

Avec la
participation
de



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

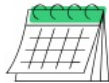
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Climate Action
Accelerator

Public webinar

Simplifying **LCA** findings for **procurement** and **operations** in the **humanitarian sector**



Tuesday 30 June | 12:30–13:30 CEST



Practical information

PROGRAMME

12:30		Welcome & Introduction
12:40		Product categorisation
12:55		LCA Framework
13:10		Q&A session
13:25		Final remarks

- This webinar is **recorded** and will be made available on **replay** on our website and YouTube channel.
- **Your audio and video is off by default.**
- To ask a question, please **write in the Q&A** section. The moderator will read out questions during the Q&A sessions.
- **Translation** to French is available via Zoom.

Link to webinar page:

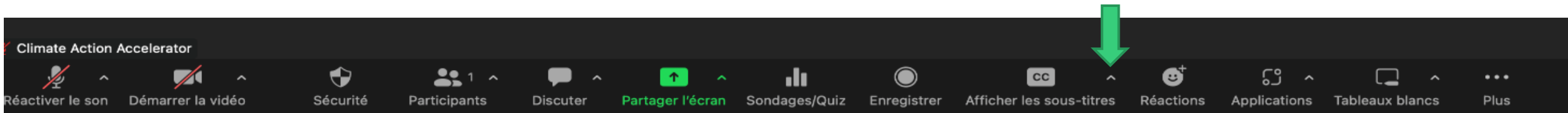
climateactionaccelerator.org/events_and_webinars/



Translation

How to activate subtitles on Zoom ?

1) Click on « Show captions» or « Afficher les sous-titres » in the bottom bar (small arrow to the right).



2) Select the spoken language and the language you want to translate into.



Who we are

The **Climate Action Accelerator** is a non-profit initiative based in Geneva that aims to mobilise a critical mass of high-social trust organisations around the world to scale up implementation of climate solutions within planetary boundaries, keep global warming well below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous drift.

The goal is to help move the aid, health and higher education sectors towards greater resilience and a radical transformation of their practices, pursuing emission reduction targets (-50% by 2030) and a 'net zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement.



AID



HEALTH



HIGHER EDUCATION
& RESEARCH

Our pillars

EMPOWER

Empower organisations to at least halve their emissions by 2030 and prepare for greater resilience through a hub of expertise and resources.

CHAMPION

Transform them into ambassadors of change within their networks, capable of influencing their peers.

COMMUNITY

Build a global community of action, sharing climate solutions as a universal common good, to scale up their deployment.



+40 partners onboard



ব্রিঙ্গ দ্য সাইলেন্স



Today's speakers



Sarah Joseph

Senior Researcher,
CHORD



Sonja Schmid

Head of Climate Solutions
and Analytics Team,
Climate Action Accelerator



Quentin Roques

Junior Climate Analytics Officer,
Climate Action Accelerator



Background

Avec la participation de


**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Greening humanitarian supply chains: Providing recommendations to reduce the most relevant impact areas of key humanitarian products for practitioners, based on LCA data.

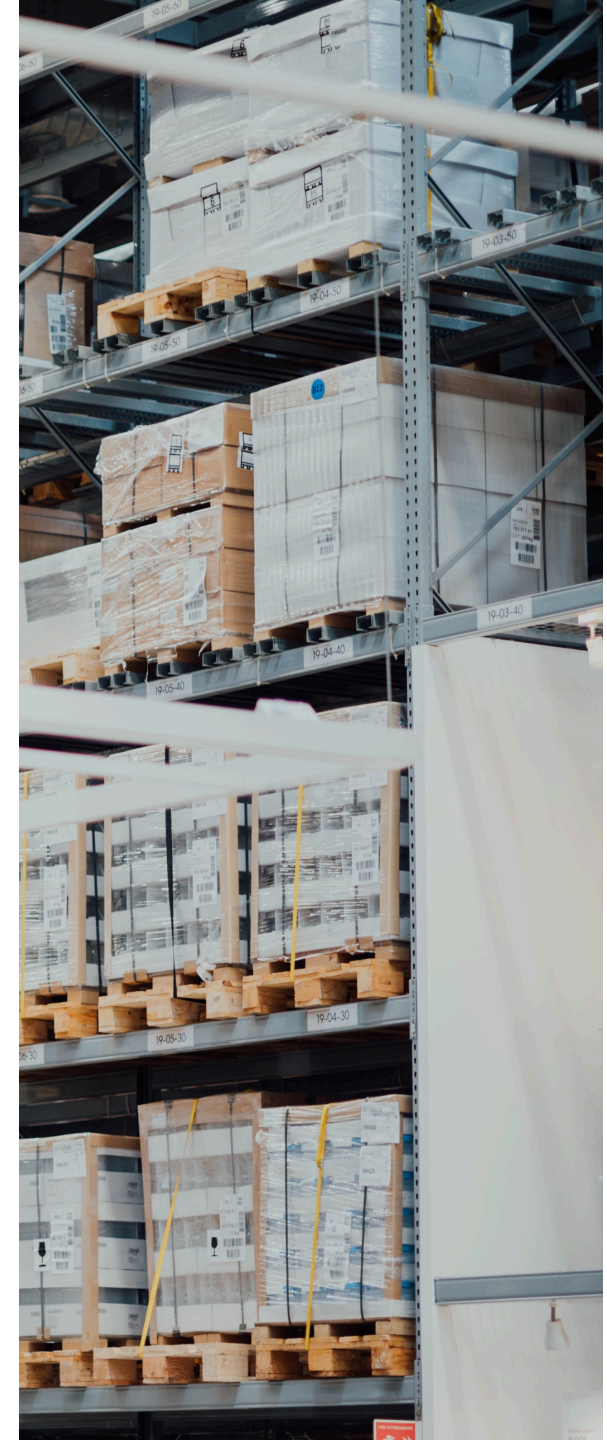
Develop a methodology to provide information on environmental and human health hotspots for top product categories of the sector.

Perform assessments of hotspots of five product groups.

Transform the results of the analyses into concrete and actionable recommendations for operational teams and buyers.

Develop a harmonised sectoral LCA framework

Project duration:
Nov 2025 – Oct 2026



Product Categorisation

We know that impact hotspots are often similar across similar product groups (e.g. tarpaulins and tents)

How can practitioners easily access information on how to reduce the impact without having to re-do an LCA for every product?



Product Categorisation

The project develops an approach to generalise LCA findings across similar products with the goal of providing impact hotspots per product group.



Product Categorisation

Why categorise LCAs?

Reuse existing knowledge to save time and resources



Running a full LCA requires **significant time, budget,** and expertise.



The sector **already holds many completed LCAs** : a foundation ready to build on.



Grouping products together allows using results of **similar past LCAs and ready-to-use lessons.**

The results will be open access, **accelerating impact analysis for key items procured in the humanitarian sector.**



CLASSIFICATION LOGIC

For this project, product categories follow shared characteristics (e.g. same raw material), not product use

Usual categorisation

Products are grouped by usage or thematic similarity.

*Example: **medical items** grouped together, regardless of material or function.*

- Syringes
- Medicines
- Gloves
- Diagnostic tests
- Bandages
- Thermometers
- Stethoscopes

To identify hotspots

Products are grouped by shared hotspots and characteristics.

Example: medical items are now distributed across relevant categories.

Plastic & Single-Use: syringes, gloves, bandages

Chemicals: medicines, disinfectants

Electronics: thermometers, diagnostic devices

Textiles: gauze, surgical drapes

Exemplary categories and their impact hotspots

CATEGORY	MAIN HOTSPOT	KEY IMPACT
● Plastic & Single-Use	Raw material extraction & end-of-life (waste / incineration)	Resource use & plastic pollution
● Electronics	Manufacturing & raw material extraction (rare metals)	Resource use
● Animal-Based Products	Raw material production (farming / breeding)	Land use & biodiversity loss
● Fuel-Dependent (use phase)	Use phase (combustion)	Climate change (GHG emissions)
● Chemicals	Manufacturing & use phase	Ecotoxicity & human toxicity

Based on a multi-impact Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach: hotspots indicate the life cycle stages that are responsible for the highest impacts; key impacts indicate the type of impact that is most relevant.

90+ key humanitarian items were pre-classified in ~20 categories



Practitioner-friendly outputs

A practitioner-friendly one-pager with four building blocks will be developed per product category.



Typical products

Representative examples of items within the category.



Typical hotspots and impacts

Common environmental or operational impacts to expect.



Applicable solutions

Actionable measures relevant to items in the category.



Key supplier questions

Critical questions to guide actions for each category.

+ Easy-to-understand videos for selected product categories

Methodology overview

A 3-step process



DONE

Select top items

Collect available LCAs & other data

Build decision tree



IN PROGRESS

Build categories

Use the inputs to group items into meaningful, actionable categories.



UPCOMING

Identify hotspots

Develop a structured, practitioner-oriented document for each category.



How did we build the categories ?



5 Decision trees

Identification of potential impacts at each life cycle phase through targeted questions.

- > To ensure that all impacts are properly taken into account.



Top items list

Identification of key sector items and compilation of existing LCAs.

-> To avoid a significant blind spot and ensure that all key humanitarian items are correctly categorised.



Key principle = coverage of top products and all key environmental and human health impacts

Verification of categories through a combined approach

1

Data-driven approach

Source: Existing LCAs from the sector.

Method: Group products with similar impacts and solutions based on historical data.

2

Theoretical approach

Source: Decision tree outputs.

Method: Group codes with minimal impact differences or shared characteristics.

+

Combined method

Integration: Merge results from both approaches to refine categories. **Result:** Robust, consensus-based ~20 categories balancing empirical data and theoretical consistency.



From 90 items to ~20 categories

90

items assessed through the 5 decision trees

~50

Grouped

items with identical responses consolidated directly

~20

final categories after merging similar ones

Next step: Identification of impact hotspots and test if the categories need to be re-assessed.



Life Cycle Assessment Framework

Many LCAs already exist in the sector, but their results remain difficult to compare due to significant methodological differences and, ultimately, the lack of a harmonised framework / guidance document.

Financial support from:



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Why ?

- To enable comparability of LCA results within the sector through a harmonised framework;
- To explain how to conduct LCAs to non-experts, enabling them to have informed discussions with suppliers and consultants.

For whom?

- For LCA experts and non-experts alike
- For humanitarian organisations who want to perform an LCA or request their suppliers to provide them with an LCA

What is included ?

- One-page supplier guidelines to harmonise LCA results, including impact indicators
- An explanation of key concepts of life cycle assessments
- Practical considerations when conducting/requesting an LCA

To simplify the LCA Methodology

Problem : too complex methodology

- ISO norms are useful but complex document
- ISO norms are not specific for the humanitarian sector

Solution : One-page supplier guidelines

- Ready-to-use supplier guidelines
- Backed up by a 15 page document with additional explanations if needed

To harmonise the system boundary

Problem :
different system boundaries

- Impossible to compare assessments
- Impossible to use some results as emission factors

Solution : Cradle-
to-gate **explicitly required**

- Cradle-to-gate = Upstream + Manufacturing + Packaging
- Cradle-to-grave = if possible

To push for multi-indicator Assessment

Problem : many LCA with only climate change indicator

- While other indicators can bring important additional results

Solution : Human health **strongly recommended**

- Other aggregated indicators exist as water use and ecotoxicity and could be also recommended

Resources provided by the framework

Practical considerations

- Software and tools : specialised software (openLCA, SimaPro) vs an Excel-based approach,
- Expected timeline : roughly 2–5 months for a simple product (most of the time is spent on data collection)

Simplified LCA Workflow

- Sum up of the & steps of an LCA process

Supplier guidelines

- A standardised data request to be sent to your supplier to gather technical data on the product

Public consultation

Kindly provide your detailed feedback through the dedicated form.

[Questionnaire : LCA Framework – Public Consultation – Remplir le formulaire](#)

The public consultation will be open until 31 July.



Q&A

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Three steps take any item from name to category

1

Identify the item

Determine the top item you need information on (e.g. syringes, tarpaulin, face mask, etc).

2

Check existing classifications

Is the item among the 90+ pre-classified humanitarian items?

Yes → you know its category **No** → go to Step 3

3

Answer guiding questions

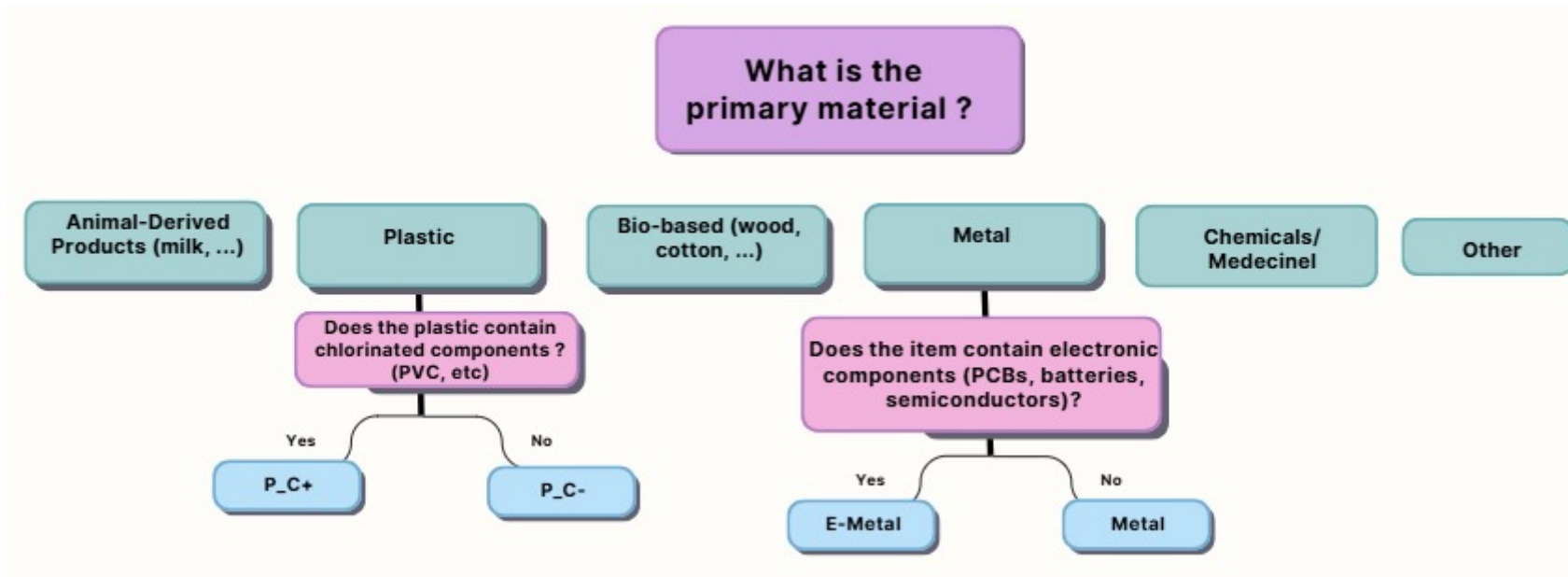
If the item is not pre-classified, answer a few targeted yes/no questions to find the right category.

Examples:

- Is the item made of plastic and designed for single use?
- Does it contain chemical substances?
- Is it an electronic device?



Decision Tree Example (phase 1 : Raw materials)



SOLUTIONS HUB

Understand the topic

- 1 Generic Solutions List
- 80+ solution factsheets covering key areas to reduce the climate and environmental impact of an organisation
- 1 Overview of quick and easy wins



TOOLKITS

Implement solutions

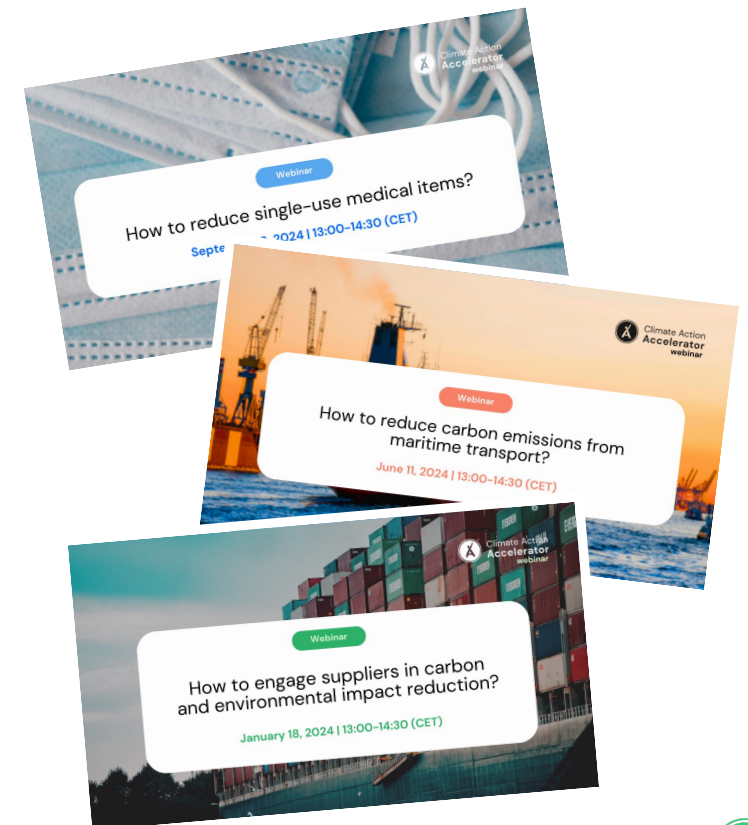
- Professional travel
- Good office practices
- Procurement
- Fleet
- Solarisation
- Waste characterisation
- Events



WEBINARS

Get inspired

- > 25 webinar replays online








Our Accelerator Programme for Aid Organisations

Achieve your climate goals without compromising essential services

A clear pathway: Footprint → Roadmap → Implementation

 2-year collective cycles

 Blended learning, collaborative online platform

 Includes methodology, mentoring and quality review

Contact: alexa.leblanc@climateactionaccelerator.org



E-mail address | analyticscontact@climateactionaccelerator.org

LinkedIn | <https://www.linkedin.com/company/theclimateactionaccelerator/>

Site Web | www.climateactionaccelerator.org



Climate Action
Accelerator