Climate Action Accelerator

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

LSE Humanitarian Research Group

Climate and Environment Charter

LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

Leading by example: how the humanitarian sector is advancing climate action

Understanding progress and gaps in reducing the sector's environmental and climate footprint

25 June 2026
11:00 to 13:00 (UTC+1 London time)
12:00 to 14:00 (CET Geneva time)

Welcome coffee from 10:30 to 11.00 UTC+1

In person at
London School of Economics
Connaught House, Room 7.05
and online on Zoom

Photo credit: Oxfam East Africa

Today’s Objectives

1. Reaffirm the humanitarian sector's environmental and climate commitments
2. Discuss the challenges to maintain these efforts in light of the current funding context
3. Explore priorities and the various co-benefits and benefits of a greener and decarbonised approach
4. Shed light on practical examples


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tearfund
World Vision

Who we are

The **Climate Action Accelerator** is a non-profit initiative based in Geneva that aims to mobilise an exponential number of organisations who deliver **essential services to populations**, in view of accelerating the implementation of science-based climate pathways and contributing to a domino effect in society.

The goal is to help move the aid, health and higher education sectors towards greater resilience and a radical transformation of their practices, pursuing ambitious emission reduction targets and a 'net zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement.

AID

HEALTH

HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Our pillars

EMPOWER

Empower organizations to at least halve their emissions and prepare for greater resilience through a hub of expertise and resources.

CHAMPION

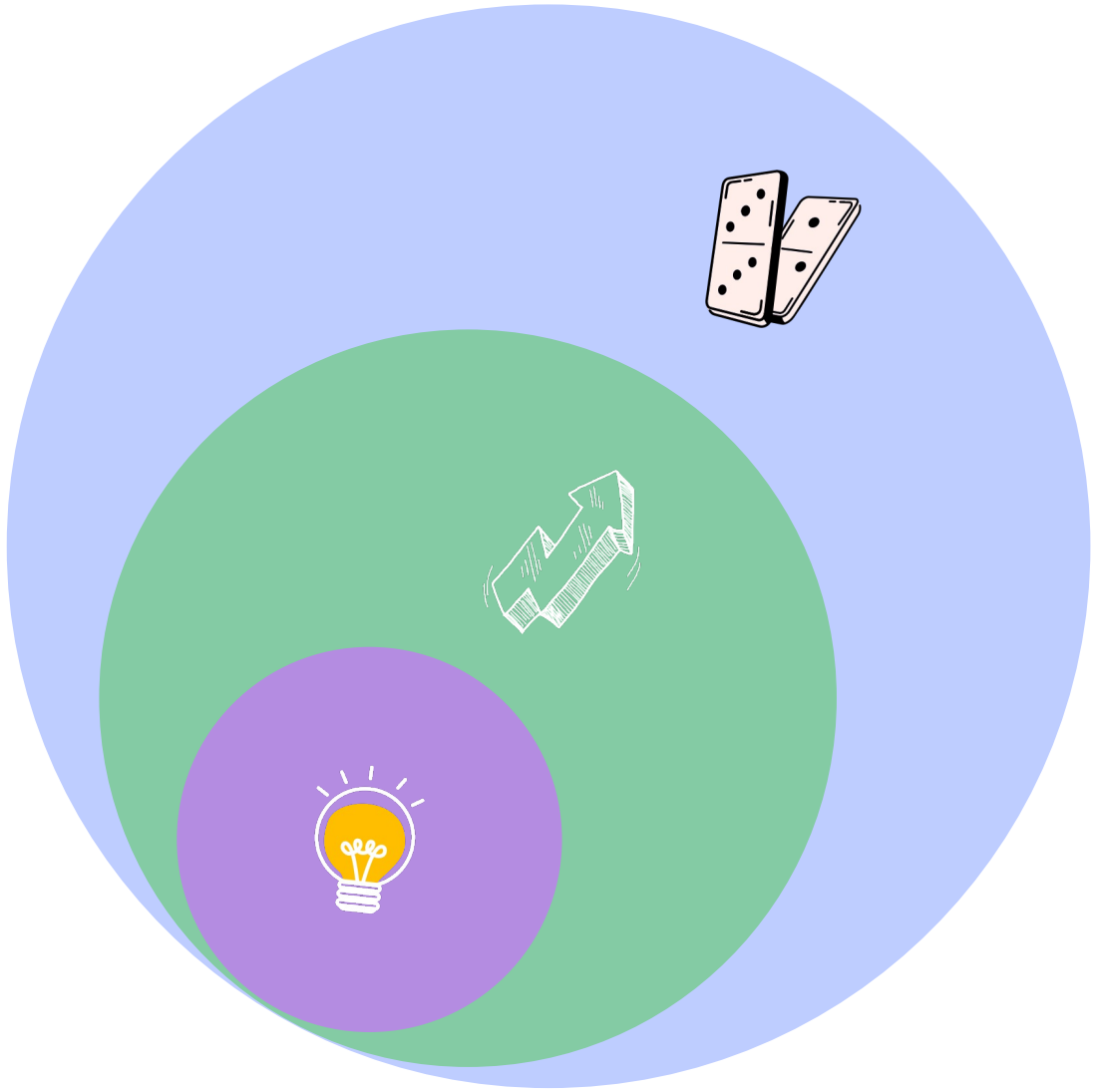
Transform them into ambassadors of change within their networks, capable of influencing their peers.

COMMUNITY

Build a global community of action, sharing climate solutions as a universal common good, to scale up their deployment.

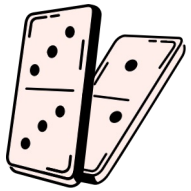
More than 40 partners on board, 1/2 are local and national organisations

Our acceleration model



Lab: design, test and learn from new solution roadmaps and technical projects with pilot partners

Capacity building: transfer & deploy change in organisations at scale



Domino effect: amplify to tilt the sectors and beyond

Framing the debate in the midst of a Reset

1. **The climate/biodiversity crisis is an absolute emergency,** with a narrowing window of opportunity for action at all levels to stabilise the situation, avoid the worst damages and strengthen resilience.

2. **An explosion in humanitarian needs** is expected linked to geopolitical instability, climate impacts, insufficient adaptation and shrinking of funding. Humanitarians more than ever confronted to their limits.

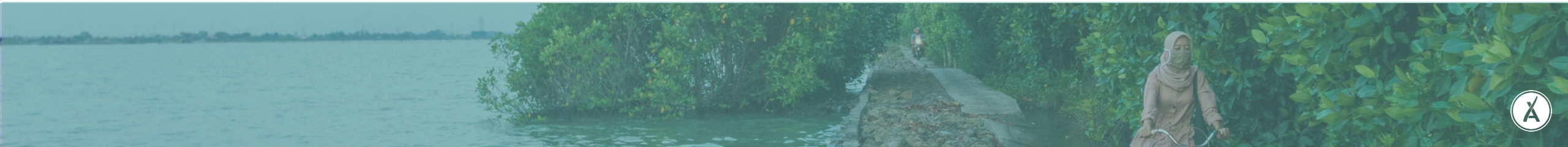
3. For humanitarian actors, the key question is **how to deliver their mission and meet growing needs while learning how to operate within planetary boundaries and facing financial constraints?**

4. **"Fit for purpose": climate and nature transformation strengthens rather than hinders the ability to deliver** (operational benefits, localisation, efficiency, organizational resilience in a constrained world.

5. **Critical importance of renewed thinking on principles,** whether in terms of purpose, ethics and operationalisation, integrating the threat to humanity of the planetary emergency, beyond traditional conflict situations & classic natural disasters.

The co-benefits of a climate smart and environmentally friendly humanitarian sector

- **Better quality programmes** (more robust products, longer life, less waste production)
- **Efficiency of humanitarian programmes and cost savings** (ex: return on investment of solar energy, reduction of air freight..)
- **Operational resilience** (with greater autonomy & continuity of service when there is a risk of disrupted fuel supplies or unaffordable prices)
- **Enhancement of capacity through localisation** (ex: increased reliance on local expertise and resources)
- **Acceptance by local communities**



Global footprint of the International Humanitarian Aid Sector (baseline 2022)

Accessible here

Global total 35 MtCO2e 2022

➔ National Health Service UK 25 MtCO2e 2019

➔ An EU city of 4.6m inhabitants, consumption-based

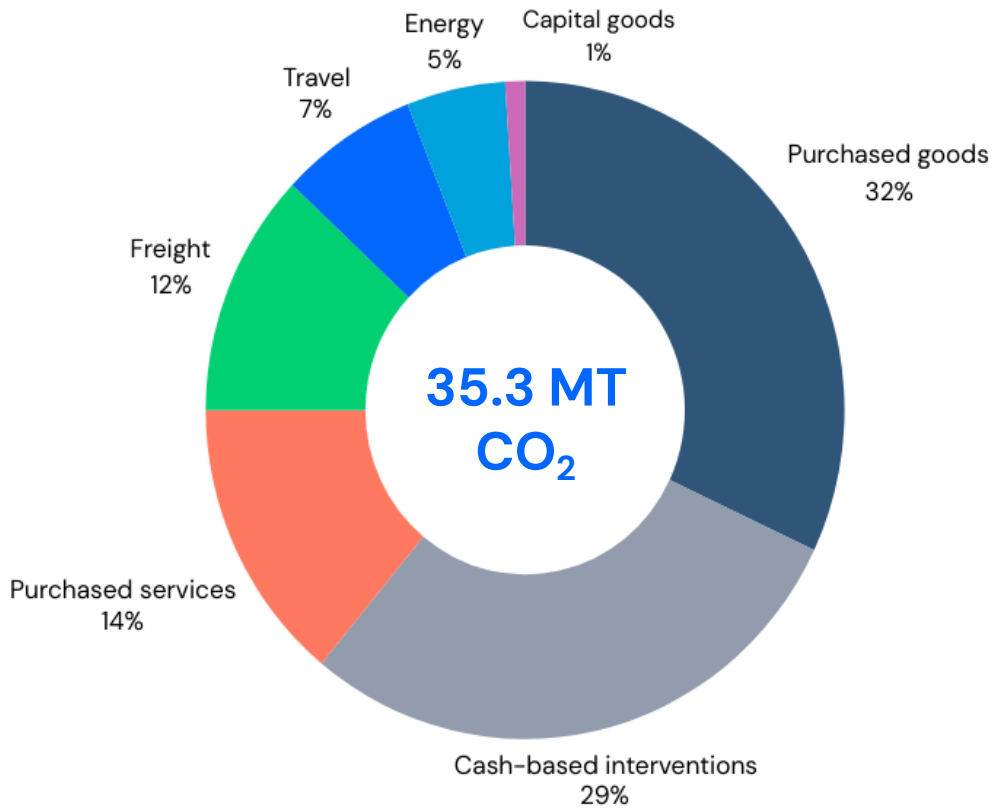
Main sources of emissions

1. Purchased goods 32%,
2. Purchased services 14%
3. Energy, freight, travel 24%

Procurement = 40% of emissions

Emissions intensity

0.90 kg CO2e/EUR in 2022 (twice the level of manufacturing sector in the EU)



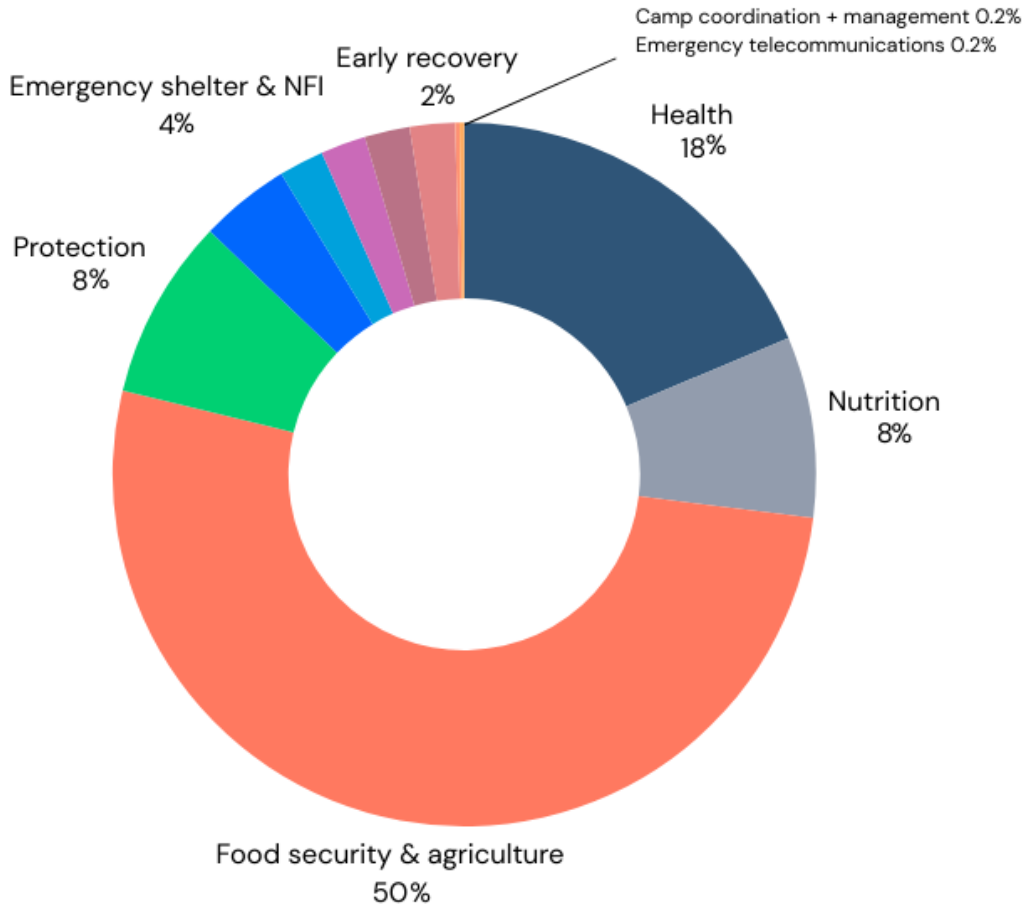
Overview of global emissions for the humanitarian aid sector in 2022 by nature

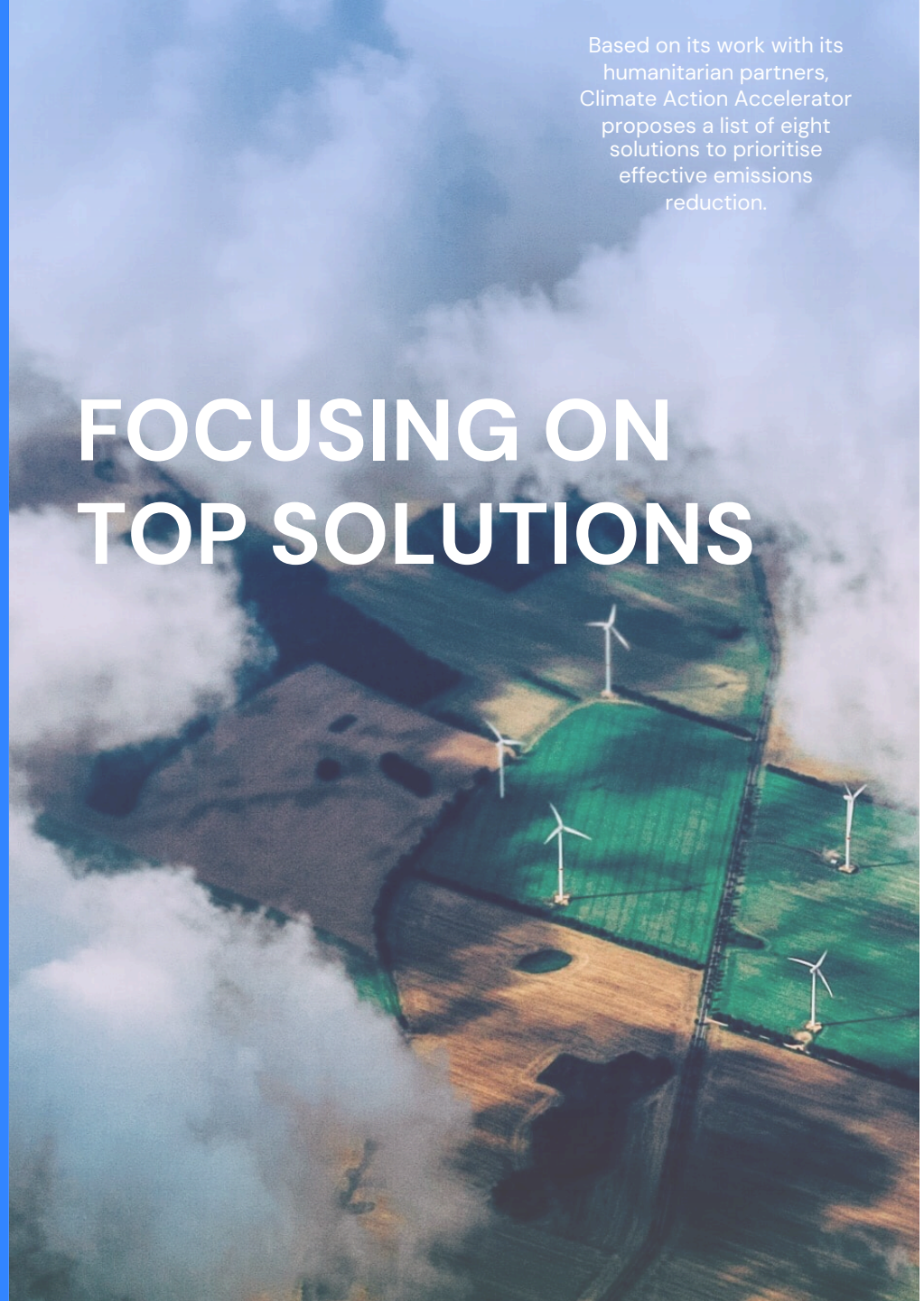
Carbon Footprint of the Humanitarian Sector – 2022 baseline estimate

92% of the sector's emissions

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%)





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

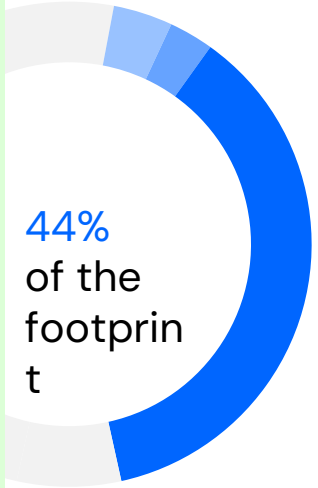
FOCUSING ON TOP SOLUTIONS

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



IFRC's top items- decarbonisation potential

Top items

Less than 20 products/ services = more than 80% of G&S emissions = more than 1/3 of total footprint

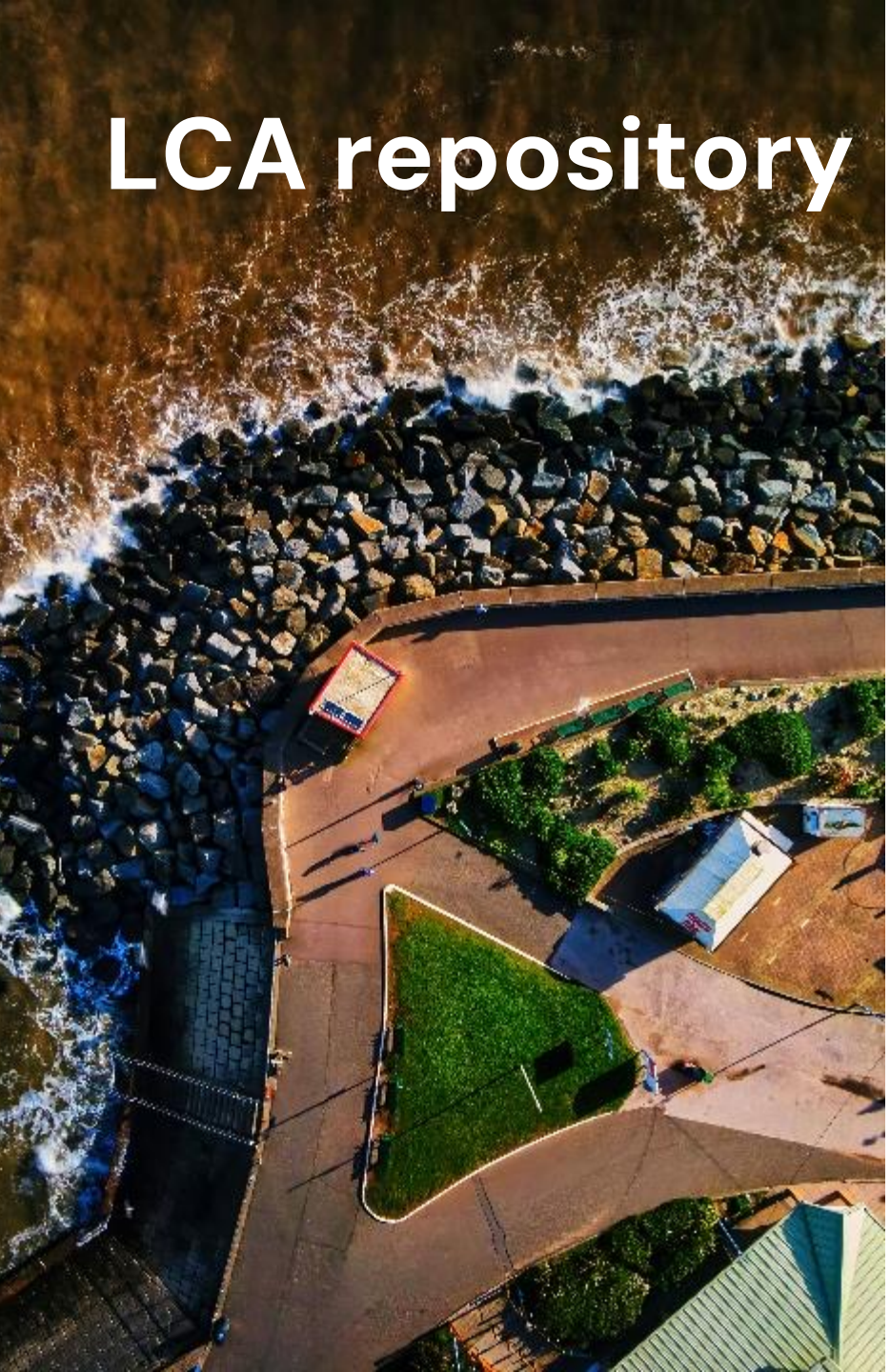
		Product EF Name	in KGCO2e		
HUMANITARIAN GOODS	1	Food parcel, family, 1 month	25 196 282	18%	8%
	2	Hygiene kits (5 person, 1 month)	19 751 052	14%	6%
	3	Furniture and other manufactured goods	12 878 218	9%	4%
	4	Processed food products	12 810 477	9%	4%
	5	Shelter Family tent (16 m2)	8 882 910	6%	3%
	6	Textiles and clothing	6 159 198	4%	2%
	7	Blankets	7 725 967	5%	2%
	8	Tarpaulin	6 710 877	5%	2%
VEHICLES	9	Heavy cars	4 744 520	3%	1%
	10	Heavy trucks	658 636	0%	0%
IT	11	Purchase of IT and telecom equipment	1 583 100	1%	0%
	12	Computer, electronic and optical produc	1 243 038	1%	0%
SERVICES	13	Services (printing, advertising, architectu	3 145 037	2%	1%
	14	Accommodation and catering	2 611 551	2%	1%
	15	Teaching	1 889 898	1%	1%
	16	Construction	1 662 017	1%	1%
	17	Insurance, banking, consulting and fees	939 949	1%	0%
		TOTAL TOP ITEMS	**118 592 726**	**83%**	**36%**

Total purchased goods	**120 253 390**
Total capital goods	**10 127 444**
Total services	**12 107 312**
TOTAL GOODS AND SERVICES	142 488 147
% of total footprint	**44%**

THESE TOP ITEMS REPRESENT:

83%	**OF TOTAL G&S EMISSIONS**
36%	**OF TOTAL FOOTRINT**

Supply



LCA repository

Find the full results of the assessments on the Accelerator's LCA repository:

https://climateactionaccelerator.org/repository-of-lifecycle-assessments/

- Plastic Floor Mats
- Jerrycans and Buckets
- Coveralls
- Type I Face Masks
- High-thermal Synthetic Blanket
- Hygiene Kits
- Mosquito Nets LLINs
- Plastic Mattress
- Soap Bars
- Hygienic pads
- Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)
- Solar lamps

EPFL | EssentialTech Centre

ICRC

Climate Action Accelerator

LEURE

Decarbonisation potential: Blankets

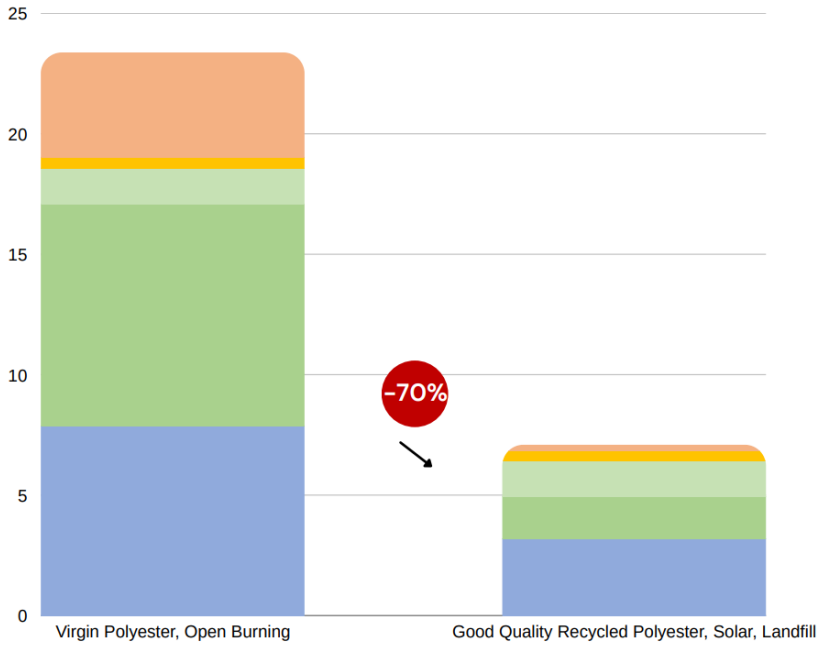
70% emission reduction

- Recycled polyester
- Low-carbon energy in the production phase

Co-benefits

✓ Same quality – expected lifespan maintained

✓ Changes lead to 70% reduction in climate change (GHG emissions) and 25% reduction in human health impacts (cradle-to-gate).



Stage		kgCO₂e Scenario 1	kgCO₂e Scenario 2
Raw Material		7.87	3.20
Production		9.22	1.74
Transportation		1.48	1.48
Use		0.44	0.44
End-of-Life		4.37	0.23

Good practice: ICRC Solar lamp

50% emission reduction trough redesign of solar lamps

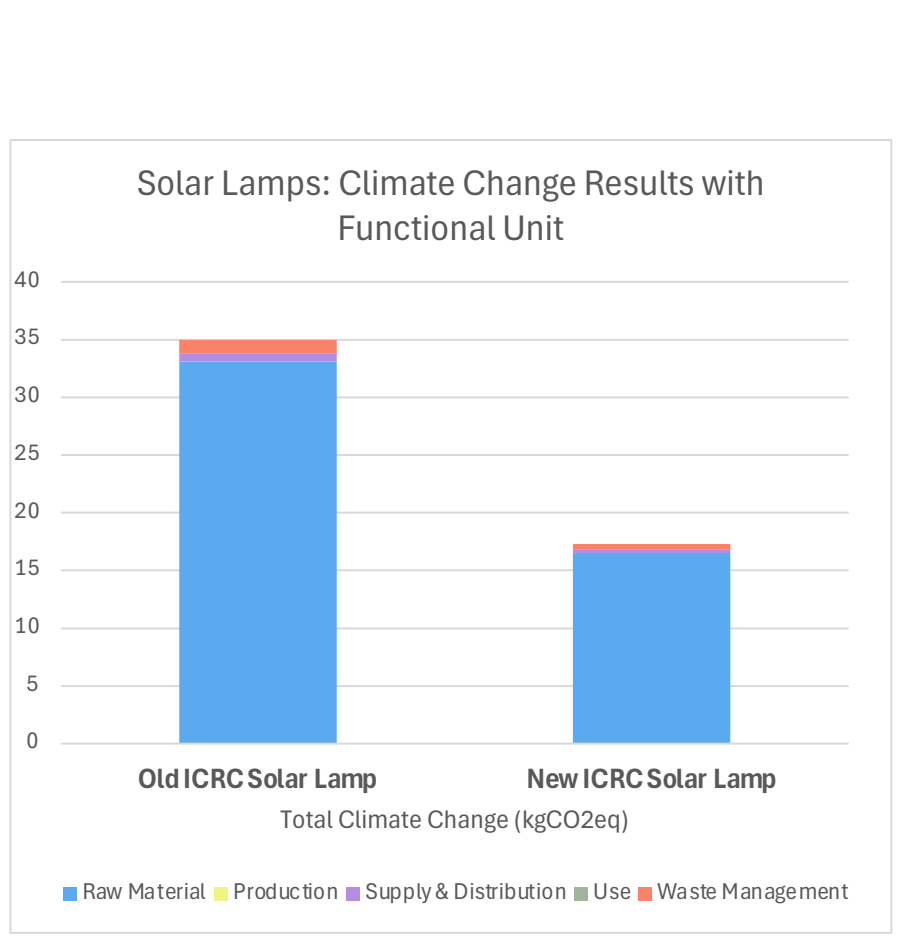
- Improved durability
- Reduction of volume by more than 50%
- Changes lead to a 50.61% reduction in climate change and 50.80% reduction in human health impacts.

Co-benefits

✓ Better serving beneficiaries through longer lasting items

✓ Reducing local waste pollution through improved durability and reduction of volume

✓ **No cost increase**



COMITE INTERNATIONAL GENEVE

ICRC

Financial Analysis

Decarbonisation solutions - based on data from Climate Action Accelerator's partners

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%.

- Greener purchasing solutions (transport, general purchases).

Investments

0.58% of the yearly budget on average (from 0% to 1.1%).

- Energy saving measures, solar energy and environmental solutions

Savings

1.52% of the yearly budget on average (from -0.3% to -2.5%).

- Transport solutions (plane travel and freight), energy solutions.

Staff costs

An additional 0.2% of the budget may be added for human resources

Strategic Role of humanitarian donors in incentivising and enabling the environmental and climate transition of the humanitarian sector

- Driving policy change
- Encouraging partners in mainstreaming low carbon and sustainable approaches in their projects
- Supporting the environmental and climate transition of partners (individually and cross cutting projects), notably through capability-building
- Leading by example and showing exemplarity
- Shifting to climate-smart grants & programming
- Shifting to climate-smart pro

Meet the speakers

Adele Perkins

British Red Cross

Anita Raman

International Rescue Commitee

Jim Ridgwick

Save the Children International

Ibrahim Mustafa Chico

Action Against Hunger

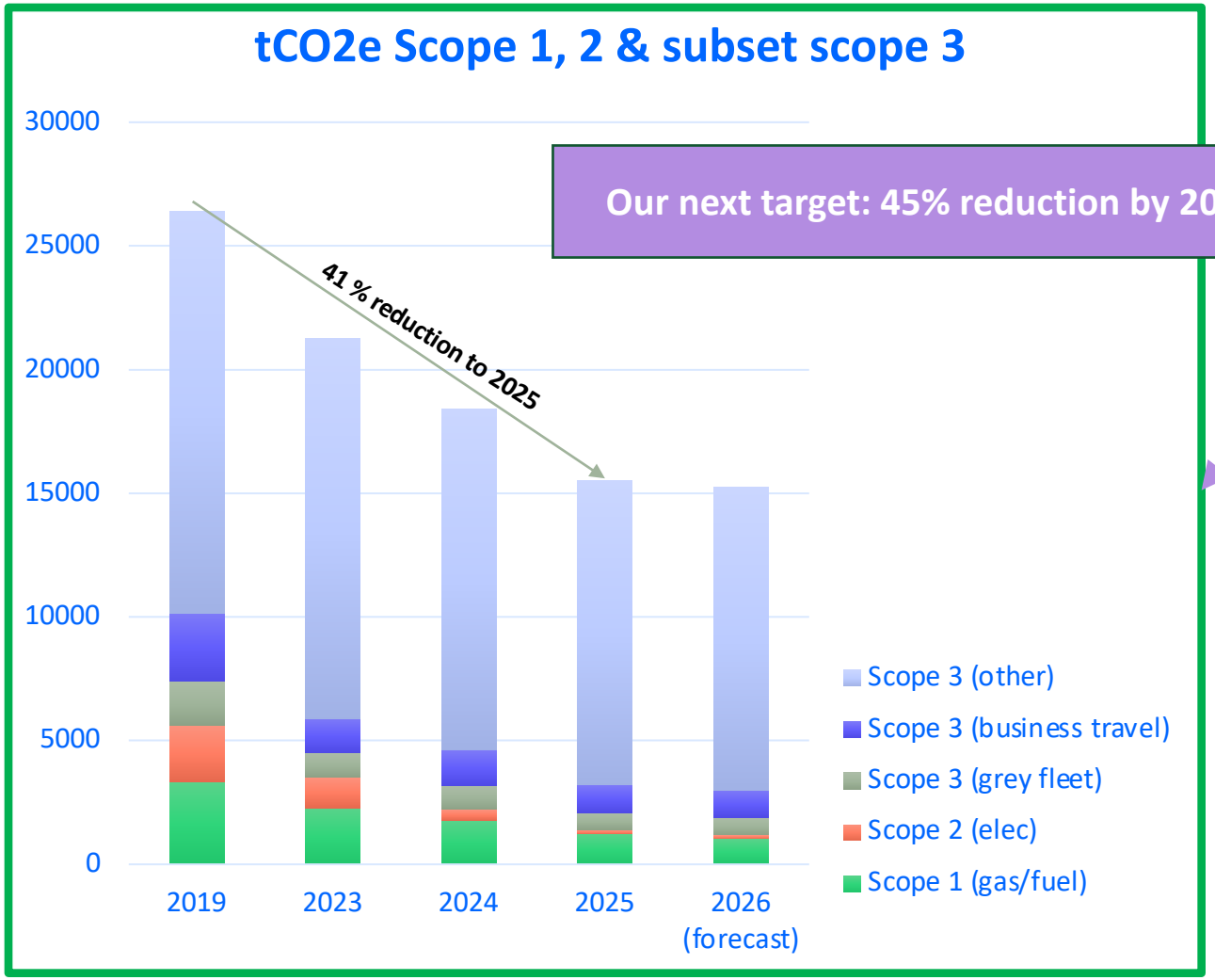
British Red Cross Decarbonisation Roadmap

Our journey towards Net Zero

Adele Perkins, British Red Cross
Senior Project Manager, Green Response Programme

Our progress

Scope 3 business travel - air, rail and hotels.
Scope 3 (other) - purchased goods & services, waste, employee commuting, homeworking, transportation and distribution (upstream/downstream)



Our next target: 45% reduction by 2030

Introduction of hybrid working plus rightsizing building & fleet estates from 2020

5 year investment in 'Green' energy Q2 2025

76% reduction of scope 1 and 2 at end of 2025
(market based)

Reduced business travel and increased recycling (plus lower emission factors)

1 - DECREASE IN TRAVEL

Since the pandemic, we travel less and opt for more digital collaboration - helping us work smarter and reduce our impact.

2 – WORKING FROM HOME

More of our staff opt for hybrid working which has lowered our reliance on buildings and reduced operational emissions.

3 - ESTATE RIGHT-SIZING

With more people hybrid working, we've been able to reduce the number of offices we operate in. It's saved significant amounts of money and cut building energy use by around 22%.

4 – 100% LED LIGHTING

Installing LED lighting across all our shops and offices cuts electricity use (60-70% reduction in kwh) and maintenance - saving money and carbon.

5 – FLEET VEHICLES

We're modernising and right-sizing our fleet, plus improving logistics to optimise trips - cutting fuel use today and preparing for more electric vehicles tomorrow.

6 – WASTE & RECYCLING

We've rolled out recycling bins to our shops and offices, and we're exploring ways to reduce our carbon footprint and increase income, through reducing, reusing and recycling initiatives.

7 – RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

Switching to 100% renewable energy in all our owned buildings means we generate much less carbon than if we used traditional fossil-fuel supply.

8 - BIOGAS

Switching to biogas (a renewable gas made from decomposing biological matter) for heating reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and lowers our carbon emissions.

9 – EMISSIONS FACTORS

As the national grid continues to decarbonise - through more wind and solar generation - emission factors fall, reducing the carbon intensity of every kWh consumed.

10 – SUSTAINABLE RETAIL

Red Cross Stitched upcycles unsellable items into new goods, while Repair Me Seconds sells more-damaged corporate goods at a discount - raising funds and diverting waste.

The journey to Net Zero... (2026 onwards)

Continuous Improvement

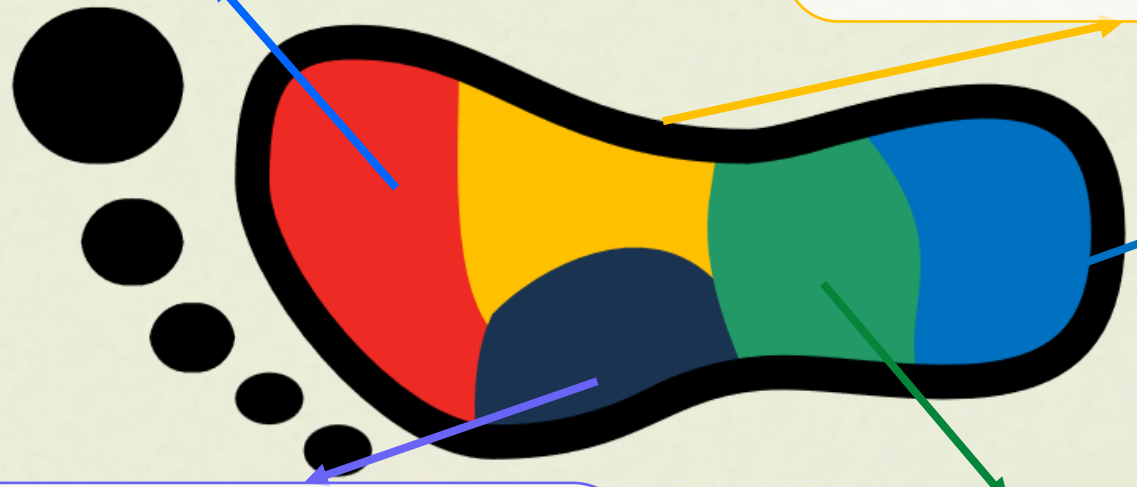
We need to keep reducing our energy use where possible (to save money and carbon) and develop a roadmap to reduce waste to landfill. Continued investment in green energy.

Climate and Environment

Continue to work with stakeholders (internal and external) on our climate & environment agenda.
Review innovative finance opportunities related to climate.

Green Responders

Expand Green Responders Network, roll out more training and awareness campaigns. Empower staff and volunteers where possible! Learn from them.



Sustainable Retail

Deliver targeted actions for reductions in our environmental impact and increase avenues for managing textile waste by testing new initiatives.
Track avoided emissions related to second hand clothing.

Be data driven

Annual update of Carbon Reduction Plan and Trustees Report with progress and next steps.
Add more activity-based data scope 3.
Monitor 2030 forecast with latest data.

It starts with two questions

Two questions that meet at the people we serve.

DELIVERY

Can we keep delivering for clients as climate impacts worsen?

Flooding, drought, heat, cyclones and wildfires disrupt supply chains, facilities, energy and access.

→

Our clients

the people we serve

←

FOOTPRINT

Are we making the climate and environmental crisis worse?

Generators, vehicles and waste cause local harm; freight, travel and procurement drive global emissions.

Both questions meet at our clients — linked by our operations: supply chains, energy, transport.

The convergence is the opportunity: the solution that protects delivery and the one that reduces harm are most often the same.

What's in the roadmap

20 priority solutions across 8 operational domains — here's what they look like in practice.

20 priority solutions

30 priority projects · FY26–28

8 operational domains

PROCUREMENT

Buy lower-impact products

FLEET

Reduce fuel consumption by optimizing and pooling movements

TRAVEL

Reduce professional travel, particularly by air

BUILDINGS & ENERGY

Decarbonize energy and ensure climate-resilient power

FREIGHT

Shift from air to maritime freight

WASTE

Avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and treat waste

CLIMATE RISK & RESILIENCE

Strengthen staff safety and wellbeing

COORDINATION

Embed climate into country Strategic Action Plans

First footprint estimate: ~137,000 tCO_2e — about three-quarters in our supply chain and partner sub-awards. Roughly equivalent to 18,400 homes' energy for a year (EPA GHG Equivalencies Calculator).

Three things that made it work

How we built it, how we chose, and what we learned.

1

Co-created, bottom-up

- 400+ staff across every region & department
- 6 external expert groups — academia, law, private sector
- A steering committee of department leaders

Built from staff reality — 360+ practices already underway.

2

Prioritised & stress-tested

Solutions — ranked by impact

- Emissions impact
- Resilience impact

Enablers — feasibility × impact

- Compliance urgency
- Integrates into departmental workplans

Priority projects

- The cost-neutral ones first

3

The missing piece: enablers

- The solutions are already known
- What's missing is the enablers — e.g. policies & SOPs, procurement criteria, KPIs, governance

30 priority projects — enablers, not solutions. We're not reinventing; we're embedding.

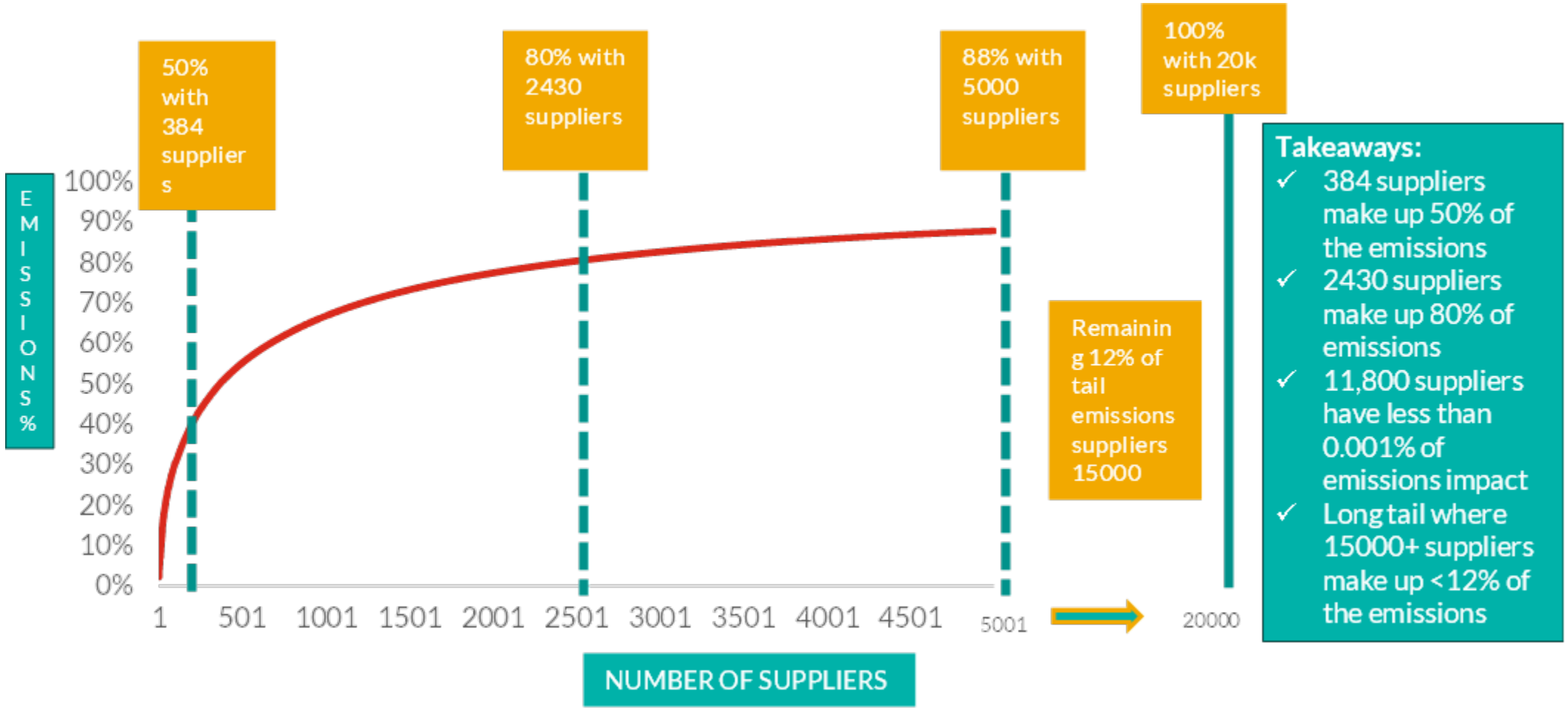
Supplier Impact Programme

Jim Ridgwick, Save the Children International
Procurement & Supplier Sustainability

Supplier Sustainability Impact Programme (SSIP) - Introduction

- ✓ Similar programmes to reduce other scopes – focus on Scope 3 / mainly 3.1 and how we moved from **Compliance** to **Impact**
- ✓ At Save the Children International we spend around $400m / year with ~20,000 companies
- ✓ ~60-70% of our emissions relate to suppliers/corporates/businesses that supply us i.e. Purchased Goods / Services, GiK, Cash-based interventions
- ✓ The SSIP is an external programme and set of resources designed specifically for suppliers who operate in the Humanitarian sector. Its purpose is to help raise awareness of sustainability, explain SCI's (and other INGO's / NGO's) expectations in relation to sustainability, and ultimately help suppliers take action to become more sustainable.
- ✓ It is underpinned by the **SCI Supplier Sustainability Policy**, which sets the expectation with our suppliers on what is important to us and our donors.
- ✓ The tangible output is a supplier completing a **Sustainability Improvement Plan (SIP)** allowing Suppliers to evaluate how Sustainable they are, what improvements they may make, and to create an action plan.

Supplier Prioritisation – stage 1



Emission (in tCO2e) = Spend/Volume ✕ Emission Factor [1]

[1] Numerous managed databases of emission factors by spend category by country e.g. 1 laptop from the UK = 0.5 t/CO2e
Year Base for Data Analysis: 2023

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Supplier Prioritisation – stage 2

Wave 1

Wave 1	Number of suppliers selected for SSIP	Emissions (%)	CO representing % of total 3.1 Scope Emissions
Somalia	18	2,43	9,05
Ukraine	17	2,84	7,22
SCI Global Teams	18	0,38	5,02
Afghanistan	13	2,16	4,47
Turkey	14	2,64	3,25
Mozambique	16	1	2,61
Myanmar	9	0,5	2,61
Ethiopia	14	0,73	2,3
Mali	14	0,68	1,47
Uganda	18	0,27	0,86
Total	**151**	**13,63**	**38,86**

Wave 2

Wave 2	Number of suppliers selected for SSIP	Emissions (%)	CO representing % of total 3.1 Scope Emissions
Sudan	7	1,3	11,97
Venezuela	39	2,93	7,5
Yemen	26	2,95	7,22
DRC	40	3,9	5,2
Syria	0	0	5
Lebanon	6	0,73	2,52
OPT	13	0,88	1,25
Venezuela	16	0,41	0,74
Iraq	9	0,2	0,56
Côte d'Ivoire	5	0,5	0,47
Bolivia	14	0,16	0,44
Malawi	4	0,14	0,39
Haiti	20	0,06	0,06
Total	**199**	**14,16**	**43,32**

Validation with country teams

Step 1 – Top suppliers were identified by emissions and then validated with the country team

Step 2 – COs able add/remove suppliers based on:

- **Sustainability risk**
- **continuing business relationship in the future**

Currently engaged with 350+ top suppliers across **23 countries.**
Addressing highest Sustainability risk suppliers and 27% of SCI's Scope 3.1 CO2 emissions.

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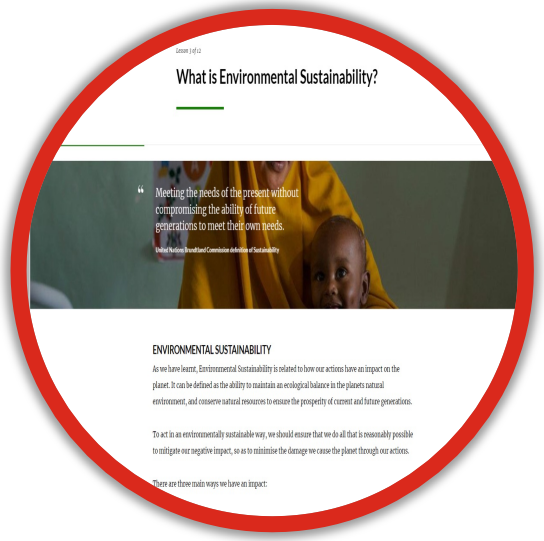
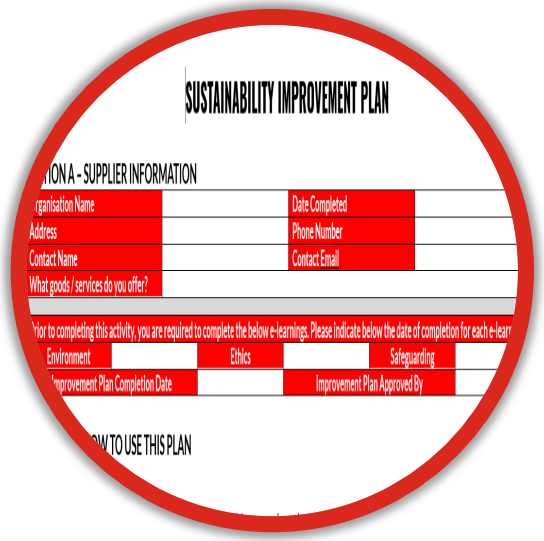
The SSIP contains 3 distinct elements, each of which offers the opportunity for Suppliers to learn and develop.



E-Learnings

3 e-learnings – for suppliers - covering Environment, Ethics and Safeguarding



Sustainability Improvement Plan

Ongoing engagements to help set objectives and support/monitor progress.

Supplier Collaboration

Tactics for ensuring supplier response and meaningful engagement

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Example of the Improvement Plan

SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS	SUSTAINABILITY SUB-STANDARDS	PART 1		PART 2		
		TOP IMPACT SUB-STANDARDS	IMPROVEMENTS IN PLACE	IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED	IMPROVEMENT DUE DATE	OWNER
		Select maximum 5 sustainability standards from the list in column 2 that have most impact on your organisation *(e.g. areas of most risk for your organisation) and rank them in order of importance (1=highest priority, and so on)*	***Only complete for sub-standards identified as a priority in column 3.*** *Detail existing activities which you are currently implementing to drive improvement in this area.*	***Only complete for sub-standards identified as a priority in column 3.*** *Detail new activities you plan to implement in the future (see GUIDANCE NOTES for suggested actions).*		
Human Rights & Labour	Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking & Forced Labour					
	Child Labour & Minimum Working Age					
	Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying					
	Fair Wages & Working Hours					
	Health & Safety					
Environment	Emissions Production					
	Emissions Production – further information required (MANDATORY FOR ALL SUPPLIERS)					
	Waste Generation					
	Resource Consumption					
Ethical Conduct	Corruption					
	Conflicts of Interest					

MANDATORY Emissions Questions:	Required response:	Your response:
Does your company measure/report on greenhouse gas (GHG)[1] emissions?	[Y/N] *If yes, please complete Section D: Decarbonisation Plan*	
If NO, do you plan to report in the future?	[Y/N]	
Approximate timeline to report if it is planned:	[DATE]	

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

REact

LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

Leading by example:

Action Against Hunger's decarbonisation journey

Ibrahim Mustafa Chico

Research & Development Dept.
Action Against Hunger

Our commitment

2022

Signing Climate & Environment Charter

Action Against Hunger signed in 2022, the starting point of our formal commitment.

2023

Creation of Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan

98 concrete measures across transport, energy, buildings, procurement, digital practices and waste management.

2025

Baseline Vs Current situation

In 2023 we calculated our footprint for the first time:
60,327 Tonnes CO_2e vs **56,292Tonnes CO_2e** in 2025

6,7% reduction in 2 year
Target: **20% reduction by 2030**

Our Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan has

98

Concrete reduction measures

across 6 operational domains

3 reasons to act and solarize

Across 18 country reduction plans, energy emerged as one of the highest-priority areas for action
Solarizing offices and warehouses became one of the most practical ways to reduce emission

- **Energy security & Operational reliability:** Fuel supply chains are increasingly fragile. In conflict settings, solar is often the most reliable option

- **Cost-efficiency:** A 3 to 4-year payback period and energy independence are often the strongest arguments for donors and field teams

- **Climate commitment:** A strong argument, but it is more effective with field teams and decision-makers when combined with other factors

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

REact

LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

OPEN-ACCESS

ALL HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

GLOBAL

ADVANCED FORM

www.react-tool.org


Questions?

Thank you !

contact@climateactionaccelerator.org

www.climateactionaccelerator.org

https://www.linkedin.com/company/theclimateactionaccelerator/

@climateactionaccelerator

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