GREEN PROCUREMENT LANDSCAPE

Who is setting the pace in humanitarian green procurement?

LOGISTICS CLUSTER

WREC
Environmental Sustainability in Humanitarian Supply Chain

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Executive Summary

The humanitarian sector is gaining awareness of the negative effects that well-intended humanitarian action can have on the environment, exacerbating risk and vulnerability if managed inadequately or addressed too late. Adopting a coordinated approach across humanitarian partners and Clusters to mainstream 'green procurement'[1] considerations into day-to-day supply chain operations is paramount to minimize the potential negative impacts on local communities and the environment, supporting the systematic integration of cross-cutting issues in the activities of clusters and their members.

The current document: 'Green Procurement Landscape: who's setting the pace in humanitarian green procurement' is an analysis and landscape mapping of humanitarian organisation's work on environmentally sustainable procurement practices. This work is intended to support humanitarian procurement and logistics professionals to integrate environmental sustainability into their procurement processes. It identifies existing initiatives and resources across the humanitarian sector, providing a foundation for collaboration initiatives and key partners who are reducing environmental impacts at the source, avoiding duplication of efforts. The WREC[1] project maintains a coordination group with current stakeholders on 'green procurement'[2] and will maintain this mapping on a regular basis.

In 2022, the WREC collaborated with the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management (JI) to create the first mapping of 'Who's Doing What on Sustainable Procurement'[3]. This mapping gave an overview of the initiatives, projects, networks, and groups working on green procurement, as well as the tools and guidance available; it was a first step in mapping the range of sustainability initiatives in the sector. The current document expands on the most recent initiatives to mainstream green procurement practices across humanitarian purchasing mechanisms, outlining which resources are available across the sector.

The methodology for this mapping was based on desk research, a survey[4] distributed to representatives of various organisations and collaboration initiatives, and follow-up discussions with representatives of these organisations. This mapping represents a 'living document', since it will be updated over time to ensure that humanitarians have access to the most up-to-date information.

Sustainable Procurement incorporates broader Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects that are broader in scope than 'Green Procurement.' The WREC project focuses on the 'Green Procurement' aspect, considered as a ***strategic approach*** *that emphasizes environmental responsibility in purchasing decisions. This approach supports purchasing of goods and services from suppliers that are committed to minimizing environmental impact, particularly in terms of reducing energy consumption and waste generation.*

[1] WREC: Waste management and measuring, reverse logistics, environmentally sustainable procurement and transport, and circular economy.

[2] The WREC project has defined in the 'WREC approaches to Environmental Sustainability Concepts & Processes its own definition for each workstream its addressing, more information is available on the following link: WREC Approaches to Environmental Sustainability Concepts & Processes, August 2023 | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)

[3] Link to the previous mapping exercise: JI & WREC mapping: Who is doing what on sustainable procurement | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)

[4] Green Procurement 3Ws mapping survey sent via Forms on the 9th of November 2023 and closed on the 17th of November 2023.

Target Audience

This document has been developed with humanitarian logisticians and procurement professionals in mind and seeks to provide a landscape analysis of existing resources, networks, and tools that will support the incorporation of 'green procurement'[5] strategies and principles into their day-to-day operations. This document is also intended to provide key points of contact of supply chain professionals who are developing green procurement solutions or have the experience of implementing these in their operations through which others can learn from and share experiences.

The WREC project team can be reached at any time for additional guidance, support, and/or networking with relevant key stakeholders via: Global.WREC@wfp.org.

Who is setting the pace in humanitarian green procurement?

The purpose of this updated mapping is to serve as an initial step to encourage collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts by offering visibility of the green procurement landscape in the humanitarian sector.

As shown by the WREC Procurement survey[6], representatives from collaboration initiatives and individual organisations across the humanitarian sector are actively implementing green procurement initiatives across their supply chain operations. This mapping has included organisations with varying levels of green procurement implementation; thus, some collaboration initiatives or organisations will be more experienced in some areas than in others.

Figure 1 (below) represents a widespread overview of the humanitarian organisations which have contributed to this mapping exercise. Input was received from representatives of collaboration initiatives and individual organisations affiliated with collaboration initiatives or projects dedicated to environmentally sustainable procurement.

[5] The WREC project has defined in the 'WREC approaches to Environmental Sustainability Concepts & Processes its own definition for each workstream its addressing, more information is available on the following link: WREC Approaches to Environmental Sustainability Concepts & Processes, August 2023 | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)

[6] Green Procurement 3Ws mapping survey sent via Forms on the 9th of November 2023 and closed on the 17th of November 2023.

Figure 1 WREC Green Procurement Landscape Mapping – Who

Green procurement priorities and resources across the sector

2024 priorities

As an extension to the previous mapping exercise completed in collaboration with the Joint Initiative on Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management (JI), those who provided inputs to the WREC green procurement survey were asked to share an overview of their 2024 priorities in green procurement with the purpose to provide visibility of the areas of focus on green procurement initiatives for the new year. Figure 2 (below) provides a summary of the common green procurement 2024 priorities identified.

COMMON GREEN PROCUREMENT 2024 PRIORITIES

	Build roadmap	Training	Kick off Green Proc. practices	In country pilots	Green Specifications	Tendering Criteria
COLLABORATION INITIATIVE	UN Sustainable Working Group, Climate Action Accelerator (LCAs)	WREC, Fleet Forum		WREC	Joint Initiative , ICRC Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance, IAPG, WREC	The Sustainable Procurement working group of the REH
UN, INGOs & NGOs	Save the Children, Acted, UNICEF, Concern Worldwide, UNOPS, DRC	DCA, Acted	Medair	Acted, DRC, ACF	ESUPS, Acted, MSF, DCA, International Medical Corps, UNOPS	Save the Children, MSF, International Medical Corps, Concern Worldwide, ACF

Figure 2 Common Green Procurement 2024 priorities

As identified through the WREC 3Ws survey, the primary objective for most organisations and collaboration initiatives is to **build their environmental roadmap**. This involves identifying their biggest areas of environmental impact, implementing a policy, developing green procurement specifications for goods and services, training, integrating environmental needs into their tendering criteria, establishing performance metrics and methodologies to measure and track improvement. There is a notable potential for collaboration, given that most organisations that participated in the survey have stated similar areas priority areas for 2024.

Using these insights, the WREC team is available to assist in organising and encouraging collaboration efforts to accomplish these objectives. This involves collating and making available various tools across the humanitarian sector, as well as using the WREC Green Procurement working group to address challenges encountered in the pursuit of these goals. The WREC team is a platform to allow this collaboration to thrive by connecting organisations together.

Green Procurement Resources

As a next level of granularity, we asked all participants in the WREC 3Ws survey to share the type of resources they currently have available to ensure the integration of green procurement considerations into day-to-day operations, this mapping is summarised in Figure 3 and Figure 4 (below).

GREEN PROCUREMENT RESOURCES ACROSS COLLABORATION INITIATIVES

Collaboration Initiative	Policy	Tools	Guides	Case Studies	Webinars	Training	Green Specs.	Tendering Criteria	Advocacy (Donors)
Climate Action Accelerator		✓	✓		✓				✓
Fleet Forum		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Interagency Procurement Group (IAPG)	✓		✓				✓		
Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (Red Cross Red Crescent Network)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
The Joint Initiative		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
The Sustainable Procurement working group of REH		✓						✓	
UN Sustainable Working Group		✓	✓	✓		✓			
WREC project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 3 Green Procurement resources across collaboration initiatives

GREEN PROCUREMENT RESOURCES ACROSS UN, INGOs & NGOs

Organisation	Policy	Tools	Guides	Case Studies	Webinars	Training	Green Specs.	Tendering Criteria	Advocacy (Donors)
Acted	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Action Contre la Faim	✓		✓				✓	✓	
Concern Worldwide			✓			✓	✓		
DanChurchAid	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Danish Refugee Council	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Intl. Committee of Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Intl. Medical Corps	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Médecins Sans Frontières		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Save the Children International	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
UNICEF Supply Chain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNOPS	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

Figure 4 Green Procurement resources across individual organisations

Collaboration initiatives

Nine Procurement collaboration initiatives were identified across the humanitarian sector. These initiatives consist of working groups, forums, projects, and coordination groups which serve as a platform for organisations in the sector who are looking to collaborate to advance environmental initiatives across their supply chain operations. The list below is not exhaustive and will continue to be updated as new initiatives develop in the sector.

1. Climate Action Accelerator (CAA) Sustainable Procurement Working Group

The Climate Action Accelerator, a not-for-profit association, aims to mobilise a critical mass of community organisations to scale up climate solutions, contain global warming below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous runaway climate change. More than twenty-five organisations have joined the Accelerator and committed to act.

Below is a list of initiatives led by the Climate Action Accelerator:

- Co-construction of carbon and environmental roadmaps with partners with the objective to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and alleviate other environmental impacts. About half of their partners have published or are in the process of publishing their climate and environment roadmaps, all available online.[7]
- In collaboration with EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne) and the ICRC, CAA is conducting Life Cycle Analyses for key items of the sector. The expected outcomes are to have a streamlined LCA methodology, life cycle assessments and emission factors, as well as strategies to reduce the impact of the items analysed. Training material on the LCA methodology will be developed to support the harmonisation of LCA methodologies. All project outcomes will be available to all organisations in the sector. As part of the project an emission factor database with the newly developed emission factors as well as existing and pertinent factors for the humanitarian sector will be available and linked to the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator. The project will be completed by February 2025, all LCA results will be available by December 2024.[8]
- Online Solutions Hub with factsheets on climate and environmental solutions.[9] Factsheets provide an overview of solutions, key areas to consider when implementing the solution and provide access to existing tools, guidance and further reading. The development of the Solutions Hub is work in progress; all factsheets published so far are available.
- Development of a procurement toolbox that provides guidance and access to tools to support the operationalisation of decarbonisation targets for procurement. Initially for the use of CAA partners, the toolbox will be published on the CAA Solutions Hub once assessed by partners and further improved.
- Regular webinars to support the sector with the implementation of practices to reduce their environmental and carbon impact, inclusive of procurement.
- Operational support for partners to implement their carbon and environmental roadmaps, through both individual support and a procurement working group to exchange good practices.

For more information, please contact Sonja Schmid (sonja.schmid@climateactionaccelerator.org).

[7] Link to the resource: https://climateactionaccelerator.org/roadmaps/
[8] Link to the resource: Resources - Climate Action Accelerator
[9] Link to the resource: https://climateactionaccelerator.org.

2. Fleet Forum

The Fleet Forum was created with the mission to foster, facilitate, and cultivate connections among humanitarian aid and development organisations globally. It has evolved into an interagency association with over forty members. These members comprise international non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, Red Cross/Crescent organisations, commercial fleet operators, mobility product and service suppliers, donors, and academic institutions. Together, their collective focus is on advancing cleaner, safer, and more efficient humanitarian transport solutions in developing nations.
While transport plays a vital role in the success in providing aid for humanitarian organisations, it is essential to acknowledge that transport represents one of the most impactful categories to the environment due to the emissions produced when operating, due to this, members of the forum have committed to set a baseline and sustainability targets for at least 50% of their global fleet by Q3 2024 with the following leading indicators:

- Within 5 years 25% of vehicles of their member organisations will be euro3 or higher
- Within 2 years member organisations will participate in vehicle sharing initiatives in at least 20% of their operating countries.

A Call to Action has been drafted to support the Fleet Forum and its members to advocate with senior management, donors, and fleet-related suppliers. They are working on initiatives such as greening their fleet toolkit, implementing a sustainable fleet management training, advocacy with suppliers to establish reverse logistics for fleet waste and to act as a platform where logisticians can share best practices, lessons learned and technical sustainable fleet expertise.

For more information, please contact Paul Jansen (paul.jansen@fleetforum.org).

3. Inter–Agency Procurement Group

The Inter-agency Procurement Group is a group of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who commit to share and exchange information amongst members, provide help, advice, and to support each other and are a collective voice that promote the interests of the community among stakeholders. It is composed of thirty-one organisations[10] and is working as a group to deliver the environmental agenda across Logistics and Procurement activities. IAPG collates and shares resources from its members and makes them available across the humanitarian sector. The key deliverables they have made available are:

- Procurement essentials guide, environmental criteria for contracts and a Supplier Sustainability Policy from Save the Children.
- Set of supplier selection criteria at a market level which includes sustainability criteria.
- Supplier code of conduct.[11]

[10] ACTED, Action against Hunger (France & Spain), British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Christian Blind Mission, Concern, Danish Refugee Council, Goal, Humanity and Inclusion, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Islamic Relief, Marie Stopes, Mines Advisory Group International, Malaria Consortium, Medair, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam UK, Oxfam Intermon, People in Need, Plan International, Save the Children, Solidarités International, Sightsavers International, Tearfund, Terre des Hommes, Trocaire, Welthungerhilfe, and World Vision

[11] Link to the resource: About IAPG – The Inter-Agency Procurement Group (IAPG), Microsoft Word - IAPG Supplier Sustainability and Ethical Code of Conduct 1.0

Members of IAPG are working across different sustainability initiatives such as green procurement specifications, implementing green tendering criteria in their supplier assessments, rolling out environmental policies and training.

For more information, please contact coordinator@iapg.org.uk.

4. Quality, Social and Environmental Procurement Working Group

The quality, social, and environmental procurement working group (QSE) was formed in November 2010. It is an inter-agency working group in which its permanent members are ICRC, IFRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, MSF, and IOM.

Its long-term purpose is to optimise quality management performance, its main objectives are to harmonise quality management processes, technical specifications of core relief items, ensure inter-agency coordination, sharing of information and resources and to develop synergies concerning market intelligence, sourcing, and tenders, between others.

The group meets twice a year between its permanent members. There is a QSE Company Assessment Form[12] which includes environmental tendering criteria to assess suppliers in these areas.

For more information, please contact Afshin Amini (afsamini@icrc.org).

5. Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (Red Cross Red Crescent Network)

In September 2020, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) initiated the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA), which would span over a period of three years. The objective of SSCA is to embed three pillars of sustainability: environmental (planet), social (people) and economic (performance) in the supply chain activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, led by the ICRC. They have worked on a comprehensive list of initiatives:

- First revision of the specifications of the most purchased relief items, essential household, and food parcels to incorporate green specifications. This was developed for twelve main products and is available on the Standard Products Catalogue[13] with a sustainable information sheet[14] and packaging information[15] sheet containing explanations on how the specifications are defined on reducing packaging, using more sustainable materials and how to optimize palletization. For some items, a deeper reviewed is being done (i.e., Hygienic parcel, plastic mats).
- The Humanitarian Carbon Calculator[16], developed in collaboration with over a hundred humanitarian organisations, experts, and the European Union Humanitarian division (ECHO), is a practical tool that allows organisations to understand their sources of emissions, compare results, and build efficient reduction actions independently. The tool follows the Greenhouse Gas emission protocol methodology and guidance[17], utilising emission factors from reputable databases. It is available in English and French. An enhanced version is underway to accommodate larger businesses with over thirty reporting entities, developing automation to populate data in the tool and provide enhanced results, it is set to be released in early 2024 after a pilot phase.

[12] Link to the resource: Item-suppliers sustainability questionaire.xlsx (sharepoint.com)
[13] Link to the resource: Green - Standard products catalogue IFRC ICRC (redcross.int)
[14] Link to the resource: Information sheet: Sustainable procurement - Standard products catalogue IFRC ICRC (redcross.int)
[15] Link to the resource: Information sheet: Packaging - Standard products catalogue IFRC ICRC (redcross.int)
[16] Link to the resource: Humanitarian Carbon Calculator (HCC) Infographics | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)
[17] Link to the resource: Guidance | GHG Protocol

- In 2021, UNHCR, IFRC and ICRC initiated a research and development project to produce a more environmentally friendly tarpaulin. The research involved a life cycle assessment to identify the key environmental impacts of the existing tarpaulins. Findings revealed that major impacts occurred during production due to fossil fuel resource use and during end-of-life disposal. The study also identified the plastic's UV resistance as a key factor influencing durability. The latest version, currently undergoing field testing, utilizes 14% less polyethylene, boasts increased durability, and can be reused due to enhanced UV resistance and improved mechanical properties.
- As an additional tangible deliverable, the SSCA has developed the Sustainable fleet[18] training which is focused on providing knowledge and raise awareness on the environmental impact of operating a fleet of vehicles and ways to reduce its impact. Standard Operating Procedures[19] and a monitoring system to reduce vehicle workshop waste and secure that waste is sustainably managed has also been developed.

For further detail on these initiatives and to access the tools available please check the November 2023 SSCA's newsletter[20]. For additional initiatives led by ICRC please go to the respective section in 'Organisational Initiatives' from this document.

For more information, please contact Carmen Garcia Duro (cgarcia.duro@icrc.org).

6. The Joint Initiative for Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management

The Joint Initiative is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, with an overarching goal to support humanitarian actors deliver lifesaving assistance more effectively and efficiently by protecting people from environmental risks. It brings together twenty-six humanitarian actors from the United Nations (UN) system, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), donors and academics.

The main objective is to decrease the adverse environmental effects of humanitarian action, with a specific emphasis on reducing packaging waste. It aims to build a greater understanding of the packaging waste challenge across the humanitarian sector and bring stakeholders together to find and implement creative and collective solutions. The Joint Initiative's procurement workstream aims to develop tools and resources for procurement staff, helping them to incorporate packaging sustainability into their work and decision-making processes. The project has developed the following resources with regards to procurement[21]:

- Who's doing what on Sustainable Procurement[22]: developed in collaboration with the WREC project, the earlier version to this extended mapping exercise.
- Criteria on environmental sustainability with a focus on packaging[23]: this guide was developed with input from logistics and procurement officers from 15 organisations led primarily by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and is broken down into three categories: technical, administrative and transport.
- Webinar series titled 'Packaging Matters' and a compendium of case studies which explore partners' endeavours in enhancing their procurement practices, specifically in relation to packaging sustainability.

[18] Link to the resource: Sustainable Fleet (csod.com)
[19] Link to the resource: GLO-SOP-Workshop Waste Management v2.docx (sharepoint.com)
[20] Link to the resource: Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA) newsletter (Nov 2023)
[21] Link for more information on the Joint Initiative: Joint Initiative On Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management - EECentre
[22] Link to the resource: JI & WREC mapping: Who is doing what on sustainable procurement | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)
[23] Link to the resource: Microsoft PowerPoint - sustainable criteria April 2022 (amazonaws.com)

- Procurement Decision Tree[24] to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Humanitarian Packaging. The tool can be used to inform decision-making related to the packaging of humanitarian relief items, or items used in the office, in events or training sessions. This resource was developed in collaboration with IOM and Acted.
- An overview of the "alternatives to virgin plastic" such as bio-based, biodegradable, compostable to provide guidance to logisticians and procurement professionals.[25]
- An infographic[26] to help promote better understanding of the properties of several types of plastic used in the packaging of humanitarian assistance.
- In addition, the Joint Initiative facilitates a working group that aims to find ways to make the packaging of ready-to-use therapeutic food and high-energy biscuits more environmentally friendly, specifically focusing on metalised laminated sachets.

For more information, please contact Samantha Brangeon (samantha.brangeon@tetratech.com), Fiona Cook (Fiona.Cook@tetratech.com) and Amro El Zoubi (amro.elzoubi@wfp.org).

7. The Sustainable Procurement Working Group of the Réseau Environnement Humanitaire (REH)

Composed of representatives from: Action Contre la Faim (ACF), OXFAM Intermon, Humanity, and Inclusion (HI), Médecins du Monde (France and Belgium), Croix Rouge Francaise, Première Urgence International and Bioforce.

This working group began developing, in 2022, the Sustainable Procurement Criteria Database (SPCD)[27] tool which has now been launched and provides a comprehensive list of sustainable procurement criteria for thirty different categories of goods and services (facilities, catering, security, insurance, construction, etc.). This tool is accessible in English, French, and Spanish. The objective of this tool is to support procurement professionals when assessing green procurement requirements in tendering processes. The criteria included in the tool were collected from previous tenders issued and have the flexibility to be used both in global and local contexts.

The working group is seeking feedback from humanitarian organisations to enhance the collaborative and real-time tool. The targeted audience is the procurement and supply chain departments. In addition to this tool, efforts are undergoing to create a comprehensive compilation of contractual clauses related to sustainability criteria to be available across the sector.

For more information, please contact : sustainableprocurement@environnementhumanitaire.org and Céline Heim (cheim@actioncontrelafaim.org).

8. UN Sustainable Working Group

The UN Sustainable Working Group is within the framework of the High-Level Committee Management (HLCM) Procurement Network in 2007[28] and was created with the aim to facilitate the integration of sustainable procurement

[24] Link to the resource: PROCUREMENT DECISION TREE (eecentre.org)
[25] Link to the resource: Alternatives To Conventional (Petroleum-Based) Plastics in Packaging (eecentre.org)
[26] Link to the resource: Humanitarian Plastic Packaging Properties and Impact (eecentre.org)
[27] Link to the resource: Sustainable Procurement Criteria Database (SPCD) of the Sustainable Procurement Working Group, September 2023 – Réseau Environnement Humanitaire
[28] The HLCM was established in 2020, its objective is to identify and analyse administrative management reforms to improve efficiency and simplify business practices within the United Nations System.

considerations in the procurement activities of the UN system. The group has been active in promoting the sustainable procurement agenda and has spearheaded the development of several tools for UN practitioners, including training courses, guidelines, frameworks, and case studies, among others. Much progress has been made by individual UN agencies to pursue sustainable procurement through their policies and operations.

As one of the main deliverables they have developed are the Sustainable Procurement Indicators which are twelve indicators that allow to monitor, measure and report on sustainable procurement within the UN system ensuring there is a common framework amongst agencies to benchmark and measure sustainable procurement implementation. They are aligned with the UN sustainable procurement commitments as stated in the UN 2020-2030 Sustainability Strategy[29] and provide a significant opportunity to educate suppliers and countries about the UN's expectations regarding sustainability procurement requirements.

For more information, please contact Anne-Claire Howard (anneclaireh@unops.org).

9. WREC Project and Green Procurement Coordination Working Group

The WREC project, seeks to identify and reduce the adverse environmental consequences of humanitarian logistics through awareness, practical guidance, and real-time environmental expertise. The project is a multi- donor (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, UPS Foundation), multi-stakeholder project coordinated by the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) and supported by a coalition of humanitarian organisations the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Save the Children International, and World Food Programme (WFP).
The project intends to inject environmental expertise into the humanitarian community through Environmental Specialists focusing on green procurement, waste management, circular economy, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Environmental Specialists sit within the coalition partner organisations to capitalise on existing complimentary activities and initiatives, and to better reach field-based practitioners. The Environmental Specialist dedicated to green procurement is embedded within Save the Children International and coordinates and supports the following overarching objectives:

- Enhance coordination with all Global Logistics Cluster partners to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts in implementing sustainable procurement solutions with a focus on waste and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop consolidated guidance, awareness-raising resources, training materials and tools for use by field-based logistics practitioners to support their adoption of best environmental practices in humanitarian operations.

Gather existing case studies and good practices on WREC priority themes (green procurement, circular economy, reverse logistics, GHG/carbon accounting, waste management including recycling and innovation) and identify opportunities for replication of these projects in selected field locations.

The WREC Green Procurement Coordination group (GPCG) was developed as an initiative of the WREC project considering feedback provided during the Green Procurement workshop in June 2022 and a baseline survey conducted in September 2022, which revealed that a significant proportion of humanitarian organisations lacked mechanisms to ensure the environmental sustainability of their sourced products, and there was a general lack of awareness regarding the establishment of such mechanisms.

[29] UN 2020-2030 Sustainability strategy: INF_3_Strategy-for-Sustainability-Management-in-the-UN-System.pdf (unemg.org)

The objectives of the GPCG group are summarized below:

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of ongoing efforts in the field of environmentally sustainable procurement among humanitarian organisations[30;]
- Promote knowledge dissemination, provide regular updates on sustainable procurement practices and processes, and foster cross-functional synergies to drive efficiency and effectiveness on green procurement.

The group holds quarterly coordination meetings where logistics and procurement leaders participate. The purpose of these meetings is to serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, address challenges, and collaborate in developing solutions that will contribute to the achievement of environmental goals. The WREC **team aims to execute in-country** pilots and provide in person training in 2024 as part of their strategy to create practical solutions. A considerable number of resources are currently available on the WREC website[31] for all humanitarian organisations.

For more information and to join the Green Procurement mailing list please contact Paola Robert: (paola.robert@wfp.org) and the global WREC project team (global.wrec@wfp.org).

Organisational Initiatives (internal)

This section outlines internal environmental initiatives conducted by humanitarian organisations, and points to resources widely available to the humanitarian community.

1. Acted

Acted is a private, independent, non-profit humanitarian organisation which vision is guided by the motto "Think Local – Act Global," reflecting the need to rely on a deep understanding of local territories and contexts to develop and implement actions based on local knowledge, structures, and capacities. This local thinking contributes to a global response running through all Acted programming, operations, and mobilisation efforts to work together towards the building of a 3ZERO world: a world with Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, and Zero Poverty.

Acted has been at the forefront of greening its operations since 2017 when the organisation performed its first 3-scope carbon footprint assessment. Acted greening strategy is driven by four main goals: 1) Mobilize its staff, partners, suppliers and donors and the humanitarian ecosystem at large, 2) Measure its greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint , 3) Reduce its negative impact on the environment in particular its greenhouse gas emissions and 4) Adapt its programming related to fighting climate change and preserving the environment, reducing environmental degradation and pollution, and invest by mobilising private capital and blended finance to amplify its positive impact with solutions to the most pressing social and environmental problems.[32]

Through this strategy, Acted aims to reduce its carbon footprint by at least 30% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality for its operations in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [33] recommendations, and to reach 25% of its project portfolio dedicated to the environment.

As part of their green procurement initiatives, Acted is currently focusing on systematising the implementation of sustainable tendering criteria, developing green procurement specifications for the most emissive categories such as

[30] The present document is part of this work.
[31] WREC project website: Green Logistics | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)
[32] Source: (ACTED , 2021) acted-greening-strategy-en.pdf
[33] The IPCC is an organisation of governments that are members of the United Nations or the World Meteorological Organisation. The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments with scientific information to develop climate policies.

construction works and core relief items, and develop a business model with donors on long-term green investments such as solarisation and moving to electric/hybrid fleet.

As part of its sustainability commitments, Acted is affiliated with various organisations and initiatives, including the Joint Initiative On Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management (JI), REH[34], the Fleet Forum and the WREC project.

For more information, please contact Fanny Devoucoux (fanny.devoucoux@Acted.org) and André Krummacher (andre.krummacher@Acted.org).

2. Action Contre la Faim

Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has adopted a climate and environmental approach through its Environmental & Climate Policy 2022-2025[35]. Whilst prioritising the challenges posed by starvation and its underlying causes, this policy encourages environmentally responsible behaviour and promotes actions that are environmentally sustainable. The strategy seeks to centrally address the environmental and social issues throughout the entire project lifecycle starting with the requirements identification stage to its completion. It also encourages the rethinking of procurement and decision-making processes, while ensuring that they meet the operational requirements of the organisation and its stakeholders. This approach also encourages reflection on how ACF manages goods (including goods delivered to communities) and services throughout their life cycle, for which they have recently finalised mapping the carbon footprint of their head and country offices.

A Sustainable Purchasing Guide was developed in 2023 and is being rolled out in 2024 at head office in the missions and country offices via training and support for implementation, it is not yet available but will be shared across the sector later in the year. Since 2023 environmental and social criteria have been included in tendering processes at head office and in several pilot international offices for strategic purchasing. This guide puts into practice the principles set out in ACF's Purchasing Policy concerning protection of the environment by limiting the environmental and social impact of the organisation's supply chain operations.

ACF is also a co-leader of the Sustainable Procurement Working Group at REH, a member of the Observatoire des Achats Responsables (ObsAr – Observatory of Sustainable Procurement) and IAPG.

For more information, please contact Céline Heim (environmentrequest@actioncontrelafaim.org).

3. Concern Worldwide

Concern's strategy for environmental protection is focused in conserving natural resources and, when feasible, repairing damage and reversing adverse trends in the areas they support. Beyond addressing immediate needs like food and livelihood support, they collaborate with farmers to assist them in adapting to climate change and developing resilience.

[34] Réseau Environnement Humanitaire

[35] Link to resource : https://www.environnementhumanitaire.org/ressource/politique-environnementale-daction-contre-la-faim/ and https://www.environnementhumanitaire.org/en/ressource/action-contre-la-faims-environmental-policy-may-2022/

As part of their initiatives, they have introduced a program known as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)[36]**Error! Bookmark not defined.**. This program offers a range of farming techniques aimed at enhancing the resilience and productivity of land affected by climate change, enabling farmers to better utilise and manage their natural resources. In 2019, farmers adopting this approach achieved higher yields compared to those using traditional methods, resulting in a 41% increase in peanut production and a 35% increase in sesame production.

When it comes to green procurement initiatives, they are currently working to implement sustainable tendering criteria as part of their procurement processes to ensure this is incorporated across their supply chain operations.

For more information, please contact Martin Dalton (martin.dalton@concern.net).

4. DanChurchAid (DCA)

DCA has taken a leading role in advancing climate adaptation and environmental initiatives in the countries where they operate. Their primary objective is to assist impoverished and vulnerable communities in adapting to the negative impacts of climate change.

In response to the escalating climate crisis and its interconnections with other environmental issues, DCA is committed to addressing climate change, fragility, and conflict comprehensively through integrated responses. Concurrently, DCA is actively engaging the Danish public, private sector, and political stakeholders to advocate for climate justice and promote sustainable consumption. This engagement extends to initiatives such as their Wefood[37] stores, and the establishment of ambitious climate partnerships with Danish companies to forge connections between local and global actions.

With regards to green procurement initiatives, they have developed green checklist to assist the design of green specifications as well as terms of references and to support their field, country and head quarter colleagues to source suppliers in terms of environmental criteria, they have a green procurement catalogue with sustainable specifications across different purchasing items, a sustainability training and as a next area of focus they are developing a 'Green your Office' inspirational site for staff which will be available for their partners.

For more information, please contact Grethe Rosenberg Nørgaard (grn@dca.dk).

5. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Due to their role in supporting displaced populations, the Danish Refugee Council, an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with operation in forty countries have reached the consensus that climate change, either as a primary factor or a multiplier, will contribute to an increase in the number of displaced people in the future. In response, DRC has implemented its comprehensive Framework on Climate Change and Environment guiding also the Go Green Operational principle.[38]

[36] Source: (Concern Worldwide, 2024) Climate Smart Agriculture: Back to basics to fight climate change and hunger | Concern Worldwide

[37] Wefood stores reduce food waste by selling items that regular supermarkets can no longer offer due to overdue 'best before' dates, incorrect labels, or damaged packaging. Despite these factors, the products are still edible and comply with the Danish food legislation.

[38] Source: (Danish Refugee Council, 2021) Microsoft Word - DRC Klima-pakke v02.docx

Based on consultation & research, and putting displacement at the centre, three core pillars for action are considered in DRC's Framework on Climate Change and Environment:

1) Climate adaptation in programmatic responses with focus area on environmental mainstreaming within programming through environmental screening and impacts assessment.

2) Mitigation and reduction of carbon footprint with focus areas on elaboration of carbon emission baseline and target setting for emissions reduction, sustainable supply chain policy, greening of DRC offices.

3) Advocacy and addressing the climate protection needs, with a focus area on Research with the Stockholm Environment Institute.

As part of their efforts to reduce their environmental and climate footprint, DRC, is building up a Global Sustainable Supply Chain Operational Handbook (OH) including policy, guidelines, and tools.

For more information, please contact Leïla Lecapitaine (leila.lecapitaine@drc.ngo).

6. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross has endeavoured to focus its efforts as an organisation to follow its principles of "do no harm" by implementing a considerable number of initiatives to ensure their operations are environmentally sustainable. Below is a list of examples and resources available of these initiatives:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is currently completing its Environmental and Decarbonisation Roadmap[39] with support from the Climate Action Accelerator. It details the strategies' the organisation plans to implement to achieve its goal of lowering carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2023, as compared to their 2018 annual baseline. The ICRC has identified measures to mitigate risks, assess their viability, and ensure their consistency with the organisation's humanitarian mission and mandate.
- When it comes to training the ICRC has developed an online introductory course[40] on quality, occupational health and safety, and environmental assessment awareness as part of its efforts to raise awareness with regards to the environmental impact of supply chain operations with a product information sheet[41] and packaging information[42] sheet containing instructions on reducing packaging, using more sustainable materials and how to optimise palletization. ICRC has trained their procurement teams in the field on sustainable procurement following the sustainable procurement guidance and providing real examples on how it can be implemented.
- The ICRC has developed a Supplier Code of Conduct[43] with the objective of establishing the minimum sustainability standards and requirements (ethical, social, environmental, and quality) that any supplier shall comply with when working for ICRC. A template is now available for other humanitarian organisations to use when engaging with their suppliers.

[39] Link to the resource: ICRC Env Roadmap_SSCA newsletter_Sept 23.pptx (sharepoint.com)
[40] Link to the resource: Link to the resource: Introduction to Quality, Social and Environmental (QSE) Company Assessments (csod.com)
[41] Link to resource: ICRC: Product Information Sheet: Sustainable Procurement | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)
[42] Link to the resource: Information sheet: Packaging - Standard products catalogue IFRC ICRC (redcross.int)
[43] Link to the resource: ICRC_Supplier_CoC_template.docx (sharepoint.com)

- ICRC has compiled more than forty best practices from the field on how different teams from many different countries have been able to integrate sustainability in their daily business.[44]
- ICRC, UNHCR, and WFP joined forces to explore substitutes for woven polypropylene bags. The initial project phase concentrated on determining alternative specifications through eco-design methodologies with external expert assistance. Following an assessment process, three organisations were chosen to create prototypes of viable alternatives: polypropylene bags with extended shelf life for reuse, jute bags with a biodegradable coating, and modified jute fabric. Current testing of these alternatives will soon yield additional insights, facilitating recommendations on their performance. The project has offered valuable insights into the operational challenges and issues associated with finding alternatives.

For more information, please contact Carmen Garcia Duro (cgarcia.duro@icrc.org).

7. Médecins Sans Frontières

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, is an international, autonomous medical humanitarian organisation. MSF recognises the imperative to take environmental action considering the medical and humanitarian repercussions stemming from climate change and environmental degradation. They have introduced The Environmental Pact,[45] endorsed and approved by The MSF General Assembly. The objective is to build on the existing momentum, strengthen the commitment, and articulate a vision to expedite MSF's initiatives related to climate action. Commitments to measure, report and set targets have been set up by MSF to minimise the carbon and waste footprint, engage and collaborate with communities, local actors and organisations and continue to deliver high quality and improved public heath while minimising ecological damage. Some of MSF entities have a partnership with the Climate Action Accelerator; they have developed green procurement tendering criteria, green specifications for logistic products and they are exploring alternatives products to reduce impacts from medical purchase.

To evaluate the sustainability profile of suppliers, MSF established a partnership with Ecovadis, a globally recognised assessment platform that rates businesses' sustainability and they developed a backup sustainability questionnaire as alternative to the Ecovadis evaluation. They developed a sustainable procurement guideline and a supplier code of conduct. There is an initiative focused on tackling the end of life of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment notably through the assessment of recycling facilities in the countries of operations.

For more information, please contact MSF Sustainable Procurement (sustainable.procurement@msf.org).

8. Save the Children International

Save the Children is a lead agency reducing its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions with a focus on scope 3.1 (carbon emissions associated with the products or services an organisation purchases). The organisation has been implementing sustainability tendering criteria in supplier assessment processes and raising awareness over its Supplier Sustainability Policy. It is a partner of the WREC project, the Global Logistics Cluster, the Joint Initiative and IAPG, through which it aims to collaborate closely with other humanitarian organisations to share best practices and develop local solutions for in-country teams.

[44] Link to resource: IFRC Sharing - Best practices - sustainability - All Documents (sharepoint.com)
[45] Link to resource: the-environmental-pact (1).pdf

Save the Children's commitment to supply chain sustainability aims to integrate social, economic, and environmental sustainability at the heart of their organisation, operational practices, and decision-making processes of their suppliers. Focusing on the environmental dimension, their goals include minimising Save the Children's environmental footprint, optimising the utilisation of sustainable and natural resources, and decreasing waste throughout their supply chains.

As part of their efforts to deliver these objectives focused on green procurement, they have rolled out a Supplier Sustainability Policy[46] requesting all suppliers to comply with environmental legislation and regulations, develop environmental impact goals and implement a policy, adopt appropriate waste management practices, have a clear understanding of their carbon footprint, and establish plans to reduce it, and minimise water usage.

In addition to this, they have also implemented sustainable tendering criteria across their tendering processes and are developing a Train of Trainers programme on sustainable procurement to be launched in Q1 2024.

For more information, please contact Sue Hodgson (sue.hodgson@savethechildren.org) or Jim Ridgwick (jim.ridgwick@savethechildren.org).

9. UNICEF

Collaborating with various United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, and civil society; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is uniting efforts to address the global environmental crisis.
They are a member of the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network (HLCM PN)[47] and participate in the Sustainable Procurement working group. They have published the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (SCAP) as a commitment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objectives of the SCAP are: 1) Protect the lives, health and well-being of children and the resilience of their communities by adapting essential social services to a changing climate, more frequent disasters and a degrading environment, 2) Empower every child through their life course with the developmental opportunities, education and skills to be a champion for the environment and 3) Reduce the emissions and environmental footprint within UNICEF, support its global network of partners to do the same, and advocate for the fulfilment of ambitious international sustainability and climate change agreements[48].

Their environmental target is to achieve a 45% reduction in carbon emissions from operations by 2030, based on their 2010 baseline. The primary actions undertaken to meet their sustainability goals involve monitoring and reporting on environmental performance, promoting the adoption of renewable energy, expediting the use of energy and resource-efficient equipment, conducting behaviour change campaigns, and setting environmental targets.

The Supply Division has recently finalised a Scope 3 emissions study, used as a base to develop a theory of change and an environmental sustainability roadmap. They have also identified solutions to begin progressing key initiatives that will contribute to reaching their targets. Green procurement policies and procedures have been rolled out across their supply chain as part of their procurement initiatives.

For more information, please contact Lauren Bolinger (lbolinger@unicef.org) or Diana Connet (dconnett@unicef.org).

[46] Link to resource:https://logcluster.org/en/document/ji-compendium-case-study-promoting-sustainability-through-supply-chains-lessons-save
[47] The HLCM was established in 2020, its objective is to identify and analyse administrative management reforms to improve efficiency and simplify business practices within the United Nations System.
[48] Source: (United Nations Children's Fund, 2023) UNICEF SCAP 2023-2030.pdf

10. UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) delivers infrastructure, procurement, and project management services to UN agencies, governments, and partners to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of their efforts for a climate neutral UN system and in alignment with the Paris Agreement and the UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan (UNSCAP[49]) targets, they have recently pledged at COP28 to reduce corporate emissions by 45% by 2030, and to reach net-zero before 2050.[50] This includes the offsetting of emissions from UNOPS global internal operations, covering air travel, electricity consumption, and Scope 3 emissions. They will kickstart this initiative by monitoring their emissions and assisting suppliers in reducing emissions to achieve climate neutrality.

In their commitment to green procurement, they integrate sustainability considerations into procurement policies, procedures, and guidance to strengthen their overall procurement operations. In January 2020 they released the Sustainable Procurement Framework[51] which sets out policy requirements, strategies, and practical guidance, to assess suppliers with regards to sustainability; these requirements were implemented across fifty two percent of tenders issued in 2022.

Recognising the challenge with regards to supplier capability when it comes to sustainability, UNOPS implemented the Delivering Responsibility in Vendor Engagement (DRiVE) programme to both asses and support suppliers in their journey to becoming greener. The programme includes a supplier self-assessment, verification, corrective action, and impact reporting; in 2022, 3053 bidders were subject to sustainability screening[52].

For more information, please contact Anne-Claire Howard (anneclaireh@unops.org).

Other entities working on Green Procurement initiatives

Organisations within the humanitarian sector are currently at different phases in implementing environmentally sustainable procurement practices. The following section outlines responses to the WREC Green Procurement survey[53] from organisations which are beginning to act by identifying sustainability initiatives, but which may not necessarily have a formal project or working group structure in place, however, they are noteworthy due to ongoing activities and strategy development.

1.International Medical Corps

Global Humanitarian organisation offering medical services and training to people at the highest risk. International Medical Corps actively promotes policies that support the inclusion of safe environmental protection at headquarters and country levels and is working towards integrating a commitment to maintaining environmental standards in its Code of Conduct, which is subscribed to by all its employees, volunteers, suppliers, and sub-partners. Moreover, at country-level programme implementation, the charity aims to reduce excess morbidity and mortality associated with potential exposure to environmental factors.

[49] Link to resource: UNITED NATIONS Secretariat Climate Action Plan 2020-2030
[50] Source: (United Nations Office for Project Services, 2023) UNOPS announces climate commitments | UNOPS
[51] Link to resource: UNOPS-Procurement-Manual-Annex-1-2021_EN.pdf
[52] Source: (United Nations Office for Project Services, 2022)Purchase for Impact: 2022 UNOPS Procurement Report
[53] Green Procurement 3Ws mapping survey submitted via Forms on the 9th of November 2023 and closed on the 17th of November 2023.

International Medical Corps (IMC) is committed to helping reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and any other negative impact on the environment as a part of our response whenever possible, by focusing on processes and activities that are in direct control of the department while encouraging partners, including vendors, to do the same. Since 2022, International Medical Corps has calculated CO2 emissions generated globally by transport (international shipment and vehicles) power production, and international travels. In the coming years baseline calculation will be augmented to power grid and in country shipment emissions.

In the Green Procurement space, they are at the design/pilot stage with an initial focus on Fleet and have a project for the next two to three years to assess and address their Scope 3 emissions.

For more information, please contact Theophane Neyme (tneyme@internationalmedicalcorps.org).

2.Medair

Medair provides emergency relief and recovery services to communities affected by natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises. As part of their commitments to reduce their carbon footprint, they have become a signatory of the Climate and Environment Charter [54]. They are currently working to calculate their carbon footprint and have started implementing the use of sustainability tendering criteria in their supplier evaluation processes.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Shakeshaft (rebecca.shakeshaft@medair.org).

Next Steps – WREC Project plan for 2024

As part of the WREC Green Procurement Workstream there is a comprehensive plan of initiatives which will be taking place in 2024 detailed in Figure 5 WREC Green Procurement 2024 work plan (below).

The intention of this mapping is to be a **live document**, we encourage further collaboration and participation, please reach out and share more about what you are doing, and where you need further support or resources to accelerate your green procurement journey.

Please reach out to the Global WREC team at: global.wrec@wfp.org and paola.robert@wfp.org.

[54] The Climate and Environment Charter has been developed to enforce the need for humanitarian organisations to set environmental commitments and demonstrate the changes they are making to reduce the environmental impact of their operations. About - Climate Charter (climate-charter.org)

Deliverables	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Coordination meetings	▪ GPCG[1] meeting	▪ GPCG meeting	▪ GPCG meeting	▪ GPCG meeting
Tools	▪ Green Procurement humanitarian landscape mapping (3Ws mapping) ▪ Checklist tool for supplier engagement ▪ Market Analysis toolkit	▪ Checklist to prompt reassessing item specifications	▪ Green proc. Specifications repository (updated)	▪ GP roadmap toolkit ▪ Infographic on addressing Scope 3 emissions via green procurement
Guides	▪ Conducting a Green market analysis		▪ Building a Green Procurement roadmap	
Case studies	▪ Market analysis case study (IFRC Bangladesh)			▪ Case Study 2 of in-country solutions
Webinars / info sessions	▪ JI/WREC supplier engagement	▪ GP info-session	▪ GP Info-session	▪ GP Info-session
External events	▪ RCRC Global Supply Chain Conference ▪ WSPD – Sustainable Procurement Pledge	▪ HNPW 2024 – event on circularity & green procurement		▪ COP28 ▪ Aidex Geneva
SCI Initiatives	▪ PM support for SSIP	▪ PM support for SSIP	▪ PM support for SSIP ▪ SSIP in-country 1 operationalization	▪ PM support for SSIP ▪ SSIP in-country 2 operationalization
IFRC Green Proc Roadmap	▪ In-country market analysis (Bangladesh) ▪ GP roadmap project definition, design & strategy (workshops)	▪ GP roadmap development	▪ GP roadmap roll out ▪ GP roadmap evaluation	

[1]GPCG: Green Procurement Coordination Group

Figure 5 WREC Green Procurement 2024 work plan

The Green Procurement Landscape was written in collaboration with: