SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT FACTSHEET – BLANKET



This factsheet provides practical guidance for humanitarian procurement and programme teams to source blankets more sustainably and from local production. It highlights key considerations throughout the product lifecycle:



1. Before buying

Sustainable procurement starts with a clear assessment of needs. The following questions can guide procurement policies and decisions.

Do we buy the right quantities?	Can we buy locally produced blankets?	Can we buy sustainable?
• What quantity and type of blankets are needed? Base this on household size, climate/season, and expected duration of assistance. • Consider reuse or redistribution of blankets from previous responses.	• Is there a local supplier able to meet the required quality, safety, thermal performance, and quantity specifications? • Are the blankets manufactured locally, or only distributed/assembled locally? *If no local supplier meets these criteria, consider regional suppliers for alternative sourcing options.*	• Can the blanket be easily repaired or recycled? Natural fibres are generally easier to repair and recycle locally than polyester. • Where possible, choose locally made, 100% natural fibres; where not available, recycled polyester is the next option. *Reminder: Polyester is made from petroleum, processed with chemicals, and a source of microplastics throughout its lifespan.*

2. Choosing the right blanket

These tables help integrate sustainability into your blanket procurement. **Table 1** includes ready-to-use technical specifications for BOQs, and **Table 2** provides supplier evaluation criteria for procurement assessment. The "Impact" column reflects each criterion's importance to the environmental footprint (climate, water, waste).

Table 1. Criteria for sustainable blanket procurement

Criteria	Impact	Sustainability guidance
Raw materials	High	**100% organic wool filling** (uniformly and stably distributed) **with 100% organic cotton cover**; where unavailable, **100% recycled polyester** as an alternative.
Tailoring and stitching quality	High	Double-folded binding with four finished edges, and even, non-fraying edge-stitching.
Certified fabric	Medium	Fair Trade, ROC (Regenerative Organic Certified), or Fair Wear Foundation certification. Environmental certifications: GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), GRS (Global Recycled Standard) Social certifications: Fair Trade, ROC (Regenerative Organic Certified), or Fair Wear Foundation certification.
Local manufacturing	Low	Locally produced fibres and/or locally woven and tailored.

Table 2. Supplier criteria

Criteria	Impact	Sustainability guidance
Energy used in manufacturing	High	The supplier shall use low-carbon energy and disclose the share of electricity from low-carbon sources versus electricity from the grid or diesel generators.
Water consumption	Medium	The supplier shall monitor water use and implement measures to reduce consumption and treat wastewater.
Packaging	Low	Paper wrap as primary packaging and cardboard as secondary packaging, free of chemical anti-mite/anti-parasite treatments.
Social impact		The supplier shall demonstrate appropriate health & safety measures, local employment (with indicative %), and payment of a fair wage.

3. During use

As a humanitarian organisation you can try to influence the behaviour of beneficiaries: Make sure care guidance is provided in local language and pictogram form via a permanent label attached directly to the blanket.

4. End of life

Damaged blanket:

- **Repair:** Identify and work with local repair resources (tailors, community repair points) so recipients can repair small tears rather than discard their blankets.
- **Recycling/upcycling:**
  - Local companies, tailors, or associations can turn damaged blankets into new clothing or objects (e.g. stuffing material, rags).
  - Natural fibres (wool, cotton, linen) are generally easier to recycle than synthetic fibres, so factor this into material choice at the procurement stage where possible.
- **Final disposal:** Where possible, raise awareness with recipients on proper disposal practices, and where recycling or upcycling options aren't available locally, point toward authorised disposal channels (e.g. landfill) if known. Advocacy or coordination with local waste management authorities/actors can help improve available options over time, even if direct control isn't possible.

5. Alternatives: cost and environmental analysis

Table 3. All contexts: environmental benefits of recommended alternatives

Availability of these alternatives must be verified with local suppliers.

Alternatives	Key benefits
Organic natural fibre: **100% wool** filling and organic cotton cover (locally produced)	Shorter supply chains, supporting local markets and lower transport-related emissions. Valorises a local by-product (wool).
Organic natural fibre: **100% organic cotton** filling and cover	Fully natural, biodegradable materials with no synthetic fibre content.
Second-hand blanket	Avoids emissions and impacts linked to new production and reduces waste.
Locally manufactured from deadstock fleece	Valorises a by-product that would otherwise go to waste, avoiding new raw material production.
100% recycled polyester	Reduces virgin plastic consumption and reliance on virgin petroleum-based materials.

Table 4. Lebanon: cost and environmental analysis of available alternatives

Second-hand blankets cost approximately 78% more than standard new ones.

A Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis shows that a high-performance, **locally made sheep wool blanket is 68% cheaper than a conventional fleece blanket**, once lifespan and washing requirements are factored in.

Conventional technical specification	Sustainable technical specification
Blanket – medium thermal, 100% polyester, 150 × 200 cm (+3%/-1%, measured on a flat stabilised sample), 400–700 g/m^2	• Second-hand blankets: medium thermal, 150 × 200 cm (+/-), 400–700 g/m^2, materials depending on availability • Locally manufactured blankets: 100% virgin sheep wool filling with cotton outer fabric

6. References and resources

This factsheet is based on a project's market assessment in Lebanon, drawing on supplier questionnaire responses, technical observations from site visits, and available guidance on sustainable products and services relevant to the Lebanese context in 2026. For more information, as well as the methodology used for price comparison, total cost of ownership, and the simplified LCA, please refer to the following document: *Appendix 1 - Price comparison & environmental analysis methodologies.*