

JOINT INITIATIVE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN  
ASSISTANCE PACKAGING  
WASTE MANAGEMENT



## Operationalizing and Scaling-up Donors' Climate and Environmental Commitments:

an analysis of progress, gaps  
and opportunities.



October 2023

Raphael Pouget - Climate Visuals Countdown  
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# Briefing and Q&A

## Operationalizing and Scaling-up Donors' Climate and Environmental Commitments: an analysis of progress, gaps and opportunities

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
15h-16h30 CET

## House rules



- Please introduce yourself in the chat box at the start of the event
- Please mute your microphone unless you are speaking
- Please ask questions in the chat box or by raising your hand during the Q&A session
- The meeting will be recorded (please alert us if this poses a problem)
- Please make use of the captions option in Teams if you are having trouble following



Turn on live captions

## Agenda for today

**15h-16h30 (CET) / 9h- 10h30 (EST)**





## Who are we?

The **Climate Action Accelerator** is a non-profit initiative based in Geneva that aims to mobilize a critical mass of community-based organisations around the world to scale up implementation of climate solutions within planetary boundaries, keep global warming well below 2°C and avoid the risk of dangerous drift.

**The goal is to help move the aid, health and higher education sectors towards greater resilience and a radical transformation of their practices, pursuing emission reduction targets (-50% by 2030) and a 'net zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement, as well as operational resilience.**



## Our objectives

### EMPOWER

Empower organizations to at least halve their emissions by 2030 and prepare for greater resilience through a hub of expertise and resources.

### CHAMPION

Transform them into ambassadors of change within their networks, capable of influencing their peers.

### COMMUNITY

Build a global community of action, sharing climate solutions as a universal common good, to scale up their deployment.

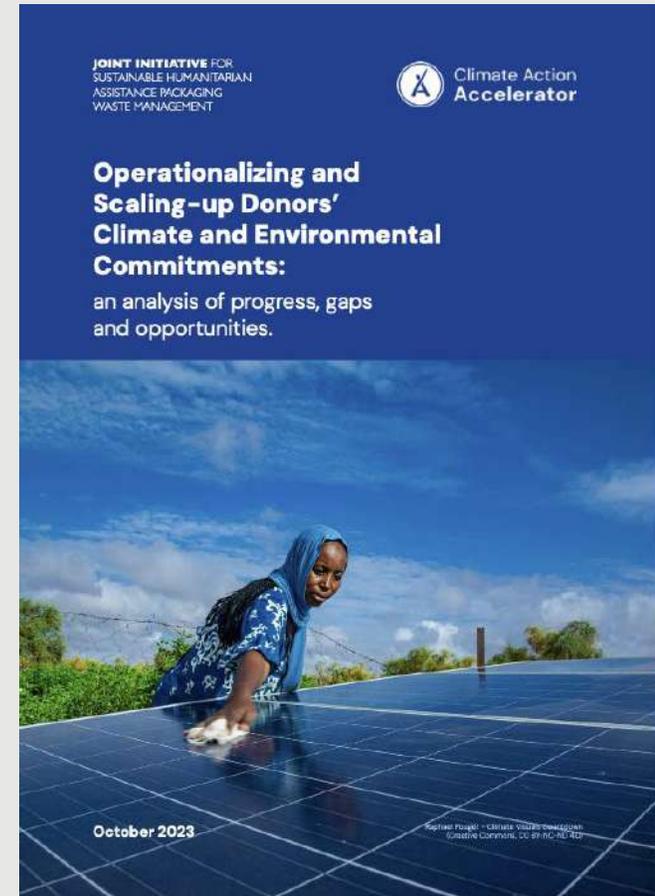
## What is the Joint Initiative?

- A collaborative initiative among 26 humanitarian stakeholders (INGOs, UN agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, donors) with funding from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- Aim: to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance (specific focus on packaging)
- Promotes knowledge-sharing across the sector, acts as a convener bringing humanitarian actors together to discuss common challenges and explore solutions



## What is the report: scope

- A collaboration between Joint Initiative and Climate Action Accelerator building on previous donor mappings
- Analyzes how donors' climate/environmental commitments are influencing:
  - the way they fund humanitarian assistance projects / programs
  - internal efforts to reduce climate/environmental footprint (travel, premises etc.)
- Focuses on efforts to reduce **the climate and environmental impact of humanitarian assistance** from a mitigation standpoint, does not look into climate change adaptation/resilience projects
- Is intended to be **constructive**: how can donors and humanitarian organizations better collaborate
- Is based on desk research, interviews with partner organizations and donors





## What is the report: purpose

For humanitarian organizations:

- To inform and support humanitarian organizations to better anticipate / adapt to donors' requirements and requests

For donors:

- To provide the donor community with information: hoped that donors can learn from each other
- To feed into donor coordination efforts on greening

## Covers 14 donors



## Findings

### Donors are scaling up climate action beyond adaptation

- Increasing no. of donor policies ; comprehensive focus (waste, emissions, biodiversity etc.)



- Increasing donor commitments:

- Support to Climate & Environment Charter

Commitment 2 “*Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions*”

- Signing of Donor Declaration

Commitment 4 “*Foster the creation of the conditions required for international humanitarian organizations and local partners to adopt environmentally friendly practices...*”

## Collective efforts among donors are gaining traction

- Working groups, aimed at coordination on issues such as M&E, budgets (coordination group on greening, formal WG on Donor Declaration; )
- Striving towards a greater harmonization of approaches where possible



## Donors' approaches

- Attention to greening mainly when partner organizations respond to call for proposals (**application form stage**)
- Currently donors mainly request partners to provide information on greening from **project perspective** (some exceptions)
- Different **approaches**: donors may require partners to describe greening (narrative), or may conduct environmental screenings / risk assessments
- Generally, **no specific score attributed** for greening i.e. not decisive factor when assessing proposals (some exceptions)
- Overall, no plans for more prescriptive approaches
- Different mechanisms used for pooled funding and for funding to UN agencies vs (I)NGOs, more stringent approach for (I)NGOs.



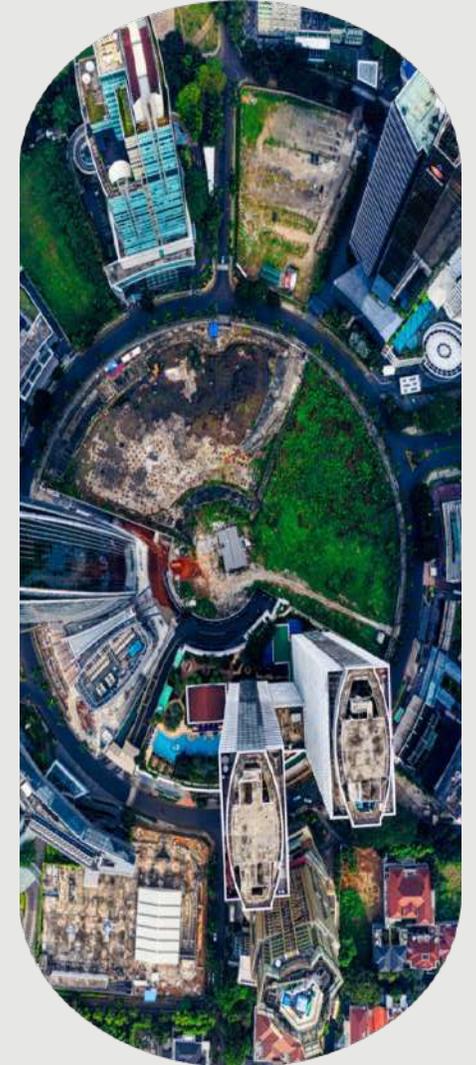
## Funding

- Efforts underway to try to accommodate greening costs within existing project budgets (e.g. creative use of budget lines, “flexible” budget lines)
- Donors are funding sector-wide initiatives on greening (WREC, NEAT +, Joint Initiative, Climate Action Accelerator, funding of Climate Charter Secretariat)
- However, current funding insufficient to cover organizational-level, long-term transformation costs (e.g. staffing, change-management) that go beyond project-related costs



## **A dialogue gap may be slowing down opportunities for change**

- Currently few donors have policies / guidance on use of funding for greening.
- Result: humanitarian organizations may be reluctant to submit proposals for more expensive but more sustainable action/ items.
- Donors want to understand more about partner organizations' plans/needs and the potential costs, in order to be able to discuss this with them.



## A significant role to play, yet to be fully harnessed

- Donors stepping up efforts to be able to **better support their partners in “operationalizing”** commitments and to **monitor** environmental and climate efforts (e.g. ECHO MER voluntary indicators)
- Donors are working on ensuring that policies/commitments are more systematically and **consistently** applied across contexts/regions-learning from each other in this respect
- Donors want to **“walk the talk”** and internal greening efforts is an emerging priority (travel policies, sustainable procurement policies, a handful of donors have published specific emissions reduction targets etc.)



## Conclusion

- Increasing awareness among donors of the need to reduce the climate and environmental impact of humanitarian assistance through integrated adaptation/resilience & mitigation approaches.
- Donors have a significant role to play in steering the sector, although reducing our climate and environmental footprint is a **shared responsibility**, and humanitarian organizations are elevating their ambitions in this respect.
- Building on existing coordination mechanisms, harmonization of approaches/standards and their operationalization in the field, and linking greening to localization, will help them achieve this.

Access the report <https://tinyurl.com/JI-CAA-donors> - French version will be published in coming days





Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) and enter the code 3354 7631

**Which aspect of greening of humanitarian assistance is most challenging for you?**

Waiting for responses ...

**What do you require from donors to be able to effectively green your projects/programs?**

Waiting for responses ...