

Rationale

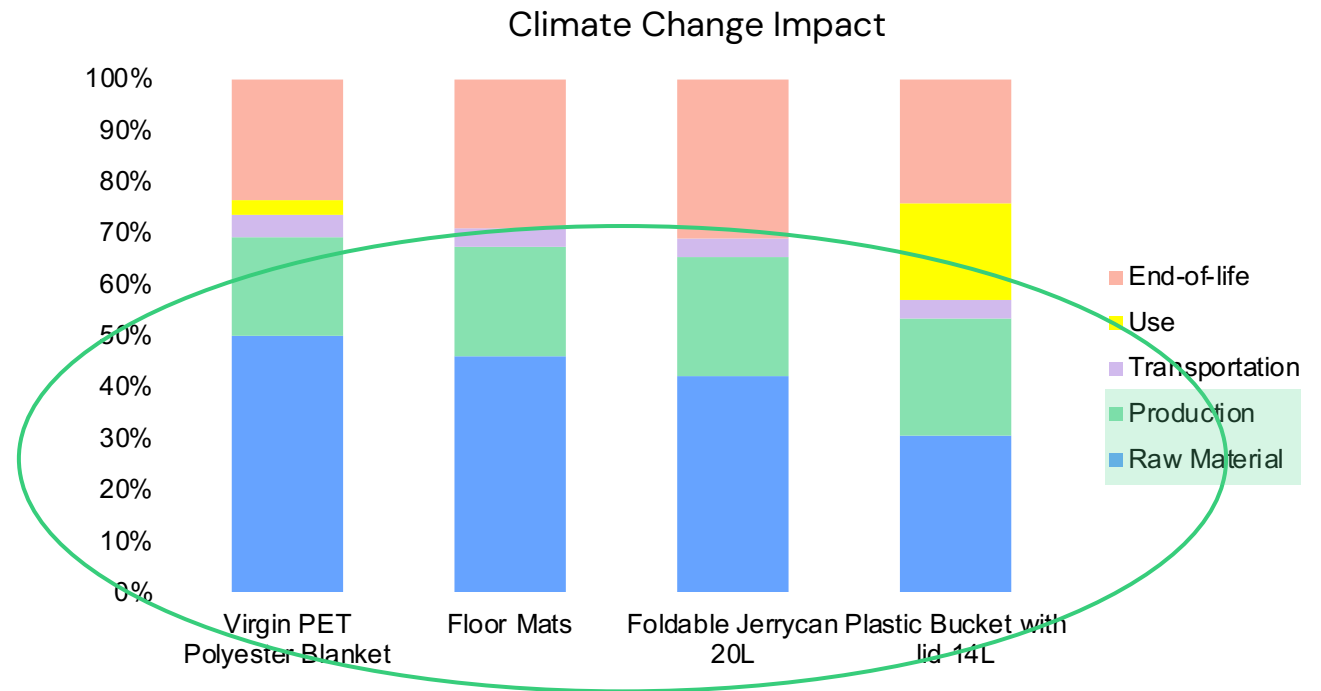
- Procurement-related emissions represent a major share of the climate impact of any organisation providing essential services to populations.
- Reducing procurement-related emissions is considered costly, difficult and negatively impacting beneficiaries or patients.



Rationale – Context and problem

In general, raw material extraction and fossil fuel-based energy in the production are the most impactful stages.

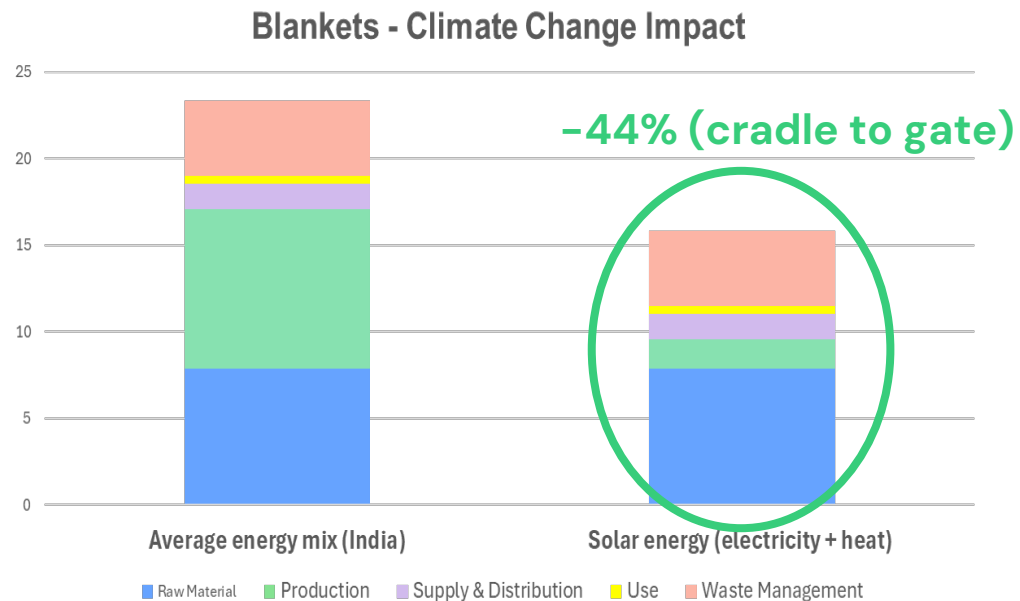
But: transport, packaging, use, and end-of-life all contribute to impacts.



Source: Climate Action Accelerator, ICRC, EPFL: **Accelerating the reduction of the environmental impact of humanitarian action**



Example decarbonisation potential



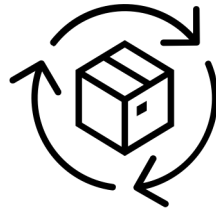
Switching to renewable energy

- Across analysed relief items, using **renewable energy** in the production process alone can **cut emissions by 20-45%** (cradle-to-gate).
- **By combining different key levers, emission reductions of 35 – 70% (cradle-to-gate) are possible.**

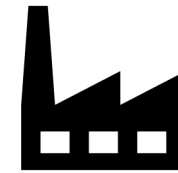
Approach & Key levers



Change ways of working and only buy what is needed



Buy alternative, more durable, or more sustainable products



Choose more sustainable suppliers, notably those that produce with low-carbon energy



Focus on top items: For many organisations, 15–25 products make up >80% of their total procurement-related footprint.



Ways of working

For what purpose do we need this product?

Can the same need be fulfilled differently?

Is it possible to switch to a reusable and long-lasting product?

Did we consider renting or sharing?

→ Requires technical and operational expertise – and often behaviour change

40% less glove use per patient consultation through MSF
« Wear with Care Campaign »

Up to 83% emission reduction when switching from jerrycans to buckets

86% less emissions when switching to reusable Coveralls (SmartPPE)



Product level

Can we switch to more long-lasting products?

Can we use recycled materials (whilst ensuring same quality!)

How can we reduce material use whilst ensuring same lifespan?

Can we improve the end-of-life impacts?

ICRC Solar lamp: -50% emissions through reduced work, improved durability and repairability

90% emission reduction by switching from imported rice to locally sourced sorghum

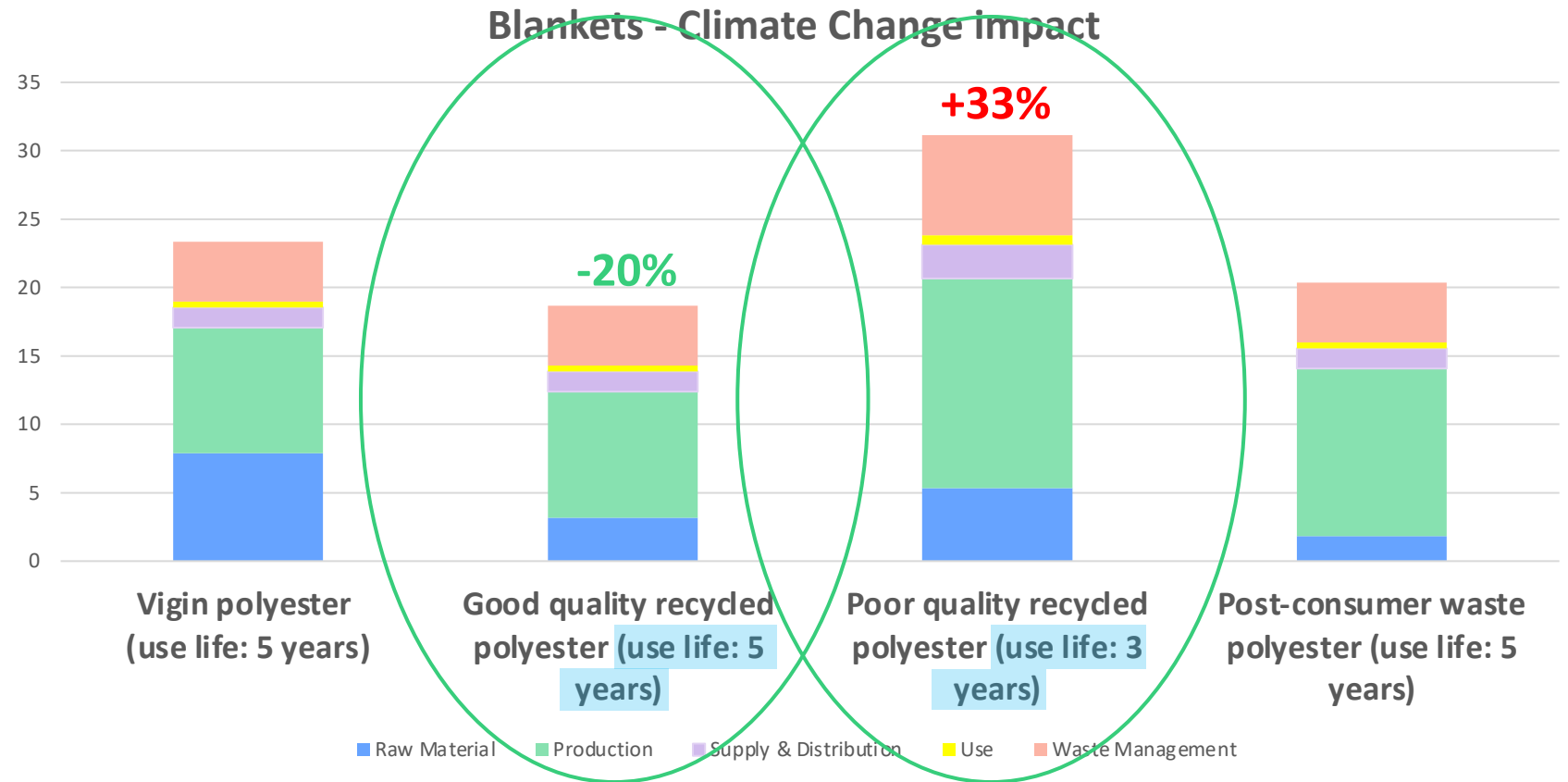
UNHCR Sustainability work on relief items: -70,000 tCO2e/year

Key findings | Materials

Using good quality recycled polyester reduces the climate change impact on average by 20% - if the lifespan of the product is maintained (cradle-to-grave).

When only considering the production until the factory gate, reductions of 17 – 53% are possible.

All displayed variations: Average energy mix in the production country (India), train-sea-train transport, open burning.





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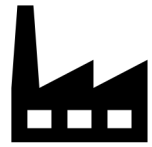


Supplier level

Does my supplier have a robust decarbonisation plan in place?

Is low-carbon energy used in the production process?





Supplier level



NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap

- 04/2023: Carbon reduction plan required for contracts > £5 million
- 04/2027: Carbon reduction plan for all suppliers, covering all emissions
- 04/2028: Product carbon footprint requirements (



RE100 Initiative

- +440 companies committed to using renewable energy in their supply chain
- +570TWh/year – more than South Korea



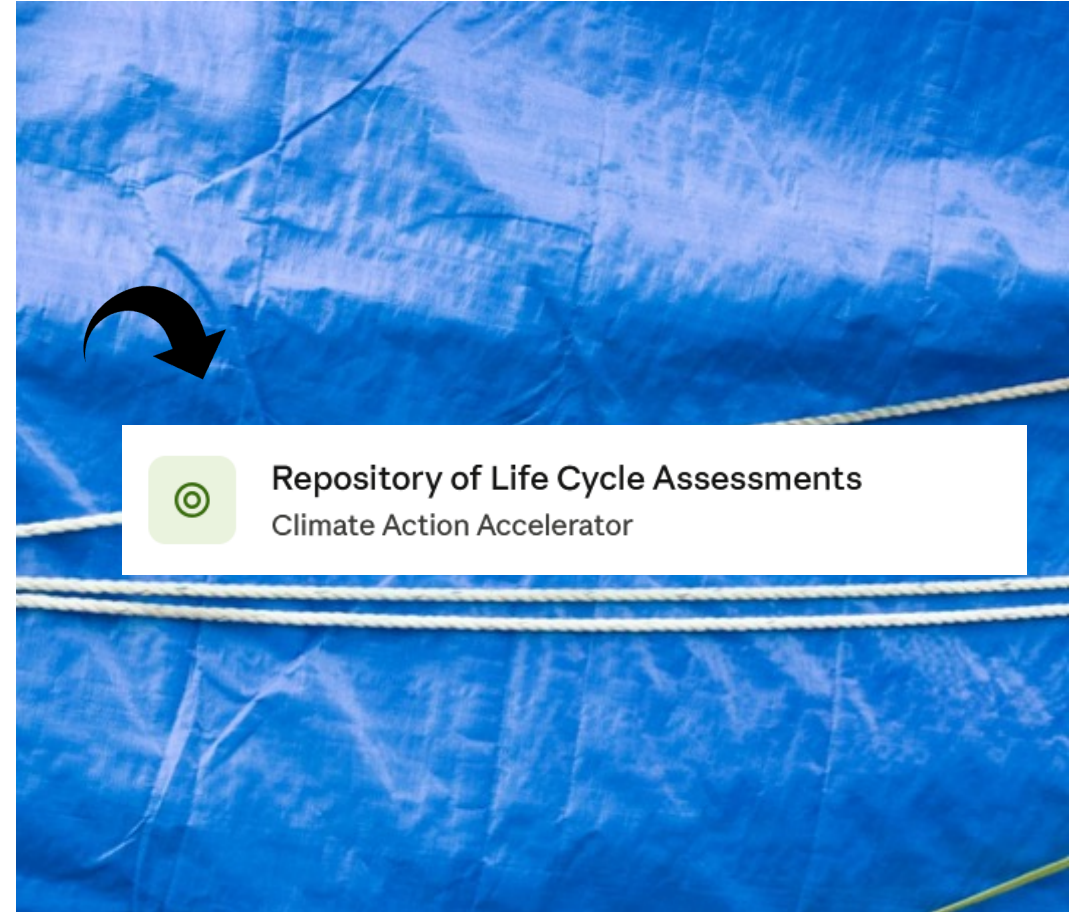
ICRC

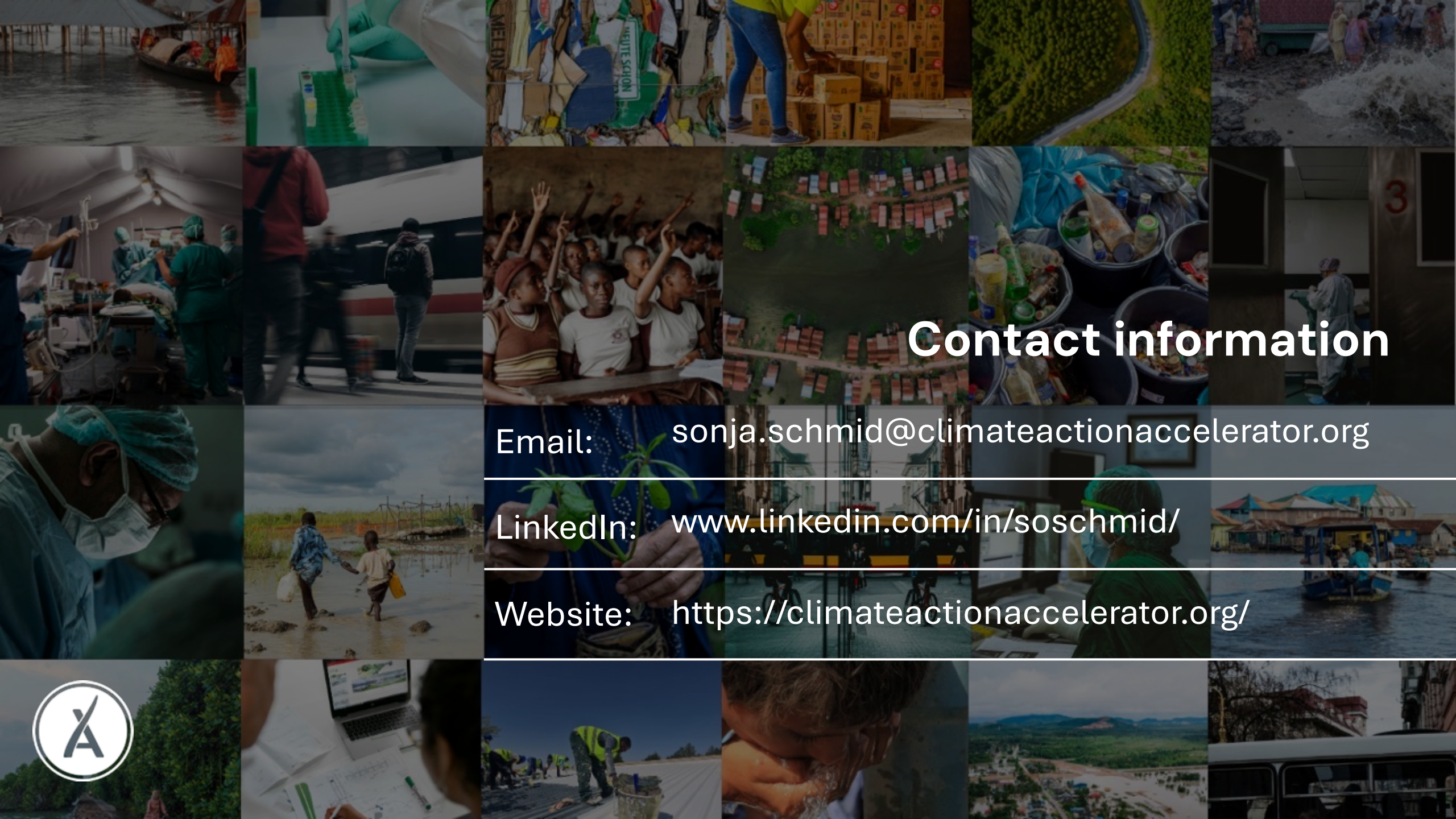
ICRC Selection criteria

- Additional points in the selection phase of non-food items when produced with at least 30% renewable energy

Conclusion & transferable lessons

- Focus on top items and key levers when tackling procurement-related emissions
- Translate LCA hotspots in guidance for procurement officers
- Do not wait for perfect data or LCAs, identify hotspots, then start working with suppliers on implementation.
- Privilege low-carbon in the production phase: no impact on specifications, nor (in general) on price.
- Share your learnings!





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