

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN: SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Good practice title:	<i>Reverse logistics of Cartridges</i>
Contact person:	abdulqader.rasool@drc.ngo – IT Specialist
Region:	Middle East
Country:	Iraq
Process cluster (unit) or premises	IT
Year of implementation:	2021
Good practice description:	<p><i>DRC Iraq has partnered with a local supplier to facilitate the sustainable management of used printer cartridges. Through this collaboration, DRC ensures that empty printer cartridges, regardless of type, brand and source, are sent back for responsible recycling and reuse. The local supplier provides dedicated collection boxes and manages the logistics of collecting the empty cartridges from DRC's facilities.</i></p> <p><i>As of now, 50 empty cartridges from DRC have been successfully returned for reuse, significantly contributing to reducing the waste footprint of the organization. The service provided the local supplier is free of charge, supporting DRC's commitment to sustainability and minimizing its environmental impact. By participating in this initiative, DRC not only helps reduce the volume of cartridge waste but also supports the circular economy by extending the life cycle of these cartridges.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to this cartridge take-back program, DRC Iraq is actively working to reduce its dependency on physical printing through the promotion of digital alternatives. This includes the adoption of digital signatures, minimizing paper usage and thereby further contributing to the organization's overall waste reduction and environmental sustainability goals.</i></p>
Good practice result:	<p><i>By returning empty printer cartridges for reuse, DRC is actively reducing the amount of waste generated by its operations. Printer cartridges are often made of non-biodegradable plastic, and when improperly disposed of, they can contribute significantly to plastic pollution. This initiative ensures that these cartridges are responsibly managed and continually reused instead of discarded.</i></p> <p><i>By working with a local partner, DRC is fostering partnerships that support local economies and promote sustainability in the region. This collaboration not only benefits DRC but also contributes to the local economy by supporting businesses that engage in value chain.</i></p> <p><i>Beyond cartridge reverse logistics, DRC's effort in digitalization significantly reduces the need for printed documents, helping to further minimize waste and the environmental impact of DRC's activities. Digital tools not only help DRC reduce its environmental footprint, but also improve operational efficiency and security.</i></p>

