

## Annex 2 WORM SUPPLIERS

Oxfam has sourced worms in Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. There are many suppliers in South Africa and Philippines.

Mostly they grow red worm, India blue or African night crawler for agricultural purposes.

In the country where you are planning to implement TWT you need to search on the internet for “suppliers of vermi-compost” or “vermi-compost producers”. These producers will most likely be able to sell you worms and help with questions about transportation and best conditions for local worms.

### WORM TRANSPORTATION

1. The worms will need ventilation, so we suggest you package them in breathable plastic weave or muslin bags. Jerry cans with holes on top to allow airflow have been used before. The holes need to be small so the worms cannot escape.
2. For every 1kg of worm, you need to have at least 1kg of bedding / vermicompost material.
3. The worms need to be kept moist so the bedding should be wet - packing with shredded damp cardboard or coconut fibre and moist soil is suitable. We do not recommend putting dry bedding on the top.
4. Place the worm bags in a box with a considerable amount of padding e.g. shredded paper (to absorb vibrations). Do not use polystyrene boxes as air cannot circulate (the worms need to breathe).
5. Send the package as soon as it is boxed up – we suggest you do this at the start of the week - to avoid them getting stuck in storage over a weekend.

### Lessons from Myanmar

**Bangkok to Yangon:** A batch of worms was imported via road transport, a 3 to 5-day journey. Roughly 50% of the worms died despite following the guidelines. It is thought that the excessive vibrations from the poor roads likely caused the worms to become over stressed and die.

**Yangon to Sittwe:** All worms were sent via air due to concerns that the 2-day road journey would cause too much vibration and stress for the worms.

Airlines in Myanmar were not always comfortable transporting worms and, in some cases, refused. The batch from Bangkok, where a large proportion of the worms had already died, caused the plane to smell bad leading to a serious complaint from the airline.

Other batches were hand-carried on the plane. It was found that batches that were transported in breathable containers had a 100% survival rate.