

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN COMMUNITY

“We don’t need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly.”

– Anne Marie Bonneau



Take a look at the [Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance \(SSCA\) project roadmap](#) for September 2020 to December 2023.

The humanitarian aid department of the European Commission (ECHO) has now published its [minimum environmental principles and requirements](#) to help reduce the environmental footprint of the humanitarian sector. The ICRC has mapped its maturity level against the ECHO requirements using this [template](#), which you can use for your own organization. We’d love to hear your feedback on the template.

Carbon accounting tool: After agreeing the carbon accounting methodology and requirements for the humanitarian sector (see the [technical note](#)), ten organizations have started collecting internal data in preparation for the pilot, which will take place this summer. Their feedback will be used to fine-tune the carbon accounting tool and finalize the user manual. The tool will be available cost-free to humanitarian organizations at the end of 2022.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGE (SSCC)

The ICRC and the SSCC: Twenty initiatives were submitted from different logistics units. Some initiatives focus on solving existing environmental issues, some target processes under development, or those in other countries, for example electronic signatures in field procurement, or the use of electronic motors and solar panels in logistics centres. Other initiatives could be replicated elsewhere and will be included as best practice, such as re-using boxes by turning them inside out and reorganizing procurement to reduce transport emissions and packaging.

Some initiatives focus on solving problems – such as a waste management system for the ICRC’s planes – and will therefore take time to implement. One project that will be funded by the ICRC’s innovation team, subject to a feasibility study, is the marine incinerator to treat medical and non-medical (workshop) waste. It will use used oil waste as fuel in Yemen where there are no other ways to treat waste. This is a complex project with many stakeholders and the feasibility study will ensure that the incinerator is appropriate for Yemen in terms of technical expertise and maintenance requirements.

The SSCC across the IFRC: The challenge has not yet been finalized although more than 200 proposals have been submitted. We will publish an update in the next newsletter.



Fleet management: Now that the [standard operating procedures \(SOPs\)](#) for workshop waste management have been finalized and changes made to the FleetWave software in order to monitor the ICRC's waste management, a training course on fleet optimization and workshop waste management has been launched (see [Sustainable Fleet training](#) below). The course is aimed at four different audiences: transport users, administrators and/or managers, vehicle fleet managers and workshop managers. A [workshop waste kit](#) was piloted in three countries and will now be implemented in all ICRC workshops to ensure waste is managed appropriately. It contains equipment, including personal protection equipment, for ICRC staff. In addition, a [Quality Social and Environmental \(QSE\) assessment form](#) and [Q&A](#) have been developed, tested and added to the ICRC's processes to ensure specialist suppliers contracted for workshop waste management carry out their work properly.



Safety is one of the main pillars of sustainability and the ICRC fleet team has worked hard to implement a safety strategy, winning this year's Fleet Forum [Best Transport Achievement Award](#) for its Global Fleet Safety Project.

Eco-design tarpaulin project: (UNHCR/IFRC/ICRC): This research project is moving forward. The RISE (Research Institute of Sweden) has reviewed 6 proposals received from tarpaulin manufacturers and from the market. Two proposals were selected to compare with the standard tarpaulin through laboratory testing. Results are encouraging for light-weight tarpaulin, which demonstrated increased mechanical strength. If you want to know more details, please have a look to the short summary ([here](#)).



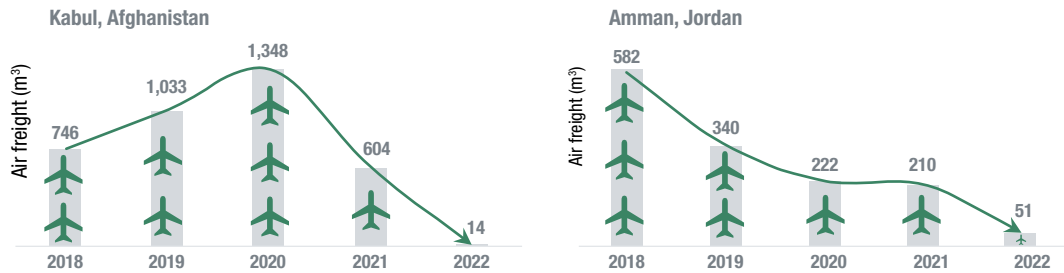
Procurement: Progress has been made as the ICRC works towards more sustainable procurement processes:

- New [sustainable procurement guidelines](#) for procurement managers in the field provide advice on implementing sustainable procurement.
- A new video on [minimizing medical equipment waste](#) aims to raise awareness among health and procurement teams about WHO research that found that 40–70% of medical equipment donated to low- and middle-income countries is unusable.
- A [sustainable information sheet](#) has been produced for each of the 11 main products in the Standard Products Catalogue (essential household items and a food parcel). Gaps in their development have been discussed with suppliers and improvements are being piloted, such as a less toxic alternative to UV327 for the bucket, a new medium-strength lamp and a guaranteed battery lifespan. Regular meetings have been put in place among IFRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, and ICRC to review what has been done to re-design greener relief items and quality management and ensure we learn from each other and have a unique voice when discussing sustainability within the suppliers. Pilot projects will study beneficiary product acceptance and resistance in the supply chain, such as replacing liquid shampoo with a solid bar in the hygiene kit and reducing plastic in wash powder packaging. The same process will be applied to two new items that are distributed in large numbers by the IFRC, namely mattresses and shelter toolkits.

Transport: An analysis of ICRC transport data has begun in order to optimize the ICRC's international transport originating from headquarters.

- Much work has been done in the last two years to reduce the number of air shipments. Shipments by road and sea have replaced the use of air freight, which has been reduced significantly, as can be seen in the two destinations below.

Reduction in the volume of air freight sent by the ICRC to Kabul and Amman



The data shown is until April 2022

- Four pilot countries will research ways to reduce their reliance on air transport. An analysis tool that compares costs, CO2 emissions and lead times is being finalized to help delegations understand how full a container needs to be for a cost-effective shipment by sea compared with air, while also taking into account lead times and CO2 emissions. Please contact us if you are interested in the methodology; it could be reused or improved with your input.
- A project to improve how we manage the supply chain of vehicle spare parts has been approved. It aims to halve our transport-related CO2 emissions.

TURNING SUSTAINABILITY IDEAS INTO REALITY

- Do you incorporate sustainability principles into your daily activities? If so, we would like to hear from you. The [repository of best practice](#) allows you to find examples of how sustainability has been integrated into different supply chains. Use our template to share your success with others through the repository. Please send your completed template to Jovana Popovic at jopopovic@icrc.org.
- Our logistics colleagues in Tartus, Syria, are creating an environmentally friendly logistics centre. Find out what they're doing in this [article about their projects](#).



Abd Alkader at his workshop making innovative furniture from wooden pallets.



Hasan, passionate in gardening introduces organic garden at TLC



WANT TO LEARN MORE

- [The Sustainable Fleet training will provide a lot of interesting information and will not take much of your time!](#)
 - [ICRC users](#)
 - [IFRC and National Society users](#)
- Think you know about electric vehicles? These three short videos bust the myths.
 - [Busting the myths about electric vehicles: Production](#)
 - [Busting the myths about electric vehicles: Dirty grids](#)
 - [Busting the myths about electric vehicles: Driving range](#)
- Do you know how much CO2 an email generates? You may be surprised by this infographic (in [English](#) and [French](#)).
- Are you interested in energy efficiency guidance? If so, you may find the following documents useful:
 - [Lighting guidance](#)
 - [Air conditioning best practices](#)
 - [Solar-powered water heating systems*](#)
- The ICRC has started to implement a new [waste management system at the Abuja delegation in Nigeria](#).

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FIELD: FROM ACROSS THE MOVEMENT

The Green Response: This [environmental quick guide](#) was developed by the IFRC with information from the wider International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Environmental policy toolkit: The IFRC has also developed a [toolkit](#) to help National Societies develop their own environmental policies. It includes a model policy and supporting guidance. The toolkit will be reviewed once it has been implemented. If you have any comments, please contact Valpuri Saarelma at valpuri.saarelma@ifrc.org.

Humanitarian crisis in Ukraine: This poster has useful [tips on managing waste and greening the response](#).

* An ICRC [publication on solar-powered water heaters in detention facilities](#) is also available based on the experience of the ICRC's water and habitat teams.