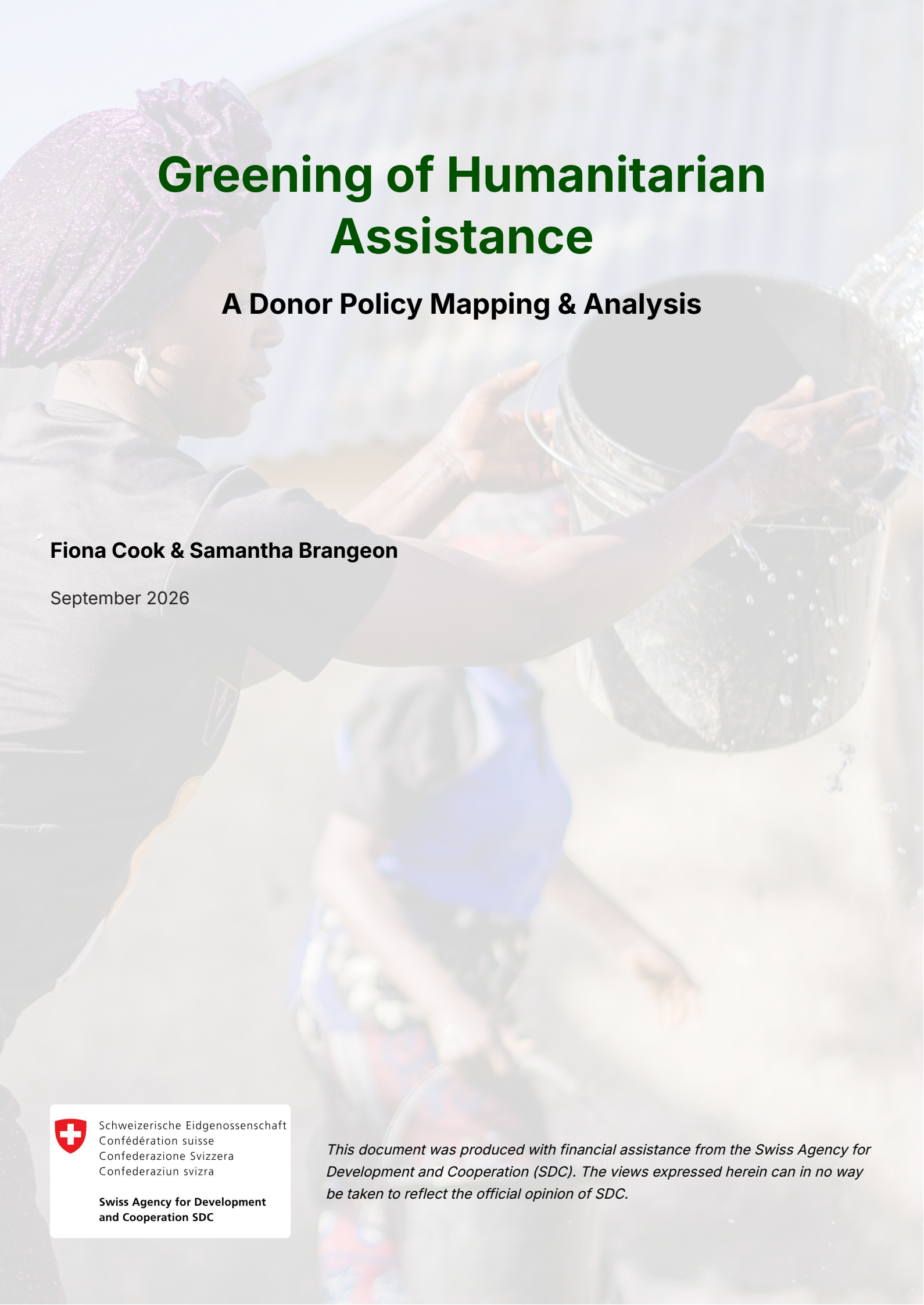

# Greening of Humanitarian Assistance

## A Donor Policy Mapping & Analysis

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## About the Donor Greening Working Group (DGG)

Following the adoption of the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations**[1] ("the Charter") in 2021, the **Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment**[2] ("the Donor Declaration") was launched one year later as the donor equivalent of the Charter. Through the Declaration, 28 donors have committed, *inter alia*, to reducing the emissions and biodiversity impacts resulting from humanitarian assistance and to supporting partners in adopting environmentally responsible practices, thereby contributing to global sustainability efforts.

To operationalise Commitments 3 and 4 of the Declaration, the DGG was established in early 2024. It brings together donors who are committed to greening both their own operations and those of their partners.

DGG members include those donors who have invested most significantly in greening, both through policy development, funding of projects and the creation of practical tools and resources for their partner organisations and the wider humanitarian sector.

**The DGG has four objectives:**

### Enhance donor coordination

Cooperation and cohesion on greening.

### Build relationships

Strengthen mutual knowledge of members' structures as well as their policies and strategies on greening.

### Share lessons learned

Share resources and networks on greening.

### Join forces

Accelerate greening together.

Current DGG members are: AECID[3] (Spain), AICS[4] (Italy), CDCS[5] (France), DG ECHO[6], GAC[7] (Canada), Norad[8] (Norway) and SDC[9] (Switzerland).

Facilitation of the Group is funded through a rotating arrangement among donors. **It is currently supported by SDC.**

# Introduction

## The Climate and Environmental Crisis

According to the World Meteorological Organization, the past 11 years have been the warmest on record,[10] and scientific assessments are increasingly pessimistic about the likelihood of limiting global warming to 1.5°C as the window for effective action narrows.[11] The climate and environmental crisis is a critical and escalating emergency which is accelerating ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss while undermining livelihoods, health, food and water security,  and driving humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels. These impacts contribute to growing climate change-related human mobility, with up to 216 million people projected to move within their own countries by 2050 under high-emissions scenarios.[12]

## Greening the Humanitarian Sector: Organisations & Donors "Doing Their Part"

Humanitarian assistance itself can inadvertently exacerbate these pressures through, for example, unmanaged waste, unsustainable natural resource use, and pollution of water sources. If left unaddressed, this can undermine recovery efforts and increase future risks and vulnerabilities. As such, humanitarian actors are working to reduce their footprints while also harnessing their operations and programmes to create wider climate and environmental benefits.

This approach—often referred to as **greening**—seeks not only to "do no harm", but also to "do good" by promoting sustainable natural resource management and nature-based solutions that strengthen resilience and help reduce future humanitarian needs.

### What is Greening?

There is no universally agreed definition of greening in humanitarian action. DG ECHO,[13] for example, defines greening as:

***"... the environmental responsibility of humanitarian actors and to actions aimed at reducing the negative environmental impacts of humanitarian operations themselves"***

However, it is commonly agreed that greening encompasses both reducing the climate and environmental footprint of how humanitarian assistance is delivered (including facilities, support operations and programmes) and using response and recovery activities to improve or restore environmental conditions, for example through ecosystem rehabilitation and reforestation. These efforts support *Build Back Better* by promoting more resilient, sustainable and risk-informed recovery.

Greening complements climate change adaptation, including anticipatory action, preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Humanitarian actors and donors increasingly pursue these agendas together, recognising that environmentally sustainable humanitarian action also strengthens resilience to climate and disaster risks, making these objectives mutually reinforcing.

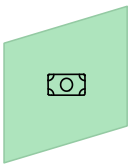
## Purpose & Scope of Report

The growing momentum to green humanitarian assistance is evident among humanitarian organisations and donors alike: to date **554 organisations** have signed the Climate and Environment Charter, while **28 donors** have signed the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment.

This report takes stock of **donor action and support for greening**, focusing on four areas:

### 1. Donor policies and approaches

Outlining donors' expectations and requirements for partners in terms of greening.



### 2. Donor funding

Examining how donors support the greening of humanitarian assistance through partner funding and sector-wide climate and environmental initiatives and projects.

### 3. Collective action

Exploring how donors collaborate to promote greener humanitarian assistance and align policies, standards, and practices where feasible.

### 4. Internal efforts

Highlighting the measures and practices donors themselves are adopting to reduce their own climate and environmental footprints.

It aims to **clarify donors' expectations and ambitions** and to promote **learning, coordination and collective action.** Building on earlier analyses by the same authors,[14] the report focuses on reducing the climate and environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance (mitigation), rather than adaptation.

## Methodology & Structure of Report

Findings draw on desk research, including the **Third Progress Report**[15] of the signatories of the Donor Declaration, a questionnaire, interviews and the authors' own experience facilitating the Donor Greening Working Group (DGG). The report covers institutional (public) donors, who provide most humanitarian funding and play a key role in shaping policy. Given that donors are at different stages in their greening efforts, the report provides a non-exhaustive snapshot of current approaches and practices.

The report is organised in two parts. **Part I** provides an overall picture of how donors are approaching and supporting the greening of humanitarian assistance, highlighting findings, trends and conclusions. **Part II** examines individual donors' policies and approaches in detail, providing the basis for the overall analysis.

# Part I: Overview of Donor Approaches to Greening

## Background: Greening Humanitarian Assistance in a Sector in Transition

The 2026 Global Humanitarian Overview estimates that 293 million people require humanitarian assistance.[16] At the same time, the humanitarian sector is facing an unprecedented funding gap, driven largely by the sharp decline in official development assistance in 2025. The dismantling of USAID and the resulting reductions in US funding accounted for around three-quarters of the global decline in aid.[17] In response to this new financial reality, OCHA launched the "Humanitarian Reset" to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action in a context of constrained resources.

The withdrawal of USAID funding, coupled with a general reduction in international aid budgets, has also had an impact on the humanitarian sector's climate and environmental ecosystem, with US support ending for several flagship greening initiatives, including the **WREC Coalition**,[18] the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (**NEAT**+),[19] the **Secretariat of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations**[20] and the Donor Greening Working Group (DGG).

At the same time, the resulting restructuring that has taken place within humanitarian organisations and donor agencies has reduced dedicated climate and environmental capacity including through the integration or discontinuation of specialist roles. The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU), which played a key role in integrating environmental sustainability into humanitarian action, has also been phased out as a standalone entity.[21]

Against this backdrop, maintaining momentum on greening has become increasingly challenging. Faced with severe financial constraints, organisations are prioritising life-saving assistance, creating a risk that climate and environmental considerations will be deprioritised—viewed as secondary rather than recognised as essential to effective humanitarian action and better humanitarian outcomes.

> However, the Humanitarian Reset also presents an opportunity to embed greening more systematically within humanitarian reform.

Rather than an additional burden, greening contributes directly to the Reset's goals by improving the quality, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of humanitarian assistance. **It can also deliver wider benefits, including improved protection outcomes, stronger localisation and resilience, and longer-term cost savings.** As outlined below, donors are increasingly working to advance greening and ensure that climate and environmental considerations are reflected in the implementation of the Humanitarian Reset.

## Summary of Findings

### 1. Humanitarian donors are "staying the course" on greening

Despite a challenging context, humanitarian donors are maintaining or stepping up their climate and environmental ambitions (*see figures 1 & 2 below*). As described below, they are doing so by strengthening greening policies and strategies for their partners and, to a lesser extent, reducing the footprint of their own premises and direct humanitarian operations, where applicable.

**Figure 1: Donor greening "at a glance"**

#### 28 Declaration Signatories

28 donors have signed the **Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment**, thereby committing to reducing the emissions associated with humanitarian assistance and supporting partners in adopting environmentally responsible practices.

#### 14 Charter Supporters

14 donors are officially supporting the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations**, thereby supporting their partners' efforts in line with the Charter.

#### 7 United in the DGG

Seven donors have come together under the **Donor Greening Working Group** (DGG) to enhance donor coordination, cooperation, and cohesion on greening.

#### 5 Priority Actions Endorsements

Five donors have endorsed the **Common Donor Priority Actions on Greening Humanitarian Assistance**, signalling a shared strategic direction.

**Figure 2: Donor support for sector-wide greening initiatives and projects**

Donors continue to invest in initiatives and projects that strengthen the sector's capacity to green humanitarian aid. Some examples are given below.

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#### 🇨🇭 SDC (Switzerland)

Supports a range of initiatives including the Secretariat of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations ("the **Charter Secretariat**"), the **Geneva Technical Hub** (GTH) and the Donor Greening Working Group (DGG). It also funds **work on greening by the Global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster** and **IFRC's global Nature-based Solutions initiative**. SDC also funds projects and technical secondments that strengthen climate and environmental expertise.

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#### 🇪🇺 DG ECHO

Supports key initiatives such as the **WREC Coalition**, the **Charter Secretariat**, the GTH, joint initiatives implemented by **hulo** [22] (the humanitarian logistics cooperative), the **Interagency Procurement Group** and both online and in-person training on the use of the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (**NEAT**+) for environmental screenings.

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#### 🇫🇷 CDCS (France)

Supports initiatives that reduce the climate and environmental footprint of humanitarian action, including the work of the Climate Action Accelerator, **hulo** and efforts to reduce packaging waste in humanitarian nutrition programmes.

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#### 🇳🇴 Norad (Norway)

Funds initiatives to green humanitarian action, including **NORCAP's** deployment of energy experts to help organisations transition to sustainable energy and **Norwegian People's Aid's work to green the mine action sector.**

## 2. Collective donor action on greening continues to gain momentum

Collective donor action on greening continues to gain momentum, with increased efforts to pool knowledge, resources, and coordination. The 2025 **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**[23] are a good example of this, translating Donor Declaration commitments into practical steps (*see figure 3 below)*. Developed by the DGG, the Priority Actions have been endorsed by five donors[24] and signal a strong, shared commitment to greening in spite of funding pressures and shifting sector priorities.

They build on the **Donor Declaration**, making Commitments 3 and 4 more concrete. Humanitarian donors encourage their partners to integrate the Priority Actions into humanitarian responses, including through joint initiatives, while committing to also apply them in their own interventions where appropriate.

The Priority Actions strengthen donor coordination, reduce inconsistencies in requirements and provide clearer guidance to humanitarian organisations on donor priorities. They highlight key approaches that have been prioritised for their climate and environmental benefits, building on existing efforts and combining both practical and more ambitious measures.

The influence of the Common Donor Priority Actions extends beyond the Donor Greening Group. Several donors featured in this report are drawing on the Actions to raise awareness internally and inform their practices, including donors that have not formally endorsed them.

Donors such as CDCS, SDC and the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are exploring ways to align ongoing efforts—including the consolidation of climate markers and revisions to proposal templates and partner guidance on greening—with the Priority Actions. AECID, meanwhile, references the Priority Actions in its internal guidelines for assessing humanitarian grant proposals.

### 🔍 Key insight

Collective donor action on greening continues to gain momentum. **The influence of the Common Donor Priority Actions extends beyond the Donor Greening Group**. Several donors featured in this report are drawing on the Actions to raise awareness internally and inform their practices, including donors that have not formally endorsed them.

**Figure 3: The Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening**

1. Conduct environmental assessments of planned interventions and integrate mitigation measures.

2. Prioritise products and services with a proven lower climate and environmental footprint.

3. Implement measures to significantly minimise greenhouse gas emissions from travel and transport.

4. Incorporate environmentally sustainable waste management.

5. Phase out single-use plastics except where this would compromise the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

6. Avoid overexploitation and pollution of water resources and support proper waste-water management.

7. Avoid water trucking except as a last resort. If used, include a strategy to phase it out.

8. Phase out the use of fossil fuel generators where possible, reduce energy consumption and transition to renewable energy.

9. Facilitate access to sustainable and clean cooking solutions and services.

10. Support access to sustainably produced food, preferably locally produced.

## 3. Donors are aligning to advance humanitarian supply chain reform

The **Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain** (HLGSC)[25], convened by DG ECHO following the 2024 European Humanitarian Forum, has positioned environmental sustainability as a central pillar of humanitarian supply chain reform. The HLGSC led five dedicated workstreams throughout last year, focusing on digitalisation, environmental sustainability, localisation, preparedness and procurement, and culminated in the adoption of **High-Level Conclusions**[26] at the Supply Chain Conference in December 2025.

The High-Level Conclusions call on humanitarian donors and organisations to strengthen greenhouse gas emissions measurement, promote more sustainable procurement and logistics practices, support waste management, and work more proactively with the private sector on sustainability, particularly at local level. More broadly, they advocate a shift from short-term cost reduction towards longer-term value optimisation that balances environmental considerations with efficiency and timeliness.

Donors have played an active role in the HLGSC. The initiative itself is convened by DG ECHO, while CDCS co-chaired the environmental sustainability working group with UNHCR in 2025. Many donors endorsed the High-Level Conclusions, signalling support for a collaborative and environmentally sustainable humanitarian supply chain. Building on this momentum, an HLGSC Donor Group has recently been established, co-led by the European Commission, France and Switzerland. The Group focuses on advancing implementation of the High-Level Conclusions and, where relevant, supporting the work of the HLGSC thematic workstreams. The Group will focus on three areas to support supply chain reform: exploring alignment on compliance requirements, incentivisation through funding, and operational synergies.

## 4. Donors are working together to embed greening in the Humanitarian Reset

The Humanitarian Reset provides an opportunity to embed climate and environmental considerations more firmly within efforts to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian donors are already working collectively to ensure that greening forms part of this agenda.

Since October 2025, the Donor Greening Working Group has been actively engaged in greening the Reset by working with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Climate Crisis Sub-Group to help shape priorities for and implementation of Action 25 of the Reset Roadmap, i.e. "Bring together scaled up anticipatory action and a 'green humanitarian reset' that is ready for the climate challenges ahead".[27] At EU level, exchanges within the Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) helped secure a reference to a "climate-smart humanitarian response" in the collective messages shared by Member States with the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

### 🔍 Key insight

Since October 2025, the Donor Greening Working Group has been actively engaged in greening the Reset by working with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Climate Crisis Sub-Group to help shape priorities for and implementation of **Action 25 of the Reset Roadmap,** i.e. "Bring together scaled up anticipatory action and a 'green humanitarian reset' that is ready for the climate challenges ahead".

## 5. Donor greening is becoming more structured and ambitious

Driven by the recognition that climate change and environmental degradation are major drivers of needs, donors recognise the need to deliver greener humanitarian assistance whilst also ensuring that this strengthens the resilience of crisis-affected populations. Despite funding cuts and traditionally short-term funding cycles, many donors continue to view greening as a long-term investment that can improve humanitarian programme quality, effectiveness and sustainability. Since the previous mappings conducted by the authors, several donors have maintained or strengthened their climate and environmental ambitions while adopting more structured, comprehensive, and operational approaches to greening.

### 🔍 Key insight

Despite funding cuts and traditionally short-term funding cycles, many **donors continue to view greening as a long-term investment** that can improve humanitarian programme quality, effectiveness and sustainability.

### From "do no harm" to "do good"

Donors' approaches to greening have evolved, moving beyond a focus on screening and mitigating the negative climate and environmental impacts of humanitarian action ("do no harm") towards encouraging interventions that generate positive climate and environmental outcomes ("do good").

An increasing number of humanitarian donors—including SDC, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs—explicitly encourage partners not only to minimise environmental and climate-related harm, but also to identify opportunities for humanitarian assistance to contribute positively to the environment, including through greater environmental awareness and nature-based solutions.

Similarly, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has for several years encouraged partners to seize opportunities for positive environmental outcomes, while DG ECHO's Guidance on the Operationalisation of the Minimum Environmental Requirements (2022) reflects this broader shift by encouraging humanitarian actors to consider environmental benefits alongside impact mitigation.

### Embedding climate and environmental considerations in partnership processes

Greening considerations are increasingly integrated into donors' partnership processes, including the selection of new partner organisations and the renewal of existing partnership agreements. Donors are paying greater attention to whether partners have environmental management systems and frameworks in place, with such measures increasingly becoming a consideration for partnership eligibility. Environmental performance and commitments are also becoming a more regular part of ongoing dialogue between donors and their partners.

### 🔍 Key insight

Donors are paying greater attention to whether partners have environmental management systems and frameworks in place, **with such measures increasingly becoming a consideration for partnership eligibility.**

For example, Sida assesses whether prospective partners have robust environmental policies and the internal capacity needed to manage environmental risks effectively. Similarly, GAC systematically screens prospective partners to ensure they have appropriate environmental policies and practices in place. Meanwhile, DG ECHO's recently revised NGO partner certification framework for 2028–2034 makes environmental sustainability a more explicit and structured part of the assessment that organisations undergo to become certified. For example, NGOs are now required to either have an environmental policy or strategy with relevant actions and clear targets, or to have signed the Climate and Environment Charter and developed targets and a related action plan.

### Screening climate and environmental risks at project-proposal stage

Donors also encourage partners to integrate climate and environmental considerations into project design and implementation. Increasingly, this involves screening project proposals for climate and environmental risks and impacts—both by donors themselves and by implementing partners. However, as screening is not an end in itself, donors expect partners to demonstrate how identified risks will be managed by proposing appropriate mitigation measures and integrating them into project design and implementation.

To support this process, some donors have incorporated dedicated sections or questions on climate and environmental issues into proposal templates, while others have developed tools and guidance[28] to support environmental mainstreaming. For example, SDC strongly encourages and trains its partners to use its **Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG)**[29] to assess climate, disaster and environmental risks and impacts, while other donors promote tools such as the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (**NEAT**+) for environmental screening.

At the time of writing, some donors—whi—were in the process of strengthening their expectations of partners in terms of greening, by revising proposal templates and updating guidance for humanitarian partners. Meanwhile, CDCS was enhancing its climate marker to better anticipate and mitigate the potential negative impacts of humanitarian action. The revised marker is intended to support staff responsible for project appraisal, enabling more informed dialogue with partners and a more systematic consideration of climate and environmental issues.

Through these changes, donors are signalling the importance of greening to their partners—encouraging them to take a proactive and analytical approach to understanding the climate and environmental impacts of their work. Early consideration of such issues is viewed not only as a way to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian funding, but also as a means of preventing long-term environmental damage that would be far more costly to address in the future. More broadly, the introduction of targeted questions and requirements within donor project proposal processes reflects a shift from intentions towards more structured and in-depth approaches to greening.

To date, donors' expectations and requests for partners in relation to greening have focused primarily on the early stages of the project cycle, particularly proposal development and project design. Comparatively less attention has been given to embedding environmental sustainability considerations into monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Perhaps unsurprisingly, reporting by organisations on greening efforts deployed during humanitarian projects and programmes therefore remains patchy.

However, there are emerging efforts by donors to integrate environmental sustainability into monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, for example through the use of dedicated environmental indicators. For example, DG ECHO published a set of 48 voluntary environmental indicators in December 2023 as a way to help partners monitor the implementation of the Minimum Environmental Requirements. Other donors such as the Estonian Ministries of Foreign Affairs are working to include similar indicators into their systems. These changes represent an important step towards embedding climate and environmental considerations more systematically throughout project and programme cycles.

## 6. Donor greening policies tend to have a "snowball" effect

Donor greening policies tend to have a "snowball effect": as humanitarian organisations are typically funded by multiple donors, compliance with the greening requirements of one donor often leads organisations to elevate environmental practices more broadly, including within projects financed by donors that do not explicitly require or request their partners to take action on greening.

The recently published **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid (2020-2024)** describes this phenomenon: "DG ECHO's environmental policy has played a significant role in shaping donor expectations and sector norms. Partners and other donors frequently cite DG ECHO's policy and tools as reference points for environmental mainstreaming".[30]

## 7. Non-prescriptive approaches to greening remain the norm

Despite more structured and ambitious approaches, donor approaches to partners remain largely non-prescriptive. While partners are encouraged to demonstrate how they will reduce their climate and environmental footprint when designing humanitarian responses, only DG ECHO formally requires this through its Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations.

This situation reflects, in part, the collaborative and participatory nature of donor–partner relationships. Indeed, most donors indicate that they do not intend to adopt formal greening requirements, instead favouring flexible approaches that leave partners discretion as to how to green their programmes and operations. At the same time, donors' reluctance to impose stricter measures is reinforced by the challenging funding and operational context facing humanitarian organisations. With many partners confronting budget cuts, operating in complex environments with significant access constraints, and facing limited technical capacity, donors are cautious about placing additional expectations on partners or making further requests related to greening.

In exceptional cases, when appraising project proposals, donors may award additional points or weighting to those that demonstrate awareness of, or integration of, climate and environmental considerations. This includes alignment with a donor's own climate and environmental strategy or broader commitments under frameworks such as the Climate and Environment Charter or the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration. However, these considerations are not determining factors in funding decisions. Instead, donors work with partners to strengthen project proposals by addressing identified concerns and requesting mitigation measures for potential risks.

As the climate emergency deepens and the window for limiting global warming to 1.5°C narrows, more prescriptive approaches from the donor community could, however, significantly influence the extent to which humanitarian organisations translate climate and environmental ambitions into practice.

### 🔍 Key insight

As the climate emergency deepens and the window for limiting global warming to 1.5°C narrows, **more prescriptive approaches from the donor community could significantly influence** the extent to which humanitarian organisations translate climate and environmental ambitions into practice.

## 8. Multilateral organisations and pooled funds offer opportunities for greening

Modalities used by many donors to fund multilateral organisations, particularly UN humanitarian agencies, can make it difficult to attach specific greening-related conditions or criteria. This is especially the case for unearmarked voluntary core contributions. Standard reporting templates or mechanisms can also limit donors' visibility of how climate and environmental considerations are integrated into operations. Some donors report that, while their UN humanitarian partners have relevant policies in place, they have limited visibility over their implementation in humanitarian responses and organisations' own operational practices (e.g. premises, travel and procurement).

This creates a paradox[31]: while over half of all humanitarian funding from public donors is channelled through UN agencies[32], they are often subject to less stringent greening expectations than NGOs. This largely reflects differences in governance and accountability structures, rather than a deliberate choice by donors to apply different standards.

Given their scale, global reach and normative influence, UN humanitarian agencies are well positioned to drive system-wide progress towards more climate- and environmentally friendly humanitarian action, both by modelling good practice and shaping expectations across the sector. The UN system has developed several frameworks and commitments to support this ambition. However, implementation remains uneven, particularly in the current context of organisational restructuring and constrained capacity across many UN agencies, leaving scope for the UN to further lead by example.

As donor funding mechanisms to the UN do not typically allow for detailed monitoring of agencies' environmental performance, donors could rely instead on strategic engagement and regular dialogue to encourage stronger accountability and climate action among their UN partners.

### 🔍 Key insight

As donor funding mechanisms to the UN do not typically allow for detailed monitoring of agencies' environmental performance, donors could rely instead on **strategic engagement and regular dialogue to encourage stronger accountability and climate action among their UN partners**.

As part of the Reset, there is renewed ambition to increase the use of country-based pooled funds, and there have also been calls for donors to reduce conditionality of funding and reporting requirements.[33] This presents both challenges and opportunities for advancing the greening of humanitarian aid.

On the one hand, pooled funding can "dilute" individual donor influence by limiting opportunities to set specific conditions or reporting requirements for funding recipients on issues such as greenhouse gas emissions reduction and environmental sustainability. On the other hand, greater donor alignment could provide an opportunity to integrate climate and environmental considerations more systematically into pooled funding arrangements, from planning and allocation through to implementation and reporting.

**The Climate Action Account: a model for greening through pooled funding?**

Established in 2024 by OCHA, the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund** (CERF)[34] Climate Action Account channels dedicated funding to help communities build resilience and withstand future climate shocks.[35] It also aims to strengthen the integration of climate considerations into regular projects financed through CERF. Organisations seeking funding are required to provide information on climate risks, resilience measures, and climate-related indicators.[36]

This is an encouraging development, demonstrating how pooled funds can be strategically leveraged to address the climate crisis. If expanded beyond adaptation and anticipatory action to include greening measures, such funding mechanisms could become a "game changer" by catalysing more systematic integration of climate and environmental considerations into humanitarian aid.

## 9. Spotlight on donors' internal operations

Since the authors' previous mappings and analyses,[37] humanitarian donors have stepped up efforts to monitor and reduce their own climate and environmental footprints, demonstrating leadership by example and strengthening their credibility in encouraging partners to improve their environmental performance.

### Greening of donors' direct humanitarian responses

Where donors are directly involved in humanitarian operations, their greening efforts cover the delivery of assistance, including procurement, logistics, transport, and emergency deployments.

**Switzerland** (SDC) seeks to procure more sustainable relief items and equipment and prioritises lower-emission transport options where feasible.

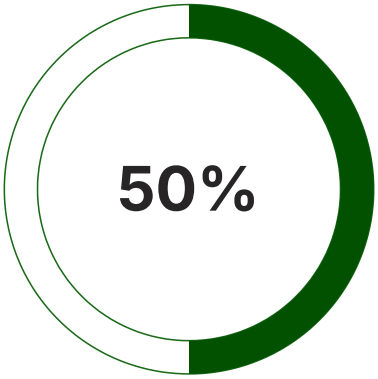
**Spain** has incorporated climate and environmental considerations into direct humanitarian deployments through its START emergency response capacity, including an emergency field hospital that can operate almost entirely on solar energy.

**France** has taken similar steps, including reducing plastics in humanitarian stocks, prioritising sea and road over air freight where possible, pre-positioning stocks closer to crisis areas and promoting shared logistics operations.

At **EU level**, while DG ECHO does not provide direct assistance, greening considerations are being integrated into the functioning of ReliefEU.[38] Measures include monitoring emissions from air operations, testing greener logistics approaches, incorporating sustainability criteria into stockpiles and adding environmental specialists to its expert pool.

### Reducing emissions and broader environmental impacts

Approximately half of the humanitarian donors included in this report now *calculate* their emissions to some extent, while many more are taking steps to *reduce* emissions and mitigate their broader environmental impacts, including through measures to reduce waste and manage it more sustainably.




**Calculate Emissions**

*Approximately half of the humanitarian donors included in this report calculate their emissions to some extent.*

Some donors are implementing ambitious roadmaps to reduce their own climate and environmental footprints, often in line with broader government commitments. In Sweden, for example, all government agencies, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), are required to implement environmental management systems and monitor and report on their environmental impacts. Accordingly, Sida reports annually on its environmental performance, including its climate adaptation efforts and emissions.

Norad, meanwhile, aims to halve emissions from its operations by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C objective. Certified under the ISO 14001 environmental management standard, the agency has adopted an environmental policy, established objectives and developed an action plan for greener aid.

## A need for more consistent and systematic approaches

Despite this progress, efforts to green donors' own organisations and operations are not yet systematically implemented across the donor community and often remain ad hoc. Actions may, for example, be concentrated at headquarters rather than extended to field operations, while GHG emissions inventories are often incomplete, covering only Scopes 1 and 2 of the GHG Protocol.[39] Most donors also lack detailed, comprehensive strategies or roadmaps with defined targets and timelines, setting out how they intend to reduce emissions in line with national and international climate commitments.

Several factors may explain this. First, donors may prioritise reducing the emissions and environmental impacts associated with the projects and programmes they fund and that are implemented by their partners, rather than focusing on their own footprints. This may reflect the fact that emissions associated with their humanitarian funding portfolios are likely to far exceed those generated by their own functions or operations.

Secondly, it may be due to limited capacity within donor agencies, particularly as some have seen their technical expertise and climate and environment workforce reduced in recent months. Thirdly, more consistent and systematic approaches to donors' "internal" greening may be constrained by differences across departments or by institutional arrangements, with responsibility for greening sometimes centralised at the wider agency or ministry level rather than within humanitarian departments themselves.

More consistent implementation of climate and environmental roadmaps across donors' own offices and operations would reinforce their leadership and send a strong signal to the humanitarian sector to adopt greener practices.

### 🔍 Key insight

Donors have stepped up efforts to monitor and reduce their own climate and environmental footprints, demonstrating leadership by example and strengthening their credibility in encouraging partners to improve their environmental performance. However, more consistent implementation of climate and environmental roadmaps across donors' own offices and operations would reinforce their leadership and send a strong signal to the humanitarian sector to adopt greener practices.

# Conclusion

Humanitarian actors are on the front lines, responding to the climate and environmental crisis. Donors have a strategic role to play in supporting the transition towards greener aid, both through their funding, influence and ability to drive structural change. This report demonstrates that humanitarian donors increasingly contribute to global climate objectives, both individually and collectively. They view this not only as a responsibility, but also as an investment in reducing future humanitarian needs.

However, the severity of the crisis requires all stakeholders to accelerate progress. Humanitarian donors should therefore advance more ambitious and detailed plans, roadmaps and strategies, that move beyond statements of intent towards measurable action and demonstrable results. A transformative shift in the humanitarian sector's ways of working is required, accompanied by corresponding changes in institutional mindsets and practices. Donors can help drive this shift by setting clearer greening expectations for partners, leveraging the transformative potential of UN agencies and UN-managed funds, and scaling up measures to reduce their own climate and environmental footprints.

# Part II: Individual Donor Policies & Approaches

## 🇨🇦 Canada – Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

### General Overview

Canada has supported the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations ("the Charter") since 2022 and endorsed the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment ("the Donor Declaration") in 2024. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) integrates environmental stewardship across the different stages of its partnerships and project planning with humanitarian organisations, as outlined below.

### Expectations for projects implemented by partners

Environmental screening is required for all of GAC's international development and humanitarian assistance initiatives in order to comply with the **Canadian Impact Assessment Act** (2019).

GAC's International Humanitarian Assistance Funding Application Guidelines for NGOs also reaffirm the "Do No Harm" principle, which recognises that measures must be taken by humanitarian organisations to prevent and alleviate any adverse impacts of aid delivery on affected populations, including the exacerbation of pre-existing tensions, inequality, or environmental degradation. These guidelines detail the processes and requirements which NGOs must adhere to for GAC's international humanitarian assistance funding.

Before becoming eligible for GAC funding, prospective NGO partners undergo a systematic screening of their institutional profile. This process seeks to determine which environmental policies and practices the organisation has in place. At the project level, GAC has introduced various tools to help screen proposals and support partners in better addressing environmental and climate concerns.

In addition to project-based funding for NGOs, GAC provides annual core funding to multilateral humanitarian agencies. Although its funding frameworks do not contain explicit environmental or climate-related requirements, GAC regularly engages with its multilateral partners on these issues through participation in governing boards and donor support groups. These efforts include supporting joint statements and advocating for humanitarian partners to integrate climate considerations into their response planning and operations.

GAC does not fund stand-alone greening projects, such as initiatives that support individual organisations in developing and implementing climate roadmaps or sector-wide greening efforts. However, GAC encourages the mainstreaming of environmental and climate considerations in project proposals. As such, costs associated with measures to mitigate climate and environmental risks within humanitarian projects may be included in partners' proposals and covered through project budgets.

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

According to Canada's **Greening Government Strategy**,[40] Canada has committed to reducing its Scope 1 and 2 emissions[41] by 40-45 % below 2005 levels by 2030, and achieving net zero by 2050 for fleet and energy. As such, GAC contributes to the Government of Canada's annual GHG inventory and has set up a Greening Team named "ecoGAC", that works on assessing and reducing the climate and environmental footprint at headquarters. With the ambition of expanding the GHG inventory to cover Scope 3 emissions (including travel, procurement), the ecoGAC team recently conducted a study of the GHG emissions related to GAC's procurement: the results of this study will be available later in 2026.

In addition, GAC manages its portfolio of international missions abroad, including consulates, embassies and permanent missions. In line with the government's greening commitments, GAC also monitors emissions from facilities and fleets in the field, and measures are being implemented to reduce environmental impacts beyond emissions, including waste generated, water use and biodiversity loss.

# 🇨🇿 Czechia – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## General Overview

Czechia is one of the smaller contributors to the global humanitarian budget. However, climate and environmental issues are core components of humanitarian strategy, and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs sets clear expectations for its partners in this respect. As such, Czechia is actively contributing to the transition towards a greener humanitarian system.

Climate and environmental issues have been a part of Czechia's humanitarian assistance since 2010, and it endorsed the Donor Declaration in 2022. Czechia also included greening, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and anticipatory action as cross-cutting elements of the 2024 **Humanitarian Aid Strategy**. This addition was made to increase the effectiveness of its assistance and to reduce future humanitarian needs. Czechia is an advocate for a "green" Humanitarian Reset and in 2025 issued a statement to the EU Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) to reaffirm its ambition to support the greening of the sector alongside the other Reset objectives.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

In addition to using the Rio Marker[42] as an internal screening tool to assess proposals, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires partners to mainstream environmental protection—including climate change mitigation—into their humanitarian response[43]. In this respect, proposals are systematically assessed against 23 indicators to analyse the climate and environmental risks of the action (e.g. consistency with local environmental policies, use of pesticides and amount of waste generated), as well as its possible benefits (e.g. measures to strengthen environmental awareness and sustainability within the proposing organisation). Of these 23 indicators, 7 relate to organisation-wide environmental and climate practices, while 16 are project-specific. To ensure a broad and inclusive process, assessments are conducted both by prospective  partners and by Ministry staff (at both embassy level and headquarters).

Example questions from the Environmental Assessment, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

| ◉ Consistency with Global Commitments | ◉ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ◉ Environmental Awareness Raising |
|---|---|---|
| *Is the project/programme consistent with commitments taken under national and international environmental and climate agreements?* | *Will the project/programme cause additional greenhouse gas emissions? If yes, what measures have been proposed to effectively mitigate and monitor these negative impacts?* | *Does the project/programme include measures to raise environmental awareness, knowledge and skills among project/programme partners and local actors?* |

Czechia is close to ensuring a complete phase out of fuel generators in the humanitarian action it funds, and is developing alternatives based on biomass and solar or wind solutions when feasible. This is illustrated by Czechia's promotion of environmentally secure solutions in refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa, and in IDP and refugee settlements in Ukraine and Moldova.

Czechia's humanitarian funding is allocated through yearly contributions to multilateral organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UN humanitarian agencies. This represents on average 40% of its funding.[44] A significant part of this specifically targets disaster risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation – for example, core contributions to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) as well as thematic contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Like other donors, Czechia's core contributions are based on the assumption that multilateral agencies already have adequate management systems in place to ensure the environmental sustainability of their projects. However, Czechia goes a step further by requiring UN agencies to provide evidence of these policies during both the initial evaluation process and ex post monitoring. It also asks agencies to report on progress made in implementing these policies in their final reports.

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

In line with its national commitments,[45] the Ministry of Foreign Affairs monitors GHG emissions from its domestic and foreign operations, partly through a government-wide policy that applies to all ministries. Czechia has developed a comprehensive, phased decarbonisation roadmap that also applies to its humanitarian assistance, including procurement and logistics decisions. Measures are being implemented to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of procurement and logistics practices, particularly in relation to in-kind assistance and the deployment of experts directly from Czechia to affected countries.

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## 🇪🇺 European Union (DG ECHO)

### General Overview

The European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) has adopted an ambitious approach to greening its humanitarian aid operations, in line with the European Green Deal. It has outlined a vision-setting timeline with three phases of progressively stronger measures described as "current efforts", "higher ambition" and "full ambition".[46] Since 2023, DG ECHO has been in the higher ambition phase. In May 2026, the **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid, 2020-2024**[47] was published, the results of which will inform DG ECHO's transition to the final "full ambition" phase.

DG ECHO, through the EU, supports the Charter and, together with France, was instrumental in the creation of the Donor Declaration, which it has signed along with 27 other donors. It currently acts as Secretariat to the Group of Donor Declaration Signatories which meets twice a year. It is a member of the Donor Greening Working Group (DGG) and in July 2025, DG ECHO leadership endorsed the ten **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**[48]. It views greening as a core pillar of UN reform and the Humanitarian Reset, and has participated in joint advocacy with other donors, particularly members of the DGG, to promote a "green" Reset.

DG ECHO's approach to greening extends beyond emissions measurement and reduction. It encompasses a broad range of actions, particularly those aimed at preventing environmental degradation, which can undermine populations' resilience and increase humanitarian needs. This approach is reflected in the **Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations for EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations** (MERs) which are deliberately broad in scope and address not only climate change but also biodiversity, waste, and water.

The MERs outline practical minimum standards and recommended actions to integrate environmental issues in humanitarian programming—including cross-cutting measures such as waste management, sustainable supply chains and resource efficiency—alongside sector-specific guidance covering food assistance, health, livelihoods, protection, nutrition, shelter and WASH.

Environmentally sustainable logistics and supply chains are also priorities for DG ECHO. Its Humanitarian Logistics Policy identifies sustainability as a key consideration, and the DG ECHO-convened Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain (HLGSC)[49] includes environmental sustainability as one of five enablers of a more efficient humanitarian supply chain. DG ECHO is also relaunching its Humanitarian Procurement Centres,[50] with environmental considerations included in the revised accreditation process. Localisation is central to DG ECHO's greening approach reflected, for example, in the MERs, which encourage projects to identify, protect and promote traditional ecological knowledge and practices.

**Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid**

The evaluation[51] assessed DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid between 2020 and 2024, including how its greening policy—and the Minimum Environmental Requirements (MERs) developed as part of it—have been applied across sectors and crisis contexts. It also explored how staff and partners have been supported to implement the MERs, and the results achieved to date.

It acknowledges the relevance of the MERs, which allow partners the flexibility to adapt their application to local conditions and contexts. However, it finds that the integration of environmental considerations varies across sectors. WASH and logistics tend to do this more consistently, partly because these sectors have a clearer entry point for action, more established good practices, and greater awareness of environmental risks. Measures such as solar-powered water systems, greener procurement practices, and improved waste management are being established in these sectors. However, greening of education, protection, and food assistance operations is lagging.

The evaluation finds that the MERs have contributed to raising environmental ambition across DG ECHO-funded projects. Many organisations now take environmental risks into account earlier in the project cycle, and references to environmental issues in proposals and monitoring documents are more frequent. However, despite a growing number of organisations conducting environmental screenings of projects, relatively few integrate the findings into project design, budgets, or monitoring frameworks.

Beyond DG ECHO-funded operations, the evaluation finds that the greening policy has played a catalytic role in positioning greening as a core humanitarian concern. It notes that DG ECHO's policy "has helped formalise environmental responsibility…and encouraged greater harmonisation of standards", while also highlighting DG ECHO's influence in donor coordination and shaping collective priorities.

Some of the findings reflect the uneven implementation of greening policies by organisations, partly driven by varying levels of engagement and support from donor staff.[52] Conversely, they show that where field teams encourage environmental integration and provide consistent messaging, partners tend to implement the greening policy more thoroughly.

**The evaluation puts forward three recommendations:**

1. **Strengthen DG ECHO's internal enabling environment for greening**: This includes, for example, strengthening leadership commitment to greening and the MERs and integrating environmental objectives into planning, monitoring, and staff responsibilities.
2. **Continue to provide consistent, tailored and context-sensitive technical and capacity-development support and guidance at field level**: This includes, for example, strengthening internal capacity to provide support for MER implementation at field level.
3. **Enhance accountability and learning through improved monitoring**: This includes, for example, the suggestion to introduce one mandatory environmental indicator per proposal, which would then be tracked throughout project implementation.

## Funding for specific greening initiatives

DG ECHO provides funding for several important sector-wide initiatives aimed at fostering greener humanitarian operations, including the **WREC Coalition**[53], **hulo**[54], and the secretariats of the **Climate and Environmental Charter**[55] and the **Interagency Procurement Group** (IAPG)[56], as well as the **Geneva Technical Hub** (GTH),[57] a multi-stakeholder platform that focuses, among other areas, on mainstreaming environmental considerations into humanitarian operations and improving sustainable procurement practices. DG ECHO funds both online and in-person training to strengthen humanitarian actors' capacity to conduct environmental assessments using the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (**NEAT**+). DG ECHO provided financial support for the Donor Greening Working Group in 2025.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

DG ECHO funds EU-funded humanitarian aid through partner organisations, including NGOs. To become a DG ECHO partner, NGOs must first submit an application and obtain an EU humanitarian partnership certificate, demonstrating that they meet organisational, financial, operational, and management requirements. DG ECHO's recently **revised NGO partner certification framework** for 2028–2034 makes environmental sustainability a more explicit and structured part of the assessment that organisations undergo to become certified.

NGOs are now required to either have an environmental policy or strategy with relevant actions and clear targets (covering both their operations and their own offices and staff), or have signed the Climate and Environment Charter and developed targets and a related action plan. Organisations should also have systems in place for environmental safeguarding training, guidance and capacity building to enable staff to meet these targets, as well as procedures to identify and mitigate the environmental impacts of projects in countries of operation.

DG ECHO's environmental expectations therefore operate at two complementary levels: the partnership certification framework sets requirements at the *organisational* level, whilst the MERs outline how environmental considerations must be integrated into the *design and implementation* of programmes.

Since 2023, the MERs have been mandatory for all organisations receiving DG ECHO funding, including local implementing partners supported through sub-grants. DG ECHO expects its partners to support their local counterparts in developing the capacity needed to comply with these requirements.

The presence of DG ECHO Regional Environmental Experts based in Nairobi, Dakar and Bangkok helps to bolster field-level technical support on greening to partners. DG ECHO also offers **a free, public e-learning** course on greening and **virtual training** on the MERs for its partners and for local organisations.

DG ECHO's grant application template (**Single Form**) asks applicants to indicate whether environmental impact screening has been conducted[58] and to summarise mitigation actions aligned with the MERs. Partners are encouraged to prioritise the Requirements that are most relevant to their projects—the full set is not expected to be applied to every project. Guidance on the Single Form also proposes (voluntary) key outcome indicators (KOI)[59] and key results indicators (KRI)[60] for partners to choose from, to promote integration of environmental considerations into project M&E systems and reporting.

DG ECHO considers higher costs linked to more environmentally sustainable items or measures to be eligible when justified by clear environmental benefits and alignment with the MERs. To facilitate longer-term investments in greening, particularly in protracted crises, DG ECHO advocates for leveraging its multi-year funding modality: initial contracts now run for at least 24 months, with full budgets sometimes committed upfront. The abovementioned evaluation of DG ECHO's greening policy states that "Multi-year funding and programmatic partnerships are consistently identified by partners as mechanisms that offer opportunities for more strategic planning and for investments that unfold across several years."[61]

However, in practice, uptake remains limited due to annual budgeting constraints. Nonetheless, this multi-year funding has the potential to improve efficiency and environmental sustainability, by enabling investments such as solarisation, which can reduce operational costs but are difficult to put in place within short funding cycles.

The evaluation also highlights examples where the application of the MERs has enabled partners to make tangible environmental improvements, including transitioning from diesel-powered generators to solar alternatives. However, despite the MERs stating that diesel generators should only be used exceptionally—a principle also reflected in Common Donor Priority Action 8 for Greening ("Phase out the use of fossil fuel generators where possible, reduce energy consumption and transition to renewable energy")—their use remains widespread in humanitarian response and is often insufficiently justified. Overall, DG ECHO observes that progress on greening is constrained less by technical feasibility[62] than by broader systemic barriers, including limited data availability and underdeveloped markets for greener goods and services.

In addition to the Evaluation, DG ECHO undertook 5 regional workshops in 2024 to gather feedback from partners on the impact of its greening policy on projects and practices. This fed into DG ECHO's publication **Environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action: Good practices and lessons learned**[63] which contains case studies highlighting obstacles, solutions and enabling factors in using the MERs.

With regard to progress on greening among its multilateral partners, it remains difficult to assess the extent to which environmental considerations are systematically integrated across UN programmes. This is due both to the way UN humanitarian agencies report to DG ECHO and to the funding modalities through which DG ECHO provides its support. Many agencies operate under their own institutional strategies; some have yet to establish emissions reduction targets, while others continue to rely heavily on offsetting approaches. In this context, DG ECHO uses partnership dialogues and other fora to promote stronger commitment and encourage UN partners to lead by example on greening.

## Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

Internally, DG ECHO does not yet fully measure its GHG emissions but collects data from office premises, travel and transport (e.g. using data from the **EU Humanitarian Air Bridge**[64] flight operations) to produce an indicative footprint. Under the European Green Deal, all European Commission departments—including DG ECHO headquarters—have committed to halving their emissions by 2030. Carbon audits have been conducted for Commission premises in Brussels, but not yet for decentralised EU agencies, delegations or DG ECHO's global network of field offices.

Other measures undertaken at DG ECHO headquarters to reduce the organisation's environmental footprint include the use of practices aligned with the **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)**[65], energy-efficiency improvements such as LED lighting and smart meter installation, reduced travel through increased teleworking and virtual meetings, as well as strengthened recycling, greener procurement, and more sustainable logistics.

Although DG ECHO does not provide direct assistance, it operates **ReliefEU**[66], which delivers rapid temporary support through logistics services, warehousing, prepositioned emergency stocks and deployment of experts. These services improve coordination and efficiency while contributing to greening by reducing waste, lowering emissions from transport and storage, and optimising stock management. Environmental specialists have recently been added to the ReliefEU expert pool, and joint office premises are also being funded to reduce partners' energy use. Furthermore, the MERs have been gradually integrated into ReliefEU stockpile operations, including through the monitoring of emissions linked to air operations, the testing of greener logistics approaches and the incorporation of sustainability criteria across its six global stockpiles.

# 🇫🇷 France – Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)

## General Overview

France's **Humanitarian Strategy 2023-2027** identifies the integration of climate and environmental considerations into humanitarian action as a key priority[67], including through enhanced anticipation and management of climate and environmental risks in humanitarian responses. The Strategy states that France will expand its capacity to provide humanitarian assistance in line with the Donor Declaration and the Charter. It also highlights the need to reduce GHG emissions and mitigate the adverse environmental and biodiversity impacts of humanitarian action, while promoting environmentally responsible practices.

These efforts aim to ensure that France's humanitarian action contributes to international GHG emissions reduction targets, including those established under the Paris Agreement. Through this Humanitarian Strategy, France also seeks to support and accelerate humanitarian actors' efforts to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their activities, both in project design and in the transition towards more sustainable and low-carbon practices.

France took a leading role in the development of the Donor Declaration, which was adopted during the French Presidency of the EU in 2022, and has been a supporter of the Charter since then. France is also a member of the Donor Greening Working Group, having endorsed the ten **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**[68] in 2025.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

CDCS expects NGOs applying for grants to provide details of how climate and environmental considerations—as well as other cross-cutting themes such as gender and disability—have been incorporated into their proposals. Where this is not the case, they are required to provide justification in the concept note. NGO projects are specifically assessed using a climate marker[69] ranging between C0, C1 and C2 (with C2 being the highest score).

Projects marked C1 include activities that take climate and environmental issues into account, while C2 projects are aimed directly at addressing these challenges.

This enables CDCS to monitor the number of projects that address climate-related challenges, whether directly through dedicated activities or through the mainstreaming of climate and environmental considerations across project implementation. This monitoring has shown encouraging progress among partners in advancing greener humanitarian practices. In 2025, 58 humanitarian projects funded by CDCS—representing just over one-third of all supported projects—integrated climate and environmental considerations. Of these, 54 projects included activities specifically addressing these issues, while 4 incorporated targeted measures aimed at enhancing environmental and climate outcomes or mitigating negative impacts.

In 2025, CDCS provided funding for a 12-month project led by Climate Action Accelerator. This project includes training five of CDCS' partner NGOs in the development and implementation of their own environmental roadmaps so that projects submitted to CDCS by these organisations better reflect environmental issues. CDCS is also working with Climate Action Accelerator through this project to refine its climate marker, as a way to encourage partners to provide more detailed information on the identification of climate and environmental impacts and related mitigation measures. This will help strengthen the integration of climate and environmental considerations across the projects CDCS funds. It will also ensure that CDCS staff who assess concept notes and grant applications are better equipped to evaluate these aspects. A training session for CDCS teams will be organised to this effect in 2026.

CDCS also emphasises the importance of environmental sustainability in its ongoing dialogue with NGO partners. This is particularly important in the context of the Humanitarian Reset and the deprioritisation of greening by some stakeholders, to help ensure that progress made in this area is maintained.

### Funding for specific greening initiatives

CDCS funds initiatives that aim to support the greening of the humanitarian sector as a whole. For example, it has provided funding to the Climate Action Accelerator since 2021 for several projects. As illustrated above, these are designed to help humanitarian actors reduce their emissions—through the development of roadmaps—and to influence behaviour change among multilateral agencies, donors and NGOs. CDCS renewed this partnership in 2025 to develop shared tools aligned with the commitments made during the workshop on sustainable supply chains, co-organised by France and the European Union in May 2025 as part of the **Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain** (HLGSC)[70]. CDCS also supports **hulo**—the first humanitarian logistics cooperative—in its work to pool procurement and services (mutualisation). Through this support, CDCS contributes to advancing sustainable supply chains and enhancing coordination across humanitarian organisations.

Since 2024, CDCS has also funded a project led by the NGO ALIMA (Alliance for International Medical Action) aimed at reducing the environmental impact of nutrition responses by optimising the life-cycle of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (Plumpy'Nut®) packaging in Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This type of packaging—metallised laminated sachets—is particularly problematic as it is not recyclable and is distributed at scale in humanitarian contexts with limited waste management capacity, resulting in significant unmanaged waste[71].

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

CDCS has not measured its own emissions to date, although this is planned by 2027, in line with the commitments in its Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027. In the meantime, it has taken several steps to green its direct humanitarian operations. This includes reviewing CDCS' humanitarian stock to make it more sustainable (e.g. reducing plastic use), prioritising sea and road over air freight where possible, pre-positioning stock as close to crisis areas as possible (in Dubai for example), and promoting and conducting joint and shared logistics operations with partners at national and European levels (EU humanitarian air bridges).

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## 🇫🇷 France – French Development Agency (AFD)

### General Overview

The AFD does not fund humanitarian actions (this responsibility falls under the Crisis and Support Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), but operates in crisis and conflict settings using a humanitarian–development nexus approach to support post-crisis recovery and the sustainable development of territories.

To achieve this, the AFD has several financing channels, including the **Minka** instrument, which is dedicated to peacebuilding in fragile, crisis, or conflict-affected areas. The Agency funds public bodies at both national and decentralised levels, private companies (through its subsidiary PROPARCO[72]), and also civil society organisations (CSOs) - international, national and French NGOs, which themselves partner with local actors in the countries concerned. Since 2009, the AFD has managed and led a **mechanism dedicated to civil society initiatives**. It sometimes works with UN organisations, including through multi-donor funding.

### Expectations for projects implemented by partners

All interventions funded by the AFD pay particular attention to climate and biodiversity (as well as gender), and the terms of reference for calls for expressions of interest and for proposals published by the AFD systematically refer to this. The integration of climate and biodiversity considerations is strategically encouraged within the CSO Initiatives facility, but it is not an eligibility requirement for funding.

Measures to reduce environmental and social impacts, as well as the potential to generate climate and biodiversity co-benefits, are systematically assessed during the appraisal of projects funded by AFD, particularly under Minka-funded projects. Ways to strengthen the consideration of these issues are also discussed with project owners.

Since 2017, the AFD has set itself the ambitious objective of ensuring that 50% of its annual financing commitments generate climate co-benefits, while 100% are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This effectively excludes any project that is not consistent with a country's low-carbon development pathway. In addition, all infrastructure projects undergo a climate vulnerability assessment during the project appraisal stage.

Climate and biodiversity finance are estimated ex ante using a range of tools and methodologies that are regularly updated and refined, including carbon footprint assessments for climate change mitigation projects. However, the AFD does not require carbon footprint assessments for projects submitted by CSOs through the Initiatives facility, notably because these projects generally involve activities with limited or no infrastructure component.

The AFD does not allocate additional budget for  the greening of its partners' projects. If partners wish to purchase greener and more expensive goods and services, they must incorporate these additional costs into existing budgets. For example, the AFD has previously agreed, upon specific request from a CSO and under certain conditions, to fund the offsetting of its air travel within the framework of its project and existing budget.

## Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

Since 2008, the AFD has carried out a carbon footprint assessment of its own internal emissions (head office, country and regional offices). This does not include the AFD's project portfolio—that is, the emissions generated by the projects it finances. The French Bilan Carbone®[73] methodology is used, and the results of the assessment are included in the Non-Financial Performance Statement and in the AFD Group's Activity and Environmental and Social Responsibility Report (publicly available documents).[74]

The main sources of GHG emissions identified in the assessment are procurement, followed by travel. To reduce emissions linked to procurement, the AFD tries to assess its suppliers' services more accurately and realistically, focusing particularly on intellectual services. In addition, the AFD offsets its internal emissions through the purchase of carbon credits, under a policy that is currently evolving. Although the AFD Group's[75] **2025–2030 Strategy** remains focused on projects financed by the AFD and implemented by its partners, it states that quantified targets for reducing its own internal emissions must be set by mid-2026. Furthermore, the AFD Group is preparing for future reporting under the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD), with mandatory publication starting in 2026.[76]

To achieve its own emission reduction objectives, the AFD will adopt a low-carbon pathway. This will include promoting responsible procurement (notably to strengthen the AFD's understanding of its own purchasing), implementing targeted action plans—particularly in terms of energy efficiency (for example, the use of air conditioning or digital tools)—and potentially revising the Group's travel policy.

In December 2025, the AFD published its cross-cutting **Planet Roadmap** for the period 2025–2030. It maintains the Group's previous commitments on climate and strengthens its ambition to ensure that all its actions are also aligned with the objectives of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**[77]. The Planet Roadmap, ambitious in the current context, provides a framework and guidance for the projects financed by the Agency, complementing the general directions already set out in its Strategy.

**It is structured around the following four strategic pillars** which are then translated into operational priorities: 1) Maintain 100% commitment to the Paris Agreement; 2) Ensure 100% alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework; 3) Strengthen transformational actions; 4) Better address the social challenges of the transition.

# 🇮🇹 Italy – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI) and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

## General Overview

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI), via the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) as its technical body, integrates climate change and environment as cross-cutting priorities in its **Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2024-2026.** This ensures that environmental sustainability is embedded across humanitarian programming rather than addressed through standalone initiatives.

Italian Cooperation prioritises specific areas including green transition, climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity protection, circular economy, and food and water security. These priorities are operationalised through institutional tools, staff training, and environmental assessments, to enable systematic integration across programmes. It adopts a collaborative approach, working closely with UN agencies, civil society organisations, NGOs, and private sector actors to promote a coordinated, system-wide transition towards climate-resilient humanitarian assistance.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

Italian Cooperation places clear expectations on its partners—NGOs and multilateral organisations including UN humanitarian agencies—in terms of greening. In concept notes and proposals, partners are expected to demonstrate how their planned project aligns with the Donor Declaration and how it takes the OECD-DAC markers related to environment, climate, and disaster risk management[78] into account. For example, the 2025 call for proposals for emergency education, protection and livelihoods projects in Lebanon outlines greening expectations in its cross-cutting themes section.

This stipulates that proposals should be aligned with Italy's Donor Declaration commitments and have minimal or no environmental impact, promote environmental protection, include environmental impact indicators and ensure proper environmental practices (e.g. waste disposal in infrastructure works). Partners' compliance in this respect is assessed throughout the project cycle: organisations are expected to demonstrate adherence at the proposal stage, with continued accountability ensured through interim reporting and monitoring visits.

Italian Cooperation has observed that while many civil society organisations demonstrate the ability to implement environmentally sustainable approaches, smaller and locally-based organisations may benefit from support and capacity building in this respect. Similarly, there are opportunities for UN agencies to apply their internal greening policies more consistently, in line with expected standards.

Italian Cooperation introduced a review and validation procedure to ensure the accurate attribution of Rio Markers during the project design phase. A focal point within the Environment and Land Use Office supports thematic offices by reviewing marker allocations, thereby strengthening consistency and accountability across the portfolio. For example, 99 new initiatives were reviewed through this process during the first half of 2024.

In 2023, an internal technical guide on environmental markers was developed to support staff in line with international standards. This guide aligns with joint work between the OECD-DAC ENVIRONET (the Network on Environment and Development Co-operation) and WP-STAT (the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics) which focuses on tracking, defining, and harmonising environmental funding in international aid. Internal training sessions were also delivered to new staff and local offices, including online modules on Rio Markers and ODA reporting.

## Funding for specific greening initiatives

Italy does not currently fund dedicated greening projects. Instead, it promotes the mainstreaming of climate and environmental considerations across all humanitarian assistance.

However, in collaboration with the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, it developed a **project-level toolkit** to estimate GHG emissions, with a strong focus on avoided emissions resulting from energy-related interventions. The Excel-based toolkit includes data such as national electricity grid emission factors (sourced from international datasets) and enables users to calculate emissions reductions from photovoltaic and wind energy generation, as well as from fuel switching, e.g. replacing fossil fuel-based systems with cleaner alternatives.

The toolkit's primary purpose is to provide emissions estimates during both the project design phase and ex-post evaluation, thereby helping to assess environmental impacts in partner countries. Despite its practical design, the toolkit has experienced lower-than-expected uptake. As a result, reflection is underway as to whether to further develop and promote the tool or to encourage partners to adopt more widely recognised emissions accounting solutions.

## Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

Italian Cooperation does not yet systematically measure its overall emissions. Efforts to green internal operations currently focus on awareness-raising, particularly among AICS offices abroad.

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# 🇳🇴 Norway – Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

## General Overview

Almost two years ago, responsibility for Norway's humanitarian assistance portfolio was transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to Norad (the Norwegian Development Agency). Climate and environment are cross-cutting themes of **Norway's Humanitarian Strategy 2024–2029**, which emphasises that climate change and environmental degradation must be considered across all activities. Climate change is highlighted as a driver of increasing humanitarian needs, and the Strategy underscores the importance of strengthening climate adaptation, prevention, and preparedness in humanitarian work.

The Humanitarian Strategy promotes green aid in several ways: prioritising environmentally friendly and energy-efficient solutions; identifying less-polluting alternatives (e.g. moving away from diesel generators) and sustainable waste management, including local systems and circular models for plastics, packaging, solar panels, mobile phones, etc. It also highlights measures to reduce emissions, including strengthening local production and procurement to minimise transport-related emissions.

> *"Green humanitarian response imposes requirements for energy efficiency, maintenance needs, waste management and emissions. Local procurement and production of emergency aid products reduce emissions related to logistics. Local waste management must be kept in mind when purchasing technological solutions that may contain chemicals, such as phones and solar cells. Models of circular economy should be developed for the handling of plastic products and packaging materials. Repairability, maintenance and waste management should be emphasised when purchasing goods."*
>
> (Section 7.5 of Norway's Humanitarian Strategy).

Norad has set ambitious goals for both its own climate and environmental footprint and that of the humanitarian projects it funds. The agency's strategy, **Towards 2030** (published in 2021), identifies contributing to a greener world as one of its five priority areas, meaning this objective must be integrated into all aspects of its work. Norway has signed the Donor Declaration, has been a supporter of the Charter since December 2021, and recently joined the Donor Greening Working Group.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

Norad identifies four cross-cutting priorities for its humanitarian work: human rights; women's rights and gender equality; climate and environment; and anti-corruption. Climate and environmental considerations therefore guide the development of new initiatives and partnerships. Norad's goal is to integrate environmental and climate considerations into all development cooperation—including humanitarian assistance—in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

This involves both minimising the negative environmental impact of aid and supporting green development actors and international environmental objectives. The Humanitarian Strategy includes a specific provision requiring Norway's partners 'to choose sustainable, renewable, repairable, and more environmentally friendly solutions for their humanitarian operations.' However, Norad is a trust-based donor that operates through flexible agreements with partners, so partners retain discretion in how they address these priorities.

When analysing proposals submitted by NGO partners in response to a call, Norad evaluates the extent to which organisations have addressed the cross-cutting issues outlined above and demonstrated how significant risks—including those related to climate change and environmental degradation—will be managed and mitigated throughout project implementation.

Norad's expectations of its NGO partners in terms of greening are typically communicated through clauses in funding or partnership agreements (where cross-cutting issues are specifically listed), and partners are required to report back on these annually. Climate and environmental issues are sometimes also included in the agenda of Norad's annual meetings with partners. Norad's overall impression is that its humanitarian partner organisations are undertaking substantial work on climate and environmental issues, with positive results.

A significant share of Norad's funding is channelled through the UN system, primarily in the form of core contributions to humanitarian agencies. An increasing proportion is also allocated through pooled mechanisms, such as country-based pooled funds, to enhance flexibility, coordination, and efficiency. In these cases, funding is generally not tied to an individual call for proposals and so specific requests or conditions related to greening cannot be applied. Instead, Norad relies on the governance, accountability, and reporting systems of UN humanitarian agencies, while complementing these through its participation in the governing boards of several UN organisations. Although core and pooled funding modalities involve oversight at a more strategic and systemic level—rather than through the monitoring of individual project activities—Norad actively promotes climate and environmental issues in its partnerships with UN agencies.

## Funding for specific greening initiatives

Norad funds **NORCAP**[79], which deploys experts across the globe to work with partners to improve aid and protect and empower people affected by crises and climate change. For example, NORCAP deploys energy experts to humanitarian organisations seeking to change how they use and source energy, helping them to transition, for example, from diesel generators to sustainable solutions such as solar power. Norad also has a partnership with Norwegian People's Aid, which is leading efforts to green the mine action sector and has developed the **Green Field Tool** to assess and mitigate environmental impacts in mine action activities. Until the end of 2025, Norad also funded the **Global Platform for Action**[80] which promotes sustainable energy in displacement settings.

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

By 2030, Norad aims to halve emissions from its own operations, in line with the 1.5°C objective of the Paris Agreement. The agency is certified under the ISO 14001 environmental management standard, which provides the framework for managing and reducing organisational environmental impacts. In this context, Norad has adopted an environmental policy, established clear objectives, and developed an action plan for greener aid. Norad currently tracks emissions from air travel, considered its largest source of operational emissions, and is working towards establishing a more comprehensive carbon accounting system, initially covering electricity consumption in its offices. The agency has set a target to reduce air travel emissions by more than 30% compared to 2019 levels. This target has already been surpassed, with current emissions from air travel estimated at roughly half of their 2019 level.

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## 🇪🇸 Spain – Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

### General Overview

The **Spanish Cooperation's 2024-2027 Master Plan for Sustainable Development** promotes a triple social, economic, and ecological transition. The fight against climate change—alongside access to clean energy, water and sanitation, and the protection and promotion of biodiversity—is one of the Plan's priority sectors. In terms of mitigation, the Plan focuses on energy transition and clean energy with emphasis, for example, on initiatives that promote access to electricity in refugee and reception camps using photovoltaic systems.[81]

AECID's **Humanitarian Action Strategy 2019–2026** also includes a set of cross-cutting approaches that include an environmental perspective. This encourages reflection on how relief operations can, at times, cause environmental damage comparable to the crises they aim to address, leaving behind degraded natural resources and increased vulnerability to future threats. It also highlights that certain issues—such as climate change, poor resource management, and desertification—are already generating humanitarian consequences.

Spain has signed the Donor Declaration and has supported the Charter since June 2022. AECID is a member of the Donor Greening Working Group, is one of the five donors to have endorsed the ten **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**[82] and has taken an active role in advocating for a "green" Reset.

### Expectations for projects implemented by partners

AECID funds humanitarian NGOs through grants and grant agreements, and incorporates climate and environmental considerations into this process. For example, AECID's 2026 Call for Humanitarian Project Grants to NGOs[83] states that proposals must take into account the cross-cutting approaches set out in the abovementioned Master Plan, including a climate justice and environmental sustainability approach.

The Call states that in appraising proposals, AECID will pay particular attention to the environmental analysis of the context, and to design that is geared towards preventing or mitigating the potential climate and environmental impacts of the project. It will assess whether proposals integrate environmentally responsible resource management, and whether environmental mainstreaming is reflected in the proposed budget and logframe.

AECID also evaluates to what extent proposals for humanitarian assistance align with its strategic instruments—including its Environment and Sustainable Development Strategy—and the impact of the proposed intervention on the environment and the fight against climate change. The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** have also been referenced for the first time in AECID's internal guidelines for the assessment of proposals for these humanitarian grants.

In addition to NGOs and the components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (ICRC, IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including the Spanish Red Cross), AECID's Humanitarian Action Directorate provides both core and earmarked funds to UN agencies. The UN agencies that received the highest level of humanitarian funding in 2025 were OCHA, UNRWA, WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. With limited exceptions, AECID's funding for UN agencies and the ICRC takes the form of voluntary contributions. These contributions are not bound by any specific conditions relating to environmental sustainability or climate change.

In 2021, AECID developed its "**Guide for Mainstreaming Environment in Humanitarian Action and Emergencies**" which aims to support staff and partners in reducing negative climate and environmental impacts of humanitarian operations and in promoting positive impacts. It introduces key concepts regarding the relationship between the environment and humanitarian action, provides suggestions, good practices and tools, and tries to balance competing issues (e.g. the need for rapidity in humanitarian action versus the need to consider environmental approaches which may necessitate more time). The guide is comprehensive and touches upon general environmental impacts of humanitarian assistance (water pollution, waste), as well as carbon impacts.

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

Climate action criteria and environmental considerations have been incorporated into Spain's direct operations and deployments (via the Spanish Technical Aid Response Team/START). This is reflected, for example, in the design of AECID's emergency and primary care field hospital[84] (i.e. one where there is no surgery or inpatient capacity) that can operate almost entirely on solar energy. The same applies to its water purification capacity (named "AquaSTART"), which was certified by the European Union in 2025.

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## 🇨🇭 Switzerland – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

### General Overview

As part of the **2030 Agenda**,[85] Switzerland is committed to promoting sustainable development that gives equal consideration to environmental, economic, and social dimensions. In line with this commitment, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' **Foreign Policy Strategy 2024–2027** identifies the environmental and ecological dimensions of sustainability as one of the four priorities of Swiss foreign policy. This commitment is also reflected in Switzerland's **International Cooperation Strategy 2025–2028**, which identifies as one of its overarching objectives the promotion of "environmentally sustainable development that is resilient to climate change and natural hazards, for the benefit of the most disadvantaged."

While most of SDC's humanitarian aid is driven by the International Cooperation Strategy's priority "Human development: Saving lives, alleviating human suffering and providing access to high-quality basic services for the most disadvantaged", the priority "Climate and environment: Guaranteeing environmentally friendly development, resilient to climate change and natural disasters, for the benefit of the most disadvantaged" also applies to its humanitarian aid.

Switzerland has signed the Donor Declaration and was the first donor to support the Charter in October 2021. It is an active member of—and is currently funding—the Donor Greening Working Group, and endorsed the ten **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**[86] in 2025. SDC also chairs the Strategic Advisory Group of the UNEP-OCHA Joint Environmental Emergencies Response Team (formerly the Joint Environment Unit)[87].

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

SDC advocates to its partners for the greening of humanitarian assistance and strives to systematically take climate, disaster and environmental risks and impacts into account in cooperation frameworks and operations. SDC encourages its partners to undertake comprehensive climate, disaster, and environmental risk and impact assessments using tools such as SDC's **Climate, Environment and DRR integration guidance (CEDRIG)**.[88] While the use of these tools is not a formal requirement for organisations, SDC strongly emphasises the importance of meaningfully integrating climate and environmental considerations into project design and implementation, including appropriate mitigation, adaptation, and risk management measures.

SDC works with partners through trust-based relationships, giving them discretion as to how they green their operations. It recognises that many partners already have substantial experience and capacity in this area and views peer exchange and shared learning as effective means of advancing good practice.

SDC provides core contributions to multilateral organisations, often within long-standing partnerships (e.g. with UNHCR, IOM, ICRC, and IFRC). Given the nature of core funding, SDC does not insist on any specific operational greening measures for these organisations. Instead, it promotes and encourages greener approaches through structured dialogue and ongoing engagement with partners.

SDC uses specific indicators and markers related to spending on climate and environment (for example energy generation from renewable sources, biodiversity, DRR, climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification). SDC is also following a results-based management approach and proposes that partners use specific climate, environment and DRR indicators where applicable in their project logframes. Example indicators include the number of people enjoying improved access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services, the number of people trained on climate change, DRR and environmental issues, or the number of people benefiting from concrete climate change adaptation and natural resource management measures.

## Funding for specific greening initiatives

SDC supports a number of sector-wide greening initiatives including the Donor Greening Working Group and the Secretariat of the Climate and Environment Charter (which it co-funds with DG ECHO). SDC financed the "Localisation of Environment in Humanitarian Action" project, implemented by the former OCHA/UNEP Joint Environment Unit in 2023–2025. This project strengthened the capacity of local humanitarian actors in Colombia and Somalia to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action. It led to the development of a global **Environment in Humanitarian Action (EHA) Global Training Template** that can be adapted to suit a variety of humanitarian contexts.

Since 2021, SDC has funded the **Geneva Technical Hub** (GTH), a multi-stakeholder platform that addresses complex technical challenges in humanitarian response. The GTH—which is now in its second phase—focuses, among other areas, on mainstreaming environmental considerations into humanitarian operations and improving sustainable procurement practices. Through its support to the GTH, Swiss technical experts—in collaboration with academic partners—have developed tools and guidelines to promote greening. These include the **Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculator for refugee camps and settlements** which relates to energy, materials and transport, and the **Sustainability Tool**, which supports comparative assessments of environmental impacts, technical performance, habitability and affordability of shelter designs used in humanitarian operations. In addition, SDC supports the Global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster to implement its **2024-2028 Strategy** in particular activities designed to ensure the systematic integration of environmental and climate considerations into shelter and settlement responses.

SDC is also funding the **IFRC's global initiative on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in humanitarian contexts** (2025-2028) to strengthen the capacity of IFRC and partners to implement locally-led NbS that reduce climate and environmental risks and enhance resilience.

Finally, SDC finances strategic secondments to multilateral partners in the areas of climate, environment, and DRR, thereby promoting environmental sustainability in humanitarian and development programming. For example, at the end of 2023, a Swiss Humanitarian Aid expert was seconded to WFP in Benin for a one-year assignment focused on integrating sustainable energy solutions into food assistance programmes. The expert supported WFP in promoting modern and clean cooking solutions through market-based approaches aimed at improving health outcomes and reducing reliance on biomass fuels. The secondment also contributed to strengthening school feeding programmes through the introduction of affordable clean energy solutions and supported smallholder farmers in accessing energy technologies to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience.

### Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is committed to reducing its emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. Examples of measures taken include reducing and offsetting transport emissions and greening procurement for Switzerland's direct humanitarian operations.

The Swiss government also has an internal resources and environmental management tool in place (which includes GHG emissions monitoring) covering headquarters' operations and travel, among other things.

SDC's logistics section and emergency response teams also seek to integrate environmentally sustainable practices into emergency operations where feasible. The logistics section uses the Swiss government's procurement guidelines—which include sustainability criteria—when procuring relief items, equipment for emergency teams and other operational materials. In practice, this means that the team reviews and adapts relief items to meet evolving environmental norms, for example by promoting the standardisation of shelter materials, reducing the use of microplastics and selecting lighter and more durable materials. Where appropriate, more sustainable alternatives are also sought when procuring equipment, for example battery- rather than fuel-powered devices and solar-powered water pumps.

Finally, SDC works to reduce the environmental footprint of its transport and logistics operations by selecting the most appropriate and least emissions-intensive transport options wherever possible. In practice, priority is generally given to rail transport, followed by sea and road transport, while air freight—particularly chartered flights—is used only when necessary. SDC also combines different modes of transport to promote efficiency. For example, transporting field handling equipment and fire pumps to Ukraine by rail reduced estimated emissions from 57 tonnes of $CO_2$ to 7 tonnes compared with road transport. Likewise, WASH equipment destined for Lebanon was shipped using a combination of road and ferry transport rather than air freight in order to minimise environmental impact.

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## 🇸🇪 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

### General Overview

Sweden signed the Donor Declaration and has supported the Charter since 2022. For several years, Sida has sought to strengthen the integration of environmental and climate considerations across its international assistance portfolio, including both humanitarian and development cooperation. Its **Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance** 2025-2029[89] highlights the close links between the climate crisis and rising humanitarian needs, as well as the responsibility of humanitarian organisations to address climate-related challenges. The Strategy also emphasises the importance of enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian assistance and promoting more localised responses in a context of growing financial and logistical constraints facing international actors.

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

Sida is one of the world's largest humanitarian donors[90], providing substantial funding to UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and humanitarian pooled funds. Before entering into a new partnership with Sida, organisations are required to undergo an environmental assessment. This assessment examines the extent to which an organisation has established policies, tools and systems to identify, assess and manage climate- and environment-related risks and impacts.

Examples of questions used by Sida staff when reviewing organisations' environmental assessments:[91]

| | |
|---|---|
| **Environmental Management** | *What environmental guidelines, policies, audits, or wider systems (such as an Environmental Management System) are in place? What opportunities are there to improve these tools?* |
| **Targets & Indicators** | *Has the partner identified targets and indicators that can help monitor the management of these environmental risks?* |
| **Capacity** | *Does the partner have sufficient capacity (knowledge, staff, budget) to implement the identified aspects (manage these environmental risks)?* |

While humanitarian funding is allocated on the basis of humanitarian needs and directed towards the most acute crises and vulnerable populations, careful consideration is given to how implementing partners are: exploring opportunities to generate positive environmental outcomes through their programmes; identifying, avoiding and mitigating potential negative environmental impacts; and assessing and managing environmental and climate-related risks that may affect the response.

Given the flexible and largely unearmarked nature of Sida's funding, the agency does not generally attach specific environmental conditions to its grants. Instead, it relies on partners to implement and monitor their own environmental and climate safeguarding policies and systems. Sida also encourages the use of renewable energy where feasible and provides technical guidance to support partners in transitioning towards greener practices.

When submitting project proposals, partners are expected to undertake an environmental assessment to identify environmental risks, impacts and opportunities. This assessment is reviewed by Sida, and agreed mitigation measures are monitored throughout the project lifecycle.[92]

## Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

In line with Sweden's Ordinance on Environmental Management in Government Agencies 2009:907 (internal document), which requires government agencies to implement environmental management systems and monitor and report on their environmental impacts, Sida produces annual reports on its own environmental performance, including climate adaptation efforts and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

# 🇳🇱 The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## General Overview

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides support to humanitarian actors in the form of multiannual, flexible contributions to the UN (e.g. OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNRWA), the Red Cross Movement (ICRC and the Netherlands Red Cross) and the Dutch Relief Alliance (a coalition of 14 Dutch aid and humanitarian organisations). It also supports a number of organisations that work on strengthening the humanitarian system. The Netherlands has signed the Donor Declaration, and its 2022 **International Climate Strategy** (in Dutch) establishes its ambition to reduce the climate and environmental footprint of humanitarian organisations[93].

## Expectations for projects implemented by partners

While greening is not a strategic partnership priority for the Ministry, partners are still encouraged to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their operations and are expected to use unearmarked funding to meet any costs in this respect. Partners are also expected to develop and implement their own climate and environmental strategies. The Ministry uses UN executive boards to monitor how its UN partners are implementing their own environmental strategies, and has advocated for further action in some instances, including the need to establish stronger governance structures to ensure that environmental and social sustainability are systematically addressed and monitored across UN agencies and organisations, and the need to improve and expand environmental management systems.

## Funding for specific greening initiatives

The Ministry rarely funds specific greening projects. However, as part of its 2022-2026 partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC), it funded staff costs related to green response and the implementation of NLRC's internal Climate and Environment Action Plan. It also supported NLRC in calculating its emissions[94] and in developing, in 2024, an internal travel app to calculate emissions from staff travel.

## Own Climate & Environmental Footprint

In 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched its **Mission Sustainable** programme aimed at putting its sustainability policy into practice internally. This focuses on three areas: climate change, the circular economy and human rights. As part of the programme, a carbon footprint assessment has been conducted and roadmaps developed for head office and field offices to reduce travel, green supply chains and introduce sustainable energy in offices.

A growing number of field offices have established sustainability teams to promote engagement, deliver concrete results and keep sustainability on the mission's agenda. Annual progress reports on Mission Sustainable are publicly available.[95]

# Other Donors

## 🇪🇪 Estonia – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

With an annual humanitarian assistance budget of approximately €2.5 million,[96] the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a relatively small but strongly values-driven donor. Estonia has made ambitious climate and environmental commitments[97] and seeks to reflect these across its foreign policy, including in its humanitarian action.

Estonia signed the Donor Declaration in 2022 and is currently revising its project proposal templates and monitoring framework to strengthen the integration of climate and environmental considerations. It is also developing dedicated environmental and climate guidance for its international NGO implementing partners, expected to be released in the fourth quarter of 2026. Particular attention will be given to aligning with the **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance**,[98] as well as exploring how localisation and digitalisation can support climate and environmental objectives.

## 🇫🇮 Finland – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Together with other leading donors, Finland is at the forefront of global climate action and was among the first countries to include emissions reduction commitments in law through its 2015 Climate Act which was **revised in 2022**.[99] Its ambition to align with the objectives of the Paris Agreement is also reflected in its **Climate-Smart Foreign and Security Policy** (2019) which covers both development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. Finland also signed the Donor Declaration in 2022.

As most of Finland's humanitarian funding is channelled through flexible, unearmarked contributions to multilateral organisations—either as core funding or in support of country- or region-specific operations—it relies largely on its partners to implement their own climate and environmental commitments in support of Finland's broader objectives. At the same time, Finland pays particular attention to how its INGO partners, which receive around 10% of Finnish humanitarian funding,[100] assess and mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts of proposed projects.

In addition, Finland only funds organisations holding a DG ECHO partnership certificate, meaning that partners already comply with a number of environmental requirements established by DG ECHO. More recently, Finland introduced four-year humanitarian funding arrangements for INGOs, with the expectation that longer funding cycles will encourage more strategic and long-term planning, including in relation to environmental sustainability.[101]

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland also organises internal awareness-raising and training activities for staff aimed at improving the Ministry's environmental performance, including in the areas of procurement, travel, premises management, and waste management.[102]

## 🇩🇪 Germany – Federal Foreign Office

The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) **Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad** 2024 emphasises that humanitarian assistance should be delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner and grounded in robust risk analysis drawing on the best available short-, medium-, and long-term climate and environmental science, data, and local knowledge.

Germany has demonstrated a strong commitment to greening, having signed the Donor Declaration and supported the Climate and Environment Charter since 2022. It also funded the research which led to the publication of **Towards Halving Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 in the Humanitarian Sector: a Sectoral Roadmap**[103] by Climate Action Accelerator in 2024. GFFO endorsed the ten **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** in 2025.[104] Although GFFO was one of the founding members of the Donor Greening Working Group, it has not participated in the group's meetings since July 2025, resulting in limited visibility on any subsequent GFFO policy or funding developments related to greening.

As part of the German government's broader climate commitments, GFFO is working towards carbon neutrality by 2045. To support this objective, it conducted a carbon footprint assessment and implemented a range of measures, including revisions to travel and office waste management practices. In July 2025, GFFO's freight department reported on efforts to reduce emissions within the logistics sector, highlighting a 20% reduction in emissions linked to diplomatic pouch air freight. This was achieved through the use of DHL's "GoGreen Plus" service and the adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

## 🇮🇪 Ireland – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Ireland is a signatory to the Donor Declaration and, in recent years, has progressively strengthened its efforts to integrate climate considerations across all areas of its international assistance, including humanitarian aid. Its (internal) Climate Proofing Strategy 2024–2029 aims to "safeguard international development cooperation and humanitarian action from climate risks, while working to ensure it does not contribute to avoidable climate harms. This can include work to minimise the greenhouse gas emissions that result from our partners' programming activities".

In practice, Ireland has developed a climate toolkit to support the systematic integration of climate considerations across its grant management processes, policies and guidance. All funded projects are assessed using a "continuum approach", which seeks to determine not only whether partners have identified and mitigated climate and environmental risks (the "do no harm" approach), but also whether proposed interventions can generate positive environmental and climate outcomes (the "positive transformation" approach).

Through its Humanitarian Unit, Ireland provides significant funding to UN agencies and UN-managed pooled funds. As is the case for most donors, this funding is largely flexible and unearmarked. Nevertheless, Ireland seeks to integrate climate considerations into its diplomatic and strategic engagement with UN partners, using policy dialogue and partnership discussions to "hold our partners to account to increase their commitment to, and support of, climate action", as set out in its Climate Proofing Strategy.

## 🇷🇴 Romania – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its embassies, conducts an environmental screening of humanitarian projects using a questionnaire-based "environmental impact checklist" to identify potential negative effects on the environment. Where projects are considered to pose significant environmental risks, Romania also has the option to carry out a more in-depth environmental impact assessment.

## Endnotes

1. The **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations** sets out a shared framework for climate and environmental action across the humanitarian sector. As of September 2026, 554 humanitarian organisations have signed the Charter.
2. The **Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment i**s the "donor equivalent" of the Charter. It has been signed by 28 donors.
3. Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
4. Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo
5. Centre de Crises et de Soutien
6. The European Union (EU) – Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
7. Global Affairs Canada
8. Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation
9. Swiss Development Cooperation
10. **WMO confirms 2025 was one of warmest years on record**, WMO, Press Release January 2026
11. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), **Sixth Assessment Report, 2023.**
12. World Bank. **Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. World Bank, 2021.**
13. Page 8, **Guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations** The European Union – Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.
14. **Multi-Donor Policy Landscape Analysis: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation** (Joint Initiative, 2023) and **Operationalizing and Scaling-up Donors' Climate and Environmental Commitments: an analysis of progress, gaps and opportunities** (Joint Initiative and Climate Action Accelerator, 2024).
15. **Humanitarian aid donors' declaration on climate and environment: Third reporting under the Declaration – 2025 report**, May 2025.
16. **Global Humanitarian Overview 2026 At a Glance, December 2025.**
17. **A historic decline in foreign aid: Preliminary 2025 ODA data** (OECD April 2026). Preliminary 2025 Official Development Assistance data shows that assistance from Development Assistance Committee members and associates amounted to USD 174.3 billion in 2025, a 23.1% decrease from 2024. Germany, the USA, the UK, Japan and France (ranked by ODA volume) accounted for 95.7% of the total decline. The USA alone drove three-quarters of the decline, with its ODA falling by 56.9% compared to 2024.
18. The **WREC** (**W**aste Management and Measuring, **R**everse Logistics, **E**nvironmentally Sustainable Procurement and Transport, and **C**ircular Economy) Coalition is coordinated by the Global Logistics and Telecommunications Cluster and aims to help the humanitarian supply chain reduce its environmental impact by 2030. It has several workstreams: circular economy, decarbonisation, sustainable procurement, reverse logistics, and waste management.
19. The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (**NEAT**+) is a rapid and simple project-level environmental screening tool that allows humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern before designing longer-term emergency or recovery interventions.
20. The **Charter Secretariat** was established in May 2024. It serves as a referral hub to connect, support, and guide organisations in turning Charter commitments into action.
21. While the JEU's core environmental emergencies response function has been reconfigured into a new joint mechanism (the Joint Environment Emergencies Response Team) under UNDAC, the phase out has led to a drop in the environment in humanitarian assistance function of the JEU and consequently in the absence of a secretariat for the Environment in Humanitarian Action Network (EHAN).
22. **Hulo** is the first humanitarian logistics cooperative. It brings together humanitarian actors through a range of initiatives to enable mutualisation (e.g. joint procurement, joint mobility and joint environmental initiatives).
23. The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.
24. AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation); CDCS (Crisis and Support Centre, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs); DG ECHO (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission), GFFO (German Federal Foreign Office) and SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)
25. **The Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain** (HLGSC) aims to drive coordinated action among key humanitarian actors, improving the humanitarian supply chain's efficiency and effectiveness. It comprises five thematic work streams: digitalisation, environmental sustainability, localisation, preparedness and procurement.
26. **The Humanitarian Lifeline: Linking the Network, Multiplying Impact: High-Level Conference Conclusions**, December 2025.
27. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) **Humanitarian Reset Roadmap**, 10 November 2025.
28. For example, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)'s Guide for Mainstreaming Environment into Humanitarian Action and Emergencies (2020) or DG ECHO's Guidance on the Operationalisation of the Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations (2022).
29. **CEDRIG (Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance)** is a practical, open-access tool developed by SDC to help development and humanitarian actors systematically integrate climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction into strategies, programmes and projects. It supports users in assessing both how climate, environmental and disaster risks may affect an intervention and how the intervention itself may impact the climate, environment and disaster risks, enabling the identification of measures to strengthen resilience and avoid unintended negative effects.
30. Page 20, **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid, 2020-2024. Final report.**
31. "Exploring UN frameworks, approaches and practices in emissions reduction ultimately reveals a ***paradox***: although the UN system was among the first to adopt a climate neutral strategy in 2007, its current approach to carbon footprint measurement, reporting, and reduction is lagging far behind best practices." **Climate Action Accelerator 'Enabling Change, how the UN and Donors can lead the way' 2024.**
32. **Development Initiatives, Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023.**
33. See Statement by Emergency Relief Coordinator, June 2025 – The Humanitarian Reset Phase Two. **https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/statement-emergency-relief-coordinator-tom-fletcher-humanitarian-reset-phase-two**
34. The **CERF** is a multi-donor pooled fund which allows for rapid disbursement of funds for emergency responses. It is managed by OCHA. In 2024 it funded emergency responses across the globe for a total of 576M USD.
35. For more information on the Climate Action Account, see the **UN Climate Relief** page and for more information on CERF see **CERF Climate Action**.
36. "Since 2024, CERF funding requests require grant recipients to provide information on whether and how planned life-saving activities support climate-related adaptation and resilience. This is fostering climate-smart humanitarian action. It also allows CERF to facilitate the identification and dissemination of good practices, better track and analyse funding to climate-smart humanitarian action. CERF also launched new **climate-relevant indicators**, which better capture CERF's role in addressing the climate crisis at an activity level." (See **CERF's Climate Action Portfolio)**
37. **Multi-Donor Policy Landscape Analysis: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation** (Joint Initiative, 2023) and **Operationalizing and Scaling-up Donors' Climate and Environmental Commitments: an analysis of progress, gaps and opportunities** (Joint Initiative and Climate Action Accelerator, 2024).
38. ReliefEU, managed by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (**ERCC**), ensures a swift humanitarian response to sudden onset disasters and/or worsening of existing crises. Additionally, it contributes to Team Europe approaches, offering further opportunities for EU countries to work together to respond to emergencies.
39. The **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol** is an international standard providing actors with a frame for measuring GHG emissions. Scope 1 refers to direct emissions from combustion, Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from electricity whilst Scope 3 covers all indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.
40. Global Affairs Canada, **Greening Government Strategy Directive.**
41. Scope 1 of the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol** refers to direct emissions from combustion, Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from electricity whilst Scope 3 covers all indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.
42. **OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate Handbook**
43. Criteria for humanitarian funding include protection of the environment which covers adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience according to Sendai Framework (see **Humanitarian aid strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in 2024** - executive summary)
44. **Humanitarian Aid Plan** Czech Republic, 2025.
45. See Czechia's **Climate Protection Policy, Summary for Policy Makers 2025.**
46. **DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid**.
47. **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid 2020-2024.**
48. The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.
49. **The Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain** (HLGSC) aims to drive coordinated action among key humanitarian actors, improving the humanitarian supply chain's efficiency and effectiveness. It comprises five thematic work streams: digitalisation, environmental sustainability, localisation, preparedness and procurement.
50. According to DG ECHO's 2022 **Humanitarian Logistics Policy**: "DG ECHO has recognised a limited number of not-for-profit organisations as Humanitarian Procurement Centres (HPCs). These organisations are specialised in the technical and commercial management of supplies and services necessary for the implementation of humanitarian actions. HPCs are available to supply their goods and services to all DG ECHO's partners. Benefits of the HPC system include the simplification of procurement procedures that are in line with the best value principle, as well as quality assurance that is monitored by DG ECHO".
51. **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid 2020-2024.**
52. "*Implementation remains uneven across countries and crisis types, constrained by limited engagement, uneven leadership support, capacity gaps, short funding cycles and limited monitoring.*" (Abstract page 12 :**https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/evaluation-dg-echos-approach-reducing-environmental-footprint-humanitarian-aid-2020-2024_en**)

## Endnotes (53 –104)

**53.**The **WREC** (**W**aste Management and Measuring, **R**everse Logistics, **E**nvironmentally Sustainable Procurement and Transport, and **C**ircular Economy) Coalition is coordinated by the Global Logistics and Telecommunications Cluster and aims to help the humanitarian supply chain reduce its environmental impact by 2030. It has several workstreams: circular economy, decarbonisation, sustainable procurement, reverse logistics, and waste management.

**54.** **Hulo** is the first humanitarian logistics cooperative. It brings together humanitarian actors through a range of initiatives to enable mutualisation (e.g. joint procurement, joint mobility and joint environmental initiatives).

**55.** The **Charter Secretariat** was established in May 2024. It serves as a referral hub to connect, support, and guide organisations in turning Charter commitments into action.

**56.** The Interagency Procurement Group (**IAPG**) is a network of INGOs that share information and opportunities, provide mutual support, enhance training through academic partnerships, and collectively represent the community's interests. IAPG supports - among other things - more environmentally sustainable procurement.

**57.** The Geneva Technical Hub (**GTH**) aims to improve the lives of the most vulnerable displaced persons and their host communities by delivering fast, tailored, and multidisciplinary technical expertise to humanitarian operations. It draws on specialists from several donors and organizations, while driving locally led solutions and scaling them across the wider humanitarian system.

**58.** See Section 4: Needs Assessment and Risk Analysis and Section 8 on the Resilience Marker.

**59.** For example, % of mitigation strategies/measures recommended in the environmental screening/assessment that are implemented in the response, or specific number of environmental screening/assessment reports carried out for the project with active participation of local stakeholders.

**60.** For example: % of project sites that are covered by an environmentally sustainable solid waste management plan.

**61.** Page 19, **Evaluation of DG ECHO's approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid 2020-2024.**

**62.** From DG ECHO's webinar "Environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action – Lessons learned", 16th September 2025.

**63.** Environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action: Good practices and lessons learned, June 2025.

**64.** The **EU Humanitarian Air Bridge** is a temporary, needs-based initiative founded to overcome transport constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing dedicated air capacity for delivering humanitarian aid, essential medical supplies, and for moving aid workers.

**65.** **Eco-Management and Audit Scheme** (EMAS) is a framework developed by the European Commission to support organisations in systematically improving their environmental performance.

**66.** **ReliefEU**, managed by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (**ERCC**), ensures a swift humanitarian response to sudden onset disasters and/or worsening of existing crises. Additionally, it contributes to Team Europe approaches, offering further opportunities for EU countries to work together to respond to emergencies.

**67.** Section 2.1 "Mieux prendre en compte la dimension climatique et environnementale" (“better taking into account climate and environmental factors.”)

**68.** The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

**69.** CDCS uses a "climate marker", aligned with ECHO's resilience marker, to evaluate funding applications to the Humanitarian Emergency Fund.

**70.** **The Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain** (HLGSC) aims to drive coordinated action among key humanitarian actors, improving the humanitarian supply chain's efficiency and effectiveness. It comprises five thematic work streams: digitalisation, environmental sustainability, localisation, preparedness and procurement.

**71.** It is estimated that humanitarian nutrition programmes distribute 900 million to 1.2 billion Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) sachets annually. From Nutrition to Sustainability: Tackling Plastic Pollution Through Plumpy'Nut® Sachet Recovery in Chad and Burkina Faso: Alima A Case Study 2025.

**72.** Proparco is an AFD Group subsidiary dedicated exclusively to the private sector. It helps finance and support businesses and financial institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, focusing on key development sectors such as infrastructure (mainly for renewable energies), agribusiness, financial institutions, health, and education.

**73.** In 2004, ADEME published a methodology for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions for organisations called Bilan Carbone®. It takes into account all greenhouse gas emissions—both direct and indirect—across all the physical flows of an organisation without which its operations would not be possible. (Source: **Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty**)

**74.** The AFD Group's Universal Registration Document (2024), filed with the Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF), also provides detailed information on the carbon footprint: page 69 states "The head office accounts for roughly twice the emissions of the network. When combining both head office and network, the main source of emissions is inputs (41%), followed by business travel (39%) and energy (11%). Within the network alone, travel accounts for the largest share (41%), followed by energy (29%) and inputs (13%)."

**75.** The AFD Group is composed of three subsidiaries: AFD, Expertise France, Proparco, as well as other institutional partners. (See **https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group**)

**76.** The AFD is subject to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) due to its status as a financial institution under French law and its size, unlike other humanitarian donors or public institutions that are not subject to this requirement.

**77.** The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF), adopted in December 2022 at COP15, is a landmark agreement designed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

**78.** To ensure that projects demonstrate their contribution to climate change, environmental sustainability, and disaster risk reduction. The markers were developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and score aid activities (0–2) based on their objectives in climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, desertification, and disaster risk reduction. See Handbook on the OECD-DAC Climate Markers.

**79.** **NORCAP** is a global provider of expertise and solutions that works with partners to improve aid and better protect and empower people affected by crises and climate change. As part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, it strengthens responses through targeted expertise and develops solutions to unmet challenges across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts

**80.** The **Global Platform for Action** (GPA) is a global initiative that promotes sustainable energy access in displacement settings through coordinated humanitarian and development action. Hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services, it supports renewable energy and advances SDG 7 in crisis contexts.

**81.** For example, AECID participated in the EU co-funded "**Alianza SHIRE**", a public-private partnership that concluded in 2024 and provided access to electricity for approximately 55,000 people in refugee camps and host communities in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. The project was promoted through a multi-stakeholder partnership formed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Innovation and Technology for Development Centre of the Technical University of Madrid (itdUPM), the **acciona.org** Foundation, Signify and Iberdrola, and with the collaboration of UNHCR.

**82.**The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

**83.** Resolución de la Presidencia de la AECID por la que se convocan subvenciones para el desarrollo de acciones humanitarias 2026, published 10/04/2026 (available in Spanish **here**).

**84.** Classified as a type 1 fixed Emergency Medical Team (EMT) by the World Health Organization in 2025.

**85.** Global framework for sustainable development with a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**86.** The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

**87.** The environmental emergencies response work that was previously carried by the Joint Environment Unit (JEU) has been reconfigured into a new joint mechanism (the Joint Environmental Emergencies Response Team – JET) under UNDAC.

**88.** **CEDRIG (Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance)** is a practical, open-access tool developed by SDC to help development and humanitarian actors systematically integrate climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction into strategies, programmes and projects. It supports users in assessing both how climate, environmental and disaster risks may affect an intervention and how the intervention itself may impact the climate, environment and disaster risks, enabling the identification of measures to strengthen resilience and avoid unintended negative effects.

**89.** **Strategy for Sweden's Humanitarian Assistance** (2025-2029).

**90.** With an annual humanitarian budget averaging 4.5 billion SEK (approximately 412 million EUR). See "Sida's allocation of humanitarian aid 2026" here.

**91.** "**Step-by-step Guide: Environmental integration in Sida's operations**" (2022).

**92.** "**Step-by-step Guide: Environmental integration in Sida's operations**" (2022).

**93.** "The Netherlands supports ... the greening of humanitarian organisations" Page 11, **Netherlands International Climate Strategy 2022 (in Dutch)**

**94.** The scope of calculation included business air travel; private cars for business trips; commuting; leased cars; heating and paper.

**95.** See, for example "**Sustainability report 2024 Mission Sustainable – Walk our Talk".**

**96.** OECD, **Development Cooperation Profiles, Estonia** June 2025.

**97.** **General Principles of Climate Policy until 2050**, Ministry of Climate of Estonia

**98.** The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

**99.** The Climate Act 2015 – which was **revised in 2022** – presents the roadmap for the country's emissions reduction trajectory.

**100.** See **https://um.fi/humanitarian-aid**

**101.** See **Humanitarian aid donors' declaration on climate and environment: Third reporting under the Declaration – 2025 report,** May 2025.

**102.** See **Humanitarian aid donors' declaration on climate and environment: Third reporting under the Declaration – 2025 report**, May 2025.

**103.**Climate Action Accelerator developed the '**Roadmap for Halving Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Humanitarian Sector by 2030**' (a preliminary analysis of the sector’s GHG emissions profile, decarbonisation levers, and key solutions) as a tool to guide humanitarian actors towards meeting their own climate commitments.

**104.** The **Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Assistance** translate Donor Declaration Commitments 3 and 4 into practical steps, promoting coordinated donor requirements and clearer guidance for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.