

WFP Venezuela's Sustainable Supply Chain

An environmentally sustainable and efficient waste management approach



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



VECO MSD, Logistics and Program have created a new culture of collaborative work leading to major cost savings and a reduced environmental impact of waste.

Humanitarian operations generate significant logistical waste, including packaging, pallets, and fleet components. WFP Venezuela Country Office (VECO) implemented a reverse logistics approach to reduce environmental impact, cut costs, and promote circular economy principles. This case demonstrates how integrating waste management into supply chain operations can deliver triple impact: environmental protection, social benefits, and financial savings.

The journey began in 2023 when VECO Management Service Division (MSD) shifted from

a linear approach to a more sustainable waste management system at its central office in Venezuela, engaging agencies from the building such as Resident Coordinator Office (RCO). The initiative then expanded to address logistics waste generated during food distributions through a nationwide reverse logistics scheme and sustainable principles. Its success was driven by strong supplier and cooperative partners engagement, reinforced by contractual clauses requiring the transport of tertiary and secondary packaging waste.

DECREASED COST | REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS | AVOIDED WASTE

VECO office impulsed waste recovery

17.4 tons of waste recovered from entire tower: glass, plastic, paper, aluminum, cardboard, metals and tetra packs.



Recycled logistics packaging

Avoided 73 tons of waste sent to landfills and **generated \$11,800¹** in additional revenue by selling recycling in less than 2 years.



Financial savings

\$1,000,000 saved by reducing plastic and warehouse space.
\$ 10,000 saved in EPR² sack reconstruction.
\$ 1,900 saved by repairing 76 pallets.



CO2e reduction

Reducing 60mt of CO2e from reverse logistics recycling.
\$ 0 investment on transportation.



¹ Equivalent to six months of salary for a storekeeper in one warehouse.

² Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Insightful reflections from the private sector



Furniture made from broken pallets.



VECO team visiting a paper/cardboard recycler premises in Caracas.

“ WFP VECO commitment with the environment sustainability helps build the productive network that our region needs.

This partnership with WFP is not only about processes, figures, or projections—it's about the real impact we create. Tons of waste that never reach landfills. Resources returning to the production chain. Communities benefiting from a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

When we combine our capabilities and recycling experience, we multiply that impact exponentially. Working with partners such as WFP who not only understand the importance of recycling but live it, drive it, and turn it into tangible results is truly a privilege.

In addition, WFP efforts to promote education and a culture of recycling have had a multiplier effect on other companies that have started recovering waste in offices and plants (*MultiRecicla, recycler contractor of VECO*).

Detailed Implementation

1. ESTIMATING WASTE PACKAGING TO PLAN REVERSE LOGISTICS

- Weight of different packaging items and forecast volumes which will be generated during distributions to plan reverse logistics schemes.

2. IDENTIFY SUPPLIERS AND ENGAGEMENT

- Identify, visit and include a clause for waste transportation in all transport contracts with suppliers.
- The clause allows support from suppliers to transport used packaging when returning empty to WFP warehouse.
- Create a culture of shared responsibility along the entire supply chain with admin, logistics, program and supplier teams.

3. SEGREGATION AND REVERSE LOGISTICS

- Segregate waste at field warehouses by cooperative partners.
- Cooperative partners transport waste via reverse logistics to WFP warehouses.
- Recycling companies collect waste from WFP warehouses to recycle into new products.

4. MONITORING AND INFORMATION SHARING

- Waste transported is registered through MoDa³ tool (through the web form or mobile form) by cooperative partners, WFP staff or suppliers.
- Data is stored at the Cloud and visualized through Tableau (Management Indicator Dashboard KPI-Key Performance Indicator).
- The tool enables to anticipate the amount of waste returned to the main WFP warehouses, predict the volume of recycable waste and efficiently plan of supply chain operations.
- Data is shared with providers and cooperative partners to know about waste successfully recovered together.

5. OTHER BEST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED:

- Reduce the plastics used in food kitting and save the space in the warehouse used for this activity.
- End of life tires and vehicle spare parts are stored in field offices, and transported back through reverse logistics (at no cost) for

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³ Mobile Operational Data Acquisition