

Kenya's Sustainable Supply Chain

An environmentally sustainable & economically efficient response to a major food recall by Kenya's Supply Chain team



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

The Kenya Supply Chain team implemented a series of sustainability best practices leading to cost savings and a reduced environmental impact.

WFP's Kenya Country Office serves as a logistics hub to operations across eastern Africa, arranging transportation and storage of key commodities to ensure they are accessible when needed.

At the end of 2024, WFP realized there was a problem with one of its food suppliers and issued a recall ensuring only safe food was provided to the people that WFP serves. With this recall, the supply chain team in Kenya Country Office was responsible for disposing 1,398 mt of specialized nutritious food through sale to animal feed

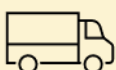
producers; equivalent to 48 fully loaded trucks.

The Kenya Country Office is a leader in supply chain sustainability and is serving as the first country office to implement the holistic suite of sustainability solutions for operations. With many environmental sustainability initiatives already ongoing across the country's supply chain operations, the supply chain team was able to leverage its environmental expertise and infrastructure to respond efficiently and sustainably to this challenge.

DECREASED COST | REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS | AVOIDED WASTE

Implemented Reverse Logistics

Saved 25% of trip cost from Dadaab to Kakuma through having reverse logistics discounts included in contracts



Sold Damaged Food

Recovered 175,000 USD by selling damaged food; **avoided 1,398mt of waste & reduced 2,171mt of CO2e**¹



Recycled Packaging Waste

Avoided 150 mt of waste sent to landfills and **generated \$3,000 USD** in additional revenue by selling recycling



Supported Local Supplier

Through supporting the capacity of a local supplier, production was brought closer to people in need, **reducing 81mt of CO2e** from transport



1. Compared to the standard common practice of destruction

Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned



Warehouse workers unpacking the food to be donated.

“ We were proud of our ability to keep waste out of landfill and even generate funds. We were also successful in our reverse logistics operations enabling us to easily centralize stocks from cooperating partners’ warehouses across eight countries at a discounted rate.

What we found challenging was the destuffing of the damaged food for its end-of-life treatment, and the transportation and storage of the waste given the packaging volumes.

Through this exercise, we learned that it’s incredibly important to plan and ensure that there are companies available with the capacity to recycle huge waste volumes. We also saw that it’s important to have bailing machines to compact the waste for easy storage and transportation.

Detailed Implementation

1. IMPLEMENTING REVERSE LOGISTICS

- Stocks from eight counties were centralized in Nairobi and segregated in a warehouse.
- Logistics contracts with Kenyan transporters include a clause that enables WFP a discount on return trips.
- Some Kenyan transporters have informally agreed to transport waste back from delivery sites to Nairobi at no additional cost.

2. SELLING DAMAGED FOOD

- Stocks were approved for disposal by sale for animal feed by the relevant authorities.
- Stocks were destuffed from cartons/sachets into a non-branded polypropylene bags.

3. RECYCLING PACKAGING WASTE

- 84,000 empty cartons (67 mt) and 830,000 non-degradable sachets (83 mt) were accumulated and stored in WFP warehouse.
- Samples of the cartons and sachets were delivered to the two approved recyclers, but neither had the capacity to recycle the non-degradable sachets.
- A new supplier was approached and samples delivered. They agreed to undertake the recycling at no cost to WFP.

- The new recycler, Ramani Warehouse located in Thika town, is registered and approved by NEMA to undertake operations which include recycling of materials; their end products includes eco- boards.

4. SUPPORTING LOCAL SUPPLIER

- While the primary supplier was addressing the quality issues, the alternative supplier would be located overseas.
- The Kenya Country Office worked with a local Kenyan supplier, Bulto, to build their capacity enabling them to meet WFP’s strict quality standards.
- Over the course of two months the local supplier started producing the Specialized Nutritious Food that the operation needed. A total of 480 mt was produced within the two months.

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