

*Environment in Humanitarian Action: Global Training Manual Template*

# Environmental Mainstreaming and Financing in Humanitarian Programs







*This module was developed as part of the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit's project titled Localisation of Environment in Humanitarian Action, and is part of a template of a training manual consisting of:*

- 1 Introductory Module*
- 11 Technical Modules*
- 1 ToT Module*

*The template is an open source and available for any organisation or individual to use or refer to in the development and delivery of their Environment in Humanitarian Action training.*

*What distinguishes this training manual is its comprehensive and flexible framework. We encourage users to adjust the content to meet with the specific needs within their specific Contexts. We kindly ask that credit is given when using or adapting this resource.*

# MODULE OVERVIEW

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This module aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to mainstream environmental considerations into humanitarian programs effectively. Participants will learn about the various sources of financing for environmental mainstreaming, analyze environmental impacts across different humanitarian clusters, and develop strategies for mitigation. The module emphasizes the development of policies and guidelines aligned with global and regional frameworks and highlights the role of strategic partnerships in securing sustainable financing. Through real-world case studies, participants will gain insights into best practices for integrating environmental considerations in diverse humanitarian contexts.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this module, participants will:

1. Understand the significance of environmental mainstreaming in reducing the environmental and carbon footprint of humanitarian programs.
2. Identify key entry points, enablers, and financing opportunities for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian actions.
3. Develop and implement environmental policies and guidelines in line with global and regional frameworks.
4. Analyze environmental impacts across different humanitarian clusters and propose appropriate mitigation strategies.
5. Apply a step-by-step process to mainstream environmental considerations into humanitarian programs, ensuring compliance with relevant policies and best practices.
6. Learn from real-world case studies that illustrate successful environmental mainstreaming in various humanitarian contexts.

## Estimated delivery time

**Total time:** 260 minutes

# CONTENT OUTLINE

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<b>1. Introduction to environmental mainstreaming</b>	<b>04</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Importance of environmental mainstreaming.</li><li>◦ Entry points for environmental mainstreaming.</li><li>◦ Enablers for effective environmental mainstreaming.</li><li>◦ Overview of key global and regional policies and frameworks</li></ul>	
<b>2. Step-by-step guide for mainstreaming environmental considerations</b>	<b>07</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Detailed process for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian programs.</li></ul>	
<b>3. Cluster-specific environmental impacts and mitigation strategies</b>	<b>09</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Environmental impacts and mitigation strategies for various clusters.</li></ul>	
<b>4. Financing environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action</b>	<b>14</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Introduction to financing</li><li>◦ Potential sources of financing</li><li>◦ Strategies for accessing and securing funding</li><li>◦ Risk management in financing</li><li>◦ Leveraging partnerships for sustainable financing</li></ul>	
<b>5. Case studies and best practices</b>	<b>14</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Presentation of case studies.</li><li>◦ Lessons learned and best practices.</li></ul>	



# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Step	Activity	Method	Duration	Materials Needed	Expected Outcomes
1	<b>Introduce the module.</b> Provide an overview of environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts.	Presentation, plenary discussion	10 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand environmental mainstreaming principles
2	<b>Explain the importance of environmental mainstreaming.</b> Discuss why it is crucial in humanitarian contexts and provide examples.	Presentation, Q&A	20 mins	Slides, handouts	Recognize the importance of environmental mainstreaming
3	<b>Identify entry points for environmental mainstreaming.</b> Discuss various entry points such as needs assessment, project design, implementation, and more.	Presentation, Q&A	15 mins	Slides, handouts	Identify entry points for environmental mainstreaming
4	<b>Discuss enablers for effective environmental mainstreaming.</b> Highlight factors such as leadership commitment, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building.	Presentation, Q&A	15 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand enablers for effective environmental mainstreaming
5	<b>Present key global and regional policies and frameworks.</b> Explain the importance of aligning with these policies and frameworks in humanitarian action.	Presentation, Q&A	20 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand the global and regional policies that guide environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts.
6	<b>Conduct an interactive exercise</b> on integrating environmental considerations. Participants work through a step-by-step process for mainstreaming environmental considerations into a hypothetical humanitarian project.	Group work, plenary discussion	45 mins	Flipchart, markers	Apply a step-by-step guide for environmental mainstreaming in a simulated scenario.
7	<b>Analyze cluster-specific environmental impacts and mitigation strategies.</b> Classify environmental impacts and propose integration strategies for various clusters using provided examples.	Interactive exercise, discussion	30 mins	Slides, handouts	Identify impacts and integration strategies for clusters
8	<b>Introduce financing</b> environmental mainstreaming. Discuss the importance of securing sustainable financing and explore potential funding sources.	Presentation, discussion	20 mins	Slides, financing charts	Understand the role of financing and identify relevant sources.
9	<b>Discuss strategies</b> for accessing and securing funding, including grant writing and partnership development.	Group discussion, Q&A	30 mins	Flipchart, markers	Learn effective strategies for accessing and securing funding.

8	<b>Analyze a case study.</b> Discuss real-world examples of environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian operations.	Case study presentation, discussion	45 mins	Case study handouts, flipcharts	Learn from real-world examples
9	<b>Summarize and conclude.</b> Review key points from the module and reinforce the main takeaways.	Presentation	10 mins	Slides	Reinforce key learnings

## Facilitator notes

# Section 1: Introduction to environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action

### Key points

- Highlight the significance of mainstreaming environmental considerations in humanitarian programs.
- Discuss why environmental mainstreaming is important in the humanitarian context.
- Identify entry points for environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian programs.
- Emphasis on reducing the environmental and carbon footprint of humanitarian programs, with key terms defined in the glossary.
- Discuss enablers for effective environmental mainstreaming.

### Background information

- Environmental mainstreaming involves integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of humanitarian action, ensuring that operations contribute to sustainable development and do not exacerbate environmental degradation. The process is supported by a range of global and regional frameworks that guide humanitarian organizations in aligning their actions with international environmental goals.
- Mainstreaming environmental considerations helps ensure sustainable and resilient humanitarian interventions.
- Effective integration of environmental considerations can reduce negative environmental impacts and enhance the overall effectiveness of humanitarian operations.
- Environmental mainstreaming can lead to improved resource efficiency, reduced operational costs, and enhanced community resilience.
- Several global and regional frameworks provide guidance on integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action, helping to ensure that humanitarian efforts are both sustainable and compliant with international standards. In addition to these global frameworks, individual countries, organizations, and regional bodies have also developed their own relevant policies, goals, and instruments that support environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action.

## Content development: Introduction to environmental mainstreaming

### Importance of environmental mainstreaming



#### **Improves sustainability**

Ensures that humanitarian interventions are sustainable over the long term.

**Example:**

Using renewable energy and sustainable materials in shelter construction.

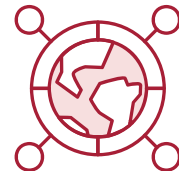


#### **Enhances community resilience**

Builds the capacity of communities to withstand and recover from environmental shocks.

**Example:**

Implementing community-based disaster risk reduction programs.



#### **Reduces environmental impact**

Ensures that humanitarian interventions are sustainable over the long term.

**Example:**

Using renewable energy and sustainable materials in shelter construction.



#### **Promotes resource efficiency**

Optimizes the use of natural resources, reducing waste and operational costs.

**Example:**

Implementing water-saving technologies in WASH programs.

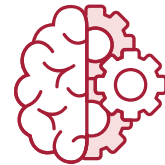


#### **Ensures compliance with regulations**

Meets local and international environmental laws and standards, avoiding legal and reputational risks.

**Example:**

Conducting environmental impact assessments and following up with mitigation measures.



#### **Supports better decision-making**

Provides a basis for informed decision-making that incorporates environmental considerations.

**Example:**

Using environmental data to plan logistics and supply chain operations.



#### **Enhances operational effectiveness**

Leads to more effective and efficient humanitarian operations by integrating environmental best practices.

**Example:**

Streamlining waste management practices in refugee camps.



#### **Fosters stakeholder trust and collaboration**

Engages stakeholders and builds trust through transparent and responsible environmental practices.

**Example:** Involving local communities in environmental monitoring and decision-making processes.





### Contributes to global environmental goals

*Aligns humanitarian actions with broader environmental and climate goals.*

**Example:** Reducing carbon emissions through energy-efficient practices and technologies, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.



### Improves health and well-being

*Reduces health risks associated with environmental degradation and pollution.*

**Example:** Implementing proper waste disposal and sanitation measures to prevent disease outbreaks.

Table 2: Enablers for effective environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian context

Enabler	Description	Examples in Humanitarian Context
<b>Leadership commitment</b>	<i>Strong leadership support is essential for prioritizing environmental considerations in humanitarian programs.</i>	Senior management advocating for and implementing green policies in disaster response; Leaders participating in environmental initiatives within humanitarian operations and setting an example.
<b>Stakeholder engagement</b>	<i>Involving local communities, governments, and other stakeholders ensures relevance and sustainability in humanitarian interventions.</i>	Conducting participatory environmental planning sessions with disaster-affected community members; Engaging local governments and NGOs in environmental decision-making processes during humanitarian crises.
<b>Capacity building</b>	<i>Training and development are necessary to build the skills and knowledge required for effective environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian programs.</i>	Providing workshops and training sessions on environmental best practices for humanitarian workers; Ensuring staff are trained in using existing key tools like NEAT+ and are familiar with guidelines from EHA training.
<b>Access to environmental expertise</b>	<i>Collaborating with environmental experts can provide valuable insights and guidance for humanitarian operations.</i>	Partnering with environmental organizations for technical assistance and expertise in crisis situations; Hiring consultants for specialized environmental assessments in humanitarian contexts.
<b>Funding and resources</b>	<i>Securing financial resources and material support to implement environmental initiatives in humanitarian programs.</i>	Applying for grants that prioritize environmental sustainability in humanitarian projects; Allocating budget for green projects and initiatives in disaster response efforts.
<b>Policy and regulatory support</b>	<i>Establishing supportive policies and regulatory frameworks that mandate environmental considerations in humanitarian operations.</i>	Developing and enforcing environmental regulations specific to humanitarian contexts; Aligning with international environmental standards and guidelines in disaster response.
<b>Awareness and education</b>	<i>Raising awareness and educating all stakeholders on the importance of environmental sustainability in humanitarian settings.</i>	Running awareness campaigns and educational programs for disaster-affected communities; Incorporating environmental education into school and community curricula in areas prone to crises.

<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>	<i>Establishing systems to monitor and evaluate environmental performance and progress in humanitarian programs.</i>	Setting up environmental monitoring frameworks in refugee camps and disaster-affected areas; Conducting regular environmental audits and assessments in humanitarian operations.
<b>Technology and innovation</b>	<i>Leveraging new technologies and innovative practices to enhance environmental sustainability in humanitarian interventions.</i>	Using GIS for environmental impact assessments in disaster response; Implementing renewable energy solutions like solar panels and wind turbines in humanitarian camps.
<b>Cross-sectoral collaboration</b>	<i>Working across different sectors to ensure comprehensive and integrated environmental actions in humanitarian programs.</i>	Partnering with sectors like agriculture, health, and education to implement holistic environmental strategies in disaster response; Creating multi-sectoral task forces to address complex environmental challenges in humanitarian contexts.

Table 3: Overview of key global and regional policies and frameworks

<b>Framework/Instrument</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Real-World Application</b>
<b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	A global framework for sustainable development, with specific goals related to environmental sustainability (e.g., Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation).	Aligning humanitarian operations with the SDGs by implementing projects that support climate action and sustainable water management.
<b>Paris Agreement</b>	An international treaty focused on climate change mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and enhancement of adaptive capacities.	Developing climate-resilient infrastructure in humanitarian settings to reduce the carbon footprint and enhance adaptive capacity.
<b>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)</b>	A global agreement that emphasizes disaster risk reduction, including environmental considerations to mitigate the effects of disasters on vulnerable populations.	Integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into humanitarian planning to enhance community resilience to environmental shocks.
<b>Basel Convention</b>	An international treaty that controls the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, ensuring environmentally sound management.	Ensuring the safe management and disposal of hazardous waste in humanitarian operations, especially in conflict or disaster-affected areas.
<b>European Union Environmental Policy</b>	A regional framework that guides sustainable development and environmental protection across the EU, relevant in humanitarian operations within or funded by the EU.	Ensuring compliance with EU environmental standards in humanitarian projects funded by or located within EU countries.
<b>International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Environmental Protection</b>	IHL includes provisions for the protection of the environment during armed conflicts, relevant for humanitarian operations in conflict zones.	Implementing measures to minimize environmental damage during humanitarian interventions in conflict-affected areas.
<b>UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol</b>	Frameworks guiding global efforts to address climate change, with specific relevance to humanitarian action in contexts affected by climate-related disasters.	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in humanitarian operations and promoting climate-adaptive practices.

## Section 2: Step-by-step guide for mainstreaming environmental considerations

### Key points

- Provide a detailed process for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian programs.
- Discuss the development and implementation of environmental policies and guidelines.

### Background information

- A systematic approach is essential for effective environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian programs.
- Developing and implementing environmental policies ensures that environmental considerations are consistently integrated into humanitarian actions.



### Content development: Step-by-step guide for mainstreaming environmental considerations

Step	Detailed Process in Humanitarian Context	Importance in Humanitarian Context	Examples in Humanitarian Context
<b>Needs assessment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify key environmental aspects relevant to the humanitarian project.</li> <li>2. Use assessment tools to evaluate potential environmental impacts in crisis-affected areas.</li> <li>3. Engage local communities and stakeholders in identifying environmental risks and opportunities.</li> </ol>	Provides a comprehensive understanding of potential environmental impacts and informs targeted mitigation strategies in humanitarian operations.	Using NEAT+ for rapid environmental assessments in refugee camps; conducting participatory assessments with displaced communities.
<b>Policy development</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review existing humanitarian policies and identify gaps in environmental considerations.</li> <li>2. Develop new policies or update existing ones to include environmental guidelines specific to humanitarian operations.</li> <li>3. Ensure alignment with international humanitarian guidelines and environmental best practices.</li> </ol>	Establishes a clear framework for environmental action and ensures consistency across humanitarian operations.	Developing policies that include sustainability criteria for disaster response; ensuring policies are compliant with Sphere standards and UNEP/OCHA guidelines.
<b>Project design</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Incorporate environmental criteria into humanitarian project planning and design.</li> <li>2. Integrate broader sustainability considerations, including resource efficiency and minimizing negative environmental impacts.</li> <li>3. Ensure designs minimize resource use and environmental impact in humanitarian settings.</li> </ol>	Embeds sustainability in the project's foundation, leading to more effective and resilient humanitarian outcomes.	Designing shelters using locally sourced, sustainable materials in disaster response; including energy-efficient solutions in humanitarian project design.

<p><b>Implementation</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply environmentally friendly practices during the execution of humanitarian projects.</li> <li>2. Engage humanitarian staff and partners in implementing green practices.</li> <li>3. Monitor environmental impact throughout the implementation phase of humanitarian interventions.</li> </ol>	<p>Ensures practical application of environmental policies and continuous improvement in humanitarian operations.</p>	<p>Using renewable energy sources in field operations for disaster relief; implementing waste reduction and recycling programs in refugee camps.</p>
<p><b>Training and capacity building</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and deliver training programs on environmental mainstreaming tailored for humanitarian contexts.</li> <li>2. Encourage the use of existing training programs and guidelines, such as NEAT+ and EHA, especially for organizations with limited resources</li> <li>3. Provide resources and support for humanitarian staff to apply environmental best practices.</li> <li>4. Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement within humanitarian organizations.</li> </ol>	<p>Builds the capacity of humanitarian organizations to effectively mainstream environmental considerations.</p>	<p>Conducting workshops on environmental impact assessment for humanitarian workers; providing toolkits and guidelines for staff in crisis-affected areas.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring and evaluation</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track environmental performance in humanitarian projects.</li> <li>2. Conduct regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness of environmental policies and practices in humanitarian contexts.</li> <li>3. Use evaluation results to inform policy updates and improvements in humanitarian operations.</li> </ol>	<p>Ensures continuous improvement and adaptation to changing environmental conditions and requirements in humanitarian settings.</p>	<p>Regularly reviewing environmental impact data from disaster response projects; updating policies based on evaluation findings from humanitarian interventions.</p>
<p><b>Reporting and feedback</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Document and report on environmental performance in humanitarian operations.</li> <li>2. Share best practices and lessons learned within the organization and with external partners.</li> <li>3. Seek feedback from stakeholders and crisis-affected communities.</li> <li>4. Use feedback to improve environmental practices and policies in humanitarian contexts.</li> </ol>	<p>Enhances transparency and accountability and promotes continuous learning and adaptation in humanitarian operations.</p>	<p>Preparing environmental performance reports for disaster relief efforts; incorporating stakeholder feedback into policy revisions for humanitarian projects.</p>



## Section 3: Cluster-specific environmental impacts and mitigation strategies

### Key points

- Identify environmental impacts and mitigation strategies for various humanitarian clusters.
- Discuss the integration of environmental considerations into cluster-specific activities and operations.

### Background information

- Each humanitarian cluster has unique environmental impacts that require specific mitigation strategies.
- Understanding these impacts and implementing appropriate mitigation measures is crucial for sustainable humanitarian action



### Content development: Cluster-specific environmental impacts and mitigation strategies

Cluster	Environmental Impacts	Integration/ Mitigation Strategies	Examples	Benefits of a Healthy Environment
<b>Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)</b>	Deforestation and land degradation due to camp construction and expansion; Increased soil erosion and loss of biodiversity; Waste management challenges, including hazardous waste; Overuse of water resources and contamination; Air pollution from burning waste.	Implement sustainable land management practices, including reforestation and erosion control; Design camps to minimize environmental footprint and maintain natural habitats; Develop comprehensive waste management plans, including recycling and safe disposal of hazardous waste; Implement water conservation measures and ensure safe water disposal; Use alternative waste management techniques to reduce air pollution.	Using eco-friendly materials for temporary shelters; Implementing comprehensive recycling programs in camps; Establishing designated green zones within camps; Setting up water-saving initiatives such as rainwater harvesting; Using composting and recycling for waste management.	Reduces soil erosion and maintains biodiversity, providing ecosystem services that support camp infrastructure; Minimizes health risks from waste and promotes a safer living environment; Ensures sustainable water supply and reduces contamination; Improves air quality and reduces respiratory issues.



<p><b>Early Recovery</b></p>	<p>Resource depletion from rebuilding efforts, including timber, water, and minerals; Increased pollution from debris and waste generated during recovery operations; Soil contamination from chemicals used in debris management; Loss of natural habitats due to reconstruction activities; Air pollution from heavy machinery and transportation.</p>	<p>Promote the use of recycled and sustainable materials in reconstruction efforts; Implement debris management programs that include recycling and safe disposal of hazardous materials; Encourage community participation in environmental recovery and rehabilitation projects; Design reconstruction activities to minimize habitat destruction and promote biodiversity; Use low-emission machinery and optimize transport routes to reduce air pollution.</p>	<p>Encouraging the use of locally sourced, sustainable building materials; Setting up community-led debris recycling initiatives; Conducting environmental impact assessments before starting recovery projects; Promoting the use of green spaces in urban planning to support biodiversity; Implementing air quality monitoring and control measures.</p>	<p>Ensures availability of natural resources for future rebuilding efforts; Reduces health risks and supports long-term community resilience; Protects and restores natural habitats, supporting biodiversity; Improves air quality and reduces health issues related to pollution.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Deforestation for construction of schools and educational facilities; High water and energy consumption for school operations; Generation of waste from educational materials and supplies; Pollution from improper disposal of hazardous materials (e.g., lab chemicals); Noise pollution affecting local communities.</p>	<p>Use sustainable building materials and designs that minimize environmental impact; Implement water and energy conservation measures in schools; Promote digital learning to reduce paper use and implement recycling programs for educational materials; Ensure proper disposal of hazardous materials and promote the use of non-toxic alternatives; Design schools to minimize noise impact on surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Building schools with eco-friendly materials; Implementing e-learning programs to minimize resource use; Establishing school gardens to teach and practice sustainable agriculture; Setting up proper disposal systems for hazardous materials; Using soundproofing techniques in school design.</p>	<p>Provides a healthier learning environment for students; Reduces operational costs and resource use, making education more sustainable; Minimizes environmental pollution and associated health risks; Reduces noise pollution and improves community relations.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)</b></p>	<p>Electronic waste from obsolete equipment; High energy consumption from ICT infrastructure; Environmental impact from the extraction and disposal of rare earth materials used in electronics; Land degradation from infrastructure development; Water pollution from improper disposal of electronic waste.</p>	<p>Establish e-waste recycling programs and ensure proper disposal of electronic waste; Use energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources for ICT infrastructure; Partner with suppliers who follow environmentally friendly practices in the production and disposal of electronics; Plan infrastructure to minimize land disruption and promote rehabilitation; Ensure water sources are protected from electronic waste contamination.</p>	<p>Partnering with e-waste recycling companies; Implementing solar-powered ICT solutions; Conducting training on e-waste management for staff; Using minimal-impact construction techniques for ICT infrastructure; Establishing barriers to prevent water contamination.</p>	<p>Ensures sustainable use of ICT resources; Reduces energy costs and environmental footprint, supporting long-term operational sustainability; Protects land and water resources from contamination; Supports biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>

<p><b>Food Security</b></p>	<p>Land degradation from unsustainable agricultural practices, including overgrazing and deforestation; Overuse and contamination of water resources from irrigation and agrochemicals; Loss of biodiversity from monoculture farming; Greenhouse gas emissions from livestock and rice production; Soil erosion from improper farming techniques.</p>	<p>Promote sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroforestry and permaculture; Implement water conservation techniques and use organic farming methods; Encourage crop diversity and the use of indigenous species to enhance biodiversity; Implement practices to reduce emissions, such as improved livestock management and alternative wetting and drying for rice paddies; Use contour farming and terracing to prevent soil erosion.</p>	<p>Training farmers in sustainable farming techniques; Using drip irrigation systems to conserve water; Establishing seed banks to preserve indigenous plant varieties; Adopting methane-reducing practices in rice and livestock production; Implementing soil conservation measures in farming practices.</p>	<p>Ensures long-term food security through sustainable farming practices; Preserves soil health and water resources, essential for agricultural productivity; Reduces greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>Pollution from medical waste, including hazardous materials; Water and soil contamination from improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and chemicals; Air pollution from incineration of medical waste; High water and energy consumption in health facilities; Generation of plastic waste from single-use medical supplies.</p>	<p>Ensure proper disposal and treatment of medical waste, including segregation and safe incineration; Implement sustainable healthcare practices, such as reducing single-use plastics; Train healthcare workers in environmentally responsible practices and provide necessary resources; Implement water and energy-saving measures in health facilities; Promote the use of reusable and biodegradable medical supplies.</p>	<p>Setting up medical waste management systems; Implementing reusable medical supplies where safe and feasible; Training healthcare workers in sustainable practices; Installing water-efficient fixtures and renewable energy systems in health facilities; Using biodegradable alternatives to single-use plastics.</p>	<p>Reduces health risks associated with environmental contamination; Promotes a healthier environment for patients and healthcare workers; Ensures sustainability of health facilities and operations.</p>
<p><b>Logistics</b></p>	<p>High carbon footprint from transportation and storage activities; Environmental pollution from fuel use and emissions; Resource consumption for packaging and storage; Land degradation from construction of storage facilities; Noise pollution from transport and logistics operations.</p>	<p>Use fuel-efficient vehicles and optimize transportation routes to reduce emissions; Implement green logistics practices, such as consolidating shipments and using renewable energy for storage facilities; Reduce packaging waste through the use of reusable and biodegradable materials; Incorporate reverse logistics for waste management and reduction; Work with sustainable suppliers to minimize the environmental impact of logistics operations; Design storage facilities to minimize land impact and promote restoration; Implement noise reduction measures in logistics operations.</p>	<p>Implementing green logistics strategies; Using electric or hybrid vehicles for transportation; Setting up solar-powered warehouses and storage facilities; Using eco-friendly materials for packaging; Implementing soundproofing in logistics facilities.</p>	<p>Reduces operational costs and environmental footprint; Enhances efficiency and sustainability of supply chains; Minimizes noise pollution, improving community relations.</p>

<p><b>Nutrition</b></p>	<p>Resource-intensive food production, leading to soil degradation and water depletion; Waste from packaging materials and food waste; Emissions from transportation of food supplies; Loss of soil fertility from intensive farming practices; Water pollution from agricultural runoff.</p>	<p>Promote sustainable food production practices, such as organic farming and permaculture; Reduce and recycle packaging waste and implement composting programs for food waste; Source food locally to reduce transportation emissions; Use crop rotation and cover cropping to maintain soil fertility; Implement buffer zones and riparian strips to reduce agricultural runoff.</p>	<p>Encouraging the use of locally sourced and organic foods; Implementing composting programs for food waste; Reducing packaging waste through bulk purchasing and reusable containers; Practicing soil enrichment techniques like cover cropping; Establishing buffer zones to protect water sources.</p>	<p>Ensures long-term food security and nutrition; Reduces environmental impact and promotes local economies; Preserves soil and water quality for future agricultural use.</p>
<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<p>Environmental degradation from shelter construction and land use; Pollution from waste generated in protection activities, including hazardous materials; Soil erosion and habitat disruption from temporary settlements; Overuse of natural resources for building materials; Water contamination from inadequate sanitation facilities.</p>	<p>Use environmentally friendly materials for protection infrastructure and temporary shelters; Implement waste reduction and safe disposal strategies, including recycling programs; Design settlements to minimize environmental impact and preserve natural habitats; Promote the use of alternative, sustainable building materials; Ensure proper sanitation facilities to prevent water contamination.</p>	<p>Building protection facilities with sustainable materials; Setting up waste segregation and recycling programs; Creating green spaces within settlements to reduce soil erosion and improve biodiversity; Using bamboo or other sustainable materials for construction; Installing proper sanitation systems in settlements.</p>	<p>Provides a safer and healthier environment for vulnerable populations; Ensures sustainable use of natural resources, supporting long-term protection efforts; Reduces environmental contamination and associated health risks.</p>
<p><b>Shelter and Settlements</b></p>	<p>Deforestation, land use changes, and resource depletion due to construction activities; Soil erosion and loss of natural vegetation; Increased waste generation from construction and habitation; Displacement of wildlife and destruction of habitats; High energy and water consumption for settlement maintenance.</p>	<p>Use sustainable building materials and resource-efficient designs; Implement reforestation programs and soil conservation techniques; Develop comprehensive waste management plans for settlements; Plan settlements to minimize habitat disruption and promote biodiversity; Implement energy and water-saving measures in settlements.</p>	<p>Implementing sustainable shelter solutions that minimize environmental impacts; Planting trees in and around settlements; Using modular and reusable building components to reduce waste; Creating wildlife corridors to reduce habitat fragmentation; Installing energy-efficient systems in shelters.</p>	<p>Provides resilient and sustainable living environments for displaced populations; Reduces long-term environmental impact and enhances community well-being; Supports biodiversity and ecosystem health.</p>

<p><b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)</b></p>	<p>Water depletion from over-extraction and unsustainable use; Pollution from untreated wastewater and improper sanitation practices; Waste management challenges, including plastic pollution; Spread of waterborne diseases due to contaminated water sources; Soil degradation from improper sanitation facilities.</p>	<p>Promote water conservation practices and sustainable water management; Ensure proper treatment and disposal of wastewater and implement eco-friendly sanitation solutions; Reduce plastic use and implement recycling programs for WASH-related waste; Provide safe drinking water and improve hygiene practices to prevent disease spread; Use eco-friendly sanitation systems to prevent soil degradation.</p>	<p>Implementing water-saving technologies, such as low-flow fixtures and rainwater harvesting systems; Promoting sustainable sanitation practices, such as composting toilets; Establishing recycling programs for plastic waste from WASH activities; Setting up water purification systems in communities; Installing eco-friendly latrines to reduce soil impact.</p>	<p>Ensures access to clean and safe water, essential for health and well-being; Reduces environmental pollution and enhances community resilience; Prevents the spread of waterborne diseases.</p>
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## Section 4: Financing environment mainstreaming in humanitarian action

### Key points

- Identify and discuss various sources of funding available for mainstreaming environmental considerations within humanitarian action.
- Introduce effective budgeting and financial management practices tailored to environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts.
- Discuss strategies and processes for accessing and securing funding for environmental initiatives.
- Explore risk management techniques to safeguard financial sustainability in volatile humanitarian environments.
- Highlight the importance of partnerships in securing sustainable financing for long-term environmental programs.

### Background information

- Securing adequate financing is crucial for the successful implementation and sustainability of environmental mainstreaming within humanitarian programs. Without proper funding, initiatives that aim to integrate environmental considerations may struggle to achieve their intended impact.
- Mainstreaming environmental considerations in humanitarian action can be funded through diverse channels, including international donors, government grants, private sector partnerships, and community-based funding models such as crowdfunding. Each funding source has its specific requirements, application processes, and accountability obligations that need to be understood and navigated effectively.
- To ensure the effectiveness of these efforts, robust financial management systems must be established, which include accurate budgeting, transparent financial tracking, and the efficient allocation of resources. Proper financial oversight helps build trust with donors, enabling sustained investment in environmental mainstreaming efforts.



- Organizations must remain vigilant about potential financial risks, especially within the uncertain landscapes of humanitarian work. Effective risk management strategies are essential to address potential financial shortfalls and ensure that environmental mainstreaming efforts remain viable, even amidst crisis.
- Developing and leveraging strategic partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including local communities, can significantly bolster the sustainability of financing. Collaborative funding approaches can provide ongoing support for environmental mainstreaming, ensuring these efforts extend beyond initial funding cycles and remain embedded in humanitarian action.

## Content development: Case studies and best practices

Table 4.1: Potential sources of financing for environmental programs in humanitarian action

Source Category	Specific Sources	Description	Application in Humanitarian Action	Accessibility
International donors	<i>Green Climate Fund (GCF)</i>	Provides funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.	Funding for large-scale reforestation or renewable energy projects in post-disaster regions.	Mainly for national governments, large NGOs, private sector, and UN agencies.
	<i>Global Environment Facility (GEF)</i>	Offers grants for projects that address environmental issues such as biodiversity, climate change, and pollution.	Supporting biodiversity conservation projects in areas affected by humanitarian crises.	Accessible to government agencies, large NGOs, and international organizations
	<i>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</i>	Provides grants and technical support for environmental initiatives.	Funding for environmental restoration projects in conflict or disaster-affected areas.	Mainly accessible to international organizations and large NGOs.
	<i>Adaptation Fund</i>	Funds projects and programs aimed at adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.	Supporting climate-resilient infrastructure and ecosystems in vulnerable communities.	Accessible to national governments and accredited NGOs.
	<i>UN OCHA</i>	Provides funding and coordination support for humanitarian and environmental responses in emergencies.	Funding for rapid response environmental protection projects in crisis zones.	Mainly for large NGOs, UN agencies, and coordination bodies.
	<i>European Union (EU)</i>	The EU provides funding through various mechanisms, including the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), focusing on development and humanitarian aid.	Funding for environmental projects integrated into humanitarian aid efforts, such as supporting disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and sustainable resource management in crisis-affected regions.	Accessible to large NGOs, EU-based organizations, and partners.
	<i>IUCN</i>	Provides grants for implementing NBS to address environmental challenges.	Supporting NBS projects in disaster recovery and climate adaptation.	Primarily accessible to NGOs, local organizations, and community groups.



<b>International donors</b>	<i>DG ECHO (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations)</i>	The European Union's humanitarian aid and civil protection arm, which funds emergency response and resilience-building projects.	Financing environmental components of humanitarian operations, such as integrating environmental considerations into disaster preparedness and response.	Accessible to EU member states, NGOs, and international organizations.
<b>Government grants</b>	<i>USAID</i>	U.S. government agency that funds environmental programs in developing countries.	Financing for sustainable agriculture or water management programs in crisis regions.	Accessible to international NGOs, governments, and local organizations.
	<i>FCDO (UK Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office)</i>	Provides grants for development and environmental projects, particularly in Commonwealth countries.	Supporting environmental sustainability projects in post-colonial regions affected by crises.	Mainly for international NGOs and local partners.
	<i>CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)</i>	Offers funding for environmental and sustainable development initiatives in developing countries.	Funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in vulnerable communities.	Accessible to NGOs, local organizations, and government entities.
	<i>JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)</i>	Provides financial and technical support for environmental conservation and disaster risk reduction.	Supporting disaster resilience projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.	Mainly accessible to governments, international NGOs, and local partners.
	<i>China Aid China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)</i>	Chinese government initiative offering grants for development, including environmental projects.	Funding for infrastructure and environmental protection projects in developing countries.	Primarily for governments and large NGOs.
	<i>Irish Aid</i>	Ireland's official international development program funding environmental sustainability.	Supporting water resource management and renewable energy projects in Africa.	Accessible to NGOs and government entities.
	<i>AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)</i>	Provides funding for environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction projects, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.	Financing for climate adaptation and environmental management projects in Pacific Island nations facing severe climate impacts.	Accessible to NGOs, local partners, and government agencies.
	<i>NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation)</i>	Supports environmental and sustainable development projects, with a focus on climate change and biodiversity.	Funding for sustainable forest management and climate resilience projects in Africa and Southeast Asia.	Mainly for NGOs, governments, and community groups.

<b>Government grants</b>	<i>SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)</i>	Offers grants for environmental and climate-related initiatives in developing countries, focusing on sustainable development and poverty reduction.	Supporting projects on water resource management and renewable energy in conflict-affected regions of Africa and the Middle East.	Accessible to NGOs, local organizations, and governmental bodies.
	<i>GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)</i>	German government agency that supports environmental and climate-related projects in developing and emerging economies.	Financing for sustainable agriculture and renewable energy projects in post-conflict regions.	Accessible to governments, NGOs, and local organizations.
	<i>DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency)</i>	Provides funding for environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation projects in developing countries.	Supporting climate-resilient infrastructure projects in disaster-prone areas of Africa and Asia.	Accessible to international and local NGOs.
	<i>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</i>	Offers funding for environmental and climate-related projects with a focus on sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.	Financing for water management and sustainable energy projects in vulnerable communities worldwide.	Accessible to NGOs, local organizations, and government entities.
<b>Private sector partnerships</b>	<i>Corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs</i>	Companies fund environmental programs as part of their CSR initiatives.	Partnership with a corporation to fund a solar energy project in refugee camps.	Primarily accessible to NGOs and local organizations working with corporate partners.
	<i>Global Environment Fund</i>	A private equity firm that invests in sustainable development and environmental projects.	Supporting green technology deployment and renewable energy projects in humanitarian settings.	
<b>Crowdfunding and community funding</b>	<i>Global Giving</i>	Online platform for crowdfunding environmental and humanitarian projects.	Raising funds for small-scale environmental initiatives, such as community gardens in conflict zones.	Open to NGOs, local organizations, and individuals.
	<i>GoFundMe</i>	Platform for individuals or organizations to raise funds for specific projects.	Funding for immediate environmental cleanup efforts in disaster-hit areas.	Open to anyone with access to the platform.
<b>International and regional finance institutions</b>	<i>World Bank Group</i>	Provides loans and grants for environmental projects with significant social impact.	Funding for large-scale environmental infrastructure projects in post-crisis recovery phases.	Accessible to national governments, large NGOs, and private sector partners.
	<i>African Development Bank (AfDB)</i>	Offers funding for sustainable development projects, including environmental initiatives, in Africa.	Financing for environmental resilience projects in drought-prone regions of Africa.	Mainly accessible to governments and large NGOs.

<b>International and regional finance institutions</b>	<i>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i>	Provides financing for environmental and sustainable development projects in Asia and the Pacific.	Supporting climate adaptation and disaster resilience projects in Southeast Asia.	Accessible to governments, NGOs, and private sector partners.
	<i>Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</i>	Offers grants and loans for environmental projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Funding for reforestation, water management, and climate adaptation projects in Central and South America.	Accessible to governments, NGOs, and private sector partners.
	<i>European Investment Bank (EIB)</i>	Finances sustainable development and environmental projects in Europe and neighboring regions.	Supporting green infrastructure and energy efficiency projects in crisis-affected areas of Europe.	Accessible to governments, NGOs, and international organizations.
	<i>Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)</i>	Provides financing for development projects, including environmental sustainability, in member countries.	Funding for water resource management and renewable energy projects in the Middle East and North Africa.	Accessible to member countries and their associated organizations.
	<i>International Finance Corporation (IFC)</i>	Part of the World Bank Group, offering loans and investment for private sector projects in developing countries, including environmental sustainability initiatives.	Financing private sector-driven environmental projects, such as renewable energy installations in refugee-hosting areas.	Accessible to private companies and large-scale NGOs.
	<i>Nordic Development Fund (NDF)</i>	Provides grants for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries, with a focus on Africa, Asia, and Latin America.	Supporting climate resilience and adaptation initiatives in vulnerable communities affected by disasters.	Accessible to governments, NGOs, and local organizations.
	<i>Green Bond Market</i>	Financial instruments issued to fund projects that have positive environmental and/or climate benefits.	Leveraging green bonds to finance large-scale infrastructure projects focused on environmental sustainability, such as clean energy installations and green building initiatives in crisis zones.	Mainly accessible to large organizations and government bodies.
<b>Philanthropic foundations</b>	<i>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</i>	Offers grants for sustainable development projects, including environmental sustainability.	Funding for innovative environmental solutions in humanitarian contexts.	Accessible to NGOs and research institutions.
	<i>Rockefeller Foundation</i>	Supports initiatives focused on resilience and sustainability.	Funding for climate adaptation projects in crisis regions.	Primarily for large NGOs and local organizations.
	<i>Ford Foundation</i>	Provides funding for environmental justice and community resilience projects.	Supporting local environmental initiatives in vulnerable communities.	Accessible to community-based organizations and NGOs.

<b>Philanthropic foundations</b>	<i>MacArthur Foundation</i>	Funds projects that address climate change and promote sustainable development.	Supporting environmental programs in urban resilience and disaster recovery.	Accessible to NGOs, local governments, and community groups.
	<i>Packard Foundation</i>	Focuses on conservation, climate change, and community-based initiatives.	Funding for marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices in coastal disaster areas.	Accessible to NGOs, particularly those focused on conservation.
	<i>Walton Family Foundation</i>	Supports conservation and environmental initiatives, especially water sustainability.	Funding for water management and sustainable agriculture projects in drought-affected areas.	Accessible to NGOs and community organizations.
	<i>Bloomberg Philanthropies</i>	Focuses on environmental and public health projects, including climate change mitigation.	Supporting urban environmental programs and air quality improvement in cities hosting refugees.	Accessible to city governments and NGOs.
	<i>IKEA Foundation</i>	Invests in renewable energy and sustainable livelihoods projects.	Funding for off-grid renewable energy solutions in refugee camps.	Accessible to NGOs and local organizations focused on livelihoods.
	<i>Climate Works Foundation</i>	Provides grants for climate-related initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Funding for low-carbon technology deployment in humanitarian operations.	Accessible to NGOs, research institutions, and local entities.

## Accessing funding



### Grant writing

Developing compelling proposals to apply for grants from donors and funding agencies.

#### Real World Application:

Writing a successful grant proposal to secure funds from USAID for an environmental restoration project in a conflict zone.



### Partnership development

Building relationships with potential funders and partners to secure financial support.

#### Real World Application:

Developing a partnership with a multinational corporation to co-fund a clean energy initiative in disaster-affected regions.



### Understanding donor priorities

Aligning environmental programs with the strategic priorities of potential donors.

#### Real World Application:

Aligning a reforestation project with a donor's focus on climate change mitigation to increase funding chances.



### Application processes

Navigating the specific procedures and requirements of different funding sources.

#### Real World Application:

Following the application guidelines of the UN Environment Programme to secure funding for a biodiversity conservation project.

Table 4.3: Risk management strategies in financing

Strategy	Description	Real-World Application
<i>Contingency planning</i>	Developing financial backup plans to address unexpected shortfalls or emergencies.	Allocating a portion of the budget to an emergency fund for unforeseen expenses, such as a sudden increase in project costs due to a natural disaster.
<i>Diversification of funding</i>	Securing funds from multiple sources to reduce reliance on a single donor or income stream.	Combining grants from international donors, local government subsidies, and corporate partnerships to create a more stable and resilient funding base.
<i>Financial reserves</i>	Setting aside funds to cover operating costs in case of funding delays or cuts.	Establishing a reserve fund to ensure that critical environmental programs can continue even during periods of delayed donor disbursements or financial crises.
<i>Regular financial monitoring</i>	Continuously tracking financial performance to identify potential risks early.	Implementing monthly financial reviews to track expenditures against budgets, allowing for early identification of potential overspending or funding gaps.
<i>Insurance and risk transfer</i>	Using insurance products to transfer financial risks, such as disasters or other disruptions.	Purchasing insurance coverage for environmental projects located in areas prone to natural disasters, ensuring that financial losses are minimized in case of an event.
<i>Scenario analysis</i>	Assessing the impact of various financial scenarios, including worst-case scenarios, on project viability.	Conducting scenario analysis to evaluate the financial impact of potential donor withdrawal, enabling the organization to prepare alternative funding strategies.
<i>Contractual safeguards</i>	Including clauses in contracts to manage risks, such as changes in project scope or timelines.	Negotiating contracts with donors that include flexible timelines and scope adjustments, ensuring that the organization can adapt to unforeseen challenges.
<i>Stakeholder engagement</i>	Engaging key stakeholders in financial planning to ensure alignment and reduce risks.	Regular consultations with donors, local partners, and community leaders to align financial strategies with project goals and mitigate risks through collaboration.

Table 4.4: Leveraging partnerships for sustainable financing

Strategy	Description	Real-World Application
<i>Building strategic alliances</i>	Forming long-term collaborations with organizations that share similar environmental goals.	Partnering with international NGOs and governmental bodies to co-fund large-scale reforestation projects in disaster-prone regions, pooling resources and expertise.
<i>Co-funding initiatives</i>	Working with multiple partners to jointly fund environmental programs, spreading financial risk.	Collaborating with private sector companies and local governments to co-finance clean water projects, reducing the financial burden on any single organization.
<i>In-kind contributions</i>	Securing non-monetary support from partners, such as materials, expertise, or volunteer services.	Engaging corporate partners to provide technical expertise and equipment for renewable energy installations in remote communities, thereby reducing project costs.



<i>Joint fundraising campaigns</i>	Launching joint fundraising efforts to pool resources and attract a wider donor base.	Organizing a global crowdfunding campaign with multiple NGOs to finance sustainable agriculture projects in crisis-affected regions, leveraging digital platforms for outreach.
<i>Public-private partnerships</i>	Collaborating with the private sector to leverage additional resources and innovation.	Establishing a partnership with a technology company to develop and fund a mobile platform for tracking environmental impacts in humanitarian projects.
<i>Engaging philanthropic networks</i>	Tapping into philanthropic networks for funding and in-kind support.	Collaborating with international philanthropic foundations to secure grants and donations for long-term environmental conservation programs in post-conflict areas.
<i>Leveraging local partnerships</i>	Involving local organizations and communities in fundraising and resource mobilization efforts.	Partnering with local NGOs and community groups to raise funds through local events and initiatives, ensuring cultural relevance and community ownership.
<i>Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives</i>	Aligning environmental programs with CSR objectives of corporations to secure funding and resources.	Partnering with corporations that have strong CSR commitments to finance environmental sustainability initiatives, such as waste management and recycling projects in urban areas.

## Section 5: Case studies and best practices

### Key points

- Present relevant case studies that illustrate successful environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts.
- Highlight lessons learned and best practices from these case studies.
- Provide real-world examples to reinforce the concepts discussed in previous sections.

### Background information

Case studies offer concrete examples of the challenges and solutions related to environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts. By examining these real-world instances, participants can gain insights into effective strategies and practices that have been successfully implemented in various settings.



## Content development: Case studies and best practices

Case Study	Context	Environmental Challenge	Environmental Mainstreaming Actions
Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA)	The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) launched the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA) in 2020 to integrate sustainability into the supply chain of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This initiative is part of ICRC's commitment to the "do-no-harm" principle and the Environmental and Climate Change Charter.	High greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, and resource consumption associated with humanitarian supply chains.	- Committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, covering both direct and indirect emissions, as well as the management of hazardous waste. - Launched the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator (HCC) in collaboration with over 100 humanitarian organizations to estimate and reduce GHG emissions within the humanitarian sector. - Focused on minimizing environmental impact through waste reduction, optimized transportation routes, and improved energy efficiency in logistics operations. - Engaged various stakeholders in developing tools, knowledge, training, and supporting guidelines to achieve sustainability goals.
DG ECHO's Environmental Mainstreaming	DG ECHO's integration of environmental considerations into funding and grant processes. This approach demonstrates environmental mainstreaming by systematically integrating environmental considerations into the entire process of funding and managing humanitarian aid operations. Through detailed guidelines, practical tools, and a commitment to sustainability across various sectors, DG ECHO ensures that all humanitarian actions are aligned with environmental best practices.	Humanitarian actions contributing to environmental degradation, such as deforestation, water contamination, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.	Development of minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations; Implementation of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and environmental screening tools like NEAT+; Promotion of sustainable procurement, waste management, renewable energy use, and capacity building; Sector-specific requirements for food assistance, shelter, WASH, health, and other sectors; Use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and practical tools to guide partners.
IFRC Environmental Policy	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) developed an environmental policy to ensure its humanitarian activities respect and protect the environment. This policy demonstrates environmental mainstreaming by systematically integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of IFRC's work, including programming, operations, and management.	Humanitarian efforts can result in negative environmental impacts such as local environmental degradation, increased vulnerability of communities to disasters, and global climate change effects.	Development and implementation of environmental policies and guidelines; Integration of environmental aspects into project planning, implementation, and evaluation; Use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and practical tools; Training and capacity building for staff on environmental best practices; Establishing baselines and performance indicators; Collaboration with stakeholders to enhance sustainability efforts; Promoting sustainable waste management, energy solutions, and resource use.

<p>Green Response by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement</p>	<p>The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement initiated the Green Response approach to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian responses, internal practices, and policy work. This initiative, launched in 2012, is led by the Swedish Red Cross and supported by the IFRC, ICRC, and various National Societies.</p>	<p>The need to address the environmental impact of humanitarian operations, including climate change and environmental degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of climate and environmental strategies aligned with IFRC’s Strategy 2030 and ICRC’s Strategy 2019-2022.</li> <li>- Integration of environmental considerations into emergency preparedness, needs assessments, and response systems.</li> <li>- Creation of sector-specific technical guidance notes and greening existing policies.</li> <li>- Training staff and greening job profiles to improve environmental competencies.</li> <li>- Advocacy through the Climate and Environment Charter and contributions to Sphere Standards revisions.</li> </ul>
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# ACTIVITIES

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## 1. Case study analysis

- **Activity:** Participants will analyze a provided case study (e.g., DG ECHO's Environmental Mainstreaming or IFRC Environmental Policy) and discuss the lessons learned and best practices that can be applied to their own contexts.
- **Discussion points:** *What were the key environmental challenges? How did the humanitarian response address these challenges? How was financing secured and managed in the response? What lessons can be learned from this case study?*

## 2. Interactive exercise: applying best practices

- **Activity:** Participants will work in small groups to develop a plan for integrating environmental mainstreaming practices into a hypothetical humanitarian scenario, using the best practices highlighted in the case studies.
- **Scenario example:** Planning a new humanitarian response with a focus on sustainability and financing – participants will need to consider environmental impacts, mitigation strategies, and integration into cluster-specific activities, and potential funding sources.
- **Outcome:** Develop a detailed plan that outlines environmental considerations for a specific cluster (e.g., Shelter, WASH, Health).

## 3. Group discussion: key principles and objectives

- **Activity:** Facilitate a group discussion on the key principles and objectives of environmental mainstreaming. Participants will share their experiences and insights on how these principles can be effectively implemented in their own operations.
- **Discussion points:** *How can sustainability, resilience, efficiency, participation, and compliance be achieved in different humanitarian contexts?*

## 4. Q&A session: importance of environmental mainstreaming

- **Activity:** Conduct a Q&A session where participants can ask questions and discuss the importance of environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian programs, including the role of financing.
- **Discussion points:** *Why is environmental mainstreaming crucial in humanitarian contexts? What are the benefits and challenges? How does securing funding impact the sustainability of environmental mainstreaming?*

## 5. Interactive session: entry points and enablers

- **Activity:** Participants will identify and discuss various entry points and enablers for environmental mainstreaming. They will work in pairs or small groups to brainstorm and present their findings.
- **Outcome:** Create a list of entry points and enablers, with examples of how they can be applied in real-world humanitarian scenarios.

## 6. Practical exercise: step-by-step guide

- **Activity:** Participants will follow a detailed step-by-step guide to integrate environmental considerations into a hypothetical project. They will use provided tools and frameworks to develop a comprehensive plan.
- **Outcome:** Create a project plan that includes environmental assessments, policy development, project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

## 7. Interactive exercise: identifying cluster-specific impacts and strategies

- **Activity:** Participants will identify environmental impacts and propose integration strategies for various clusters using provided examples. They will work in groups to classify impacts and develop practical strategies.
- **Outcome:** Develop a comprehensive list of cluster-specific environmental impacts and integration strategies.

## 8. Summary and reflection

- **Activity:** Participants will summarize the key points from the module and reflect on their learnings. They will discuss how they can apply these insights to their work.
- **Outcome:** Consolidate understanding of the module content and identify actionable steps for implementation.



# RESOURCES

## Materials

- **Printed case studies and examples:** For analysis and discussion in various activities.
- Slides: For presentations and plenary discussions.
- **Handouts:** Including key points, principles, objectives, and guidelines for environmental mainstreaming.
- **Flipcharts and markers:** For group discussions, brainstorming sessions, and presentations.
- **Policy documents:** Copies of key humanitarian and environmental standards documents, including the Sphere Handbook, IASC Guidelines, and UNEP/OCHA Guidelines.
- **Case study handouts:** Detailed descriptions and data for case studies like DG ECHO's Environmental Mainstreaming and IFRC Environmental Policy.
- **Discussion guides:** Structured questions and topics for Q&A sessions and group discussions.

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## Delivery method

- **Lectures:** Use lectures to introduce key concepts, case studies, and highlight lessons learned and best practices.
- **Group work:** Engage participants in group activities to foster collaboration and deeper understanding, such as developing plans and discussing case studies.
- **Interactive exercises:** Facilitate hands-on activities and practical exercises to apply environmental mainstreaming practices to hypothetical scenarios.
- **Q&A sessions:** Conduct question-and-answer sessions to clarify concepts and discuss the importance, principles, and enablers of environmental mainstreaming.
- **Case study presentations:** Present and analyze case studies to provide real-world examples and discuss lessons learned and best practices.
- **Plenary discussions:** Facilitate full-group discussions to share insights and experiences on environmental mainstreaming.
- **Role-playing:** Utilize role-playing exercises to allow participants to practice integrating environmental mainstreaming practices into hypothetical humanitarian scenarios.

## Assessment tools

- **Quizzes:** Short quizzes at the end of the module to assess participants' understanding of key concepts and principles of environmental mainstreaming.
- **Reflection questions:** Open-ended questions for participants to reflect on what they have learned and how they can apply these insights to their work.
- **Feedback forms:** Collect feedback on the module's content and delivery methods to continuously improve the training program.
- **Group presentations:** Evaluate the plans and strategies developed by participants during group activities to assess their practical understanding and application of environmental mainstreaming.
- **Interactive exercises:** Monitor and provide feedback on participants' performance in practical exercises to ensure they can effectively apply the concepts learned.
- **Case study analysis:** Assess participants' ability to analyze case studies and identify key environmental challenges, responses, and best practices.

## Reflection and review questions

- **Understanding environmental mainstreaming**
  - What are the key principles of environmental mainstreaming that you found most relevant to your work?
  - Why is it important to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian programs?
- **Applying environmental mainstreaming**
  - How can you apply the step-by-step guide for mainstreaming environmental considerations in your projects?
  - What entry points for environmental mainstreaming did you identify as most practical for your organization?

- **Challenges and solutions**

- What challenges do you foresee in implementing environmental mainstreaming practices, and how might you overcome them?
- Which enablers do you think are critical for the success of environmental mainstreaming in your projects?

- **Financing environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian action**

- What are the key potential sources of financing for environmental mainstreaming identified in the module?
- What strategies can you use to secure and manage funding for environmental initiatives?
- How can partnerships be leveraged to ensure sustainable financing for environmental programs?

- **Cluster-specific strategies**

- Which cluster-specific environmental impacts were most surprising or new to you?
- How can you apply the integration strategies discussed in the module to your specific area of work?

- **Overall reflection**

- How has this module changed your understanding of environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts?
- What are three key takeaways that you will apply in your work?

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- 1. Understanding environmental mainstreaming:**

Environmental mainstreaming involves integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of humanitarian action, ensuring that operations do not exacerbate environmental degradation and contribute to sustainable development. This approach helps reduce the environmental and carbon footprint of humanitarian programs, aligning them with global environmental goals.
- 2. Importance of environmental mainstreaming:**

Mainstreaming environmental considerations enhances the sustainability, resilience, and efficiency of humanitarian interventions. It reduces negative environmental impacts, improves resource efficiency, and supports better decision-making, ultimately leading to more effective humanitarian operations.
- 3. Key entry points and enablers for environmental mainstreaming:**

Effective environmental mainstreaming requires identifying key entry points such as needs assessment, project design, implementation, and policy development. Enablers like leadership commitment, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and access to environmental expertise are critical for successful integration.
- 4. Developing environmental policies and guidelines:**

Establishing clear environmental policies and guidelines ensures consistent integration of environmental considerations into humanitarian programs. Aligning these policies with global and regional frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework strengthens their impact and compliance.
- 5. Cluster-specific environmental impacts and mitigation strategies:**

Each humanitarian cluster, such as WASH, Shelter, and Logistics, has unique environmental impacts that require tailored mitigation strategies. Understanding these impacts and implementing appropriate measures is essential for minimizing environmental harm and enhancing the sustainability of humanitarian operations.
- 6. Financing environmental mainstreaming:**

Securing sustainable financing is crucial for effective environmental mainstreaming. Potential funding sources include international donors, government grants, private sector partnerships, and philanthropic foundations. Understanding donor priorities, effective grant writing, and strategic partnerships are key to accessing and securing funding.
- 7. Managing financial risks in environmental programs:**

Financial risk management is essential in volatile humanitarian environments. Strategies such as contingency planning, diversification of funding, and regular financial monitoring help ensure the sustainability of environmental initiatives. Effective financial oversight builds donor trust and enables continued investment in environmental mainstreaming efforts.
- 8. Leveraging partnerships for sustainable financing:**

Building strategic alliances and co-funding initiatives with private sector partners, philanthropic networks, and local organizations can significantly bolster the sustainability of environmental financing. Collaborative approaches reduce financial risks and enhance the long-term viability of environmental programs.
- 9. Case studies and best practices:**

Real-world examples, such as the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA) and DG ECHO's Environmental Mainstreaming, provide valuable insights into effective strategies for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian actions. These case studies highlight the importance of leadership, policy development, and cross-sectoral collaboration in achieving successful environmental mainstreaming.
- 10. Applying environmental mainstreaming in humanitarian contexts:**

A systematic approach to environmental mainstreaming, including needs assessment, policy development, project design, and monitoring, ensures that environmental considerations are embedded at every stage of humanitarian programs. Practical application of these steps enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions.



*Responding to Emergencies, Protecting the Environment*

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