

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) South and South-East Asia

Climate and Environment Charter Target

Introduction

The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are intensifying humanitarian needs, disproportionately affecting the most at-risk communities including people with disabilities. As an organisation committed to inclusive humanitarian action, climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable socio-economic development, ASB South and South-East Asia (ASB S-SEA) recognises its responsibility to integrate environmental sustainability across all aspects of its work.

By adopting the Climate Charter, ASB S-SEA commits to strengthening its climate action efforts through meaningful partnerships, sustainable operations, and evidence-based programming. This document outlines our targets and actions to advance environmental protection and climate resilience by 2027, ensuring that we contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all.

This Climate Charter Target is effective from 24 February 2025 and will be reviewed annually to assess progress, integrate new developments, and ensure continued alignment with best practices and evolving environmental challenges.

Commitment 1: Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises

Target:

By 2027, all ASB programs, whether implemented independently or in partnership with local organisations, will systematically mainstream and address climate and environmental risks. This will be evidenced through the clear integration of climate-responsive actions across program cycles, from assessment to implementation and evaluation, to enhance resilience in affected communities.

Actions:

1. Assessment of climate and environmental risks

ASB will integrate comprehensive climate and environmental risk assessments, covering both immediate and long-term risks, into the baseline studies for each new program. These assessments will be reviewed and updated throughout program implementation and evaluated comprehensively at the program's conclusion to ensure climate-adaptive outcomes are met.

- Starting in 2025, ASB will ensure all new proposals incorporate climate and environmental risk assessment into the project activities and budget.
 - Starting in 2025, ASB will provide training on climate and environmental risk assessment as part of the induction/kick-off workshop for new partners.
 - Starting in 2026, ASB will ensure new partners/projects implement climate and environmental risk assessment in their projects.
2. **Starting in 2025, ASB will implement programs with integrated risk and inclusive adaptation measures**
- ASB will integrate climate, environmental, and disaster risk assessments directly into program activities at both the project and community levels, ensuring that these assessments guide adaptive management practices.
 - ASB will implement climate adaptation strategies and anticipatory actions rooted in local knowledge, emphasising the meaningful participation and prioritisation of people with disabilities and other at-risk groups in all decision-making processes.

Commitment 2: Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Target:

By 2027, ASB will integrate sustainability principles across all procurement, logistics, program activities, and workplace operations.

Actions:

1. Selective partnerships

Prioritize collaboration with organizations and companies that actively support environmental sustainability, avoiding partnerships with those that do not align with ASB's sustainability commitments.

- **Revision of partner assessment template:** In 2025, develop criteria/checklist to assess potential partners, including their environmental policies and alignment with our sustainability commitments. In 2026, conduct partner assessment using the revised template and evaluate the results/make improvements as needed.
- **Drafting of Partnership Guidelines:** In 2025, include ASB's expectations for environmental sustainability in the drafting of Partnership Guidelines.

2. Resource efficiency

Minimise excess consumption of energy, water, and materials, such as electricity, water, and paper, across daily office practices and program activities. Implement resource-saving measures to ensure efficient and responsible use.

- **Establish baseline:** In 2025, assign the Office Assistant to document electricity, water, and paper consumption monthly to establish baseline data for resource usage. In 2026, use the 2025 data to identify key areas of waste in electricity,

water, and paper consumption. Based on this analysis, develop realistic metrics for improvement.

- **Awareness raising:** In 2025, organise one workshop or training session for employees focused on the “Greening the Office” guide, highlighting simple ways to reduce resource consumption.

3. **Waste management and the 3Rs**

Starting 2025, implement a waste management system that follows the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle (3R) and partner with community groups or social entrepreneurship that manage waste.

- **Set Up Waste Segregation:** In 2025, all office areas will have labelled bins for recyclables, compostable waste, and non-recyclables.
- **Biopores:** In 2025, biopores will be installed in the office yard. Conduct a maintenance day every two months.

4. **Exploration of renewable energy sources**

In 2027, conduct assessments to explore eco-friendly energy sources as alternatives for office operations, such as adopting solar panels or other renewable energy technologies.

5. **Staff training, onboarding, and capacity strengthening.**

- Starting in 2025, integrate the Climate Charter and its targets into ASB’s onboarding program for all new staff, ensuring that every team member understands and commits to ASB’s environmental goals from the start.
- Starting in 2025, Use the annual National Team Meeting as a platform to review and assess ASB’s progress towards meeting its sustainability targets and actions, openly discussing successes, challenges, and areas for improvement.
- In 2026 organize refresher training sessions or targeted workshops to strengthen staff skills and knowledge, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with ASB’s environmental commitments.

6. **Regular monitoring of energy use**

Starting in 2025, routine measurement and monitoring of energy consumption across office operations will be established to track and reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time (see Action 2 point 1).

7. **Research on digital financial systems**

Starting in 2025, map and review other organisations’ digital financial management and document storage practices, sharing insights and recommendations with ASB Headquarters to explore sustainable alternatives for financial document storage.

8. **Annual family gathering for climate awareness**

Starting in 2025, ASB’s annual family gathering event will be used as an opportunity to promote our targets and commitments to staff’s family members. Introduce practical actions, such as waste sorting, waste management, and reducing plastic use, to encourage sustainable practices among families and reinforce the importance of everyday environmental stewardship.

9. **Early screening and identification of environmental risks in emergencies.**

Starting in 2025, ensure early screening, identification, and rapid assessment of environmental risks in emergency response scenarios using context-appropriate tools

(e.g., NEAT+). Tool selection will be based on local environmental standards and needs, tailored to each ASB-supported country's context, and adapted as necessary to align with local frameworks.

Commitment 3: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

Target:

By 2027, ASB's local partners will have a strengthened capacity to apply [ASB's "5 Inclusion Musts"](#) in all climate and environmental initiatives, enabling communities to lead in inclusive climate action.

Actions to be taken starting from 2025:

- 1. Capacity strengthening for local partners on the "5 Inclusion Musts" in climate and environmental programs.**
Develop and deliver targeted capacity-strengthening sessions for local partners on ASB's "5 Inclusion Musts," ensuring they have the knowledge, tools, and frameworks to embed inclusive principles in climate and environmental programs. This includes training on inclusive planning, local leadership, and accountability to communities.
- 2. Establish peer learning networks among partners and community groups**
Facilitate the peer learning platforms where ASB's local partners and community representatives can share best practices, challenges, and innovations in applying the "5 Inclusion Musts" to climate action. These will support continuous learning and collaboration on inclusive, community-driven solutions.
- 3. Empower local partners to advocate for inclusive climate action**
Equip local partners, including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, with the resources and training needed to advocate for inclusive climate policies and actions at regional and national levels. This will enable partners to amplify community-led climate initiatives within broader policy discussions, strengthening support for inclusive, local leadership in climate resilience efforts.

Commitment 4: Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions

Target:

By 2027, all ASB staff and partners will have received training on integrating climate and environmental risk management into programs, equipping them with the skills to develop evidence-based, sustainable solutions.

Actions:

1. **In-house training on environmental policies and guidelines**
Starting in 2025, conduct in-house training sessions for all ASB staff and partners, covering ASB's environmental policies and practical guidelines for eco-friendly operations and community program activities. These trainings will build foundational skills for environmentally responsible practices across all ASB activities.
2. **Training on early environmental screening and risk identification**
Starting in 2026, train ASB staff and partners on early environmental screening and risk identification methods using agreed-upon tools such as NEAT+. This training will ensure programs proactively align with climate and environmental risk management standards.
3. **Workshops on Climate Charter and partner action planning**
 - In 2025, during ASB's Annual Sharing and Learning (S&L) event with partners, sessions will be conducted to help partners understand the core principles of the Climate Charter and guide them in developing their own action plans through reflection spaces and collaborative discussions. This support will empower partners to build context-specific climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
 - In 2026, provide technical assistance to partners as the next step following awareness-raising efforts, supporting them in implementing their Climate Charter action plans.
4. **Knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices**
Starting from 2025, facilitate regular knowledge-sharing sessions where partners can present successful climate adaptation and mitigation practices. These sessions will be documented and shared with ASB staff and other partners to promote cross-learning and the replication of practical, evidence-based approaches.

Commitment 5: Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action

Target:

By 2027, ASB will engage in collaborative initiatives with multi-sectoral stakeholders to share knowledge and evidence of practice on implementing climate and environmental actions within the humanitarian sector.

Action:

Knowledge-sharing workshops with other signatories of the Climate Charter in program countries

In 2026, organise workshops for other NGOs that have signed the Climate Charter, focusing on sharing learnings, challenges, and best practices for integrating climate and environmental actions into humanitarian activities. These workshops will foster cross-organizational learning and promote consistent climate action standards across the sector.

Commitment 6: Use our influence to mobilise urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection

Targets:

1. By 2027, ASB will identify and align with relevant international, regional, and national frameworks and standards that promote environmental protection in the sectors we work in—Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate action, humanitarian response, and socio-economic development. These will serve as a basis for identifying gaps and ensuring compliance.
2. By 2027, ASB will engage in ongoing dialogue and collaboration with government entities and local partners to strengthen the implementation of laws, policies, and access to climate and disaster funding, prioritising actions that benefit the most at-risk groups.

Actions:

1. Mapping and alignment of local, regional and International Standards

- In 2025, conduct a thorough mapping of relevant environmental protection frameworks and standards across DRR, climate action, humanitarian response, and socio-economic development at local, national, regional, and international levels.
- In 2026, use the mapping to identify gaps, inform advocacy efforts, and ensure ASB's programs align with recognised environmental protection and humanitarian standards.

2. Capacity strengthening on environmental protection and sector-specific standards

In 2026, targeted training will be delivered to ASB's local partners on international and national environmental protection frameworks relevant to ASB's focus sectors. These sessions will provide practical guidance on integrating these standards into local operations, ensuring that partners are equipped to safeguard the environment.

3. Community campaigns on Environmental Standards

- In collaboration with local partners, conduct public awareness campaigns to educate communities on international and national environmental protection standards within DRR, climate action, and socio-economic development.
- In 2025, integrate the campaign with the DRR Month.
- In 2026, and 2027, organise additional events and campaigns as opportunities arise.

4. Advocacy support for local climate action

Starting from 2025, support local partners in advocating for climate action by engaging with government agencies in ASB's operational regions. This support includes providing resources and training to help partners effectively advocate for policies, funding, and legislation that prioritize at-risk groups and strengthen community resilience to climate risks.

5. Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues

Starting from 2025, organize forums and meetings that bring together local partners, government representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss climate resilience priorities. These dialogues will focus on mobilizing funding, improving disaster preparedness policies, and advancing legal protections that serve at-risk communities.

Our Commitment to Action

ASB S-SEA believes that addressing climate change and environmental sustainability is not only an operational necessity but also a moral imperative. Through the commitments outlined in this Climate Charter target, we will work alongside partners, communities, and stakeholders to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

We acknowledge that achieving these goals requires continuous learning, adaptation, and collaboration. ASB S-SEA is dedicated to transparently tracking progress, sharing lessons learned, and refining our approaches to ensure lasting impact. We invite our partners and stakeholders to join us in this journey toward a more inclusive and climate-resilient world.