TOWARDS HALVING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030 IN THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

a sectoral roadmap

13 June 2024, 14:30–16:30
German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Berlin

V1.0 For stakeholders’ review

We are deeply appreciative of the support from our other donors on this project:
Housekeeping rules

- Welcoming participants, in person and online
- This session is live-streamed – no recording
- The chat is available, not the Q&A function
INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME 14:30 to 14:45

- Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action
- Bruno Jochum, Executive Director, Climate Action Accelerator

SECTORAL ROADMAP PRESENTATION: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 14:45 to 15:30

- Bénédicte Godefroy, Public Policy Engagement Director, Climate Action Accelerator

PANEL DISCUSSION: “ACCELERATING THE CLIMATE TRANSFORMATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR: PRIORITY LEVERS AND INVESTMENTS” 15:30 to 16:30

- Deike Potzel, Director General, GFIF
- Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Barbara Hintermann, Director General, Terre des Hommes Lausanne
- Dr Thorsten Klose-Zuber, Secretary General, HELP – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.
- Julia Stewart-David, Advisor for Climate Change and Resilience, DG ECHO

Moderated by Nishanie Jayamaha, Co-lead, Secretariat of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

NETWORKING COFFEE FOR IN–PERSON PARTICIPANTS 16:30 to 17:30
Why a roadmap? What for?

- Significant potential for amplification and rapid change if decision-makers are better informed.
- Accelerate action by equipping actors, identifying priority levers, methodology and best practices.
- An emerging practice in many sectors of society: health, etc.
- Guidance to help ‘tip’ the sector towards becoming less emissive and operate within ‘planetary boundaries’.

18-month project
Whole-CAA effort, Arup
Sectoral Roadmap objectives

- Operationalise commitments #2 and #5 of the Climate and Environment Charter, and the Donor Declaration
- Empower humanitarian organisations in their decarbonisation journey
- Identify ways to enable and incentivise change

Scope: Decarbonisation, excluding local environmental degradation
Main focus: International Humanitarian Organisations

A playbook specifically for local NGOs is being developed
A PATH TO CLIMATE-SMART HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Analysis of the sector’s emissions profile, decarbonisation levers and solutions journey for halving emissions by 2030

OPERATIONAL PLAYBOOK FOR ORGANISATIONS

Formulating a pathway for transformation
• 9 Guiding principles
• 8 high impact solutions (“Top 8”)
• Transformation levers
• Financial impact assessment

ENABLING CHANGE

How donors and UN lead the way, and further enable and incentivise humanitarian organisations

INFLUENCING OUR COMMUNITY

Supporting the acceleration of change across humanitarian actors, through policy recommendations and a dedicated influence strategy
Strategic Advisory Board

12 senior leaders from UN, INGOs, donor agencies and climate community

2 sessions (Sept 23 & May 24)

Advisory and consultative role

UN entities
- Mervat Shelbaya | IASC, UNOCHA
- Matthew Dee | WFP

Donors
- Julia Stewart-David | ECHO
- Susanne Fries-Gaier | GFFO
- Pierre Salignon | CDCS
- Marcia Wong | BHA, USAID

INGOs & Red Cross Red Crescent
- Jan Egeland | NRC
- Pierre Krähenbühl | ICRC
- Nena Stoiljkovic | IFRC
- Shahin Ashraf | Islamic Relief Worldwide

Climate Roadmap experts
- Louise Rehbinder | Exponential Roadmap Initiative
- Sonia Roschnik | Geneva Sustainability Center

Members
1. Guiding Principles

For effective emissions reduction in humanitarian organisations
A compass for acceleration

- Disseminate best practice among humanitarian organisations
- Maximize the volume of emissions potentially avoided
- Pave the way for consistent monitoring and reporting on emissions.

→ Harmonisation leading to more effective emissions reduction plans
1. Global warming is faster than expected: operationalising commitments has become urgent

2. Perception of competing priorities between humanitarian mandate & climate action must be addressed

3. Effective emissions reduction speaks to physical realities and quantities of GHG, not just intentions

4. Low credibility methodology leads to poor effectiveness and reputational risk (greenwashing)

5. Poor public accountability undermines trust in commitments made

6. Biodiversity loss and pollution impact communities as much as climate disruption

7. Isolation leads to lower achievements and slower progress
Principles

Principle 1: Take Responsibility on what you control and can influence

Principle 2: Engage in radical collaboration with others

Principle 3: Reinforce or maintain social goals and humanitarian principles

Principle 4: Set quantified targets and milestones

Principle 5: Exercise integrity

Principle 6: Commit to transparency

Principle 7: Favour integrated approaches to climate and environment

Principle 8: Make the best use of resources, limiting consumption as and when relevant

Principle 9: Embark your community
2. Sectoral emissions analysis

Main Findings
Scoping and boundaries

Humanitarian funding trends

How much international humanitarian assistance was there in 2022?

International humanitarian assistance grew by more than a quarter in 2022

- Private
- Governments and EU institutions

2018: US$33.0bn
2019: US$32.3bn
2020: US$32.7bn
2021: US$36.9bn
2022: US$46.9bn

UN & Red Cross channel 75% of international humanitarian assistance

2022 giant leap impacts significantly the trajectory

Source: GHA report 2023, courtesy of Development Initiatives
Footprint estimation methodology

METHODOLOGY FOR EMISSIONS BASELINE ANALYSIS: FOUR KEY STEPS

1. IDENTIFICATION OF PROXY ORGANISATIONS FOR CLUSTERS
2. CLUSTER DATA COLLECTION (OCHA)
3. EXPENDITURE PROFILES AND CONCORDANCE MAPPING
4. CONVERSION OF EXPENDITURE INTO EMISSIONS ESTIMATES
Key findings – sector emissions trajectory

Estimated emissions from 2019–2030

- **Global total (MtCO2e) 2030** post interventions and structural decarbonisation assumptions:
  - ~ 20.0

- **Emissions reduction (from 2022–2030)**
  - 43% emissions reduction
  - + 5% margin of progression

- **Emissions intensity**
  - 0.46 kg CO2e/EUR in 2030

Gap of ~2.4 MtCO2e between the emissions trajectory and 50% reduction goal by 2030

- Growth assumptions +/-2% annual effective growth rate
- Baseline year 2022 / target year 2030
Key findings – 2022 baseline estimate

Global footprint of the Humanitarian Aid Sector by nature

Global total 35 MtCO2e 2022
- National Health Service UK 25 MtCO2e 2019
- An EU city of 4.6m inhabitants, consumption-based

Main sources of emissions
1. Purchased goods 32%
2. Purchased services 14%
3. CVA 29%
4. Energy, freight, travel 24%

Emissions intensity
0.90 kg CO2e/EUR in 2022 (twice the level of manufacturing sector in the EU)
Key findings – 2022 baseline estimate

92% of the sector’s emissions

Global footprint of the Humanitarian Aid Sector by cluster

Top 6 cluster emissions sources:

1. Food security and agriculture (50%)
2. Health cluster (18%)
3. Nutrition cluster (8%)
4. Protection (8%)
5. WASH (4%)
6. Emergency Shelter (4%)
Emissions reduction scenario methodology

Process followed to undertake scenario analysis and generate roadmap

1. Define decarbonisation levers and their magnitude of impact

2. Apply decarbonisation levers to the emissions baseline

3. Refine decarbonisation levers and their magnitude of impact to enable sector to meet its goal
Key findings – definition of levers & targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decarbonisation lever</th>
<th>Applied to</th>
<th>Emissions Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce energy consumption by 40%</td>
<td>All emissions sources captured in the “Energy” category</td>
<td>ENERGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace 20% of electricity purchased from the grid with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels</td>
<td>“Electricity” sub-category within the “Energy” emissions categorisation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace 80% of non-electricity and natural gas energy purchased (e.g., generator fuel) with solar PV</td>
<td>“Other” sub-category within the “Energy” emissions categorisation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce number of passenger-km travelled by 45%</td>
<td>All travel modes</td>
<td>TRAVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% of travel flights to be booked on less carbon intensive flights (i.e., flights with 20% lower CO2e emissions than current flights)</td>
<td>Air travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce energy consumption used in land travel (excluding rail travel) by 40%</td>
<td>Land travel (including rail travel and vehicle travel)</td>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocate 35% of air freight to sea freight</td>
<td>Air freight and sea freight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition 60% of freight services to greener providers reducing emissions intensity of all freight services by 20%</td>
<td>All freight sub-categories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to greener procurement of goods and services, reducing the emissions intensity of all goods and services by 40%</td>
<td>Purchased goods; purchased services and capital goods</td>
<td>PROCUREMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce indirect emissions associated with cash-based interventions/ disbursements by 30%</td>
<td>Cash-based interventions/ disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce excess goods purchased by 80%. (Excess goods are unnecessary orders that represent 10% of total expenditure.)</td>
<td>Purchased Goods</td>
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Key findings – sector emissions trajectory

Estimated emissions from 2019–2030

-43% compared to 2022 base year = 20,111 kTCO2e
Key findings – contribution of levers

% of contribution of each lever to decarbonisation efforts

-43% compared to 2022 base year – 20,111 ktCO2e

-46% compared to 2022 base year – 18,527 ktCO2e
Financial benchmarks

Based on data from Climate Action Accelerator’s partners, 2019 baseline

Average net financial impact (yearly budget): 0.09% without staff and 0.29% with staff.

Running costs

1.02% on average, varying from 0.25% to 2.1%.

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0.58% of the yearly budget on average (from 0% to 1.1%).
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<td>An additional 0.2% of the budget may be added for human resources</td>
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Based on data from Climate Action Accelerator’s partners, 2019 baseline.
**Abatement curve**

Based on data from Climate Action Accelerator's partners, 2019 baseline

### Travel, freight and fleet
- **Cumulated savings** 0.68%
- **33% of reduction effort**

### Energy solutions
- **Average net cost** of 0.06% (energy savings) and 0.13% (renewable energy)
- **Early investments** = early savings and increased GHG emissions reduction

### Procurement of goods
- **Highest cost**: 0.53%
- **Largest GHG reduction impact**: 36% of reduction effort
Abatement curve

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Initial conclusions

50% by 2030: a steep curve over 6 years requiring strong mobilisation & Areas for further exploration
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Maximising direct emissions reduction from energy, freight and travel by 2030

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Urgent action needed on procurement, especially (but not only) food items

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Initial conclusions

-50% by 2030: a **steep curve** over 6 years requiring strong mobilisation

Maximising direct emissions reduction from **energy, freight and travel** by 2030

Urgent action needed on procurement, especially (but not only) food items

Further research needed on **cash (CVA)** measurement and levers

& Areas for further exploration
To be further explored

Alternative modelling option

DUAL TIMELINE MODELLING OPTION FOR HUMANITARIAN SECTOR EMISSIONS TRAJECTORY
3. An operational playbook for organisations
Pathway to decarbonisation

1. Adopting a principles-based approach
2. Focusing on top solutions
3. Being a driver of change - transformation levers
4. Assessing the financial impact
Our experience developing roadmaps with our partners
PILLAR 1:
ADOPTING A PRINCIPLES-BASED APPROACH TO EFFECTIVE EMISSIONS REDUCTION
5 Steps for developing an emissions reduction roadmap

1. State of Affairs
2. Solutions Proposals
3. Assessing Solutions Feasibility and Fixing Targets
4. Trajectory and Costs
5. Implementation Framework
PILLAR 2: FOCUSING ON TOP SOLUTIONS

Based on its work with its humanitarian partners, Climate Action Accelerator proposes a list of eight solutions to prioritise effective emissions reduction.

TOP 8 SOLUTIONS

1. REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION
2. SWITCH TO RENEWABLE ENERGY BY DEFAULT
3. FLY LESS AND LESS EMISSIVE
4. OPTIMISE FLEET MANAGEMENT AND DRIVE LESS EMISSIVE
5. SWITCH TO LOW-CARBON, SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES
6. PRIVILEGE LOW-CARBON SUPPLIERS AND HELP SHAPE MARKETS
7. BUY ONLY WHAT IS NEEDED
8. SHIFT FROM AIR FREIGHT TO MARITIME, ROAD AND TRAIN

80 to 90% of internal reduction efforts

OTHER SOLUTIONS: WASTE, BIODIVERSITY, DIGITAL
Example: energy and premises

1. Reduce energy consumption
2. Switch to renewable energy by default

- Scope and definition
- Why is this important for humanitarian actors
- Specific actions
- Opportunities, challenges, enablers
- Co-benefits
- Financial impact assessment
- Good practices
- Tips
Climate-smart health programmes

1. Strengthening resilience and low-carbon development at the level of health service delivery

2. Thematic approaches

3. Reducing consumption by revising medical protocols where relevant

4. Switch to alternative lower carbon, more sustainable medical products
1. Prioritize low carbon, sustainable food procurement options
2. Consider modifying food ration composition
3. Encourage local sourcing through aid organisations’ own food security programmes
PILLAR 3:
BEING A DRIVER OF CHANGE
1. **ENABLING TRANSFORMATION**: stewardship, investing in staff, mobilising your community

3. **MONITORING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS**
1. **ENABLING TRANSFORMATION**: stewardship, investing in staff, mobilising your community

2. **IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES**: project portfolio renewed at a fast pace every 4 to 7 years. Good news for transformation!

   #1: Strengthen existing efforts
   #2: Optimise opportunities linked to investments, new projects and contracts
   #3: Identify and prioritise “hotspots”
   #4: Increase buy-in from core programme teams

3. **MONITORING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS**
PILLAR 4:
FINANCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Methodology for assessing the financial impact of climate roadmaps

**STEP 1:** Establish the nominal and activity growth

**STEP 2:** Undertake a solution-by-solution financial estimate of costs, savings, and investments

**STEP 3:** Estimate human resources requirements

**STEP 4:** Bring all information together
4. Donors & UN
How donors can further contribute to accelerating the climate transformation of the humanitarian sector
Overview of the main challenges

Climate and environment impact reduction remains **insufficiently prioritised**

**Lack of financial information** (investments, savings & costs)

**Important solutions still fall through the cracks of current funding options**

**Lack of dedicated human resources** to lead the transition internally

**Lack of alignment with international standards** and emerging best practice

**Donor environmental requirements/guidelines are not sufficiently systematised** across donor agencies, contexts, types of organisations and funding mechanisms

**Local and regional actors** are not sufficiently supported
Overview of main set of recommendations to donors

1. Operationalise donors’ own climate commitments (own operations and programmatic portfolio).

2. Adopt a three-tiered approach that combines incentives and requirements, financial support, and capacity building.

3. Adjust current funding frameworks to allow humanitarian organisations to mainstream climate measures within existing humanitarian funding frameworks.

4. Consider emissions reduction from humanitarian supply chains as a top priority for financial and technical support.

5. Ensure expectations towards UN agencies are consistent with those placed on international NGOs.
6. Include stronger environmental and climate expectations in UN-managed pool funds such as CBPF, CERF, etc.

7. Facilitate increased access to alternative funding streams as a complement to public institutional funding.

8. Provide better financial and technical support to the climate transition of local and national actors.

9. Actively advocate for the integration of ambitious, quantitative approaches into key international humanitarian frameworks guiding donors’ funding priorities and grant making models.
OPTIMISING THE TRANSFORMATION POTENTIAL OF UN ENTITIES
UN system & agencies

- Massive potential for tipping the sector
- **Greening the Blue**: align UN system measurement and reporting frameworks on best practice (scope 3, full perimeter)
- Urgently establish that carbon offsetting should not be included in carbon accounting, and claims to organisational carbon neutrality
- Carbon offsets quality & price
- **Portfolio of activities**: CVA, food, others
- Enhance donors’ requirements
4. Recommendations
For all actors

1. **Shape, utilise and promote a more strategic narrative on climate action** in the humanitarian sector
   - Extreme urgency
   - Co-benefits for organisational resilience and adaptation
   - Supporting programmes and social mission

2. **Take urgent action towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from own operations and programmatic portfolio** by 2030, using the Paris Agreement goal of halving emissions by 2030 as a target
   - Emerging best practice
3. Adopt, implement and promote a principles-based approach to emissions reduction
   - Full perimeter, scope 3, offsetting not counted in carbon accounting
   - Guiding principles / IPCC recommendations, GHG protocol

4. Enhance individual and collective stewardship steering emissions reduction in the humanitarian sector
   - Grand Bargain, IASC, Climate Charter, UN system, etc.
5. Urgently scale-up climate solutions

- Focus your action on the “Top 8 solutions”
- Urgently act on energy, freight, and travel (direct CTRL)
- Invest decisively into procurement solutions, especially for food items but not only

Top 8 solutions

#1. Reduce energy consumption  
#2. Switch to renewable energy by default  
#3. Fly less and less emissive  
#4. Optimise fleet management and drive less emissive  
#5. Switch to low-carbon, sustainable alternatives  
#6. Privilege low-carbon suppliers and contribute to shape markets  
#7. Buy only what is needed  
#8. Shift from air freight to maritime, road and train freight
Areas for further exploration and collaboration

Establish a “Strategic Supply Alliance” or coalition to engage with suppliers
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- Innovation and research for identifying low carbon, sustainable alternative products/options
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Address the data gap
Areas for further exploration and collaboration

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- Conduct research on cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
- Innovation and research for identifying low carbon, sustainable alternative products/options
- Address the data gap
- Consider creating a multi-partner trust fund (MPTF)
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Climate Action Accelerator