



ICVA VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

25 & 26 MAY 2021

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND
HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

HOW CAN NGOs MITIGATE AND ADAPT?

#ICVAconference2021

Session 2: World Café INITIATIVES & KEY TAKE-AWAYS

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1. The Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organisations: From words to action

Organisations: ICRC, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, The Climate Action Accelerator

The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

Website: <https://www.climate-charter.org>

Overview: The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations was developed for humanitarian organisations by humanitarian organisations. It intends to galvanise and steer collective action in response to the dramatic impacts of the climate and environmental crises for those who will feel the impacts the most. The [Charter](#) provides useful tools, resources and [guidance](#) to support organisations in implementing their commitments. You can also see the [signatory list](#). For questions, contact: climatecharter@ifrc.org and climatecharter@icrc.org

The Climate Centre

Website: <https://www.climatecentre.org>

Overview: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre works at the intersection of science, policy, and practice to help the Movement and its partners reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme-weather events on vulnerable people. It provides strategically important knowledge and advice on climate-smart practice throughout the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and beyond.

The Climate Action Accelerator

Website: <https://climateactionaccelerator.org>

Overview: The Climate Action Accelerator aims to mobilise a critical mass of aid organisations in order to scale up sustainable climate solutions, contribute to containing global warming below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous runaway climate change. It will help these organisations at least halve their own GHG emissions every decade from now on, become champions within their own ecosystems and deliver valuable transformational change through an open-source community of practice.

♦ **ACTION!**
Join this collective effort and sign the Charter!

♦ **ACTION!**
Engage with us, use our tools to strengthen climate literacy and climate-smart programming

♦ **ACTION!**
Contact us to learn more about this new initiative, become a partner and join efforts!



2. The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

Organisation: UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

Overview: The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) is an environmental screening tool that allows humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern. It is principally used when designing or adjusting longer-term emergency or recovery interventions to ensure that adverse effects to the environment are mitigated and climate risks are considered. The NEAT+ not only provides insights on how to mitigate current and future risks but can also be used for triggering interest in environmental issues for advocacy and fundraising. Join the discussion to [learn more](#) about how to access and start using the NEAT+.



3. Creating communication that works: Humanitarians and the climate crisis

Organisation: Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG)

Creating communication that works: Humanitarians and the climate crisis

Website: <https://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/>

Overview: This session explored issues faced by humanitarian agencies when communicating about the climate crisis and how to overcome them. This session builds on the “*Creating Communication that Works: Humanitarians and the Climate Crisis*” report by Humanitarian Advisory Group. It looks at how humanitarian stakeholders can apply behavioural science principles in order to communicate about climate change effectively and with impact.

More information can be found on [HAG website](#). Please reach out to Jess Lees jlees@hag.org.au and let us know if you would like to a) discuss the implications of the paper for your organisation further, or b) you apply upon the principles for your communications.

◆ **ACTION!**
Contact HAG to learn more about this initiative and how to apply the principles



4. Life cycle analysis as a tool in greening humanitarian assistance

Organisations: BRE Trust, Shelter Cluster Community of Practice

Life cycle analysis as a tool in greening humanitarian

Website: <https://www.bretrust.org.uk/knowledgehub/lca-for-the-humanitarian-sector/>

Overview: BRE, the Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice and WWF/US have been working on a lifecycle analysis (LCA) tool for use in decision making on shelter and related humanitarian assistance. The output of the tool is provided in CO2 equivalents, which allows users to compare different shelter options as input into decision making. Operationally, the LCA tool also provides data for the low carbon indicator associated with Sphere Shelter Standard 7. The tool has several near-term benefits:

1. Helps NGOs document results in terms of the Sphere Shelter Standard 7 indicator on “low carbon” construction
2. Allows field, headquarters, and funder staff to assess the CO2 equivalents of different shelter options.
3. Provides a standard way to calculating CO2 equivalents for reporting purposes (e.g., for progress in implementing a carbon neutral policy).
4. Initiates a process where other factors besides direct-cost-per-person-sheltered are brought into shelter and settlements planning and decision making.

More information can be found on the [BREtrust](#) and [Global Shelter Cluster](#) websites. Or contact Geoge Foden, at George.foden@bregroup.com.

◆ **ACTION!**
For any NGOs who are interested in measuring their carbon footprint, contact us to test the tool.



5. Enhancing the evidence base on planned relocation as a strategy for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Organisation: Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW - members of the Advisory Committee of the Platform of Disaster Displacement

Planned relocation: a strategy for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Website: <https://disasterdisplacement.org/leaving-place-restoring-home-enhancing-the-evidence-base-on-planned-relocation-cases-in-the-context-of-hazards-disasters-and-climate-change-2>

Overview: What is planned relocation? Why is it gaining in prominence as a strategy for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction? How can NGOs and other stakeholders better support communities affected by planned relocation? This World Cafe session presents evidence from a recent study, Leaving Place, Restoring Home, published in March 2021 by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales. This session offers participants an opportunity to understand a baseline of knowledge on planned relocation cases associated with disasters and climate change. Through discussion of implications, the session generates insights about the relocation design decisions relevant to promoting resilience, rights and dignity of affected persons in practice. Contact us at: info@disasterdisplacement.org

◆ **ACTION!**
Please share any feedback and any additional research on cases of planned relocation



6. Community strengthening through anticipatory action: The Anticipation Hub and humanitarian mapping

Organisations: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT), Anticipation Hub, German Red Cross

Community strengthening through anticipatory action: The Anticipation Hub and humanitarian mapping

Overview: Did you know that the ‘world map’ is currently [missing a billion people](#)? Without an understanding of where people live, it limits our capacity to proactively anticipate risks and strengthen climate resilience. Anticipatory action has shifted the humanitarian system from responding to disasters to acting ahead of them. Data [Map](#) is a key element for understanding impacts of hazards and developing plans that enable anticipatory action. For example, in a new anticipatory action initiative in Sudan, map data is crucial for identifying and prioritizing high risk areas. It helps to generate an accurate understanding of the area, where the buildings are, what they are made of, combined with additional data such as the effects from historic conflicts.

Our World Cafe session covers (i) how communities and organisations can request, create and use map data in their work and (ii) how to use the [Anticipation Hub](#) for continued knowledge exchange and learning with a community of practitioners, scientists and policy makers working on anticipatory action. For more information, contact: anticipation-hub@drk.de and partnerships@hotosm.org

7. Thinking Beyond Response: Tearfund’s approach to environmental and economic sustainability in humanitarian work

Organisation: Tearfund

Thinking Beyond Response: Tearfund’s approach to environmental and economic sustainability in humanitarian work

Website: <https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/tools-and-guides/thinking-beyond-response>

Overview: Since 2017, Environmental and Economic Sustainability (EES) has been one of Tearfund's three corporate priorities. We recognise that climate change, the environment and people’s livelihoods are closely connected. We have seen how environmental degradation, conflict and climate-related shocks and stresses increase food insecurity and hunger, displacement, and competition over natural resources, and threaten progress with development. Our response is to promote Environmental and Economic Sustainability (EES) in every area of our work including humanitarian preparedness, risk reduction and response. EES is about working towards a world where extreme inequality is reduced and where everyone can meet their basic needs – and flourish – within their environmental limit.

This breakout session outlines the concept of EES, introduces the Tearfund EES guides and demonstrate how these concepts and tools have been applied in humanitarian settings.

There are two Tearfund EES guides that are recommended to read:

- ◆ [Thinking Beyond Response: Applying environmental and economic sustainability principles in humanitarian interventions](#)
- ◆ [Building a Sustainable Future: Environmental and economic sustainability: a practical guide](#)

◆ **ACTION!**
Read Tearfund’s guides on EES. Tearfund welcomes feedback, field testing of the tools, and other research or studies





8. Medair early warning system and DRR in Madagascar

Organisation: Medair

Medair early warning system and DRR in Madagascar

Website: <https://www.medair.org/what-we-do/madagascar/>

Overview: Since 2018, [Medair Madagascar](#) has been running a pilot programme to develop a digital early warning system EWS930, in collaboration with the government authorities and private sector partners. The EWS930 uses satellite imagery, lighting sensors, and flood-risk mapping of the local river systems to project how fast a river can flood its banks. When there are potentially devastating weather events, the communities will receive alerts in advance so that they have enough time to react. This initiative not only seeks to prepare the population to provide a timely response to an adverse event, but also to make them understand the link between climate change and the frequency and intensity of disasters, so that they can mitigate its effects. Building on the past years of experience, Medair will expand its partnership with more actors including humanitarian and development agencies in the country and scale up the project. More details of the project can be [found in this article](#).



9. Pathways to resilience: integrating resilience and climate adaptation to bridge humanitarian and development agendas

Organisation: Plan International

Pathways to resilience: integrating resilience and climate adaptation to bridge humanitarian and development agendas

Website: <https://plan-international.org/publications/pathways-resilience>

Overview: Plan International has developed a new framework, Pathways to Resilience, which supports all offices across Plan International, and our partners, in our efforts to strengthen the resilience of children, adolescents and youths through projects, programmes and country strategies, bridging humanitarian and development agendas.

We will start rolling out the framework globally during 2021, applying it in different country contexts and risk landscapes, and aligning with ongoing programming.

Partnerships at local, national and global level will be central to our approach to strengthening resilience. If you are interested to discuss further and share experience please reach out to us at Brigitte.rudram@plan-international.org

◆ **ACTION!**
If you are interested in discussing further or want to share experience, please reach out to us



10. How to address climate change and environmental degradation in EU's humanitarian action: what the new communication says

Organisation: DG ECHO

How to address climate change and environmental degradation in EU's humanitarian action: what the new communication says

Website: <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/hacommunication2021.pdf>

Overview: This session presents the recent Commission Communication on the EU's humanitarian action, in particular focusing on practical implementation of disaster preparedness policy, and how climate and environmental considerations are being addressed by DG ECHO. The session will also discuss some of the challenges of addressing climate and environmental challenges in humanitarian aid operations.