

Roadmap¹

IASC CLIMATE CRISIS ROADMAP

IASC Subgroup on the Climate Crisis

June 2024

Endorsed by the IASC Deputies Group

¹ This roadmap reflects the position of IASC member humanitarian organizations.

Introduction

The role of climate change in exacerbating humanitarian needs

Climate change is exacerbating humanitarian needs across the world, driving new crises and intensifying existing ones. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report recognized the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis². The report indicates that the return to previously known conditions is no longer realistic, and that the world is most likely to exceed 1.5 degrees global surface temperature in the next decade. The climate extremes thus generated, and their impacts are likely to continue to be most strongly felt by those who are in the most vulnerable situations and with the least capacity and resources to successfully adapt and recover.

Those who historically contributed the least to carbon emissions are already among the most affected by climate-related shocks and stresses. As climate-related disasters increase in frequency and intensity, populations in highly vulnerable situations, especially women, children, persons with disability, older persons and displaced people, who are already exposed to a multitude of risks, including conflict and fragility, are being further driven into a vicious cycle of compounding shocks and increasing needs.

Although the humanitarian community is providing assistance at unprecedented levels, persistently high needs are increasingly difficult to meet, especially at a time when humanitarian funding is increasingly stretched.

The humanitarian community has the responsibility to advocate for communities on the frontlines of this crisis, as well as to ensure it is taking measures to prepare, better protect and assist the growing numbers of people in need from new and cascading risks and vulnerabilities, particularly considering specific impacts on those who experience intersecting and compounding forms of inequality and vulnerability. There is evidence of many effective measures available to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change and to help people adapt to a changing climate. Successful climate action is possible even in situations of fragility, conflict and severe humanitarian needs, setting a pathway to resilient and sustainable development. The Roadmap acknowledges the significant feature of displacement at the heart of many crises and humanitarian responses that now also need to be better informed by climate considerations.

Why a roadmap?

This roadmap is informed by the *Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations*³ (hereafter referred to as the "Climate Charter") as well as by consultations held with IASC members. It seeks to unpack further the content of the Climate Charter, to provide greater guidance at the country level on how to implement the important commitments it contains, and to facilitate collective action by the IASC at country level.

Over 400 humanitarian organizations, as well as 13 supporters have signed the Climate Charter by the end of March 2024, committing to scale up their own climate and environmental action. Whilst many organizations are clear on the needed steps to implement their commitments around "greening" their own humanitarian responses, some have experienced challenges to implement the climate "action" part of their work. The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is therefore keen to help overcome barriers to climate action, and to support collective action at the national level, further enabling the implementation of the Climate Charter.

² [Sixth Assessment Report – IPCC.](#)

³ www.climate-charter.org.

The IASC represents the humanitarian community and is committed to advance climate action as a central part of humanitarian response, including by identifying barriers to action, and ways to support improved coordination and collaboration towards achieving rapid scale up.

Process to develop the roadmap

The IASC Climate Crisis Roadmap was commissioned by the IASC Deputies Group and developed by the IASC Subgroup on the Climate Crisis. It is based on extensive consultations⁴ at field and global levels and represents a commitment by the humanitarian community to proactively address climate-related challenges and be part of the solutions through its unique role in assisting communities in the most vulnerable situations, on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Structure and content of the roadmap

The Roadmap sets out six priorities for IASC collaborative action which can help to address barriers and enable the scale up of collective and individual climate actions, particularly focused at the country level and in impacted communities, to protect people from the humanitarian impacts of climate change. These priorities are inspired by and seek to build on the Climate Charter commitments, but have been rephrased where needed to reflect the IASC's collective action at the country level.

Each humanitarian country team (HCT) and each cluster will need to consider which of these recommendations are relevant and actionable for them and how best to do this in a coherent and coordinated manner. Implementation will need to be supported by resources, rather than placing further demands on already overstretched field teams.

Six priority areas of the IASC Climate Crisis Roadmap:

1. Step up our response to growing climate-related humanitarian needs;⁵
2. Help people to adapt and build resilience to multiple risks and the impacts of disasters, climate and environmental crises, especially in crisis and fragile settings;⁶
3. Enhance environmental sustainability of our work⁷;
4. Increase financial support to populations in vulnerable situations threatened by and/or affected by climate shocks;
5. Strengthen partnerships to advocate for and mobilize more ambitious climate action, including through more robust evidence base;^{8,9}
6. Work collaboratively, improve partnerships across sectors embracing and supporting leadership of local and national organizations.

⁴ Consultations for the roadmap involved a mix of modalities. Initial discussions took place at the IASC climate subgroup level, followed by a dedicated discussion at HNPW2023. OCHA facilitated country consultations at the ICCG or similar level in 11 countries. ICVA organized NGO-level consultations in several of these countries. A survey was rolled out initially in select countries and later expanded globally. Based on these, a zero draft was drafted which was restructured, revised and expanded with technical inputs from the IASC climate subgroup members.

⁵ Reflects and builds on the first part of the Climate Charter commitment 1.

⁶ Reflects and builds on the second part of the Climate Charter commitment 1, but adding the specificity of contexts where there is an IASC presence.

⁷ Reflects commitment 2 of the Climate Charter.

⁸ Reflects and builds on commitments 4 and 6 of the Climate Charter.

⁹ Reflects and builds on commitments 3 and 5 of the Climate Charter.

Priority area 1: Step up our response to growing climate-related humanitarian needs

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of weather-related extreme events, subsequently leading to climate-related disasters which generate significant humanitarian impacts, particularly in the most vulnerable and fragile settings in the world. This demands that the humanitarian community adapts its programming accordingly to ensure that the number of people in need is reduced and community resilience is enhanced through preparedness activities, protection against shocks ahead of time, early warning services, and that response and recovery efforts for those affected can be delivered effectively, at speed and scale.

This entails joined up efforts to reinforce the evidence base of risk-informed humanitarian programming with the best possible use of climate data, predictive modeling, scenario-based planning and horizon scanning, incorporating climate risk, vulnerability assessments and impact management considerations into humanitarian programming, promoting a suite of disaster and climate risk management measures such as preparedness planning, anticipatory action and early warning systems, and ensuring coherence and complementarity between different national and international actors.

Recommendation 1.1: Ensure emergency programming is informed by joint risk and climate analysis, based on the best available science and local knowledge systems

In line with Commitment 4 of the Climate Charter: Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions

In order to address the climate crisis, it is imperative for the humanitarian community to improve its understanding of climate-related disaster risks and their implications for humanitarian needs in a given context and across time-scales (short term forecasts, seasonal, short term, decadal and possibly longer). This implies incorporating local knowledge systems into climate risk analyses, as well as ensuring affected and host communities have access to such analyses where needed. This includes not only understanding the type of hazards, but also the probability and expected frequency and the forecasted extent of the hazards and how this will interplay with the specific vulnerabilities, or create new vulnerabilities and needs, as well as individual and societal capacities to manage and respond to risks and impacts. This implies a disaggregated approach to priority risks to recognize particular vulnerabilities and skills within the host communities (i.e. women, youth, persons with disabilities Indigenous Peoples and ethnic, religious and LGBTQIA+ minorities). One challenge lies in making the relevant sources accessible to humanitarian analysts and planners at country level and developing localized impact scenarios in the short term (1-3 years).

When scientific and local knowledge about climate hazards and their humanitarian impact is incorporated into humanitarian planning and informs programming, humanitarian assistance can be more effective and relevant in averting, minimizing and addressing diverse forms of loss and damage (including economic and noneconomic loss) associated with climate change.

This requires a joint and multidisciplinary effort to achieve a shared vision of the risk landscape and a better use of climate and other relevant data, identifying high priority risks – those that have high probability and a high likelihood of impact on people's lives and livelihoods – and their impacts in the context of other pre-existing drivers of humanitarian needs. It also entails supporting local entities and scientific institutions to deliver better climate risk data, analysis and monitoring. One important way to ensure this is by integrating climate risk-informed analysis, planning and monitoring into the humanitarian programming cycle (HPC). By taking into account the climate risk profile as part of humanitarian needs and risk analysis – including how climate risks can manifest as climate disasters with impacts and loss and damage when interacting with pre-existing vulnerabilities and fragility - humanitarian needs of communities, especially those who are affected

by intersecting vulnerabilities, could be roughly estimated for certain areas that are most likely to be affected by predictable, recurrent climate shocks such as floods, droughts, storms, etc. It is important this information does not only inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) but also the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Example guidance

UNDRR's [guidance note on integrating disaster and climate risk analysis into the humanitarian programming cycle](#) proposes a practical way of developing and jointly agreeing on multi-dimensional risk analysis for planning. UNDRR's Risk Information Exchange (RiX) demonstrates the shared value of consolidating authoritative information on hazards, vulnerabilities, exposure and climate for use by national authorities, humanitarian and development partners and may serve as template for countries interested in developing their own disaster risk information management systems.

The WMO Coordination Mechanism could also support humanitarian analysis and planning with climate information.

Example good practice

[The 2024 Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) identifies weather extremes and climate change as a key driver of humanitarian need. It reflects time windows for implementing readiness and anticipatory action measures ahead of seasonal flooding (Gu rainy season from March to June 2024), which is identified as an above-average risk.

[South Sudan's Humanitarian Response Plan 2023](#) explicitly mentioned the climate crisis as one of the main risk drivers in its context analysis. Several clusters incorporated climate considerations into the cluster-specific response activities by indicating the potential impacts of floods and droughts. The HRP also called for taking an integrated approach to humanitarian programming in the context of climate change.

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 1.1:

HCT/ICCGs, with facilitation support by OCHA, to ensure that country HPCs are risk-informed, including through regularly updated risk analysis. This may require identifying personnel with specific climate science/risk expertise to support the HPC process. Forecast and Early Warning (EW) sources for major risks should be identified and monitored throughout the HRP implementation period.

Recommendation 1.2: Support strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems for hazardous weather, water or climate events

Multi-hazard early warning systems (EWS) are primarily the responsibility of national authorities and require further investment and support to ensure more people have access to timely and actionable early warnings. While the humanitarian community's role is not to develop national early warning systems, such efforts should be actively supported as effective humanitarian assistance benefits greatly from functional and reliable EWS at local level. The humanitarian community should particularly support the development of EWS in fragile and conflict affected states ensuring their inclusivity based on the different needs of populations in vulnerable situations in all their diversity as well as accessibility e.g. women, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons and migrant populations that face constraints due to social, linguistic, legal or technological barriers. The HCT should work closely with climate, development, and peace actors as well as meteorologists and hydrologists on understanding climate data and Climate Information Services in their country

of operation, and to better inform the usability of such information for the purposes of preparedness, timely anticipatory action, and response/recovery. Humanitarian actors should collectively call for and support investments in reinforcing national and local EWS and in particular the need for frontline communities to have ownership of and access to inclusive systems (reaching the 'last mile').

Example initiative

The "[Early Warnings for All](#)" initiative championed by the UN Secretary General is a groundbreaking effort to ensure everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. The Initiative brings together the broader UN system, governments, civil society and development partners across the public and private sectors to enhance collaboration and accelerated action to address gaps and deliver people-centered, end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems that leave no one behind. The Action Plan of the Initiative calls for investments of US\$ 3.1 billion over five years to strengthen disaster risk knowledge and management, observation and forecasting, dissemination and communication of warnings, and preparedness and response capabilities. This includes exploring the effective and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence to support the objectives of EW4All including through partnerships with the tech sector.

As of early February 2023, 18 countries have carried out national consultation processes. Financing to continue these efforts and follow up on identified gaps is urgently required.

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 1.2:

HCT to work closely to support country and regional level collective EW initiatives such as the EW4All. HCT to work with the EW4All coordination process at country level (under the RC) to support the expansion EWS coverage and in particular focusing on delivering priorities under the EW4All Pillar 3: Warning dissemination and communication and Pillar 4: Preparedness to respond.

Recommendation 1.3: Increase support to climate preparedness activities

Investing in preparedness activities has repeatedly been shown to be an effective way to save lives and protect livelihoods in the face of weather-related disasters but tends to receive limited amounts of attention and investment from humanitarian agencies due to the current timeframes and financing models. As climate change increases the scale and frequency of these disasters, stretching the ability of societies and the international community to respond, supporting these activities is becoming even more important.

As part of a contribution to comprehensive risk management, humanitarians should work with local and national actors and affected communities to develop actionable preparedness plans, led - wherever possible - by public authorities, and a diversity of civil society actors that represent various segments of the population, and aimed both at saving lives and livelihoods, protecting human rights, and at ensuring the continuity of key services in areas such as nutrition and food, health, water and sanitation, shelter, education and markets. These preparedness plans should be linked to early warning systems and can form the basis of collective anticipatory action activities as a part of a comprehensive approach to managing risks.

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 1.3:

In addition to developing their own preparedness plans for potential extreme weather events, HCT and relevant Clusters to identify community-based organisations, including women's and displaced people's led organizations, and key service providers at risk of climate-related disasters, support them to develop actionable plans, and link their own activities to these plans. In countries where there are particularly high risks of climate-related disasters, HCTs should give priority consideration to enhancing the readiness and anticipatory focus of collective plans.

Recommendation 1.4: Scale up collective Anticipatory Action

Anticipatory action (AA), which involves taking proactive measures based on forecasts before a disaster strikes, is among the suite of risk management measures which has proven to significantly reduce humanitarian needs. By acting within the critical window between an early warning and the onset of a disaster, humanitarian partners can help at-risk communities to minimize its impacts on their lives and livelihoods. As such it represents a more efficient and effective use of humanitarian and development resources.

As shown by numerous examples of action by IASC members, there is increasing body of evidence on the effectiveness of anticipatory action¹⁰¹¹¹²¹³. The approach should now be scaled up to set up systems which can protect more people against shocks with engagement with and consideration of differentiated impact of climate related disasters on groups in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and displaced people. Main collective priorities for scaling up include more systematically identifying triggers in EWS also using Indigenous and local knowledge, allocating more pre-arranged flexible finance, supporting joint inter agency AA protocols, producing more collective evidence, good practices to inform improved future AA programming, and supporting the integration of AA in national social protection systems as well as national disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and multi hazard resilience systems.

Example initiative

The [Charter on Getting Ahead of Disasters](#), launched at COP28, sets out principles for collaborative action to ensure better use of finance to manage risks and protect people in the most vulnerable countries from climate-related disasters. The Charter is an initiative of the UAE COP28 presidency, supported by the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). It calls for multiple actors to come together: development, climate, peace and humanitarian communities; public and private sectors; from the global to the local. The Charter complements and reinforces existing efforts, aiming at building shared understanding, consensus, and momentum around principles that can benefit all who provide, design or have need of finance for climate-related disasters. COP29, and future COPs, will provide further opportunities to raise ambition for getting ahead of disasters. The Charter and its principles aim to catalyse systemic change, ultimately leading to better protection for people and communities on the frontline of climate change.

Example country level action

In Bangladesh, the [inter-agency AA framework for monsoon floods](#) in the Jamuna river basin was activated in July 2020, when severe floods were forecast to occur over the coming days. By the time the water reached life-threatening levels, more than 220,000 people had already received assistance through WFP, FAO and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), which worked with the Red Cross/Red Crescent, 10 local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Government of Bangladesh. More people were reached through the AA, at half the cost compared with CERF-funded rapid responses that occurred following the 2019 floods in Bangladesh. Recipients of AA were more likely to evacuate families and livestock, and lost fewer assets. The interventions led to higher child and adult food consumption, and people were able to recover more quickly after the floods.

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 1.4:

HCT and relevant clusters to (i) support the development of multi-partner AA protocols clearly defining roles, responsibilities; (ii) coordinate regular drills and simulations to test the effectiveness of AA protocols; (iii) ensure community engagement in the development of AA protocols, and

¹⁰ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7900en/online/impact-of-disasters-on-agriculture-and-food-2023/anticipatory-action-interventions.html#tab6>

¹¹ [The Evidence Base on Anticipatory Action https://www.wfp.org/publications/evidence-base-anticipatory-action](https://www.wfp.org/publications/evidence-base-anticipatory-action)

¹² https://www.early-action-reap.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/20230214_REAP_StateofPlay_FINAL.pdf

¹³ <https://www.anticipation-hub.org/download/file-3249>

encourage the establishment of community-based anticipatory approaches; (iv) explore opportunities for joint resource mobilization and pooling for AA among humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and international partners. In countries where there are particularly high risks of weather-related disasters, HCTs should consider enhancing the focus on AA in the HRP, and ensuring it is integrated into existing DRR and preparedness planning as much as possible.

Recommendation 1.5: Climate-proof essential humanitarian infrastructure and programmes to ensure continuity in the face of growing climate shocks and stresses

In line with Commitment 1 of the Climate Charter: Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises

The primary responsibility of the humanitarian community is to save lives, protect people and reduce suffering in the face of crises. The increase in frequency and impacts from climate related disasters will generate increasing and more complex humanitarian needs as well as threats to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to which the humanitarian community as a whole must adapt through appropriate planning.

Humanitarians will need to regularly consider the multiple risks that climate hazards pose to existing programmes whether they are climate-related, and invest in 'climate proofing' programmes, facilities (e.g. hospitals, camps, schools), settlements and supply chains to ensure programmes can continue to operate despite climate threats.

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 1.5:

HCTs and clusters to identify key vulnerabilities of existing infrastructure and programmes to likely climate shocks (such as heatwaves or flash floods) and collectively develop approaches to upgrading / climate proofing against these shocks, while engaging with donors to cover related costs. HCTs may also consider the processes that have supported flexible and adaptive action in previous large-scale emergencies (such as COVID19) and consider how these can be further developed.

Recommendation 1.6: Increase internal awareness and understanding of the implications of climate change among humanitarian practitioners and invest in collective expertise at IASC and cluster level

For the humanitarian community to be well placed to address the increasing impacts of climate change, it is important to ensure availability of expertise and to develop skills for effective climate-related humanitarian programming. Climate science and in particular the key findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC Sixth Assessment Report - should be shared with the wider humanitarian community in a non-technical language relevant to humanitarian actors and applied to their local context. Humanitarian agencies should take steps to incorporate emerging knowledge and best practice about climate programming into existing staff development and knowledge management activities.

Examples

- [IFRC /climate centre training kit](#)
- [International Medical Corps – Evidence Report: Impact of Climate Change](#)
- [Grand Bargain Focus area 1: Continued support to localisation, participation of affected communities, and quality funding](#)

Suggested collective action at country level for recommendation 1.6:

Clusters to review existing cluster specific trainings and explore development of new materials on sector specific implications of climate change and on how to inform programming with climate risk considerations. In particularly climate-prone countries, climate risk capabilities could be enhanced, in order to review/support development of training materials, provide advice to HCTs, support risk analysis, as well as identifying ways to ensure cluster plans and programmes are climate smart.

Priority area 2: Help people to adapt and build resilience to multiple risks and the impacts of disasters, climate and environmental crises, especially in crisis and fragile settings

In line with Commitment 1 of the Climate Charter: Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises

Year on year, climate change impacts people's ability to access and produce food, obtain clean water, maintain or enhance their health and nutritional status, and choose to remain in their homes and communities of origin. These impacts exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and disproportionately affect women, older persons, and persons with disabilities. These impacts are already being felt in many parts of the world, but are particularly acute in humanitarian contexts, conflict-affected and fragile settings, where many people are already in vulnerable situations and where services are limited. In 2022, over 71 million persons were displaced internally more than half of whom were displaced by natural disasters.¹⁴

In order to meet the increased challenges that climate change poses in humanitarian contexts, the humanitarian community must look beyond cyclical, short term humanitarian aid to put in place measures which can contain and reduce these massive increases in vulnerability by increasing people's resilience. This will mean a better understanding of climatic drivers of vulnerability (including slow-onset impacts of climate change), their implications for humanitarian needs, and effective programmatic approaches to building resilience and addressing pre-existing vulnerabilities according to the specific mandates of IASC members.

Efforts should be made to ensure climate action is not fragmented across humanitarian, development, peace and climate actors and financing partners, in particular in fragile contexts where needs are chronic and far outstretch available investments. While each actor has a comparative advantage based on sectoral expertise in dealing with the climate crisis, there is a great need and opportunity for more intentional collaboration by capitalizing on existing tools and resources already tested in different contexts.

¹⁴ [Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2023](#) - Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) & Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Recommendation 2.1: Better understand the longer-term implications of climate change on vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs, including links between climate, displacement and conflict

In addition to better use of climate science to inform understanding of short-term climate risks, humanitarians must invest in an increased understanding of the longer-term impacts of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of the communities with whom they work, and on how this affects the basic needs of different groups. Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are risk multipliers, which can exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities, deepen inequity, and weaken resilience. Those who are already marginalized, live in precarious conditions, have fewer resources, or have limited access to services and social protection are hit hardest. Communities that are disproportionately affected include people in situations of poverty, Indigenous Peoples, displaced populations and migrants – particularly those in irregular situations - women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, and ethnic, religious and LGBTQIA+ minorities.

Humanitarians should ensure that they engage with existing knowledge and work with research institutions - both international and in the countries where they work – and local communities, to identify and address gaps in knowledge around impacts of climate change, and the complex interplay between climate change, economic exclusion and other drivers of humanitarian needs - in particular conflict and displacement. This implies recognizing local communities' capacity, skills, and networks to lead solutions, and improving humanitarian understanding and engagement with local knowledge and networks. Understanding how conflict dynamics can shift in relation to short- and longer-term climate impacts will furthermore help to integrate conflict- and climate-sensitive approaches across humanitarian programming, to ensure climate action avoids aggravating new or existing conflict and is instead reinforcing social cohesion and promoting peace.

Examples

- [Conflict, climate change, food security, and mobility in the Karamoja Cluster: A study to analyse interactions among conflict, food security, climate change, migration and displacement factors](#)
- [Financing climate adaptation in fragile states: A case of Somalia](#)
- [CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security and the CGIAR Climate Security Observatory \(CSO\)](#)
- [UNISS Moving from Reaction to Action: Anticipating Vulnerability Hotspots in the Sahel](#)
- [NRC "Inadequate and inequitable: water scarcity and displacement in Iraq", 2023: the report analyzes interlinked crises related to water and climate and their consequence as a threat-multiplier on conflict- and displacement affected people](#)

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 2.1:

Clusters, in coordination with Global clusters, and informed by local community experiences and knowledge, to identify the potential chronic impacts of climate change on their sector, and the areas where these impacts are not known. Clusters and HCTs can collate gaps where further information and evidence is required and engage with local and international research institutions able to conduct research in these areas.

Recommendation 2.2: Invest in building the resilience of at-risk communities to climate shocks

The humanitarian community can and should support crisis-affected and at-risk communities to better withstand future shocks by supporting life-saving interventions that also serve to build coping capacities and strengthen resilience. Examples of good practice include the integration of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches into programming, supporting national social protection systems, as well as developing new and emerging approaches including through new partnerships (e.g. technology providers and other private sector partners). Enhancing the longer-

term benefits of humanitarian programming requires both understanding and addressing underlying vulnerabilities and reducing the risks faced by communities in vulnerable situations so they can anticipate and prepare for, as well as adapt to, absorb and recover from the impacts of changes in climate and extreme weather. In contexts of displacement, this means pursuing solutions for people to move, solutions for people to stay or solutions for people on the move, in addition to specific considerations related to trapped or immobile populations.

For agencies whose focus is solely humanitarian response, it will mean proactively and intentionally seeking collaboration with climate, development, human rights, peacebuilding, and national actors on joint strategies and complementary programming. For those agencies whose mandate already covers vulnerability reduction and resilience building, in addition to partnering, this will mean identifying the best context-specific climate resilience building efforts based on evidence and scaling up those efforts as a complement to short term assistance, whenever and wherever possible. In particular, humanitarian agencies working together through IASC mechanisms may look beyond income generating and livelihood support actions to consider how interventions in other sectors can combine to support resilience.

Suggested collective action at country level for recommendation 2.2:

HCTs can support multi-sectoral approaches to humanitarian interventions that also build resilience, seeking complementarity with development frameworks and collaboration/advocacy with development actors (including on financing). HCTs can also support the rigorous evaluation of such programming to identify 'what works' and include relevant programmes into HRPs, while engaging with development actors to expand longer term resilience and system strengthening programming. Lessons can be disseminated through clusters and NGO consortia including best practices captured at community level including via Community Based Disaster Risk Management processes.

Recommendation 2.3: Strengthen approaches for effective transition and collaboration with climate, development, peace and other relevant actors to deliver longer-term programming to strengthen adaptation and build resilience

In line with Commitment 5 of the Climate Charter: Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action

Meeting the significant and multi-faceted challenges posed by the climate crisis means more intentionally and systematically exploring and building on the complementarity of mandates and expertise across climate, development, humanitarian, peace and other relevant actors. The objective should be to maximise positive and sustainable benefits for communities by complementing short- and long-term investments, and by providing earlier and more timely support, adopting a Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach.

Humanitarian actors should work closely with aforementioned actors to understand the complexity of the climate crisis in a given context, including the compounding risks and impacts, and to work collaboratively on complementary and joint programming. The humanitarian community should deepen engagement with local actors, including local women's organizations, enhancing their decision-making and management in planning and execution of activities before, during and after events including through supporting their capacity strengthening.

Some crucial avenues for partnerships include working on strategic coherence among humanitarian response plans, SDG cooperation frameworks, DRR plans and policies, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Example guidance: [IASC Guidance Note on Advancing the HDP-Nexus through humanitarian clusters](#)

Intended to support cluster coordinators, the document aims to facilitate the proactive design of responses that foster coherence and complementarity between lifesaving, development, and peace-building interventions, working towards collective outcomes. This requires collaborative, joint or joined-up analysis, planning and programming, as well as coordination with development and peace actors under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC).

The adaptive Guidance Note builds on and complements existing frameworks, approaches and tools informing the respective areas of work in each cluster/sector, and unpacks implications for the work of coordinators. It also provides coordinators with a [checklist](#) to help apply a nexus approach in clusters' country-level assessment and analysis, area-based approaches and responses within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and in coordination with relevant development and peace actors.

Suggested collective action at country level for recommendation 2.3:

HCTs and clusters to identify key stakeholders with whom they might partner and actively seek complementarities in programming - possibly during preparedness planning exercises, or in work on the Humanitarian – Development – Peace Nexus. Joint or joined-up planning and training can help build relationships and trust before disasters occur. HCTs and clusters can also consider whether there are any factors that can be addressed to make collaboration with non-humanitarian partners easier, and work to address any factors that have decreased their ability to operate in a flexible and adaptive manner in previous responses.

Priority area 3: Enhance environmental responsibility and green humanitarian operations

In line with Commitment 2 of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian

Organizations: Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

Recommendation 3.1: Contribute to improved collective environmental sustainability of humanitarian operations and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

The humanitarian sector has a collective responsibility to take environmental and climate action, address the environmental dimensions of emergencies, and to reduce the environmental impacts of humanitarian operations.

Increasing environmental responsibility and greening humanitarian operations is a relatively complex endeavour, since many humanitarian organizations operate in challenging contexts across multiple countries, utilizing global supply chains. Moreover, environmental impacts and the actions to reduce them are often very context-specific and can involve different trade-offs. This requires a thorough analysis of how the organization interacts with the environment, in order to determine which activities cause adverse environmental impacts or have the potential to do so. Footprint reduction solutions present many additional benefits, many of which represent an operational added value for the field. Adapted infrastructure, reduced energy consumption, fuel efficient vehicles, controlled travel, greener sourcing of products and services, and more local procurement may contribute to greater organizational resilience as well as accelerated emissions reduction. In addition, humanitarian organizations should identify opportunities to improve environmental conditions as part of their operations, for instance by restoring ecosystem functions that sustain lives and livelihoods during humanitarian response and recovery and cross sector learning in terms of best practices. Some of this longer-term work is currently curtailed by the short timeframes of humanitarian assistance, limited expertise, and funding.

Humanitarian organizations should take a comprehensive approach to reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions across all facets of humanitarian work. This includes implementing sustainable practices in logistics, such as optimizing transport routes and using fuel-efficient modes of transportation and prioritizing local procurement to minimize transportation-

related emissions. In addition, embracing renewable energy sources for power needs in field operations and office setups is vital.

A culture of sustainability should be promoted within IASC members through staff training and awareness campaigns. By adopting such measures, humanitarian programming can also contribute towards climate change mitigation.

Example guidance

The [IASC Guidance on Environmental Responsibility in Humanitarian Operations](#) (2023) describes why environmental responsibility is an important element of humanitarian action, and outlines how humanitarian organizations can take action to reduce their environmental footprint and improve environmental sustainability. The guidance explains how a standard environmental management approach can be applied to help address a humanitarian organization's environmental impacts and lay the foundation for more environmentally responsible humanitarian operations.

Sphere has recently released their guide: "[Nature-based Solutions \(NbS\) for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Action](#)". It provides practical guidance for integrating NbS into humanitarian action. By focusing on the co-benefits of NbS for building resilience in humanitarian contexts, the guide aims to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in the face of increasing climate-related challenges. While not explicitly about carbon footprint reduction standards, the guide provides broader implications towards making humanitarian action more nature friendly.

Sphere Thematic Sheet on Reducing environmental impact in humanitarian response: guidance and reflections on themes relevant to the Sphere Handbook related to environment and humanitarian action.

Another example is [NEAT](#) +. It is a free and open-source Environmental Assessment Tool specifically designed for humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern and mitigation measures.

[Call to action to reduce carbon emissions in humanitarian supply chains](#)

Suggested collective action at country level for recommendation 3.1:

HCTs to foster a collective discussion at the country level and within clusters on how to implement the new IASC guidance on Environmental Responsibility in Humanitarian Operations and potential cluster specific support to implementation against agreed collective commitments/targets.

Priority area 4: Increase financial support to populations in vulnerable situations threatened by and/or affected by climate shocks

In line with Commitment 6 of the Climate Charter: Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection

The humanitarian community calls for new and additional financing to prepare for and respond to climate disasters, as well as climate finance to be scaled up for DRR, climate adaptation and resilience building measures in particular in situations of fragility, conflict and severe humanitarian needs.

To facilitate this, donors should be encouraged to provide unearmarked multi-year flexible funding specifically for climate-related disasters.

In regions marked by fragility and conflict, it is crucial to increase climate finance flows as the convergence of climate change and conflicts heightens vulnerability. Additionally, there should be improved access to humanitarian funds for countries and communities most susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Reducing transaction costs and ensuring that local humanitarian actors receive climate finance with minimal operational hurdles should also be a priority. Enhancing

capacities of local implementors (including local NGOs, CSOs, and communities) as well as channeling financial resources for their activities will be critical in aid localization.

Recommendation 4.1: Increase use of additional, multi-year, flexible humanitarian finance for climate action in crisis settings

Evidence points to the fact that multi-year and flexible humanitarian funding supports better programme quality and efficiency and thus better outcomes for communities. It can lower administrative costs and ensure more responsive programming that adapts to a changing local environment (e.g. new risks). This is particularly important for contexts where humanitarian needs are protracted and recurrent and are being exacerbated by the climate crisis with its multifaceted impacts on communities.

The ability to conduct multiyear planning and implement multiyear programmes with flexible financing can support the kind of collective results planning linking humanitarian, development and peace contributions which are required for averting and minimizing loss and damage associated with climate change, building resilience to climate shocks and reducing humanitarian needs over time.

Over the past years donors have raised their multi-year contributions, in part thanks to the Grand Bargain commitment to increase multi-year humanitarian planning and funding, but this type of financing still remains limited.

Recommendation 4.2: Increase use of pre-arranged finance

Dealing with increasing climate impacts requires the humanitarian community and its local partners to be in the best possible position to anticipate and respond swiftly and at scale to protect and assist affected populations. In order to do this, more pre-arranged financing is required - disaster risk financing that has been approved in advance of a crisis, and that is guaranteed to be released when specific conditions are met, including through risk insurance. More preparedness, anticipatory, response, recovery and reconstruction funding should be arranged in advance, to lead to more timely and effective support, and be made available to a broader range of qualified actors, especially local actors on the frontline who represent diverse populations.

Pre-arranged finance is in particular an essential pre-condition for effective anticipatory action. Such a financing arrangement allows quick disbursement of funds after an agreed trigger is reached, enabling humanitarian partners to reach communities at risk of an impending disaster, in the narrow window of time when people can still be protected ahead of impacts. Pre-arranged finance also builds the confidence of humanitarians and local actors to plan and implement anticipatory actions given that the necessary financial resources are already in place.

Example

In 2022, US\$138 million of pre-arranged finance was available for anticipatory action, which was intended to cover 7.6 million people in 35 countries through 70 anticipatory action frameworks. (Source: [Anticipation Hub](#)).

According to an analysis about financing for crises undertaken by the Overseas Development Institute and the START Network, at least half of all humanitarian crises are foreseeable and 20 per cent of humanitarian crises highly predictable. (Source: OCHA) In November 2023, the Centre for Disaster Protection published The State of Pre-arranged Financing 2023 report. The report shows that only 2.7 per cent of the USD 71 billion international crisis financing in 2021 was earmarked for pre-arranged finance. Despite anticipatory action is proven to be cost-effective, only 0.2% of humanitarian funding reported to the OECD DAC in 2021 was directed towards anticipatory action. [Source: \(Centre for Disaster Protection\)](#)

Suggested country level collective action for recommendation 4.2:

HCTs, with OCHA support, to devise strategies to scale up collective use of pre-arranged finance, including through the Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) and CERF, for anticipating and responding swiftly to climate-related shocks.

Priority area 5: Strengthen partnerships to advocate for and mobilize more ambitious climate action, including through more robust evidence base

In line with Commitment 6 of the Climate Charter: Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection

Coherent and consistent advocacy is a vital mechanism to mobilize action in support of communities at risk and to push for greater accountability on their behalf. Such advocacy should focus on demonstrating the impacts of the climate crisis on people in vulnerable situations, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and displaced people (on their lives, food security, homes, health, families, livelihoods, etc.) and the successes that can be achieved when we act at scale. The advocacy should also demonstrate the contributions of people in vulnerable situations.

Over the last decade, significant efforts have been made to build an evidence base of needs and overlapping vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change as well as what works and the returns on investment of various interventions, including around comprehensive risk management. However, further efforts are needed to (i) bring the evidence together from across sectors to tell the story of how people experience climate change (ii) how they have been able to safeguard their lives, livelihoods and futures; and (iii) consistently communicate this evidence to all relevant stakeholders to influence funding allocations, policy-making and action on the ground.

The IASC can contribute to these efforts through collaborative and coordinated evidence-based engagement at the national level, as well as better collection of evidence to support regional and global level engagement.

Recommendation 5.1: Adopt a common evidence-based advocacy approach to mobilize urgent and ambitious action for the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis

Through a concise, operational advocacy strategy, the humanitarian community should advocate for increased attention to the humanitarian impacts of climate change and the cost of inaction, particularly in highly vulnerable, conflict affected and already crisis-hit contexts. Collective action is needed among the agencies to ensure coherent and clear messaging to mobilize urgent and ambitious climate action.

A critical part of this advocacy must focus on direct support and partnerships with local communities, and civil society organizations, including local women's organizations, placing them at the centre of decision-making and action.

The cost of inaction on climate change should be advocated across humanitarian policy discussions and political negotiations to raise awareness and steer action. This must be built on a sound evidence base emerging from affected communities and humanitarian actors, with clear asks identified. This evidence should be elevated to global forums and discussions (to be identified within the operational advocacy strategy) and form the basis for high-level agency engagement with donors and other partners.

This should be reinforced by consistent, system-wide advocacy around successes and lessons learned in helping communities to navigate the impacts of climate change to demonstrate the value of investments in climate action and to avoid doomsday scenarios and action paralysis on the part of donors and other actors.

Example

Agreed narratives and messaging lay the framework for coherent advocacy across the humanitarian system and have been achieved in various contexts, including demanding action to avert famine in Somalia in 2022. In 2022 and [2023](#), the IASC members have successfully developed joint messaging ahead of the COPs, which have been used to push forward a common agenda.

[Joint COP IASC messaging](#)

Suggested collective action on recommendation 5.1:

Where there are existing advocacy groups under the HCT, ensure joint and context-specific evidence based collective advocacy on the climate crisis, including developing an advocacy strategy. Where such groups don't exist, facilitate a discussion on climate crisis-related advocacy to achieve an agreed narrative and messaging.

Recommendation 5.2: Better collective use of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and evidence to enable analysis and advocacy

Effectively advocating for people on the frontlines of the humanitarian crisis includes effectively using evidence and disaggregated data that inform gender- and diversity-responsive analyses. Evidence-based advocacy is proven to be more successful as it is substantiated with factual representation of needs and issues. Investments in robust disaggregated gender data and statistics on climate change and the environment are critical, particularly on loss and damage, including through post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs), across sectors to inform policies and enable gender-responsive evidence-based response.

Recommendation 5.3: Communicate collectively the human cost of the climate crisis in humanitarian contexts

Communication is a powerful tool to disseminate humanitarian advocacy messaging, including to highlight the humanitarian consequences of climate change and show what can be achieved even in complex contexts when we act together and at scale, calling for action.

The humanitarian community should focus on raising public awareness about the human cost of the climate crisis, leveraging firsthand experiences to make the case for urgent and concerted global action. Multiple communication channels should be employed to disseminate information on the humanitarian aspects of climate change. System-wide mechanisms exist to coordinate communication among the humanitarian community (at global and country levels) and these should be used to facilitate and guide this communication around the climate crisis. Participation in these should be expanded and strengthened or connected to other stakeholders where needed.

Priority area 6: Work collaboratively, improve partnerships across sectors embracing and supporting leadership of local and national organizations

In line with Commitment 3 of the Climate Charter: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

To achieve progress in terms of managing and reducing the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis, active collaboration and dialogue across sectors needs to be facilitated. Localization needs to be at the centre of climate action, ensuring that emergency and resilience programming is informed and led by local actors that represent diverse populations, with due consideration of local contexts, including the socioeconomic and biophysical environment that can generate risks and vulnerabilities.

Example: Potential collaboration with the Climate Charter Secretariat

The [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations Secretariat](#) was recently established to support signatories with:

- Navigating technical guidance, tools and information
- Connecting with expertise and resource centres
- Organising webinars and workshops
- Co-creating and developing knowledge products
- Disseminating information
- Promoting and advocating for upholding the Charter across the humanitarian sector

Both the IASC secretariat and the Climate Charter secretariat should strive to ensure coherence, complementarity and non-duplication in their support to IASC members and Charter signatories. Their common aim must be to foster synergies, seize opportunities, and enhance momentum for effective collective climate action.

Recommendation 6.1: Facilitate dialogue and collaboration around climate risks and needs

Dialogue around climate risks and their implications for humanitarian programming should be facilitated across all relevant forums e.g. within clusters and at the inter cluster coordination level. Where relevant, dedicated discussions or groups should be set up to discuss climate risks and needs of vulnerable communities, especially differentiated needs of vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, and displaced people, with humanitarian, development, climate actors from government, civil society, and international system. These discussions could be used to identify gaps and solutions in terms of climate action.

Recommendation 6.2: Support locally led climate action, by working with local organizations, and community or Indigenous knowledge holders and stewards

The climate crisis cannot be addressed without ensuring the meaningful participation and inclusion of local humanitarian partners and affected groups. This entails supporting and promoting the ownership, experience, and leadership of civil society, women, Indigenous Peoples, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees and displaced persons, and their hosting communities. Crisis-affected communities and local stakeholders are the first to respond to climate and environmental shocks and are best placed to assess their needs. They should be provided the space to actively participate in policy making, programming design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation to ensure that climate action is locally owned, relevant, inclusive, and sustainable.

The humanitarian community must proactively support the leadership of local actors, including local women's organizations, by incorporating local and Indigenous knowledge and expertise, strengthening and supporting existing local action and practice and enhance local and national leadership and climate-humanitarian action, in close collaboration with relevant local and national actors. including capacity strengthening and support which builds the action of" relevant local and national actors.

This includes support community-based, gender and diverse responsive preparedness planning to ensure that early warning systems are effective and can be acted on by the people at risk. Barriers to meaningful participation of diverse groups of people should be reduced, and linkages with accountability to affected people on climate and humanitarian action need to be strengthened.

Funding organizations should ensure commitments on quality, flexible, multi-year funding to adapt humanitarian programs to the increasing impacts of climate change, especially in conflict/fragile contexts where Disaster Risk Reduction and Development actors are not present to build resilience.

Funding for small innovative projects that work across the humanitarian-development-climate nexus to test climate action in humanitarian/conflict/fragile contexts should be encouraged. Funding should also be provided to local actors, especially local women's organizations, to implement climate/environment-related requirements by donors, such as minimum environmental requirements, adaptation, nature-based solutions, and resilience components being required in humanitarian program funding.

Example guidance: [Principles for Locally Led Adaptation \(Global Commission on Adaptation\)](#)

Building upon an initiative by the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), and efforts by research and civil society organizations such as IIED and WRI, a list of eight principles for locally-led adaptation was developed in 2020. These principles have been endorsed by over 100 organisations and agencies, gaining political momentum and mobilizing finance for this bottom-up agenda. The principles recognize the right of local communities in defining, prioritising, designing, monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions. Stories on bottom-up adaptation processes have been compiled to inspire similar action and bring visibility to community-led solutions to the climate crisis.

Suggested collective action at country level on recommendation 6.2:

To strengthen humanitarian leadership, local actors, especially local women's organizations, should be supported to meaningfully engage in coordination mechanisms such as HCTs and Clusters, where they can provide local perspectives on climate risks and their own ecosystems or landscapes. HCTs and cluster should ensure adequate links and engagement with existing local/national coordination mechanisms and structures, such as NDM Agencies and Ministries of Environment (Meteorological Departments, Local Government, Municipalities).
