



Green Response

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Green Response



5 year strategic plan (2019-2023)

3 main objectives

- Environmental Sustainability is mainstreamed in RCRC humanitarian action programs, systems, and practices
 - Adverse environmental impacts within emergency operations are identified, avoided, reduced and mitigated
 - Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement advances environmental sustainability within humanitarian action through its policy, networks, partnership and practices

Methodology

- **Workshops** with technical sectors, ex.:
 - Logistics and Procurement – greening IFRC supply chain
 - Shelter and Settlements – country profiles
- **Capacity development** - environmental sustainability, a core competency
- **Environmental Specialists/Environmental Field Advisors** – ex. Bangladesh, Mozambique
- **Guidelines and policies** – ex. Sphere handbook and thematic sheet
- **Partnerships** – environmental organisations, private sector
- **Networks** – sharing experiences, learning from others, ex. NEAT+



<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/green-response/>

Environmental Policy – IFRC Secretariat

The process:

- Environmental policy task force, supported by the Green Response working group
- 30+ interviews (IFRC and external experts)
- Consultation survey: 63 responses from all levels and regions

The policy:

- IFRC is committed to the principle of 'do no harm' extended to the environment
- Aligning with global international standards and good international practice for environmental sustainability – including donors' policies and global commitments (SFDRR, Paris, SDGs)
- Stronger safeguards for environmental protection as part of these commitments - including for humanitarian and development assistance.
- Useful, practical, feasible and measurable!



Environmental Policy – IFRC Secretariat

- **Overarching principles** – a shift in mindset
- **Programmatic mainstreaming** - environmental screening of projects and continue improvement in areas such as logistics, waste management and energy supply
- **Tracking the environmental aspects of our services and facilities** - including travel
- **IFRC Champion(s) & Taskforce**, developing **Implementation Road Map**
- **Building expertise** - Environmental Sustainability Advisor
- **Reporting** - on our environmental performance



More information on Green Response in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:

<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/green-response/>

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GREEN RESPONSE

The ultimate goal of Green Response is to save lives and reduce suffering without risking damage to the livelihoods, health and survival of affected people and improving the environmental outcomes of life-saving operations.

What is Green Response?

During disasters, the immediate imperative for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) is to save lives, reduce suffering, damage and losses, and to protect, comfort and support affected people.

While life-saving interventions must always remain the priority aim of any emergency response operation, the Movement recognizes that it must take action to minimize its adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and eco-systems, which does not undermine local efforts and strengths.

Emergency response can have many different impacts on the environment and ecosystems. The impact is dependent on the types of intervention undertaken and the approaches used, as well as the scale and broader context of the response, including the fragility/strength of the environment and ecosystems.

Green Response focuses on improving practices before a disaster strikes, while also adding and improving practices during response operations.

Green response is a way in which we, as Red Cross and Red Crescent, can approach our work that emphasizes stronger accountability towards affected populations by actively promoting alternative, more environmentally beneficial solutions in addressing needs.

In short it is about extending the fundamental humanitarian principle of 'do no harm' to the environment and ecosystems, which the people we seek to assist are reliant on, recognizing that sustainability is generated through environmentally sound actions. Mainstreaming Green Response in operational decisions can facilitate a better recovery and build an established mechanism in the operations – with a further opportunity of enabling more innovative, environmentally sustainable solutions to be promoted and established. Green Response is thus not about saving the environment, but improving the environmental outcomes of life-saving operations, promoting positive possibilities whilst maintaining operational targets.

Image: IFRC, Mitali Laskin. The Bakhshal camp, Bangladesh, houses people who have fled violence in neighbouring Rohingya State, Myanmar. The majority of the camp population have fled from controlling conditions. It is a makeshift settlement that houses 20,000 Rohingya. There are several entry and exit points that facilitate an expensive commodity, crossing conflict with the local population and is seen as a protection issue particularly for women and girls.

