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ENVIRONMENT CONSIDERATIONS

UKRAINE SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) CLUSTER

Produced by the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice

Additional support on assessing and addressing environmental issues is available by emailing the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice at havedisastercallkelly@gmail.com.

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Provide Donated Commodities based on Confirmed Needs

Donated commodities should be collected and distributed based on confirmed needs. Items **need to be clean and sorted** before being moved into the distribution system. Electrical items should operate at 220 volts, 50 hrz. These steps will reduce unnecessary transport (reducing the carbon footprint of operations) and mitigate the environment challenges of disposal of unneeded donations.

The USAID Center for International Disaster Information provides information for public awareness and advocacy on donations. See this link for an overview of the Center's resources and this link for specific information on the challenge posed by unsolicited donations.

Address Energy Requirements

Shelter and NFI assistance should **consider energy requirements for heating, lighting, food storage and preparation, and other needs**. This can be an incremental process focusing on:

- reducing heat loss via on-going winterization assistance, and
- a progressive introduction of energy-related equipment and supply systems which reduce CO^2 equivalent emissions, leading to an improvement in indoor air quality and a reduced contribution to climate change.

Even when warm weather arrives, damage to Ukraine's overall energy, water, and sanitation system will mean that accessible and safe sources of energy will be critical for making water safe for drinking and food preparation. Energy will also be needed to support livelihoods and education activities.

Providing assistance to the conflict in the east since 2014 means that Ukraine has considerable experience in supporting shelter and NFI-related energy needs. In addition, the Global Platform for Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement has significant resources to support the Ukraine Cluster in this area.

Reuse and Repurpose Debris for Shelter

The conflict is generating considerable volumes of debris, much of which can be used as building material. A frequent challenge in conflict or disaster-damaged urban areas is an immediate lack of normal building materials to repair damage or construct emergency or transitional shelter. However, debris management programs can provide materials that can be reused or repurposed for repairs or construction, reducing the need to bring building materials into urban areas.

Disaster Waste Management Guidelines provide guidance on establishing a debris management program. Additional information is available here.

Assess Market to Identify Environmental Linkages

An EMMA**-type assessment** should be done as part of any decision to provide cash for specific purposes, for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (when expected to be spent on already identified goods and services), or to purchase commodities in large quantities. A market survey can confirm that supplies are adequate in the face of increased purchases and help identify any possible negative environmental impacts. The CALP Network CVA, Environment and Climate Change Community of Practice Community of Practice can provide support in this area. Information on the Ukraine Cash Working Group, which has been active since 2016, can be found here.

Assess CO^2 Equivalent Costs

Calculation of NFI transport costs should include the cost of CO^2 equivalent emissions. Incorporating a CO^2 equivalent cost into humanitarian procurement decisions provides a practical way to consider the cost of climate change-related emissions as part of NFI delivery decisions. While rapid delivery by air is justified based on pressing humanitarian needs, calculating the cost of CO^2 equivalent emissions involved provides a more realistic, climate-considered cost of transport, and can provide funds to offset the CO^2 equivalent emissions involved.

Tools are available to calculate CO^2 equivalent emissions for different transport modes, for costing the emissions produced and for offsetting emissions.

Reduce Single Use Plastic

Unnecessary use of single use plastic should be reduced in line with Global Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group guidance. When possible, shelter and NFI items should have the least packaging possible. Bulk shipments to large distribution points should be considered.

In line with emerging good practice, relief packaging waste should be collected and sustainably processed. In Ukraine, this can be done by supporting existing collection and processing systems, linked into debris management efforts where possible. Further information on humanitarian packaging management can be found here.