Sustainable Supply Chain: Sharing Best Practices

Best Practice title:	*Sharing Facilities for Efficiency and Sustainability*
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Organization:	**Save the Children**
Country and Region:	Sudan, Southern Africa
Year of implementation:	2024
Best practice description *(why, how and who was involved)*:	*The shared facility (warehouses, offices, accommodation) arrangement led by SCI Sudan has provided a strong example of how collaboration among humanitarian agencies can drive both operational efficiency and sustainability. By hosting organizations such as Care, Mercy Corps, and others, SCI has enabled all participants to significantly reduce costs related to rent, electricity, and fuel. This setup minimizes the need for multiple generators, which not only cuts down on diesel consumption but also contributes to a notable reduction in CO_2 emissions.*
Best practice result *(does it reduce cost, C02 emissions, waste, etc)*:	*Sharing facilities with peer organizations has proven to be a strategic move that brings both financial and environmental benefits. By co-locating in the same premises, organizations significantly reduce their rental expenses, as the cost of the space is divided among multiple organizations. This arrangement also leads to lower electricity bills, since shared usage of lighting, air conditioning, and office equipment minimizes overall consumption. More importantly, the environmental impact is reduced—fewer generators are needed to power the shared space, which directly translates into lower diesel usage and a substantial decrease in CO_2 emissions.* *Beyond cost and sustainability, shared facilities foster collaboration and resource optimization. Organizations benefit from shared services such as security, cleaning, and internet, which not only reduce operational costs but also improve service quality through pooled resources.*
Challenges encountered *(if any)*:	*While sharing facilities with peer organizations brings many benefits, it also comes with a set of challenges that need to be carefully managed to ensure the arrangement remains effective and sustainable.* *One of the primary challenges is coordination and communication. When multiple organizations operate under one roof, aligning shared responsibilities such as maintenance, cleaning schedules, or generator usage—can be complex. Differences in organizational culture, priorities, or working hours may lead to misunderstandings or inefficiencies if not addressed through clear agreements and regular dialogue.*
Lessons Learned *(what would you do differently, what tips would you share with other organizations willing to develop the same initiative?)*	*The shared facilities experience has offered several valuable lessons that can inform future decisions and improve collaboration among peer organizations.* *One of the key lessons learned is the importance of clear communication and coordination. While the idea of sharing space is straightforward, its execution requires detailed planning and ongoing dialogue. Establishing shared responsibilities, such as how costs are split, who manages maintenance, and how common areas are used, must be agreed upon early and revisited regularly to avoid misunderstandings. The experience also highlighted the value of joint planning for sustainability. By coordinating the use of generators and investing in shared solar*

systems, organizations not only reduced fuel costs but also minimized their environmental footprint.