

# Preface

This book is destined to deliver important information and input regarding the questions arising with *sustainability* in humanitarian logistics from different angles. The individual chapters are therefore sequenced according to three main streams, providing a holistic view regarding the combination of humanitarian aid and sustainability concepts:

Part I outlines *Basic Concepts and Strategies* for sustainable humanitarian logistics, starting with a first introduction chapter by the editors, addressing foremost the question why sustainability aspects are important in humanitarian logistics and how long-term approaches can benefit humanitarian operations. Three further chapters by *Aimen Reminda* regarding systemic approaches in this matter, *Richard Oloruntoba* regarding an empirically based framework as well as *Matthias Klumpp* transferring the topic into a basic definition and questions regarding research into sustainable humanitarian logistics.

Part II describes specific problems and implementation concepts of sustainable management in procurement and preparedness in humanitarian supply chains. First of all, *Jacob Hasselbalch*, *Nives Costa* and *Alexander Blecken* from UN UNOPS discuss hurdles for sustainable procurement options in the UN organizations. Second, *Bernd Hellingrath*, *Teo A. Babun*, *James F. Smith* and *Daniel Link* describe important research results in preparing airports and seaports for disaster reaction in the early stages of humanitarian supply chains. Third, *Chenrong Ni*, *Robert de Souza*, *Qing Lu* and *Mark Goh* complement this view towards sustainability and preparedness with system dynamics applications in this field. Finally, an optimization approach with a cooperative warehouse hub concept for humanitarian aid operations from Germany is discussed by *Hella Abidi*, *Christof Kandel*, *Solveig Zinnert* and *Matthias Klumpp* in order to increase sustainability in preparedness for humanitarian organizations.

Part III outlines specific experiences and detailed questions of achieving sustainability in humanitarian operations “on the ground”. Therefore, first *Dorit Bölsche* discusses the crucial question and role of dangerous goods in humanitarian logistics; this in itself can be expected to be along-lasting sustainability question within humanitarian operations for many decades. Furthermore, *Alberto Regattieri*,

*Giulia Santarelli, Francesco Piana and Mauro Gamberi* present concepts and experiences regarding waste management in refugee camps, a major part of humanitarian processes, especially regarding sustainability. Again, *Xie Wei, Abbas Al-Refaie, Melissa Robles and Bernd Noche* take this perspective a step further by examining ex-post optimization potential for the devastating Wenchuan earthquake with 70,000 casualties in China—highlighting, that a major point in sustainable humanitarian actions may indeed simply be a professional lessons learned approach regarding historic processes with disasters. Taking these experiences a step further, *Julian Harke and Sander de Leeuw* are outlining a concept to improve sustainability by enhanced education and learning regarding the case of prepositioned inventory. The final contribution discusses a “closed-loop” sustainability evaluation by the way of discussion of evaluation criteria in performance measurement systems for humanitarian organizations by *Hella Abidi and Kirstin Scholten*. This could gladly provide the basic idea of an ongoing management circle also for sustainability in humanitarian logistics as this last evaluation step and concept may again lead to adjustments in sustainability concepts as well as the improvement of individual operations and processes throughout the humanitarian relief supply chain. In this expectation we also share the mission of this book in communicating an elevated understanding for the challenge regarding sustainability—and finally improving efficiency and effectiveness in day-to-day humanitarian logistics in order for as many people as possible to profit from that approach.

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