

Action Against Hunger UK's Commitments to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

INTRODUCTION

Climate change affects millions of people worldwide, deteriorates the humanitarian situation and multiplies the needs of vulnerable communities. It alters the earth's temperatures and weather patterns, leading to global warming and increased frequency, scale and duration of extreme weather events. Climate change negatively affects food and water availability and exacerbates socioeconomic risks and vulnerabilities.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are leading drivers of rising hunger and malnutrition globally. The impacts of climate change including sea level rise, soil erosion, droughts, floods and other extreme weather events around the world disproportionately impact those with the least ability to cope and who have done the least to contribute to global emissions, habitat destruction and the underlying drivers. As such, Action Against Hunger UK is committed to ensuring that it is doing its utmost to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and work with communities to build resilience and adapt to the changing climate.

As a signatory of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations¹, Action Against Hunger UK is committed to minimising our impacts on climate and the environment through our activities, reducing environmental risk, and promoting low carbon, nature-based, and gender transformative solutions. Part of the requirements as a signatory of the Charter is to develop targets on our commitments to the Charter and measure our progress on the same. Therefore, this document outlines our targets on our commitments to the Charter and our ambitions to do our part in preventing and reducing climate-induced hunger.

Action Against Hunger has an International Environment and Climate Network Framework 2022-5 ("Environment and Climate Framework")² that outlines our commitments that guide our work, associated principles and minimum standards. Further to this, Action Against Hunger UK has an Environment Policy and annual Environment Action Plan that are aligned to the Environment and Climate Framework as well as a dedicated team of technical advisors and programmes that support communities and policy makers to address the impact of climate change.

Action Against Hunger UK is a supporting member of the Action Against Hunger global network and is not involved in the direct delivery of programmes outside of our UK programme. As such, we have chosen to focus on and champion commitments 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations.

COMMITMENTS AND TARGETS

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

Action Against Hunger UK is committed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations. As part of this commitment, Action Against Hunger UK has the following Carbon Reduction Targets:

¹ [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#)

² [International Environment and Climate framework 2022-2025.pdf](#)

To Reduce Action Against Hunger UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2028 and 50% by 2030.

To achieve our carbon reduction targets, Action Against Hunger UK will:

1. Ensure Action Against Hunger UK's policies and practices commit and enable us to know, reduce, and mitigate our impact on the climate and environment by implementing the following:
 - i. Conduct carbon footprint assessments for our UK office to measure progress on targets every 2 years, starting in 2025, using our 2023 assessment as a baseline.
 - ii. Follow an annual workplan to achieve targeted reductions, which will include the following:
 - Office practices and management will reduce, recycle, and reuse supplies, equipment, consumables, and energy. All waste is disposed of in a safe and environmentally friendly way.
 - The lifespan of IT equipment will be extended as much as possible; repairs will be prioritised over replacing. In the event it cannot be fixed, all IT equipment will be recycled at certified e-waste recycling programmes.
 - Supplies, equipment, and consumables are sourced from environmentally sustainable/friendly sources and this approach will be reflected in the Procurement Policy and associated approval forms (including for Fundraising events) by 2026.
 - All downstream partners commit to reducing their impact on the environment.
 - Single-use plastics are eliminated from our events and office premises.
 - Will commit to make better use of digital technology to reduce paper and printing consumption by 30%. This includes 100% usage of digital signatures.
 - Office practices adhere to UK Environment Legislation and standards.
 - We will reduce travel related emissions by 15% by 2028. Our Travel Policy and practice (UK and overseas) including accommodation, minimises environmental impact where possible.
 - iii. Ensure that all staff are fully aware of and compliant with UK Environmental Policy and the Annual Action Plan by strengthening of climate and environment training for all staff including on-boarding training and annual refreshers.
 - iv. Ensure that Action Against Hunger UK staff remain aware of and compliant with donor requirements and expectations around the environment and climate.
2. Action Against Hunger UK will integrate climate and environment into its policies and strategies thereby strengthening the environmental sustainability of all UK activities. To achieve this, Action Against Hunger UK will:
 - i. Contribute to the review and update of the Environment and Climate Framework to maintain its alignment with international best practice and the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations.
 - ii. Contribute to the organisation's International Strategic Plans to ensure climate change and environment are prioritised and integrated.
 - iii. Ensure that the Action Against Hunger UK Action Plan, Department Plans and UK Policies integrate climate and environment and adhere to our Environmental Policy.
 - Department Heads will be trained ahead of the planning process to integrate climate and environment considerations in Department Plans.

- The UK Action Plan will be reviewed by the Green Group to ensure that climate and environment considerations are integrated before final approval.
- The Green Group will review all relevant new policies before approval.
- iv. Develop UK-led programmes that are environmentally sustainable ³₂₀₂₅.
- v. Ensure that all UK policies are reviewed to ensure environmental considerations are integrated.
- vi. Continue to update Action Against Hunger UK's Environmental Policy in line with the Environment and Climate Framework, the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations, and global best practices.

Commitment 3: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

1. Action Against Hunger's International Local Partnership Policy commits the Action Against Hunger Network to partnering with local/national (L/N) actors wherever possible. Action Against Hunger is committed to acknowledging, respecting and strengthening the capacity, leadership and systems at L/N level while learning from L/N actors and ensuring our work always adds value and complements that of L/N actors.

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

1. We will continue to engage in humanitarian, climate, and development networks (Bond, DEC, Climate Action Network UK, etc.) to strengthen collaboration on climate action.
2. We will continue to seek more funding to support the Action Against Hunger Network and local partners to deliver environmentally sustainable climate adaptation and resilience projects in countries most vulnerable to climate impacts.
3. We will work with other Action Against Hunger Members⁴ to develop, fund and implement programmes that mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on communities.

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

We are committed to:

1. Advocate for Action Against Hunger UK's external stakeholders (e.g. public engagement, partners, suppliers, and the wider Action Against Hunger Network, etc.) to know, reduce, and mitigate their impact on the climate and environment in the interests of tackling one of the leading causes of

³ Environmental sustainability "is the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing" ([Spera, 2025](#)). It is "about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" ([United Nations, 2025](#))

⁴ Action Against Hunger UK is part of a worldwide network fighting life-threatening hunger in over fifty countries. We work as part of a global network that operates under the name of Action Against Hunger, with head offices in Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Spain, the UK and the USA. Each Action Against Hunger member is legally independent but all members share a common mandate, values, operating principles, quality standards, and strategy. The UK is a non-programmatic member. This means we do not manage programme offices directly but grant funds to other entities in the Action Against Hunger network in accordance with programme-specific intra-network grant agreements. Action Against Hunger UK conducts due diligence, monitoring and reporting of programmes and provides support to the Network through fundraising, communications, and advocacy with our domestic audience, and by providing expertise and services to further the aims of the Network.

global hunger. Wherever possible, we encourage our stakeholders to confirm their alignment to our Environment Policy's objectives. To achieve this, Action Against Hunger will:

- i. Through our Advocacy and Communications, we will seek to:
 - Inform and influence the UK Government, other relevant policy and decision makers and the aid and nutrition sector to ensure policies and practice affecting hunger address the impact of climate change.
 - Increase awareness of the impact that climate change has on hunger and the communities we work with globally with our supporters, donors, partners, suppliers and the public. Harness their support to influence policy (as above) and to support Action Against Hunger UK's work with communities affected.
- ii. Advocate for Action Against Hunger UK's partners, donors and suppliers to commit to mitigating climate change and environmental damage in their policies and practice.
- iii. We will share our current policy with stakeholders and move towards including climate and environment considerations when selecting partners in the future.