICS, ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPORT, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
➢ Expertise of 534 Logistics Cluster partners and the broad reach of project partners (DRC, IFRC, SCI, WFP)

➢ Embed environmental experts in the humanitarian logistics sector, each with a specialized focus on aspects of sustainability in logistics (greenhouse gas, procurement, packaging, circular economy, etc.)

➢ Cover a cross sectoral scope (all sectors are represented in the Logistics Cluster)

➢ Using recognized tools from within the humanitarian community

➢ Multi donor, academic, and private sector engagement to ensure a full representation of stakeholders and develop realistic and usable solutions to common problems
BACKGROUND

- **Unintended environmental impacts** can hamper the effectiveness of relief, recovery, and sustainable development efforts.

- **Supply Chain is at the center** of these impacts:
  - Procurement
  - transport and warehousing of goods
  - management of premises, waste, and fleets

- **Waste**
  - plastics and packaging required to safeguard the quality of relief items, food and non-food
  - hazardous materials from organizations’ vehicle fleets (used tyres, motor oils, lubricants, batteries)
  - end-of-life items themselves

- **Greenhouse gas emissions and pollution**
  - combustion fumes from truck convoys, generators, burning of waste

- Limited local infrastructure
- Limited information and solution sharing
- Funding required
Collectively, through a coalition of humanitarian actors in partnership with the private sector, academic institutions, and other humanitarian clusters, this two-year project aims to reduce adverse environmental impacts from humanitarian logistics through awareness, practical guidance, and the integration of environmental experts into the heart of the humanitarian supply chain.

As a result of this project and information portal, we aim to ensure humanitarians across sectors and locations have access to up-to-date information, tools, and methods to reduce our collective environmental foodprint.
Sustainability in Humanitarian Logistics

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Challenges to reducing unwanted environmental impacts from humanitarian logistics include:

- **Gaps in data** - Comprehensive quantification of the cumulative environmental impacts from humanitarian logistics does not yet exist. There is no reliable, sector-wide trace of the disposal or recovery of logistics’ waste, nor of the pollution resulting from humanitarian transport.

- **Gaps in capacity** - Logistics is where the risk of unintended impacts is high, but where current capacity to drive better environmental outcomes is low. Similarly, there is limited capacity or infrastructure in the local communities that humanitarians serve.

- **Gaps in expertise** - Humanitarian supply chain experts are not environmental experts and vice versa.
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What is the biggest challenge to sustainability in logistics?

1st: Knowing a workable solution
2nd: Getting advice and support
3rd: Funding
4th: Understanding the problem
5th: Access to training
Environmental Sustainability in Global Humanitarian Logistics (WREC)

- Gather data on the impact of logistics
- Compile, collage, and disseminate guidance on mitigation and handling
- Focus on waste and greenhouse gas
- Map and share complimentary initiatives
- Provide an environmental knowledge portal and exchange ideas
ACTIVITIES

Supported by environmental experts, the project coalition and their network of partners will

- assemble, develop and make widely available up to date guidance and training on environmentally sustainable logistics and supply chain activities, embedding circular economy principles into the humanitarian supply chain

- map, analyse and make widely available case studies of existing local solutions that have potential for affordable replication and scale-up

- support humanitarian donors to harmonize requirements for environmental protection and management

- provide a platform to search for local collaboration and foster local solutions
PROJECT KICKOFF 2021

Getting Started:

➢ Project Steering Committee established and holding monthly meetings
➢ Centralized platform for environmental guidance is live & being updated
➢ Linking with complimentary initiatives
➢ Ensured no overlap, but sharing of solutions and projects
➢ Data gathering and coordination with academic institutions, donors, partners, and private sector
FUNDING

WREC is a 2-year multi-donor project which seeks to engage multiple donors in an effort to increase sustainable approaches to humanitarian logistics. We are seeking diverse donors to ensure buy in from across the humanitarian community.

- UPS Foundation contribution USD 50,000 for baselining study
  - *PhD work on the data analysis, data gathering techniques and providing an overview of scale and amplitude of the waste and pollution challenge in the sector*
  - setting a baseline

- USAID BHA USD 800,000 for project activities:
  - *development of the centralized platform*,
  - recruit dedicated staffing resources,
  - capture data,
  - *work on practical tools to be shared across the humanitarian space*

- Additional funding proposal submitted to ECHO
  - *ensure full project team staffing*
  - *host multiple training events and meetings throughout the project term*
The HUMLOG Institute / Hanken School of Economics will support the following steps:

**Literature review**

- Existing tools and engagements (grey literature)
- Status quo of research (academic literature)

**Input from the humanitarian community**

- Workshops with the humanitarian community
- Survey with the larger humanitarian community
- Stakeholder interviews

**Co-ordination with other endeavours**

- Avoiding duplication
- Feeding in to one another
Get Involved

• Stories from the field & Resources
  Share your experiences, best practices, challenges, and innovation with the humanitarian community

• Keep in touch with the Project team and let us know what you need to know to make sustainability a reality in the field

Next Steps

• Recruitment and onboarding of Project Manager and Subject Matter Experts

• Launch logcluster.org/green-logistics and collect data on existing solutions and tools

• Continue building on relationships with other initiatives, coordination is key
Linking + Learning

Our vision is that the humanitarian logistics and supply chain community is aware of the sector's environmental impact and implements a coordinated, scalable and sustainable approach to measure and reduce that impact. We aim for a sustained adoption of good environmental practice across the humanitarian logistics community, improved sector-wide cost efficiencies for humanitarian partners, and safer, less polluted environments for crisis-affected communities.
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Get involved! Tell us how you would engage in the project and what you would like to see.
logcluster.org

For more information on the project, please reach out to Katherine.Ely@wfp.org