Roadmap climate & environnement

May2023

epicentre
ÉPIDÉMIOLOGIE • EPIDEMIOLOGY

Climate Action Accelerator

Overview

Foreword

When its latest report was published in March 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recalled that back in 2018 it had highlighted the unprecedented scale of the challenge to be met to keep global warming below 2°C. Today it states: "Five years later, that challenge has become even greater due to a continued increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The pace and scale of what has been done so far, and current plans, are insufficient to tackle climate change. [...]. Every increment of warming results in rapidly escalating hazards."

Human activities are clearly responsible for the origins of this climate emergency. Rigorous analysis of the sources of emissions and the effects of greenhouse gases on the climate alone is not enough to raise awareness and transform human activities. However, it is a foundation on which to build ideas, solutions, and policies to meet the objectives of the 2015 Paris agreements.

Healthcare and research account for up to 8% of emissions in industrialized countries. Epicentre, an organisation committed to combating the main causes of morbidity and mortality affecting populations in precarious health situations, is taking action to respond to this emergency. As a first step, we have committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

In partnership with the Climate Action Accelerator, we have estimated our carbon footprint based on our 2019 activities. It amounts to around 3800 tCO2 e. A set of solutions to achieve our carbon footprint reduction target has been developed by examining each of our sources of emission.

This document defines a roadmap for the years ahead. It addresses the commitments made by the Epicentre team.

Such commitments require us to meet several challenges.

The first is to review our operating methods without compromising the content and imperatives of our social purpose: to describe, measure, analyze and train to shed light on medical practices that are fairer and better adapted to the context of countries with limited resources.

From an initial approach by emission source, an additional reflection on our ways of working has emerged, leading us to question the rationale, design and execution of our studies, in order to review their relevance, design and dissemination of our results. This is our second challenge, and one that will commit us to a more lasting structural transformation. This document addresses it, albeit more succinctly, as it remains to be developed in greater detail.

A third challenge will be to provide the necessary resources to implementing and monitoring our transformations. Our commitment will have a cost. Together with our partners, at MSF and elsewhere, we will have to find sources and methods of financing that will enable us to invest and operate at a level commensurate with our ambitions.

And it is with our external partners that we face another, more original challenge, that of bringing this commitment to life in our professional ecosystem, positioning ourselves as a contributor to the transformation of practices, and sharing our questions and solutions for responsible, sustainable medical research.

These challenges are not simply a matter of meeting professional standards. They testify to an ethical stance, not to stand by but to become involved in line with our social purpose and with our conviction that, unless we act, the preservation of our natural ecosystem, now under threat, would become a vital issue for humanity.

- Emmanuel Baron | *Director, Epicentre*

Why take action?

Climate change and its consequences

Our planetary environment is undergoing radical change at an unprecedented rate as a result of human activities. The IPCC reports are as clear and unequivocal as ever: climate change and environmental degradation threaten every aspect of our lives, and particularly endanger the lives and livelihoods of future generations. What's more, already vulnerable populations, whether in Africa or Asia for example, are also the most at risk, as existing inequalities intensify with the adverse effects of climate change, according to the 6th IPCC report (2022) and the ND-GAIN country index of vulnerability and preparedness.

According to the summary of the 6th report published by the IPCC (2023), "the window of opportunity to ensure a livable and sustainable future for all is closing fast". With this serious call to action in mind, we have a responsibility to do our part to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, with the aim of limiting the global temperature rise to below 2°C, in line with the Paris Agreement, and maximizing the sustainability of our current and future activities. Our roadmap is part of a more global project involving all players in society, each one at their own level and in their sectors; Epicentre is committed to making its contribution.

We believe and are driven by the reality recalled in the IPCC's March 2023 summary report: **"The extent to which current and future generations will experience a warmer and different world depends on choices made today and in the short term"**.


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The link between climate change and health and medical research

Epicentre's presence mainly in Africa, but also its work alongside MSF, means that we are witness to climate change. This reinforces our determination to do everything possible to reduce our carbon footprint, but the consequences of these changes for populations are also transforming our research and epidemiology projects daily.

According to *The Lancet Countdown* 2022, the number of months conducive to malaria transmission increased by 13.8% in mountainous regions of Africa between 1951-60 and 2012-21, and the probability of dengue transmission increased by 12% over the same period. The multiplication of extreme climatic events and population movements are affecting the distribution and transmission of infectious diseases. Global warming comes on top of other factors reducing access to water and food security, further aggravating the risk of malnutrition and diseases linked to pathogens present in water. In many regions, air quality is at risk. Exposure to increasingly hot, even extreme temperatures has a direct impact on people's health, increasing the risk of death. It is the most vulnerable populations, living in unstable conditions, who are bearing the brunt of these changes, and will continue to do so.

In concrete terms, these changes require the adaptation of medical practices, and even the implementation of new approaches. Climate change is therefore already an indirect factor in our studies, whether, for example, in the evaluation of new care programs put in place to cope with health changes resulting at least in part from global warming, or when we have to estimate the incidence of certain pathologies in contexts heavily impacted by climatic crises. But the next step will be to develop projects focused on the issue of global warming, for example, to identify and monitor the health risks it induces, to assess the preventive measures implemented to counteract these deleterious effects on the health of populations, or even to analyze the relationship between unusual temperatures and mortality. In the same way as the commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, these new directions for research should be considered and integrated into Epicentre's future strategic plan.

Our ambition

Research is a source of solutions, particularly in the fight against global warming, but it is also a source of carbon emissions. Its contribution to the fight against global warming should not, however, exclude it from efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. But how can we adopt more sustainable practices without altering the initial mission primary objective of care and knowledge production? For Epicentre, the problem needs to be tackled more globally, and lead to a rethinking of our practices in terms of epidemiology, medical research and training. This holistic approach, which goes beyond a vision by source of emissions - transport, building, waste management - should enable us to find innovative and more sustainable solutions, which could ultimately serve as a model for other players in the humanitarian environment in which we operate, or even in the academic sector, but also create a similar dynamic in the countries in which we operate on a daily basis.

Our key commitments

In keeping with our operating principles and social purpose, we are making the following 6 commitments. To achieve and sustain these commitments, we will ensure that all our staff understand the environmental impact of our humanitarian work and are able to contribute to the necessary change. We will invest in training our teams, equipping them with the tools and resources they need to act.

1 Research and training activities

By 2025, we will take climate and environmental risks and impacts into account in the design, planning and implementation of our research, epidemiological surveillance and training activities.

2 Carbon emissions

We will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, compared with the baseline year of 2019, without purchasing carbon offsets.

3 Travel

Aware of the impact of business travel by air, we will adapt to reduce the number of kilometers traveled by air by 35% by 2026.

4 Energy

We will switch to non-fossil energies, by default, for our infrastructures. Energy-related carbon emissions will be reduced by around 75% by 2030 through efforts to limit our consumption, improve our research infrastructures and increase the share of renewable energies in the energy we use.

5 Purchasing and supply

By 2025, sustainability will be integrated into all our procurement activities, as a requirement for our day-to-day planning, purchasing and freight decisions, in close collaboration with MSF. Our procurement-related emissions will be reduced by 45% by 2030.

6 Environmental analysis and waste

From 2024, our research centers will undergo rapid environmental impact assessments to implement effective waste management plans to reduce, recycle and dispose of waste responsibly. We will rationalize the consumption of single-use plastic items in our operations and ban their use in our offices.

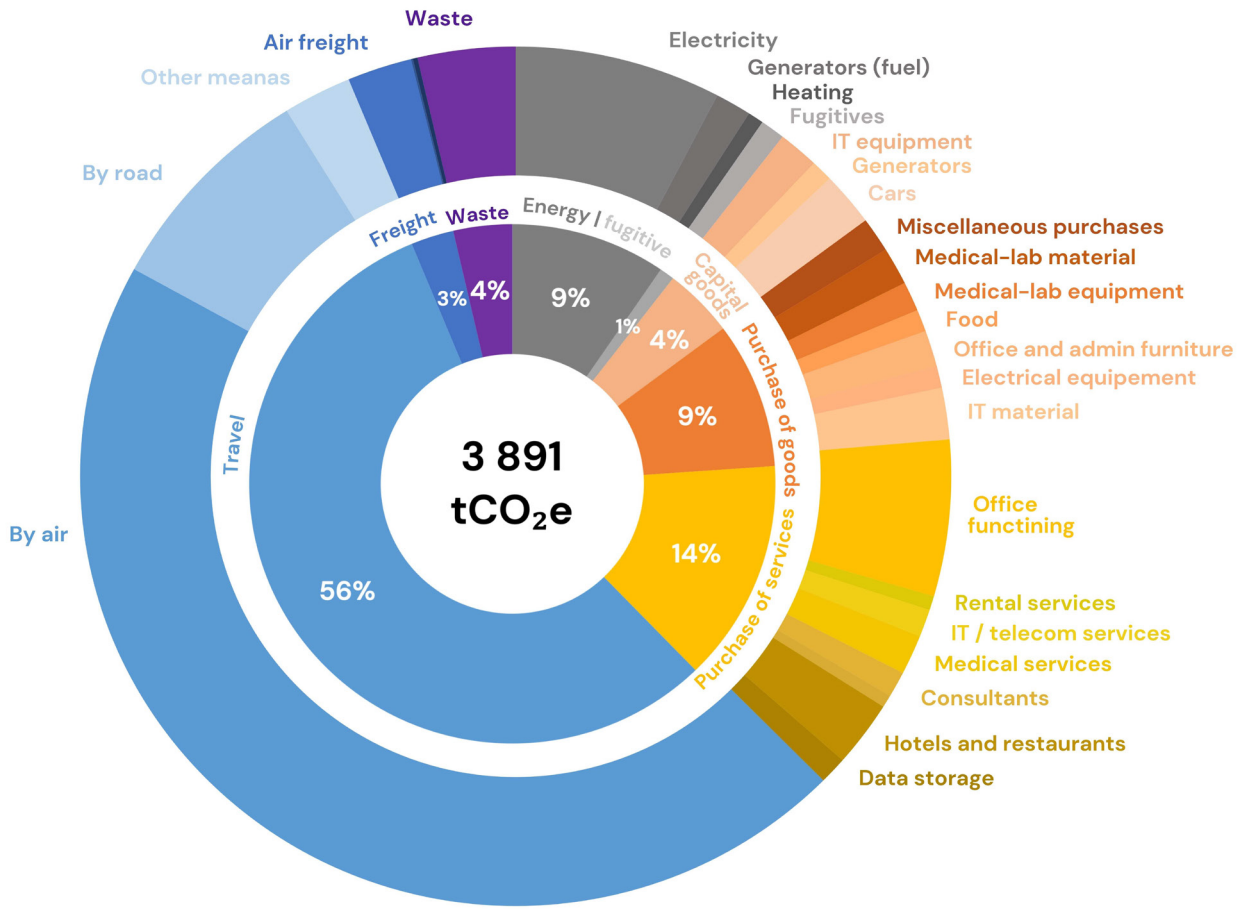
Reducing our footprint, a priority for us

Our carbon footprint

Epicentre's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 amounted to 3,891 tCO2 e.

The methodology chosen for the footprint complies with international standards and follows that of the GHG Protocol. The scope is applied to all entities financially dependent on Epicentre and has been defined around its head office and research centers - Paris, Mbarara (Uganda), and Maradi (Niger). It also includes 345 employees and a 2019 budget of €15.4M.

Two major categories are responsible for more than half the footprint: passenger and freight transport with 2,179 tCO2 e and 102 tCO2 e, respectively. This brings the total of these two items to 2,282 tCO2 e, or 58.6% of Epicentre's total emissions.



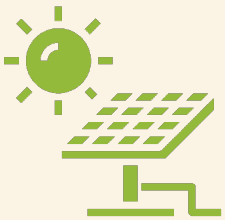
Reducing our footprint, a priority for us

Our reduction strategy and decarbonization trajectory

In a «business as usual» scenario, our footprint would increase again after the drop caused by COVID-19, in parallel with the development of our global activities. Cutting emissions in half means massively decoupling the evolution of emissions from the growth in our activities. Acknowledging the scientific consensus and the urgency to act, Epicentre has committed to reducing its emissions by 50% by 2030, compared with the baseline emissions in 2019, without resorting to the purchase of carbon offsets. This will bring our footprint in 2030 to 1,963 tCO2 e. In intensity, i.e. compared with our projected business-as-usual emissions (4,231 tCO2 e in 2030), we will reduce our emissions by 54%.

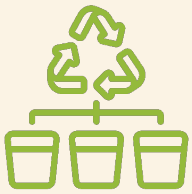
Roadmap solutions and our actions to date

Awareness of climate issues existed before the formal commitment was made at the end of 2021. As illustrated by the actions already implemented below, these measures are helping to raise awareness of environmental issues among all teams at our 3 sites.



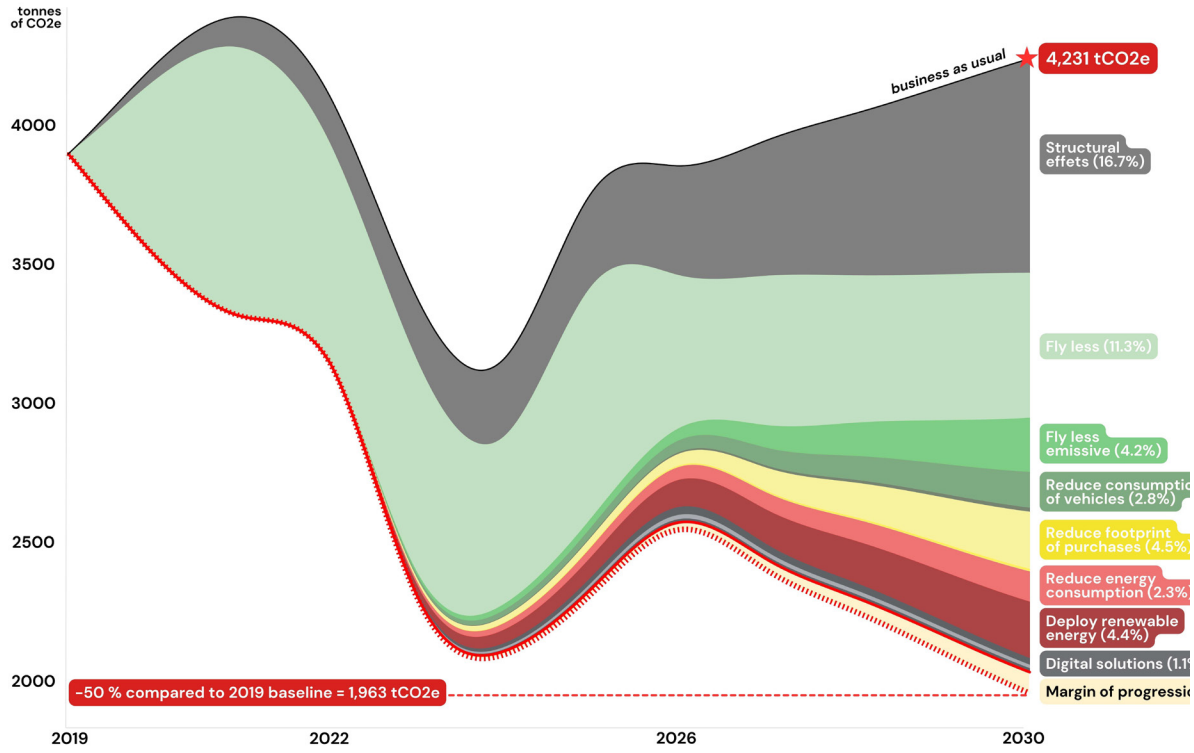
Mbarara research center: Installation of solar panels on one of the guest houses in 2017, followed by the pharmacy in 2022.

Maradi research center: installation of an incinerator and a waste area to process waste from the offices, laboratory, pharmacy and field activities, to avoid landfilling or open-air burning, and an airlock in the pharmacy to reduce the area in contact with the outside and energy losses.



Compliance with norms and standards: For vehicles and buildings, use of less polluting fuels and decommissioning of vehicles over 250,000 km.

The decarbonization trajectory



What are the structural effects influencing our trajectory? It has been assumed that over the next decade, financial growth will be offset by inflation, leading to a stable level of activity. But a decarbonization roadmap that spans several years involves many uncertainties. Real growth, the effects of national decarbonization policies on production and the deployment of photovoltaics in the regions where Epicentre operates are all factors that will require adjustment to reality. In the next five to ten years, innovation could enable product substitution that is not yet possible today.

And what is the margin for improvement? In addition to structural effects over which we have no control, there are solutions linked to increased capacity or to the results of assessments that Epicentre will be able to implement, not necessarily today but soon. For example, with regard to waste, once the environmental impact assessment has been carried out in 2024 and a quantified target set in 2025, the solution aimed at reducing waste will be responsible for a large part of this impact.

Summary: Targets and projected emissions reductions in 2030

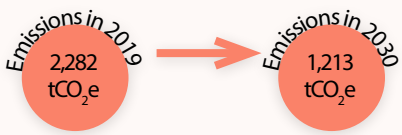
The following pages present the 24 solutions selected for the roadmap, which looks ahead to 2030. Each solution is accompanied by essential details, including specific actions and expected results for each solution. This table summarizes these projections.

Total avoided emissions 2023-2030
12,000 tCO_2e

Base year footprint (2019)	Projected emissions in 2030	Estimated emissions without action (in 2030)
3,891 tCO_2e	**1,963 tCO_2e** -49.55% (compared to base year 2019)	**4,231 tCO_2e**

TRANSPORT

Why it matters: Transport accounts for 59% of the footprint, or 2282 tCO2 e (travel represents 56% and freight 3%). The aid sector depends on transport, whether for commuting, staff travel or freight, contributing to the 24% of direct CO2 e emissions from transport worldwide.



SOLUTIONS • Actions	Expected results
Develop a sustainable travel policy limiting travel • Review location choices for meetings and training • Define priority reasons for travel according to activity and number of participants • Group several objectives around a single trip • Prefer local recruitment • Limit international staff flights for rest and recuperation • Develop tools to facilitate employees to make climate friendly decisions regarding choice of travel	Reduce by 35% the km related to business travel by air by end 2026
Develop sustainable traveling practices (travel less emissive) • Favour less emissive modes of transport • Travel in economy class • Favour direct flights • Choose the greenest airlines	End 2026, 30% of travel are ensured through compagnies with less environmental impact and 70% by 2030
Reduce mileage and fuel consumption • Maintain vehicles regularly. • Optimize vehicle usage in the field • Purchase the lowest emission vehicles • Train drivers in eco-driving	Reduce by 15% the forecasted emissions related to vehicle fuel consumption by end 2026 & 40% for 2030.
Switch from air to sea freight • Limit air freight to products and contexts where it is essential • Reduce stock shortages requiring urgent replenishment by air freight through better planning • Optimize container shipments between Epicentre and various OCs. • Ensure that storage locations are as close as possible to the places of use. • Put in place a CO2 indicator for transport	End 2026, reduce by 30% the unjustified t.km transported by air or qualified “high priority” resulting from poor planning, and 80% in 2030
Choose greener transport service providers • Include environmental criteria in the selection process for transport providers • Select greener transport companies	By end 2026 20% of t.km freight is ensured through companies or boats using less emissive fuel, and 60% by

GOODS AND SERVICES

Why it's important : Purchasing as a whole (goods, services and capital goods) accounts for 27% of the total footprint, or 1062 tCO2 e. Reducing purchasing-related emissions can make a crucial difference, as goods-related emissions are associated with extraction, production and processing, as well as packaging, storage and transport.

SOLUTIONS • Actions

Expected results

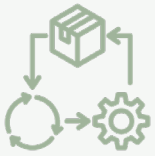
Reduce purchases

- Improve demand planning and forecasting to reduce surplus stock inventory and waste.

Purchase items and services with a lower carbon/environmental footprint

- Request visibility on carbon value and life-cycle information, notably for international orders.
- Favour suppliers with a lower carbon and environmental impact, and invite them to work on the decarbonisation of their production or services.
- Include environmental criteria in in the procurement guidelines
- Identify low-carbon or low-waste alternatives for key items
- Identify and prioritise reconditionned, easily repairable and reusable non-food and non-medical items

Reduce by 5% by end 2026 the projected emissions related to the life cycle of goods and services purchased and by 25% by 2030.



Reduce the number of kilometers traveled by goods by favoring locally or regionally produced goods

- Prioritise locally or regionally produced items
- Prioritise local or regional purchase of medical supplies according to the agreed quality assurance system and international procurement policy

Reduce by 3% by end 2026 and 5% by 2030 the tonne-kilometres transported by air or sea, through regional purchases.

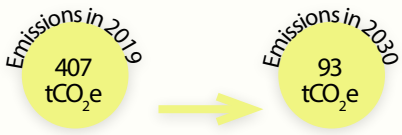
Reduce and optimize goods packaging

- Reduce product packaging or use more environmentally-friendly materials (ESCs)

Reduce by 2% the t.km transported by end 2026 and 6% by 2030

ENERGIES

Why it matters: Energy and fugitive emissions together account for 11% of the footprint, or 407 tCO2 e. Reducing energy consumption and dependence on fossil fuels is a priority for Epicentre, as it is for the aid sector as a whole.



SOLUTIONS • Actions

Expected results

Favour constructions with a lower carbon/environmental impact

- Promote sustainable construction

By end of 2026, 80% of construction and rehabilitation works have been properly managed according to best practices and 100% by 2030.

Reduce the energy consumption in buildings

- Redefine temperature standards in all premises
- Improve energy performance of the building

By the end of 2026, 80% of all construction works are managed and designed to decrease construction waste and energy consumption and 100% by 2030.

Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency of electrical installations

- Monitor electrical installations and optimise power set and usage
- Install automated regulation of electrical equipment
- Purchase energy efficient equipment
- Campaign for and train staff to make responsible choices and behavioural changes in all areas requiring use of energy

Reduce the forecasted consumption of kilowatts-hours by 15% by end 2026, and by 40% by 2030.

Decarbonize electricity and energy production and consumption

- Reduce fossil fuel produced and consumed electricity thanks to renewable resources and appropriate sizing of generators.
- Use solar energy
- Subscribe to a decarbonated energy supplier where possible

The average CO2 emissions ratio related to electricity consumption and production decreases from 1,042 kgCO2/kWh in 2019 t0,71 by the end of 2026 and t0,26 in 2030

WASTE AND ECOSYSTEMS

Why it's important: Waste represents 4% of Epicentre's footprint (i.e. 140 tCO2 e). Poor waste management has an impact on the environment and can also threaten public health. It is important to manage waste in a sustainable way to avoid any risk to people and the environment.

Emissions in 2019
140 tCO_2e

SOLUTIONS • Actions

Expected results

Put in place waste management plans

- Establish and implement tailor-made Waste Management Plans (WMP)

Avoid and reduce waste generated by Epicentre activities

- Deploy the most appropriate sustainable approach for Epicentre's research centers

By end 2026 put in place waste management plans for the HQ and research centers

Measure and control 100% of waste in centers

By end 2026, all research centers have conducted environmental impact assessments (EIA) from start to finish, and incorporated the

Avoiding and reducing waste generated by Epicentre's activities

- Consider alternatives to single use medical items and favour use of reusable, biodegradable material.
- Replace plastic bags in pharmacies with reusable containers
- Increase donations of nutritional products with expiry dates
- Consider alternatives to single use non-medical items in Epicentre offices and facilities and favor use of reusable, biodegradable material

Measurement and assessment of environmental impact in 2024 and choice of quantitative target in 2025 based on this analysis.

Increase local or regional recycling of Epicentre equipment and waste

- Improve sorting of domestic waste
- Promote recycling or repairing electronic and electric equipment
- Identify opportunities for local collaboration on waste collection and recycling

By the end 2026, all research centers have assessed and identified viable recycling streams for their different types of waste.

Limit pollution of land, water and air through improved waste treatment

- Develop sustainable solid and liquid waste destruction systems.
- Search responsible outsourced treatment of hazardous waste.
- Monitor and treat wastewater discharges from the two research centers.

By the end of 2026, all research bases have installed or implemented the Best Environmental Possible Options (BEPO) to ensure proper destruction and final disposal of all categories of generated waste.

Preserve water resources

- Preserve water resources to the full at each research center

By end 2026, all research centers have implemented the best feasible environmental options and practices related to water resource management.

Regenerate land and soil, protect, conserve and restore biodiversity

- Promote local actions such as tree planting, gardens and composting of non-medical organic waste...

By 2026, systematically integrate a plantation dimension into construction and rehabilitation projects.

DIGITAL AND TRANSVER-

Why it matters: The environmental impact of the growing use of digital technology is underestimated and poses a risk if not properly factored into climate roadmaps. In addition to digital, there are also cross-cutting best practices that should be systematized to reduce emissions.

SOLUTIONS • Actions

Expected results

Limit growth of data volume and energy consumption

- Favour storage on local machines for non-essential documents & document exchange and storage on a shared platform.
- Raise awareness of best practices
- Use more environmentally-friendly Data Centers/ Clouds and install environmentally-friendly browsers by

Reduce available storage volume for online data by 90% (OneDrive, from 1TB to 100GB) and by 80% (for emails, from 100GB to 20GB) by the end of 2026.

Make digital equipment and services more sustainable

- Favour low-tech equipment and set a Bring Your Own Device policy to limit the number of devices per employee
- Increase the lifespan of IT equipment and reduce the turnover rate
- Prioritize purchases of re-conditioned and easily reparable equipment, and maintain equipment on a regular basis.
- Donate locally no longer used but still functional IT equipment, or dispose of non-reusable equipment through recycling or e-waste processing companies.

Reduce the total amount of IT equipment by 40% by the end of 2026, through an extension of the lifespan of IT equipment from 3 years in 2023 to 5 years in 2026.

Reduce the total number of telephones supplied by head office by 50% by the end of 2026 and by 80% by 2030.

Rationalise office space

- Optimize workspaces, taking into account new practices such as remote working

By 2026, establish and implement a policy for the use and optimization of workstations.

Promote good office practices and responsible behavior

- Produce a good office/facility practices playbook allowing staff to implement key measures in the following areas: energy and resources consumption, waste management, office procurement, food catering...

From 2026, develop and systematically deploy a facility good practices playbook in all offices and facilities of the organisation.

An integrated research approach

Aligning our business with sustainable principles cannot be limited to reducing travel or buying locally. The way we conduct our research can and must be questioned to reduce its environmental impact.

Making epidemiology and medical research less carbon-intensive

In addition to calculating our footprint by emission sources, we have decided to increase our understanding of the factors behind our emissions through a «life cycle analysis» of activities representative of the diversity of our mission: a yellow fever vaccine study in Uganda, a measles seroprevalence survey in Niger and two « Populations in Precarious Situations « training sessions, one in Dakar and the other in Bordeaux. By the end of 2023, the results of these studies should enable us to identify and quantify the levers for action.

This approach should lead us to question our approach to medical research, epidemiology in humanitarian contexts and training. Without compromising our mission to carry out studies in remote areas, every stage in the study design process can certainly be optimized to make our work more sustainable. This approach, which has yet to be fully documented, starts right from the conception of the study, in its very design: are there more eco-responsible strategies for recruiting participants? How and where will the samples be processed? How long will they need to be stored? How will data be collected and archived? What hazardous waste will be generated, and how will it be disposed of?

Transferring skills to the local level also appears to be one of the solutions for reducing the footprint of studies, by developing epidemiological skills in the places where the studies are carried out. This approach must also include the dissemination of results. Although hybrid formats have been widely developed for scientific conferences and training courses, it is important to choose in person events that will give maximum visibility to the studies among our target audience.

Looking at our activities from this angle, other solutions for reducing our carbon footprint should emerge to complement those already mentioned. We must not fall into the trap of judging the impact of a study solely in terms of its environmental footprint, but rather weigh it up against the study's other benefits.

Sustainable research, monitoring and training practices

- **Design of epidemiological studies and trials:** commitment to a certification process, optimization of the number and recruitment of participants, localization of human resources and expertise, skills development, sample management, anticipation of supply needs, review of medical purchasing sources in synergy with MSF Logistique.
- **Data collection procedures and tools:** definition and implementation of an eco-responsible data collection policy, more efficient management of IT assets, optimization and reuse of equipment, choice of data collection software to facilitate electronic data collection.
- **Efficient use of resources:** limiting visits to what is strictly necessary, make premises and equipment more sustainable by increasing their energy efficiency, optimize follow-up of study participants, give preference to low-carbon means of transport, implement better waste management.
- **Dissemination of results:** discuss the choice of in person or on-line conferences.
- **Capitalizing on knowledge transfer:** review our training venues, integrating the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the selection criteria.

First steps

S2 2023

- Carbon lifecycle analysis of representative activities

S1 2024

- Mapping of certification options in the field of research and training
- 2024-2025 Adaptation of the framework of solutions and actions based on the results

S1 2025

- Knowledge sharing and skills acquisition on sustainability practices in research

Our transformation levers

Leadership

Our plan for climate action is unambiguous and deeply rooted in our organization. It aims to achieve ambitious results and involve the entire organization and its members. Implementation of the roadmap is overseen by Epicentre's management, who will report regularly on progress and mobilize the resources needed for change.

Investing in your team

Understanding the challenges and building the capacity of staff are essential factors in success. With the right skills and knowledge, every member of staff will be able to contribute to the change in individual or organizational behavior needed to achieve the roadmap objectives.

Integration into expertise/research

From epidemiology to research, climate and environmental considerations will be systematically and fully integrated into our activities, and not treated as a separate issue.

Mobilizing resources

LThe foreseeable financial impact over 4 years would represent between 0.5% and 1.5% of Epicentre's annual budget, depending on whether or not savings or avoided costs linked to reduced air travel and fuel consumption, and electricity consumption are included.

The increase in expenditure mainly comprises investments in buildings and the switch to renewable energy, plus operating costs and more responsible purchasing. Additional human resources are needed to coordinate the roadmap and provide technical support for priority initiatives.

Influencing peers

Epicentre operates in a broad and diversified international professional environment, forging partnerships that are essential to the conduct of research projects. These exchanges with other research institutions, universities, United Nations agencies and programs, ministries and their administrations, or donors, are an opportunity to address the sustainability of our joint actions. Acting responsibly, we also want to share with our partners our determination to carry out projects in line with our commitments to reduce our carbon footprint. By sharing best practices, we aim to raise awareness and encourage our partners to adopt a similar approach. Our commitments and results will be made public and communicated. In the long term, one aim would be to ask our partners about their policies in this area, in the same way as those required on issues such as the prevention of corruption or discrimination.

Gathering the resources to succeed

Roadmap governance

From the launch of the roadmap, the action will be coordinated by a project manager, reporting to Epicentre management. By ensuring that our carbon and waste tracking mechanisms are in place by the end of 2023, we will be able to provide a full and transparent account ofour progress in an annual activities report. A cross-functional steering committee will ensure the involvement, ownership and accountability of all departments. Together, they will oversee, disseminate, guide and monitor actions with the support of:

- Technical focal points within Epicentre identified by solution category to transform solutions into feasible projects and programs.
- External experts associated with the action plan, notably those from the Climate Action Accelerator.

Priority solutions

The key to achieving our emissions reduction target over the next 7 years lies in 7 key climate solutions. In addition to these priority solutions for reducing carbon emissions, 5 other solutions are considered essential for reducing local environmental degradation resulting from our activities in the field. A specific investment and project management effort will take place over the 2023-2026 period to accelerate the deployment of these key solutions in order to achieve the first stage of emissions reduction by 2026.

For footprint reduction

1. Develop a responsible travel policy to limit travel.
2. Implement sustainable travel practices (travel with lower emissions).
3. Reduce mileage and fuel consumption.
4. Reduce building energy consumption.
5. Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency of electrical installations.
6. Decarbonize electricity and energy production and consumption.
7. Purchase goods and services with a lower carbon footprint.

To reduce environmental degradation

1. Purchase products and services with a lower environmental footprint.
2. Implement waste management plans.
3. Avoid and reduce waste generation.
4. Increase local recycling of Epicentre equipment and waste.
5. Limit soil, water and air pollution by improving local waste treatment.

Monitoring and follow-up

High-level indicators - measuring our commitments

Commitments	Expected results
Research and training activities	Carbon lifecycle analysis of representative activities to be carried out by the end of 2023 and solution framework adapted.
Emissions	Tons of CO2 e emissions as close as possible to 2.548 in 2026 and below 1.963 in 2030 (-50% compared with the 2019 base year).
Travel	The number of kilometers traveled per air decreased by 35% by 2026 (compared with the 2019 baseline).
Energy	Tons of energy-related CO2 e emissions below 93 by 2030 (-75% vs. 2019 baseline).
Purchasing and procurement:	The number of tons of CO2 e emissions linked to the supply chain is less than 581 in 2030 (-45% compared with the 2019 base year).
Environmental analysis and waste	Measurement and assessment of environmental impact in 2024 and choice of quantitative targets in 2025 based on this analysis.
Personnel	Awareness training provided to targeted staff.

Key resources

Resources	Expected results
Measurement	• By the end of 2024, measurement and monitoring systems for carbon emissions and solid and liquid waste are in place for the entire organization.
Coordination	• From the second half of 2023, a roadmap coordinator will be in place to ensure management, monitoring and reporting. • An annual progress report will be drawn up.
Responsibility	• From 2024, job descriptions for national and local project coordinators, as well as medical, technical and administrative managers, will include their environmental responsibilities and associated tasks.
Skills	• As of 2024, training has been provided for all relevant staff to ensure that they are able to put the roadmap commitments into practice. • External partnerships are in place where necessary, particularly in the energy field.
Procedures and policies	• Policies and procedures in priority areas (travel, procurement, energy) are reviewed and approved by 2024.
Programming cycle	• From 2023 onwards, each annual action plan reports on the actions taken to implement the roadmap, sets annual targets and incorporates the necessary resources into the budget.

Acknowledgements

Epicentre
Alexandra ASCORRA | Emmanuel BARON | Yacouba BARRY | Valérie BRIAND | Anton CAMACHO | Maelle CHARRIER | Stéphane CRISAN | Flavio FINGER | Etienne GIGNOUX | Céline GIUSTRANTI | Nathalie GUERINEAU | Ousmane GUINDO | Clémentine JUNOT | Céline LANGENDORF | Serge LEDUC | Amanda LOVELL | Juliet MWANGA-AMUMPAIRE | Klaudia PORTEN | Marie-Françoise SCHERRER | Eric THIEBA | Eduardo YANEZ

Climate Action Accelerator
Pierre BEURRIER | Jean COLRAT | Hichem DEMORTIER | Estelle GOUENARD | Bruno JOCHUM| Zaninka NTAGUNGIRA | Paolo SEVEGNES

About Epicentre

Epicentre is a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) satellite dedicated to epidemiology, medical research, innovation and training. Its experience and presence within MSF enable it to design and carry out projects in complex and often unstable situations, specific to humanitarian aid, to meet the health needs of populations and support MSF's public action. Today, Epicentre carries out field epidemiology activities, research projects and training sessions in support of MSF's objectives to provide medical aid in regions where people are suffering from conflicts, epidemics, disasters or where access to healthcare is insufficient or non-existent.

About the Climate Action Accelerator

The Climate Action Accelerator, a non-for-profit initiative, aims to mobilise a critical mass of community organisations in order to scale up climate solutions, contain global warming below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous runaway climate change. The aim is to help shift the aid, health and higher education sectors towards a radical transformation of their practices, pursuing emissions reduction targets (-50% by 2030) and a 'net zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement.