



*We cannot live only for ourselves.
A thousand fibers connect us with
our fellow men.*

[Herman Melville](#)

Agenda

- Humanitarian Sector
- GS1 Humanitarian Initiative

Humanitarian Sector

Humanitarian Aid: Background

- **Purpose:** Save lives, reduce suffering, enhance dignity
- **History:**
 - Battle of Solferino, 1859
 - Foundation of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by Jean-Henri Dunant, 1863
- **Principles:**
 - Humanity: Right to humane treatment under all circumstances; respect of the individual
 - Humanitarian imperative: Right to give and receive assistance
 - Independence: Agencies act independently of government policies or actions

Humanitarian Relief Phases



Humanitarian Stakeholders



Culture

“The global humanitarian system as we know it was not deliberately engineered; it evolved largely organically from disparate altruistic endeavours.” from State of Humanitarian System 2015

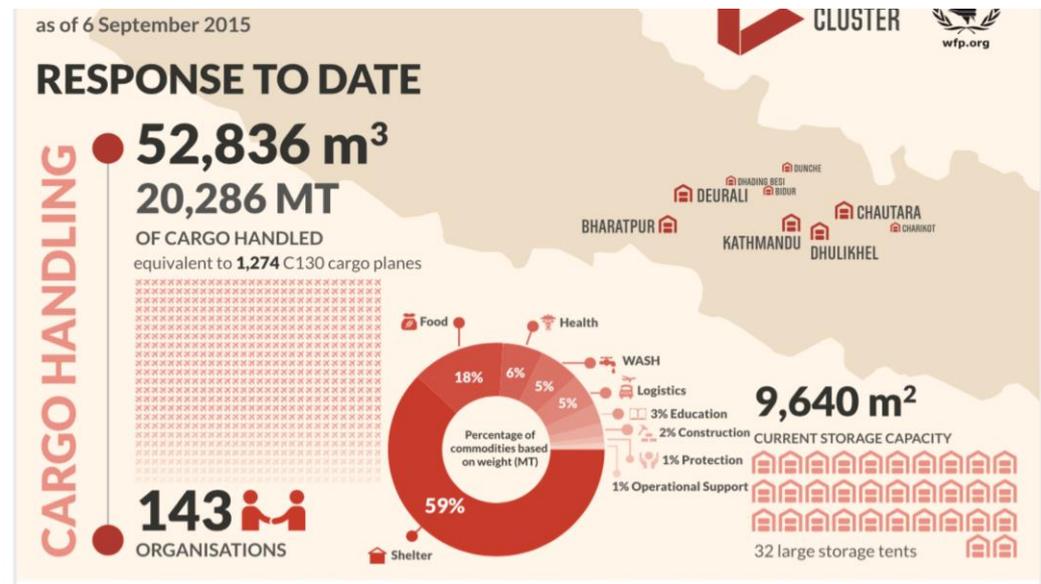
- Strong commitment to cause
- Can have some distrust of “commercial” sector
- “Act now” & decision making with limited information
- Willingness to accept higher costs for speed and agility
- Lack of command & control across whole sector
 - although co-ordination (Logistics Cluster) efforts exist
- Competition across organisations
- Can exhibit resistance to change

Products

- Basic sectors
 - Water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH)
 - Nutrition and Food aid
 - Shelter and site planning
 - Health services

- But can also involve:
 - Education
 - Telecommunications
 - Power generation
 - Transport

Nepal



Humanitarian Supply Chain: Simplified

Initial Supply

- Procurement
- Supplier to Regional Hub for pre-positioning

Transportation

- Transport to port of entry
- High cost due to speed required and limited supply of capacity
- Customs can be a bottleneck

Distribution including “Last Mile”

- Generally, most challenging segment
- For acute emergencies, create from “nothing”
- Infrastructure in country damaged
- Need flexibility and local knowledge

Comparison with Commercial

	Commercial	Acute emergency
Main objective	Profit	Saving lives
Financing	Linked to sales	Linked to unpredictable crises
Demand pattern	Largely predictable	High volatility, uncertainty of needs and quantity
Supply pattern	Mostly predictable	Deal with unplanned in-kind donations
Lead time	Mostly predetermined	First response within 48-72 hours
Delivery network	Established	<i>Ad hoc</i>
Performance measure	Resource based (profit/costs) & standard metrics	Output based (Time to respond/ % need delivered)

Scale of Humanitarian Operations

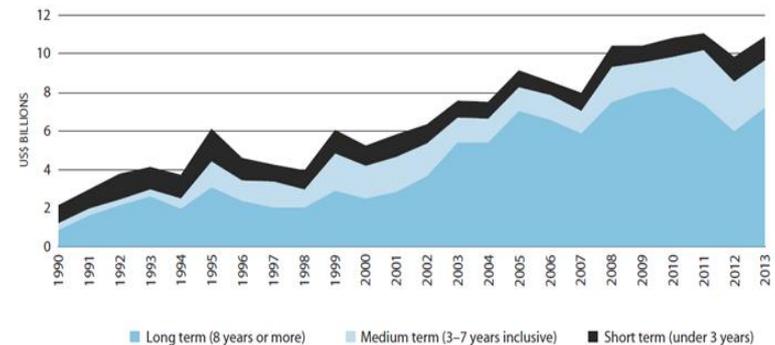
- In 2014 (source: State of Humanitarian System 2015)
 - 4,480 operational organisations (80% of these local)
 - 450,000 professional humanitarian workers
 - Over US\$ 25 billion in expenditures, but gaps in ability to meet needs particularly in chronic crises
 - Top 3 donors (USA, EC, UK) make more than 50% of government contributions
 - Top 5 recipients: Syria, Palestinian Territory, Sudan, South Sudan, DRC

Rapidly changing context

- **Great expansion of need.**
 - Systems stretched
 - Greater pressure for accountability
 - Potential for greater private sector role- although this remains *ad hoc*
- **Longer and more protracted crises**
 - No clear “exit” for some situations
 - Political & security concerns dominating
 - Merging with development
- **More demanding populations of interest**
 - Greater need to respond to beneficiaries
 - Shift to increased use of cash vouchers

FIGURE 7.3

Long-, medium- and short-term recipients of official humanitarian assistance from DAC donors, 1990–2013



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC and UN CERF data.

Notes: Long-, medium- or short-term classification is determined by the length of time the country has received an above-average share of its ODA in the form of humanitarian assistance. Calculations are based on shares of country-allocable humanitarian assistance.

Source:
Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015

GS1 Humanitarian Initiative

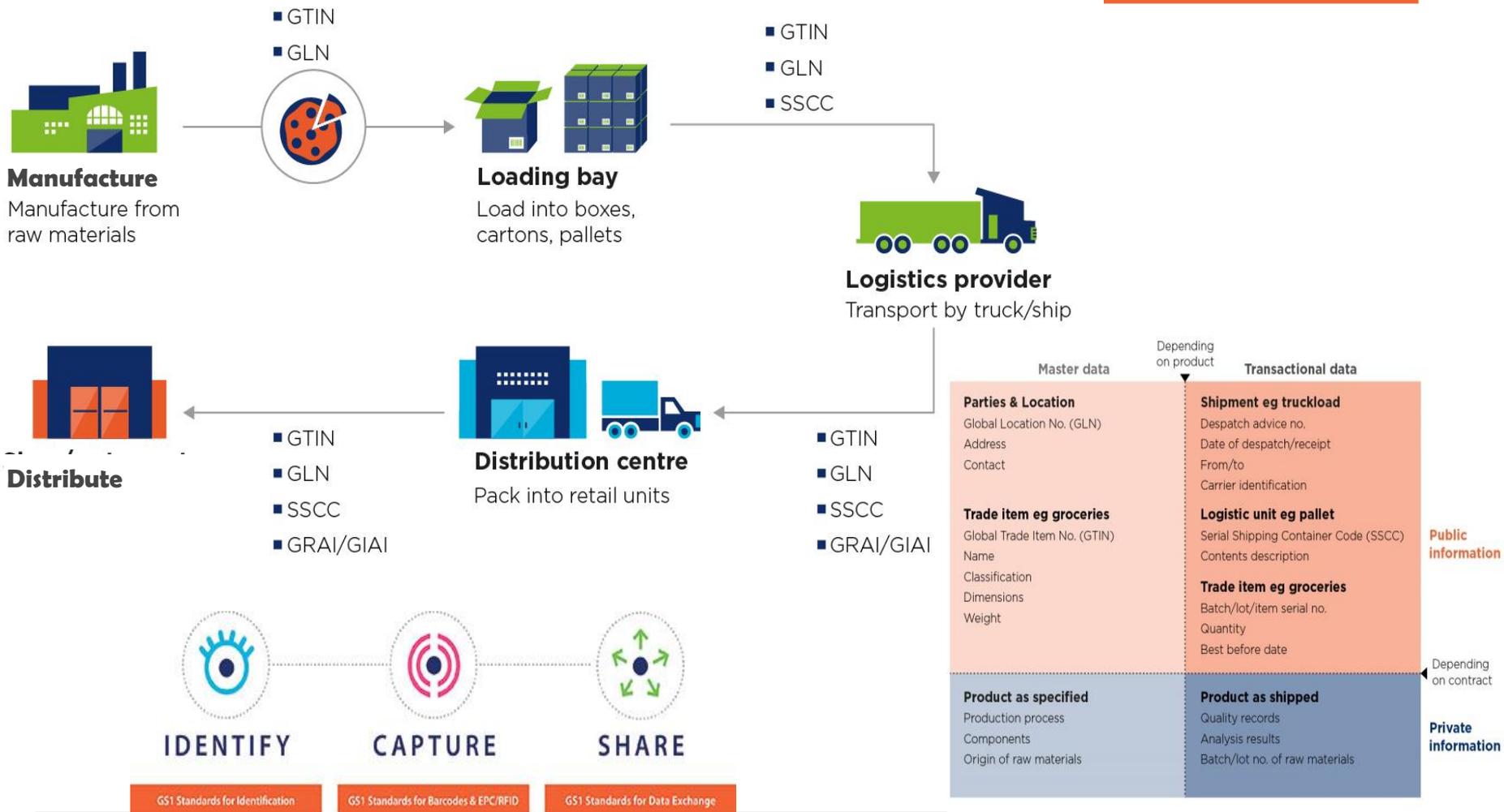
Value of open data standards

- Improvements in Identify, Capture & Share:
 - Better data (completeness, validity, consistency, timeliness and accuracy)
 - Speed in processes
- Interoperability:
 - Visibility & traceability
 - Links to beneficiary
 - Product safety
 - Transparency
 - Increased co-operation among partners

Increased/More Effective:

- Use of resources
- Decision-making
- Accountability

GS 1 System of Standards



Use of GS1 standards in humanitarian sector

- Currently, **not widely used by any organization**:
 - Very partial use in some cases: SSCC in warehouse operations
- **Challenges:**
 - Lack of awareness & understanding
 - Existence of GS1 standards
 - Unaware of value of open standards
 - “Just barcodes” (capture) v. data flows and connections
 - Concerns regarding suppliers: market power, local suppliers
 - Internal focus
 - Their portion of supply chain
 - View of “closed” supply chain
 - Resistant to modifying processes
 - Funding and IT systems
 - Concerns regarding commercial “influence”

GS1 Humanitarian Initiative: History & Structure

Gestation

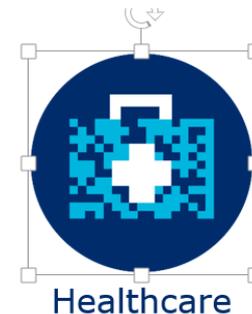
- GS1 Switzerland, GS1 in Europe Forum in Rotterdam, Oct 2013
- GS1 Switzerland 1st Roundtable Kick Off Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, Jan 2014
- GS1 Board decide to support humanitarian sector, Dec 2015
- Presentation on GS1 Global Forum in Brussels, Feb 2015

Birth

- GS1 Humanitarian Initiative – 2015
 - Global Office, Industry Engagement Team (Marianne Timmons)
 - Consultant (Geneva-based, hired April 2015)

Contributing:

- Nora Kaci (Marketing)
- Scott Gray (AIDC)



GS1 Humanitarian Initiative: Strategy

Aims to **support stakeholders** working in the humanitarian sector in their efforts to **improve the coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency** of humanitarian logistics through the **introduction and use of open and shared data standards** in supply chains.

Goal 2015-2016	How	Progress to date
1. Increase awareness among stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder group meetings (DaSHL)• One-on-one meetings• Attend conferences• Develop materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 DaSHL meetings• UNHRD to adopt standards
2. Support MO's and co-ordinate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform MO's• Identification of needs of MO's• MO advisory group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with GS1 Switzerland and Italy• Starting to inform

DaSHL: Data Standards for Humanitarian Logistics

- Evolution from “Roundtable” started by GS1 Switzerland
- Shift to focus to issues and solutions, not just information sharing
- Open to all organizations interested in learning more, regardless of their current commitment to adopting GS1 standards
- Purpose:
 - Provide a forum for the sharing
 - Identify areas where a co-ordinated approach & shared standards meet needs
 - Drive consensus among organizations
 - Contribute to the creation material
 - Co-ordinate with other groups working in data standards (development)



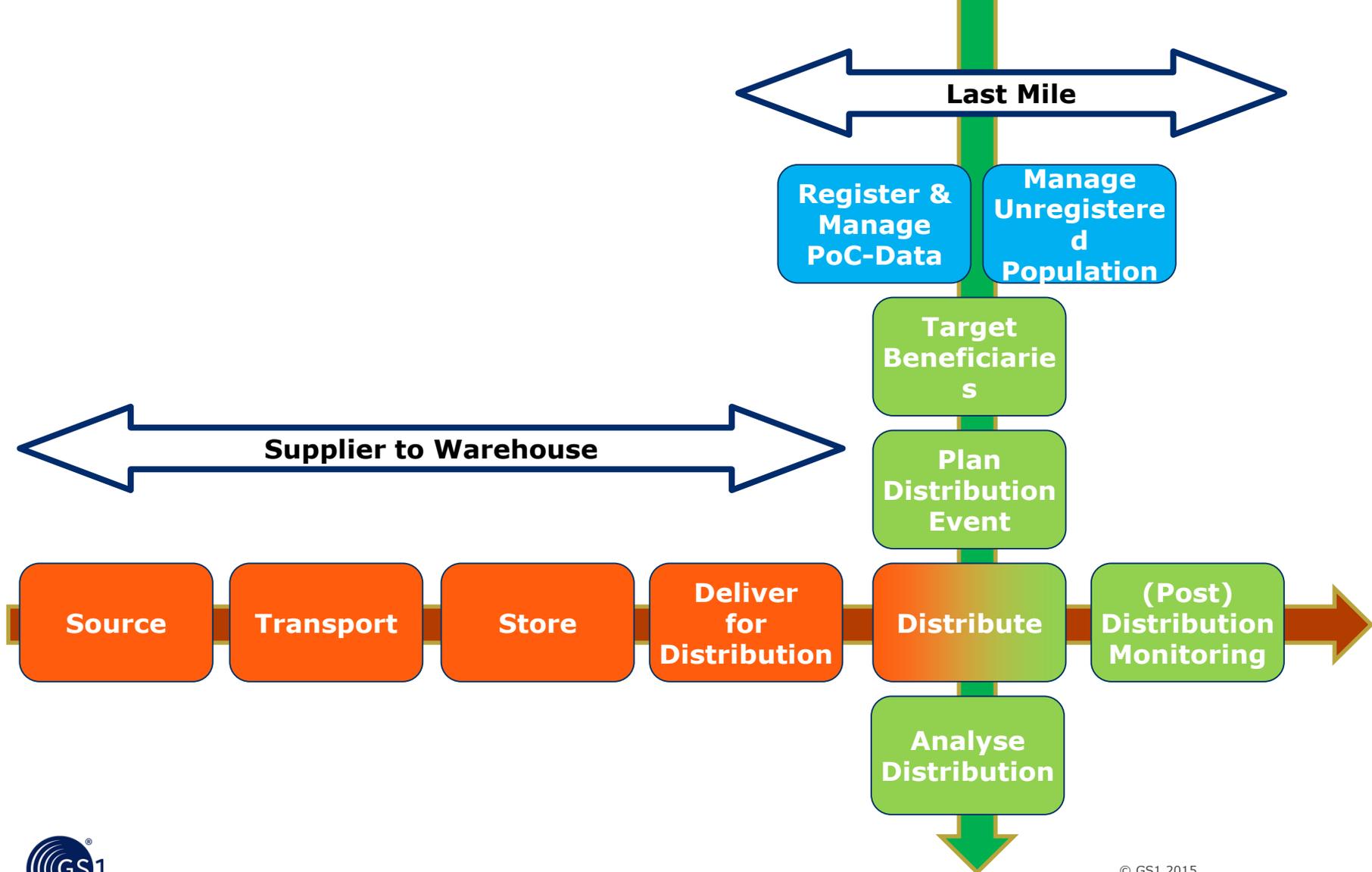
Implementing organizations/projects

	MO support	Project support	Objective	Start
	GS1 Switzerland	GS1 Switzerland (Consulting)	End-to-end	February 2015
	GS1 Italy	B2Connex	Warehouse management & Traceability	August 2015

UNHCR Matatu Project: Expected benefits

- Establishing link between Supply Chain and Distribution processes
- Increased transparency and control along the entire chain
- Increased process and information reliability (particularly at warehouse and distribution levels)
- Timely and accurate information in distribution databases and assistance records
- Increased accountability to Persons of Concern and Donors
- Inventory information across different locations delivered timely and accurately
- Support in meeting IPSAS requirements
- Better information exchange with third parties (e.g. logistics service providers)
- Interoperability among agencies
- Better tracking of assistance in high risk conflict operations

UNHCR Processes under Analysis



GS1 Humanitarian Initiative: Working together

- **Member organisations:**
 - Supporting humanitarian organisations with headquarters in your country
 - Making link with other organizations to share experiences
 - Supporting suppliers in the adoption and utilization of GS1 standards
- **Service providers:**
 - Indicate interest and areas of potential contribution
- **Industry partners:**
 - Sharing analogous experiences
 - Adaptation of ERP systems
 - Transport and logistics optimization
 - Use in healthcare products

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