

# UNHCR Environmentally Friendly Procurement

## DOCUMENT VERSION

This is the second version of the specification for this item with enhanced sustainability attributes, representing UNHCR's ongoing commitment to advancing the environmental, technical, social, and economic sustainability of relief items, as of **November 13, 2024**.

## SLEEPING MAT, SYNTHETIC, RECYCLED

Providing material assistance to forcibly displaced populations is fundamental to UNHCR's protection mandate. In an emergency, sleeping mats are one of the Core Relief Items that UNHCR distributes as part of the assistance to the affected populations. The waterproof mats are used for sleeping.

## END USERS

UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people. The product with this specification will be used by the people we protect, primarily in emergencies. The end users include people of all ages ranging from infants to older persons, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women. Therefore, the supplier needs to understand and study the needs of a forcibly displaced population, especially in emergencies, to ensure an innovative and sustainable product design that is user-centered.

## SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

For UNHCR to fulfill its obligations and strategic commitments, it is imperative to minimize the environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance. Our approach to a sustainable end-to-end supply chain includes planning, sourcing, material, manufacturing processes, procurement, delivery, and lifecycle management of goods (cradle to gate approach).

A holistic assessment of sustainable products includes but is not limited to, the following criteria:

- The product design follows Universal Design principles that are user-friendly and accessible.
- Manufacturing processes take into consideration the protection of the environment and respect for social standards.<sup>1</sup>
- Products are made from sustainable materials and post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials<sup>2</sup>.
- Packaging is made from sustainable materials, ideally with a second-life purpose.
- All unnecessary single-use plastic is removed.<sup>3</sup>
- Packaging, palletizing, and load ability of transport units are optimized.
- Products are recyclable.
- A life cycle analysis, including GHG emission factors, is performed and shared with UNHCR for all products.
- The geographical distribution of the supplier base is diversified to ensure the proximity of product delivery.

## PREFERENCE

Preference will be given to a product that is most user-friendly and has the highest overall sustainability elements that satisfy technical specifications. Please see the Sustainability Procurement Indicators from the United Nations Global Market that we comply with.<sup>4</sup>

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1 Suppliers to demonstrate the application of ISO 14001:2015: Environmental managing systems, ISO 9001:2015: Quality Management systems, ISO 26000: Guidance on social responsibility  
2 Pre-consumer waste is encouraged to be used while cannot be considered part of the target emission reduction  
3 [Single-use plastics: A roadmap for sustainability](#)  
4 [Sustainable Procurement Indicators \(ungm.org\)](#)

Item Application Sample



Technical specification

<b>Design and comfort</b>	<p>The sleeping mats should provide a comfortable feel for the skin without unpleasant odor. The product design should be user-friendly and accessible, following Universal Design Principles.</p> <p><b>UNHCR visibility logo should be placed only on the tag but not on the Item itself.</b></p>
<b>Material</b>	<p>Synthetic mats are made in a tight twill weave fabric. Twill weave fabric is made of synthetic yarns. A minimum of 1,000 yarns per meter length must be in the weft. The mat should be made of 100% synthetic yarns. Each yarn is a hollow tube made of plastic (i.e. polypropylene (PP) or else).</p> <p>Made of 100% recycled post-consumer waste plastic such as recycled PP. Synthetic sleeping mats must not contain such fillers as calcium carbonate or others.</p> <p>The target amount of post-consumer recycled plastic in the product is 100%, but a lower percentage will also be considered. Preferences will be given to the product that contains the highest amount of post-consumer recycled plastic while satisfying the quality and usability requirements of the products.</p>
<b>Secured edge</b>	<p>The two short sides are to be secured with a first stitch folded hem of the mat, plus one bias 40 mm binding tape of minimum 10g/m with stitches through the fabric of the mat, OR with a double folded stitched hem. Four sides trim finished. The edges of the mat should not be tearable when strongly pulled outside by hand or other similar force.</p>
<b>Colors</b>	<p>Can be uniform (preferably blue) or assorted color. No need to add additional color pigmentations and design elements. Military colors are prohibited. The drawings (if any) shall not contain signs or religious and/or political proverbs.</p>
<b>Size</b>	<p>180 x 90 cm. Tolerances: +/-2%</p>
<b>Weight</b>	<p>450-500 g/m<sup>2</sup> (measurement done on total weight divided by total mat surface). Tolerances: +/-5%</p>
<b>Bursting strength</b>	<p>ISO13938: 700 kPa minimum</p>
<b>General Quality</b>	<p>Homogeneous weaving (no non-woven tubes)</p>
<b>Life span/shelf life</b>	<p>Life span: minimum 12 months of use under hard tropical conditions. Shelf life: 3 years</p>

### Packaging

#### Primary packaging

Reducing plastic waste in the environment: Each individual sleeping mat should have no packaging (zero plastic).

#### Secondary packaging

- An optimal number of products should be packed in export-quality secondary packaging. Currently, bales are in use to make sure items are protected. Sustainable materials (such as recycled PP) with natural color without additional color pigment are preferred. Long-lasting plastics such as tarpaulin that have a second-life purpose in the field could also be considered. Innovative solutions are welcome.
- Quantity per secondary packaging: 30 pcs, but innovative alternative approaches will be considered the most optimal approach if it satisfies the quality and usability requirements of the products.
- Packed and strapped with 4 straps on the length.
- The bales might be packed on a pallet; in this case, they need to be wrapped in a water-tight material preferably made of or containing sustainable material, i.e. recycled plastic, or reusable material (such as tarpaulins), or other alternatives. Innovative sustainable solutions are welcome.
- Preference will be given to innovative packaging that does not harm the product, ideally with a second-life purpose, and minimizes packaging waste.
- Ensure that user-friendliness and safety aspects of handling persons are considered in the packaging design.

#### Tertiary packaging

The bales might be packed on a pallet; in this case, they need to be wrapped in a water-tight material, preferably made of, or containing sustainable material, i.e., recycled plastic or reusable material (such as tarpaulins or other alternatives). Packaging needs to ensure that products are protected from any damage including water and moisture. Innovative sustainable solutions are welcome. Avoid compostable bio-plastic for packaging and increase recycled content wherever possible.

#### CRI (UNHCR) Pallets

- Dimensions 1150 mm (length) x 770 mm (width) x 144 mm (height). Tolerance:  $\pm 10$  mm (length, width, height).
- Marked with a burnt sign and fumigated as per IPSM 15 standard.
- Acceptable standards are Grade A Stringer Pallets or 9 Block Pallets. Load
- Bearing Capacity: nominal load: 750 kg (randomly distributed load) and evenly distributed Load: 1200 kg.
- The palletized goods must not exceed the length and width of the pallet.

For shipping to Copenhagen's Global stock pile, EURO pallet will be applicable upon confirmation in the PO.

### Optimal shipping / Container information

In preparing shipping, the maximum number of items that can fit into a transport unit must be considered. The container layout plan will be defined on the purchase order.

20' DC container (without pallets)  
40' DC container (without pallets)  
40' HC container (without pallets)  
20' DC container (with pallets)  
40' DC container (with pallets)  
40' HC container (with pallets)

The final number of the transport units and the maximum height of loaded pallets, if palletized, will be specified on the purchase order.

### Manufacturer's marking

Each sleeping mat should include a tag stitched in the hem. The tag should include the following:

- UNHCR logo
- Produced for UNHCR by [supplier's and manufacturer's name(s)]
- a unique reference batch number
- the date of manufacturing
- material composition (type of material(s)) and the ratio of each material in the product
- certified sustainability claim/eco-labelling
- recycling identification symbol and code (as per ASTM International Resin Identification Coding System (RIC).
- QR code to a page assigned by UNHCR.

Suppliers' and manufacturers' logos are prohibited.

**The final marking on the tag, letter size, and design needs to be approved by UNHCR before production.**

### Marking on the secondary packaging

Suppliers' and manufacturers' logos are prohibited. The marking must remain readable and well fixed on the bale after a minimum of 10 handlings. Other markings as specified in the contract/purchase order. The UNHCR visibility logo will need to be applied on the sides of the secondary packaging (excluding the bottom). For detailed information, please refer to the section "Shipping Marks" on the relevant GDS PO.

### Marking techniques

- Laser engraving
- Printing with water-based ink
- Printing on sustainable sticky tapes

Ink/colouring must be non-toxic and ecologically friendly.

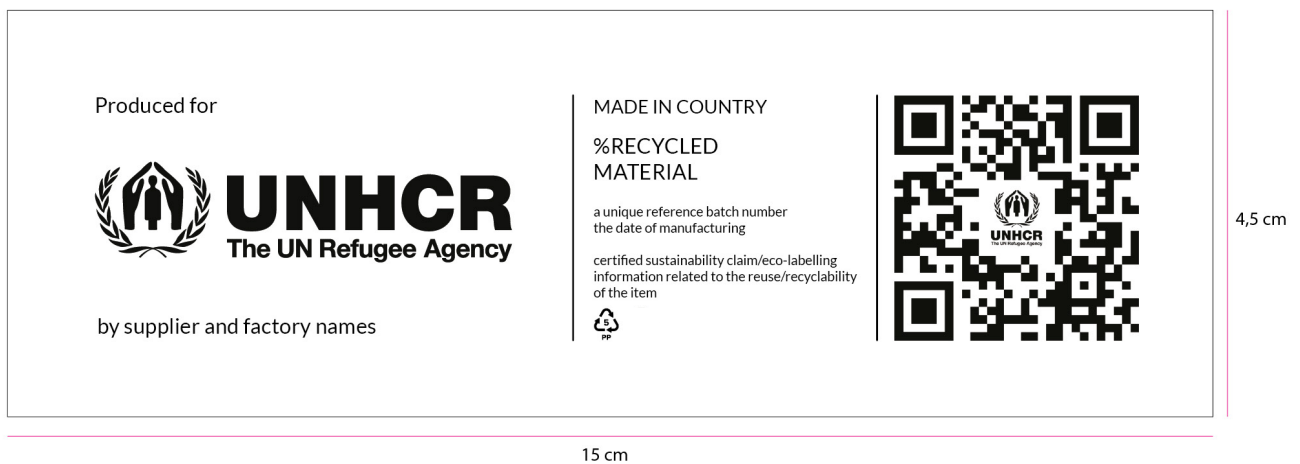
**Graphic Reference**

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**UNHCR Logo Application Reference**

**Horizontal logo**



**Minimum size**

