

FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTION:

**A YEAR IN REVIEW OF THE CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENT CHARTER SECRETARIAT**

June 2025





This report provides an overview of the Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat's first year of operations, highlighting key activities undertaken to support Signatories in translating the Charter's commitments into action. It captures the Secretariat's efforts to convene and connect actors across the humanitarian sector, strengthen knowledge and capacity, facilitate peer learning, and promote climate and environmental integration in humanitarian strategies and operations.

The report draws primarily on activities led or co-organized by the Secretariat between May 2024 and May 2025, as well as reflections from Signatories and partners through surveys, consultations, and public events. It does not aim to represent all climate and environmental action across the sector, nor all efforts made by Charter Signatories. Rather, it presents a focused account of the Secretariat's role in catalysing, coordinating, and amplifying these efforts. An agile, global and independent entity supporting over 450 Signatories worldwide, the Secretariat's work is shaped by the priorities, inputs, and requests of those it serves.

Writing and Editing

Nishanie Jayamaha and Natasha Westheimer

Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank the Signatories of the Climate and Environment Charter for their ongoing engagement with the Charter and its commitments, as well as the Secretariat Board, consisting of Susan Wilding, Ninni Ikkala Nyman, Catherine-Lune Grayson, Mihir Bhatt, and Thuy-Binh Nguyen, for their support with this report and the operation of the Charter Secretariat.

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Foreword from the Board

Spearheading the humanitarian sectors' continued commitment to saving lives and delivering effective humanitarian response through climate and environmental action

Since its launch in May 2021, the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations has been meeting its ambition for collective and collaborative action to address the climate crisis. The Charter has mobilized over 450 humanitarian organizations, ranging from local, national, regional and international NGOs and NGO networks, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UN agencies, and humanitarian research institutions and think tanks from over 145 countries.

In the current landscape in which the humanitarian system is grappling with limited resources for essential, life-saving assistance, the Charter offers the humanitarian system a framework to catalyse ambitious, urgent, and critical action. It not only supports life-saving interventions but also helps safeguard long-term gains and reduce future humanitarian needs through integrated climate and environmental action. The growing recognition across the sector – that we must strengthen community resilience while minimizing our own environmental footprint – has been a powerful catalyst for collective action.

While there is broad consensus on what needs to be done, the how remains complex especially in emergency, conflict and fragile settings. To help navigate this challenge, the Charter Secretariat was established a year ago, as an independent and global entity. Its purpose is to support signatories in translating the Charter Commitments into concrete action and refer them to relevant expertise and resources.

As founding organizations of the Charter and current Secretariat Board members, we have witnessed the value the Secretariat brings to Signatories and the wider humanitarian sector. Over the past year, the Secretariat has supported Signatories in designing and delivering programmes that strengthen community resilience to face present and future climate and environmental risks. The Secretariat has been building and strengthening partnerships, offering guidance, and connecting Signatories to resources and expertise needed to mainstream climate and environmental considerations in humanitarian action.

The Secretariat has demonstrated that investing in targeted support and coordination can have a multiplier effect – helping to build momentum, strengthen capacities, and enable collective progress across a diverse network of organisations. This has been evident in the growing engagement of Signatories, the deepening of peer-to-peer learning, and the sustained commitment to advancing climate and environmental action, even in the face of significant challenges across the humanitarian sector.

The Charter Secretariat too, has been impacted by the current funding landscape. Yet it has responded with agility and focus – prioritising the most pressing needs of Signatories and working collaboratively across the sector. This is only the beginning. In this rapidly changing climate, the Secretariats' role in mobilizing efforts and advancing climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector is more urgent than ever.

The Board of the Charter Secretariat

Introduction

This report marks the first year of the Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat. It is intended as a collective reflection on the Secretariat's progress, challenges, and lessons learned since its establishment, and on how we have worked to support Signatories and the broader humanitarian sector in advancing climate and environmental action. The report aims to:

1. Share a transparent overview of the Secretariat's work against its first-year workplan, including highlights, activities, and achievements.
2. Reflect and amplify the inputs and experiences of Signatories and partners, including through feedback from surveys, workshops, and direct engagement.
3. Present insights on how the Charter community is evolving – including Signatory growth, target development, shared priorities, and evolving areas of support.
4. Outline where we are headed next, informed by Signatory needs and sector-wide trends.

This document is written for Signatories of the Charter and the wider community of humanitarian actors, donors, and experts committed to strengthening climate and environmental action. We hope it offers both accountability and inspiration – and continues to serve as a touchpoint for collaboration, learning, and collective progress.

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.

Our Operating Context: Why Climate and Environmental Action Can't Wait

The humanitarian landscape in 2025 is shaped by two converging realities. **First, the climate emergency is accelerating.** The World Meteorological Organisation confirmed 2024 as the hottest year ever recorded, likely the first in which average global temperature edged above 1.5 °C. Heatwaves, storms, and floods that were once called “extreme” are now the new norm, stretching community coping capacities and pushing response systems past their limits.

Second, the space for responding is shrinking. For the first time in five years, overall humanitarian budgets have declined, and several leading donor governments announced drastic reductions or reallocations. In response, aid workers have had to make difficult decisions – like cutting back food assistance in Syria or water services in Yemen. We are seeing more and more donors deprioritizing humanitarian aid in relation to overall overseas development assistance (ODA), though it remains the main form of funding to fragile and conflict affected areas. With much uncertainty still ahead on how the funding landscape will evolve in years to come, we are likely going to see fewer, smaller donors needing to cover deeper, more complex needs.

These fiscal challenges arrive at a moment of widening crisis. Conflict and displacement remain at historic highs, with wars in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan dominating headlines while protracted emergencies in places like the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, areas of Asia-Pacific, and other parts of the Middle East continue to largely be left out of the spotlight. Even when funds are secured, access constraints and security risks make relief operations fragile and costly.

At the same time, **climate impacts are increasingly entangled with conflict dynamics**. Flooded refugee camps in Sudan, drought-driven resource clashes in Somalia, devastated water systems in Gaza, and severe environmental degradation in Ukraine highlight these acute intersections. In protracted conflict areas, from Yemen, Afghanistan to Myanmar, infrastructure and irrigation schemes have been damaged, forests cleared, and people driven into marginal lands – limiting the ability for these communities to build climate resilience and reducing available finance for response or disaster risk reduction. Humanitarians are finding that they can no longer treat climate and environmental shocks as separate to humanitarian challenges.

Humanitarian organisations are stepping up and responding to these emerging challenges.

- **Building resilience and reducing future need** through community-level investments such as early-warning systems, nature-based flood defences, climate-smart agriculture, improved WASH services, and direct cash support – such investments can dramatically reduce the impacts of cyclic emergencies while saving lives and providing essential services now.
- **Improving efficiency and reliability** with transitioning to renewable energy, seeking local procurement of low-carbon materials, and implementing circular-economy waste solutions – these interventions can lower operating costs, keep programmes running when energy supply is disrupted, and reduce the climate and environmental impact of humanitarian operations.
- **Working in partnership** with other organisations and technical experts to co-design and deliver responses – partnerships not only strengthen impact and allow for capacity sharing, but it also helps ensure mitigate financing challenges.
- **Taking leadership from local partners** and harnessing indigenous knowledge, recognising that those most affected by the climate crisis often hold the most relevant experience and insight – centring local expertise supports more effective adaptation and affirms a shift toward more equitable, community-driven humanitarian action.

Put simply, responding to the climate crises means the sector must do more with less while facing fast evolving hazards. The Climate and Environment Charter was designed for exactly this context: it provides a collective framework that helps organisations **shift from reactive relief to proactive, climate-smart action** – cutting risk before it becomes a crisis, stretching limited resources, and **aligning humanitarian values with planetary boundaries**.

The years ahead will test that commitment. But it also offers an opportunity: by embedding climate and environmental considerations in every stage of humanitarian work – assessment, planning, logistics, recovery – the sector can **protect lives today and reduce tomorrow's humanitarian needs**.

“DG ECHO is proud to financially support the Secretariat of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations. The Secretariat provides invaluable support to the 400+ organisations that are signatories of the Charter, big and small. Over the last year we have also worked together to bring humanitarian partners and donors together to advance climate and environment action in humanitarian contexts. We co-organised a high-level event at UNGA in 2024, and workshops at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the European Humanitarian Forum 2025. A dialogue between humanitarian implementing organisations and donors is essential for advancing on the commitments of the Charter.

The Charter Secretariat was instrumental in convening and leading these discussions. As the humanitarian system is under increased financial pressure and reform, it is important to not lose sight of the importance of climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts, as ultimately people's lives depend on it. At the same time, with shrinking humanitarian funding, we must seek out new partnerships and better leverage innovative financing also for climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts.”

**Hanna Jahns, Director for Strategy and Policy,
Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)**

Secretariat Snapshot

CHARTER SIGNATORIES

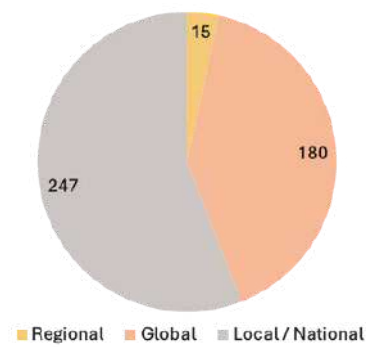


We welcomed **80 new signatories** and **1 new supporter** since the Secretariat was established, bringing our community to:

479 Signatories & 13 Supporters



Signatories include **296 NGOs**, **141 RCRC National Societies and Movement Organisations**, **16 Networks**, **11 Consulting/Advisory Firms**, **10 Research/Think Tanks**, and **5 UN Agencies**. The majority of Signatories operate on the local/national level:



SECRETARIAT SUPPORT



The Secretariat supported Signatories through:

- Meeting **63** signatories in **134 Support/Coordination Meetings**
- Responding to **143 Requests for support** from Signatories
- Identifying **355 tools and resources** for sharing with Signatories

Convening:

- 7 Webinars
- 4 Co-hosted events
- 1 Regional Workshop
- 3 Joint Signatory/Donor Meetings



Promoting the Charter in 130 events, workshops, conferences, working groups, and other meetings

Publishing:

- A **Case Study Report on Target Development** featuring 6 Signatories
- **13 newsletters** and updates
- **2 Guidance Pages** on disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability



Reaching

750+

people from at least

250

Signatory Organisations



MEASURING PROGRESS



74% of Signatories

Reported an improvement in capacity to implement the Charter Commitments since May 2024

Enabled by: **Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration**, Signatories experienced progress across 6 core areas:



SECRETARIAT PRIORITIES AND SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secretariat Co-Coordinator are hired and onboarded
- Governance Structures, Board, M&E Workplan, IT/Admin are put in place
- Workplan is approved and publicised
- Workplan is reviewed and updated based on learnings and feedback
- 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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secretariat was launched through webinars, meetings, events, and communications with partners and Signatories
- Secretariat support hub was operationalised, with target "office hours"
- Website is updated, LinkedIn and mailing platforms developed
- 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 25 organisations

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE PRIORITIES

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Survey on Signatory needs and priorities was conducted (June 2024) and incorporated into Charter work plan
- Secretariat is fully operating as a referral hub, with 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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Webinars for Signatories
- Regional Workshop and Side Event at RHPW (December 2024)
- Partnership events (e.g. Global AA Dialogue Platform, IC34)
- Case Study report for Target Settings was conducted and published
- Thematic Guidance pages based on mapping were developed: disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability
- Bi-monthly newsletters and updates

PROMOTION, DISSEMINATION, AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

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

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
- COP29 Advocacy was supported through webinars, Key Messages, Statement from Signatories
- Coordination and engagement in various partner initiatives (e.g. UNGA2024, donor greening consultations, IC34)
- Promotion of the Charter at events, meetings, working groups

Measuring the Sector’s Progress

I. Signatories’ Achievements and Progress Towards Meeting Charter Commitments

To track progress and ensure our work remains grounded in the sector’s needs, the Charter Secretariat conducted its second annual survey of Signatory organisations in May 2025. Building on the 2024 baseline, which was conducted upon the launch of the Secretariat, this year’s survey drew responses from 93 organisations, representing a diverse and representative sample of the Charter Signatory community, spanning local, national, and international actors across the humanitarian sector.

Together, the 2024 and 2025 surveys offer a comparative snapshot of how Signatories are advancing in their implementation of the Charter Commitments. The findings reflect encouraging momentum across key areas of institutional change, programming, and operational practices, while also highlighting areas where further support is needed.

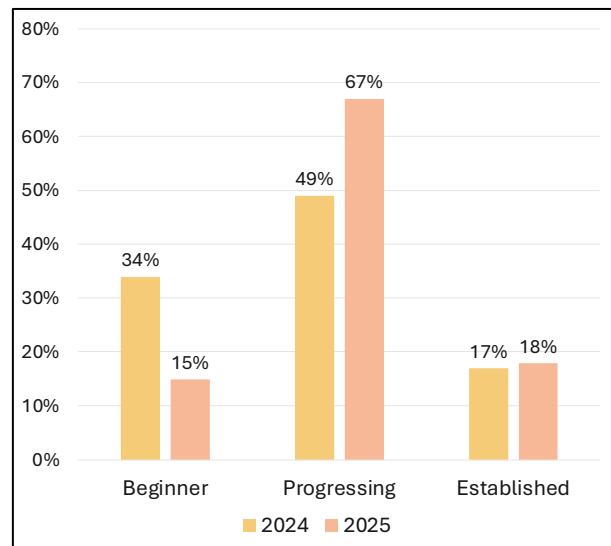
Organisational Capacity to Implement the Charter

Signatories reported clear improvements in their overall capacity to deliver on the Charter’s ambitions. In both 2024 and 2025 surveys, signatories were asked to rate their ability to implement the Charter based on the following levels:

Beginner level: means that there is very limited knowledge and skills in my organisation to implement the Charter’s commitments. Commitments can mostly only be implemented using external sources of expertise.

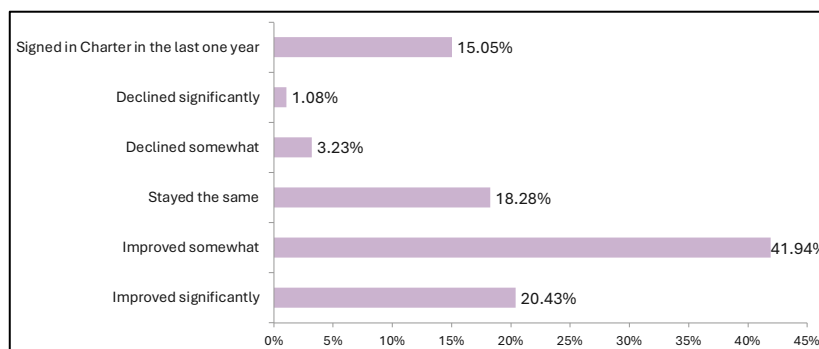
Progressing level: means that there are some knowledge and skills in my organisation to implement the Charter’s commitments. Commitments can be partially implemented using internal sources of expertise.

Established level: means that there are sufficient knowledge and skills in my organisation to implement the Charter’s commitments. Commitments can mostly be implemented using internal sources of expertise.



Self-Reported Ability to Implement the Charter Commitments (May 2024 and May 2025)

The chart above illustrates that Signatories are **shifting from beginner level to more progressing levels** in capacity.



Self-Reported Change in Capacity to Implement the Charter Since May 2024

Further, among organisations that signed the Charter over a year ago, **74% reported that their ability to implement the Charter had improved over the past year**, with 24% saying it had improved significantly. This progress is not universal, with some noting no change or a decline in progress. The chart to the right reflects all respondents, including those who signed the Charter since the Secretariat was launched.

Where Progress Is Happening

Organisations shared a variety of ways in which they have seen an advancement of Charter commitments within their programs and operations. An analysis of these survey responses revealed six key areas of advancement:

<p>1. Strategic Alignment & Policy Development</p>	<p>Many organisations have integrated climate and environmental considerations into new or revised strategies, policies, and frameworks. Some have developed detailed roadmaps or implementation guidance, and a number have established focal points or internal committees to drive change.</p>
<p>2. Mainstreaming in Programming</p>	<p>Climate and environment are increasingly embedded into core humanitarian programmes, embedding climate-smart programming across sectors like WASH, food security, and health. Organisations are utilizing approaches from anticipatory action and heat-action planning to nature-based solutions. Organisations also reported use of tools like the NEAT+ and MERA Matrix to systematically assess and mitigate environmental risks in programming.</p>
<p>3. Emissions Reduction and Environmental Sustainability</p>	<p>Signatories described increased efforts to monitor environmental impacts, especially through emissions reduction targets, tracking and/or reporting. Solar-powered offices reduced single-use plastics, sustainable procurement, and improved waste management practices are among the operational shifts underway. Some also reported progress on the adoption of sustainable technologies in programming (e.g. drip irrigation, water metering).</p>
<p>4. Capacity Building and Awareness</p>	<p>Internal staff trainings, awareness campaigns, and peer learning – including through Charter networks – helped improve organisational understanding and engagement on Charter commitments. Some organisations also reported building capacity to utilise tools and platforms such as the NEAT+ and WREC Coalition to strengthen capacity).</p>
<p>5. Localisation and Partnerships</p>	<p>Many organisations are co-designing climate interventions with local and national partners, offering capacity support, and strengthening collaborations with government, academia, and technical experts.</p>
<p>6. Community Resilience and Inclusion</p>	<p>A number of Signatories highlighted initiatives to promote community-based adaptation and sustainable practices, often with a focus on inclusion of women, children, or displaced communities. Climate justice has become an explicit theme in many interventions</p>

What's Helping to Drive Progress

While the survey reflects a diversity of experiences across 93 responding organisations, several recurring elements were mentioned as helpful in advancing climate and environment commitments. These factors were not universal, but emerged in multiple contexts as enabling conditions or drivers of progress.

<p>Leadership Commitment & Institutional Buy-In</p>	<p>A number of organisations noted that senior leadership engagement helped to build internal momentum. Where climate and environment were championed at the executive level, this often supported prioritization and resource allocation, even in constrained operating environments.</p>
<p>Dedicated Staff and Structures</p>	<p>Some pointed to the presence of internal focal points, working groups, or cross-departmental structures as helpful in coordinating efforts. These roles and mechanisms supported the integration of climate and environment into ongoing operations and decision-making.</p>

<p>Strategic Planning Processes</p>	<p>Updating strategic frameworks or country plans, and linking them to Charter principles, was described by several organisations as a helpful entry point for translating commitments into practice. This alignment also enabled more consistent messaging and prioritization across teams.</p>
<p>Dedicated Funding</p>	<p>Access to funding – especially flexible funding, even when limited or short-term, was cited by some as a key enabler. Financial resources allowed for investments in assessments, technical support, or piloting new approaches, in turn helping to sustain momentum and build internal buy-in.</p>
<p>Partnerships and Collaboration</p>	<p>Collaboration with Charter Signatories, technical organisations, and local partners was highlighted in a number of responses. Peer learning, joint initiatives, and community-level partnerships were all referenced as ways to overcome capacity gaps and strengthen relevance and ownership.</p>
<p>Knowledge Sharing and Peer Learning</p>	<p>Respondents valued the opportunity to learn from peers, including through Charter-facilitated webinars, case studies, and exchanges, as well as access to curated tools and resources. Some noted these offerings helped reduce duplication of effort, especially for organisations in early stages of their climate journey. Peer learning at the local/national/regional level was also considered useful in understanding how to adapt approaches in shared contexts.</p>
<p>Heightened Awareness of Climate Impacts</p>	<p>Some organisations noted that direct exposure to climate-related shocks – including droughts, floods, or ecosystem degradation – served as a trigger for greater urgency and prioritization. In a few cases, this led to internal reorientation or community-driven programming shifts.</p>

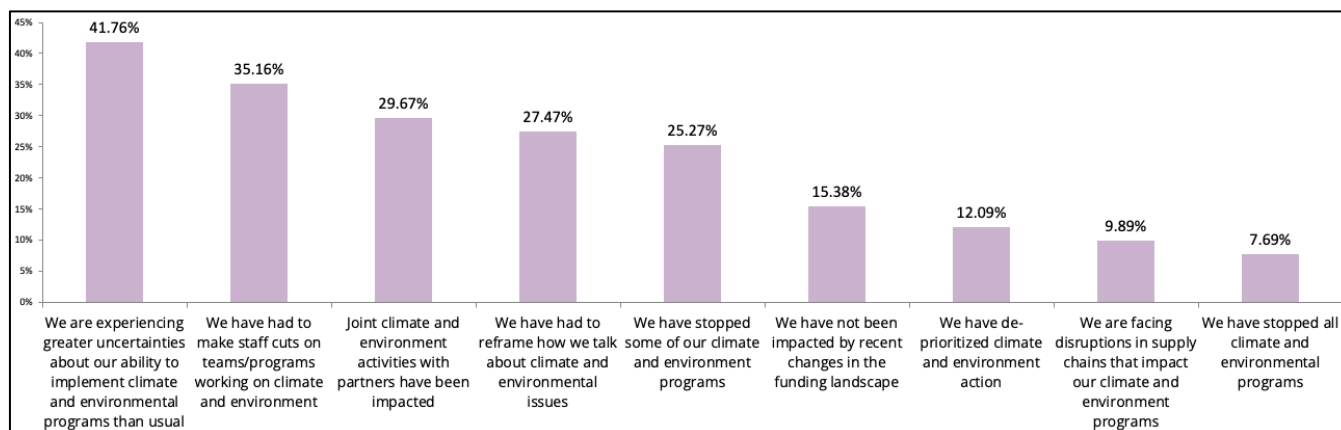
II. Challenges and Constraints in Advancing Climate and Environment Action

Despite signs of meaningful progress across the sector, humanitarian organisations continue to face significant challenges in advancing climate and environment action – challenges that have intensified amid a shifting global funding landscape. Findings from our survey offer a timely snapshot of the barriers confronting organisations on the ground.

Impact of the Funding Landscape

A central concern raised by Signatories was the effect of ongoing funding instability - with **85% of respondents sharing that their operations have been constrained or disrupted**, as illustrated in the figure below. Key trends included:

- **Widespread uncertainty and disruption:** The most common response (42%) pointed to increased uncertainty about the ability to continue climate and environment programming. This suggests that even where funding has not been fully withdrawn, instability in the funding environment is affecting organisational planning and confidence.
- **Staff and Programmatic Cuts:** 35% reported staff reductions and 25% had to stop some programmes entirely, reflecting both immediate and structural impacts.
- **Reframing:** Over a quarter (27%) of organisations have had to reframe climate-related work, often aligning it more closely with donor-friendly language such as resilience or disaster risk reduction. A few comments echoed this shift, noting efforts to embed climate within broader sectoral activities rather than pursue stand-alone initiatives.
- **Partnership Disruptions:** Nearly 30% experienced challenges in joint initiatives, including disruptions where one partner was more affected than others. Comments pointed to domino effects, where funding or staff losses among partners required others to adjust or compensate.



Impact of the Changing Funding Landscape on Climate and Environment Programming
(Charter Secretariat Survey, May 2025)

While the findings do not allow for broad generalizations across the humanitarian sector, the data provide a useful snapshot of how a range of organisations are experiencing and adapting to current funding shifts. The responses reflect a **mixed landscape**, with **some organisations deeply affected** while others are more **resilient or even finding new opportunities** to advance climate and environment action. Several respondents emphasized that, despite cuts, **organisational commitment to climate and environment remains high**. In some cases, constrained resources are spurring creativity or a focus on more systemic, longer-term approaches.

Some respondents are using this moment to **rethink delivery models** and **mainstream climate into core programming rather than as stand-alone programming**, even if it means scaling back dedicated climate capacity in the short term. Others are using this moment to explore new opportunities, such as philanthropic or climate finance mechanisms. While uneven, these adaptive efforts underscore continued commitment across the sector.

Broader Challenges to Implementation

Beyond funding, Signatories identified a range of structural, technical, and contextual barriers that continue to inhibit the full integration of climate and environment into humanitarian action. While these challenges are not financial, many of these are directly connected to resource restraints.

Capacity and Human Resource Constraints	Many organisations, particularly at country level, struggle with limited staffing and competing priorities . Staff turnover, layoffs, and restructuring, as well as the absence of dedicated focal points can stall implementation.
Technical Expertise and Data Gaps	Respondents cited a lack of in-house expertise in climate-resilient approaches (e.g., nature-based solutions, environmental screening). Access to localized data , early warning systems, and context-specific guidance remains a key barrier to evidence-based programming.
Field Level Operational Challenges	Implementation may be slowed by institutional hurdles , like shifting regulations, high staff turnover, and unclear mandates, as well as insecurity, remote locations, and limited infrastructure – especially in conflict or post-conflict settings. Several organisations also cited limited public awareness on climate and environmental issues as a core barrier, such as confusion between climate and weather. Reluctance of some stakeholders to take environmental sustainability seriously was also noted.
Mainstreaming and Integration	Some organisations noted that short-term emergency response frameworks make it difficult to embed climate considerations into core humanitarian programming.
Internal, Institutional Limitations	Some respondents noted that a lack of senior leadership buy-in , unclear internal responsibilities, and limited awareness of Charter commitments among staff can delay or dilute action. Some organisations reported difficulty prioritizing climate within broader institutional mandates.
Marginilisation	Smaller, local, and women-led organisations highlighted continued challenges in accessing resources , gaining recognition, and participating in key decision-making spaces . Respondents noted disparities in visibility and influence within coordination platforms.

Lessons Learned:

Strengthening Climate and Environmental Action in a Changing World

In its first year of operation, the Charter Secretariat's engagement with Signatories and partners across multiple forums, from individual consultations and surveys to international coordination mechanisms and platforms, has reinforced key lessons to inform climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector.

Peer learning drives practical change

When it comes to strengthening climate and environmental action, humanitarian actors learn best from one another. Whether through structured workshops or informal exchanges, organisations consistently highlighted the value of hearing how peers in similar contexts are applying the Charter, especially when facing similar constraints and contexts.

- **Climate and environmental action is already happening and extensive knowledge already exists:** Local, national and international actors are working with communities to build resilience in the face of increasing impacts of climate change and minimise environmental degradation – and organisations are learning more and more on how to do this work effectively.
- **Convening Signatories supports effective contextualization.** In Charter-facilitated webinars, the regional workshop, or informal exchanges, organisations benefited from practical and contextually relevant understandings of the Charter commitments. This sort of peer learning is useful in understanding how to adapt tools, resources, or approaches to unique contexts.
- **Learning with others is simply effective.** It can help reduce duplication of efforts and effectively utilise scarce resources, especially for organisations in early stages of their climate journey. For those further along in their learning, sharing both successful and less successful experiences provides valuable insights, reinforcing a culture of collective problem solving.
- **Collaboration and learning are also needed across sectors.** Cross-sector collaboration is challenging but vital for addressing the complex, intersecting crises communities face. By working across silos, humanitarian, development, climate, and environmental actors can better align support with actual needs — rather than just funding priorities — and develop shared strategies for more effective, holistic action.

The case for climate and environmental action must be made

Despite growing awareness, the sector still struggles to fully integrate climate and environmental considerations into its core operations. While progress is evident, there remains a need to strengthen the case for why this work is essential – not just as an add-on, but as life-saving and crisis-preventing.

- **Climate and environmental action save lives and money.** Investing in community resilience and greener operations can reduce humanitarian needs over time by lessening crisis impacts, supporting faster recovery, and creating benefits for communities and economies. Signatories emphasize that proactive climate measures save lives and protect hard-won gains, but require upfront investment and systemic change.
- **Climate action reinforces humanitarian principles.** Climate- and environment-informed responses often enhance neutrality, impartiality, and effectiveness by anticipating risks, protecting livelihoods, and reducing harm. These interventions can reduce displacement, mitigate food insecurity, help communities recover more quickly after shocks, and save lives.
- **Climate breakdown is driving urgency.** For organisations directly impacted by climate shocks such as droughts, floods, or ecosystem degradation, integrating climate and environmental action has become more urgent and a catalyst for internal shifts – reshaping programming, strengthening resilience, and aligning closer with community priorities.
- **Dedicated funding is still needed.** Funding for climate and environmental action in the humanitarian sector remains highly limited and hard to access. With the growing recognition of the importance and value of climate and environmental action, making the case for additional funding is essential.
- **Our evidence base needs growth.** The impacts of climate and environmental action must be better monitored and documented, even if results only emerge over time. Strengthening this evidence base will support sector learning and build a stronger case for increased funding and investment.

Targets support real change

The Charter's focus on setting institutional targets has proven effective in helping organisations translate commitments into action. As highlighted in the *On Target* case study report, targets help clarify priorities, mobilize staff, and lay a foundation for accountability.

- **Targets offer structure and direction**, helping link climate and environmental goals to existing internal strategies and operational models, as well as global frameworks. The act of setting targets creates internal dialogue, elevates ambition, and lays the groundwork for change.
- **External accountability creates opportunity.** Through submitting targets to the Charter, organisations can amplify their work, share lessons learned, and encourage collaboration. However, target visibility remains uneven. While 82% of Signatories surveyed in May 2025 indicated they had climate- or environment-related strategies or actions in place, only a third of these were publicly shared on the Charter website. This highlights the opportunity to better document, share, and celebrate efforts across the sector.
- **Executive-level buy-in offers a turning point.** Where leadership prioritized setting targets for climate and environmental action, organisations were more likely to allocate time and resources, even amid competing demand

There's still work to be done

As Charter engagement deepens, several ongoing gaps and needs have become clear:

- **Localization and local knowledge remain underutilized.** Despite rhetorical commitment to localization, local and Indigenous actors are often excluded from planning and implementation. Their lived experience and traditional and local knowledge are vital for designing effective and equitable solutions.
- **Technical support is still needed:** Signatories continue to highlight the importance of ongoing technical guidance – from interpreting climate and environmental data to operationalizing commitments in humanitarian programming. Access to thematic expertise remains a key enabler for turning ambition into action.

- **Integration of climate and environmental considerations is just as essential as adding new programmes.** Mainstreaming through embedding climate and environmental thinking into core functions, like risk analysis, programme design, logistics, or M&E, set organisations up for more durable and scalable progress.
- **Language access must be prioritized.** Many tools and resources remain available only in English. Translation into French, Spanish, Arabic, and local languages is essential to support broader uptake and community mobilization.
- **Complex contexts require nuanced guidance.** Humanitarian actors working in conflict and crisis settings need tailored support. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and ignoring climate and environmental considerations risks deepening vulnerabilities.

Emerging Insights from *On Target*?

The Charter Secretariat commissioned a case study report to review Signatories efforts to develop targets and implement our commitments. The case study organisations reflected on: the process of setting targets; the targets they had developed; and activities they had undertaken to measure and manage progress against the targets. Based on these reflections, some lessons were drawn, highlighted as recommendation in the report. A selection of these lessons are included below:

- Consider using a mix of existing activities the organisation is already doing with new activities.
- Include people with a **diverse range of expertise and organisational roles** in the process of setting targets.
- Explore a **mixture of ambition levels** within the targets that are set, having some that are fairly easy to achieve, as well as some that are more challenging and will take a higher level of resource and commitment.
- Make targets **clear and easy to understand:** consider how the meaning of the targets will be understood by all necessary stakeholders.
- Develop a plan for monitoring progress against targets at the same time as developing the targets. Consider how progress against the targets will be followed up on, and by whom.
- Remember that there is **no one right way to set targets**, or one correct set of activities that organisations should focus on - each organisation will need to determine what works best for its own particular context.

Unexpected Challenges and Adaptations by the Secretariat

Like many in the humanitarian sector, the Charter Secretariat has faced a challenging funding environment in this first year of operations. A number of planned activities – particularly those requiring travel, facilitation, or external consultancy – had to be scaled back or postponed due to budget constraints. These limitations have prompted us to think precisely about how we establish our work, and in many ways, **have sharpened our focus.**

In response, we've adapted by **deepening collaboration** with Charter Signatories and partners, co-hosting events and **sharing resources** to reduce duplication and maximize reach. We've brought more work in-house, found **creative ways** to deliver activities **using existing networks and digital platforms**, and based on articulated needs, been deliberate in **prioritizing actions that deliver the greatest value** for our community.

Importantly, these constraints have also reinforced the need to clearly communicate **why climate and environmental action remains critical** – even amidst competing crises and political transitions.

Despite the challenges, this period has demonstrated the resilience and ingenuity of the Charter community, and highlighted the strength of collective action in driving meaningful change with limited means.

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 the first year of operations. 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.

A key milestone in this approach was the June 2024 baseline survey, 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

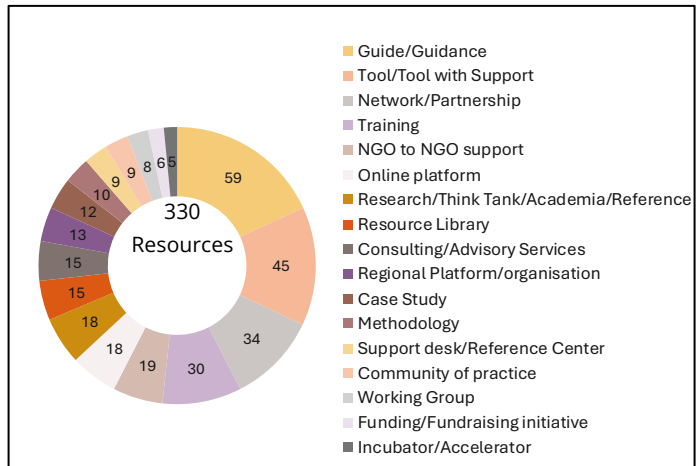
Across and beyond the humanitarian sector, organisations are developing resources and expertise to improve our capacity to take climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts. These resources include tools, guides, training opportunities, working groups, communities of practices, technical experts, resource libraries and support desks, among many other forms of support. In 2022, DG ECHO funded a [mapping of sources and forms of assistance](#) available to help Signatories of the Climate and Environment Charter turn their commitments into action.

This mapping exercise identified the “need to bridge the gap between the resources available and the lack of general and technical knowledge about climate and environmental issues to ensure organisations can access these resources.” The Charter Secretariat was formed to address this need, with a central aim to increase Signatories' access to expertise through knowledge sharing and technical guidance and build capacity within the sector towards the Charter commitments.

Due to the further development of resources within the humanitarian sector, Groupe URD updated this resource base in September 2024, with further support from DG ECHO, which was delivered to the Secretariat as a resource for fulfilling its mandate of serving as a referral hub to Charter Signatories. The Secretariat used this baseline mapping to develop a

comprehensive expertise database, which it manages and maintains through regular updates with partners and Signatories who develop and offer technical support. Partners and Signatories are also invited to contribute to the mapping through [completing a form](#).

The Charter Secretariat uses this expertise mapping for various purposes. Firstly, it is working to **publish these resources as a curated guide** on different thematic areas (p14). 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 complimenting existing resources. The Secretariat is also invested in **building relationships with organisations** providing resources and support to the sector.



Types of Resources in Expertise Mapping

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 its first year, this channel has enabled responsive and targeted assistance, with a total of 143 referrals to support specific needs related to climate and environmental action. In addition, the Secretariat held 134 dedicated support meetings with individual Signatories, offering a space to explore challenges, share resources, and co-develop strategies aligned with the Charter commitments.

The chart below illustrates the requests made 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 target development, though connecting to resources, expertise, and guidance was a close second in priority.



Types of Support Requests

Additional requests for support come through Surveys. The Secretariat reached out to the 57 organisations who requested support with target development in the May 2024 Signatory Survey with guidance and resources, as well as an invitation to meet, and intends to the same with the 41 organisations who made a similar request in the June 2025 survey.

Signatory Perspectives: Direct Support Offerings

In the May 2025 Signatory Survey, Charter Signatories were asked about their utilisation and awareness of the various support offerings and resources provided by the Secretariat, as well as their assessment of the usefulness of these offerings.

More than 60% of respondents were aware of or utilized the various **direct support offerings** from the Secretariat, including Target "office hours," referrals to guidance, and sharing opportunities for collaboration. At the same time, referrals **to other Signatories for peer-to-peer learning**, were underutilized (15%), despite strong interest in more collaboration.

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.

"We've really appreciated the technical assistance provided by the Charter Secretariat, particularly in helping us finalize our targets. Nishanie and Natasha have been exceptionally thorough in their support, which has helped us clarify our intentions and ensure our targets are both meaningful and achievable. Their detailed feedback and responsiveness have been especially valuable. Overall, the Secretariat's engagement has been instrumental in keeping us on track, and we look forward to continued collaboration."

Chrysant Lily Kusumawardoyo.
Regional Director, ASB South and South-East Asia

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.

"Our engagement with the Charter Secretariat has been both enriching and instrumental in advancing AJSA India's climate-responsive humanitarian work... [The Secretariat has] skillfully curated and synthesized resources in a way that makes them not only accessible but immediately applicable... The regular newsletters, webinars, and learning exchanges hosted by the Secretariat have also played a vital role. These platforms not only keep us updated but also creates space for shared learning across diverse geographies and contexts... Overall our engagement with the Secretariat has been a critical enabler in embedding climate ambition into our humanitarian mission."

Manoranjan Behera, Executive Director,
AJSA India

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. Guidance pages have been developed on **Disaster Risk Reduction** and **Environmental Sustainability**, and additional thematic pages will be published throughout 2025 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, including in a discussion held in a Charter Secretariat webinar in September 2024.

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.

"The inclusion of NDEO's case study in the 'On Target' report was an important moment of recognition that further encouraged us to prioritize climate action interventions and document good practices. It was also a valuable opportunity for reflection, prompting us to revisit our targets, ensure they are measurable and achievable, and align them more closely with our programs."

Nabd Development and Evolution Organisation (NDEO)

Case Study Example from the On Target? Report: Two-Way Capacity Sharing, Zamzam Foundation

Commitment 3: Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities

Zamzam Foundation hosts training sessions for farmers focused on climate-smart agricultural practices, with a focus on supporting farming communities who have used traditional methods of agriculture for generations to be able to adapt, preserve, and restore their food security in the face of recurrent climate shocks.

Recently, Zamzam Foundation partnered with Zamzam University of Science and Technology, who conducted a series of studies and workshops focused on novel and inclusive experimental farming approaches. This initiative brought together rural farmers to find ways of adapting traditional farming methods to incorporate more innovative techniques such as greenhouses, drip irrigation and hydroponic farming, which help to support climate resilience and conserve water usage. The focus on adapting, as opposed to erasing, traditional knowledge and local approaches is a cornerstone in their approach amplifying and welcoming local leadership within their food security programming.

In addition, Zamzam is also planning to initiate a local library dedicated to indigenous knowledge focused on climate and environmental studies. The vision for this in-house library is to be able to document their 30 years of experience supporting local communities in Somalia, as well as to collect and store locally produced knowledge to facilitate the integration of local wisdom and experience into future efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen sustainable development. The Zamzam team reflected that ‘by fostering a deeper understanding of both global and indigenous approaches, the library will play a key role in building adaptive capacity and advancing climate resilience within communities and the region as well.’

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:

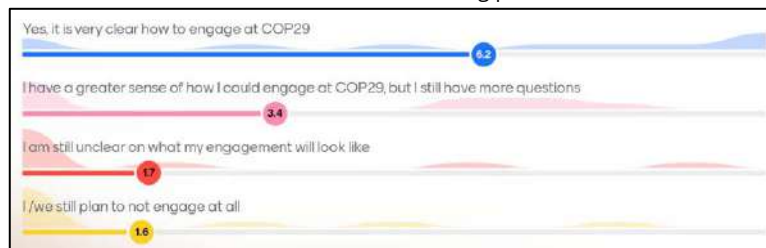
Launch Webinar (30 May 2024): This webinar introduced the Secretariat team of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations and its Board. It aimed to provide Signatories with a better understanding of the Secretariat role and functions and how the referral hub will support them in implementing the Charter commitments, including what forms of expertise, guidance, and services can be provided through the Secretariat.



Launch Webinar Participants Reflect on Challenges in Implementing the Charter Commitments (May 2024)

Resources and Tools for Climate and Environmental Action (9 September 2024): This webinar provided Charter Signatories with an overview of existing expertise and support available to humanitarian organisations working on climate and environmental action. The webinar introduced one of the tools available to the sector, the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+), presenting the tool itself and sharing lessons learned in implementation from two Charter Signatories. Lastly, the Secretariat shared – and collected input – on how it could utilise the expertise mapping, as well as improve the accessibility and reduce fragmentation of these resources and tools.

Towards COP29: Peace-Climate-Humanitarian collective action (3 October 2024): The Charter Secretariat was joined by the Climate Action Network International (CAN-I), the Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP) community of practice, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Sub-group on Climate and the Advisory Group on Human Mobility for a webinar on the various initiatives that are taking place at COP29. The webinar explored how the humanitarian sector can



Reflections from Webinar Participants on Readiness to Engage at COP29 after the Secretariat Webinar (October 2024)

engage in COP29, focusing on our collective strengths and roles, including opportunities in advocating for and bringing solutions to the climate and environmental crisis across the humanitarian, climate/environment and peacebuilding sectors.

Post-COP29 in Baku: successes, challenges and next steps (3 and 5 December 2024): With negotiations at COP 29 in Baku coming to a close on 24 November 2024, this webinar brought together Charter Signatories and Supporters and members from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and the CALP CVA's Climate and Environment Community of Practice (CoP) to share insights into the key decisions that were made at COP29, the successes and challenges and its implications on future climate and environment action. Panellists highlighted key opportunities for humanitarian organisations and other sectors to act and advocate as a collective towards COP30 and key moments leading up to COP.

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, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (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. Through case studies and funding options on DRR and Early Warning and Early Action (EW/EA), the webinar introduced participants to different types of resources and mechanisms available and explored practical pathways to mobilize resources. It opened the discussion to Signatories on the challenges they face in accessing funding for Commitment 1 and assess the level of support required to enhance resource mobilization for climate-related interventions.



Webinar participant reflections on opportunities for mainstreaming climate and disaster risk reduction in humanitarian programs (March 2025)

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. In fragile settings small-scale farmers, herders, fishers, and forest dwellers, who are essential for both local and global food security, are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. This session highlighted the experiences of local indigenous women leaders actively engaged in climate action within agrifood systems, including in fragile settings.



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 Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week (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. The online event explored themes and learnings emerging from the case studies.

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. This hybrid event discussed humanitarian perspectives and collective inputs for the operationalisation of the Santiago Network and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. It provided an opportunity for a practical conversation on the emerging loss and damage funding architecture, including on the complementarity of emerging funding arrangements.

Signatory Perspectives: Knowledge Sharing Activities

The May 2025 Signatory Survey that assessed the usefulness of Secretariat offerings indicated that knowledge sharing activities were widely used, with **live webinars** (53% utilised) and **guidance materials on target-setting and tools** (43% utilised) supporting organisations with practical, technical knowledge. They are also highly valued, scoring 7.8 and 8.2 respectively. The **"On Target?" publication** also stood out as a widely used (41%) and valuable resource (7.3), helping Signatories better understand – through case studies – how to advance charter commitments through target setting and programming.

Charter Workshop: Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Considerations in Humanitarian Action

Together with Community World Service Asia (CWSA) and ADAPT Initiative, the Charter Secretariat held a workshop on Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Considerations in Humanitarian Action.



Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Action Workshop Participants

The workshop was held on the sidelines of the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok in December 2024 and brought together local, national, regional and international NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent movement working across the Asia-Pacific region. Through **interactive, peer-to-peer learning**, participants explored ways to develop targets to the Charter commitments and how to mainstream climate and environment action into operations and programmes.

Session 1: Understanding the Commitments

Participants engaged in a World Café to explore each Charter commitment in depth, sharing challenges, opportunities, and support needs. Discussions highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and practical tools.

Session 2: From Commitment to Implementation

Inspirational ignite talks from Charter Signatories showcased how organisations are already integrating climate and environmental action. Breakout groups discussed programming examples and community-led efforts.

Session 3: Setting Targets]

Through a scenario exercise, participants practiced developing realistic, organisation-specific targets. Conversations focused on the role of targets in driving change, as well as the barriers, like data gaps, that organisations must navigate.

Session 4: Target Development

Participants began drafting targets for their own organisations and received peer feedback. A parallel focus group gathered insights from Signatories with existing targets for the On Target? case study report.

Closing Reflections

Participants shared key takeaways, next steps, and support needs. The workshop reinforced the value of regional peer learning and the growing appetite for concrete action across the sector.

[Read more](#) about the workshop from one of the participants.

"The workshop provided a deep understanding of the Climate and Environment Charter commitments and their practical application. I particularly valued the focus on integrating climate and environmental activities and considerations into programming and operations. The sessions offered actionable insights and strategies that will greatly support our efforts to mainstream these principles into our humanitarian work, enhancing both the quality and sustainability of our interventions."

Workshop Participant (anonymous survey)



Interactive sessions at the Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Action Workshop (December 2024)

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.

Signatory Perspectives: Charter Newsletters and Updates

The May 2025 Signatory Survey highlighted that **Newsletters and email updates** were used by 79% of Signatories, making it the **most consistently utilized resource**. Newsletters are also the most valued resource, with an 8.5 score on a weighted 10-point scale.

Enhanced Language Accessibility: Recognizing the critical role of language in advancing climate and environmental considerations, the Secretariat significantly improved its accessibility. Starting March 2025, newsletters are translated into French. 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.

For Ecuadorian Red Cross, the Climate Charter newsletters have served to keep us up to date on training events and tools for the design and implementation of initiatives related to climate change. In addition, through the published funding opportunities, we have expanded our knowledge of mechanisms for accessing funds to increase climate action in our operations. We believe it would be important to continue receiving these newsletters and to expand the information on funding opportunities, especially for South America, where possible".

María Verónica Andrade Rivadeneira, National Technical Officer for Climate Change Adaptation, Ecuadorean Red Cross

Dedicated Online Hub: The Secretariat uses the website platform as a core platform for engaging with Signatories. In addition to the [guidance platform](#) (p14), the Charter Secretariat updated and developed a series of pages that aim to serve Signatories in accessing guidance and support:

- **Secretariat Page:** this page provides an overview of the mandate and governance structures of the Charter Secretariat. It includes the support services accessible to Signatories and wider sector in the [Charter Secretariat support to organisations](#) document, as well as the Charter Workplan, results from Charter surveys, and the Terms of Reference for the Charter Board.

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** this page was updated to include more information on the Charter, how to sign, and expectations of organisations who have signed, including on target setting.
- **Targets:** The website also acts as a repository for publishing Signatories' targets to the Charter Commitments. The page provides visibility to Signatories' publishing their targets that could be shared or used in their own reporting. This is also a resource to Signatories who are starting their target development process as examples of how they could shape existing targets linked to organisations' policy documents, and/or action plans or as examples of targets that have been specifically developed aligning to the Charter commitments.
- **Events:** this page was created to announce webinars, conferences, meetings, workshops, trainings and other events organized by the Secretariat, the Charter community, and partners, to keep Signatories and the humanitarian sector informed of relevant events.

Social Media: The Secretariat has decided to keep a light presence on social media to keep Signatories and the wider humanitarian sector updated on Secretariat activities and have created a [LinkedIn page](#) which has over 500 followers.

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 collaborated with the **UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU)** as part of the steering committee to develop the [Localisation of Environment in Humanitarian Action \(EHA\) Global Training Template](#) leading on the module "Cross-sectoral Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing" and provided input across the template, drawing on insights from Signatories' learning and training needs.
- As a member of the **IASC Sub-group on Climate**, the Secretariat provides Signatory perspectives to inform IASC priorities and initiatives, including the Climate Crisis Roadmap, its next steps and joint advocacy efforts on local climate action, Climate Financing, Loss and Damage and other themes ahead of COP processes.
- The Secretariat participated in workshops organized by **SDC and UNITAR's Global Platform for Action (GPA)**, as well as by **DG ECHO and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** on greening humanitarian operations and environmental sustainability. The Secretariat contributed insights from Signatories and helped foster alignment across efforts, like connecting GPA to the Joint Initiative to support donor coordination on greening priorities.
- At **Geneva's World Environment Day 2024**, the Secretariat presented on humanitarian action for land restoration and drought resilience, highlighting Signatory work through the Charter framework and fostering dialogue between humanitarian and environmental actors.

The Secretariat has established standing meetings with various partners and global initiatives such as the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), the Anticipation Hub, the WREC Coalition on Environmental Sustainability in Humanitarian Supply Chain, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the GPA. We also regularly participate in forums such as the Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP) community of practice, the Loss and Damage Collaboration, the Advisory Group on Human Mobility for the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), among others. These engagements ensure continuous alignment and mutual learning.

"The Climate and Environment Charter has been an excellent tool to convene a strong network of delivery organisations (local/international NGOs, UN, ecosystem partners) around a common agenda to advance core goals of greater renewable energy implementation, reduction of environmental degradation and addressing key climate risks in humanitarian action. The Charter Secretariat is excellent at stimulating advocacy and collective action and around this agenda by being expert connectors, understanding and meeting needs of Charter Signatories and improving access to tools/information essential for delivery partners to do their work on the ground. Given the scale of humanitarian need and negative impacts of climate on communities requiring humanitarian support, the Charter is an important way to ensure accountability on climate action for donors and large-scale humanitarian actors, especially by being a representative body for local actors."

Aimee Jenks, Partnerships and Strategy Lead, Global Platform for Action (GPA) on Humanitarian Energy

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.

RedR UK offered an in-kind capacity-building opportunity to all Signatories by providing free enrolment in its online trainings and modules related to climate change and the environment. Between September and November 2024, 30 Signatories from 17 countries took advantage of this opportunity, representing an in-kind contribution valued at over GBP 1,300.

Community World Service Asia (CWSA), another Charter Signatory, generously supported the Secretariat with in-kind event management and administrative assistance for the workshop "Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Action in Humanitarian Contexts", held in December 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Week (RHPW).

The Secretariat also coordinated closely with **ICVA, Asia Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN), and CWSA** – all Charter Signatories as co-organizers of RHPW – to pool resources and bring together local and national Signatories from the region. In addition, the Secretariat co-hosted a side event with **World Vision International** focused on climate-conflict linkages, which highlighted perspectives from local leaders in Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

"The one-on-one consultation was incredibly helpful and empowering. It was also encouraging to see the Secretariat's involvement at the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) - co-organizing an event and engaging WVI Asia-Pacific colleagues. This kind of collaboration between the Secretariat and partner NGOs is a strong step forward for joint advocacy."

**Michael Wicker, Technical Director,
Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action,
Disaster Management, World Vision International**

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.

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.

Advocacy Priorities:

For each of the priority areas below, organisations were asked to rate the issues on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest and 1 being the lowest priority for collective advocacy in the sector. The table presents a ranking of these priorities based on the average response. In addition, organisations were asked to reflect on the importance of the issues they ranked highest as well as to elaborate on the challenges they think could be supported through collective advocacy, which are detailed in the [report](#).

Top Priority	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Lower Priority
Priority Issues			Avg.
Inclusive Climate Response: Prioritising the needs and capacities of the most vulnerable populations, leveraging the humanitarian sector’s relationships with these communities within national and international fora.			8.81
The Humanitarian Role and expertise in Climate Response: Highlighting that climate change is a humanitarian emergency, leading to loss of life and livelihoods, food and water insecurity, and overstretched systems as well as sharing lessons learned, best practice, community perspectives etc. from the humanitarian sector.			8.80
Access to Climate Financing: Advocating for scaling up climate finance that is accessible to at-risk and vulnerable communities impacted by climate change in conflict, complex emergency, fragile and humanitarian contexts.			8.79
Humanitarian Financing: Advocating for increased investments in climate-related initiatives delivered by humanitarian actors, including scaling up on climate risks, and feeding into climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and other Charter priorities via climate-sensitive humanitarian responses.			8.62
Early Warning and Anticipatory Action: Scaling up early warning and anticipatory action systems for faster, efficient and more dignified responses to climate shocks.			8.28
Greening the Sector: Support advocacy with donors and the sector to support more environmentally sustainable practices and to reduce the humanitarian sector’s climate footprint.			7.68
Alignment of Donor Greening Standards/Priorities: Support advocacy with donors to encourage the development and adoption of common donor standards/priorities on greening, which are to inform their engagement with humanitarian organisations.			7.61
National Legal and Policy Frameworks: Supporting humanitarian organisations in their efforts to assisting national authorities in including humanitarian perspectives in national plans, goals, indicators (NAPs, NCQGs, L&D) and engaging in country-specific processes and policy development.			7.63
International Legal and Policy Frameworks: Supporting humanitarian organisations’ contributions to international climate negotiations and policy, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)/ Conference of Parties (COP), ECOSOC and others.			7.59

Sector Specific Priorities

Example: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Priorities

In addition to reflecting on high-level priorities for the sector, Signatories were invited to share specific advocacy considerations in the sectors they worked. The [report](#) outlines these key advocacy priorities. On example where Charter signatories identified a critical area for climate resilience advocacy is in WASH programming, emphasizing the need for systems that can withstand the growing impacts of climate change. Key priorities include:

- Ensuring climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure by understanding and addressing climate-related risks to water resources and infrastructure.
- Promoting sustainable water management, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
- Reducing the environmental footprint of WASH interventions—for example, by transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar-powered water pumps.
- Strengthening policies that protect water resources, support watershed management, and control pollution, especially in regions facing water scarcity.

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. Highlights include:

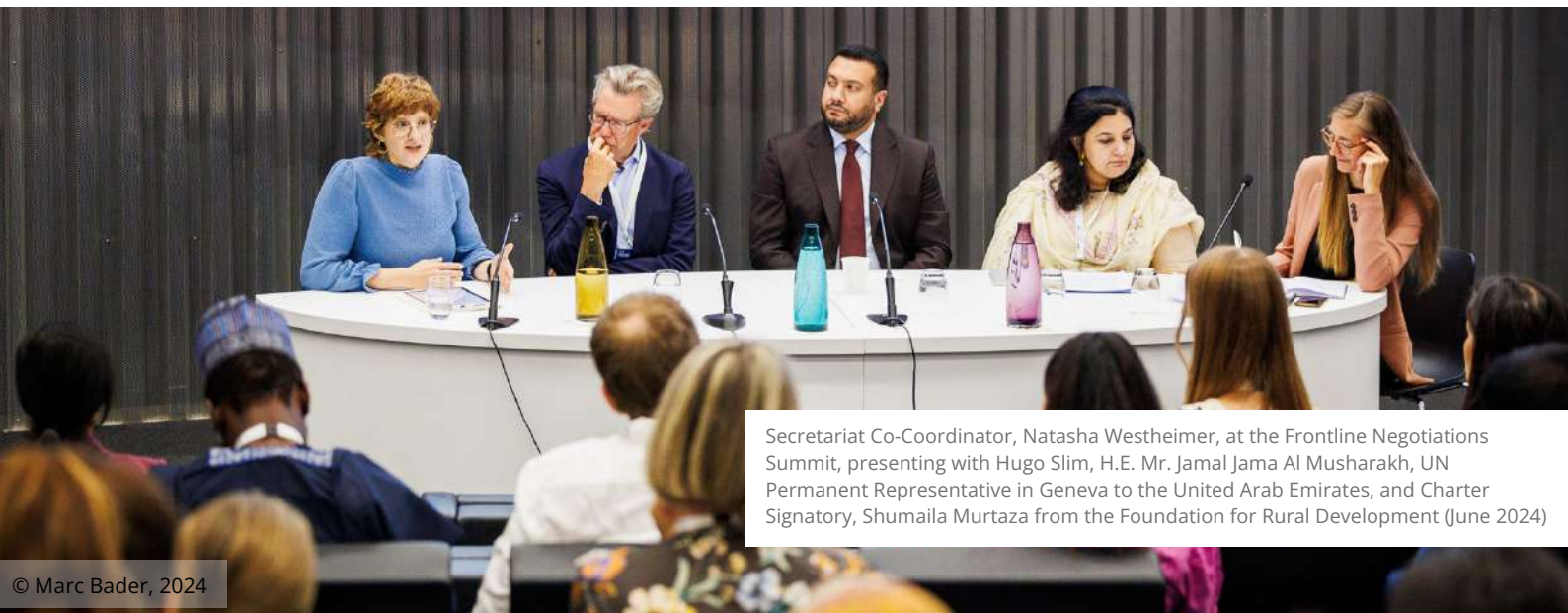
- **Dóchas Conference** (Dublin, May 2024) – Represented the Charter at Dóchas 50th Anniversary event opened by President Michael D. Higgins, sharing Signatory experiences on adapting humanitarian response in a climate emergency to inform improved humanitarian action
- **Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action** and the **Berlin Humanitarian Congress** (Berlin, October 2024) – Sharing insights on risk reduction and preparedness from Charter Signatories at events and through facilitating panels.
- **UN General Assembly, New York Climate Week** (September 2024), and the Secretariat and Board members contributed to high-level conversations linking humanitarian, climate/environment, and development agendas.
- **34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** (Geneva, October 2024) – Moderated and contributed to the high-level, climate spotlight session and convened Charter Signatories and Donors to discuss opportunities for improved coordination and collaboration.
- **European Humanitarian Forum** (Brussels, May 2025) – Convening charter Signatories and donors to discuss financing challenges and opportunities for innovation.
- Participation in **HNPW 2024** and **HNPW 2025**, **World Environment Day Celebrations**, and the **Frontline Negotiations Summit** – Promoting integration of climate and environment into humanitarian action.

This engagement helps to amplify Signatory experiences and strengthens the Charter's role as a reference point for climate and environmental action across the humanitarian system.



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Secretariat Co-Coordinator, Nishanie Jayamaha and Ireland's President Michael D. Higgins at Dóchas Conference (May 2024)



Secretariat Co-Coordinator, Natasha Westheimer, at the Frontline Negotiations Summit, presenting with Hugo Slim, H.E. Mr. Jamal Jama Al Musharakh, UN Permanent Representative in Geneva to the United Arab Emirates, and Charter Signatory, Shumaila Murtaza from the Foundation for Rural Development (June 2024)

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.

"Through the Charter and its support at HNPW, Marily—a partner Indigenous woman leader of ECOWEB—brought to the global stage the grounded realities of her community. She leads in our multi-year work addressing interconnected issues: Indigenous People land rights, ancestral domain resource management, resilient livelihoods development, and DRR—while also mobilizing community-led responses during disasters. For ECOWEB, this is localisation and nexus in action. The Charter has helped us align climate and environmental indicators across our advocacy and programming. We hope these platforms move donors and decision makers to truly shift power—supporting community-led, inclusive, and sustainable solutions driven by those most at risk."

Regina "Nanette" Salvador-Antequisa,
Executive Director, Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB), The Philippines

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

One of the key moments in the climate calendar is the annual UNFCC Conference of Parties (COP), and the mid-year Subsidiary Body (SB) meetings held in Bonn, Germany. While the humanitarian sector has increasingly engaged in these processes, organisations – and the humanitarian sector at large – are still in the early stages of defining its role, niche, and added-value in influencing global climate negotiations.

Signatories sought guidance on developing messaging, identifying opportunities to engage, and amplifying humanitarian advocacy priorities in the 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 has supported the Charter Signatories through various coordination initiatives related to UNFCCC process:

Signatory Statement: The Charter Secretariat consulted Signatories on the important messages they would like amplified by the humanitarian sector at COP29 and published the *Statement by the Signatories to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations ahead of COP29*.

Information Sharing Before, During, and After COP: The Charter Secretariat compiled and updated information on COP29 that might be useful to the Charter Signatories and wider humanitarian community to support their engagement at COP29 – these updates were shared on a [COP29 Engagement Platform](#) on the Charter's website. This included compiled daily updates on decisions, declarations, pledges, calls for action and key messages, as well as events and engagement opportunities at COP29.



Mihir Bhatt, Director of the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, a Charter Signatory, presents at the European Humanitarian Forum (May 2025)

Before and after COP, the Secretariat also shared relevant updates, messages, and opportunities with Signatories from platforms such as the Task Force on Displacement (TFD), the Advisory Group on Human Mobility, the Loss and Damage Collaboration, and the Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP) – all of which the Secretariat participates and contributes to.

Capacity Building for COP29 Engagement: The Secretariat held 3 webinars before and after COP29 (p16). In October a webinar was held prior to COP29 bringing together the climate and environment, peacebuilding and humanitarian sectors to share opportunities for collective advocacy at COP29. In December, two webinars were held in partnership with DEC and CALP Network to share key decisions, implications and next steps for humanitarian organisations on advocacy and key actions towards 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. One example of a key initiative that the Secretariat facilitated Signatory consultations towards, was the [Common Principles for Effective Climate Finance and Action for Relief, Recovery, and Peace](#). The Secretariat invited Signatories to share inputs on the principles and later discussions on identifying potential pilot countries for implementation. Due to funding cuts, this initiative was paused.

"The Charter and the Secretariat have been an invaluable platform for Somali NGO Consortium in understanding the UNFCCC landscape. The Charter Secretariat has connected SNC with relevant partners so we could raise community needs and local/National priorities at global platforms such as COP29. The Secretariat has shared insights on how we can engage and contribute to global policy discussions around climate financing and loss and damage and connected us with initiatives and expertise as we work with our NGO network and broader partners in shaping our key messages and policy interventions in Somalia."

Nimo Hassan, Director, Somali NGO Consortium (SNC)

"At Pak Mission Society, we believe that local wisdom carries the seeds of global transformation. As a Signatory of the Climate Charter, we amplify the voices of communities and bring their innovative solutions to global forums like COP and SB with the support of the Secretariat. Our commitment turns indigenous knowledge into tangible action—advancing net zero targets, building adaptive resilience, and fostering inclusive engagement."

Qamar Iqbal, Head of Localisation & Partnerships, PakMission, Convener, Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) in Pakistan and Convener, Country Level Working Group - Charter4Change in Pakistan

Coordination of Signatory Engagement at COP

Although the Charter Secretariat was not present at COP29, it connected Signatories to each other and nominated several from local and national NGOs in Somalia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines to speak at key events. These speakers shared insights on climate action and financing in humanitarian settings, including in conflict and fragile contexts. The Secretariat also linked Signatories with advocacy initiatives and coordination platforms, including the IASC Sub-group on Climate, thematic groups on displacement, and the Loss and Damage Collaboration for COP29.

Promoting the Charter as a Framework for Action

The Secretariat has actively promoted the Charter as a practical framework to guide climate and environmental action across the humanitarian sector. By engaging directly with Signatories, participating in global forums, and contributing to thematic discussions, the Secretariat has helped organisations translate the Charter's commitments into concrete strategies and actions. Whether supporting institutional alignment, shaping global discourse, or anchoring local initiatives, the Charter serves as a unifying reference point for meaningful climate and environment integration.

Organisational Change:

The Secretariat plays a vital role in supporting Signatories to understand and implement the Charter. Over the past year, it has engaged directly with **more than 90 Signatories**—ranging from local NGOs, national Red Cross Societies, to UN agencies—through tailored presentations and discussions with senior leadership, regional teams, and thematic groups. Through these sessions, the Secretariat supports organisations in understanding how they can adapt their strategies to mainstream climate and environmental action using the Charter framework as a reference point.

Global Commitments:

The Secretariat leveraged global platforms to promote the Charter to wider audiences and fostering deeper engagement. For example, during the launch of the Decarbonization Roadmap by Climate Action Accelerators in Berlin, the Secretariat framed this important roadmap within the sector's commitment through the Charter, referencing how the Charter commitments highlight the importance of mitigating the environmental impacts of programmes and operations.

"Humanitarian Action for Africa (HAA) values its engagement with the Charter Secretariat and appreciates the opportunities provided to align our humanitarian action with climate and environmental principles... The Charter itself has served as a powerful advocacy and programming tool, helping us integrate environmental considerations more systematically into our work, especially in project design, internal policy development, and partner engagement."

Casimir Djoko, Humanitarian Action Africa

Rooted, Thematic Action:

The Secretariat has used the Charter as an opportunity to showcase how thematic work can be rooted in a sectoral commitment to Climate and Environmental action. For example, the Secretariat contributed to the **UNICEF-NGO Consultations** on collective advocacy for climate and environmental action. In this discussion, the Secretariat presented on how the Charter can be a framework for advocacy both within the sector and beyond.

At a launch event of the **India Humanitarian Hub**, the Secretariat presented the Charter and shared how the Charter can be a framework to ensure local and indigenous knowledge is incorporated into humanitarian action.

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.

Donor Greening Consultations

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 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. The **Common Greening Priority Actions** will be launched to the wider sector in June 2025. The Charter shared insights at the Donor workshop on **Leveraging Donors' Collective Influence** highlighting the Charter commitments and the importance of engaging the UN on greening.

Convening Signatories and Supporters (Donors)

The **34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**, held in Geneva in October 2024, provided an opportunity for the Charter Secretariat and DG ECHO to co-convene Signatories of the Climate and Environment Charter and the Donors' Declaration at a joint event titled "Global Synergy for Climate Action and the Environment." The event brought together 50 participants from Charter Signatories, Supporters, and Donors' Declaration Signatories to discuss the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Climate-Environment nexus, and the need for improved tools, guidance, and resources. As a follow-up, DG ECHO and the Charter Secretariat co-hosted an in-person workshop at the **2025 European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels**. 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, and served as the launch platform for the **Common Donor Priority Actions on Greening Humanitarian Assistance**.

Recommendations Emerging from Signatory-Supporter Engagement

Through convenings with Charter Supporters and donors, the following recommendations emerged to strengthen collaboration, coordination, and funding:

Role of humanitarian principles and actors:

- Invest in anticipatory, preventative, and preparedness strategies, which are critical to saving lives and upholding humanitarian principles.
- Build trust between public and private actors while maintaining clear, distinct roles in fragile and conflict settings.

Funding:

- Equip humanitarian actors to navigate blended and innovative financing, like private and climate funds.
- Pre-invest in climate and environmentally sustainable measures and shift from short-term, project-based approaches towards programmatic funding models.
- Adopt more flexible funding models that move beyond traditional donor frameworks.
- Adapt financial instruments to for conflict contexts for more inclusive climate and environmental action.

Partnerships and capacity strengthening:

- Strengthen capacity to break down humanitarian-development-peace-climate silos.
- Build trust at local, national, regional, and global levels for public-private partnerships.
- Strengthen institutional readiness and support for proposal development to access new funding mechanisms.

Tools and guidance:

- Develop practical, context-specific tools for nexus programming and funding.
- Harmonize language and guidance where possible, while ensuring it meets local needs.
- Reduce reliance on high-carbon travel through stronger use of online tools and low-carbon travel policies.
- Explore insurance as a preparedness tool where appropriate enabling conditions exist.

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

Responses to the May 2025 Signatory Survey provided rich insight into the value of the Charter Secretariat's support to date, as well as practical suggestions for where it could evolve to better meet Signatories' needs. Respondents highlighted several aspects of the Secretariat's work that they found particularly beneficial, while also identifying targeted opportunities to strengthen its relevance, accessibility, and reach.

Signatory Learning Priorities

Signatories rated a wide range of learning areas as important, which suggests broad consensus that strengthening climate and environment action remains highly relevant, even amid constrained resources.

The **top five learning priorities** underscores a clear emphasis on **practical, programme-oriented approaches** that enhance humanitarian outcomes while addressing climate risks. The top priorities reflect a focus on risk reduction, locally led response, and anticipatory action:

1. Increasing our focus on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
2. Addressing **climate and environmental risks** in humanitarian programming
3. Increasing **participation and leadership of local actors** in the design, management, implementation, and evaluation of programmes
4. Supporting anticipatory action programming, such as **early-warning systems and early actions**
5. Identifying unique climate/environmental risks for **at-risk and marginalized communities** and/or supporting those most at-risk in preparedness and adaptation to climate and environmental crises.

What Signatories Value Most

Signatories expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's technical and strategic support. Several themes emerged:

- **Guidance on Target Setting:** Resources to support target-setting and clarify organisational commitments were frequently cited as instrumental. Signatories described this support as central in helping shape internal strategies and operational planning around climate and environment.
- **Practical Tools and Knowledge Products:** Many Signatories valued the Secretariat's curated guidance materials, thematic resources, and newsletters. These were described as accessible, actionable, and well-aligned with operational needs, helping integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian programming.
- **Advocacy and Strategic Alignment:** Signatories shared that Charter engagement helped position their work within broader sectoral and policy conversations – it provided a useful reference point to align with global standards, donor expectations, and emerging frameworks on climate action.
- **A Sense of Global Solidarity:** Signatories appreciated being part of a growing movement of organisations committed to climate and environment goals in humanitarian contexts. This sense of shared purpose and collective progress was seen as motivating and meaningful, especially in a challenging funding landscape.



Firzan Hashim, Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management, Sri Lanka; Nishanie Jayamaha, Charter Secretariat; Mariama Ly NGO CONCEPT Senegal and Juha-Pekka, DG ECHO at the European Humanitarian Forum (May 2025)

What Signatories Need Moving Forward

While many Signatories were satisfied with the current offerings, they also shared clear and constructive suggestions for how Secretariat support could evolve. The Secretariat reviews its workplan every six months and will be integrating Signatory feedback into future programming. Key recommendations include:

- **More Regional and Peer-to-Peer Engagement:** Respondents called for stronger opportunities to learn from peers and connect across similar contexts. Suggestions included regional workshops, thematic working groups, peer exchange platforms, and south-south collaboration mechanisms.
- **Tailored and Context-Specific Content:** Several Signatories expressed the need for resources that are adapted to specific regions, operational environments, or thematic areas, especially for those working in conflict-affected or fragile settings.
- **Deeper Support for Localization:** Local and national actors, in particular, requested more direct support. This included practical guidance adapted to smaller organisations, dedicated capacity-strengthening for local NGOs, and support in accessing global-level advocacy and coordination spaces.
- **Coordinated Advocacy and Shared Messaging:** Signatories asked for more support in amplifying collective voices, through shared advocacy messages, coordinated policy engagement efforts, and stronger linkages with donors and global platforms.
- **Facilitated Access to Funding:** A recurring suggestion was for the Secretariat to play a stronger role in brokering funding opportunities, providing information about relevant funds, or connecting Signatories with philanthropic and climate financing mechanisms.
- **Improved Accessibility and Communication:** Respondents requested more communications in additional languages, more frequent updates, and reminders about available resources. Some emphasized the need for ongoing, easy-to-access communications, particularly for those not consistently plugged into global forums.

II. Charter Secretariat's Short-term Plan

Like many organisations in the sector, the Charter Secretariat faced some funding cuts this year. In order to be able to maintain and prioritize its core support to Charter Signatories, the Secretariat will not be convening an in-person workshop and has reduced all travel for the rest of the year. Fortunately, with this decision, the Secretariat will still be able to deliver on the vast majority of its [workplan](#), thanks to the generous support of ECHO and SDC.

Throughout the rest of 2026, the Secretariat will **roll-out additional thematic guidance pages**, curating tools, case studies, and resources developed by partners and Signatories. These guidance pages will be paired with **webinars and discussions**, co-convened by the Charter Secretariat with partners and Signatories. We intend to centre the learning and expertise from Charter Signatories in these spaces. In parallel, the Secretariat will continue to be available for providing **one-on-one guidance** to Signatories on targets and technical support, **strengthening relationships with experts and partners**, and coordinating and convening other **knowledge sharing opportunities** in the sector.

We also aim to support the sector in strengthening its voice in key policy platforms, informed by the priorities and messages shared in the January 2025 Signatory Survey on Advocacy Priorities (pp. 20-21). The valuable lessons learned, best practice and evidenced-based initiatives of Charter Signatories will shape events convened and co-hosted by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will act as a connector and support Signatories access networks and partnerships to advance these priorities. The Secretariat will work closely with Signatories, Supporters, Donors and partners to **inform and influence** global, regional and national level policy dialogues **with on-the-ground experiences and solutions**. We will include **local, indigenous and voices** from the ground so that they are amplified and are at decision making forums.

The Secretariat has already been actively engaged in advocacy and influencing during its first year and will continue to do so in its second year as well by supporting Signatories on key messages, priorities towards UNFCCC and COP processes. We will facilitate dialogue and events **bringing together the Signatory and Donor communities** to share challenges, lessons learned and priorities for advocacy noting the current funding landscape, the shrinking humanitarian space and the need to advance climate and environmental action in conflict and fragile settings to save lives and protect most vulnerable communities from backsliding.

Looking toward 2026, we will be revisiting our workplan priorities based on financial developments and inputs from the Charter community. We aim to **prioritize regional engagement and an increase in localised support**, particularly through the return of in-person, regional workshops and knowledge products aimed at **decentralizing and increasing the accessibility of guidance**.

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 local level.

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 will be launched later in 2025 to **ensure Signatories and partners take the lead** in shaping the Secretariat's next chapters.

Opportunities for Signatory Engagement

The Climate and Environment Charter is a collective effort, shaped by and for its Signatories. There are many practical ways organisations can stay engaged, contribute, and strengthen sector-wide action:

Share and Promote:

- Email us with **upcoming events, gatherings, or webinars** to be featured in our monthly [newsletter](#), [website](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- **Share tools, resources, or case studies** that we can add to our database to share with Signatories and feature on our [guidance page](#). You can share via our [resource contribution form](#).
- Reach out to us if you want support in **amplifying any calls for engagement**, consultations, or partnership opportunities within the sector.

Connect and Collaborate:

- Reach out to the Secretariat for **referrals to experts**, guidance, or peer connections.
- Schedule time with us to **troubleshoot your targets** in [Targets Office Hours](#)
- Let us know if you have any interest in **co-hosting a webinar, workshop, or learning exchange**, especially on the national/regional level, or if you're looking to connect with us Signatories to do the same.

Strengthen Collective Practice:

- Share your **organisation's Targets** or experiences in implementation of the Charter commitments.
- Support and connect Signatories at regional and national levels **on peer-to-peer learning opportunities**
- Contribute to Signatory and Donor engagement opportunities and amplify local voices in global policy fora
- Stay tuned and participate in our **upcoming consultations on the long-term vision** of the Charter Secretariat, to help shape future guidance, tools, or strategies.

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 this first year, 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 received from BHA, ECHO, and SDC as of May 31, 2025, noting that additional funds have been pledged from ECHO and SDC for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.

Donor	Contributions received as of 31 May, 2025
USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)	230,376 CHF
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)	144,128 CHF
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	204,000 CHF

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.



Climate and Environment Charter



Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat

Hosted by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies

NGO Humanitarian Hub

La Voie-Creuse 16, 1202 Genève, Switzerland

www.climate-charter.org