

Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain

Meeting organised by the European Commission/DG ECHO - 4 December 2024

Conclusions

Amid **growing humanitarian needs, the multiplication of crises, and diminishing funding**, participants recognised the **critical role of supply chain in the delivery of humanitarian aid** and the role it can play in addressing key priorities of the humanitarian system.

Participants also recognised the role that supply chain can play in concretely implementing the objectives of the **Grand Bargain** and reaffirmed their collective commitment to optimising supply chain for humanitarian aid.

Participants agreed on the importance of developing a **more strategic approach to supply chain** to address the multiple challenges in the humanitarian sector. Strategic joined-up approaches to strengthening the humanitarian supply chain contribute to supporting equitable and sustained access to essential supplies and services. Furthermore, they contribute to more resilient systems, increased efficiencies, and cost savings. This is instrumental to providing more effective and efficient assistance to those in need and contributes to **closing the funding gap**.

Participants agreed on the importance of prioritising the following **areas of work** where there is growing consensus that the supply chain can deliver significant improvements:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of **procurement** practices by strengthening cooperation among humanitarian actors.
- Strengthening **preparedness** by making supply chain more resilient, especially for local communities.
- Supporting the capacity of **local actors** to lead on supply chain management and address bottlenecks.
- Supporting greater **sustainability** of items and processes, notably by consistently monitoring the carbon footprint and implementing proven mitigation measures.
- Optimising **digital** supply chain solutions for better use of logistics data and data sharing (based on interoperability, and consistent data capture) for better coordination and decision making.

Participants emphasised that these areas are closely intertwined. Closer attention needs to be given to **cross-cutting dimensions**, including the role of innovative financing and of the private sector.

By building upon **maturing practices** and **increasing evidence**, participants agreed to take the discussion forward through a series of **thematic workshops** in 2025. These workshops will be based on the attached discussion paper *'Towards a strategic approach to supply chain'*.

Outcomes will be considered at a **Final Conference** at leadership level with the aim of endorsing a concrete set of actions, including in the short-term, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian supply chain.

Participants agreed to **continue working together**, in an inclusive manner and in close cooperation with the various actors of the humanitarian community, to ensure that strategic supply chain for humanitarian aid become more resilient, efficient, and sustainable, to the benefit of people in need.