

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CHARTER SECRETARIAT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Writing and Editing

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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

This report captures the Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat's work and learning over the course of 2025, building on the Secretariat's report published in June 2025 titled: [From Commitments to Action: A Year In Review Of The Climate And Environment Charter Secretariat](#).

The report provides a concise overview of key activities and developments from 2025. Intended as a companion to *From Commitments to Action*, this document aims to support transparency and shared learning, while offering a grounded view of progress and directions for the year ahead.

Readers are encouraged to refer to the *From Commitments to Action* Report for broader insights on the Charter's work, including on how priorities, support needs, and patterns of engagement are evolving, and where momentum is emerging across the Charter community.

Box 1: The Secretariat's Role in Advancing the Charter Vision

The climate and environmental crises are among the greatest humanitarian challenges of our time. While their impacts are felt globally, the most vulnerable communities—those least equipped to adapt—bear the brunt. These crises intersect with armed conflict, displacement, weak governance, poverty, and structural inequities, compounding vulnerabilities and threatening lives and livelihoods.

Launched in May 2021, the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations** provides a shared framework for action. It outlines key commitments to help humanitarian actors reduce environmental harm, support communities to adapt, and respond more effectively to climate-related needs. Like the Code of Conduct, the Charter reflects a sector-wide commitment to act responsibly and collectively.

In May 2024, the Secretariat for the Charter was established to support Charter Signatories in strengthening programmes and actions to reduce the impact of climate and environmental crises. It supports Signatories through four core functions:

- Connecting resources and expertise
- Knowledge sharing and collaboration
- Engagement and communication
- Advocacy and promotion

The Secretariat serves as a **catalyst for action**, linking people, tools, and lessons learned to help humanitarian organisations make tangible progress towards Charter goals and meet the challenges of a changing climate.

Operating context and learnings from 2025

In 2025, the humanitarian sector continued to operate under a complex and shifting environment. Funding instability, evolving donor priorities, and ongoing global crises created uncertainty for organisations, often affecting staffing, program delivery, and partnerships. As elaborated upon in the June 2025 report *From Commitments to Action*, many Signatories reported substantial impacts on climate-related initiatives, including programmatic cuts, paused activities, or disruptions in joint initiatives. At the same time, climate and environmental risks were intensifying, underscoring the urgent need to integrate these considerations into humanitarian programming and decision-making.

Within this challenging context, the Charter Secretariat adapted its operations to continue supporting Signatories and the broader sector. Budget and resource constraints of the Secretariat prompted a shift toward **in-house delivery, digital engagement, and leveraging existing networks**, while prioritising activities that deliver the greatest value for the humanitarian community. The Secretariat maintained and updated its expertise mapping and resource database, provided targeted guidance and technical support, and facilitated peer learning and knowledge sharing. These efforts aimed to help organisations navigate operational pressures, access practical tools, and connect with expertise across the sector.

Key lessons and insights from Signatories and Secretariat were highlighted extensively in the *From Commitments to Action Report*. Key lessons learned include:

- **Climate and environmental action is already happening and effective:** Organisations at all levels are implementing interventions that strengthen resilience, reduce harm, and protect livelihoods. Support from the Secretariat helps scale these efforts and adapt resources to local contexts.

- **Collaboration and convening strengthen impact:** Facilitating exchanges among Signatories and across sectors reduces duplication, encourages shared learning, and enables collective problem-solving. Coordination also allows local perspectives to inform global discussions and advocacy.
- **Funding instability remains a critical barrier:** Uncertainty and disruptions affect program continuity, staffing, and partnerships. Organisations have had to adjust strategies, reframe activities, and find creative ways to continue their work under resource constraints.
- **Integration of climate and environmental action is essential:** Proactive measures save lives, protect communities, and enhance humanitarian effectiveness. Mainstreaming climate considerations requires upfront investment, systemic change, and ongoing communication of the value of these actions, particularly in contexts of competing crises.

Overall, 2025 reinforced the importance of **strategic prioritization, accessible resources, and collaborative approaches**. By adapting operations and maintaining an updated, practical knowledge base, the Secretariat has supported Signatories in advancing climate and environmental action despite a challenging operating environment, while contributing to broader sector learning and resilience.

Secretariat Snapshot

CHARTER SIGNATORIES



We welcomed **45 new signatories** and **1 new supporter** in 2025, bringing our community to:

504 Signatories & 14 Supporters



SECRETARIAT SUPPORT - 2025



The Secretariat supported Signatories through:

- Meeting **69** signatories in **140 Support/Coordination Meetings**
- Responding to **115 Requests for support** from **62 Signatories**
- Identifying **447 tools and resources** for sharing with Signatories

Convening:

- 9 Webinars
- 2 Co-hosted events
- 2 Joint Signatory/Donor Meetings



Promoting the Charter in 116 events, workshops, conferences, working groups, and other meetings

Publishing:

- A **Case Study Report on Target Development** featuring 6 Signatories
- **14 newsletters** and updates
- **7 Guidance Pages** on Charter themes



Reaching **1000+** people from at least **268** Signatory Organisations



GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

1. Establishment and management of governance structures, mechanisms, and processes for the Charter Secretariat
2. Workplan designed, approved, and implemented
3. Fundraising for the Charter Secretariat

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Workplan is reviewed and updated based on learnings and feedback
- Quarterly board meetings are conducted
- Fundraising and Donor Reporting is conducted
- Vision for long-term vision of the Charter Secretariat is drafted

ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

1. Establishment and maintenance of systems for Signatory management
2. Management of new signatures and targets; charter website, LinkedIn
3. Communication with Signatories about relevant developments related to climate, environment and humanitarian action
4. Building, strengthening, and maintaining Signatory and partner relations

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secretariat support hub is operational with target “office hours”
- Website and mailing platform is maintained and updated
- Signatory management systems are fully operationalised
- Language accessibility of Charter resources is increased through translation of Charter materials and communications
- New/revised targets were submitted for 39 organisations

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE PRIORITIES

Advance implementation of Charter commitments and targets by strengthening Signatories to access technical guidance and support

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Survey on Signatory needs and priorities was conducted (June 2025) and incorporated into Charter work plan
- Secretariat is providing 1:1 support to Signatories, sharing tools/guidance, and connecting to expertise
- Mapping of expertise was finalized and integrated into Secretariat referral system
- 143 requests for support were responded to
- Partnerships with experts are established and strengthened
- Contributed to the development of tools/resources of partner organisations
- Partnerships with experts are established and strengthened

KNOWLEDGE SHARING PRIORITIES

Produce, share and promote knowledge on climate and environmental action among Charter Signatories

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 9 Webinars for Signatories were conducted
- 5 Co-hosted events, including joint donor-signatory workshops
- Case Study report for Target Settings was conducted and published
- 7 Thematic Guidance pages based on mapping, including tailored support for FCAS
- Bi-monthly newsletters and updates

PROMOTION, DISSEMINATION, AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Communicate, promote, and disseminate the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Advocacy priorities were defined with inputs from Signatory Survey
- Report on Signatory advocacy priorities was published
- Supporter meetings and convenings with Charter Signatories were held, including two events with Donor Declaration and Charter Supporters
- COP30 Advocacy was supported through a webinar, compiled updates and key messages, an advocacy brief, and Statement from Signatories
- Coordination and engagement in various global and regional initiatives
- Promotion of the Charter at 116 events, meetings, working groups

Year in Review:

The Secretariat’s Work in the Spotlight

The following section provides an in-depth review of the Charter Secretariat’s work over in 2025. All Charter Secretariat efforts are grounded in the priorities and needs identified by our Signatory community. In shaping our strategy and activities, we have aimed to remain responsive, practical, and relevant to the realities faced by organisations across the humanitarian system.

Key milestones in this approach include the June 2024 and May 2025 Signatory surveys, which provided a comprehensive picture of Signatory practices, challenges, and support needs. The findings directly informed the Charter Secretariat’s 2024–2026 workplan and continue to shape our efforts across our areas of operations.

The following sections spotlight how the Secretariat has translated Signatory priorities into action. From brokering partnerships and curating technical support, to convening spaces for learning, advocating for system-wide change, and amplifying Signatory voices – our work focuses on unlocking practical pathways to implement the Charter commitments. Each core area—**connecting resources and expertise, knowledge sharing, advocacy, and communications and engagement**—represents a critical lever for collective progress.

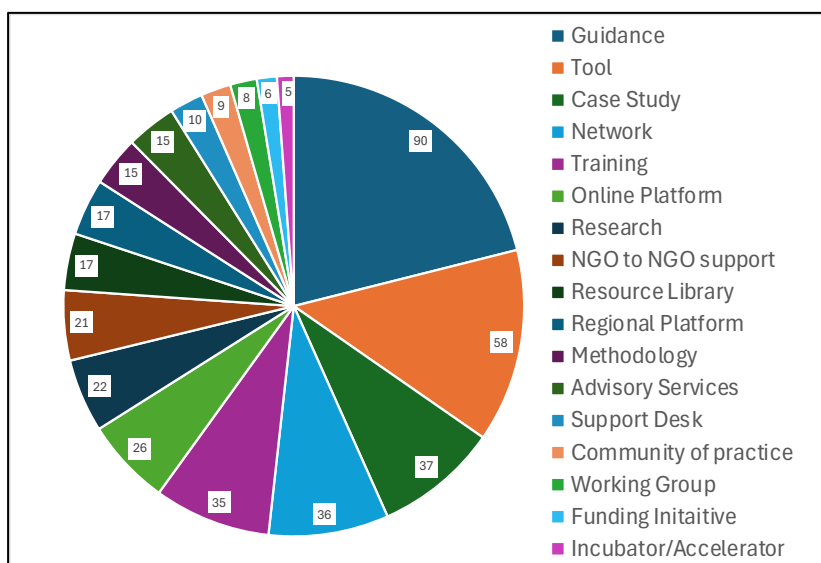
I. Connecting Resources and Expertise

Mapping Expertise and Resources for Climate and Environmental Action

Building on the DG ECHO-funded mapping of climate and environmental resources originally developed in 2022 and updated in 2024, the Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat’s work in 2025 has focused on maintaining, strengthening, and actively using **this resource and expertise database**. Rather than creating new tools, the Secretariat has prioritised keeping the mapping current, improving its practical usability, and ensuring it effectively serves Signatories as a living referral and knowledge-sharing resource.

Throughout 2025, the Secretariat has worked with Signatories, technical partners, and resource providers to update the expertise database, capture emerging areas of support, and reflect evolving sector priorities. This has included regular outreach to partners, ongoing validation of entries, and an open contribution process that allows organisations to share new or updated resources.

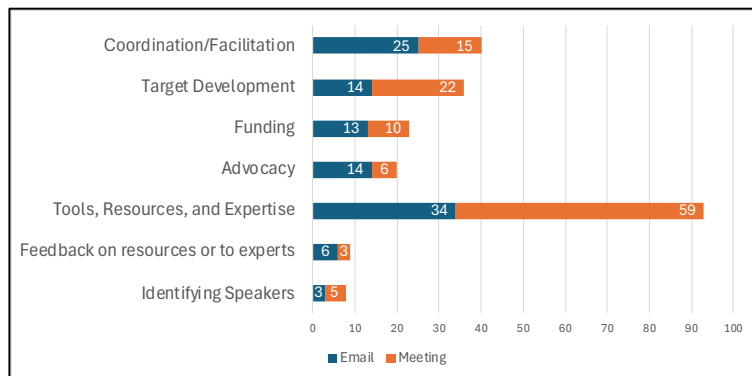
The Charter Secretariat uses this expertise mapping for various purposes. Firstly, it is publishing these resources as a curated guide on different thematic areas (p8). Further, it refers to this database when providing guidance and one-on-one support to Charter Signatories, identifying speakers for knowledge sharing events, and connecting experts to each other to ensure similar efforts are built upon and/or complementing existing resources.



Types of Resources in Expertise Database

Support to Charter Signatories

The Secretariat provides direct support to Charter Signatories through a simple outreach pathway - **Signatories can contact the Secretariat directly via email** to request guidance, raise questions, or seek tailored support over email or through scheduling a meeting. In 2025, this channel has enabled responsive and targeted assistance, with a total of **108 referrals or support provided to Signatory organizations** to support specific needs related to climate and environmental action. In addition, the Secretariat held **140 dedicated support meetings with individual Signatories**, offering a space to explore challenges, share resources, and co-develop strategies aligned with the Charter commitments.



Types of Support Requests by Mode of Request

The chart illustrates the requests made by Signatories to the Charter Secretariat by email and through meetings, in which the Secretariat responded with tailored guidance based on the support request. The majority of requests were in regards to connecting to resources, expertise, and guidance.

Additional requests for support come through Surveys. The Secretariat reached out to 41 organisations who requested Secretariat support in the June 2025 survey.

Office Hours

The Charter Secretariat understood from Signatories that **direct, one-on-one support dedicated to target development** would address an important need in the Charter community. The Secretariat set up 'Office Hours,' where Signatories can book 30 minute meetings with one of the Secretariat team-members in order to brainstorm, troubleshoot, or update on the target development process. Since being launched in early 2025, the Secretariat has had meetings with 14 Signatories scheduled through the Office Hours platform, 4 of which have since submitted targets.

II. Knowledge sharing and collaboration

Over the past year, the Secretariat has prioritized knowledge sharing as a foundation for collective progress. By gathering, curating, and disseminating learning from across the sector, the aim is to make climate and environmental action more accessible, relevant, and effective for humanitarian organisations.

Guidance Pages

Recognizing the wealth of expertise and resources already available, the Secretariat set out to curate these resources for Charter Signatories to support capacity sharing on the commitments of the Charter. The Secretariat has established a [guidance platform](#) on its website, making it **accessible, user-friendly, and with updated resources** that enables humanitarian organisations to effectively connect to experts/tools.

These resources include tools, guides, training opportunities, working groups, communities of practices, technical experts, resource libraries and support desks, among many other forms of support.

Resources have been organized into thematic **guidance pages**, helping Signatories quickly find relevant tools, case studies, and learning materials. This living library will continue to evolve with contributions from across the community. The guidance page was designed **based on inputs from Charter Signatories and partners** on how to make the expertise mapping accessible. Organizations are also invited to share resources and tools for these pages through a form or by email.

Tools and Resources

Throughout 2025, the Charter Secretariat will publish a series of thematic guidance pages on this website to support capacity sharing on the commitments of the Charter. These resources include tools, guides, training opportunities, working groups, communities of practices, technical experts, resource libraries and support desks, among many other forms of support. As these thematic pages are developed, you will see them appear in the buttons below. If you have any resources or expertise that you would like to share with the sector, please contact the secretariat at: secretariat@climate-charter.org

View guidance on the themes below:

**Disaster Risk
Reduction**

**Environmental
Sustainability**

**Nature &
Ecosystem Based
Solutions**

**Indigenous and
Local Knowledge**

**Climate Risk and
Impact Data**

**Climate
Programming in
Fragile, Conflict-
Affected Settings**

**Early Warning
and Anticipatory
Action**



Thematic Pages published in 2025 on the Charter Secretariat Guidance Platform

Case Study Report: *On Target?*

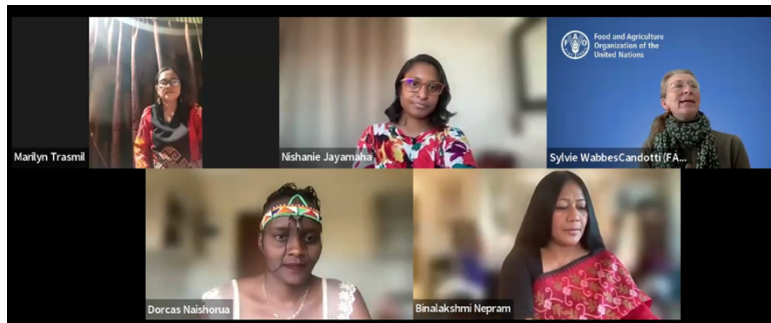
Our flagship report, *On Target?*, compiles experiences from organisations that have developed and implemented climate and environmental targets aligned with the Charter. Focusing on case studies of six Signatory organisations, the report demonstrated the **diversity of options for programmatic and operational interventions** that make a reality of the commitments, including helpful **insights and lessons learned** on target development. The ADAPT Initiative was commissioned by the Secretariat to undertake the report, which was **launched** at the Humanitarian Network Partnerships Week in April 2025. The report is available in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic.

Webinars and Collaborative Learning

Through a series of webinars and events, we brought together Signatories and experts to spotlight field innovations, share technical knowledge, and foster discussion on specific Charter themes. These webinars and events included:

[Mainstreaming and Identifying Funding Sources for Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\) in Humanitarian programmes](#) (13 March 2025): This webinar, co-convened by the Charter Secretariat, UNDRR, and REAP provided a platform for Charter Signatories and the broader humanitarian sector to explore opportunities and challenges related to implementing and financing long-term, preparedness and DRR mainstreaming in programming.

Voices from Frontline Communities – Leading Climate Action in Agriculture and Food (18 March 2025): This webinar, co-convened with FAO at HNPW, explored how international actors can better support indigenous, locally led adaptation and resilience efforts, fostering more inclusive and robust agrifood systems.



Voices from Frontline Communities Webinar (March 2025)

On target? Accelerating Humanitarian Climate and Environment Programming

(18 March 2025): The Charter Secretariat and the ADAPT Initiative hosted a webinar during the HNPW to launch a case study report examining how organisations are incorporating climate and environmental considerations into their humanitarian work, particularly through the setting of clear, actionable targets.

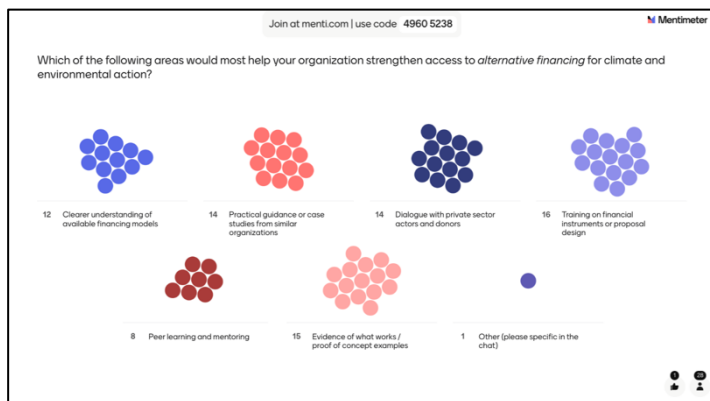
Loss and Damage Financing: Humanitarian Perspectives (25 March 2025): This event was hosted by the IASC Climate Crisis Sub-Group, organised by FAO, WFP, UNHCR, IFRC, and the Charter Secretariat on the sidelines of HNPW, to discuss humanitarian perspectives and collective inputs for the operationalisation of the Santiago Network and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. I

Greening Humanitarian Assistance – Donor Priorities and Practical Guidance (26 June 2025): This webinar was co-organised by the Donor Greening Working Group Facilitation Team and the Charter Secretariat. Donors shared how they plan to support partners in implementing the new Donor Greening Priority Actions. The Charter Secretariat presented the new Environmental Sustainability Guidance Pages to support implementation

Unlocking the Power of Nature-based Solutions and Indigenous and Local Knowledge in Humanitarian Action (8 September 2025): This webinar, co-convened by the Charter, ECOWEB Philippines, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, the Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice, and Peace, and IUCN explored how NbS and ILK can be effectively integrated in humanitarian programmes.

Alternative Financing for Climate and Environmental Action in Humanitarian Contexts

(15 October 2025): The webinar introduced Charter Signatories to alternative and innovative funding models that can complement traditional donor mechanisms to advance climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts.



Participant Engagement in Alternative Finance Webinar

Digital Frontlines Tackling Water Risks with Smart Tools and AI in Fragile Settings

(30 October 2025): This webinar, convened with the International Water Management Institute, looked at how digital tools can enable smarter, faster, and more cost-effective responses to climate and water risks in fragile settings.

Engaging at COP30: What the humanitarian sector can expect in Belém? (6 November 2025): This webinar co-organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Charter Secretariat, raised awareness among the Charter Signatories and the humanitarian sector on challenges and opportunities to engage and advocate as humanitarian actors at COP30.

Humanitarian-Led Climate Action in Fragile, Conflict-Affected Settings (26 November 2025): This webinar created a dedicated space for knowledge-sharing on climate and environmental action fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS) – a common operating context for many Charter Signatories

III. Engagement & Communication

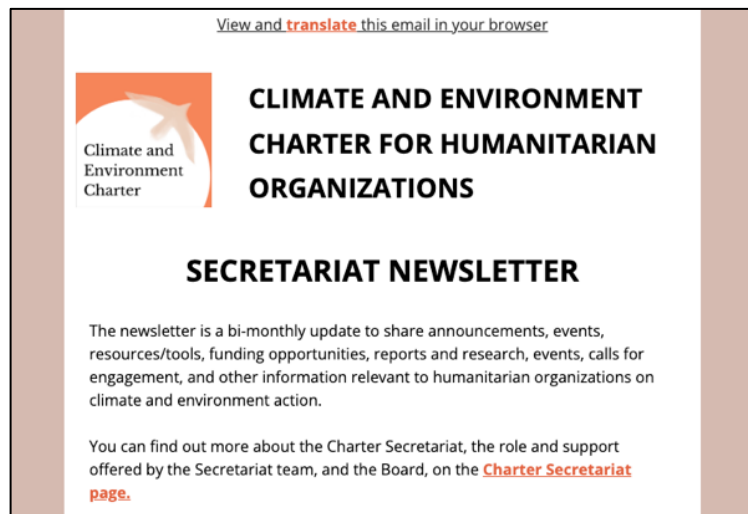
The humanitarian sector faces a rapidly evolving landscape of climate and environment initiatives, both from within and beyond the sector. While larger organisations with some capacities may have the bandwidth to engage in these opportunities, the Secretariat recognizes that not all 475+ Charter Signatories have the dedicated capacity to keep pace. To this effect, the Secretariat has intensified its engagement and communication efforts.

Bridging the Information Gap Through Accessible Communications

The Secretariat's engagement and communication strategy aims to bridge information gaps, identify crucial opportunities, and amplify our collective voice for impactful climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector. As part of our efforts to raise awareness and share initiatives, we are empowering Signatories by distilling complex developments into actionable insights, ensuring vital information reaches every member, regardless of their capacity or language.

Bi-monthly Newsletters & Regular Updates:

As the Secretariat's core communication channels, these are curated to provide a succinct overview of the latest policies, critical reports, calls to action, engagement and funding opportunities, essential guidance, tools, learning resources, and upcoming events. A comprehensive [newsletter page](#) has been established on the website, serving as a central archive for all past and current communications. It also offers an easy sign-up link for the Charter mailing list, ensuring continuous access to information and updates.



Enhanced Language Accessibility: Recognizing the critical role of language in advancing climate and environmental considerations, the Secretariat significantly improved its accessibility utilizing services from CLEAR Global, as well as other automated translation services. The Secretariat, for example, uses Zoom's built-in automated live, translated captions for all of its webinars, and have worked to include non-English speakers as presenters through this tool. Starting March 2025, newsletters utilized Mailchimp, which allows for automated browser translation. Additionally, all Charter resources are translated into French, Arabic, and Spanish, including the On Target Case Study Report, and the Guidance Platform. For each thematic guidance page, a corresponding page in each language is published, which includes resources and tools that are available in the given language. The Charter webpages are also translated into Arabic, French and Spanish. It is worthy to note that not many resources and resources are translated into these languages, which can be a limiting factor for organizations when implementing the commitments.

Dedicated Online Hub: The Secretariat uses the website platform as a core platform for engaging with Signatories. In particular, it has created a comprehensive [guidance platform](#), which not only includes the Tools and Resources platform, but additional guidance pages on [Understanding the Charter Commitments](#), and [Developing Targets](#). The Charter Secretariat maintains an [events page](#) to keep Signatories up to date on opportunities for learning and engagement in the sector.

View guidance on each commitment by navigating through each button below:

Commitment 1

Commitment 2

Commitment 3

Commitment 4

Commitment 5

Commitment 6

COMMITMENT 6

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

We call for ambitious action at all levels, by governments, organizations, the private sector and individuals to reduce risks and address the causes and consequences of the climate and environmental crises. We commit to informing and influencing decision-making, including relating to laws, policies, investments and practices, with evidence of people's experience and the current and future humanitarian consequences of the climate and environmental crises. We will also step up our efforts to promote improved implementation of relevant international and national laws, standards, policies and plans for stronger climate action and environmental protection.

What does this mean?

The Charter commits us to work together to foster ambitious action on climate change adaptation and mitigation and to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are not left behind. The humanitarian sector is uniquely placed to influence legal and policy frameworks to better channel resources and attention towards vulnerable and at-risk people. We can leverage our presence, expertise, and insight to work with multilateral development banks to increase funding allocated for adaptation efforts and to direct climate finance towards neglected populations and fragile or conflict-affected countries. Working with local and national governments, we can advise on strengthening disaster and climate-related laws and policies. Through new and existing partnerships with the private sector, humanitarian organizations can push for greater investment in climate-resilient value-chains and commercial infrastructure. Finally, through sector-wide engagement with governments and multilateral institutions, the Charter commits us to advocate for more ambitious climate action and environmental protection, better adherence to existing international agreements, and a greater focus on the impacts of these crises on the communities and people we serve.

Considerations on Targets

Targets vary depending on the capacity and mandate of the organization. Organizations may want to identify different levels of activities they can take to mobilize more urgent action, from monthly dialogues with community members and local government representatives to hosting and/or attending international climate and environment events.

Guidance Page: Understanding the Commitments

Signatory and Partner Coordination

In the spirit of the Charter Commitments, the Secretariat strives to work in collaboration within and outside the sector. The Secretariat actively engages with key initiatives and partners across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, climate and environmental spheres. This strategic engagement ensures **Signatory perspectives are integrated into broader discussions** and that the Charter's influence extends far and wide.

Further, the Secretariat also strives to **promote and coordinate strategic collaboration** opportunities among partners. As the Charter Secretariat is considered a hub for common good and does not have any vested interest in specific initiatives, organisations that are spear-heading initiatives of their own find it useful to discuss initiatives with the Secretariat, firstly to better understand the sectors' needs and priorities, as well as to brainstorm ideas, identify programme beneficiaries, and map strategic partners.

It has enabled the Secretariat to build synergies and connections between initiatives and partners/Signatories, bringing together individual partner and Signatory expertise and capacities, **maximizing the limited resources available** to support the wider humanitarian sector. Some indicative examples include:

- The Secretariat works with the **Disasters Emergency Committee to support them in providing accompaniment** to their members, who are all Charter Signatories, in developing targets and ensuring that they're working towards Charter commitments within response efforts.
- The Secretariat **facilitates consultations between partner or expert organizations and Signatories** through utilising newsletters and updates – for example, the Secretariat published a call for input on the impacts of USAID funding cuts on climate and environmental action from

- The Secretariat facilitates **direct connections to organizations** in countries of interest for partners/experts conduct research or looking for local partners, such as referring SaferWorld to Sudanese signatories for a roundtable on environmental peacebuilding.

The Secretariat participates in coordination meetings with various partners and global initiatives such as the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), the Anticipation Hub, Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP) community of practice, the Loss and Damage Collaboration, among others. These engagements ensure continuous alignment and mutual learning.

Collaboration with Signatories

Collaboration with Charter Signatories remains central to the Secretariat's approach. Signatories not only shape the Charter's direction through ongoing engagement and feedback, but also actively contribute to advancing its goals through in-kind support, joint initiatives, and knowledge sharing. This year, several Signatories partnered directly with the Secretariat to expand capacity-building opportunities, amplify local leadership, and strengthen regional engagement. Examples include:

- The Secretariat provided support to **ASB South and Southeast Asia Office to run a workshop** in Indonesia for their local partners on the Climate and Environment Charter and mainstreaming the commitments. The Secretariat provided resources to support workshop facilitation, and ASB supported organizations in capacity sharing and in signing the Charter. Similarly, the Secretariat worked with **RCRC partners in Europe to run a workshop on setting targets**
- The Secretariat connected **two signatory organizations for a joint funding proposal**, in which the Charter Secretariat was a partner, on south-to-south collaboration and pilot implementation of alternative finance for heat and climate risk insurance.
- The Secretariat collaborated with the **Food and Agriculture Organization to convene a webinar** on humanitarian engagement at COP30 in Brazil
- The Secretariat supported the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, who lead a side event at the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in Bangkok 2025** in which participations of the Charter's 2024 workshop that took place on the sidelines of RHPW presented about progress and challenges in advancing climate and environmental commitments in the last year.

IV. Advocacy and Promotion:

The reality is stark: climate change is profoundly impacting humanitarian crises, yet integrating climate and environmental action into humanitarian efforts can be complex. For many organisations, especially smaller ones, keeping up with global policy discussions and having their voices heard can be incredibly challenging. This is where the Charter Secretariat steps in. The Co-Coordinator and Board members of the Charter, have access to key global discussions. Not only does the Secretariat act as a vital bridge, ensuring that the experiences of those on the front lines directly inform global discussions and drive change – it also ensures that local actors are present and are meaningfully engaged in these spaces.

Understanding Needs & Shaping the Future

Our advocacy is not based on assumptions; it's rooted in the direct needs and priorities of our diverse Signatory network. To ensure our advocacy messages are sharp and relevant, we conducted a survey from **January 29 to February 12, 2025** which specifically sought to understand Signatories' top priorities for collective advocacy on climate and environmental issues. An impressive **96 Signatory organisations** from **57 different countries** completed the survey. Their diverse perspectives, with 56% operating locally/nationally, 3% regionally, and 41% globally, have provided a rich foundation to shape our advocacy and workplan.

Advocacy Report:

In May 2025, the survey results were utilised to [develop a report](#) summarizing the sector's advocacy priorities. The table on the following page illustrates signatory priorities for sector-wide advocacy. Signatories also highlighted sector-specific priorities, unique risks faced by various marginalised populations, and financing priorities that require advocacy. These priorities provide the Secretariat and the wider sector with **key messages for advocacy** and strengthens the Charter's role as a framework for galvanizing impactful collective action in the climate-humanitarian nexus. Priorities for collective advocacy are detailed in the [report](#).

This survey is shaping the Secretariat's support to Signatories. The Secretariat's advocacy strategy focuses on advancing an inclusive climate response, securing sufficient and flexible funding, improving access to climate finance, and highlighting the role of humanitarian organizations in climate and environmental action. This approach centres on convening and connecting Signatories, Supporters/Donors and partners, amplifying humanitarian and local voices in global processes, sharing knowledge and tools, and building partnerships that drive coordinated, evidence-based advocacy across the humanitarian, development, and climate sectors. As an example, the advocacy priorities were utilized as a basis to shape the COP30 Advocacy Brief for Charter Signatories.

Influencing Global Policy and Practice

With staff based in Geneva and New York, the Secretariat maintains direct engagement with crucial institutions. This includes permanent missions to the UN and Donors, various UN agencies, humanitarian partner organisations, and other non-governmental organisations. The strategic presence and active participation in key global hubs allow the Secretariat to directly influence the very policies and practices that shape humanitarian action worldwide. We ensure that climate change is not just a side note, but a central priority.

We actively contribute to high-level discussions at critical fora where our direct and indirect engagement ensures that climate and environmental issues are not only on the agenda but are prioritized within humanitarian response frameworks. Throughout the first year of operation, the Charter Secretariat actively contributed to global policy discussions, ensuring that the priorities and perspectives of humanitarian actors committed to climate and environmental action were represented. 2025 Highlights include:

- Contributing to the framing of **UNICEF-NGO consultations and discussion** on climate advocacy (January 2025)
- Bringing signatory perspectives to ODI, Climate Centre, and SIPRI workshop on **Climate Action in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations: Areas Outside of State Control** (Geneva, March 2025).
- Bringing signatory perspectives to workshop on **Tackling climate-related risks: leveraging the complementarity of humanitarian, development, peace, and environmental responses**, co-organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the German Federal Foreign Office (Geneva, April 2025)
- Convening charter Signatories and donors to discuss financing challenges and opportunities for innovation at the **European Humanitarian Forum** (Brussels, May 2025)
- Contributed signatory priorities to discussion on **Humanitarian Leadership Group on Supply Chain**: Technical workshop on Environmental Sustainability and Procurement organized by DG ECHO (May 2025)
- Secretariat and Board members contributed to high-level conversations linking humanitarian, climate/environment, and development agenda at the **UN High Level Week and New York Climate Week** (September 2025)
- Provided humanitarian perspective into the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025** session, "Mainstreaming biodiversity in international solidarity: connecting development, humanitarian and environmental organizations" (October 2025)
- Provided inputs from the humanitarian sector in the **OHCHR Expert Meeting on the Racialized and Intersectional Impacts of Securitization Processes** (October 2025)
- Co-convened and brought signatory perspectives into roundtable workshop on carbon credits and **climate finance in displacement settings**, organized with IOM and Norway (Geneva, October 2025)
- Facilitated collaborative event with IWMI, UNHCR and UNICEF at **AIDEX** on From Relief to Resilience: Leveraging Water and Climate Science to Improve Aid Effectiveness (Geneva, October 2025)

Sharing local voices and perspectives for global policy change

A core priority of the Charter is to amplify the voices of local and national actors – ensuring that those closest to the impacts of climate and environmental crises are meaningfully represented in global policy conversations. In this regard, the Secretariat has helped create opportunities for Signatories, especially actors operating at the local and national levels, to engage in high-level forums, workshops, and discussions that shape humanitarian and climate action agendas. Two indicative examples include:

- At the **European Humanitarian Forum (EHF)** in May 2025, the Secretariat facilitated the participation of national Signatory, Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (APAD) Sri Lanka, and Charter Board Member from All India Disaster Management Institute (AIDMI), enabling them to bring forward local insights and priorities.

- At the **Humanitarian Network Partnership Week** in March 2025, the Secretariat supported ECOWEB Philippines in enabling the online participation of an Indigenous woman leader from the Philippines who powerfully advocated for the integration of indigenous knowledge in humanitarian action.

Coordination and Collective Advocacy at UNFCCC's Conference of Parties (COP)

Signatories sought guidance on developing messaging, identifying opportunities to engage, and amplifying humanitarian advocacy priorities in the global climate discourse. This includes critical policy and action areas, such as the climate-conflict nexus in fragile areas, access to climate financing, loss and damage, and ensuring inclusive climate action for displaced and most vulnerable communities. In this regard, the Secretariat supported the Charter Signatories through various coordination initiatives related to UNFCCC process in 2025:

SB 62, Bonn: The Charter Secretariat facilitated connections between participating signatory organizations at the Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Bonn in June 2025

Signatory Statement: The Charter Secretariat consulted Signatories on the important messages they would like amplified by the humanitarian sector at COP30 and published the [Statement by the Signatories to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations ahead of COP30](#).

Advocacy Brief: The Secretariat [developed a resource](#) for signatories that links the Charter's COP30 Statement with the 2025 Advocacy Priorities, offering practical guidance and example actions to help integrate humanitarian perspectives into climate policy discussions at COP30.

Information Sharing Before, During, and After COP: The Charter Secretariat compiled and updated information on COP30 that might be useful to the Charter Signatories and wider humanitarian community to support their engagement – these updates were shared on a [COP30 Engagement Platform](#) on the Charter's website. This included compiled [daily updates](#) on decisions, declarations, pledges [and a compilation of calls for action and key messages](#).

Capacity Building for COP30 Engagement: The Secretariat co-convened a [webinar](#) with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the humanitarian sector on the various Thematic Days, Initiatives, Solutions, and Processes taking place at COP30. It also focused on why this matters, our collective roles and strengths, and the Secretariat's support to action relating to the Charter and COP30.

Facilitating engagement: The Secretariat helped connect Charter Signatories to a range of consultations, calls to action, and initiatives led by actors across the humanitarian, climate, environment, and peacebuilding sectors. Although the Charter Secretariat was not present at COP30, it connected Signatories to each other and with partners, nominating several from local and national NGOs in to speak at key events. These speakers shared insights on climate action and financing in humanitarian settings, including in conflict and fragile contexts.

Convening Signatories and Donors for Collective Action

The Secretariat plays a convening role, bringing together Signatories, donors, and partners to drive collective action on climate and environment issues. Through targeted discussions, workshops, and events, it fosters critical dialogue, supports policy and financial alignment, and strengthens learning and peer exchange across the humanitarian sector.

In this uniquely placed role, together with the Joint Initiative (JI), the Secretariat co-organised online consultations during the 4th quarter of 2024 to support the Donor Greening Working Group with constructive inputs and feedback to the

| Keep Frontlines First | |
|---|---|
| COP30 Agenda & Initiatives | Charter Signatory Perspective |
| <p>At COP30, Parties are expected to advance implementation pathways for the Paris Agreement and operationalize funding mechanisms under the Global Goal on Adaptation and Loss and Damage Fund. Yet, populations living in conflict, fragility, and crisis are often excluded from these processes. COP30 is marked by a lack of a dedicated conflict and peace-day, a departure from the past five years of increasing attention on humanitarian perspectives within the COP world. Humanitarian actors who work directly with these communities, can help ensure that climate action genuinely reflects the priorities of those most affected by climate and environmental shocks.</p> | <p>The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for an Inclusive Climate Response that prioritizes needs and capacities of the most vulnerable populations, leveraging the humanitarian sector's relationships with these communities within national and international fora such as COP30.</p> <p>The 2025 Advocacy Priorities call for highlighting the Humanitarian Role and Expertise in Climate Response, sharing best practices and community-knowledge from the humanitarian sector in its response to climate impacts.</p> |
| <p>Example Actions for Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for humanitarian and local actors to be represented in COP30 negotiations, side events, and national delegations, recognizing the humanitarian sector's bridging role in connecting emergency response, loss and damage, and long-term adaptation through sectoral expertise and community-led knowledge. • Advocate for mechanisms that enable affected communities to co-design adaptation and mitigation measures • Advance peace-positive and inclusive climate action that addresses the human and environmental costs of war and the intersecting vulnerabilities of women, youth, older people, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrants, refugees, and displaced and marginalized groups. | |

Snapshot from the Charter Secretariat's COP30 Advocacy Brief

prioritize greening actions for the humanitarian sector. The consultations were attended by over 50 Signatories and provided donors insights into next steps for prioritization of the greening actions. As a result of these consultations, the Donor Greening Working Group published the **Common Donor Priority Actions on Greening Humanitarian Assistance**, which were launched in an event co-convened by the Charter Secretariat in June 2025.

These priorities were also launched in parallel at the 2025 European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) in Brussels. As a follow-up to the joint Signatory-Supporter workshop co-convened by the Secretariat and DG ECHO at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in October 2024, DG ECHO and the Secretariat co-hosted an in-person workshop at the EHF. Over 80 participants explored how investing in prevention, preparedness, and sustainability can strengthen resilience and improve humanitarian outcomes. The session highlighted opportunities to engage the private sector in funding climate and environmental efforts.

In follow up to this workshop, ECHO and the Secretariat organized a dedicated webinar on emerging questions from the EHF, namely on Alternative Finance for climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector. The webinar introduced Charter Signatories to alternative and innovative funding models that can complement traditional donor mechanisms to advance climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts.

Looking Ahead

As the Secretariat enters its second year of operations, our focus remains on deepening support to Signatories, strengthening collective action, and embedding climate and environmental considerations more firmly across humanitarian policy and practice. Building on the foundation established in 2024, and the inputs provided from Charter Secretariat surveys, we will continue to offer our support through guidance, referrals, and peer-to-peer learning.

I. Signatory Priorities Moving Forward

Findings from the May 2025 Signatory Survey, published in June 2025, provided important insight into how Signatories perceive the value of the Charter Secretariat's support and where further evolution is needed. Overall, responses reaffirmed that **strengthening climate and environmental action remains a high priority across the Charter community**, even in a constrained funding environment. Signatories emphasized learning needs that are practical and programme-oriented, with particular focus on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, integrating climate and environmental risks into humanitarian programming, locally led and anticipatory action, and better addressing the specific risks faced by marginalized and at-risk communities.

The survey also highlighted strong appreciation for the Secretariat's role in supporting target-setting, providing accessible and actionable knowledge products, facilitating strategic alignment and advocacy, and fostering a sense of global solidarity among Signatories. At the same time, respondents identified clear opportunities to strengthen future support, including more regional and peer-to-peer engagement, greater tailoring of content to specific contexts, deeper support for localization, more coordinated advocacy and shared messaging, improved access to funding information, and enhanced accessibility and communication. These findings are informing ongoing adjustments to the Secretariat's workplan. Further detail and analysis can be found in the [From Commitments to Action](#) report (June 2025).

II. Charter Secretariat's Plans for 2026

Like many organisations in the sector, the Charter Secretariat faced some funding cuts this year. Fortunately, the Secretariat will still be able to deliver on the vast majority of its 2024-2026 [workplan](#), thanks to the generous support of ECHO and SDC. In 2026, the Charter Secretariat will focus on strengthening its strategic foundations, deepening support to Signatories, and advancing practical, collaborative climate and environmental action across the humanitarian sector. Work will be guided by the Charter's workplan, evolving Signatory needs, and opportunities to align with key sector moments.

Strategic Governance and Financing

A central priority for 2026 will be advancing the Charter's **Long-Term Vision (LTV)**. The Secretariat will lead consultations with Signatories and partners in the first half of the year, followed by Board review and approval. In parallel, the Secretariat will work with supporters and the Board to pursue a **longer-term financing strategy**, including joint discussions with donors and exploration of diversified funding sources, such as foundations and alternative finance mechanisms. The year

will also include a review of the Board election cycle, with updated terms of reference. These processes will aim to strengthen governance, clarify Board engagement, and support sustainability of the Charter.

Reporting, Learning, and Feedback

In 2026, the Secretariat will deliver required **donor and annual reporting**, alongside a **Signatory survey** to inform reporting, capture emerging expertise, and assess progress on targets. This feedback will directly inform Secretariat priorities, support offerings, and continuous improvement.

Strengthening Signatory Support and Target Progress

Support to Signatories will continue to centre on **target development**, expanding efforts to support signatories in **reviewing and/or reporting on targets**. The Secretariat will prioritize one-on-one engagement, particularly with local and national organisations, to support target setting. Progress and learning will be shared through ongoing communications and Signatory spotlights in newsletters, reinforcing accountability and peer learning. Updates to the Charter's targets platform will improve visibility of progress, revisions, and reporting status.

Knowledge Products and Technical Guidance

In 2026, the Secretariat will continue to map, disseminate, and publish **practical knowledge products**, informed by Signatory priorities. This includes rolling out additional thematic guidance pages, developing case studies, and advancing training resources such as a self-paced introductory course and a Training of Trainers (ToT) package for national workshops on mainstreaming climate environmental action.

Events, Workshops, and Sector Engagement

Webinars and **learning events** will be aligned with these knowledge products and delivered in partnership with Signatories and technical organisations. The Secretariat will also continue to engage in key advocacy spaces, including humanitarian coordination forums and global policy discussions, ensuring Signatory perspectives inform wider debates on climate, environment, and humanitarian action.

The Secretariat will strategically engage in **key global and regional humanitarian and climate events** throughout 2026, prioritising those that offer meaningful opportunities for learning, advocacy, and collaboration. This includes engagement around major platforms such as Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) at which the Charter Secretariat will lead the planning of the Climate Crises Area of Common Concern, and COP31, as well as selected regional workshops and conferences where Signatory participation and impact can be maximized.

The Secretariat aims to convene a regional workshop for Charter Signatories on mainstreaming climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts.

Supporter and Partner Engagement

Finally, the Secretariat will strengthen engagement with supporters and partners through structured feedback, targeted consultations, or regular communication. These efforts will help align expectations, refine support, and ensure the Charter remains responsive, relevant, and effective.

We will remain responsive to Signatory feedback and global developments, working collaboratively to ensure the Charter continues to serve as a meaningful framework for climate and environmental action in humanitarian settings.

III. Long Term Vision of the Charter Secretariat

Following the Charter Board's decision at the Q4 Board meeting in December 2024 to extend the Secretariat's mandate beyond its initial three-year term, the Secretariat and Board have begun shaping a long-term vision that supports a gradual transition over the next decade. This includes strengthening the Secretariat's role as a trusted referral hub and facilitator of knowledge, coordination, and capacity building while ultimately phasing out the Secretariat through strengthening knowledge and capacities at the regional and local levels.

From now through 2026, efforts will continue to focus on deepening Signatory engagement, advancing organisational target-setting, and promoting the Charter as a unifying framework for climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts. Looking toward 2027 and beyond, the Secretariat aims to **scope and advance a more regional and localized approach**, while supporting the development of robust progress tracking, peer learning, and deeper collaboration across sectors. A broader consultation process on the long-term vision and its financing will be facilitated in early 2026 to **ensure Signatories and partners continue to shape** the Secretariat's next chapters.

Governance, Finance, and Donors

Board

The Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat is administered by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and guided by a multi-stakeholder Board established in September 2024. The Board comprises three permanent members: ICVA, along with the two organizations that co-led the development of the Charter, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In addition, two rotating seats are held by Signatory organisations, and one by a state supporter. The inaugural rotating members are Mihir Bhatt (All India Disaster Mitigation Institute), Thuy-Binh Nguyen (CARE Climate Justice Center). The inaugural support seat was filled by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, though this seat remains open at the time of reporting.

The Board’s [Terms of Reference](#) were adopted in September 2024, outlining its role in providing strategic oversight, endorsing the Secretariat’s workplan, and ensuring accountability to the Charter community.

The Charter Secretariat and Board meet quarterly. In 2025, the Board convened four times to provide strategic guidance to the Secretariat, with discussions focusing on developing and advancing the workplan and budget of the Charter, ensuring sustainable funding, and advancing strategic discussions on the long-term vision for the Charter.

Secretariat Team

The Secretariat is co-coordinated by Nishanie Jayamaha and Natasha Westheimer, who implement the Charter’s four core functions. Together, the co-coordinators bring deep and diverse experience across humanitarian action, climate and environmental governance, and coordination in crisis-affected settings.

Nishanie has over 20 years of experience in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian coordination, protection, access negotiations, and learning, with a career spanning the UN, NGOs, government, and private sectors. She has served in leadership and advisory roles at the World Humanitarian Summit, Grand Bargain secretariat, PHAP, and most recently led climate and learning work at ICVA.

Natasha brings over a decade of experience working at the intersection of climate and water governance, with a focus on fragile and conflict-affected regions. Her work includes high-level water diplomacy, capacity building and advisory support to civil society

on water supply and access and advancing community-led climate adaptation.

Harnessing their unique backgrounds, they lead the Secretariat’s efforts to connect Signatories with expertise, promote peer learning, and embed climate and environmental action across the humanitarian sector.

Financial Overview

The Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat was established with the generous support of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Secretariat is now proud to also receive support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in addition to ongoing support from ECHO.

Together, the Secretariat’s partnership with ECHO and SDC is enabling continued progress in advancing the Charter’s commitments and supporting Signatories around the world. The Secretariat is deeply grateful for the trust and collaboration of all its donors, whose contributions enable this initiative to grow, adapt, and respond to a rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape.

The table below reflects the contributions from BHA, ECHO, and SDC as of December 31, 2025.

| Donor | Contributions for 2024-2026 |
|--|-----------------------------|
| USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) | 230,376 CHF* |
| European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) | 349,074 CHF |
| Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) | 422,632 CHF |

**Funding until stop work order issued in January 2025*

The initial 3-year budget of the Charter Secretariat was estimated at 1,086,930 CHF with a yearly budget of approximately 431,360 CHF. Following the USAID/BHA stop work order on 24 January 2025, the Charter Secretariat adapted its workplan and its annual budget to reflect the funding cuts and reduced its budget to **328,099 CHF for 2025**. The Secretariat anticipates an estimated budget of **373,644 CHF** for 2026, pending Board approval and funding availability. The Secretariat will be exploring its financing options for 2027, along with a broader exploration of requirements to advance the Charter commitments across the sector, as part of Long Term Vision consultations.



Climate and Environment Charter



Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat

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