The WREC Project

Environmental Sustainability in Humanitarian Logistics
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Who we are

The Global Logistics Cluster, with the support of a coalition of humanitarian partner organizations - Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Save the Children International (SCI), and the World Food Programme (WFP), have come together to develop the Waste Management Measuring, Reverse Logistics, Environmentally Sustainable Procurement and Transport, and Circular Economy (WREC) Project to produce harmonized guidance on waste management and greenhouse gas emissions, increase knowledge and awareness in the humanitarian community about green logistics, and support practitioners in environmental impact reduction, with a special focus on sustained field-based solutions.

The WREC Project is bringing together humanitarian partners, private sector stakeholders, and academia to make sure that today’s life-saving activities don’t have unintended environmental impacts that need cleaning up tomorrow. As part of this, the Global Logistics Cluster plays an active role in coordinating and collaborating with those leading complementary initiatives to ensure that this information is both available and contextualized for field-level practitioners’ use.

The project goals:

- **Focus** on waste & greenhouse gas emissions
- **Increase** knowledge and awareness across the community
- **Support** practitioners in impact reduction
- **Reach** hundreds of Logistics Cluster and project partners
The Project Activities

You can find below a summary of the main activities carried out in the framework of the WREC Project.

Gather and share data on the impact of logistics on the environment, raising awareness and presenting practical solutions to allow organisations to prioritise environmental sustainability.

Compile, collate and share guidance on how to mitigate environmental harm, using a single information portal accessible to all.

Focus on waste and greenhouse gas, amplifying good practice case studies and identifying local, affordable, and scalable solutions. Map and share complimentary initiatives.

Provide expert knowledge and guidance, through a dedicated help desk accessible to the entire humanitarian community.
What we work to achieve

Targeted Outcomes

• Sustained adoption of best environmental practice across the humanitarian supply chain community

• Safer, less polluted environments for crisis-affected communities

• The environmental footprint of humanitarian action is well understood by logisticians & stakeholders

Targeted Beneficiaries

Practitioners
Humanitarian logistics professionals in the Global Logistics Cluster and partner organizations will benefit from the practical guidance, training and access to environmental know-how.

Local Communities
Local communities will benefit from improved environmental conditions and identification of affordable environmental solutions.

Donors and Partners
Donors and partners will benefit from streamlined and common environmental criteria.
What we're proud of so far

**Green Procurement Workshop and Coordination**

On 27 June 2022, the WREC Project Team and the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management Team coordinated a session on "Green Procurement: Tendering Criteria and Item Specifications". The session was attended by 136 participants from 55 organizations, academia, and donor institutions to discuss challenges and solutions for the implementation of environmental sustainability initiatives in procurement. A quick summary of the webinar is available [here](#).

*Future webinars will be based on the WREC thematic areas and feedback from partners on identified gaps however include:* circular economy, reverse logistics, waste management, greenhouse gas emissions.

**Baseline Survey on Sustainable Supply Chains**

In September 2022, the WREC launched a baseline survey to collect feedback from humanitarian partners about their level of awareness on sustainable supply chains. The results are being used to guide the WREC activities in support of logistics practitioners in the field.

108 participants from more than 50 organizations responded to the survey: 44% of the participants indicated that the priority environmental area of interest is sustainable procurement, with circular economy and reverse logistics being the least understood concepts. Interestingly, 91% of respondents said that their organization does not have any mechanisms in place to measure waste volumes and 72% were unaware of any measurements of GHG emissions (41% no, 31% unsure). A full analysis report will be available on the WREC portal.
Partnering with Academia

In a move to identify future pathways of waste management and reverse logistics in the humanitarian context, the WREC Project has partnered with the Hanken School of Economics' HUMLOG Institute to conduct a qualitative research study on "Waste management and reverse logistics in the humanitarian context".

The research questions addressed in this study were:

- What is the current state of research and practice on waste management and reverse logistics in the humanitarian context?
- What are the gaps in waste management and reverse logistics in the humanitarian context?

The WREC project is also partnering with the Kuhne Logistics University (KLU) to begin a PhD quantitative research on both the existing methodologies used to measure waste creation and greenhouse gas emissions as well as the most effective solutions to manage and reduce them in the humanitarian supply chain context.
Online tools

In the framework of the work done by the Global Logistics Cluster and the WREC, the following online tools have been made available to the humanitarian community.

The WREC Information Portal

- Launched in Jan 2022, the WREC information portal currently hosts over 60 links and documents (including tools, guidance, reports, and standards) as a compendium of best practices and information to support humanitarian logistics partners with environmentally sustainable approaches.

- Development of additional tools and guidance are forthcoming and will be separated by thematic areas related to the WREC (waste management, procurement, greenhouse gas emissions, and circular economy).

- Updated Waste Management and Recycling infrastructure by country available for the humanitarian partners on WREC and on the Logistics Cluster's digital Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) platform.

LCA Platform

- The Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) tool contains baseline information about the logistics capacity of countries relevant for humanitarian emergency preparedness and response. The tool is hosted by WFP for the global humanitarian community.

- LCAs cover logistics infrastructure, processes and regulations, markets, and contacts in a given country. There are currently LCAs for over 100 countries. Assessments are conducted in a given country every two years, mainly by WFP logistics staff and also by staff from other humanitarian organisations or private sector partners. This information is then published on this platform by Global Logistics Cluster.
What next?

Baseline Survey on Sustainable Supply Chains:
- Report and main findings will be available in Q4 2022, mid-term and end-of-project surveys will be launched in 2023

Project team recruitment and on-boarding:
- Project Manager & four Environmental Specialists being actively recruited, supporting the humanitarian logistics community from Nov 2022

Initiatives mapping:
- The WREC team is in the process of mapping existing Working Groups on Sustainable Procurement within the humanitarian community and is working with the Joint Initiative on a background note with an overview of partner initiatives on green procurement.
- The WREC Project Team will be holding a series of coordination meetings with thought leaders and stakeholders from partner organizations in an effort to harmonize activities and objectives and avoid overlap on issues related to green procurement, greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy, and waste management.

Workshops & Information Sessions:
- Based on feedback from partners (linked with survey to identify gaps)
- Centralized calendar of events available online
- Operationalize ECHO Min Environmental Standards
The WREC project looks to learn from partners and share best practices with the entire humanitarian community to reduce our collective impact and we need you to share your initiatives with us! You can reach out to the WREC project at Global.WREC@wfp.org.