



DANISH RED CROSS CLIMATE POLICY 2024-2025



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Introduction

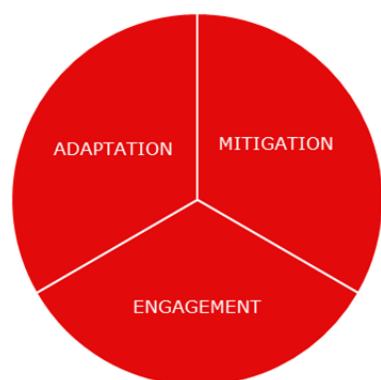
Danish Red Cross sees the climate crisis as the greatest humanitarian threat that the world faces. Climate changes make the weather more unpredictable with more and severe floods, hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. It is often people who are already vulnerable who are hit hardest.

In Danish Red Cross' international work, we meet people every day who are affected by the climate crisis, and over the years, we have developed methods to help these people to the best of our abilities. Taking the extent of the crisis into consideration, it is no longer enough to focus on the humanitarian consequences, we must also reduce our own carbon footprint and thus contribute to slowing down the climate changes.

In that way it is a paradox that the carbon footprint from humanitarian efforts can harm the people, whom the efforts are intended to help. Therefore, Danish Red Cross is committed - in accordance with the principle of 'do no harm' - to minimise the damage we cause to the climate and the environment, while ensuring that we can still provide rapid and effective humanitarian aid.

Purpose

Danish Red Cross is a responsible organisation, and we take responsibility for our impact on the climate, the environment, and on the society as a whole. The goal with the climate policy is to promote sustainable development within three focus areas in the climate field: Adaptation, mitigation, and engagement.



Climate Adaptation – we help people and communities affected by the climate crisis.

Mitigation – we reduce our own CO2 emissions to contribute to slowing down climate changes.

Engagement – we mobilise efforts and people in increased climate action.

Specifically, the policy sets direction for Danish Red Cross' climate-related efforts in 2024-2025, where we develop a foundation for longer-term climate efforts.

The climate policy is guiding Danish Red Cross' employees and volunteers in their daily work, and it addresses the demands and expectations we encounter from our stakeholders and other relevant partners.

Danish Red Cross reports externally on the climate policy including climate goals in connection with the annual report, and internally to the main board every six months.

The climate policy will be revised next by the end of 2025.

Climate Adaptation

Internationally

Danish Red Cross works to minimise the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis. Together with the international Red Cross Movement and other partners, we work to increasingly put the communities and local actors in the centre when building resilience and local capacity to lessen humanitarian impacts of the climate disaster.

Together with our partners, we invest in climate adaptation, disaster prevention, preparedness, and relief for particularly climate-vulnerable and fragile communities, so that we can protect and reduce the number of people who need humanitarian aid as a result of the global climate crisis. Here, early warning systems that can alert about weather-related disasters and new financing mechanisms that release funds before the disaster strikes play a significant role.

Danish Red Cross international climate adaptation efforts are anchored in the International Strategy 'Ready to Act 2022-2025' and are implemented through our cooperation with national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies and in strategic partnerships with for example Danida, ECHO, and other donors.

Nationally

Though everyone feels the climate crisis, Denmark is not hit as hard in comparison with so many other countries. For example, we have not yet seen amounts of water and wildfires to the same extent as European countries south of us. However, more floods are expected as the water level rises. And in addition, authorities anticipate that the climate crisis will especially hit Denmark in the form of extreme weather events like heatwaves, which can be dangerous for the elderly and vulnerable people. Danish Red Cross is ready to act at a local and national level, both on its own initiative and as part of the emergency services.

Danish Red Cross' national climate adaptation efforts are anchored in the upcoming national strategy, where the focus will be, among other things, on building psychosocial competencies and organising volunteers who can also respond to preparedness situations, including weather and climate-related events.

CLIMATE GOAL 2024-2025 | ADAPTATION

GOAL

Danish Red Cross is ready to respond to climate disasters, and by the end of 2025, all country programs have developed or are in the process of developing climate and environmental risk assessments.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

It is a strategic focus for Danish Red Cross to not only to respond to climate disasters, but also to act before a climate disaster, by doing so, fewer people will suffer from the increasing number of crises in the world. We increase the humanitarian effort for people affected by the climate crisis within four approaches: Response, preparation, anticipation, and adaptation.

In Denmark, we will mobilise new and existing volunteers in our national preparedness efforts, both through 'Røde Kors Parat' and in our preparedness structure. We will strengthen Danish Red Cross' psychosocial competencies, both nationally and locally.

Mitigation

As a humanitarian aid organisation, Danish Red Cross is a daily witness to how the climate crisis affects the most vulnerable people in the world and threatens humanity's survival. Everyone has a responsibility to act on this. In Danish Red Cross, we take responsibility for the impact our activities can have on the climate and the environment, and we will calculate the organisation's carbon footprint in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GhG Protocol) with the aim of setting reduction goals.

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol is the most recognised emission calculation method used by companies, organisations, and authorities worldwide, which makes it a comparable standard. According to the method, companies should divide their emissions into three areas. Scope 1) covers direct emissions from the company, Scope 2) covers indirect emissions from the purchase of energy, Scope 3) includes indirect emissions divided into 15 categories. Scope 3 will most often cover 75-95 percent of a company's total emissions.

In Danish Red Cross, we have since 2019 calculated our carbon footprint primarily for scope 1 and 2, and we are in the process of collecting and qualifying data from as many of the 15 categories in scope 3 as possible. This will give us a baseline to set reduction goals from.

It is fundamental for Danish Red Cross to act responsibly, and this also applies in relation to the climate and environment. It should be part of our mindset, both in the association, at the national office, and in our international programs, that we always consider the sustainable option when we need to transport ourselves or make purchases. With a travel policy and purchasing policy, employees and volunteers at Danish Red Cross will find guidance to make these choices in everyday life.

Volunteers and employees will at the same time be inspired to broaden their mindset through knowledge and information about for example energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and waste management.

CLIMATE GOAL 2024-2025 | MITIGATION

GOAL

Danish Red Cross creates a foundation for calculating the organisation's carbon footprint and sets reduction goals for our greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

In 2024, Danish Red Cross develops and implements a green purchasing policy that guides employees in connection with purchases for Danish Red Cross's aid work and operations.

In 2024, Danish Red Cross develops and implements a green travel policy that guides both employees and volunteers in connection with business travels and other transport under the auspices of Red Cross.

At the same time, Red Cross establishes cross-cutting procedures and processes for data collection and qualification of data for the organisation's carbon footprint.

Danish Red Cross inspires a greener everyday life by spreading knowledge in the organisation about good choices to make in daily life, including about resource and energy consumption.

Engagement

Danish Red Cross can strengthen our climate efforts by engaging national and international stakeholders in climate action. It is our ambition with the Red Cross manifesto to engage more to be able to help more. This also applies to this area, where both our political advocacy work, fundraising, and sale of second-hand goods can help people affected by the climate crisis or contribute to minimise the crisis. In this way, the strategic focus area 'Engagement' supports the other two focus areas.

Sale of second-hand goods

An important way in which we engage and mobilise efforts in climate action is through Red Cross Second-Hand. In addition, we engage tens of thousands of people through Red Cross stores, either as volunteers, as customers, or as donors. This engagement secures financial resources for the aid work, and at the same time, the world is spared from tons of greenhouse gases when customers buy used goods instead of new.

Since 2020, Danish Red Cross has measured the climate impact of our recycling efforts. The climate impact is the savings in greenhouse gas emissions achieved when second-hand goods are bought instead of new products. Danish Red Cross can improve the climate impact by selling a larger quantity of recycled goods and/or by reducing emissions from our recycling efforts, for example in connection with the transportation of clothes and the operation of stores and recycling stations. Some years have passed since we last looked at the data basis for calculating the climate effect, and with developments in donations and sales, it is time to revisit the basis to set growth targets for the climate effect.

The work with recycling in Danish Red Cross is anchored in the recycling strategy.

Political advocacy work

Besides our second-hand stores, Danish Red Cross is also an advocate for political recycling agendas. In general, political advocacy work is an important tool in Danish Red Cross' climate efforts. We work, among other things, for a greater national and international focus on climate adaptation in political agreements, efforts, and allocation of funds. We work for Denmark as a country to influence international political agreements, to prioritise fragile and conflict-affected countries, and to put local actors and communities at the centre of decision-making, as well as to minimise loss and damage in the most climate-vulnerable countries. This also applies to the decision at COP27 in December 2022 to establish an international Loss and Damage Fund to support people and places that are experiencing climate-related losses and damages. Danish Red Cross also works to influence Denmark to become more risk-taking and to support new ways of financing the work to minimise the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis, such as insurance mechanisms that can release funding before a climate disaster for better adaptation.

Danish Red Cross' advocacy work in the international arena is anchored in the International Strategy 'Ready to Act 2022-2025'. Key issues in both the international and national areas are prioritised in a political advocacy plan that is continuously revised.

Collaborations and campaigns

The sale of second-hand goods and the political advocacy work are two major engagement efforts. Danish Red Cross also engages a wide range of companies and individuals in climate action in several other ways. This can be through collaboration with private companies, universities, and foundations on, for example, handling medical waste, assessing the lifespan of aid, and sustainable supply chains, etc.

Danish Red Cross also engages individuals through campaigns such as 'Et år med genbrug', where several people take up the challenge and exclusively buy recycled goods through a year and inspire others to do the same. Danish Red Cross also produces educational material that makes the country's school students more knowledgeable about the major disasters happening in the world and the nearby disasters that can affect children in Denmark.

CLIMATE GOAL 2024-2025 | ENGAGEMENT

GOAL

Danish Red Cross engages more people in buying second-hand instead of new, and in 2024-2025 we will update the foundation to be able to work purposefully to increase the climate effect of recycling.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Danish Red Cross calculates the climate impact of recycling each year and uses the result to engage volunteers and customers in climate action. Danish Red Cross volunteers contribute to the effect by running the stores and increasing sales. Customers contribute financially to Danish Red Cross' aid work, and they save the world from emitting a lot of CO₂e when they buy second-hand goods instead of new. The basis for the calculation is updated with the aim of setting forward-looking goals for an increased climate effect.

To create sustainable changes for people living in fragile contexts, Danish Red Cross will mobilise players in Denmark and internationally and increase our systematic cooperation with, among others, the Red Cross Movement, politicians, authorities, companies, universities, and donors to promote political changes in Denmark, the EU, and globally.

BACKGROUND

Danish Red Cross' climate commitments

As initially described, Danish Red Cross is a responsible organisation, and we take responsibility for our impact on the climate and on the society as a whole. As an organisation, we are not subject to legislation in the field of climate but view the Paris Agreement and Red Cross Movement's policies as guiding.

In another way than legislatively, we have committed ourselves to act in the area and to report on our action. In the following sections, our commitments in the field of climate are described.

Commitments concerning 'The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations'

IFRC and ICRC have been the driving organisations behind the development of a climate charter for the humanitarian world: 'The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations'. Danish Red Cross has signed the charter, which consists of seven commitments. As a signatory, one commits to working purposefully to comply with these commitments.

Danish Red Cross works with all the areas that the charter describes, and we have chosen to set specific goals, which we follow up on annually, for three of the seven commitments. The three specific goals are also the goals that constitute the objective of this climate policy, and in this way, we comply with the obligation of the humanitarian climate charter through the climate policy.

The three commitments (1, 2, and 6) and the goals of Red Cross are:

As local, national, and international humanitarian organisations we commit ourselves:

1. *To increase our efforts to meet the rising humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the consequences of climate and environmental crises'.*

(Goal: Danish Red Cross is ready to respond to climate disasters, and by the end of 2025, all country programs have developed or are in the process of developing climate and environmental risk assessments.)

2. *To strengthen the environmental sustainability of our work and quickly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.*

(Goal: Danish Red Cross creates a foundation for calculating the organisation's carbon footprint and sets reduction goals for our greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.)

6. *To use our influence to mobilise more and ambitious climate action and environmental protection.*

(Goal: Danish Red Cross engages more people to buy second-hand instead of new, and in 2024-2025 we will update the foundation to be able to work purposefully to increase the climate effect of recycling.)

Commitments concerning Danida

Danish Red Cross has entered a strategic partnership with Danida for the period 2022-2025, and in this context, we have committed to annually report on how we integrate climate, nature, and biodiversity considerations across our programs. In addition to this narrative part, we are also committed to a more technical reporting. The reporting occurs in the formal procedures around the partnership.

In the reporting to Danida in 2022, we wrote, among other things, that Danish Red Cross will develop a climate and environmental policy in 2023, incorporate methods to reduce the organisation's overall climate impact, and strengthen employees' ability to handle climate and environmental issues.

This climate policy and the supporting efforts that are implemented in connection with the objective of the climate policy help to address these requirements.

Commitments concerning the European Union – humanitarian fund (ECHO)

ECHO, the European Union's humanitarian fund, has formulated six cross-cutting minimum environmental requirements that apply to all projects supported by the fund, as well as a number of sector-specific environmental requirements. First and foremost, all projects must systematically integrate long-term considerations of how they affect the environment to avoid the negative environmental impacts that can occur in connection with temporary solutions in acute disasters.

Next, potential harm to the environment should always be managed as a risk that needs to be minimised. The local population must be involved in the decisions from start to finish, and their knowledge of the local ecosystem must be used, and attention must be paid to the priorities and needs of different groups.

It is also a requirement that projects must promote sustainable management of waste and chemicals. In addition, we must be green when we make purchases, for example by buying locally when we can, and finally, there is a requirement that we, when possible, distribute money instead of relief items that are bought abroad and transported far.

Danish Red Cross is required to meet these demands from 2024, and we are in the process of incorporating the requirements into our efforts.

Commitments concerning Core Humanitarian Standards

In Danish Red Cross, we have committed ourselves to follow the Core Humanitarian Standards in our international work. We are annually audited on 62 areas of accountability, including how we protect the environment. The audit looks at whether we have policies and processes in place in connection with using resources in an environmentally friendly manner, and whether we consider the impact our international projects have on the local environment. In 2022, the audit showed that we have a weakness in terms of securing the environment, as we do not systematically ensure the use of local and natural resources, and what effect they have on the environment.

We have an ambition to do this better, and this policy is an important step in that direction. We have policies and processes in place, and in all projects, we make efforts that are environmentally friendly, for example, concerning waste, CO2 emissions, and predominantly buying locally, so we avoid transportation and at the same time support the local market.