



Institutional policy

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## Environmental Agenda

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Transformation Division  
2018 – Update November 2021



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## Foreword

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is an independent and impartial international solidarity organization that intervenes in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Working alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, it acts and testifies to meet their basic needs, to improve their living conditions and to promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

Since its creation, HI has implemented development programs in more than 60 countries, and is involved in many emergencies.

### 1. Scope of this policy

The environmental problem is intrinsically linked to the more global issue of the acceleration of climate change, which for HI is identified as a factor that primarily affects the most vulnerable populations and challenges its ability to cope with its consequences.

Climate change has two components:

- The climate change adaptation component, which translates into any measure that seeks to enable people to cope with climate change to reduce the risks and damage associated with current and future adverse climate impacts,
- The climate change mitigation component, which translates into any action to limit greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to mitigate climate change and its effects.

On this last aspect, the present policy reaffirms the commitment of HI in its ecological transition towards the reduction of its environmental footprint through an ambitious agenda adopted in 2018.

### 2. Context

The impact of our activities on the environment and climate change are identified in several internal documents:

- Among our four Values, that of humanity refers in particular to the principle of respect for beneficiaries and their environment,
- In our Principles of Intervention, Article 9.1 (Principles of Accountability and Transparency), HI assumes its professional responsibilities as an international solidarity organization, based on the principle of "do not harm", i.e. measuring the consequences of the acts performed and do no to prejudice,
- In the Project Quality Framework (PQF): reducing the negative effects that our actions may have on the environment is mentioned in several quality criteria such as Relevance, Sustainability, Synergies and Ethics. In the latter, we also refer to the principle of "do not harm" and we specify that the project must systematically

consider any risk of negative effect and call into question the action if it turns out prejudicial,

- Our 2016-2025 strategy (updated in June 2021) put our footprint reduction as a major transformation challenge of the organization.

The fight against climate change and the preservation of the environment in which we work are also at the heart of several documents and external initiatives guiding our thoughts and actions:

- Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals: Climate is at the heart of actions to achieve several Goals (1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15),
- The Paris Climate Agreement which, among other things, wants “developed countries to continue to lead the way by assuming emission reduction targets in absolute terms (...) and that developing countries should continue to increase their mitigation efforts (...) with respect to different national contexts”,
- HI is also a signatory of the "Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and for NGOs in disaster relief operations". Article 8 specifies: "We will pay particular attention to environmental concerns in the design and management of relief programs,
- HI is a signatory of the "Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations" launched by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### **3. Principle and Commitment**

#### **3.1 Principle: Do not harm**

HI recognizes the impact on the environment that its interventions can cause.

HI adheres to the principle of not harming and therefore commits itself in terms of the environment to limit as much as possible the negative impact that its actions may have on the environment.

#### **3.2 Commitment: Reducing the ecological footprint in HQ and on the Field**

HI is committed to the principle of "not harming" the environment by making a commitment to reduce its ecological footprint. To achieve this, HI adopts a global approach with good practice objectives applying to all its sites, with particular attention to its intervention areas. Their implementation is ensured according to the capacities and context of each site, according to differentiated action plans.

## **4. Six levers of implementation**

In a gradual approach, HI chooses to focus action plans on levers that have an impact consistent with the efficiency objectives of its multi-year strategy and the requirements of its funders.

They are broken down into **4 logistical levers** and **2 transversal levers**.

### **4.1 Transport and mobility**

HI wants to reduce its CO2 emissions due to travel, by:

- Optimizing the management of its fleets of vehicles on the grounds (use 4x4 only when necessary),
- Encouraging the use of "soft modes" and carpooling practices at the HQ and on the field,
- By questioning the relevance of the movements of its staff, by mutualizing travel objectives and by developing alternative solutions to travel.

### **4.2 Purchases and supplies**

In order to reduce regional or international freight rates, HI wishes to:

- Promote responsible purchasing and favor local suppliers where possible,
- Pool resources and consolidate supplies by improving our supply planning.

### **4.3 Waste management**

HI wants to improve its waste management (selective sorting) at headquarters, and in the field.

### **4.4 Energy and natural resources management**

HI wants to better control its energy consumption, especially its consumption of water, fuel and electricity. HI will investigate the solutions offered by low impact technologies and renewable / green energies.

HI must also question its paper consumption.

### **4.5 Awareness and commitment of HI employees**

HI asks all its employees to adopt individual and collective behaviors that respect the environment.

HI Recognizes the positive role and encourages voluntary initiatives of its employees grouped into "green teams".

## 4.6 Programmatic approach

Through its operations and advocacy, HI is already implementing Disaster Risk Management projects. More generally, HI also aims to integrate eco- responsible professional practices into its quality approach (all sectors of interventions taken together). HI also wants to investigate the innovations that allow its actions on the ground to have less impact on the environment.

## 5. Agenda

The HI environmental agenda is envisaged in two stages:

- **Stage 1 (2018-2020):** objective = to encourage good practices / to make our employees aware and to identify base lines,
- **Stage 2 (2021-2025):** goal = reduce the footprint.

## 6. Roles and responsibilities

The Transformation Division is responsible for leading the implementation of the environmental agenda, which it will report annually to the Management Board, at the global level of the HI organization.

HI is committed to putting in place tools to monitor the efforts made by each site, on each of the areas of intervention.



## Environmental Agenda

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This institutional policy sets forth Humanity & Inclusion's main principles and guidelines concerning its environment footprint reduction agenda.

Like the organisation's other institutional policies, it is mandatory and so teams are required to comply with it. This policy therefore concerns the whole of HI, and commits the organisation to respecting these practices, both internally and externally.

The operational modalities of this environmental agenda will be developed in other documents.

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Humanity & Inclusion  
138, avenue des Frères Lumière  
69371 Lyon cedex 08  
France  
[publications@hi.org](mailto:publications@hi.org)

