



Long-Term Strategic Framework

A ten-year road map for climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector

The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations is a set of seven commitments designed to help humanitarian organisations systematically respond to climate and environmental crises. The Charter was developed by humanitarian organizations for the sector, and addresses the unique challenges and responsibilities of humanitarian action on climate and environment. The Charter Secretariat was established to support Signatories to implement the Charter Commitments. Acting as a referral hub, connector, convenor and collective advocacy platform, the two-person Secretariat supports organizations in enhancing their capacity to address climate and environmental crises, while promoting the Charter agenda and advocating for Signatory priorities in global policy platforms.

Our Vision

A world with reduced humanitarian needs driven by climate and environmental crises, with communities thriving through strengthened local capacities — building resilience through preparedness, anticipatory action, response and recovery, and restored ecosystems. In this future, the Charter is a framework for action, humanitarian actors have access to knowledge and resource networks, and the Secretariat remains a platform to influence policy based on humanitarian experience and expertise.

Our Theory of Change

The Secretariat strengthens the capacity of organizations to act on the Charter commitments by providing technical guidance, peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing, and coordinated advocacy. This support is **locally rooted, regionally strengthened, and globally coordinated** – embedded within existing support networks and informed by signatory priorities. Together, this reaches organizations across all contexts and levels of capacity, driving the systemic change needed for climate and environmental action to be embedded in how every organization in the sector plans, programmes, and responds.

Why the Secretariat Needs to Continue and Evolve

Humanitarian organizations face persistent barriers to translating Charter commitments into practice:

- ☐ Limited in-house technical expertise
- ☐ Insufficient and unstable funding
- ☐ Staff turnover & leadership buy-in gaps
- ☐ Access to resources and tools

As an independent global entity — developed by the sector, for the sector — the Secretariat is trusted by local and international NGOs, technical experts, UN agencies, and donors alike to support the sector in meeting these challenges. Its added value lies in bridging the access gap to existing support and identifying what is still needed. It engages at the highest levels of humanitarian policy-making, ensuring local and national voices shape sector priorities. **No equivalent body performs this function at the same breadth, with the same independence, and with accountability to 500+ organizations committed to a shared framework.**

→ The Strategic Framework

Three phases guide the work — though not as a rigid sequence. The Secretariat continues to support Signatories based on their needs and capacities, ensuring no one is left behind. Regular surveys and feedback keep the framework grounded in Signatory realities.

PHASE 1

Strengthening Foundations

2024-2027

PHASE 2

Enabling Action & Progress

2027-2029

PHASE 3

Mainstreaming & Regionalization

2029-2034

PHASE 1 Strengthening Foundations 2024 to 2027 (well underway)

The Secretariat launches as a referral hub, coordinator, and connector — ensuring Signatories have the guidance, tools, and direct support to advance their commitments.

- ☐ One-to-one Signatory support and peer-to-peer learning
- ☐ Knowledge products, webinars, and regional workshops
- ☐ Advocacy within humanitarian policy processes, including the Humanitarian Reset
- ☐ Target development and voluntary progress tracking
- ☐ Signatory-led capacity building and Training of Trainers

OUTCOMES

1. The Secretariat is established as a coordinator, convener, and referral hub.
2. Signatories have enhanced knowledge and capacity to implement Charter commitments.
3. Initial models for embedding Charter support on local, national, and regional levels are identified.
4. The Charter is recognized as a key sector framework for climate and environmental action.

PHASE 2 Enabling Action and Progress 2027 – 2029

Core functions continue — referral hub, one-to-one support, coordination, global advocacy — while the Secretariat expands as a connector to locally, nationally, and regionally anchored expertise and capacities.

- ☐ Scaled capacity building: expanded language access and AI-supported knowledge tools
- ☐ Scoping study on direct funding and resource mobilization for local action
- ☐ Context-specific Training of Trainers and senior leadership engagement
- ☐ Mapping exercise to develop the model for locally and regionally anchored support

OUTCOMES

1. Progress on Signatories targets and capacity.
2. Capacity building is scaled and more accessible.
3. Opportunities for local funding are identified and promoted.
4. Local and regional support model is scoped and ready for Phase 3.
5. Climate and environmental action is maintained as a global humanitarian policy priority.

PHASE 3 Mainstreaming and Regionalization 2029 – 2034

Climate and environmental action is genuinely embedded in how organizations plan, programme, and operate. Locally and regionally anchored structures are in place within existing networks, with champion organizations driving peer learning and capacity building. The Secretariat shifts to strategic global functions.

LOCAL & REGIONAL

- ☐ Secretariat support functions embedded in local, national, and regional structures
- ☐ Capacity strengthening in local contexts
- ☐ Resources and support in local languages
- ☐ Regional and national advocacy

GLOBAL

- ☐ Coordination across rooted capacities
- ☐ Local voices amplified at global policy forums
- ☐ Streamlined accountability and reporting
- ☐ Cross-regional peer learning and exchange

OUTCOMES

1. Local, national and regional organizations are equipped and empowered to drive Charter implementation, peer learning, and advocacy.
2. Global governance ensures sustained coordination, resourcing, and accountability.
3. Climate and environmental action is mainstreamed across the humanitarian sector and embedded in how organizations plan, programme, and operate.

→ A Collective Model

The Secretariat is a common good — built on shared investment and shared benefit.

Supporters

Core budget contributions and workplan deliverable funding through multi-year grants or dedicated support for capacity building, knowledge products, advocacy, and coordination.

Signatories

In-kind contributions — technical secondments, co-hosted workshops, training access, translation, and design. For Phase 3, dedicated funding pathways developed through joint fundraising, as Signatories take on champion roles.

Partners

Consortium opportunities enable Signatories and partners to use the Charter framework for coalition building, programmatic alignment, and cost-efficiency.