



Climate and Environment Policy

ADRA Denmark

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Introduction

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are now at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world's average surface temperature is likely to surpass 3 degrees centigrade this century. The poorest and most vulnerable people will be those most affected.

Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts. Climate change, however, is a global challenge that does not respect national borders. It is an issue that requires solutions that need to be coordinated at the international level to help developing countries move toward a low-carbon economy.

To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris, which went into force in November 2016. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees centigrade. As of March 2020, 189 parties (out of 197) have ratified the Paris Agreement.

Limiting the global temperature rise is, however, not a responsibility of national governments alone. Every citizen and every institution can contribute – and has an obligation to do so. In ADRA Denmark, we are also committed to mitigating climate change and protecting our environment. As a Christian organisation, it lies within our core values to protect God's creation. However, as we work globally, emissions from travelling constitute the major part of our carbon footprint, so reducing our physical presence in our countries of cooperation would have the highest impact. Given the nature of our work, we are not able to abandon air travelling completely, but we can keep it at a minimum and only travel when it is absolutely necessary.

In addition to this, there are a number of smaller things that we can change in our everyday lives – including in our work life at the office. Some may seem insignificant, but we believe that all efforts are necessary if we are to win this battle.

Below we try to list some of the efforts that we do and intend to do better in the future.

Programme work

One of the focus areas in ADRA Denmark's Global Strategy 2020-2024 is to *"Improve the livelihoods of the poor and those affected by crisis"*. In many countries, people's livelihood is under pressure due to climate change. Our response includes promoting climate smart agriculture (climate-adapted crops and production methods), climate change mitigation (fuel-efficient stoves, solar-driven pumps, tree-planting, etc.), and irrigation/water catchments.

Another focus area is to *"Strengthen civil society to promote participatory and sustainable change"*, which we believe goes hand in hand with the fight against climate change. Strengthening the capacity of communities to collectively tackle climate change challenges is an essential element. Thus, climate change adaptation plays a prominent role in our programme work. We include considerations on environmental impact in our programme development and try to find climate-smart solutions whenever possible. We target people who are affected by climate change and seek to assist them in addressing the challenges they

are facing, and we include analysis of the environment including environmental hazards/climate change in our context analyses before developing new programmes.

In line with this, we also support our partners to develop their own climate and environment policies.

Travel

Our mode of operation involves travelling. If we do not meet our partner organisations and the people we work with on a regular basis, we cannot carry out our responsibilities regarding facilitation, quality assurance, technical assistance, monitoring, communication, etc. However, we try to keep our travelling to a minimum, avoid all non-essential trips and think carefully before we decide to book an air ticket. We register all our carbon emissions and calculate our total emissions on an annual basis, and we buy climate compensation through a website that calculates our CO2 footprint¹. Within the ADRA network, we work to promote an ADRA climate compensation scheme.

Whenever possible, we try to find alternatives to travelling, e.g. Skype or Zoom meetings, and we invest in strengthening internet connectivity in our partner offices.

In the office

In ADRA Denmark's office premises we do what we can to limit our use of resources and reduce waste. We have a close dialogue on these issues with the Adventist Union, who is hosting ADRA Denmark.

Use of energy

- ✓ We turn off the lights when we leave a room
- ✓ We turn off our computers and screens when we go home
- ✓ We limit the use of water and energy, e.g. we fill up the dishwasher before we start it
- ✓ We buy our electricity from a company that promotes sustainable energy
- ✓ We encourage the Adventist Union administration to establish measures to minimize the use of heating and electricity
- ✓ We are conscious about our pension investments and use pension providers who invest responsibly within the framework of internationally recognised principles and guidelines including the UN Global Compact, the UN supported Principles for Responsible Investments (PRI), the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Declaration.

Recycling and reduction of resources

- ✓ We always consider whether it is necessary to print a document, and we always print duplex
- ✓ We include a standard sentence about non-printing in our auto-signature
- ✓ We use recycled paper in the photocopier
- ✓ We always consider whether it is necessary to print a publication or if it can be an e-publication. When making printed material, we use environmentally friendly paper and printing processes. We prefer 'cradle-to-cradle' certified sustainable printing, FSC-certified, *Svanemærket* etc.
- ✓ We use recycled paper for toilet tissue and hand towels (or use textile towels)
- ✓ If we have t-shirts or other merchandise made, we use organic Fairtrade materials
- ✓ We limit the use of chemicals for cleaning and maintenance
- ✓ Our cleaning products are environmentally friendly (*Svanemærkede*)

¹ Currently <https://greenseat.nl/en/>

- ✓ We sort our waste in accordance with the public requirements in the municipality (source separation)
- ✓ We use rechargeable batteries whenever possible

Lunch and refreshments in the office

- ✓ We discourage to-go-lunches packed in plastic
- ✓ We discourage the use of aluminium foil for packing food
- ✓ We buy Fairtrade, organic coffee, tea and (if possible) fruit
- ✓ We discourage the use of coffee capsules

Daily transport

- ✓ We encourage cycling to work and we participate in the annual campaign 'Vi Cykler Til Arbejde'
- ✓ We provide covered parking space for bicycles
- ✓ We encourage co-driving and use of public transport in Denmark