



BOX IN A BOX

Innovating the shipping container

INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

Background

The shipping container is one of the most significant innovations for moving goods in recent times. Its development resulted in massive cost savings for global transportation of goods, and enabled the global trade boom. For humanitarian response, however, there is no standard container for supplies.

Lack of a standardised containers hinders the ability of the humanitarian community to respond and provide the right supplies in the most expedited fashion. During the Ebola response in 2014, for example, pandemic relief supplies arrived from partners in different palletized forms, with no packaging standards for size, quality, or packaging of individual items. These inefficiencies in cargo handling and transit, as well as concerns for cargo safety represented significant challenges during the response.

Solution

As a response to such inefficiencies, the Box in a Box project at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot Lab with support from the WFP Innovation Accelerator aims at developing a nesting box system to effectively and efficiently transport selected non-food items and pandemic relief supplies.

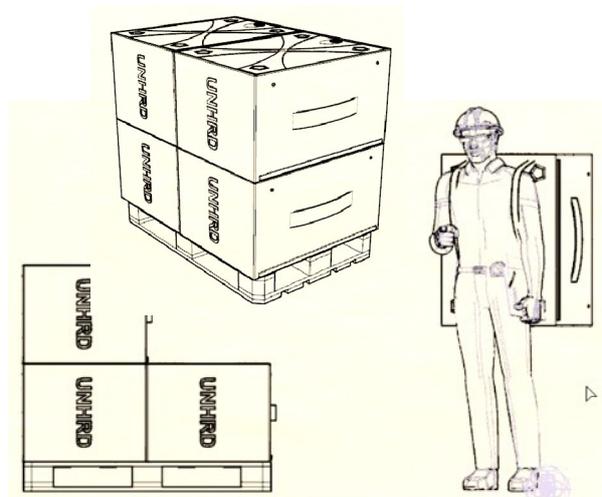
This initiative will guarantee having the right materials delivered 20% faster by saving on preparation and unloading time. Furthermore, the nesting box system will be adaptable and standardized across multiple configurations, which once achieved will result in standards and guidelines to be applied across the entire supply chain to optimize the processes of transport, handling, and distribution to our beneficiaries.

Implementation

This project is expected to positively impact all beneficiaries living in crises areas through improved service, cost-efficiency, and waste reduction in relief response during the first months of operation. Additionally, the involvement of UNHRD partners has been secured and the private sector is engaged through companies that develop different packaging and supply chain solutions.

Way Forward

Through a more agile cargo reconfiguration, this nesting system will facilitate the handling and delivery of non-food items, generate cost savings in delivery, and faster responses to emergencies, which ultimately contribute to achieving Zero Hunger. Currently piloting with 3 different boxes from Brindisi.



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