

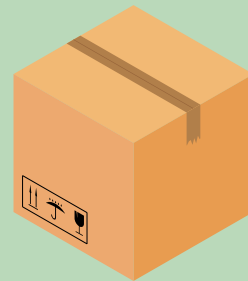
KEY TIPS TO MINIMIZE WASTE DURING ACUTE EMERGENCY CRISES

Inaction or improper management of waste during emergencies can generate unnecessary environmental, financial, and health issues later to the affected community and surroundings. Here are some key actions that you can take during the initial stages of an acute emergency to reduce that negative impact of waste.

IDENTIFY WASTE ISSUES

At the warehouse and distribution points:

- Check where **waste is accumulated**
- Make a **list of items** per each location
- Try to **quantify and track** them.



Common items:

- Cardboards
- Plastic films
- Pallets
- Plastic straps
- Woven bags
- Jute bags
- Fleet waste
- E-waste
- Organic items
- Water bottles

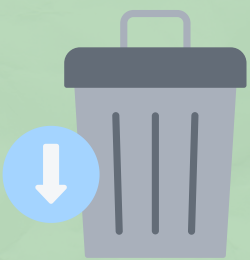
EXPLORE LOCAL WASTE SOLUTIONS



- Coordinate with the WASH colleagues and local authorities to **understand the available services** on collection and infrastructure.
- Check/build the Logcluster mapping on **Recycling and Waste Management infrastructure (LCA)***.
- Explore options of reverse logistics, using contracted trucks to bring back packaging and hazardous waste for processing to neighbouring countries.

e.g. Egypt Mapping: <https://logcluster.org/en/document/egypt-waste-management-and-recycling-assessment-november-2023>

TAKE ACTION



- **Collect and store your segregated waste.** Even if there is no time for a long term solution, collect your different waste items and store them until you have time or a solution to manage them.
- **Reuse or repurpose packaging items** such as pallets, cardboards, woven bags etc, internally or through an existing local initiatives.
- Schedule **collection with recycling companies** or transfer your recyclable items to them. If recycling companies aren't operating because of the context, store your recyclables until they start operations again.
- Keep **organic waste separated** from the other waste and set a site for composting.
- Store **hazardous waste separately** (e.g. fleet waste, electronic waste, chemicals, medical waste, etc.) in specific area and containers.
- Dispose only the non-recyclable, non-hazardous and non-compostable waste to existing landfills. Alternatively, jointly build a **temporary disposal site***.
- **Communicate with your team** about waste management procedures and assign responsibilities.

* [WHO guidance available here](#). The bottom of the temporary/emergency disposal site must be sealed with a layer of impermeable material (e.g. clay) and located far from water sources to avoid ground and water contamination

FURTHER RESOURCES:

[Disaster Waste Management Guidelines \(OCHA-UNEP\)](#)
[WREC Quick Guide on Waste Management](#)

For more information, contact the **GLC WREC's Help Desk** global.wrec@wfp.org.