

Brussels, 8 May 2025
(OR. en)

8699/25

COHAFA 27
DEVGEN 57
FIN 494
SAN 196
RELEX 546
INTER-REP 59

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Improving the quality of humanitarian operations in the medical sector - strategic approach to the humanitarian supply chain - presentation by Plan International

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 23 and 24 April 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by Plan International ^{1 2}.

¹ Plan International, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 310344150876-09.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



Progress in Aid Medical Delivery due to Strategic Supply Chain

Strategic Supply Chain Initiatives

- Preparedness Strategies
- Prepositioning approaches
- Strategic sourcing
- Closer collaboration & sharing of information & resources

DG ECHO Supported Initiatives

- QUAMED
- HPC (Humanitarian Procurement Centres)
- EUHAB (European Humanitarian Air Bridge)
- Humanitarian Logistics Policy
- Supply Chain HIP's

Wider Aid Sector Initiatives

- Pooled Health Funds/Procurement
- Standardised Emergency Medical Kits
- EMT (Emergency Medical Teams) network
- Customs importation improvement (IMPACCT)
- Medical quality assurance (UNWHO MQAS)

Current enduring challenge in Medical aid supply chain delivery

- High cost due to global remote hubs delivery model incurring high & duplicative transport & logistics costs
 - High environmental impact due to reliance on international freight (often by air)
 - Constrained by receiving country's gateway infrastructure and customs barriers
 - Does not offer a pathway to a long-term sustainable model of aid delivery
-

The Next Strategic Frontier/Solution : Markets Focussed Localization

- Focus on identifying & removing barriers that prevent "truly local" suppliers & markets from developing & supporting aid sector delivery, thus reducing reliance on global supply chains
- Galvanising a collective & collaborative approach across the aid sector to support truly local market based approaches
- Leverage scale to improve quality standards, enhance viability of local enterprise and promote ethical business practices

PLAN via its Supply Chain mandate, in collaboration with other similar minded aid actors intend to conduct local pilot initiatives to fully uncover & find solutions to these barriers, and to share & expand these solutions collaboratively to achieve global scale & impact.

Case Studies: Best Practice and lessons learnt

Plan International Egypt:

Following the outbreak of the war in Gaza and the West Bank, urgent needs—particularly for food and medical supplies—were communicated via the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC). While the Egyptian Government designated medication as outside the scope of INGOs, Plan International Egypt (PIE) provided first aid kits in the early stages, aligning with PRC specifications and ensuring compliance with COGAT clearance requirements. After the Rafah border closure, PIE continued securing approvals, though kits containing metal items were returned by the Israeli side after inspections. PIE has also supported affected Palestinians with food kits and other humanitarian items, including hygiene, dignity, and shelter kits.



Plan International Ethiopia:

To combat hunger and enhance education in crisis-affected areas, Plan International Ethiopia has launched a school feeding programme. This initiative supports thousands of children, fostering better attendance, learning outcomes, and community empowerment. Plan International Ethiopia has launched a school feeding programme to improve Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in crisis-hit Lasta and Lalibela. The initiative, under the European Union Delegation Project, boosts school enrolment, attendance, and learning by addressing hunger.



Purpose Driven - Supply Chain

SC4G



At Plan International, we see Supply Chain as an opportunity not only to support our operations but also to drive transformative development change. By carefully planning how we deliver our services and structure our supply chain operations, we strive to enhance the positive impact of our supply chain to further benefit the communities we serve.



Gender Responsive Procurement

Develop and promote women entrepreneurs by increasing their participation in Plan's procurement to reach 5% of our PII spend.



Localisation

We champion "Truly Local" Supply Chains. As local as possible, as international as necessary. 95% of our procurement is done locally (incl. through partners), to support local economies, protect local markets and reduce environmental impact whilst ensuring VFM.



Greening Our Operations

Plan is committed to reducing our GHG emissions by 55% by 2031 and ensuring that our operations and supply chain activities tread as gently as possible on the environment.



Quality Assured Health Supply Chain

The safety and well-being of our project participants is our top priority and we are rolling out various quality measures and controls to ensure that we do no harm through our health and medical projects.



Increased Impact through Shared Initiatives

Collaboration with other aid actors is key to bridging the funding gap and enabling us to collectively do more for less. ex. GLC, IAPG, HULO, PARCEL, HELP, HLA.



Scaling up Supply Chain to scale-up humanitarian impact

Supply Chain is the backbone to a quick, effective & efficient lifesaving humanitarian emergency response. We will also mindfully plan for SC transition to steady state, stable conditions.

Guiding questions for reflection/discussion:

1. Can the aid system afford to sustainably continue to deliver humanitarian medical aid largely via the traditional expensive & problematic global delivery model?
2. Can the DG ECHO concept of HPC's (Humanitarian Procurement Centres) be adapted & scaled up significantly at a local level to capacity build & donor prequalify local medical suppliers in all countries where DG ECHO supports humanitarian operations?
3. How would this be best operationalized – would DG ECHO do this in house OR by outsourcing OR by seeking collaboration with the UNGM/ Global Fund Wambo system OR by enabling market based neutral platform approaches? Can this be expanded to cover non-medical aid commodities & services and across donors for even greater aid sector reform impact?

PLAN INTERNATIONAL Global Supply Chain



08/05/2025



7