



**WELT
HUNGER
HILFE**

For a world without hunger



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS TO WELTHUNGERHILFE

Sustainability is commonly defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UN Brundtland commission, 1987). With our strategy, we want to prioritize sustainability in order to fulfil our mission of zero hunger effectively and responsibly. The concept of sustainability encompasses environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments. In the context of our work, our sustainability mission can be summarized as follows:



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

We are committed to actively mitigating the negative effects inflicted on the environment caused by our operations. We strive towards zero emissions.



SOCIETAL IMPACT

We are aware of our influence on society as a whole and are committed to actively contributing to improving social issues.



GOVERNANCE

We adhere to the highest ethical standards and take responsibility for maintaining and developing our performance and financial sustainability.

The need for a sustainable approach to development aid has never been more evident. By signing the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations in 2021, we have formally committed to stepping up our action towards climate-resilience and to maximising the environmental sustainability of our operations and programs, reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions, and engaging our stakeholders in urgently needed climate action.



UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The increasing global awareness of environmental issues and their impact on societies and communities has led to a number of international agreements dedicated to, or with a strong focus on, the protection of the environment.

With this strategy we are actively contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nations - a set of 17 goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change and its far-reaching impacts.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

As an international humanitarian and development aid organization, we witness the impact of climate change in all countries we work in. Severe weather events like floods, heatwaves, and droughts, have devastating effects on nature, society, and communities. We recognize therefore that sustainability is not just an option. The global climate crisis requires an urgent and collective escalation of our actions to confront the pressing challenges. As advocates for sustainability, we acknowledge the importance of walking the talk. It is our responsibility to identify and mitigate potential adverse effects of our own activities.

This strategy serves as a reference manual designed to enhance the environmental sustainability of Welthungerhilfe’s projects and operations. It is a testament to our commitment to becoming a driving force for positive change towards a more sustainable path within our own organisation. The scope of the strategy comprises two key pillars guiding Welthungerhilfe’s sustainability initiatives: the first focuses on operations, while the second centres on programming. An additional document will outline the implementation roadmap and key objectives.

OPERATIONS

At Welthungerhilfe, our commitment to sustainability is ingrained at every level of our organization, extending beyond operations to internal structures. This comprehensive approach empowers us to proactively enhance environmental impacts from the initiation of our initiatives. By addressing the sustainability of our operations, we emphasize a comprehensive approach that considers the environmental footprint of our activities and ongoing efforts to minimize any adverse effects on the ecosystems in which we operate.



**REDUCE CARBON
FOOTPRINT**



**ENSURE SUSTAINABLE
PROCUREMENT &
SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT**



**PROMOTE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY,
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**



**SUSTAINABLE
INVESTMENT**



EMISSION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Drastic reduction of emissions is urgently needed to limit the global increase in temperatures accelerating the devastating effects of climate change. Reducing our environmental impact starts with measuring our emissions. Our carbon footprint is calculated according to the greenhouse gas (GHG) protocol with the goal to identify our emission sources and reduce them accordingly. These measures include the decarbonization of our offices through green energy (e.g., solar electrification), the optimization of our fleet management as well as continuous digitization to save resources such as paper. We prioritize reducing emissions from our fleet through fleet optimization and minimizing fuel usage. Our travel policy aims to reduce the number of flights to the necessary ones and to make more use of alternative transportation means. Waste management in our offices and projects is an integral part of our resource management commitment. Minimizing waste and optimizing its utilization are our priorities. Looking ahead, we aim to internalize circular economy principles by exploring opportunities for re- and upcycling waste, contributing to a more sustainable operational ecosystem.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

At Welthungerhilfe, we are dedicated to establishing a standard for social sustainability and employee stewardship. We embrace a comprehensive approach to sustainability, extending beyond environmental concerns to encompass our commitment to fostering the well-being of our employees and cultivating a work environment that is inspiring, innovative, inclusive, and conducive to enhanced performance. As an organization, we invest in employee development through performance training programs tailored to meet their evolving needs. Additionally, by providing ongoing sustainability training, we aim at increasing awareness and understanding of climate change and sustainability and we encourage knowledge sharing between our teams and with our partners. Simultaneously, our commitment remains to uphold and enhance health and safety standards across all operational domains, while also ensuring equal treatment and safety for all individuals and organizations we work with and for. We take pride in promoting equality and diversity, ensuring equal opportunities, equitable pay, and celebrating the richness of diverse perspectives and backgrounds within our organization.



SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Delivering goods and services to the people we work for is an important component of our humanitarian and development work. Currently, supply chains inevitably have negative impacts: Manufacturing and transportation of goods is energy-intensive and reliant on fossil fuels. Emphasizing procurement ethics and lowering the environmental burden of our supply chains are our responsibility. Our procurement processes are mostly decentralized and aim at reducing transport-related emissions while supporting the local economies. We are working on building strong and lasting relationships with our suppliers, collaborating on finding solutions for lower impact goods, and using environmentally friendly packaging and transport options. We not only select our suppliers based on their current sustainable practices but actively engage and encourage them to embrace sustainability and a more responsible and ethical supply network.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Welthungerhilfe's sustainable finance strategy strives to incorporate environmental considerations into mainstream finance. It is essential for us to collaborate with partners who share the same values, in order to amplify our impact and uphold our ethical responsibility to the communities. We are committed to managing responsibly what has been given to us. Our financial resources are invested following a sustainability framework, which includes adhering to the MSCI¹ (or similar) rating of at least AA², considering the carbon footprint, and excluding industries involved in harmful activities.

¹ Morgan Stanley Capital International is an investment research organization providing risk and portfolio analyses to institutional investors.

² MSCI ranks companies leading their industries in managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities with "AA" and "AAA".

PROGRAMMING

Our programs are the heart of our work. Delivering sustainable people-centered, needs-based, and risk-informed humanitarian and development action has always been our priority. Climate change drastically affects the communities we work for, and we are stepping up our action to reduce climate and disaster risks and help people adapt to the climate crisis. Likewise, we want to use the potential of our work to support local communities in reducing carbon footprints and sequestering carbon. With our strategic focus on climate resilience, we are systematically integrating climate and environmental sensitivity in all our programming and boost our efforts in implementing high quality projects in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and anticipation.



**MAINSTREAMING
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CLIMATE SENSITIVITY
IN OUR PROGRAMS**



**BOOSTING OUR
CLIMATE RESILIENCE
PORTFOLIO**



**ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL
AND GLOBAL ACTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**



ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE SENSITIVITY

Environmental and climate sensitivity holds a central role in Welthungerhilfe's projects. To protect the environment and the communities we work with; we apply environmental and socio-economic standards and assess risks before implementing our programs. Our Environmental and Climate Screening Tool (EST) serves as an initial and fundamental step in enhancing the environmental sustainability of our projects. Through this tool, we firstly assess any climate-related risks that might affect the implementation of a project. Secondly, the EST aims to minimize our environmental impact by identifying and mitigating potential damage, categorizing environmental risk levels, and providing decision-making recommendations to maximize positive climate and environmental outcomes. Once the impacts on and of our projects are identified, strategies to avoid or mitigate the negative ones are considered, and adjustments are made to the project plan, with resource allocation if necessary. This holistic approach not only enhances the sustainability of our humanitarian and development efforts but also underscores our commitment to protecting both the communities we serve and the environment upon which their livelihoods depend.



ADVOCACY

Our policy and advocacy work addresses the structural causes of hunger and poverty. We recognize that climate change poses a threat to the fulfilment of the right to food, acting as a key driver of hunger, displacement, and poverty - disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. Therefore, our advocacy work is strongly committed to climate justice. We are engaged in raising awareness about the interconnection between climate change and food security and will continue to advocate for local and global action on climate change, not only highlighting the devastating effects of climate change on hunger but also emphasizing the importance of equitable solutions that prioritize the most vulnerable populations. Using a rights-based approach we engage with our partners and other stakeholders (e.g., national, and local governments) to adopt and implement sustainability principles.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO

We recognize the growing significance of supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation goals within the communities we serve, and we are dedicated to aligning our programs accordingly. Our targets include an increase in our climate-related portfolio, emphasizing a proactive approach to climate mitigation and adaptation (including disaster preparedness and anticipatory action). We will enhance our country strategies by incorporating climate-related commitments, ensuring that our operations not only address immediate humanitarian needs but also build the long-term resilience of vulnerable communities to the escalating challenges posed by climate change. Furthermore, climate integration will be pursued within key WHH approaches contributing to our vision of sustainable and resilient food systems for all. Capacity building is integral not only from within our organization but also in countries of operation, and in collaboration with our partners. Additionally, we are actively engaged in climate mitigation activities, focusing on both carbon avoidance and removal strategies to contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible approach in all aspects of our projects. To complement this approach, we are striving to assess the carbon footprint of our project activities and find more climate-friendly solutions when it comes to materials and supply chains for our project implementation, in line with our sustainable supply chain management approach. Finally, like in our operations, we want to assess the carbon footprint of our project activities and find more climate-friendly solutions when it comes to materials and supply chains for our project implementation.

