

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) Iraq

Climate and Environment Charter Target

Introduction

ASB country office in Iraq was officially opened in the summer of 2014 in response to the, emergence of Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria, which lead to conflict and instability and following widespread displacement in both countries. Currently having established offices in Duhok, Baghdad and Kirkuk and working in cooperation with local partners in Baiji, Mosul, Sinjar, Kirkuk and Duhok, ASB works to support humanitarian and development efforts, strengthen communities, enhance resilience, and foster sustainable partnerships.

Iraq is ranked as the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change, facing increasing risks such as drought, desertification, and water scarcity. These environmental pressures are affecting agricultural livelihoods, reducing water availability for communities, and exacerbating displacement and economic instability across the country.

Recognizing the urgency of these challenges, ASB has adopted the Climate and Environment Charter in 2024 to guide its actions. Through this commitment, ASB aims to integrate climate-sensitive approaches across all projects and operations, ensuring that its humanitarian and development work contributes to environmental sustainability and community resilience.

This document defines ASB Iraq's targets to mainstream climate action and environmental sustainability across all programs by 2027. The Climate Charter Targets will be reviewed annually to monitor progress, incorporate emerging developments, and maintain alignment with best practices and evolving environmental priorities.

Commitment 1: Step Up Our Response to Growing Humanitarian Needs and Help People Adapt to the Impacts of the Climate and Environmental Crises

Starting from 2026, ASB Iraq will continue integrating climate adaptation and environmental considerations across all projects and proposals.

This includes

- Assessing climate hazards during project design (environmental risk assessments).
- Promoting resource-efficient and sustainable practices in implementation (reducing waste and reliance on plastic, improving energy and water efficiency).
- Supporting partners and communities to adapt to environmental changes (capacity building, awareness, climate resilient livelihood practices).
- Prioritizing and investing in climate-smart programming, including climate-friendly agriculture, sustainable water management, and nature-based solutions, to strengthen community resilience and improve long-term environmental sustainability across ASB Iraq's portfolio.

Commitment 2: Maximise the Environmental Sustainability of Our Work and Rapidly Reduce Our Greenhouse Gas Emissions

ASB Iraq will ensure sustainability principles across all procurement, logistics, program activities, and workplace operations.

Minimize consumption of resources such as electricity, water, fuel and paper across ASB offices all over Iraq and program activities, from 2026. Implement measures to ensure responsible and efficient use:

- Reduce fuel consumption by maximising the use of ASB vehicles (planning field visits in advance, combining trips whenever possible, and ensuring efficient routing to minimise unnecessary movements)
- Reduce paper use and related waste by prioritizing digital documents, and when printing is necessary, use double-sided printing and recycled paper whenever possible.
- Start exploring and piloting alternative sources of energy for ASB offices in 2026, including the feasibility of installing solar panels, especially during extremely hot seasons and during heat waves

Waste reduction & Sustainable alternatives

- Reduce plastic use (especially during events by minimising single-use packaging, choosing reusable or biodegradable supplies and equipment, and coordinating with caterers to avoid disposable plastics)
- Increase recycling and reutilization of ASB assets by assessing items for repurposing, rotating equipment between offices based on operational needs, and reducing new procurement where feasible.
- Eliminate plastic water bottles and disposable cups in all ASB Iraq offices by the end of 2026, replacing them with water filters and reusable containers.

Greening the office environment

- Improve office environments with indoor low-water or low-maintenance plants (e.g., succulent plants or the use of hydroponic systems) to enhance air quality and help regulate temperature and relative humidity naturally.
- Apply the ASB “Greening Office” measures to standardize environmentally responsible office practices and ensure consistent implementation across all ASB Iraq locations

Commitment 3: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

- Integrate environmental considerations into the partner capacity assessment template conducted for new partnerships, starting in 2026.
- Collaborate with and learn from partners by identifying existing climate-smart practices, innovations in sustainable agriculture, and energy-saving initiatives. ASB will hold a dedicated meeting with each partner in 2026 to know partners’ environmental approach, explore opportunities for improvement, and agree on collaborative actions.
- Ensure all ASB current 8 partner NGOS sign the Climate and Environment Charter by the end of 2026, guided by insights from collaborative learning and ASB Greening measures, to promote consistent standards and continuous improvement.

Commitment 4: Increase Our Capacity to Understand Climate and Environmental Risks and Develop Evidence-Based Solutions

- ASB Iraq will strengthen environmental awareness and practical capacity within its team to improve understanding of environmental issues and to identify practical steps to reduce negative impacts and promote sustainability in all operations.
- Starting in 2026, organize one annual “Greening the Office” workshop for ASB Iraq team to promote eco-friendly practices in daily work and office management and review the “Greening Office” measures mentioned in Commitment 2
- Starting in 2026, an introduction to the Climate and Environment Charter and “Green Office” will be part of the onboarding process for all new ASB Iraq staff.

Commitment 5: Work Collaboratively Across the Humanitarian Sector and Beyond to Strengthen Climate and Environmental Action

- Facilitate two knowledge sharing events (first one in 2025 and second in 2026) as part of the ECT WASH project involving local partners.
- Publish and share assessments, reports and lessons learned on climate and environmental action with the wider community in Iraq.
- Attend national and regional events, on climate and environment, to exchange knowledge and expertise

Commitment 6: Use our Influence to Mobilise Urgent and More Ambitious Climate Action and Environmental Protection

- Advocate with donors to increase funding for climate action and environmental protection projects in Iraq.
- Encourage and support local partners and government actors to integrate climate and environmental considerations into their policies, programs, and operations through coaching and awareness sessions.
- Organize at least one information session for local NGOs on the Climate Charter in 2025