

GLOBALT FOKUS

- Folkelige organisationers udviklingssamarbejde



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT MAINSTREAMING TOOL

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INTRODUCTION

1. THE URGENCY FOR ACTION

The climate crisis is the biggest challenge of our time, and we are, according to former UN General Secretary Ban-Ki Moon, "the last generation that can end climate change". Climate change is a transboundary issue that calls for trans-boundary solutions, and it has never been more urgent to increase climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts both in Denmark and globally. The crisis extends beyond the physical changes in the climate and the environment with social and economic consequences globally.

Climate and Environment Action ► This tool takes point of departure in the fact that the climate and environment crises are interlinked and inseparable. Urgent action to halt climate change, build resilience to climate change impacts and restore the health of vital ecosystems is needed to avoid erosion of development gains, entrenching inequalities and increasing risks for vulnerable target groups. Recognising the wide array of environmental challenges, the tool focuses mainly on the environmental concerns and actions that are relevant to address the climate crisis. This includes but is not limited to mitigation action to reduce or sequester green-house gas (GHG) emissions, e.g. through sustainable lifestyles or restoration of vital ecosystems, as well as action to build resilience and adapt to climate changes, e.g. through improved water resource management.

Climate change and environmental challenges risk undermining all collective efforts to alleviate poverty, build resilience, ensure a fair distribution of resources, and it increases inequity and undermines the respect for Human Rights. In other words, it is a matter of climate justice! – The crisis is an ethical and political issue that requires a focus on equity, Human Rights and the acknowledgement of the fact that there is a discrepancy in those responsible for the crisis and those most vulnerable to its consequences.

Impacts of Climate Change ► Impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt by people around the world and impacts are projected to increase in the coming years. Changing weather patterns, rising temperatures and increasing occurrence of droughts and floods are typical impacts risking lives and making life difficult among the poor in the Global South. Climate change challenges poverty reduction and resilience. Thus, for all interventions, it is important to target the most vulnerable as they are the most exposed to climate change impacts.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)² are the main global frameworks related to climate change, poverty-eradication and sustainable development directing the work of not only civil society but across sectors. The Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to limit global warming and in addition to SDG 13 on climate action, several of the 17 SDGs include targets and indicators related to climate change action and the environment. Civil society organisations need to approach the crisis holistically and in close collaboration with their local partners to enhance coherence between thematic sectors and solutions in order to contribute to building climate resilient and environmentally sustainable societies. To achieve this, climate and environmental considerations urgently need to be mainstreamed in all humanitarian and development efforts.

Climate Action ► Climate action covers climate mitigation and adaptation action. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), resilience building activities and sustainable natural resource management are often linked to climate change adaptation, while mitigation is often linked to sustainable energy and economic interventions.

This tool has consequently been developed by Global Focus and its member organisations to support, drive, and mobilise for the mainstreaming of climate and environment actions within civil society's organisational set-ups and interventions.³

Member organisations aim to lead by example by aspiring to live up to the intentions of this tool, its benchmarks, and commitments. A working group on climate mainstreaming within Global Focus, with 14 member organisations, has worked throughout 2020 to develop the tool with the intention of it being relevant for as many organisations as possible – both those with a specific focus on climate or environment as well as those that do not focus intently on this. The plan is for the tool to be piloted by member organisations throughout 2021 in order to test its applicability, identify learnings, as well as to inform changes to the tool to ensure the tool's relevance in supporting the mainstreaming efforts of civil society. The Inspiration for Action Catalogue, will especially remain a *living document*, as an ongoing resource for learning and inspiration.

2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES & MAINSTREAMING

It is a central premise for the work of civil society that it pro-actively does good in full respect of Human Rights and the related principles of participation, accountability and non-discrimination. This is a key element in creating strong sustainable results of its investments in climate action for the surrounding environment and populous, while contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Accordingly, Global Focus and its members are committed to fundamental development and sustainability approaches. Most importantly, the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) is central to all interventions and a building block for sustainable climate and environmental action, as well as key to approaching the crisis as an issue of justice. By integrating Human Rights norms and principles into every area of their work, organisations are committed to empowering local communities, including the most marginalised and vulnerable, while actively including them in designing and implementing transformational solutions for sustainable lifestyles and adhering to principles of doing-no-harm. Women are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, and they are key to sustainable change in general, but also specifically so for climate and environmental responses. The application of gender transformative approaches is consequently key to sustainable change. In general, Global Focus and its members reassert the principles of partnerships at all levels especially by working in local partnerships and ensuring continuous dialogue across such partnerships, while for humanitarian actors also reaffirming the Grand Bargain's commitments on localisation.

Climate & Environment Mainstreaming ► Mainstreaming and integration are in this tool used interchangeably and are defined as the process of inclusion of climate change and environment related considerations into the organisational imprint (policies, procedures and actions) and partnerships, in addition to targeted climate and environment action at intervention level.

MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ACTION

Mainstreaming⁴ climate action in organisations and interventions (projects and programmes) means that climate and climate-related environmental considerations should no longer be implemented ad hoc, but these should be systematically integrated into the very core of organisations' DNA and developmental and humanitarian efforts. As such, mainstreaming means that climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as climate-related environment actions will be integrated into the policies and structures at organisational level, in partnerships, as well as at intervention-level – while naturally also continuing to be implemented through targeted climate actions.

Adaptation ► Climate Change Adaptation refers to actions taken to manage the impacts of climate change, both those that are already happening and those expected in the future. Adaptation actions may focus on changing processes, practices and systems to cope with potential threats as well as benefit from opportunities associated with the changing climate. Adaptation is often referred to in relation to building resilience of societies and communities, enhancing people's capacities to manage climate risks and reduce their vulnerability. If communities suffer losses and damages due to climate change impacts, this is referred to as Loss and Damage.

Mitigation ► Climate Change Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, for example through uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. It also refers to the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, e.g. through forests, vegetation or soils that absorb CO₂. Mitigation action is often an enabler to adaptation and sustainable development, e.g. solar power for irrigation or restored forest ecosystems for increased resilience.

Additionally, mainstreaming climate and environmental actions means that organisations will aim for policy coherence for sustainable development not only internally, but also maximise the synergies between interventions externally. By centralising climate mainstreaming in all aspects of the organisations' work, the aim is for operations to not only *do-no-harm* to the climate and the environment, but to actively promote and contribute to a more sustainable future.

3. AIM: SELF-ASSESSMENT, LEARNING & ACTION

This tool is envisioned as a sector-wide tool to support civil society organisations in mainstreaming climate and environmental action. The tool is primarily considered an *internal* tool for each organisation to review and reflect on their level of climate and environmental mainstreaming at both organisational and intervention level – and to take action based on the results of the assessment. It is intended to spark a conversation, to enable a reflection on gaps and potentials for improvement based on a systematic assessment. The hope is that the tool will inform learning, help to mobilise support and buy-in across each organisation to inspire change and ensure the appropriate level of mainstreaming of climate and environmental actions. Mainstreaming should take place in existing policies and systems of the organisation, as well as in results frameworks, and specific interventions. Finally, the tool is anticipated to support the documentation of progress over time within each organisation, but also to feed into sector-wide learning loops led by Global Focus.



THE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT MAINSTREAMING TOOL:



THE CHECKLIST



TAKING ACTION



INSPIRATION

4. THE TOOL

The self-assessment tool is a *checklist* of actions and processes – referred to as benchmarks – that organisations should strive to fulfil in order to achieve *full* mainstreaming in their organisations' governance and management systems, partnerships, and interventions. Considering the all-encompassing nature of the climate crisis and the impact it has on the lives of the target groups of developmental and humanitarian efforts, the premise of the tool, is that *all benchmarks* are relevant for *all organisations* in order to be able to analyse the level of relevance of mainstreaming and its progress over time. There will, however, be exceptions depending on the focus and procedures of the individual organisation.

It is acknowledged that each organisation has a different starting point to fully achieve mainstreaming and that it is a process with many steps along the way. The results of the self-assessment should therefore be viewed with a degree of flexibility to take into account the context and the specific focus, conditions, and experiences of the organisation and intervention in question. In other words, the degree to which climate and environmental actions should be mainstreamed in each organisation varies depending on the level of implementation, the thematic sector, and the geography.

CONTENTS OF THE CHECKLIST

The checklist contains a total of 13 benchmarks divided on the following areas:

- *organisational level* focusing on the adoption of relevant strategies, policies and procedures;
- *partnership level* focusing on key benchmarks to apply in different types of partnerships;
- *intervention (project and programme) level* for design, implementation and M&E focusing on steps that should be taken within a project or programme. Many of these focus on actions that need to take place in the planning / design phase of a programme and to be followed-up / implemented and monitored during implementation.

The benchmarks have been developed and selected by the Global Focus working group on climate mainstreaming. The process has focused on identifying current gaps in climate mainstreaming in member organisations; it has included a mapping of selected donor requirements;⁵ as well as an exploration of various thematic topics through joint meetings, discussions and exchange of best practices.

GUIDED SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS

When using the checklist, organisations should score themselves against the provided score-descriptions for each benchmark. The scoring-system has been included to avoid a binary situation of "yes or no", but rather enable organisations to illustrate that they are in the process of achieving a specific benchmark and allowing them to explain the reasoning for the chosen score. The scoring is therefore based on a descriptive narrative illustrating the range from "**fully mainstreamed**", over "**moderately mainstreamed**", and "**mainstreaming initiated**", to "**not mainstreamed**" as well as "**not applicable**". The reason for including 4 levels in the scoring is primarily to allow for organisations to show progress over time i.e. it might be easy to go from "not mainstreamed" to "mainstreaming initiated" but to reach "fully mainstreamed" will take a lot more effort, and consequently, "moderately mainstreamed" has been included as an option.

The 'value' for these levels of mainstreaming is described separately for each benchmark and cannot as such be generalised. It is important to note that the results will always be based on a subjective assessment by each organisation, and as such, it is not the aim of the descriptions to account for all possible scenarios, but rather to present a *guide* as to how to assess the level of mainstreaming vis-a-vis each benchmark. Several of the benchmarks consequently apply the use of levelling terms such as "adequately", "to some extent", "majority", "minority" etc. These are not further defined as it would be too complicated for each benchmark, but it is important that organisations apply common sense as well as internal accountability to gauge their mainstreaming based on these terms. The intention is as such that the organisations can be guided in their assessment by these terms, while it is acknowledged that there are scenarios that are not accounted for namely e.g. the difference between the "quantity of programmes" versus the "quality of programmes" as well as the difference between having mainstreamed in larger more climate-relevant programmers than in smaller less relevant programmes.

"Not applicable" applies when the benchmark is not relevant for your organisation due to your focus or for other reasons e.g. if you do not work with private sector partners. This will generally not apply to the organisational level, which should be relevant to most organisations, and it should be kept in mind that the benchmarks have been developed from the perspective of being widely relevant across organisations with varying degrees of climate and environmental focus.

The internal scoring is consequently not seen as a list that should be tallied to give a 'numerical score' across benchmarks, but rather be a help to identify successes and gaps at organisational-, partnership-, and intervention-level and inspire organisations to plan for and take action to sustain or improve. At the end of the checklist, the organisation can however list the results of the scoring by tallying by score-heading e.g. "3 scores of moderately mainstreamed".


In the piloting phase of the tool the scoring methodology should also be reviewed to take into account the experiences with practical application of the benchmarks in mainstreaming exercises. This should enable clarification and possible further detailing of the scoring for each benchmark. The Inspiration *for* Action Catalogue, should also give some inspiration as to how to achieve and reach various degrees of mainstreaming.

ADDITIONAL CONTENTS: ACTION, JOINT COMMITMENTS, AND INSPIRATION

In addition to the internal self-assessment benchmarks in the table below, **section 5** on "Taking Action" reflects on the need for mobilising efforts within each organisation and presents a simple template for an Action Plan on how to address issues identified in the self-assessment. Each organisation is encouraged to use the Action Plan to identify next steps in the process towards mainstreaming. Hopefully, this will support organisations to not only assess the current status of mainstreaming, but also to take action to improve and learn throughout the process.

Moreover, in **section 6** three "Joint Commitments" are identified in order to support the sector-wide drive towards mainstreaming; to identify progress and support needs; as well as to feed into learning-loops across the member organisations of Global Focus. These commitments are also key to promoting joint advocacy actions necessary to support structural change and ultimately enable the application of mainstreaming actions.

Finally, **section 7 and 8** includes an 'Inspiration *for* Action Catalogue' which contains relevant examples of tools and systems for how each benchmark can be addressed as well as inspiration for how to get started on the process of mainstreaming.



THE CHECKLIST

THE 13 BENCHMARKS



THE CHECKLIST

BENCHMARK 1

ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

Policy & Strategy

Policies and strategies – including the planning, monitoring and evaluation framework of the organisation – reflect that all aspects of the organisation's operations strive to have minimal or no negative impact on the climate, the environment and Human Rights as well as proactively aim to deliver solutions that adapts to and/or mitigate climate change.

Note: key policy & strategy systems to consider for this benchmark:

1. A climate and environment strategy /policy exists at organisational level or climate and environment is adequately reflected in the wider organisational strategy/policy, or it is documented why this is not relevant.
2. Activities, plans and actions of the organisation reflect the implementation of the overall policy and strategy level.
3. Overall planning, monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) framework adequately reflects climate and environmental considerations.
4. Organisational policies and systems (e.g. controller systems; travel policies; waste systems; food-policy, etc.) adequately reflect climate and environmental considerations.

Both mitigation and adaptation aspects are presented in the strategies, policies and systems.

Fully mainstreamed: Your organisation fully lives up to the contents of the benchmark and can document that climate and environmental considerations have been taken into account in all relevant policy & strategy systems and can be said to go beyond "doing-no-harm" by proactively supporting both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Moderately mainstreamed: Your organisation can document that climate and environmental aspects are adequately reflected in the majority of relevant policy, strategy and/or governance systems, and can as a minimum be said to "do no harm".

Mainstreaming initiated: Your organisation can document that climate and environmental aspects are to some extent reflected in a minority of policy, strategy and/or governance systems.

Not mainstreamed: Your organisation has not reflected climate and environmental aspects in any policy, strategy or governance systems.

Not applicable: If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation. However, this benchmark should be relevant to most organisations.

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 2

ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

The organisation has procedures in place that ensure that the impact on the environment and the climate is considered in procurement processes and decisions.

Note: Key elements to consider in this benchmark:

- Do a due diligence of your organisation's vendors e.g. your bank and other deliverers of services.
- Engage with vendors and deliverers of services on how to make you partnership "greener".

Engage with external stakeholders on how to push for vendors to become "greener".

Fully mainstreamed: *Your organisation's procurement procedures adequately reflect climate and environmental considerations and include guidelines on how to mitigate the negative effects of procurement and ensure the implementation of these procedures e.g. with tender requirements, choice of vendors, how to deal with donor demands etc.*

Moderately mainstreamed: *The majority of your organisation's procurement procedures to some extent reflect climate and environmental considerations but with little guidance for mitigating these consequences.*

Mainstreaming initiated: *The minority of your organisation's procurement procedures to some extent reflect climate and environmental considerations s but have no guidance for the mitigation of the consequences.*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation's procurement procedures do not reflect climate and environmental considerations.*

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation because you do not engage in procurement.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 3

ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSESSMENT SCORE

The organisation ensures efficiency in resource use and accounts for its emissions across key sectors (including energy & transport, buildings & construction, agriculture forestry & land use change). Your organisation sets an organisation-wide 'emission reduction target', which is compatible with the Paris-agreement; and documents progress on the achievement of the target.

The benchmark includes the following steps:

1. Establish an emission baseline accounting for scope 1 and 2 and selected elements under scope 3⁷ if possible.
2. Identify priority areas, set the emission reduction-target, and develop a budgeted strategy/plan⁸ for emission-reduction.
3. Implement the strategy/plan, monitor, and account for progress and adjust the strategy as needed with appropriate timelines.

If the organisation is part of an international alliance or structure it should actively advocate for reduction strategies across the alliance.

Fully mainstreamed: *Your organisation complies fully to the four steps presented in the benchmark.*

Moderately mainstreamed: *Your organisation has either:*

- developed a partial- to full emission baseline (step 1) and has identified priority areas for emission reduction (step 2); and if applicable is advocating for emission reduction within the international alliance (step 4); or*
- identified priority areas for emission reduction (step 2) and is implementing a strategy/plan to achieve these (step 3); and if applicable is advocating for emission reduction within the international alliance (step 4); but a baseline has not been developed (step 1).*

Mainstreaming initiated: *Your organisation has either:*

- developed a partial- to full emission baseline (step 1) but has not identified priority areas (step 2) and is not implementing a plan to reduce emission (step 3); or*
- your organisation has identified priority areas for reducing emissions (step 2), but is not actively working to achieve these (step 3), and a baseline has not been established (step 1) .*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation does not actively work to reduce its emissions and has not developed a baseline.*

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation. (This benchmark should be relevant to most organisations).*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

Paris Agreement Compatible Emission Reduction Target ▶ A 'Paris Agreement compatible emission reduction target' means that the organisation sets a target on reducing emissions that will contribute to / comply with the target of limiting temperature increase to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. To comply with this target, the UN's Emission Gap report sets a collective goal to reduce emissions by at least 7.6% annually between 2020 and 2030 – recognising that greater cuts are necessary the longer this is postponed. Setting a "Paris Agreement compatible emission reduction target" therefore means an annual cut in emissions compared to a 2020 baseline by at least 7.6% till 2030.

BENCHMARK 4

PARTNERSHIPS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

The organisation ensures that interventions integrate local capabilities and indigenous climate and environment knowledge. It further ensures synergies with locally led adaptation and mitigation efforts as well as strengthens local ownership.

Moderately mainstreamed: *Your organisation integrates local capabilities/climate & environment knowledge to some extent as well as actively supports local adaptation, mitigation efforts and ownership in the majority of its interventions.*

Mainstreaming initiated: *Your organisation integrates local capabilities/climate & environment knowledge to some extent as well as actively supports local adaptation, mitigation efforts and ownership in the minority of its interventions.*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation does not integrate local capabilities and knowledge and it does not strengthen local ownership in its interventions.*

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 5

PARTNERSHIPS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSESSMENT SCORE

The organisation ensures that their partnerships with local organisations include a funded plan or initiatives for strengthening capacities on issues related to climate change mitigation, adaptation and mainstreaming; the use of relevant instruments and tools; as well as guidance on how to work with reduction of emissions.

Fully mainstreamed: *Your organisation has funded capacity strengthening plans or initiatives on key issues related to climate and environment action and mainstreaming for all its partnerships with local actors.*

Moderately mainstreamed: *Your organisation has funded capacity strengthening plans or initiatives on key issues related to climate and environment action and mainstreaming for the majority of its partnerships with local actors.*

Mainstreaming initiated: *Your organisation has funded capacity strengthening plans or initiatives on key issues related to climate and environment action and mainstreaming for the minority of its partnerships with local actors.*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation does not have funded capacity strengthening plans or initiatives on key issues related to climate and environment action and mainstreaming for any of its partnerships with local actors.*

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 6

PARTNERSHIPS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

When partnering with private sector entities the organisation ensures that appropriate due diligence measures are taken in respect of the climate and environment and that the private sector partner's approach to climate and environment is adequate.

1. A due *diligence analysis* including aspects of climate and environment is conducted in the initial stages of the partnership.
2. If key concerns are identified *a strategy/plan* on how to address these as well as how to make the partnership “greener” must be developed.

Implement the strategy/plan, monitor and account for progress, and adjust the strategy as needed with appropriate timelines.

Fully mainstreamed: *Your organisation fully complies with the three steps in the benchmark for all its private sector partnerships.*

Moderately mainstreamed: *Your organisation performs a due diligence process with adequate focus on climate and environmental aspects for a majority of its private sector partnerships.*

Mainstreaming initiated: *Your organisation performs a due diligence process with adequate focus on climate and environmental aspects for a minority of its private sector partnerships.*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation does not perform due diligence processes with adequate focus on climate and environmental aspects for its private sector partnerships.*

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation, because you do not engage in private sector partnerships.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 7

PARTNERSHIPS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSESSMENT SCORE

The organisation includes a collaboration and advocacy component in interventions that have significant climate-relevance (*by scoring either 1 or 2 on the OECD DAC Rio Markers for climate*)⁹ in order to facilitate enabling conditions for environment and climate action; scale up of successful solutions; involvement of local communities and to contribute to accelerated climate action by governments as well as in coalitions with relevant actors.

Fully mainstreamed: *Your organisation includes an adequate collaboration and advocacy component in all its climate-relevant interventions.*

Moderately mainstreamed: *Your organisation includes an adequate collaboration and advocacy component in a majority of its climate-relevant interventions.*

Mainstreaming initiated: *Your organisation includes an adequate collaboration and advocacy component in a minority of its climate-relevant interventions.*

Not mainstreamed: *Your organisation does not include advocacy or a collaboration component in its climate-relevant interventions.*

Not applicable: If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation. Note, that even if your organisation does not implement any interventions that score 1 or 2, you can still live up to the scoring above.

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 8

INTERVENTIONS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

The organisation ensures that in designing interventions with significant climate-relevance (*by scoring either 1 or 2 on the OECD DAC Rio Markers for climate*)¹⁰ relevant national and local climate and environment plans, policy, legislation and budgets¹¹ have been reviewed and tracked.

Not applicable: *If this benchmark is not relevant for your organisation.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 9

INTERVENTIONS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSESSMENT SCORE

The organisation ensures that interventions as a minimum integrate forecast-based¹² climate and environmental risks, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity considerations in the context and problem analyses or alternatively conduct these as stand-alone analyses.

Not applicable: *This benchmark should be applicable to all organisations implementing interventions.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 10

INTERVENTIONS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

Note: The screening can be done as part of a wider social and human rights screening or risk assessment or as a stand-alone process.

Not applicable: *This benchmark should be applicable to all organisations implementing interventions.*

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:

BENCHMARK 11

INTERVENTIONS

MAINSTREAMING BENCHMARKS

SELF ASSEMENT SCORE

FULLY
MAINSTREAMED

MODERATELY
MAINSTREAMED

MAINSTREAMING
INITIATED

NOT
MAINSTREAMED

NOT
APPLICABLE

Briefly describe the score:

List the measures that have been considered as part of the score:



TAKING ACTION



5. TAKING ACTION

Aside from enabling self-assessment and reflection internally in the organisation, the aim of the tool is also to inspire action – both concrete action with reference to each benchmark (see the suggested Action Plan below) as well as to motivate engagement across the organisation in general.

The climate and environment crisis demands change of us as individuals and organisations and old habits among employees are hard to change as are institutional structures. Some say that changing actions and reinforcing those is the best approach to change and will lead to changes in mindsets and culture – whereas others point out that changing mindsets and culture is a precondition for fostering change in actions. The hope is that organisations using this tool will work actively across departments and levels to establish the 'baseline' for mainstreaming and based on this start a process of reflection and ensuring mobilisation as well as political buy-in from key parts of the organisation. As such, an aim of this tool is to spark the necessary dialogue within organisations in order to understand that mainstreaming is as much a process of reflection for change as it is a technical assignment based on central climate and environment related criteria. Ensuring mobilisation and engagement across the organisation is key to be able to inspire for change at all levels. – And open and honest dialogue is vital for this!



FOTO: USGS / UNSPLASH

Based on the self-assessment, organisations are encouraged to develop an internal action plan with the elements presented in the table below. This is a suggested tool to document progress on identified benchmarks that need action as well as to institutionalise climate and environmental mainstreaming. Please also consult the 'Inspiration for Action Catalogue' for inspiration on how to address each benchmark.

[illegible]

As part of pushing the drive to mainstream climate and environmental action as well as to support the systematic use of this tool and promote joint accountability across Global Focus' member organisations, three **joint commitments** linked to the above benchmarks have been decided. These commitments are meant to enable *external* documentation of progress towards achieving climate and environment mainstreaming as well as to inspire learning and joint action across organisations. The documentation is intended *across the sector* and not as a measurement of each organisation against each other.

The following are the **joint commitments**:¹⁷

1. Member organisations document having taken key steps at policy & management systems level to address climate & environment issues.
(Ref. benchmark 1).
2. Member organisations have as a minimum set an organisational emissions reduction target and have devised a plan for how their operations and interventions contribute to this.
(Ref. benchmarks 3 & 11).
3. Member organisations ensure that all their interventions as a minimum include climate and environmental considerations in their context analyses and they commit to screening of the potential social, environmental, and climate risks presented by each intervention to ascertain the need for action.
(Ref. benchmark 9 & 10).

The organisations are expected to feed into an annual learning loop led by Global Focus in order to be able to take stock on progress towards mainstreaming; to identify learning gaps, opportunities and support needs across the organisations; as well as to follow up on joint actions and advocacy efforts to be taken up with stakeholders externally. Monitoring progress on these commitments should similarly enable organisations to assess and document their progress and show the level of institutionalisation of the mainstreaming of climate and environmental action in the organisation and interventions.

However, it is acknowledged that change is acutely needed at structural level in order for civil society to assume its responsibility for addressing the climate and environmental crisis – including living up to the intentions of this tool and the three commitments. In other words, as organisations dependent on donor funds, it will be impossible to implement all the intentions of this tool, unless adequate funding is directed towards the needed actions and capacity strengthening; flexibility in procedures is increased; and regulations are changed. Consequently, the need for civil society to increasingly join forces in climate and environmental action, also in **advocacy efforts**, to push for change among key stakeholders (namely donors, vendors, suppliers etc. as well as within international alliances) is recognised as an important step to creating change.



INSPIRATION



7. HOW TO GET STARTED

In the sections below, you will find reflections on how to start creating change, identifying 'low hanging fruits' as well as links and inspiration to tools and resources for each of the benchmarks at organisational, partnership and intervention level. This Inspiration for Action Catalogue is intended to be a 'living document' that will be qualified and have the 'blanks filled in' especially during the pilot phase to include new tools and resources as well as learnings stemming from the piloting of the tool.

It is acknowledged that it can be a daunting task to get started on climate and environment mainstreaming - whether you are an organisation with a specific climate focus or one that does not have any significant climate-relevant interventions. Consequently, the following are some suggestions for key elements in an organisational process of change – to help you get started:

- Start the conversation on climate mainstreaming in your organisation. The most important driver of change in an organisation is that employees and management feel inspired to take action and experience climate mainstreaming as a joint decision and responsibility. While climate mainstreaming does have technical elements, it is key to make it an engaging process, that sparks collective motivation as well as solutions among employees.
- Bring people on 'the journey'. Get a group of engaged people together and talk to the informal and formal leadership of your organisation.
 - Management buy-in is vital for success in this process as management is key to organisational change as well as for the allocation of the necessary resources towards both the process as well as to finance the change in actions. Management is also key to driving the push for structural change in dialogue with external stakeholders.
 - Identify colleagues who are interested in driving this change and if possible, appoint a 'point person' for this process and form a team / working group that will be the drivers of this process in order to ensure broad involvement across the organisation.
 - Inform Global Focus of who the point person is, so they know who to contact in each organisation.
 - Identify key "gate keepers" for change within organisational structures as well as interventions – this can be at HQ or CO level. Different parts of the organisation are central to different benchmarks and it is important to not only focus on programmes, but ensure ownership of the process in all aspects of operations e.g. finance and controlling functions are key for benchmark 3 on emission reductions.
- Start with what matters to your organisation. Ask yourself how environment and climate action fits with your organisational vision, your mandate, areas of work, partners and target groups i.e. your DNA and core services. Climate mainstreaming cuts across all sectors in most organisations and it is difficult to do everything at once. Find out what is most important for you and what makes the biggest difference – then it is easier to decide on what to focus on.
 - Acknowledge that your organisation needs to prioritise. If possible, involve the organisation broadly in setting the priorities based on the assessment as well as the identification of "low hanging fruits" and possible "greater impacts" in order to drive motivation and engagement. This is also key in order to identify where to start - especially if you score low on all benchmarks.
 - A suggested focus could be on "the 3 joint commitments" and the related benchmarks. Committing to these will ensure that your organisation gets started on both the organisational and intervention level. Furthermore, the joint commitments are key for the tool to be a success not just within organisations but across civil society actors in the sector in Denmark.
- Measure progress and celebrate successes. Set clear goals and decide on how your organisation wants to measure progress over time. Remember to celebrate successes within your organisation and take time to reflect on how your strategies are working out and if any adjustments are needed.

See further specific suggestions for each benchmark below.

INSPIRATION	
8. INSPIRATION FOR ACTION FOR EACH BENCHMARK	
BENCHMARK 1: POLICY & STRATEGY	
ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL	
INTRODUCTION	The intention of this benchmark is for your organisation to clearly state its climate and environmental commitments. Your organisation can adhere to this benchmark in numerous ways by integrating a strategic commitment to take climate action in your organisational strategy, by developing a dedicated climate action policy or by integrating climate considerations across relevant strategies and policies.
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why does the climate crisis matter to you – as an individual staff member and as an organisation?• How does climate action fit with your organisational vision, your mandate and areas of work?• What value does climate action bring to your work, your partnerships and target groups?• What is most important for you to act on? How can you make the biggest difference?• To what extent do you live up to climate mainstreaming requirements from donors, partners, target groups?• How can you come together as an organisation, alliance or partnership to meet the challenges of the climate crisis successfully?• How do you best engage your colleagues on climate action, what would motivate them, how would they like to be involved in decision making, what would encourage them to change practices or innovate?• Who in the organisation are key to mobilising for and institutionalising change? – Are there any gatekeepers and / or people with a special knack for fostering engagement?• What does your organisational strategy and policy landscape consist of, and which strategies and policies should ideally reflect climate and environmental concerns?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It can be a 'low-hanging fruit' to introduce/develop a climate & environmental policy in order to introduce declarations of intent within your organisation.• Another 'low-hanging fruit' can be to identify key areas for which your organisation can make quick change, even if they do not have the greatest impact e.g. change your waste-handling policies; introduce vegetarian days in the canteen; limit the amount of copying etc. – Other changes can have a greater impact, such as limiting fossil fuel-based transportation nationally and internationally, both at organisational level and in your interventions.• In addition to the 'low-hanging fruits' and declarations of intent in a general climate & environmental policy, your organisation needs to ensure that climate and environment is reflected in your key strategy and policy documents. These will vary within each organisation but include: Overall organisational strategy; possible strategies from international alliances; overall PM&E framework including annual KPIs; human resource policies; IT equipment policies; travel policies; waste and office management policies.• Having reflected climate and environment in policies/strategies your organisation needs to ensure that the intentions are implemented in practice by holding yourself accountable on key aspects vis-a-vis your members and key governance structures (e.g. the board).• Doing the above requires resources in terms of staff time and funding for change, so this needs to be allocated in organisational budgets.

INSPIRATION	
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
THE DANISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION / SEX & SAMFUND	WHAT
DFFPA / Sex og Samfund outlines the interlinkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and climate change in their position paper on the topic. Addressing the link between the two areas has been part of the organisation's portfolio since 2009 and is largely based on global advocacy work and programmatic partnerships in East Africa and Southeast Asia.	Position Paper on SRHR & Climate Change
THE DANISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION / SEX & SAMFUND	WHAT
Sex & Samfund / The Danish Family Planning Association will develop a climate policy and a green strategy in 2021, which will both be added to the list of resources.	Climate-policy (forthcoming in 2021) Green-strategy (forthcoming in 2021)
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
DanChurchAid addresses climate change as a cross cutting commitment in the organisation's international strategy 2019-2022 . The strategy requires all projects to consider the possible effects of climate change on project activities, and the possible emissions caused by implementation of projects. While the strategy does not explicitly require that all projects take climate action, it entails a clear focus on understanding risks for better adaptation and resilience building as well as a commitment to strengthening the awareness of GHG emissions related to project implementation. The strategic commitment is accompanied by a dedicated internal climate policy includes that states DCAs commitment to comply with the Paris Agreement targets and details the initiatives DCA intends to take to reduce emissions and offset emissions from its operations and projects in Denmark and internationally. References: Page 36-37	DCA international strategy 2019-2022 Internal climate policy

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 2: PROCEDURES FOR PROCUREMENT	
ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL	
INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is to reduce procurement emissions throughout the value chain and thereby reduce the emissions caused by your organisation, and if possible, also those caused by the vendors that your organisation engages with. There is a pressing need to redefine and take a closer look at procedures for procurement. While the sector generally agrees that procurement should be “greener” the tools to do so are somewhat lacking and there are also restrictions within donor requirements. It can be a daunting task to collect the data needed for properly measuring emissions from the organisation's own operations (scope 1) and more so to track the emissions from purchased goods and services, transport and distribution, waste generated, and investments made (Scope 2 and 3). However, more and more suppliers are well aware of the increased focus on carbon footprints and are readying themselves to deliver information on product and service impacts.</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key tip: A simple 'quick' way to assess the footprint of an item: the footprint of an item produced through the use of renewable energy is only a third of that of a similar item manufactured using fossil fuels (ref. Groupe URD report).• What are the services and goods procured by your organisation with the biggest climate impact?• Doer your organisation have an overview of the different climate and environment standards and labels for key products and services procured by your organisation?• Does your organisation work to develop new specifications in sectors and agreed standard products?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This includes innovating and working with the private sector to develop durable and sustainable solutions and alternative products/solutions.• Does your organisation add an option on tenders for suppliers to offer alternative products/solutions, reflect sustainability principles in supplier registration forms, including a fixed score in Request for Quotation (RfQ) and tenders for firms adopting sustainability practices, and ask suppliers to share their environmental policies etc.?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The aim is to achieve a balance between financial prosperity, environmental considerations, and social equity when evaluating tenders.• Does your organisation include climate and environmental considerations and criteria as an important element in the request for quotes/proposals/tenders and the selection process?• Does your organisation add an option on tenders for suppliers to offer alternative products/solutions or reflect sustainability principles in supplier registration forms?• Does your organisation include a fixed score in RfQs and tenders for firms adopting sustainability practices?• Does your organisation ask suppliers to share their environmental policies?• Does your organisation ask suppliers to account for or offset the carbon footprint of products, services and works?• Does your organisation ask suppliers to reduce packaging and single use plastics, and to take notice of working conditions including labour rights and health safety and environmental considerations when visiting supplier premises as part of due diligence?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It can be a 'low-hanging fruit to develop a procurement policy reflecting climate & environmental concerns in order to introduce declarations of intent within the organisation.• To have a more comprehensive approach the following elements should be developed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Perform a due diligence of your organisation's vendors e.g. your bank, pension company and other deliverers of services.- Tender requirements should include climate and environmental considerations. Possibly develop a list of vetted and screened contractors that live up to the procurement policy.- A Code of Conduct for Contractors including climate and environmental considerations should be an integrated part of any procurement policy and process.- The full life cycle of a product should be considered in the procurement policy and process.- Whenever possible and pertinent, green solutions should be promoted in procurement including requirements to specific certifications by engaging with vendors and deliverers of services.• Advocate for back donors to prioritise sustainable approaches – especially in protracted humanitarian contexts is important for taking this even further. This is likely to be more costly up front but provides better return on investment and a more positive climate impact in the long run.

INSPIRATION	
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
GROUPE URD	WHAT
<p>Groupe URD refers to a few resource demanding tools that revolve around a life-cycle assessment (LCA) approach. These will be included in future European Commission procurement processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) is a method to quantify the environmental impacts of products (goods or services).• A climate specific alternative is the calculation of Product Carbon Footprint (PCF), such as the ISO 14067, which is widely applicable to products and is intended to promote transparency. <p>References: chapter 3.1</p>	<p>Life-cycle approach</p>
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
<p>DCA actively works towards strengthened integration of climate and environment considerations in procurement. The organisation has a dedicated section for green and ethical procurement guidelines as part of the procurement manual. The following documents provides examples of how DCA works with green procurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A brief introduction by DCA on how to approach the topic of green procurement.• The DCAs Code of Conduct for contractors specifically asks for: “The Contracting Authority wishes to minimise the environmental damages applied to nature via our procurement activities and we expect our suppliers and contractors to act in an environmentally responsible manner”. <p>References: Page 4 “Protection of the Environment”</p>	<p>Code of Conduct for contractors Introduction</p>
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	WHAT
<p>The European Commission has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Published a Green Public Procurement manual presenting the basics of 'Buying Green' as a public procurer.• A training toolkit is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm.	<p>Green Public Procurement manual</p> <p>Training toolkit</p>
FORUM FOR BÆREDYGTIG INDKØB	WHAT
<p>Several guides are available in Danish as well from the organisation 'Forum for Bæredygtige Indkøb'. Ranging from the procurement of transport to plastic. There are also resources to find in terms of cases and the formulation of objectives for procurement here.</p>	<p>Various information</p> <p>Cases and objectives</p>
CITY OF COPENHAGEN	WHAT
<p>The City of Copenhagen has an extensive procurement policy with a separate chapter on “Mere ansvarligt og bæredygtigt indkøb”, which can be used as an inspiration on what should be address in a procurement policy</p>	<p>Procurement policy</p>

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 3: ACCOUNT FOR AND REDUCE EMISSIONS	
ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL	
INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is for your organisation to account for its emissions and work to reduce these and acknowledge this as a key element in combating climate change. As organisations working with and for those most vulnerable to climate changes, we need to set the example. While reducing emissions in itself might seem pretty straight forward e.g. by eating vegetarian; flying less etc., fully accounting for and reducing your organisation's emissions is a more daunting task.</p> <p>The systematic collection of data is the foundation for setting realistic objectives, priorities and to account for progress in terms of emission reduction. However, the tools for data collection and analysis – while being technically sound – are often directed at specific sectors, for cities or private sector actors and do not directly align with the organisational structures of NGOs. They are also mostly focusing on how to account and not as much on how to set targets, cost-benefit analyses as well as how to collect data.</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What would it take for your organisation to have an overview of your emissions – at operational, intervention and partner level?• Where does your organisation have the biggest impact in terms of emission reduction and what would be 'low hanging fruits' in terms of costs and benefits to start with?• How can your organisation create an engaging process to get your colleagues on board, to be part of the decisions, to drive innovation together?• How can your organisation monitor and report on your work to reduce your carbon footprint? – Your controller system is key for the successful accounting for emissions.
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check out “Orden-i-eget-hus” (see below) on how to reduce emissions in your organisation by e.g. flying less to help you identify 'low hanging fruits' for change.• Get an overview of the main standards and protocols to use for GHG accounting before starting emission calculations. Usually excel works fine for data collection and calculations, but your organisation may consider buying the services of carbon accounting experts and dedicated software for calculating emissions to identify what works best for your organisation.• Start by identifying the main areas of emissions from your organisation, look at where your organisation could have the biggest emission reduction impact and where there are 'low-hanging fruits'.• Develop a full emission baseline to get a full picture of your organisation’s current emissions and to identify needed actions.• Develop a policy and/or strategy for how to reduce emissions focusing on 'low hanging fruits' for change in the short term.
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
CARE INTERNATIONAL	WHAT
<p>CARE international has launched an online learning tool, which is called “Becoming a climate smart organisation” to help organisations understand how to reduce their carbon footprint including how to establish a baseline, how to identify priority areas for emission reductions and set a plan, as well as monitor the organisation's progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 6 steps to “make your office climate smart” is a great way to start.• It includes several suggestions as to which tools you should use to measure your emissions e.g. AtmosFair for your flight emissions.	<p>CARE International online learning tool</p>
References: Lesson 3 of 8	

INSPIRATION	
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
<p>The DCA internal climate policy includes considerations on reducing emissions from air travel and land transport, and how to compensate for travels that cannot be avoided. The organisation has gathered data on business travel by air since 2013 (provided by the travel agent) to measure emissions from travel and start a dialogue on alternative low carbon transport and dialogue solutions. This dialogue has translated into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to the travel policy, train travel is encouraged for short flights.• Virtual communication is encouraged and DCA has invested in technology and human resources to support effective online solutions. <p>DCA is in the process of setting up a system to account for emissions beyond travel at HQ and Country Office level.</p>	<p>DCA Internal climate policy</p>
THE GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL	WHAT
<p>For a specific calculation tool, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol is the most widely used voluntary standard for greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting.</p>	<p>The Greenhouse Gas Protocol</p>
THE SCIENCE-BASED TARGET INITIATIVE	WHAT
<p>The Science Based Target Initiative supports the setting of science-based targets in order to comply with the emission reduction targets set by the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Set a target</p>
DANSK ERHVERV	WHAT
<p>Dansk Erhverv has developed a "Guide for Klimaregnskaber" (in Danish) which is an easy introduction to how to account for emissions and it is adaptable for many NGOs as it is built on the GHG protocol.</p>	<p>Guide for Klimaregnskaber</p>
LEGACY	WHAT
<p>Legacy is developing an app / online system to automatic calculation of your CO₂ emissions. It includes continuous measurements of electricity, heating, water, and waste and translates this to CO2-emissions. The aim is to create a database based on information from clients, also including aspects of transport and travel and materials, in order to enable predictions of how best to reduce emissions. The tool is expected to be finalised in mid-2021.</p> <p>DFPA/Sex & Samfund has entered into a partnership with Legacy and will revert with their experiences throughout 2021.</p>	<p>Legacyapp.dk</p>
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
<p>A group consisting of MS Action Aid, Danish Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council, WWF Verdensnaturfonden, and DanChurchAid will I 2021 initiate a capacity development and learning process financed by funds from Global Focus focusing on developing capacity to account for a reduce emissions, how to engage your organization in the process as well as how to link this to global advocacy. Other organisations can partake in the learning elements of the project and the groups will share their learnings widely.</p>	<p>Capacity development and learning process for NGOs</p>

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 4: LOCAL CAPABILITIES AND OWNERSHIP	
PARTNERSHIPS	
INTRODUCTION	The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation involves and integrates local partner capabilities in climate and environment related actions. Partnerships with local organisations is a key element to climate mainstreaming as is the ambition to ensure that communities are actively involved in the decision-making of interventions. In terms of climate and environmental action it is key to ensure that actions are based on indigenous knowledge and efforts.
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is your organisation fully living up to its intentions of involving communities in the design and implementation of interventions – are they actually leading the interventions?How much of the funding your organisation receives is transferred directly to local partners?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflect on and document your use of local knowledge and their involvement in interventions in order to inspire change in practices.Review your programme development processes to ensure the leadership and ownership of local actors.Reflect on and document the flow of funds to local partners to understand your level of “localisation”?
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
DCA's International Strategy reiterates the organisation's focus on the involvement of local CSOs and other local partners in its interventions. A ranking is present, ranging from partner implementation to direct implementation by DCA, where partner implementation is preferred, in so striving to utilise local partners' capacities and ensure local leadership. DCA works partner-based to a large extent and climate and environment is a cross cutting commitment throughout the strategy. References: Page 32	DCA international strategy 2019-2022
VARIOUS ACTORS	WHAT
Several international standards and resources can be beneficial to use for inspiration in the process of ensuring localisation, local ownership etc. including the Grand Bargain's commitments on Localisation . Other resources include the Global Center on Adaptation (gca.org) Action Track on Locally led Adaptation, and the WRI information on the GCA track for locally led adaptation: Locally Led Action Track World Resources Institute (wri.org) and the blog 5 Benefits to Local Action on Climate Resilience World Resources Institute (wri.org)	Grand Bargain's Localisation Global Centre on Adaptation World Resources Institute on locally led adaptation
DANCHURCHAID	WHAT
DCA is currently documenting cases of locally led / partner led adaptation and will share cases for learning in 2021.	Cases documenting locally led adaptation (forthcoming in 2021)



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BENCHMARK 5:

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS


PARTNERSHIPS

INTRODUCTION	The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation actively supports local leadership of climate action by ensuring that capacity strengthening on central issues is an element in all partnerships. Capacity strengthening is a key element of working for sustainable change and it is key in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. Too often the intentions are there, however neither the funding nor the actual capacity to ensure proper capacity strengthening of partners is present.
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does your organisation approach capacity strengthening for improved climate and environmental action in a systematic way?What are the learning needs and interests of your organisation's partners in relation to environment and climate?Does your organisation have the right capacity, systems and structures to effectively support capacity strengthening of local actors?Does your organisation allocate appropriate resources towards capacity strengthening efforts?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify key elements of capacity strengthening within climate and environmental actions that your organisation has in-house capacity to supply and those elements that you need external support for.Review the capacity strengthening plans in your organisation's interventions for elements of climate and environmental capacity. Rectify those that do not include this element if and when relevant.

TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES

	WHAT
Resources to be included.	

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 6: PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR	
PARTNERSHIPS	
INTRODUCTION	The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation have clear climate and environmental requirements for your partnerships with private sector actors. Private sector partnerships are increasingly part of the developmental landscape and it is as such necessary to ensure that climate aspects are considered in all such partnerships. – As a minimum, to minimise the 'doing harm' but also to push for even <i>greener</i> partnerships to tap into making this sector more sustainable by pushing for a 'green transition' with responsible business allies.
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there industries, businesses, production processes, purchasing practices or other that the organisation will not be associated with?• What are the opportunities for more effective, innovative or scaled-up climate action by working with private sector partners?• Where is the trade-off between the good that can come from a partnership and the parts of their organisation that you cannot influence that might not work for a <i>greener</i> world?• Does the private partner refer to climate initiatives in their CSR strategy/policy?• Has the private partner established key performance indicators concerning climate mitigation and how is progress monitored and reported?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institute a minimum screening that is done before starting a dialogue with any private sector partner to identify principled issues or “red flags”.• As part of the screening, assess the private company’s practices concerning consultation with environmental defenders, local and indigenous communities before entering into a private sector partnership.• As part of the screening, assess the magnitude, source and nature of the company’s GHG emissions.• Develop appropriate guidelines for your organisation’s due diligence processes and ensure these are followed before entering any private sector partnership.
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
DANIDA	WHAT
<p>The “Danida Market Development Partnerships” (DMDP) guidelines include commitments to responsible business conduct by the private sector partner including the environment and therein the climate. The aspect of responsible business conduct is also an annual reporting requirement to Danida for the projects – covering all aspects of the project i.e. both the private sector partner and the civil society partner.</p> <p>References: Page 9 on ‘Responsible Business Conduct’ and Annex 1 for a list of assessment criteria for potential partners</p>	<p>Danida Market Development Partnerships guidelines</p>
UNITED NATIONS	WHAT
<p>The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework are a set of 31 principles directed at states and companies that clarify their duties and responsibilities to protect and respect human rights in the context of business activities and to ensure access to an effective remedy for individuals and groups affected by such activities. It is widely accepted that the business responsibility to respect human rights and environmental rights includes the responsibility to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for impacts related to climate change</p>	<p>UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights</p>

INSPIRATION	
OECD	WHAT
<p>The objective of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct is to provide practical support to enterprises on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises by providing plain language explanations of its due diligence recommendations and associated provisions. Implementing these recommendations help enterprises avoid and address adverse impacts related to workers, human rights, the environment, bribery, consumers and corporate governance that may be associated with their operations, supply chains and other business relationships.</p>	<p>OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct</p>
UNITED NATIONS	WHAT
<p>The UN Global Compact Self-Assessment tool can be used for an initial screening of a potential private sector partner for 5 distinct focuses, one of which is environmental considerations. If gaps are identified, the tool further provides inspiration for follow-up actions.</p> <p>References: Choose “Environment requirements” in the tool.</p>	<p>UN Global Compact Assessment Tool</p>
	

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 7: GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY	
PARTNERSHIPS	
INTRODUCTION	The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation includes a government collaboration and advocacy component in interventions that have significant climate-relevance in order to promote and support enabling conditions as well as the scale up of successful solutions. Advocacy is an integrated element of most development and humanitarian actions, however, in order for your organisation to be climate & environment mainstreaming, engaging with the government and other relevant stakeholders in the context is essential.
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which stakeholders, including advocacy partners and government ministries, have a focus on climate and environment issues?• How are issues of climate and environment integrated across the work of advocacy stakeholders, including government ministries and advocacy partners that your organisation is engaging with?• Which areas do government ministries focus on in terms of climate and environment?• Are there plans for mainstreaming these issues across other government departments or is there a cross-ministerial taskforce set up to prioritise and implement such issues?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the country's NDC and identify relevant policy, strategy, planning and budgeting frameworks.• Identify the relevant institutions and actors working within the field of climate and environment in the context of your interventions.• Identify whether there is a need among these stakeholders for capacity strengthening on issues of advocacy, climate and environment.• Share good practice/case studies of integrated initiatives on climate and environment with stakeholders for inspiration and best practice.
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
DCA	WHAT
DCA Learning Lab has developed an Advocacy Academy together with the ACT alliance to support staff and partners through a virtual course and community of practice. This is an example of organisations supporting staff and partners to strengthen capacities on government dialogue, collaboration and advocacy – on climate issues as well as other issues.	DCA Learning Lab



INSPIRATION


BENCHMARK 8:

TRACKING AND REVIEW OF CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL
LOCAL PLANS AND BUDGETS

INTERVENTIONS¹⁹

INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that organisations align with, contextualise with or work to improve the relevant local climate and environmental plans. To achieve this your organisation needs to review and track the relevant local plans, policies, and budgets.</p> <p>In addition to the tools and resources below, your organisation should consider reaching out to climate scientists and relevant government authorities in the country of intervention to access information at the sub-national level (also relevant for Benchmark 9 and 10).</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the relevant plans, policies and budgets in the context of each intervention?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actions to be included.

TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
CLIMATE WATCH AND NDC PARTNERSHIP	WHAT
<p>The climate action tracker and the Climate Watch database and other initiatives bring together data on global Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and they are therefore a good place to start to get an overview of national mitigation efforts. This can support local to global advocacy efforts linked to NDC's.</p> <p>The NDC Partnership toolbox also provides a broad range of climate action tools related to the NDCs cutting across sectors and intervention levels.</p>	<p>Climate action tracker</p> <p>Climate Watch database</p> <p>The NDC Partnership toolbox</p>
CISU	WHAT
<p>Several sources for plans and budgets are listed in CISU climate integration toolkit.</p> <p>References: Page 10</p>	<p>CISU climate integration toolkit</p>
UNFCCC	WHAT
<p>A database of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is available here, alongside a brief description of how to apply them to your intervention.</p>	<p>NAPs</p>
UNDP'S GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE (GCCF) TEAM	WHAT
<p>CPEIR is a systematic qualitative and quantitative analysis of a country's public expenditures and how they relate to climate change. It is an innovative tool that presents evidence on public expenditures across all ministries. For access to their country database, through which you can generate and export data relevant to your context, use this link.</p>	<p>The Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Review (CPEIR)</p>




INSPIRATION

BENCHMARK 9:

CONTEXT ANALYSIS OF THE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS & VULNERABILITIES

INTERVENTIONS

INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation considers the climate and environmental context of all its interventions in order to assess whether there are any necessary mitigation and adaptation actions needed within the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>In addition to the tools and resources below, your organisation should consider reaching out to climate scientists and relevant government authorities in the country of intervention to access information at the sub-national level (also relevant for Benchmark 8 and 10).</p>		
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the climate and environment risks that are relevant to the contexts where your organisation works? What are the vulnerabilities and the adaptive capacities of the target groups your organisation works with? How are local ecosystems affected by climate risks? Is your intervention specifically climate or environmentally relevant? If your intervention is not climate or environmentally relevant, how does the climate situation affect your target group and the focus of the project? 		
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local partners and ask what climate considerations are important for the area which the intervention is implemented. Take point of departure in the scoring from benchmark 12 to organise your interventions in those for which more extensive analysis is needed and those with less relevance. Use the NAPs, talk to local scientists/climate departments, talk to partners and communities, use local climate analyses etc. to build a picture of risks, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. 		
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES			
CARE INTERNATIONAL		WHAT	
<p>CARE International's "Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis" is a good source of information to exemplify how climate risks, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities can be explored and integrated in programming. The Handbook refers to a number of external resources and good practice examples that are also good sources of inspiration.</p> <p>References: Chapter 2 and chapter 3 for participatory tools.</p>		<p>Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis</p>	
WORLD BANK AND WHO		WHAT	
<p>Country profiles summarising climate information are developed by e.g. the World Bank and the World Health Organisation.</p>		<p>Climate change country profiles by the World Bank</p> <p>World Health Organisation</p>	



INSPIRATION

BENCHMARK 10:

SCREENING & ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL,
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK IMPACTS

INTERVENTIONS

INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is to ensure that your organisation as a minimum do a screening of its potential risks and harms to social, climate and environmental aspects i.e. demonstrating the potential consequences or 'do harm' of the intervention. Depending on the results of the screening of the intervention a full or part impact assessment is conducted.</p> <p>In addition to the tools and resources below, your organisation should consider reaching out to climate scientists and relevant government authorities in the country of intervention to access information at the sub-national level (also relevant for Benchmark 8 and 9).</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does your organisation reflect on the climate and/or environmental implications of its interventions?How will your organisation address the potential negative impacts of your interventions?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Actions to be included.

TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES

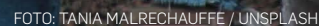
SIDA	WHAT
<p>Prior to an intervention or as soon as possible following a disaster a screening of climate risks should be conducted. A suggested tool is the SIDA guidelines for screening prior to an Environmental Assessment - which includes climate considerations. This screening guideline considers both humanitarian and development interventions, and takes your through a series of environmentally related questions to determine the necessity of environmental impacts assessment.</p>	Guidelines for screening
ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES CENTRE (EEC)	WHAT
<p>A different option for humanitarian interventions is the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) which is a rapid and simple project-level environmental screening tool that allows humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern before designing longer term emergency or recovery interventions and to determine whether a more comprehensive environmental assessment should be carried out. This tool does not require any previous knowledge of environmental considerations. The NEAT+ includes climate change impacts in its analysis, including the impact on availability or access to water and the importance of ecosystem preservation.</p>	NEAT+ screening
SIDA	WHAT
<p>If your initial screening showed no significant environmental/climate impacts, SIDA recommends (it is a requirement for organisation who they support) that a Simplified Environmental Assessment - a series of 5 questions is conducted by describing and prioritising the positive and negative outcomes of the project related to environment and climate as well as answering: "What are the current and projected impacts of climate change and other environmental degradation".</p>	Simplified Environmental Assessment

WWF AND AMERICAN RED CROSS

References: Annex 2 of the Module 3 Content Paper which can be downloaded [here](#).

WHAT

Environmental Stewardship Review for Humanitarian Aid (ESR)



BENCHMARK 11:

DEVELOP, MONITOR, AND EVALUATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

INTERVENTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The intention of this benchmark is to follow up on the issues identified in the planning and design process of each intervention by developing a plan to implement actions to address issues identified in the analysis, screening and assessment in Benchmark 9 and 10.

QUESTIONS

- Questions to be included.

ACTIONS

- Actions to be included.

TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES

SIDA

SIDA explains the use of status and process indicators respectively and this will be relevant for some specific climate- and environmental focused interventions. These should also, if applicable, include an indicator for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

References: Page 7

WHAT

Status and process indicators

SIDA

While specific outcomes/planned results are highly context specific, inspiration for these can be found in the list of indicators developed by SIDA.

References: Appendix 1 and 2 and possibly Chapter 3

WHAT

List of climate and/or environment indicators

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 12: CLIMATE-RELEVANCE MAPPING OF INTERVENTIONS AS PER RIO MARKER SCORING	
INTERVENTIONS	
INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention with this benchmark is to be able to recognise the climate-relevance of the intervention portfolio of your organisation. The OECD DAC Rio Markers for climate adaptation and mitigation are widely recognised as the measure of climate relevance and finance. While these have been criticised for being too simplistic, they are 'what is used' by key donors and actors at the moment.</p> <p>It should be a simple and relatively straightforward task to assess your organisations' interventions against these markers. It is however important to emphasise, that a fully climate & environment mainstreamed organisation does not necessarily have <i>any</i> projects scoring either a 1 or 2 on the adaptation and/or mitigation Rio Markers.</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does each intervention help to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review all your interventions vis-a-vis the Rio Marker definitions.Add up the financing across the interventions scoring 1 or 2 to fully account for the amount of your organisation's finances that go to climate-relevant interventions.
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
OECD	WHAT
<p>Using the "Indicative table to guide Rio marking by sector/sub-sector" your organisation should be able to find an example which reflects aspects of each of your interventions - and what is required of said intervention to be climate-relevant. As the Rio Markers are a qualitative tool, some subjectivity is inevitable.</p> <p>References: Page 14-36</p>	<p>OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate Handbook</p>
DCA	WHAT
<p>DCA has done a mapping of all projects in 2017 and 2019 using the Rio Markers. In 2019, 35% of DCA projects were assessed to be climate related (scoring a 1 or 2 on adaptation or mitigation). The assessment was conducted by the climate team of DCA and involved a read through of project descriptions and budgets of 268 projects, which were then scored as per the Rio marker methodology. The study has helped DCA to gain a better understanding of the share of projects related to climate action, the type of climate action that is most prevalent and to identify flagship projects for organisational learning and inspiration. The study is an important part of monitoring the DCA strategic commitment to climate action, aiming for that all projects consider climate change.</p>	<p>Case</p>

INSPIRATION	
BENCHMARK 13: PROGRAMME & PROJECT EMISSION REDUCTION	
INTERVENTIONS	
INTRODUCTION	<p>The intention of this benchmark is to prompt your organisation to start the reflection process in order to be able to account for emissions at all levels of the organisation. While it is difficult and a complicated task to fully account for how each and every intervention adds to the emissions of the organisation overall and how they specifically contribute to emission reductions, it is important that <i>all</i> interventions start reflecting on their level and emissions and how they can reduce these.</p>
QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What key emission-contributors do your organisation's interventions generally include? Are there any 'outliers'?What would be the low-hanging fruits in terms of reducing emissions?
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify key 'emission-contributors' in each intervention.Reflect on how each intervention can reduce its emissions.Develop a standardised 'formula' for how to calculate each intervention's contribution to the overall organisational emissions level.
TOOLS, RESOURCES & CASES	
	WHAT
<p>Resources to be included.</p>	

INTRODUCTION

- 1 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- 2 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/paris-2015-tracking-country-climate-pledges>
- 3 In 2020 CISU launched a comprehensive tool focusing on climate mainstreaming at sector-specific intervention level. Their tool and the present mainstreaming tool can effectively be seen as complementing each other, as the focus is at different levels, and the Global Focus tool does not go into sector-specific details. See the CISU tool at: <https://www.cisu.dk/v%C3%A6rkt%C3%B8jer/projekt/climate-integration-tool>
- 4 Mainstreaming and integration are in this tool used interchangeably and aligns with the use of “mainstreaming” by the EU. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/EC-Briefing-Note.pdf>
- 5 Donors include but are not limited to Danida, Norad, ECHO and the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHSs).

THE CHECKLIST

- 6 This is related to operations or in Danish “drift”.
- 7 **Scope 1:** All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks; **Scope 2:** Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation (emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation); **Scope 3:** All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water. Reference: <https://compareyourfootprint.com/difference-scope-1-2-3-emissions/>
- 8 This plan / strategy is similar to what is often referred to as a “Grønt / Klima Regnskab” in Danish and what is also known as the “carbon footprint” of an organisation.
- 9 See benchmark 12 for the reference to the OECD Rio Markers for climate.
- 10 See benchmark 12 for the reference to the OECD Rio Markers for climate.
- 11 These plans include the National Adaptation Plans (NAP), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), National Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Communication (NC), as well as plans at local community and lower administrative levels including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans.
- 12 “Forecast-based analysis” means that the analysis needs to take into account the future climate adaption and mitigation needs – specifically for the lifetime of the project – rather than solely looking at the present climate situation.

- 13 Benchmark 9 refers to a minimal contextual analysis of the climate and environment *situation*, whereas benchmark 10 refers to an initial screening of social, environmental and climate aspects to be followed by either 1) no further analysis, 2) a simplified or 3) a full risk and vulnerability assessment of the *impacts* of the intervention, depending on the results of the screening. The Inspiration *for* Action Catalogue includes further inspiration on how to do this. However, it is important to note that the benchmarks do not promote the use of specific tools for the analysis, screening and assessment, but focus on the need to analyse the *contextual challenges* regarding the climate and environment as well as the *impacts* of the intervention.
- 14 See benchmark 12 for the reference to the OECD Rio Markers for climate.
- 15 Process indicators are relevant to most climate and environmental action interventions whereas status indicators are only relevant to some as they focus on the specific environmental outcomes e.g. the level of pollution in water pre and post an intervention. <https://sidase-wp-files-prod.s3.eu-north-1.amazonaws.com/app/uploads/2020/12/01105651/introduction-to-environment-and-climate-change-integration-in-contributions.pdf>.
- 16 While there is currently an ongoing process of adding nuances to the OECD Rio Markers scoring system, it has been decided to use these, as they are used by key donors such as Danida. Organisations might decide to use a different scoring system to measure climate-relevance, and if this can be translated into the Rio Marker values, the benchmark can be scored using these. Link to the handbook for the markers: http://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Revised%20climate%20marker%20handbook_FINAL.pdf

TAKING ACTION

- 17 Please refer to the relevant benchmark for the description of how to assess the three commitments.

INSPIRATION

- 18 Cradle-to-cradle assessment of a product’s environmental impact.
- 19 At intervention level a lot of the mainstreaming happens in the design and planning phases to be followed up during implementation and monitoring.



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