No Plan B: The Importance of Environmental Considerations in Humanitarian Contexts

An Analysis of Tools, Policies, and Commitments of DEC Members

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BACKGROUND

This report has been compiled for the Disasters Emergency Committee by a consultancy team of International Development Masters students from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard
DEC	Disasters Emergency Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HQAI	Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
JSI	Joint Standards Initiative
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
UK	United Kingdom
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

LIST OF FIGURES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Humanitarians understand the importance and urgency of the environmental agenda, and they have a clear desire to incorporate environmental considerations into their work. However, they are hindered in their endeavours by multiple challenges. This study examines these challenges, as well as key opportunities for change and development.

The lack of prioritisation of environmental considerations in a humanitarian response is the most significant barrier to effectively integrating environmental considerations into a humanitarian response. Most DEC members do not prioritise environmental considerations at every level – from their organisational structure down to programme design and implementation. This is primarily for two reasons: there are insufficient influential champions; the speed and 'lifesaving' interventions required for humanitarian response outweigh environmental considerations, both in time spent to consider them, and in the funding and resources required to do so. As such, environmental considerations are rarely seen as a priority, resulting in a lack of funding, resources, and expertise. This creates a self-perpetuating cycle of de-prioritising and under-resourcing environmental considerations. If environmental concerns are to be adequately addressed in humanitarian responses, they must be sufficiently resourced and prioritised.

The lack of prioritisation of environmental considerations results in a lack of expertise and knowledge in the sector. It is unclear whether organisations do not hire expertise because they cannot justify the expenditure, or the lack of expertise results in a lack of champions, leading to de-prioritisation. Few organisations had an environmental specialist within the organisation, and fewer still were based in the UK and therefore had a direct relationship with the DEC. As organisations face consistent funding constraints, collaboration and knowledge sharing is the most efficient way to overcome the lack of expertise. Effective policies and tools should be more widely shared between DEC members, in order to relieve the burden on organisations and avoid re-inventing the wheel. Additionally, the potential impact of indigenous knowledge on humanitarian responses is an under-developed area of research. While partnering with local environmental actors is initiated by some organisations, it is not commonplace. Organisations should seek to further this area by investing in the local environmental agenda in humanitarian contexts. Effective knowledge sharing would contribute to this and enable existing tools to be adapted to differing contexts.

Overall, this review showed a conflation of climate change and environmental degradation within organisational rhetoric. This may be due in part to the lack of expertise, which may cause confusion and inadequate use of environmental tools. Many organisations have introduced internal climate-friendly policies, such as flight restrictions and green waste management to reduce carbon footprints. While these practices are important, it is unclear whether they are considered substitutes for field-based green policies, or whether they are genuine attempts to affect international organisational change from the UK. Regardless of the motivation, these two issues are not the same and need separate responses. While climate change can lead to environmental degradation, environmental issues (such as soil erosion) cannot always be solved by reducing organisations' carbon footprint. In order to adequately respond to the complex demands of including environmental considerations into humanitarian work, organisations must have a clear definition of the two issues and how they relate to one another.

Donors must also prioritise environmental considerations and mainstream them through their own work and funding models. Conventional donor funding restricts NGOs' ability to adequately address environmental considerations in a response. Donors have a crucial role to play in escalating the environmental agenda and should do this by releasing long-term, flexible funding. This would enable organisations to adapt to the changing nature of the humanitarian context, incorporate environment issues at the beginning of a response, and consider environmental issues as they arise.

Environmental considerations should be mainstreamed across funding, as is currently done for gender and disability, to encourage humanitarian actors to consider the environment holistically across their work. Some donors are already implementing these changes, DFID for example already require evidence of environmental considerations in certain areas of their funding. However, this is a starting point and should go further; donors are in a unique position to conduct further research into what benefits interventions, such as the inclusion of indigenous knowledge. Their crucial position in shaping the humanitarian agenda means that donors should seriously consider the environment in their humanitarian programmes and funding.

It takes political will, from both organisations and donors, to effectively tackle environmental issues in the humanitarian space. There needs to be greater and more flexible funding for organisations to allocate resources effectively, and greater collaboration within the sector in order to reduce the strain, which a lack of resourcing causes. The issue must be prioritised, both by organisations and donors, if it to be effectively addressed. While the environment may be costly and time-consuming to consider, failing to do so can result in greater danger to the vulnerable communities humanitarians seek to help. It is vital that we begin to treat this issue with the importance it requires.

TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue	Recommendations for:		
	DEC Secretariat	NGOs	Donors
Prioritisation DEC members and donors do not see the environment as a priority. It is not a requirement for funding, nor does it carry significant weight in the CHS verification process. The environment is not seen as a core mandate of humanitarian organisations and is secondary to immediate life-saving interventions.	Elevate the importance of the issue by including it as a standing item at Board meetings. Increase emphasis on the importance of environmental impacts in DEC membership review process. Recognise environmental actions in their own category alongside sectorial actions and DRR, and report in output table classifications. Require DEC member organisations to specify environmental considerations in each element of proposed actions, including feedback on each stage of reporting.	Raise the issue to CEO or Board level. Integrate issue into core mandate or organisations' foundational values (e.g. 'theory of poverty'). Mainstream environmental considerations across policy and programming. Establish policies and prioritisation at international headquarter level then disseminate across the federation structure.	Prioritise the issue in funding proposals and reports/ evaluations etc. Include environmental mainstreaming in policy and programmes, similarly to gender and disability. Fund humanitarian projects with environmentally sustainable aims.
Expertise and knowledge sharing	Facilitate knowledge-sharing workshops or create a platform for	Cross-pollinate expertise through DEC environment group or a DEC	Facilitate knowledge sharing platforms for organisations they

Environmental expertise is concentrated in a few organisations within the sector.

Tools and specialised knowledge are not adequately shared between organisations – leading to inconsistency in implementation and duplication of work.

Field staff are not adequately trained where tools do exist and so are ill-equipped to respond effectively. | members to share tools and best practice.

Facilitate training sessions on environmental tools to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Facilitate an analysis/evaluation of existing tools, policies, and best practices in order to establish more clearly what works and share this with agencies and donors (JEU, 2016). | knowledge-sharing workshop or platform.

Consider collaboration with environmental organisations and/or local expertise in programme design/implementation to utilise existing expertise.

When developing tools, ensure they are adaptable and flexible and can be used across contexts, including translation into country office languages.

When developing tools include adequate training for staff on how to use tools, both in national and field offices. Include feedback and lessons learned in the evaluation process of tools. | work with.

Facilitate training sessions on environmental tools to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing in the sector. |
| **Local and field knowledge** | Commission further study into the | Develop methods to incorporate | Commission further study into the |

The impact and importance of local knowledge in relation to preventing / mitigating environmental damage pre- and post- disaster is not adequately understood or utilised. Further study is required to understand its benefit and how it might work in practice.	impact of local knowledge on environmental considerations in humanitarian contexts, preferably in collaboration with donors.	local voices and field staff expertise into programming and humanitarian advocacy.	impact of local knowledge on environmental considerations in humanitarian contexts, preferably in collaboration with DEC and other funders.
Short versus long-term alignment Currently environmental considerations are addressed as a long-term development issue and are rarely regarded as relevant in a humanitarian context. The short- and long-term environmental considerations need to be aligned for interventions to be most effective.	Adapt funding cycles to work with long-term flexible funding. Require both short- and long-term environmental considerations in DEC member project models in emergency responses.	Include disaster risk reduction programming into work in fragile contexts to help mitigate environmental crises – focus on 'preparedness'. Adapt humanitarian programming to include both short-term and long-term environmental considerations. Continue to advocate to donors for the need for long-term, flexible funding.	Provide longer-term, flexible funding for humanitarian responses to allow organisations to adapt to changing contexts and require them to incorporate environmental considerations as a long-term endeavour.
Definitions	Coordinate members to create	Work across the sector to create	Work with DEC, member agencies,

There is no clear distinction across DEC membership regarding the distinction between environmental considerations in humanitarian context and climate change policies. A clear definition would streamline work, increase effectiveness and avoid duplication.	clear, distinctive definitions of environmental issues in humanitarian contexts, and climate change considerations.	clear, distinctive definitions of environmental issues in humanitarian contexts, and climate change considerations.	and other donors to create clear, distinctive definitions of environmental issues in humanitarian contexts, and climate change considerations.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The last ten years have seen unprecedented growth in the public's interest in environmental and climate-related concerns. Activists such as Greta Thunberg and those involved in Extinction Rebellion have brought these issues further into the public eye. While understanding the relationship between human action and environmental degradation has always been vitally important, it seems we are only just realising how crucial it is.

Equally important, yet arguably less understood, is the need to exam the relationship between humanitarian action and environmental degradation. The humanitarian imperative, i.e. 'the desire to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it happens' (CHS Alliance et al., 2014, p.2), requires an immediate and rapid response to disasters that put human lives at risk; environmental considerations are often considered secondary to immediate life-saving measures (Delrue and Sexton, 2009). Nonetheless, there is increasing evidence and recognition that a lack of environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance will result in inadequate responses, with potential future complications for the people organisations are trying to assist (Kelly, 2013). Communities in need of humanitarian assistance are among the most vulnerable in the world, and although NGOs seek to 'do no harm', humanitarian responses can cause environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. This can increase the vulnerability of affected communities, and potentially cause greater risk to life, either through contamination and depletion of resources, or even through the creation of a "secondary humanitarian disaster".

As actors working with the world's most vulnerable people, humanitarians have a responsibility to design and implement policies and tools, which uphold the 'do no harm' principle in relation to the environment. The DEC is in a unique position to implement and encourage real change in the sector by having a collective voice and funding mechanisms, thus enabling tangible influence in the humanitarian sector and reducing the stress on humanitarians through cooperation and knowledge sharing.

1.2 REPORT AIMS

This study adds to existing literature on the humanitarian-environment nexus by reviewing the challenges faced by the DEC members in mainstreaming the environment in their operations, as well as providing recommendations and suggestions on how to overcome such challenges.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The research for this report was conducted through a mixed methodology approach. The group obtained data through a combination of in-depth desk-based research, a survey developed by the UNEP-OCHA-JEU LSE group, and semi-structured interviews with DEC member agencies. Fifteen individuals were interviewed, representing thirteen agencies. Where agencies had tools or policies they were able to share, these were obtained and used to help assess best practice. This enabled the interviewers to gain a greater understanding of NGOs' internal culture and priorities, including tools, policies and programmes. The interviews enabled greater insight into motivations behind NGOs' work than if solely tools and processes had been analysed.

However, there were limitations to the process. Few organisations had anyone specifically assigned to work on climate or environment-related issues, and the key motivator for many NGOs being involved was personal interest. Therefore, self-selection bias is present, as most of the interviewees were members of the voluntary DEC Environment Group. The environment may not be in their official professional remit, but they are personally interested in the issue to dedicate time to pushing the agenda within their organisation.

Additionally, some organisations had no one assigned to environmental considerations in the UK, and so referred us to colleagues in other country offices or international headquarters. While most organisations work in a federation structure, and therefore all offices within the partnership use given policies and tools, the NGOs' international offices are not members of the DEC, and therefore their knowledge of the DEC was limited. This, in turn, meant that their recommendations regarding the role of the DEC were also limited. Nevertheless, this allowed us to speak to those especially interested in the environment and receive greater information on existing tools and practices.

A final limitation was that we were unable to speak to one DEC member organisation, as the contact we were provided with was unable to direct us to a relevant colleague. Conversely, one organisation provided us with two staff members and so we obtained extra information. These instances are reflected in the report's findings that assigned roles and expertise in this area are unequally distributed or lacking. However, due to the small numbers this did not limit the research to a significant extent.

We upheld the highest standard of ethics in our research. All participants gave informed consent to participate and all interviewees have been anonymised. Where tools and policies have been shared the group has been given specific permission to do so.

1.4 REPORT OUTLINE

The report is organised as follows: **Chapter 2** examines why environmental and climate related considerations are important within the humanitarian sector; **Chapter 3** discusses the environmental and climate policies, tools, and commitments that are already in place in DEC member agencies, as well as potential best practice; **Chapter 4** addresses the challenges organisations face in developing and implementing environmental and climate related policies, tools, and commitments; **Chapter 5** outlines the motivations organisations have for including environmental and climate-related concerns, and whether this is a priority or not; finally, **Chapter 6** speaks to the conclusions and recommendations that have emerged from the research.

2. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS?

The humanitarian-environment nexus needs to be taken seriously by humanitarian organisations as changes to the environment can increase the vulnerabilities of people living in developing countries, during a disaster, as well as in the aftermath and in the long term (Ayers and Dodman, 2010). Firstly, the occurrence of natural hazards such as tsunamis, cyclones, landslides and flooding increases as a consequence of environmental degradation and climate change (ICRC, 2009). Hence, increasing the resilience of affected people should be a priority of humanitarian organisations. Moreover, the quality and access to natural resources, such as water and fertile soil, required to support a humanitarian response is reduced in the aftermath of a disaster, thereby hindering effective humanitarian action (Barrett, Murfitt, and Venton, 2007). Further, humanitarian responses that do not adequately mainstream environmental considerations risk creating greater long-term harm by negatively impacting the health and livelihoods of the people they are trying to help, as well as the natural habitats and biosphere upon which all life is dependent (Walch, 2018).

2.1 BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING

Barrett, Murfitt and Venton (2007) identify three main benefits associated with mainstreaming the environment into humanitarian interventions:
- 'Delivering sustainable solutions': the response is more likely to be sustainable when there is an early assessment of best practices of the use of natural resources.
- 'Mitigation of negative impacts': interventions that result in detrimental outcomes for the environment limit the successes of interventions. Considering the impact the response will have on the environment in the initial stages of the planning can allow for mitigation of possible risks.
- 'Reduced costs in the long-term': mainstreaming environmental considerations in the long-run 'can reduce the likelihood of protracted negative effects and hence the overall costs of disasters, as humanitarian assistance starts to link more effectively into the development process' (ibid., p.I).

While the benefits of mainstreaming environmental considerations in humanitarian operations have been recognised, the application of this nexus in practice is still minimal. There are several challenges that inhibit the successful incorporation of environmental planning in humanitarian work that need to be addressed. These challenges are reflected in our research, and include:
- Environmental considerations continue to be considered a secondary priority by humanitarian organisations (Barrett, Murfitt and Venton, 2007; Srinivas and Nakagawa, 2008; Berkes, 2017).

- Lack of cooperation between environmental and humanitarian organisations, and between humanitarian agencies on best practices and tools used to mainstream environmental considerations into humanitarian interventions (Sudmeier-Rieux et al., 2006; JEU, 2014)
- A lack of knowledge and awareness by humanitarian aid workers (Barrett, Murfitt and Venton, 2007; Srinivas and Nakagawa, 2008; JEU, 2014). This report found it especially true in terms of conflation between environmental and climate change issues.
- The absence of environmental policy statements, processes, commitments, and tools within humanitarian organizations inhibits the mainstreaming of environmental consideration into humanitarian operations (Barrett, Murfitt and Venton, 2007; JEU, 2016). Where policies and tools do exist, commitments to these may be greater in donor countries, rather than countries where humanitarian response is implemented.
- Lack of funding for systematic environmental initiatives within humanitarian organisations (Kelly, 2013; JEU, 2014)

2.2 OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

While there are challenges to mainstreaming environmental considerations in humanitarian operations, these can and should be overcome to achieve better outcomes for both the environment and resilience of communities. First, reviewing and analysing the existing tools and best practices for environmental stewardship can facilitate the successful implementation and improvement of these by NGOs in their own work (JEU, 2016). Moreover, there is a gap in the academic literature regarding the humanitarian-environmental nexus, which should be addressed by commissioning further studies on how to overcome the challenges. This should focus on establishing the environment as a priority, including long-term goals in responses, and analysing the potential benefits that can arise from such coordination.

3. WHAT'S ALREADY OUT THERE?

The purpose of this chapter is to map out the policies, tools and commitments that are already in place within DEC member agencies, and establish which are considered as effective or best practice. The chapter will begin with a specific section on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) as this standard underpins the work of the DEC and CHS verification is a mandatory requirement for DEC member agencies. It then addresses policies and commitments, as well as field-based tools.

3.1 CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD
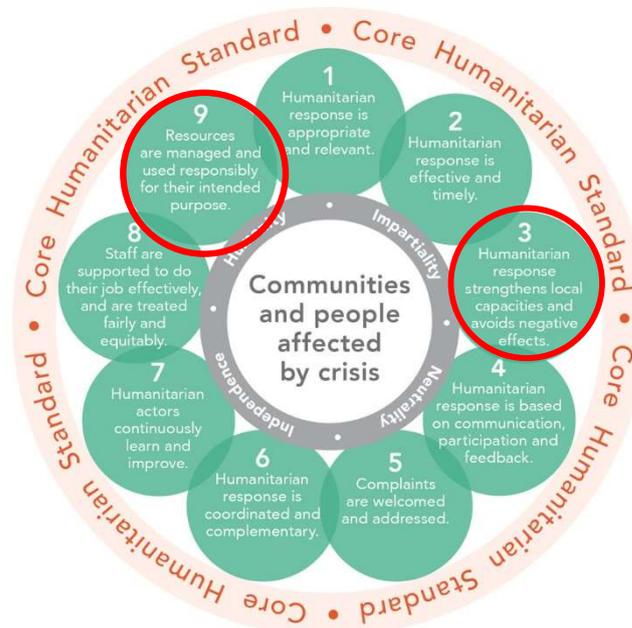
Figure 1: Diagram displaying the CHS with the commitments related to the environment highlighted. Source: Core Humanitarian Standard (2020)

The CHS was developed in 2014 as a way of increasing the coherence and coordination of the humanitarian sector. It came out of the Joint Standards Initiative (JSI), which brought together the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership, People in Aid, and the Sphere Standard. The JSI consultation highlighted a need for greater harmonisation between the standards, a framework that would link them together, and for affected communities to be put at the heart of the sector's response to humanitarian crises. As a result of the process, the CHS was developed to integrate and harmonise the sector's response to humanitarian crises (Core Humanitarian Standard, 2020). Since its development, the DEC has embedded the CHS into its work. Membership of the DEC requires independent verification against the CHS by the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI). This certification is an independent method of assuring organisations meet the requirements, practices and commitments set out in the CHS (HQAI, 2016). The CHS is central to the DEC's work and is a standard to which they hold their membership. Member organisations' belief that the CHS is a positive addition worth adhering to is therefore crucial.

Positive views related to the CHS emerged during interviews. First, the CHS is considered important to organisations, in part because adhering to it is a requirement for DEC membership. Second, the CHS is valued for how it outlines commitments, however it was acknowledged that how the commitments are adhered to depends on individual organisations. Third, interviewees stated that their environmental policies and discussions surrounding the environment originated

because of the CHS. Finally, organisations have used the CHS to develop tools and policies. For example, Tearfund has used the CHS in developing their tool titled "Seeing Beyond Response", while Islamic Relief Worldwide has aligned its internal quality assurance system and framework with the CHS. This means that when assessments are conducted within field offices, they occur in line with the CHS.

While there is much to be praised in the CHS, there are equally some valid criticisms of the standard, as referenced by interviewees. Signing up is a voluntary process, with little to no penalisation for organisations that fail to meet the standard or score low on commitments. Additionally, there is no standalone environmental commitment in the CHS and environmental considerations are included elsewhere. Organisations can therefore have a low score on environment-related sub-points of a commitment, but still achieve a good score overall, reducing the imperative to prioritise the environment.

Interviewees also suggested the CHS does not advise on solving problems faced by agencies, such as incorporating long-term environmental considerations into their work. These gaps, particularly relating to climate change and biodiversity, were also highlighted. Finally, one interviewee suggested that the central 'do no harm' principle should be applied more thoroughly to the environment – currently agencies focus on this in relation to human impact rather than a broader socio-ecological systems approach.

Overall, the CHS is seen as a positive framework for humanitarian work, however it is unlikely to be sufficient when establishing environmental policies, tools, and commitments. Further, given the diversity of responses the use of the standard varies between organisations.

3.2 OTHER STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Sphere Handbook (2018)
Founded in 1997, Sphere is one of the earliest initiatives to improve the quality and accountability of the humanitarian sector (Sphere Standards, 2018). It is a community of NGOs and humanitarian actors to increase transparency and effectiveness within the sector. Their flagship document, the Sphere Handbook, outlines the Sphere standards and is updated regularly with changes and developments. The Standards are closely linked to the CHS (Sphere Standards, 2018) and reference the CHS as a foundational document. The latest edition of the Sphere Handbook includes an 'Environmental Sustainability' focus (standard no. 7). It provides guidance on minimising negative environmental impacts ranging from sourcing of materials to energy management. However, there are gaps on mainstreaming environmental considerations in the long-term and solution-based guidance.

Guidelines
- **UNHCR Environmental Guidelines (1996-2015):** Published in 1996 and updated in 2005, the UNCHR provides guidelines on how to systematically mainstream environmental considerations into humanitarian operations for refugees (UNCHR, 2015; Tull, 2019).
- **DFID Environment Guide (2003):** Produced by DFID (2003) to provide a method on conducting environmental assessments of humanitarian interventions in the initial stages of projects. While it does not advise how to mitigate problems, it does demonstrate how donors can incentivise organisations to be more attentive to negative environmental externalities resulting from humanitarian operations, and facilitate the screening process (Crowely, 2019).
- **IUCN Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Disasters (2006):** The International Union for Conservation of Nature provides recommendations on how to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies in an effective way by focusing on preparedness and coordination by professionals in civil defence, emergency response units, and environmental and humanitarian agencies to environmental issues (Sudmeier-Rieux et al, 2006).

3.3 ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS

Internal Policies

All DEC member organisations interviewed have, or are developing, internal environmental and climate change policies. However, the extent of implementation and what they include varies significantly. Concern Worldwide has a broad four-page document articulating beliefs on climate change and environmental management in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a strategy document for planned future achievement. Its programming objectives include: carbon footprint, advocacy and communications; and carbon offsetting. Concern is also working on a carbon auditor baseline to establish what works best. Christian Aid has drafted a report that covers organisational management related to the procurement of goods and services. Alongside an environmental policy, the British Red Cross BRC has an environment and carbon reduction officer and is ISO14001. In addition, it has an internal 'green-working group' and climate champions considering the environment and climate change, and is part of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's Green response working group and Climate Action Taskforce. . Tearfund has a cross-department working group called "Walk The Talk", comprised of people interested in making positive environmental changes such as removing plastic drinks containers, recycling schemes, and implementing a meat-free Tuesday.

Many interviewees explained environmental and climate friendly policies need internal enaction before being enforced in the field. World Vision and Concern Worldwide highlighted that it was important to set standards and expectations in headquarters first before pushing practices onto programmes. Tearfund terms this a "practice what you preach" mentality.

The most common internal policy mentioned by interviewees was reducing flights taken by staff, as mentioned by 10 of the 15 interviewees. Reducing organisational carbon footprint was seen as a key motivator for this policy. For example, monitoring flights to calculate carbon footprints, carbon emission auditing, carbon offsetting, and increased working from home policies and virtual meetings were all mentioned as ways to reduce flights and make a tangible difference to an organisation's carbon footprint; therefore mitigating climate change.

Other internal policies mentioned included:
- reducing meat consumption within offices – Tearfund holds 'meat-free Tuesdays'
- managing energy consumption – The British Red Cross recently completed an office refurbishment to improve energy efficiency, has Green Energy contracts, and installed nearly 1000 solar panels on seven of its other properties.
- waste management – among others, Action Aid and Tearfund minimise plastic use within their offices
- and the encouraging of alternative travel – Tearfund provides electrical car charging spaces, encourages cycling, and has car-sharing schemes.

Field Policies
Noticeably fewer organisations have environmental field policies in place. Interviews highlighted some organisations have not identified how their work impacts the environment, with others believing their work has no negative environmental impacts. Such findings were, however, rare.

Despite their limited number, some examples can be highlighted. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross and member National Societies, including British Red Cross, are amongst those leading in this area through initiatives such as Green Response. Green Response seeks to extend the humanitarian 'do no harm' principle to the environment and ecosystems which humans are reliant on. There is a clear focus on improving practices before a disaster whilst also increasing the sustainability of response interventions and increasing accountability to affected populations (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2020).

Other organisations are also having a real impact in this area. CAFOD has a new organisational strategy, pushing the organisation in an environmental direction, and enabling them to work as much with the environment as with poverty and humanitarian disaster. For CAFOD, the environment and humanitarian work are intrinsically connected, thus moving in this direction is key. Christian Aid does not have environmental policies relating to their programming but are drafting a policy, which may include environmental standards and consistent practices for programming.

Other organisations include environmental considerations in their programming. Islamic Relief Worldwide has successfully used solar panels as part of their WASH work for the past decade – these projects include using a gravity system and solar panels to power pumps in irrigation systems that support local livelihoods. Other organisations, such as Plan UK, highlighted field waste management policies, which are applied at a national and field level.

Other organisations are tailoring their organisational focus around climate change and environmental considerations. For example, Concern is targeting their programming in countries that are disproportionately affected by climate change by integrating DRR with adaptation programmes.

Overall, organisations' policies vary significantly as each respond to the demands of the environment and generalising at this point is not possible.

3.4 ORGANISATIONAL TOOLS

The interviews highlighted that there is no consistent definition across DEC membership of what an environmental or climate 'tool' is. When asked what tools were used, interviewees mentioned policies, checklists, toolkits, handbooks, and assessment mechanisms. Most interviewees said that their organisations either have tools or are working to develop them, however the type of 'tool' they referred to varied significantly.

The following tables summarise examples of tools used, with tools still in development highlighted. There are more tools available but only those described in detail during interviews are included. A key recommendation of this report is that organisations share tools and best practice in more detail in order to facilitate greater collaboration and ways of working.

Action Aid

Tool Name	Tool Description
Emergency Response Handbook	Utilises a resilience approach and framework towards overall humanitarian response. While it does not include standalone environmental impact assessments or environmental policies, environmental considerations are embedded within its resilience approach. *Tool Type*: Field

CAFOD

Tool Name	Tool Description
Environmental	A multi-spreadsheet Excel file used to identify the potential environmental risks that field projects may pose and how to mitigate them. Tier 1 includes categories

Stewardship Tool	of questions that enable the identification of a project's environmental risks. It is adaptable so that irrelevant questions do not have to be answered. Tier 2 defines the level of impact (low, medium, high) and the probability of the risk occurring. Based on the answers provided in Tier 1, it will also suggest which risks should be addressed first. Tier 3 includes identifying mitigation measures and assessing their strength (weak, medium, strong), determining any additional mitigation measures necessary, as well as who is responsible for these measures and what the expected impact is. The tool also includes a spreadsheet on an ecosystem-based approach to DRR, and spreadsheets with information on common environmental concerns within, for example, food security and livelihoods, shelter and settlements, and WASH. *Tool Type*: Field

Plan International UK

Tool Name	Tool Description
Proposal quality tool	A checklist on proposal, which includes key considerations for meeting minimum standards, related to, among others: gender, resilience, and the environment. Each section of the checklist has key questions, which must be answered. This process is done by teams developing proposals. Advisors specialising in the included themes review the answers and comments and provide recommendations for improvements. The tool is limited to proposals. *Tool Type*: Field & Internal
Global Approach to Environmental Assessment	Under development within the Plan federation. The organisation aims to integrate the tool into the programme cycle methodology. The tool will be developed by mapping existing tools and requirements from different donors to develop a concise and easy-to-use tool that can be used across various country offices and be applied at different levels. *Tool Type:* Field

Tearfund

Tool Name	Tool Description
Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment Tool	A guide to help project and field staff to design and evaluate environmentally friendly projects, programmes, and strategies, and to integrate economic and environmental sustainability into existing projects, programmes, and strategies. It includes a baseline assessment of economic and environmental sustainability. The guide includes five long-term outcomes related to (1) sustainable resource management, (2) socio-ecological balance, (3) equality and participation, (4) growth, and (5) stability. From the long-term outcomes, ten 'design principles' are created, each connected to the SDGs. These principles help those planning activities attain long-term outcomes, to monitor their progress and evaluate their impact. Each design principle is graded based on a scale from 1 (very bad) to 5

(significantly improved) to determine the stage a project, programme, or strategy is at, and allows for establishing a baseline. This grading can be done through the use of proposed indicators. The project cycle based on this guide includes 7 stages:

1. Context Analysis – using the ten design principles to decide what the largest need is and where there is most potential for solutions
2. Design – using the analysis conducted to decide where the largest difference can be made
3. Set-up – looking at the project design and deciding what resources are required
4. Planning – planning how to monitor the project by using indicators provided in the guide
5. Implementation and monitoring – using the baseline to monitor project progress
6. Evaluation and learning – evaluating the situation after the end of the project
7. Closure – celebrating achievement and evaluating changes

The grading and use of indicators are adaptable as not all principles will be relevant to all projects. The guide provides detail on the ten principles.

Tool Type: Field

Case Study: DRC
The DRC project includes local people collecting single use plastic bags and turning them into paving blocks by combining them with a sand mixture. The project is a way to reduce the number of plastic products in the environment while also creating economic value. 54,000 blocks were made, generating USD 12,000, for the purpose of building a school.

|	
Thinking Beyond Response	A guide focused on humanitarian response. It highlights the importance of environmental and economic sustainability in humanitarian intervention in both rapid and slow-onset disasters, conflicts, and human displacement. It also helps identify gaps, and suggests other related tools. The guide includes five long-term outcomes related to (1) sustainable resource management, (2) socio-ecological balance, (3) equality and participation, (4) growth, and (5) stability. From the long-term outcomes, ten 'design principles' are created. These design principles are in line with the CHS and Sphere standards. The guide outlines which principles are most relevant to each stage of humanitarian intervention. See Figure 2. This tool has recently been completed and is now being tested in pilot projects. It is currently available in English and French, and being translated into Spanish and Portuguese. *Tool Type*: Field
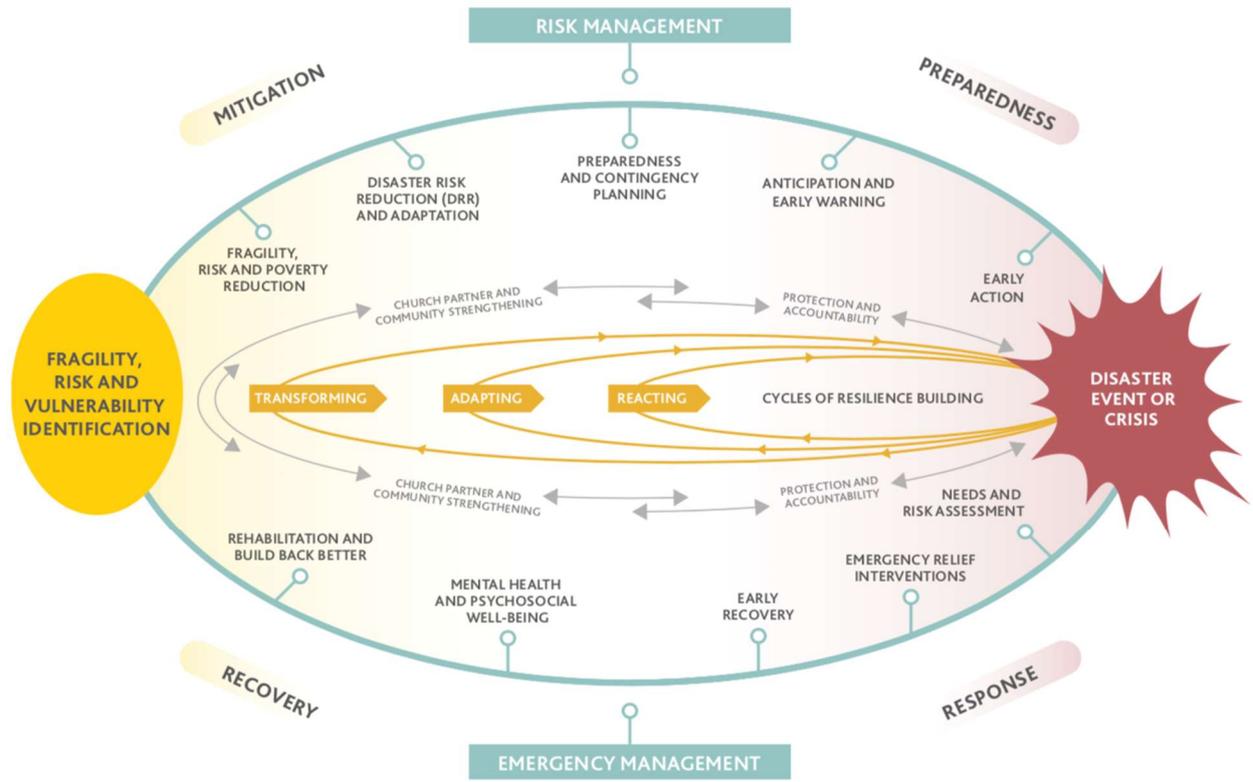
Figure 2: Diagram from the Tearfund "Going Beyond Response" guide

4. WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLS, POLICIES, AND COMMITMENTS HARD TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT?

Interviewees identified challenges causing a lack of field-related environmental policies.

Skills and Expertise

The main constraint is a lack of resources, including time, expertise, and funding. A common finding across the study was the absence of an environmental specialist within organisations, both at the UK and international level. Most did not have anyone focussed on the environment, while others had someone at the international but not the UK level. This made consistent levels of information across the interviews challenging as we were often directed to interested individuals or international specialists for interviews. While it is encouraging that UK staff could direct us to an international-level specialist, this does not necessarily translate into streamlined environmental policy and programming. The support and resources a UK office acquires from the international office depends on the quality of communication between the offices, and on the federation structure of the organisation. Even with specialists at the international level, it would benefit organisations more to have specialists within each office. This is incredibly challenging due to a lack of funding and priorities, resulting in an overall lack of expertise, training, and resources.

Implementation of Tools

Where field policies exist, enforcing and monitoring these pose challenges. It is tempting to apply environmental policies to specific projects rather than holistically to a humanitarian response. This is understandable as solutions need to be context specific, however lacking holistic policy makes it more challenging to apply environmental considerations effectively across programmes and contexts. Moreover, as some organisations lack the capacity and resources to conduct environmental assessments these are outsourced to local actors. Though it is key to gain local actors' inputs, without proper due diligence it can lead to discrepancies across project assessments. Organisations also raised problems with tool implementation and monitoring. To solve these issues interviewees voiced the need to spend more time training staff on how to conduct assessments and use available tools. Where this can be combined with local knowledge and insight it could be incredibly effective and more research should be done on piloting this approach. However, difficulties in implementation and monitoring are also linked to the choices humanitarians face in deciding to respond with short-term life saving measures or to integrate long-term environmental considerations into their work. These can only be solved by mainstreaming environmental considerations holistically across organisations' policies and programmes.

Coordination and Knowledge Sharing

Gaps in coordination and cooperation slow down progress in establishing best practice within the sector, hindering organisations that do not have environmental expertise learning from those that do. HelpAge suggested cooperation is especially useful for smaller organisations as it provides

insights, expertise, and tools organisations could not achieve alone due to a shortage of internal funds. The DEC has taken steps to address gaps in knowledge sharing through the creation of the DEC Environment Group. Concern Worldwide highlighted the main benefit of this group is sharing policies, tools, and structures that already exist and have been positively implemented elsewhere, reducing workloads and duplication.

Additionally, organisations such as Plan International UK, CARE Netherlands, and Concern, partner with environmental organisations when developing programming to include external expert input. Most examples given were on an international level. For example, CARE International has a global memorandum of understanding with the UN World Food Programme. Organisations should trial these partnerships with local environmental organisations or conduct further research to compare how these partnerships compare with incorporating indigenous knowledge into programme design. However, partnerships with environmental organisations pose a danger of diluting the purpose of humanitarian programming from saving and protecting lives to environmental aims. Where partnerships with environmental organisations are developed, the purpose of the programming must be made clear from the outset.

Interviewees identified factors, which hinder knowledge sharing and collaboration in the sector. Some suggested a lack of communication about the availability of policies and tools inhibit effective collaboration. One organisation suggested this was due to a lack of awareness of existing collaboration platforms, such as the DEC Environment Group. Another organisation suggested the argument for 'context specific' programming can be a blocker to collaboration. While context specific knowledge is important for an effective response, it can become an excuse for not transferring learning between projects, countries or contexts.

It is important to recognise that DEC members are structurally different and have different mandates, therefore coordination and implementation of environmental tools and assessments could be more complicated across some members than it appears. However, this should not prevent organisations from sharing their tools. Greater communication and more active engagement with forums such as the DEC environment group is key to tackling this.

Mainstreaming

One interviewee suggested that because the environment is not mainstreamed across projects and proposals prioritisation is difficult for organisations. This suggests that the way environmental issues are conceptualised within humanitarian organisations and for donors may not be conducive to creating environmental policies. Learning from the mainstreaming of gender and disability is vital and both organisations and donors should apply similar processes.

Organisations' Federation Structure

Not all DEC member organisations are able to manage all aspects of programmes due to their federation structure. The British Red Cross is part of the wider International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and when working internationally they work through the IFRC, ICRC or

partner Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies. Therefore, international response work is carried out under these organisations' policies. Even if policies and commitments are established within British Red Cross' UK office, this does not necessarily mean that they will also be applied by partner National Societies in the field. When discussing work done internationally, the British Red Cross highlighted that this structure is not always a blocker, and can be an excellent way to share skills and resources. Indeed, the ICRC and IFRC have done a considerable amount of work in this area. Under the banner of Green Response, there are multiple policies and programmes that are applied across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and is an excellent example of collaboration across the world's largest humanitarian network. Additionally, Red Cross environment experts are deployed from across the federation to emergency responses where needed. Deploying experts in this manner is an excellent way of utilising existing resources to provide the most effective response, however due to internal constraints it is recognised that not all organisations are able to do so.

Rather than developing an overarching environmental policy, some organisations have developed policies from field offices. Islamic Relief Worldwide's environmental analyses are locally led and managed, rather than originating from its headquarters. Consequently, they do not have an overarching environmental policy, but potentially greater local ownership. Multiple interviewees suggested it was important to their organisation to align programmes and projects with local legislation and policies, and to work with local actors when developing policies. Therefore, for most organisations consistency across country programmes is seen as highly desirable but dependent on organisations' international governance structures.

Conflation

The humanitarian sector lacks a coherent definition of environmental issues, hindering the development of tools and policies. Nearly all interviewees used 'climate change' as a synonym for environmental issues, and many interviewees focused on climate change policies instead of wider environmental issues. Almost every agency interviewed has a flight reduction policy, which is crucial for carbon footprint reduction, yet does not increase environmental programming. Whilst environmental issues and climate change are clearly connected - with climate change having repercussions on natural resources and conversely, nature based solutions to climate change positively impacting the environment - the conflation of climate change and environment terminology is likely to make developing targeted environmental policies more challenging. Tearfund deliberately merges the two terms, using them interchangeably depending on the context and audience they are hoping to reach. They believe the public sees climate change as more comprehensible and urgent and therefore more effective to discuss than environmental issues, which are gaining traction at a slower pace. However, this is the only example of deliberate conflation and is used in fundraising and awareness raising rather than programming.

Short-term versus long-term priorities

A common issue across many organisations was the question of 'doing development' or 'doing humanitarian emergencies'. More specifically, when considering the environment, there is a disalignment between short-term and long-term operations and impact. Both these hinder the ability of organisations to effectively incorporate environmental considerations in their humanitarian programming.

Currently environmental analysis is not a priority in short-term humanitarian programmes. More than half of interviewees suggested environmental analysis is not integrated within 'immediate' humanitarian responses, as the priority is to save lives quickly. Most agencies stressed that the environment plays a role only in medium or long-term projects, as its 'sustainable' effects take time to materialise. Concern and the British Red Cross highlighted that the environment and sustainable solutions usually appear after the first stage of a humanitarian response. There is a discrepancy between the need for a quick humanitarian response and incorporating environmental considerations as 'best practice' for the long-term. Clearly, different mind-sets between long-term and short-term work exist and there is scepticism around the two being reconciled.

However, other interviewees suggested this is a false distinction as long-term unintended environmental consequences cost lives. As World Vision explained, cutting down trees for shelter and firewood in risk zones such as South Sudan could appear as an easy solution but land degradation can impact the stability and fertility of the soil, increasing communities' risks to flooding or malnutrition or other issues. Once the 'emergency' intervention is completed these actions must be considered and a programme for tree planting be implemented to ameliorate the land degradation. For Tearfund the separation between development and humanitarian emergencies is 'artificial' and 'conceptual'. As development occurs on a continuum, they suggest a 'full picture' is needed to understand how actions impact later stages of development, rather than focusing on the immediate humanitarian response. For example, their 13-year intervention in Sudan started as a humanitarian response and operated year by year with humanitarian funding but with a long-term focus. Similarly, Concern uses a climate lens when establishing development and humanitarian programming. They integrate DRR programmes with environmental/climate adaptation, linking short-term with long-term operations. Concern is also broadening the traditional view of DRR to include a multisectoral perspective to include the "whole cycle" of development. They highlighted education as an important component to link short-term and long-term operations, especially regarding the environment and within rural contexts. Clearly a focus on incorporating long-term considerations into short-term humanitarian programming is key in order to push the sector towards a more holistic programming approach.

All DEC members have extensive experience of sustainable development thus there is an opportunity for actors to address this issue by incorporating learnings from sustainable development into humanitarian work. The Red Cross recommended integrating environmental

assessments into disaster preparedness through assessment screening tools. As DRR is the modus operandi for most member agencies, incorporating environmental assessments into this work would be relatively straightforward but influential. It ensures that employees can take appropriate environmental measures as soon as a humanitarian emergency occurs, thereby mitigating the problems of limited environmental expertise and the need for quick humanitarian responses. Staff must be effectively trained in these tools to maximise impact and organisations should consider such measures to increase the holistic nature of their work.

5. WHAT MOTIVATES ORGANISATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY DEVELOP AND INCORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLS AND POLICIES INTO THEIR WORK?

5.1 ATTITUDES AND PRIORITIES

The perceived importance of environmental considerations in humanitarian contexts has a significant impact on whether environmental tools and policies are developed. Among the 15 interviewees, 12 regarded the environment as important, but not a priority. The DEC recognises the environment is not a priority for member agencies and wants to know how to help integrate the environment within the core commitments and missions of its members. For the environment to be effectively addressed in humanitarian responses it must be prioritised.

Members' core mandates influence the priority they give environmental concerns. DEC members define themselves as human development and poverty alleviation organisations, therefore most see environmental considerations as important, but not integral to their work. Many interviewees suggested awareness of environmental impacts in humanitarian contexts is still 'new' and 'just coming into consideration'. An interviewee from Islamic Relief Worldwide said that this meant time is needed to develop and prioritise environmental policies. However due to the significant restraints on the humanitarian sector this is increasingly difficult.

Of all interviewees, only Tearfund clearly defined the environment as a core priority. They have integrated environmental considerations into operations through practical tool guides and internal policies for staff. The interviewee also stressed that there was no resistance to establishing these policies specifically because the environment is central to their core mandates. Their main challenge is teaching field staff how to use these policies, suggesting a need for greater training.

More than half of the interviewees said the environment has always been a secondary consideration in humanitarian emergencies, both for organisations and donors. Consequently, proposals and projects may not include a focus on the environment. Despite this, organisations regard the understanding of environmental impacts in humanitarian context as an emerging 'key issue', increasing the mandate of both agencies and donors to incorporate it more systematically into their responses; Successfully integrating the environment into humanitarian work requires both to prioritise it.

5.2 MOTIVATIONS

There were differing reasons that led member agencies to become interested in environmental issues. Recurring themes were the interests of the donor, the individual staff member, and the

public. Other motivations include legal requirements, 'do no harm' principles fuelling change, good business management practices, or cost cutting.

CHS

The CHS was rarely a motivation for developing environmental policies, but some raised it as a reason for looking at the environment. Interviewees from World Vision and HelpAge said environment related questions arose in response to organisational consideration of the CHS. Many interviewees referred to the 'do no harm' principle as a consideration in their work.

Donors

An interviewee from Christian Aid highlighted that DFID, a key donor for DEC members, requires specific environmental policies as part of their service contract. CARE praised environmental requirements from donors as they have encouraged agencies to develop in-depth policies through contractual obligations. Other interviewees suggested donors should not dictate the work of NGOs, however donor interest was seen as a positive overall and members wanted greater involvement of donors.

Individuals

Some agencies have established green working groups, both internally and externally, because of individual employees' interests. The DEC Environment Group is a key example of this. These self-organised groups aim to design environmental policies and tools and push the agenda within their organisations and the sector. The influence and position individuals have in an organisation, both domestically and globally, is crucial in determining how impactful these groups are. If these groups can escalate their issues to CEO or board level their influence would increase.

Public Interest

A shift in public mindsets was recognised by interviewees from several member agencies such as Plan International, CARE, and Save the Children. The increase in public awareness has grown organisations' mandates to further the environment agenda.

Faith Imperative

Faith also proved a motivation for two of the five faith-based DEC member agencies. Tearfund's Christian 'theology of mission' establishes the root causes of poverty as broken relationships between people, God, community, and environment (Tearfund, 2020). In this vision, relationships between people and the environment must be restored to alleviate poverty. As a core value and belief the agency is built upon, the approach is holistically applied on every level of the organisation and across all programming. Consequently, Tearfund considered the environment before many other agencies, and arguably leads DEC members in this area.

CAFOD also included faith as a key motivation for incorporating environmental considerations into their humanitarian work, specifically referencing the papal encyclical Laudato Si'; an invitation from Pope Francis "to everyone on the planet to care for our common home" (Francis, 2015).

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENTATIONS: WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

While efforts are admirable to address environmental issues in humanitarian contexts, more should be done to address them effectively. Clear recommendations emerged from the interviews regarding opportunities for the DEC, member organisations, and donors. These are detailed in the table of recommendations on page 6. A few key recommendations are detailed below.

6.1 ROLE OF THE DEC

The DEC has a positive role in furthering the environmental agenda in NGOs. Member agencies saw the potential of the DEC as positively encouraging them to consider environmental impacts in their work. Members believe that no new environmental commitments are needed as the DEC has a unique role in increasing the onus on organisations to effectively integrate CHS commitments 3 and 9 in policies and programmes. An interviewee from World Vision said the DEC had a role in leading discussions on environmental issues, including challenging members on how they include the environment in programming. An interviewee from Concern recommended that the DEC encourage donors to mainstream the environment within programmes, and increase funding flexibility to allow organisations to respond to changing circumstances. Overall, the DEC's platform and influence to further the environmental agenda were seen as key opportunities.

The DEC's platform also adds value in coordinating knowledge sharing. This collaboration and support, facilitated by the DEC, enables organisations to benefit and learn from one another. An interviewee from Islamic Relief welcomed the idea, reaffirming the willingness within organisations to make change. An interviewee from the British Red Cross went further, suggesting the DEC could play a tangible role in coordinating the deployment of environmental experts during DEC supported humanitarian emergencies. This would prevent overlap between organisations, decrease air travel, facilitate collaborations, and enable organisations to benefit from other's expertise.

Finally, it is suggested that the DEC use its platform to increase member agencies' internal prioritisation of the environment. It is suggested that the issue is elevated to CEO level, by including it as a key agenda item at DEC CEO meetings. The DEC Environment Group should establish clear recommendations on how CEOs should support their organisation to champion the environmental agenda. This prioritisation could be highly influential within organisations.

6.2 ROLE OF MEMBERS

DEC member agencies must also make environmental considerations a priority to address long-term issues effectively. Whilst NGOs are under substantial pressure, environmental considerations must be a priority to be tackled effectively. A World Vision UK interviewee highlighted this

requires a cultural shift. Elevating the issue to CEOs would be a good starting point for prioritisation.

In addition, while the DEC plays a crucial role in facilitating knowledge sharing, member agencies can also share tools and best practice between themselves. This would be crucial in cross-pollinating best practice across the sector and members' own federations. An interviewee from CARE highlighted that the environmental agenda mostly sits with CARE Netherlands, but tools and policies are shared across the partnership. However, due to the federation structure of international NGOs, it is not guaranteed that all will operate similarly. Once again, if environmental considerations are given priority in organisations, sharing tools and best practice across partnerships will be easier.

Furthermore, if organisations cannot employ specific skills and expertise, this gap can be closed by working alongside environmental organisations. However, while partnering with environmental organisations can give NGOs greater insight and expertise, a clear agreement must be drawn up between organisations – human development, achieved through environmentally sustainable programmes, must be the primary purpose. Neither human development nor the environment should come at the expense of the other.

Finally, there should be further research on including local voices in humanitarian responses. No interviewee cited this as an element of their work, although a few suggested it was an area of interest. Existing research suggests that partnering with local actors is an important way to understand how to mitigate methods in humanitarian work, but to understand it better, organisations should increase research and work with local partners.

6.3 ROLE OF DONORS

Most interviews saw a positive role regarding donors' leadership in furthering the environmental agenda and helping organisations respond effectively. An interviewee from CARE praised DFID for including environmental considerations in proposals, and suggested donors can positively 'force' NGOs to act. Similarly, an interviewee from Concern cited donor interest as a key motivator for environmental considerations being prioritised. However, this could go further. An interviewee from Save the Children called for more support and leadership from donors. World Vision UK suggested environmental considerations should be mainstreamed by donors similarly to gender or disability, and an interviewee from Plan International UK suggested donors could be clearer in their environmental requirements.

Not all agencies saw donors as conversation leaders. Some interviewees felt donors were too political and should not push agendas onto humanitarian organisations. Interviewees also highlighted that donors must 'practice what they preach' – while they could demand more from

member agencies, they must also implement environmental policies into their own work. Some interviewees recommended greater accountability of donors, through environmental impact assessments among other interventions. Overall, interviewees felt if donors were to ask more of DEC members, they must also ask more of themselves.

Finally, funding was highlighted as the most important area for donor consideration as current funding opportunities for environmental projects are limited, restrictive and timebound. For agencies to respond effectively to humanitarian crises in a long-term, sustainable way funding must be long-term and flexible, and include environmental considerations. This would allow agencies to adapt to changing contexts and respond in the most effective way to humanitarian disasters.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Pre-Interview Survey (*Source*: UNEP-OCHA-JEU LSE consulting group)

Q1: We would first like to know: what type of organization do you work for?
—> *check box:*

- Donor
- International Organization
- Non-Government Organization
- Other (please specify)

Q2. Do you think your organization should proactively manage the environmental impacts of your humanitarian interventions?

- Yes
- No

Q3. Does your organization have **environmental policies** to be used in the planning and implementation of humanitarian field operations?
 —> *List of scroll down options (can only select one)*

- Yes
- No - not relevant to our work
- No - not yet considered as necessary
- No - not a focus of our organization
- We are in the process of developing these policies
- Other (please specify)

Q4. Does your organization have **environmental guidelines** to be used in the planning and implementation of humanitarian field operations?
—> *List of scroll down options (can only select one)*

- Yes
- No - not relevant to our work
- No - not yet considered as necessary
- No - not a focus of our organization
- We are in the process of developing these guidelines
- Other (please specify)

Q5. If yes to Q3 and/or Q4, please provide more information on those policies/guidelines. If possible, please provide links to any relevant policy/guideline.
—> *text box to answer*

Q6. If yes to Q3 and/or Q4, what measures have been put in place within your organization to ensure that environmental policies and guidelines are followed and complied with?
—> *text box to answer*

Q7: Does your organization coordinate with other humanitarian or environmental organizations on assessing and addressing environmental impacts during humanitarian operations? If yes, please indicate the organizations.
—> *text box to answer*

Q8: Does your organization routinely include environmental impacts as part of real time or post operations evaluations and lessons learnt reports?
—> *List of scroll down options (can only select one)*
- Yes
- Don't know - lack of sufficient information to answer for my organization
- No - not relevant
- No - not part of M&E process
- No - lack of appropriate expertise in evaluation team
- Other (please specify)

Q9: If yes to Q8, please indicate where these reports are located.
—> *text box to answer*

Q10: Does your organization have shelter activities?
- Yes
- No

Q11: If yes to Q10, Sphere Shelter and Settlements Standard 7 calls for environmental sustainability and identified five indicators relative to this standard:
a. Percentage of shelter and settlement activities preceded by an environmental review
b. Number of recommendations from the environment management and monitoring plan that have been implemented
c. Percentage of shelter constructions using low carbon emission construction materials and procurement methods
d. Percentage of solid waste on the site reused, re-purposed or recycled
e. Percentage of temporary settlement sites restored to better environmental conditions than before use.

Have these indicators been systematically integrated into your organization's shelter and settlement related operations, including water, sanitation, food security, and health components of assistance provided to settlements?
—> *list of scroll down options* (*can only select one*)
- Yes
- Don't know - lack of sufficient information to answer for my organization
- Partially - in the process of integrating but not fully implemented yet
- No - not relevant to the work done by my organization
- No - have not yet completed the integration of the new Sphere Standards into operations
- No - were not aware of this standard
- Other (please specify)

Q12: If yes to Q11, please provide examples here.

—> text box to answer

Q13: Is your organization a member of the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network EHA Connect? (https://www.eecentre.org/partners/the-eha-network/)
—> check box to answer (can select several options)

- Yes
- No - not relevant
- No - did not know it existed
- Other (please specify)

Q14: Which of the following sources of information to support environmental management during humanitarian operations have you or your organization used?
—> check box to answer (can select several options)

- Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
- EHA Connect Website
- Environment and Emergencies website
- Environment and Disaster Management website
- Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice
- Other (please specify)

Q15: Would you be willing to participate in a personal interview on environmental policies? The interview would take about 30 minutes. Interview questions would be provided in advance and quotations would only be used with permission.

- Yes
- No

Q16: If yes to Q15, please provide contact details. Names will not be used in the analysis.

Appendix 2 – Interview Questions

1. Please tell us a bit about your professional background - which position do you hold? Which involvement in environmental issues do you have? Insight into your own experience?

2. Please share some information on your organization? What specific environmental links do you see to your organization's core work/mandate?

3. Do you have an environmental focal point or someone who has the environment as part of their job description? If not, who is driving this agenda?

4. Does your organization have an overarching environmental or climate policy?
   a. If no: Why?
   b. If yes: Does this also cover humanitarian activities/relate to humanitarian assistance?
      i. If no: why?

5. Does your organization have other specific policies, which address the environment?

6. What did it take to develop these environmental policies that relate to humanitarian assistance?

7. In your opinion, what was your organization's motivations to start developing environmental policies?

8. How are the policies implemented, monitored and enforced?

9. What **tools** are used to implement and monitor them?

10. Are these policies applied to the field?
    a. If yes: which **measures** have been most effective in ensuring environmental policies are adhered to in the field?

11. Are there any areas in your humanitarian work where you have identified current practices need to change in order to have a better impact on the environment? What changes would you make? What are the barriers to making these changes?

12. What have been challenges and successes so far?

13. How would you recommend the process of establishing an environmental policy could be done more easily?

14. What can be done to make the environment/humanitarian response more effectively addressed by your organization and sector?

15. What role do you think donors should have in pushing the environmental agenda, if any? What steps could they take?

16. Has any internal or external training been provided or will be provided on the policies and their implementation? Kindly provide some examples.

17. Do you see a role for the DEC in supporting the environmental commitments? What role is this?

18. Do you have any questions?