

FEBRUARY 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*



The Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA) project, led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), aims to embed the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) in the supply chain activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement). The purpose of this newsletter is to form and engage a community around this all-important topic and to provide a platform for sharing updates, tools, plans and ideas.

## SSCA QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- **A carbon accounting tool** is being adapted for the humanitarian sector. With more than 100 organizations involved, the project is progressing; a recent webinar saw eight pioneer organizations share lessons learned. The carbon accounting specifications for various sectors have been agreed in line with ECHO standards,<sup>1</sup> although the final document has yet to be finalized. A cost-free and easy-to-use tool will be developed in early 2022. CHORD<sup>2</sup> and HELP Logistics held a two-day workshop to discuss the need and potential design for sustainable supply chain management training with ECHO and other organizations.
- **The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for workshop waste management** have been finalized by Fleet Forum. They include the recommendations of Coventry University and the Polytechnic University of Milan following their quantitative environmental assessments and preliminary life-cycle analysis of the six critical garage waste items identified (critical volume vs critical risk). The results have been translated into a traffic light system to help fleet managers in the field. A monitoring system to track and manage garage waste correctly is being finalized. Online training for three different audiences is also underway. [The SOPs](#) and the [Coventry University report](#) will also be shared on [Fleet Forum website](#).
- The ICRC and IFRC<sup>3</sup> have created **infographics on fleet optimization**: [ICRC infographic](#), [IFRC infographic](#). They are designed to help project managers and vehicle fleet managers decide which vehicle is more suitable based on the intended use and road conditions.
- The East Africa Working Group – including the ICRC, MSF<sup>4</sup> and WFP<sup>5</sup> – followed its plan of action to find the best solution for workshop waste management in South Sudan. Environmental analysis resulted in two main options: in-country incinerators or cross-border transportation to Uganda. Using Coventry University’s life-cycle analysis, cross-border transportation was deemed the most environmentally friendly. Five Quality, Social and Environment (QSE) assessments have been carried out on the only company certified to move the waste and its partners. Three companies in Uganda will manage the waste. A joint ICRC–MSF pilot for the cross-border transportation of used oil and oil filters will take place in January (see the article below).

<sup>1</sup> European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

<sup>2</sup> Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD).

<sup>3</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

<sup>4</sup> Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

<sup>5</sup> World Food Programme (WFP).

- Of the 11 products selected (essential household items and a food parcel), sustainable guidelines on six items have been published in the [Standard Products Catalogue](#); the other five are being finalized. The guidelines aim to increase understanding about sustainability gaps and to enable manufacturers to improve sustainability in product specifications.
- As part of the eco-design tarpaulin project, UV testing and life-cycle analysis have started on the current tarpaulin, while the process to recruit a consultant to help identify the right material to replace the polyethylene is underway.
- The research project to find alternatives to the woven polypropylene bag is ongoing.
- At the beginning of 2022, the ICRC will launch a new project on reducing sustainability risks per item. For more information, please see the project charter below.

### PROJECT CHARTERS

Find out more about the project charters through the links below:

- [Carbon accounting tool for the humanitarian sector](#)
- [Fleet optimization](#)
- [Workshop waste management](#)
- [Essential Household Items sustainable information](#)
- [Eco-design tarpaulin](#)
- [Alternatives to woven polypropylene bags](#)
- [Reducing sustainability risk per item](#)

## TURNING SUSTAINABLE IDEAS INTO REALITY



### [QSE team and supplier coaching](#)

The ICRC's QSE assessments seek to identify nonconformity and help suppliers improve, which ensures people get the products they need.



### [Giving back to the planet in Nairobi](#)

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi partners with the Kenya Wildlife Service to replenish the tree cover in the Nairobi National Park.



### [South Sudan: Fleet waste management](#)

Proper waste management has long been a challenge, but we are working to minimize the damage we cause to the environment while helping communities affected by armed conflict.

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

## CARBON EMISSION CALCULATION

- **THE IFRC:** The long-standing desire to measure the IFRC secretariat's carbon footprint may now be fulfilled through the SCCA's carbon accounting tool, starting with a pilot and an initial baseline in 2022. An expert will be used to implement a carbon reduction roadmap by the end of 2022. A new staff member will be assigned to help collect the required data across the organization and to report progress annually. The IFRC will benefit from the ICRC's experience and will encourage and support National Societies to follow this method. For more information, please contact Juan Galvez at [juan.galvez@ifrc.org](mailto:juan.galvez@ifrc.org).
- The IFRC's regional office for the Middle East and North Africa started to introduce green specifications for various goods and services (i.e. cleaning items, hotels, etc.). For more information, please contact Goran Boljanovic at [goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org](mailto:goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org).
- The Swiss Red Cross is focusing on reducing sustainable risk (particularly CO2 emissions) in Switzerland and abroad. It has used the information in the carbon accounting tool project to secure the agreement of management to start carbon accounting. For more information, please contact Thomas Bueeler at [thomas.bueeler@redcross.ch](mailto:thomas.bueeler@redcross.ch).

The Canadian Red Cross has started working in the following areas:

- Conversion to hybrid or electric: A target has been set to convert 10% of the vehicle fleet by 2025. The process began with the recent acquisition of hybrid vehicles.
- A carbon emissions baseline for business travel was defined in 2019. The next steps are to assess options to reduce emissions and to work with stakeholders to have recommendations reviewed and approved.
- The procurement policy is currently undergoing a major review and will include the integration of environmental performance criteria into purchasing standards and processes (e.g. request for proposals and contracts).
- Existing vendors and those who complete the vendor qualification process, which now contains a sustainability section, will be assessed. Key performance indicators will be established to better promote green vendors. Any vendor performance review (part of a business review and scorecard) will now include an environmental score. For more information, please contact Romain Gauduchon at [romain.gauduchon@redcross.ca](mailto:romain.gauduchon@redcross.ca).

For information about the ICRC and SSCA, or to share sustainable supply chain initiatives for the next newsletter, please contact Carmen Garcia Duro at [cgarciaduro@icrc.org](mailto:cgarciaduro@icrc.org).

## DO YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM SUSTAINABILITY AND SUPPLY CHAIN EXPERTS?

To join our discussion forum, sustainability meetings or other events, please contact [richard.casagrande@ifrc.org](mailto:richard.casagrande@ifrc.org).



## DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA?

Find out more through the links below:

- [ICRC challenge](#)
- [IFRC challenge \(National Societies and secretariat\)](#): [juan.galvez@ifrc.org](mailto:juan.galvez@ifrc.org).