June 2022

DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Environmental Good Practice

Intention

to help highlight and address relevant environmental considerations in the DEC-funded Ukraine response. These good practices correlate with the 4 areas of environmental consideration included in the DEC's reporting requirements (Section C3).

Disclaimer

this list is necessarily general and whilst it takes into account the Ukraine context there will be finer-grained contextual trade-offs that need to be carefully considered e.g. local procurement may not be appropriate in areas where locally supplied materials lead to environmental degradation.

Environmental degradation/protection

- **Consider the trade-offs involved in cash programming using a market assessment to identify environmental linkages.** An EMMA-type assessment should be done as part of any decision to provide cash to confirm whether or not supplies are adequate in the face of increased purchases and help identify any possible negative environmental impacts.
- When purchasing in Ukraine or neighbouring countries, **consider the impact on local supplies and demand for natural resources.** Commercial supply chains in Ukraine are disrupted by the conflict and can improve or degrade quickly. Normal supply lines can be considered to be more efficient, economically and environmentally, than relief convoys and direct distribution of aid. But the latter may be justified where normal supply systems are significantly disrupted. As a result, a flexible approach to local procurement and direct provision of relief supplies is needed.
- **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. It is vital that you **contact UNDP Ukraine for advice on any debris management or reuse programming as the work is complicated by the presence of unexploded munitions.**

Carbon footprint

- 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.
- Practice efficient driving.
- Use public transport, including trains, when safe.
- Rent/buy hybrid cars where possible.
- Use appropriate vehicle types: 4x4s are not necessary in many areas.
- Reduce energy consumption in offices and meetings (e.g. regulating the use of air conditioning, setting equipment to energy saving modes etc.)

Use of green energy

Shelter, NFI, IDP Centres, livelihoods and education 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 repairs and winterisation assistance, and
- a progressive introduction of energy-efficient equipment and supply systems which reduce CO_2 equivalent emissions.

Consider using solar panels and rechargeable batteries where they can meet some or all of site-specific demands for electricity (e.g., for rural households which cannot be reconnected to the national grid).

Source

This information was drawn from the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice. https://sheltercluster.org/working-group/shelter-environment-technical-working-group

Please note

The Global Shelter Cluster makes clear that information provided does not necessarily represent the views of any specific organisation and is subject to revision as conditions change.

See follow on poster below for waste management tips.

For any DEC information or queries, contact Frances Crowley, fcrowley@dec.org.uk
For the Ukraine response contact OCHA Environmental Advisor in Ukraine, Tanya Grygaski, tanya.grygaski@un.org

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

TIPS FOR MANAGING WASTE & GREENING THE RESPONSE

When possible, eliminate single-use plastics in relief items distributions, offices, and at meetings

Connect to municipal/local waste collection and recycling services, and supplement with additional private services if necessary

Favor packaging alternatives such as paper/cardboard

Organize segregated waste collection points at distribution sites and transit centers

Include sustainability criteria in your tender documents and procurement contracts

ECO

Take care with hazardous waste, and seek specialist advice on how to dispose of it safely

Map out and lease with recyclers in country and in the region

Discourage unsolicited donations of inappropriate relief items, which can block up supply chains and have high potential to become waste

Practice efficient driving

Rent/buy electric or hybrid cars where possible

Use appropriate vehicle types: 4x4s are not necessary in many areas

Prioritize the use of solar cells and batteries instead of generators

Purchase as locally as possible, to reduce carbon emissions from transportation