

ADRA NORWAY

Climate Strategy and Policy

Revised ADRA Norway Strategy and Policy	
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ADRA NORWAY CLIMATE STRATEGY

Purpose and Scope

The wellbeing of people and societies is increasingly linked to their ability to manage risks and opportunities related to changes in their environment. Climate change is a planetary crisis that is leaving no corner of the world untouched. As temperatures and sea levels rise, people around the world are increasingly experiencing erratic rainfalls, heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires that impact their daily lives.

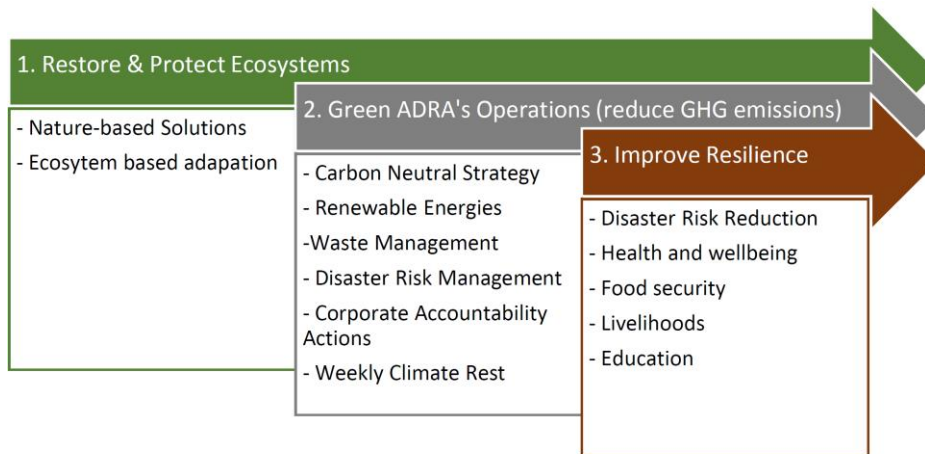
ADRA Norway’s concern for the environment arises from both scientific and biblical convictions. We believe that humankind was created in the image of God and is thus to represent God as His steward and to manage the natural resources¹. While working to relieve poverty, increase resilience, and encourage just social relationships, ADRA Norway “confirms her stewardship of God’s Creation”², and is committed to defending the cause of those who are vulnerable (Micah 6:8).

Climate change reaches far beyond the environmental sector – affecting poverty, economic growth, education, peace and stability, displacement, fragility, and local, national, and regional security. Furthermore, climate change affects life-long physical and mental health, mortality, food security, and access to essential services, such as health care, water, sanitation, and hygiene. By working for inclusive climate, ADRA Norway aims to strengthen the resilience of the poorest and marginalized people, particularly women and children.

The purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that ADRA Norway and its network offices expand their commitment of the “do no harm”³ approach for the protection of the environment and that it meets its environmental goal and objectives that include:

Goal: Ensure that ADRA’s humanitarian and development programme/projects, as well as its administrative operations, are environmentally friendly.

Objectives: Restore and protect the ecosystems; green ADRA operations reduce GHG emissions; and improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems.



¹ [Steward of the Environment](#)

² [Caring for the Environment](#)

³ [UN - No Harm Rule](#)

In achieving these objectives, it is expected that:

1. ADRA Norway's humanitarian and development activities are designed to care for, protect and restore nature for sustainable development.
2. ADRA Norway's humanitarian and development activities do not create or contribute to any foreseeable negative environmental impacts.
3. ADRA Norway's humanitarian and development activities contribute in a measurable way to the reduction of its CO2 footprint generated from internal and external activities.

The scope of this Strategy extends to all operational and programming activities of ADRA Norway and its network partners.

ADRA Norway's Added Value

Global Presence - Strong on-the-ground presence globally enables ADRA Norway to amplify and build on local priorities in creating sustainable climate actions that are locally led and locally valued.

Longevity - Long and consistent history of working with partner countries, organizations, the private sector, and communities situates ADRA Norway as a trusted and influential partner.

Breadth of Expertise - Sectoral expertise combined with contextual understanding of local economic, political, cultural, and institutional landscapes situates ADRA Norway well to address complex challenges.

Organizing Influence - A trusted and respected position enables ADRA Norway to catalyze climate action at scale through partnerships with host governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector, academia, and others.

Lead by Example Model

ADRA Norway's strategic objectives are supported by a determination to do its part. ADRA Norway is working to transform its own workforce, operations, and policies to reduce carbon emissions substantially, adapt to the climate crisis, and further climate justice. We also encourage our ADRA network offices to do the same facilitated through partnership dialogue, planning, sharing of information where mutual agreements are enshrined in contracts-MOUs.

This approach to *Lead by Example* builds on several foundational principles incorporated into all planning, programming, and activities of ADRA Norway and its ADRA network partners:

- **Locally Led Development** – design and apply locally led sustainable and equitable climate actions that are culturally tailored and context appropriate in partnership with local civil society organizations (CSO).
- **Equity and Inclusion** - center action plans in the context of the diverse communities and engage local, marginalized, and underrepresented groups including women and children as agents of change.
- **Private-Sector Engagement** - partner with the private sector to expand the scale, impact, and sustainability of programs using climate-friendly solutions.
- **Nature-Based Solutions** - elevate nature-based solutions as key tools to absorb carbon, reduce disaster risk, support livelihoods, and improve food and water security.
- **Evidence, Partnership, Technology, and Innovation** - support and contribute to the ongoing rigorous research, technology, and development needed to identify and deploy effective climate solutions, including those locally known and developed.

Strategic Commitments

ADRA Norway, through all its Network partners, is dedicated to ensuring that the following strategic climate commitments are observed:

- **Environmental protection** – work towards ensuring that development and emergency activities do not lead to environmental impacts that undermine their results.
- **Life-cycle** – design full life cycle of programming activities from procurement to delivery, use, maintenance and final disposal of associate goods and services.
- **Environmental impact analyses** - act to avoid adverse environmental impacts of programming activities, and where this is not possible, take measures seeking to minimize, mitigate or remediate the adverse environmental impact to achieve the best possible environmental outcomes, whilst applying the precautionary principle.
- **Precautionary approach** - work towards ensuring that measures to mitigate and prevent potential negative environmental impacts are taken even when some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established.
- **Participatory and inclusive approach** - engage with and encourage the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making and planning for sustainable environmental and resources management.
- **Mitigation and adaptation as equal** - consider mitigation and adaptation to be equally important and equally needed, to comprehensively address the threat posed by climate change.
- **Adaptive management** - ecosystem-based and land management projects/programmes involve an iterative learning process, which helps to adapt methodologies and practices to the ways in which these systems are being managed and monitored. As such implementation of such programmes should be designed to adjust to variability, rather than designed solely based on historical norms or average conditions.

Strategy Support to Key Frameworks

The increasing global and regional awareness of environmental issues and their impact on societies and communities, has led to several agreements and frameworks with a strong focus on the protection of the environment. ADRA Norway's climate Strategy is firmly grounded upon the objectives and goals of the documents referenced below. The documents include but are not limited to:

GLOBAL

The 2015 Paris Agreement - which calls for various measures aimed to contain rising temperatures (mitigation) and to deal with the impacts of climate change (adaptation); The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 – which recognizes the definitive capacity of the environment to either increase vulnerability or resilience within communities; The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment⁴ – a framework of 16 principles on human rights and the environment that addresses the human right to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; And the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development - which is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change and its impacts. The SDGs that are specifically

⁴ [UN - Human Rights and the Environment](#)

relevant for this policy include SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate Action”, SDG 14 “Life below water”, and SDG 15 “Life on land”.

ADRA Norway is a signatory of the Climate Charter for Humanitarian Organisations⁵.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

Regional - Environmental Governance (REG) frameworks such as Environment Policy - European Union (EU)⁶; and Africa Climate Change Strategy - African Union (AU)⁷.

National - Norad⁸ and MFA⁹

⁵ [Climate Charter](#)

⁶ [EU Environmental Policy](#)

⁷ [Africa Climate Change Strategy](#)

⁸ [Norad Climate Action Plan for 2021-2030](#)

⁹ [MFA – Climate change, hunger and vulnerability](#)

ADRA NORWAY CLIMATE POLICY

Recognition

ADRA Norway recognizes that environmental degradation can arise from humanitarian and development efforts harming the very communities ADRA intends to help and undermining resilience outcomes. Being a major contributor to climate change, environmental degradation is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. Its effects are usually felt disproportionately by the most vulnerable people and communities resulting in an amplification of existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. ADRA Norway is committed to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty eradication, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

ADRA Norway recognizes its environmental footprint responsibility and commits itself to be environmentally responsible through continuous learning by improving its model of operation and compliance to our organization's obligations. This Climate Policy, therefore, sets out ADRA Norway's expectations in environmental compliance and sustainability for all its project activities, with an objective of promoting sustainable development through responsible environmental stewardship. This policy applies to ADRA Norway Board members, office employees and volunteers, and ADRA network partners.

Desired Goals

1. ADRA Norway desired result is to contribute to a positive environmental impact that minimizes compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. ADRA Norway will take active responsibility to integrate environmental degradation mitigation in all its programs and day-to-day operations and continuously evaluate and learn to achieve desired outcomes.
3. ADRA Norway will carry out environmental risk assessment and mainstream environmental considerations throughout the planning and implementation of ongoing and new programs.

Commitments to Policy Guidelines

ADRA Norway through all its network partners and CSOs is dedicated to ensuring the following commitments in all office premises and field programmes/projects. ADRA Norway is committed to achieving all the commitments below not only in its development settings but also in its emergency and humanitarian interventions.

4. Implement sustainable waste management (reviewing consumption patterns/avoiding, recycling).
5. Develop/adopt a tool for comparing the carbon footprint of different flight routes and map employee commuting emissions together with other relevant emission factors.
6. Apply efficient use of resources (water and energy) and adopt green procurement practices.
7. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Carbon footprints) in offices and projects.
8. Invest in women, girls, and persons with disability to tackle climate change.
9. Adhere to national and international environmental regulations.
10. Use global voice to advocate for climate justice.
11. Build resilient programming by mainstreaming environmental awareness and disaster risk prevention, mitigation, and preparedness throughout all aspects of education programmes.
12. Work with ministries of education and school communities to introduce climate and environmental adaptation topics into school curriculums.
13. Integrate environmental protection, smarter climate change mitigation and adaptation activities across the global portfolio of education, health and livelihoods, and emergency management.
14. Embrace the leadership of local actors, CSOs and communities in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

15. Drive corporate and individual accountability for personal environmental stewardship (through awareness, adjusted infrastructure, and action plans through a sensitive and step-by-step approach).
16. Where feasible, request for all current and future sub-recipients for their environmental policies and evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for sub-recipient selection. For current sub-recipients, there will be a reasonable transition period to draft such a policy if they don't have one, or to modify it to bring it up to acceptable standards if they are subpar.
17. Include relevant environmental clauses in all development and where feasible, in humanitarian project contracts.
18. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian and development sector as well as with the local structures and constituencies to strengthen climate and environmental action.
19. Develop targets and measure progress when implementing commitments.¹⁰

Limitations: It is important to note that the policy recognizes limitations of project implementation, specifically in responses to acute humanitarian emergencies. Life-saving measures will be always a priority during response. However, planning and consideration should be given to environmentally friendly and protective measures in the planning stage, as this directly contributes to reducing inequality and alleviating human suffering in the long term. The environment is fundamental to humanitarian action for two reasons. First, environmental issues are often underlying and contributing factors to humanitarian crises. Second, humanitarian crises can have negative effects on the environment and exacerbate risk, vulnerability, and inequality, if managed inadequately or addressed too late.

¹⁰ [Climate Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#)

Annex 1 - Definitions

Adaptive Learning Management: An approach to implementing the programme cycle that seeks to better achieve desired results through the systematic, iterative, and planned use of emergent knowledge and learning throughout implementation.

Climate Risk Screening (CRS): A proactive approach to considering short- and long-term climate and disaster risks in projects.

Do No Harm: A precautionary approach, that refers herein to avoid any unintended negative consequences of ADRA's interventions to the environment, that may further endanger affected persons or undermine communities' capacities for reconstruction.

Environment: The air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live.

Environmental Degradation: The deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as quality of air, water, and soil.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): A tool used to identify the environmental, social, and economic impacts of a project before decision-making. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.

Environmental Stewardship: The responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The six Kyoto Protocol classes of greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), per- fluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Life Cycle: Consecutive and interlinked stages of a product or service, from the raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources, design, production, transportation/ delivery, use, end-of-life treatment, and final disposal.

Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REA): A methodology for rapidly assessing and analyzing the environmental context of a particular crisis or disaster.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Steward: Someone who looks after something carefully and protects it.

Annex 2 - Practical Guidelines for Programs

To guide the practical application of ADRA Norway's commitments and principles in achieving the policy goal and objectives, the measures below are to be undertaken to be achieved through a process of progressive implementation, where capacity development and applied learning is highly encouraged.

Programmes/Project Activities

1. Integrate environmental aspects in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, as part of overall planning, quality assurance, and risk management, in line with the concept of 'build back better and greener'. As such, environmental screening and assessments shall form part of ADRA Norway's humanitarian and development programmes/projects as highlighted below.
2. Climate Risk Screening (CRS) shall be carried out for all development and emergency projects (except acute emergencies), in identifying potential climate change risks and vulnerabilities.
3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) shall be carried out on all development projects identified with a significant negative impact on the environment by the CRS analysis.
4. Rapid Environmental Impact Assessments shall be carried out in all emergency/relief response projects scheduled to take more than six months.
5. Address energy needs through sustainable energy solutions in development programmes/projects, emergency response, and recovery operations by replacing or supplementing fuels and energy sources that impact the environment negatively with clean energies.
6. Integrate emission offset activities in projects, where possible, to balance out residual emissions, that remained after implementation of the office Carbon Reduction Plan and that are emitted through the project activities itself (logistics, flights, hotels, procurements, etc.).
7. Ensure a gender and diversity-sensitive approach when identifying and addressing risks and opportunities, in understanding how social factors such as gender, age, ability, health status, social status, ethnicity, etc. shape the contextual vulnerabilities to the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change.
8. Promote programmes/projects that assist communities reliant on agriculture (livestock and/or crops), fisheries, forestry, and other natural resource-based livelihoods, to cope with shocks, stresses, and uncertainty. This will be achieved through the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions such as:
 - a. Sustainable regenerative agriculture and food systems. i.e., systems that will not only produce nutritious and safe foods but also build soil health, fertility, and water holding capacity (production resilience/adaptation) while creating carbon sinks (mitigation).
 - b. Conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of forest and other terrestrial ecosystems such as rangelands using native trees and grass species that could either be salt-tolerant and/or drought-resistant.
 - c. Conservation and restoration of freshwater resources as well as marine and ocean ecosystems (blue carbon sinks). Activities could include restoration/conservation/management of mangroves, protection of coral reefs, bamboo conservation on riverbanks, etc.
9. Build resilient programming by mainstreaming environmental awareness and disaster risk prevention, mitigation, and preparedness throughout all aspects of education programmes.

Annex 3 - Office Admin Operations

1. Promote staff awareness/exchange and trainings on environmental sustainability, to encourage individual and collective action.
2. Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions emanating from operations by developing a GHG emission reduction plan including regular measurement and monitoring of office emissions as well as the implementation of reduction activities.
3. Promote green procurement practices, by purchasing environmentally sustainable products that have been selected based on criteria such as toxicity, durability, use of recycled or refurbished materials, reduced energy and/or water consumption, reduced packaging, and ability to be recycled, refilled or refurbished at the end of its life-cycle.
4. Apply the 4Rs of waste management (Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle) to minimize waste.
5. Evaluate the energy efficiency of ADRA Norway premises and take steps toward its optimization.
6. While emissions from project logistics (land and air) and employees' commutes are the most common emissions, ADRA Norway shall ensure the following:
 - Business/Official travel
 - i. Air travel: Short-haul flights (30 mins – 2 hours) and short-term trips requiring air travel are replaced by low-emissions land travel such as trains, or digital presence/virtual meetings.
 - ii. Land travel: Employees trained/awareness on environmentally friendly driving tips and vehicle maintenance, procurement of low-emissions motor vehicles (motorcycles, cars, trucks, buses), carpooling, land travel minimized through joining trips and number of staffs, re-evaluating travel needs and where possible replacing it by digital presence.
7. Promote staff awareness and actions for the protection of the environment through engaging in various environmental activities.

Annex 4 - ADRA Norway's Carbon Footprint Update - 2023

ADRA Norway acknowledges the connection between climate change and environmental related crises which increase the threat to future homelessness, disease, food insecurity and water shortages. Environmental management is a concern for ADRA because it directly impacts the well-being of individuals and communities and is relevant in all phases of our work. Therefore, ADRA, as a Non-profit, Faith-based organization, recognizes its responsibility to reduce its carbon footprints, and formally commits itself to be environmentally responsible. ADRA is committed to protecting natural resources, promoting environmental stewardship, and implementing sustainable practices through several actions.

What have we done so far?

1. We are inspiring our staff to adopt a lifestyle of “thinking and acting environment friendly”.
2. We work actively to reduce our carbon footprint, not by purchasing carbon offsets, but by reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).
3. ADRA's leadership is heavily involved in the design and application of this carbon reduction plan.
4. We started the process of being certified under *ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System)*.
5. We created the *ADRA Norway Climate Strategy and Policy*.
6. We signed *The Climate and Environmental Charter for Humanitarian Organizations*.
7. We have adopted the *Humanitarian Carbon Calculator (HCC)* as a tool for measuring our carbon footprint.
8. We adopted the *ADRA Carbon Reduction Guide*.
9. We developed a tool for comparing the carbon footprint of different flight routes.
10. We mapped our use of electricity and our business travel (kilometre and carbon emission for the ADRA Norway office) from 2019 and have started mapping employee commuting emissions from 2023 together with other relevant emission factors.