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PACKAGING MATTERS WEBINAR

Recycling humanitarian assistance packaging waste: challenges and opportunities

Tuesday 21st February
15:00-16:30 CET
09:00-10:30 ET

https://tinyurl.com/JI-webinar2-reg

JOINT INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT

JOINT INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT

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JOINT INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT

WHAT IS THE JI

- Partner-driven initiative, over 20 humanitarian stakeholders
- Reduce environmental footprint of humanitarian action, looking specifically at packaging waste
- Holistic approach - upstream and downstream
- Supports information and knowledge-sharing across humanitarian sector: webinar series part of this

JOINT INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM

- Introduction & scene-setting : state of play of recycling in humanitarian contexts (JI) 15 min
- Lessons learnt by French speaking NGOs in the field (Humanitarian Enviro. Network/REH) 15 min
- Developing recycling partnerships in Kenya and Sudan (World Food Programme) 15 min
- The Fair Recycling Project in Kenya (Danish Refugee Council) 15 min
- Questions and Answers 25 min
- Where to go for more information and resources 5 min

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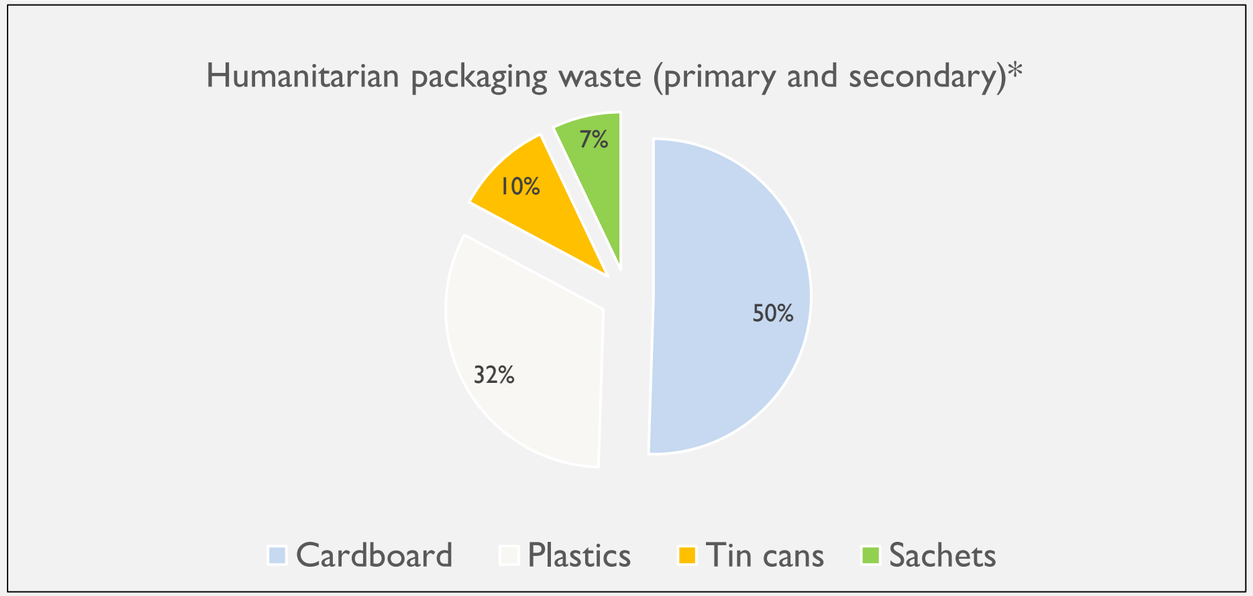
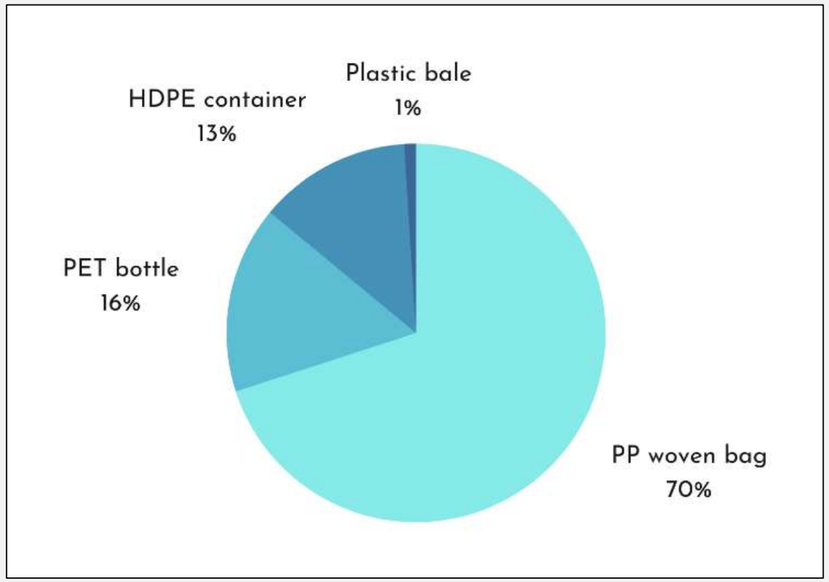
HUMANITARIAN PACKAGING WASTE



*Data from 2021 – ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, USAID, WFP



Plastic waste generated by humanitarian operations

PET plastic bottles

PP bags and tin cans

Sachets

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RECYCLING MARKET IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

The JI and GLC are mapping recycling opportunities (12 countries so far) with the help of humanitarian organisations on the ground:

- Antigua
- Bangladesh
- Burkina
- Cameroun
- Ethiopia
- Haïti
- Kenya
- Sénégal
- Niger
- DRC
- Iraq
- Madagascar
- Upcoming: Lebanon, Jordan, Togo, Liberia

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Type of information collected

Management & Recycling Infrastructure Assessment (LCA)

How to fill in the form: Download the workbook on your device, then please complete all sections from column A to column W. If you need to account for multiple types of waste, please use a separate row for each waste type. If you need to register information for multiple companies, use a separate row for each company.

Name of Company	Physical Address	Focal Person	Telephone Number	Email Address	Website	Does the company have an Environmental, Health and Safety certification (e.g. ISO 14001, ISO 45001 or equivalent) or self-certified management plan for facilities and personnel? (List all available)	Business License Validity Dates	Years of experience

							Waste Information							
Campany main business	Facility is well maintained (roof/walls)? (Y/N)	Hazardous materials are processed and stored separately from non-hazardous waste? (Y/N)	Facility has adequate ventillation? (Y/N)	PPE provided to staff (hard hats, overalls, boots, etc.)? (Y/N)	Processing capacity (e.g. max tonnes/day or month)*	Collection provided (Y/N)	Any transport capacity constraints (geographical, volumes, frequency)?	Non hazardous waste accepted *Select from dropdown menu*	Non hazardous waste Disposal method *Select from dropdown menu*	Hazardous Waste Accepted *Select from dropdown menu*	Hazardous waste disposal Disposal method *Select from dropdown menu*	Admin Waste Accepted *Select from dropdown menu*	Admin Disposal method *Select from dropdown menu*	Comments

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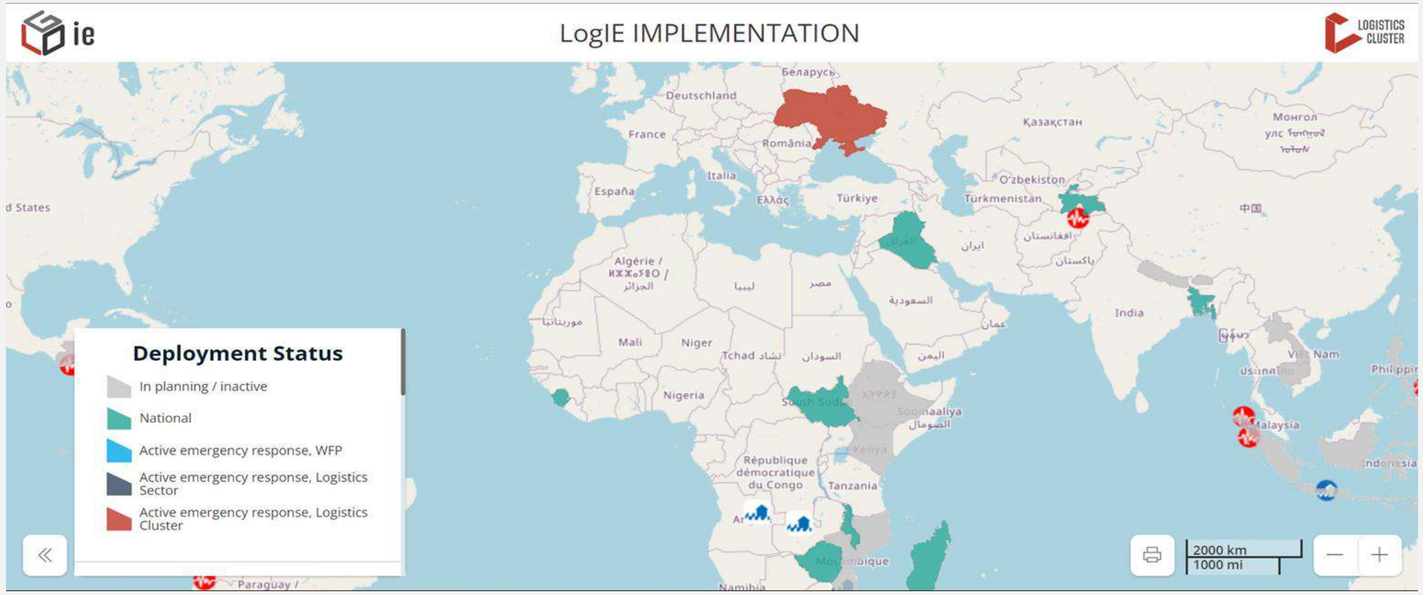
SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE PACKAGING
WASTE MANAGEMENT

Where is the information located?



Interactive map
https://logie.logcluster.org/?op=wrec)

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FINDINGS

- Only a limited % of packaging are actually recycled – so important that we reduce our waste at source
- When recycling companies exists, it is often for cardboard/paper/metal and some types of plastics (mostly PET)
- Companies include: collectors, resellers (export or in country), or process the recyclable materials to make the item into something else
- Companies are usually in capital cities – need to think about transport
- Importance for the sector to sort and store recyclables to be able to offer bigger quantities and therefore attract recycling companies
- Sector which is heavily reliant on the informal sector
- Necessity for humanitarian organizations to develop partnerships with various companies - not one company will accept all your recyclables

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FINDINGS

Cardboard	• Presence of recycling companies in a lot of countries (cardboard/paper) • White (bleached) cardboard contaminates the recycling process – preferable to buy brown cardboard • Importance to store it properly (ex:protecting from the rain) as it can be difficult to transport if wet
Tin cans	• Material than can be recycled several times • Presence of recycling companies in a lot of countries • Solid material that can also be reused/upcycled
Plastics	• Only 9% of plastic worldwide is recycled • In humanitarian countries mostly PET (in some countries, HDPE, PP is recycled) • Baling, Shredding, making pallets or exporting (but Basil convention) • Colored plastic are less recycled as technically more difficult to recycle • Not recyclable when it is laminated/multi layer (ex: RUTF sachets)- think mono-material

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LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

- Visit our webpage: https://tinyurl.com/Joint-Initiative
- Subscribe to our newsletter: https://tinyurl.com/JInews-subscribe
- Follow us on LinkedIn: https://tinyurl.com/Joint-Initiative-LinkedIn
- Contact the project team: Joint.Initiative@icf.com

Challenges and Opportunities for recycling: Practical examples for Humanitarian NGOs

Aline Hubert & Johana Bretou-Klein

February 21st, 2023

The REH

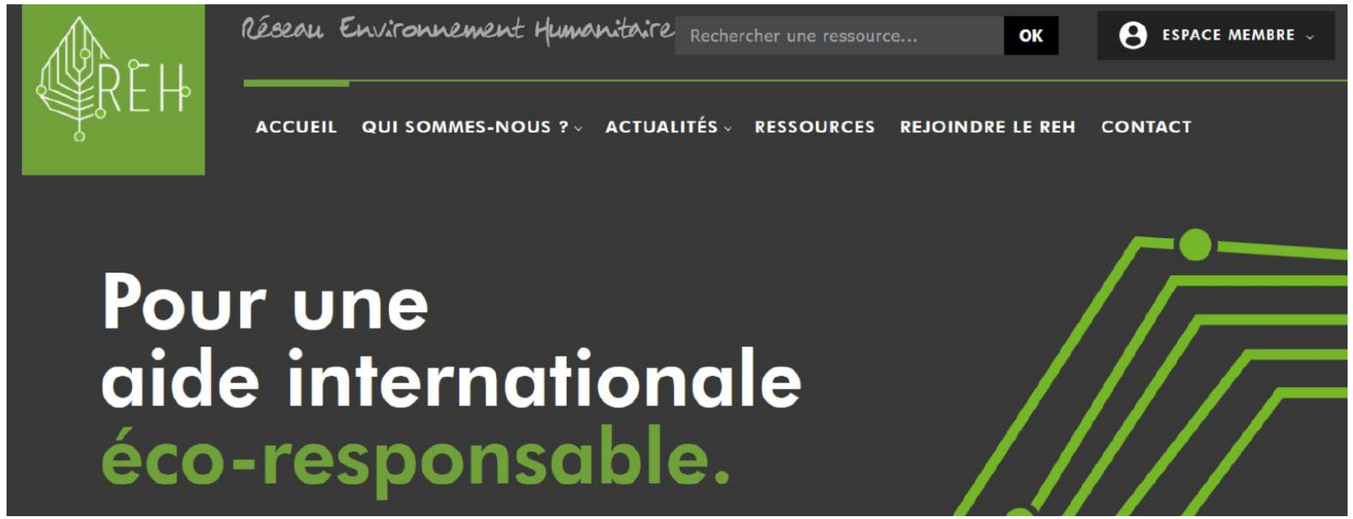
The **R**éseau **E**nvironnement **H**umanitaire (**REH**) is a network of **francophone NGOs** working together towards reducing aid's environmental footprint.

→ Over **200 members** including 20 organisations

→ Working groups to operationalise commitments (carbon, environmental screening, **waste**)

→ A network connected to other networks

https://www.environnementhumanitaire.org



And many more....

Waste Working Group

Strategic objectives of the **waste WG** (not yet validated)

- SO1: Capitalise on members' waste management **experiences**.
- SO2: Contribute to **existing initiatives**, without duplicating efforts.
- SO3: Establish **common methodologies and tools** at programme level.
- SO4: **Cooperate with suppliers** to optimise purchasing/reduce packaging.
- OS5: **Advocate to donors** to better take into account waste in proposals/projects (accept the "true cost of an eco-friendly product").

Challenges for NGOs

There exists many challenges to recycling waste in humanitarian contexts, both from the **nature of the contexts** in which we operate and the **nature of our waste**. We have identified 5 main questions/challenges:

1. Is it recyclable?
2. If it is recyclable, is it recyclable locally?
3. Where can I drop off my recyclable waste?
4. How much does it cost?
5. Are the products effectively and correctly recycled?

1. Is it recyclable?

Challenge: Humanitarians often do not know if their waste is recyclable, because they don't know the differences between the types of waste (plastic for example).

Do you know the differences? Take the test! Like in the chat which types of plastics these items are made of:

UNHCR tarpaulin

Food bags

1. Is it recyclable?

Challenge: Humanitarians often do not know if their waste is recyclable, because they don't know the differences between the types of waste (plastic for example).

Solution: Waste diagnosis - The waste concerned is generally :

- Paper/cardboard (50%)
- Metal/tin (10%)
- Hard and soft plastic waste (32%)

→ Develop trainings !

2. Is it recyclable locally?

Challenge: Once you know that you can recycle your waste, you must determine whether it is recyclable in **the area where you operate.**

For example, LDPE plastic is recyclable in theory, but there are few LDPE recycling plants in the 'Global South'. In contrast, there are many plants for PET.

Solution: Take stock of actors:

Large and Small companies

Collection centres

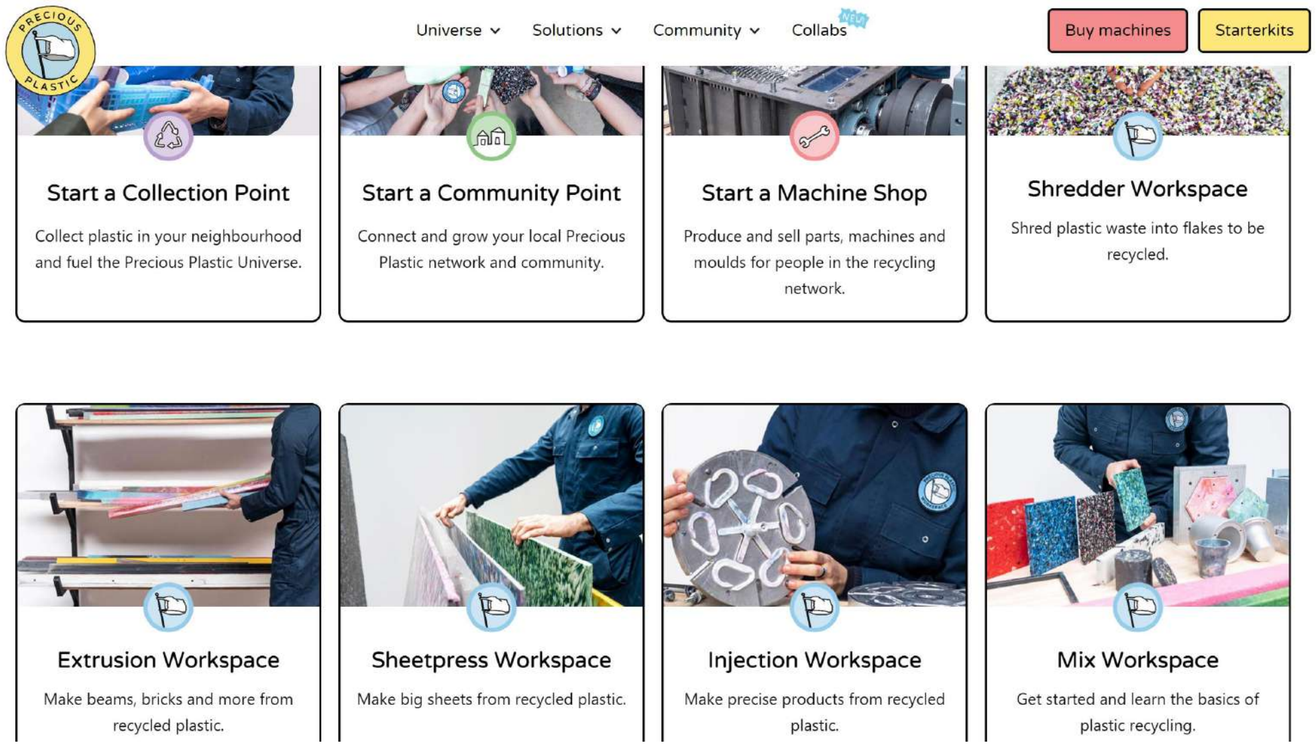
Public services (generally attached to local authorities as waste management is a transferred competence)

Informal actors
In Chennai, India, for example, informal collectors recover **a quarter of the total recyclable waste.**

2. Is it recyclable locally?

If the solutions do not exist, **your organisation can also take the initiative** to create partnerships with innovative solutions!

Precious Plastic: helps set up small-scale recycling centres



Waste 4 Warmth: machine that transforms PP and PET plastics into insulation materials

3. Where can I drop off my waste?

Distinction between office/warehouse waste and scattered waste via distribution to beneficiaries

Challenge: Collection of waste after it has been distributed.

Solution:

→ setting up collection points

→ partnerships with recyclers (formal or informal)

@Proplast in Senegal

@Mediaterre

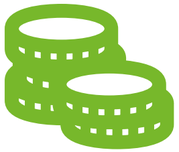
Returnable packaging ?

some health centers in Burkina Faso ask women to bring back RUTF packages before receiving new ones

4. How much does this cost?

Challenge: Collecting, sorting and recycling requires resources (human & financial). The actual cost is not known and depends on the operating contexts, sizes of organisations, types of waste....

Solutions:



→ Conduct an economic study

→ Integrate a budget line ?

	Unités	Nb unité	Cout unitaire	Total
A. Honoraires				***41 510 €***
Expert 1	Jour	35,00	700 €	24 500 €
Expert 2	Jour	26,50	600 €	15 900 €
B. Remboursables				***3 226 €***
Transport national	A/R	1,00	110 €	110 €
Transport international	A/R	1,00	1 000 €	1 000 €
Perdiems	Jour	1,00	2 016 €	2 016 €
Waste management and recycling*			**xx%**	**xx€**
C. Total				***43 626 €***

*To be able to properly manage the waste generated by our operations on the field, we include a budget line which corresponds to xx% of total budget.

5. Are the products effectively and correctly recycled?

Challenge: After all the challenges we have seen before, there is still one that persists: the difficulty to assess the quality of the recycling process, energy needed etc...

@Vecteezy

Solution :

→ Share feedback from NGOs/association per country and capitalise

→ Even a quality audit?

ASSOCIATION ZERO DECHET SENEGAL

Thank you !

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Waste management in WFP

Experiences and lessons learned

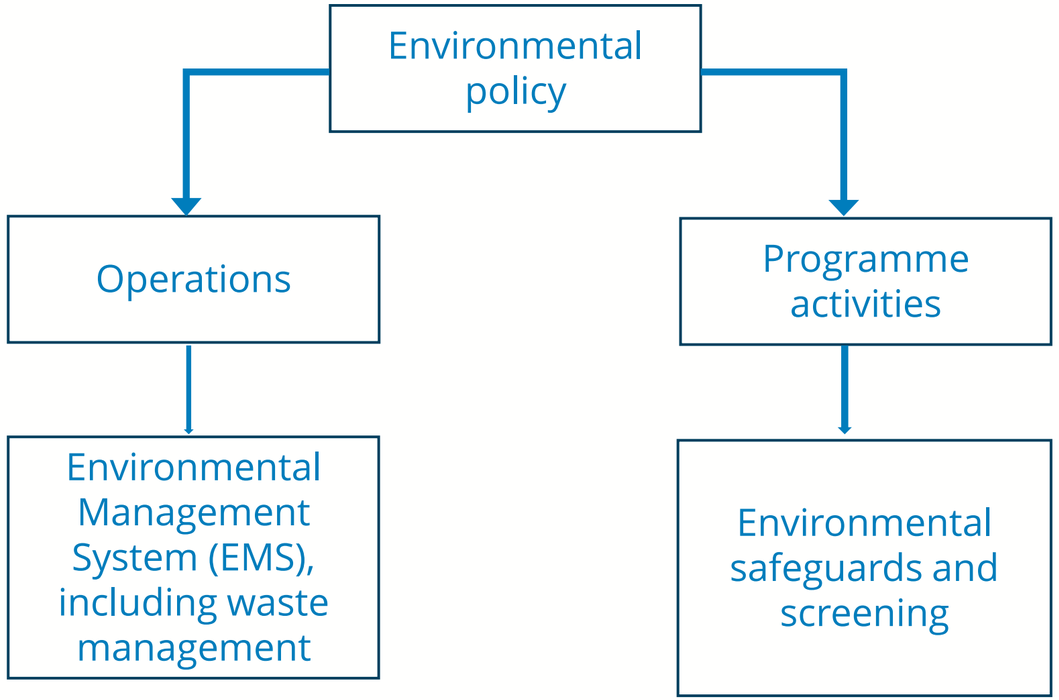
Joint Initiative - February 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Environmental management at wfp

How it works:



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The Environment Team

WFP World Food Programme

What has WFP DONE SO FAR?

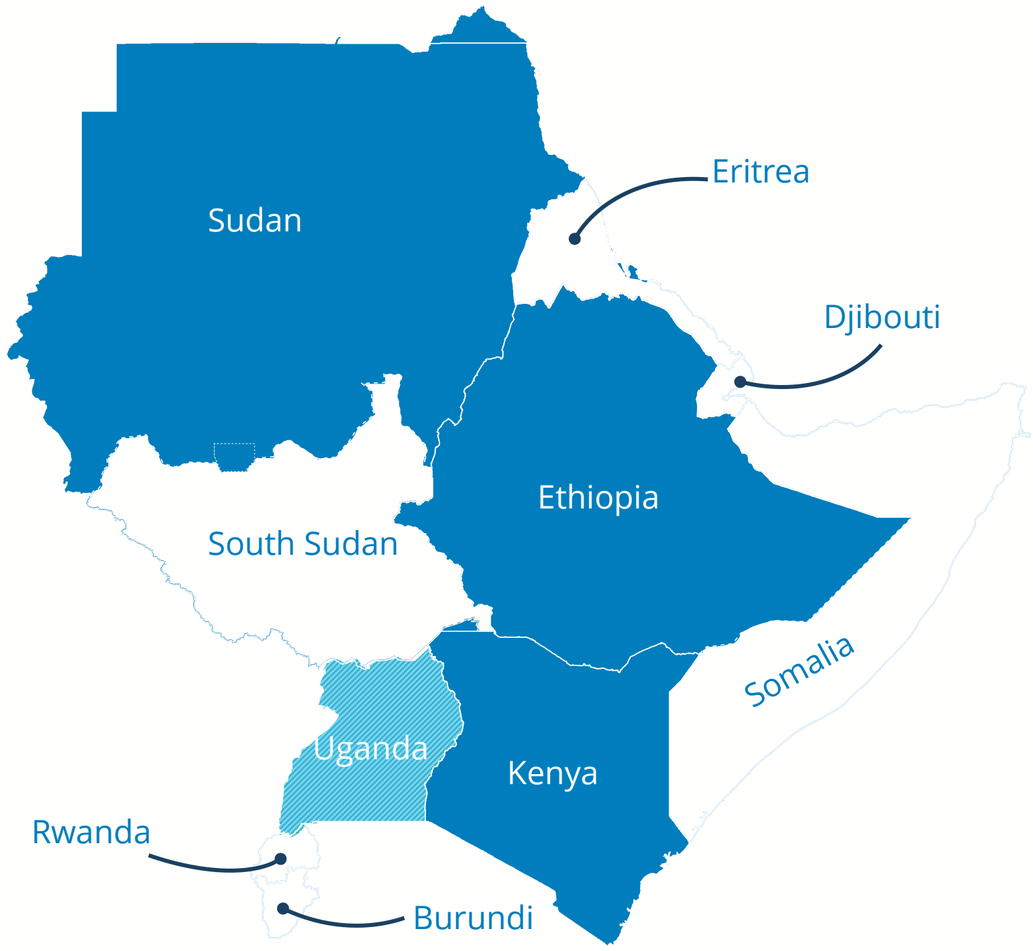
1,200MT
Polypropylene bags

300MT
Pallets

500
Jerricans

3,000+
Metal tins

213MT
Paper/Cardboard



WFP World Food Programme

KEY STEPS FOLLOWED AND KEY ROLES

- Desktop research
- Direct communication with recyclers

- Prequalification of recyclers (site visits, assessments using checklists)
- Standard template
- Shared with recyclers directly
- General criteria

- Detailed technical criteria (mandatory requirements and scored)

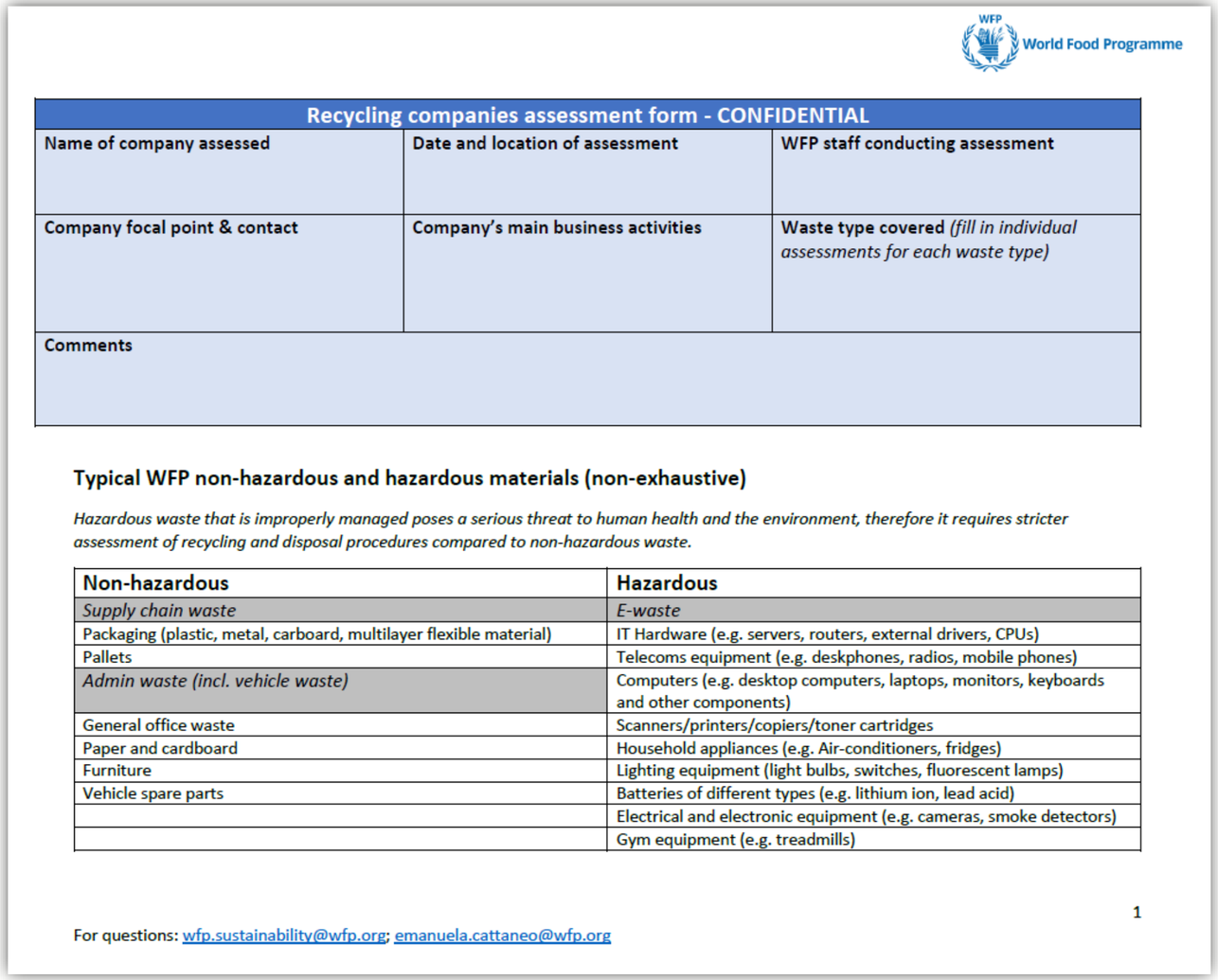
- One or more vendors awarded, based on highest score (technical and financial)

- Collection of recycling data
- Communications/awareness material

WFP World Food Programme

Waste contractors/Recyclers assessment checklist

- Internal assessment form to be used for
  - Prequalification
  - Tenders (tech specs, inspections)
- For environmental or non-environmental experts
- Covers hazardous and non-hazardous waste
- Mandatory minimum requirements (yes/no or pass/fail)
  - Relevant licenses, permits
  - Experience
  - Chain of custody
- Technical requirements (scored 1-5 pts)
  - Worker's health and safety
  - Equipment, infrastructure, documentation
  - Workflow procedures
  - Sub-contractors



World Food Programme

Recycling companies assessment form - CONFIDENTIAL		
Name of company assessed	**Date and location of assessment**	**WFP staff conducting assessment**
Company focal point & contact	**Company's main business activities**	**Waste type covered** *(fill in individual assessments for each waste type)*
Comments		

Typical WFP non-hazardous and hazardous materials (non-exhaustive)

Hazardous waste that is improperly managed poses a serious threat to human health and the environment, therefore it requires stricter assessment of recycling and disposal procedures compared to non-hazardous waste.

Non-hazardous	Hazardous
Supply chain waste	*E-waste*
Packaging (plastic, metal, carboard, multilayer flexible material)	IT Hardware (e.g. servers, routers, external drivers, CPUs)
Pallets	Telecoms equipment (e.g. deskphones, radios, mobile phones)
Admin waste (incl. vehicle waste)	Computers (e.g. desktop computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards and other components)
General office waste	Scanners/printers/copiers/toner cartridges
Paper and cardboard	Household appliances (e.g. Air-conditioners, fridges)
Furniture	Lighting equipment (light bulbs, switches, fluorescent lamps)
Vehicle spare parts	Batteries of different types (e.g. lithium ion, lead acid)
	Electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. cameras, smoke detectors)
	Gym equipment (e.g. treadmills)

1

For questions: wfp.sustainability@wfp.org; emanuela.cattaneo@wfp.org

LESSONS LEARNED IN THE RECYLING PROCESS

Procurement

- Initial market research
- Direct contact with recyclers
- Prequalification
- Insert sustainable technical criteria
- Award more than one supplier

Collection & pre-treatment

- Waste sorting makes recycling easier
- Consolidation of waste at ‘hubs’ is more efficient
- Equipment e.g., balers and crushers at the source can increase space and transport efficiency

Transportation

- Transportation costs can be a significant portion of overall cost
- Is context dependent
- Close collaboration with other teams necessary (mgmt. services, Supply Chain/Logistics etc.)

Post recycling

- Keeping records of recycled waste is necessary for tracking and reporting
- Communications materials raise awareness and interest in recycling initiatives

RECYCLING CONTEXTS DIFFER FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

Recycling in Eastern Africa

Sudan

- Only one licensed and qualified recycler identified
- Competitive procurement process was waived

Ethiopia

- Govt. list of recyclers available (easier identification)
- Faster identification, recycler identified for PP bags

Kenya

- Recycling infrastructure developed
- 3 recyclers awarded tenders for packaging waste

Djibouti

- No local recyclers identified so far
- Export waste to Kenya or Ethiopia?

Recycling on the ground…

Sudan

Kenya

Ethiopia

Thank you!

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FAIR RECYCLING PROJECT: lessons learnt

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DONOR

DMDP DANIDA MARKET DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

PROJECT PARTNERS

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

MR. GREEN AFRICA

Unilever

THEORY OF CHANGE

Fair Recycling - ToC

The creation of scalable, inclusive business models, ensuring that waste pickers, including refugees, can access long-term livelihoods and safer work conditions, and that plastic waste from Kenya's environment is reduced and the use of locally recycled plastics enhanced.

LEADING TO

A professional, fair and inclusive plastic recycling ecosystem in Kenya will flourish, benefitting people, planet and markets.

Decent jobs and a political and business environment conducive to facilitate green inclusive growth.

THEN

Informal waste pickers are upskilled, formally formally integrated and receive fair prices for plastic waste.

+

Systematic barriers incl. the right to work, access to a gov. ID and financial inclusion are addressed.

+

Impact boosters are integrated in business models and made accessible to waste pickers.

+

Waste pickers are organized and included in the plastic waste collection and recycling ecosystem.

IF

ASSUMPTIONS

- Market solutions can mitigate Kenya's plastic waste challenges.
- Demand of PCR can meet increased supply
- Waste in camps can be financially sustainable.
- Kenya's pol. environment supports the involvement of refugees.

FMCG VALUE CHAIN

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Social goal**: to increase income, resilience and socio-economic development opportunities for informal waste pickers and refugees by integrating them in a formalised, professional, fair and inclusive plastics recycling value chain. **SDG 1 & 8**
- **Environmental goal**: remove existing plastic waste from Kenya's environment and reduce the volume of plastic waste ending up on Kenya's landfills or in rivers in the future, and increase recycling by consumers and significantly boost the use of locally recycled plastics in the Kenyan fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry (closing the plastic loop locally). **SDG 13 , 15.**
- **Economic goal**: to align all social and environmental impact with Unilever and MGA's business cases and utilize the gains of improved value-chain efficiency to make the social and environmental impact (financially) sustainable and scalable. **SDG 8.**
- **Ecosystem goal:** contribute to the growth and professionalisation of the Kenyan plastics recycling ecosystem, building on responsible business conduct, including development of operational, social, environmental and institutional best practices, creation of partnerships and synergies between value chain actors, knowledge transfers and sector organisation and lobbying**. SDG 12 & 16.**

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- **1. Identification, registration and integration of waste pickers (Tier 0 and 1):** 1,500 waste pickers will be trained and integrated in the value chain.

- **2. Transform waste pickers to become Collector Agents (Tier 2 and 3):** 500 waste pickers will graduate in the tiered approach and have access to safer and better work and increased and more predictable incomes.

- **3. Develop, pilot and institutionalise effective and sustainable 'impact boosters':** 4 pilots focused on providing additional socio-economic benefits for waste pickers will be implemented with the goal of validating assumptions that allow them to be integrated in the value chain in a financially sustainable way.

- **4. Strengthen Kenya's plastic waste collection and recycling ecosystem:** Responsible business conduct (RBC) activities will be implemented leading to a more formalized plastic recycling sector and reduced stigmatization of waste pickers in Kenya.

LESSONS WE ARE LEARNING.

- Promote and strengthen inclusivity- De-stigmatization campaigns

- Formalization of the waste pickers is key in structuring and aligning the waste management sector. Legal framework; pooling of resources-Financial Inclusion; Social Welfare

- Integrate and mainstream protection, Responsible Business Conduct in the project interventions.

The setting up of pre-aggregation sites boosts the capacity of the waste pickers to collect and aggregate more plastics with ease which translates to increased incomes.

Fair prices offered by the Recycling firms for plastic waste encouraged more members of the community to engage in waste picking business especially women.

- Advocate for clear EPR guidelines. Lobby for a strong and active PROs
- Incentivize the waste pickers- Waste suppliers to accelerate behavior change- Transformation; Impact Boosters.

LESSONS WE ARE LEARNING.

Commercial Interests is the departure point – Project idea has to be commercially viable in order to attract the right partnerships for sustainability. – Building relationships is key.

Clear understanding of the SDGs is critical.

Flexibility and ready to change- Adaptability. New ways of working. Not a traditional consortium. Timeframes, Budgeting, Report writing, Comms vis a vis compliance, data sharing- Impact monitoring.

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

THANK YOU!
ASANTE.