

## ADRA Germany capacity statement on biodiversity and climate action

23. February 2024

ADRA Germany is an organization that is active worldwide. As a civil society organization integrated into a global, federally organized network of 113 independent country offices, our strategic objective is to build and maintain long-term and sustainable partnerships. Our goal is a just and sustainable world where people can achieve physical, mental and spiritual well-being and live their lives to the fullest within planetary boundaries to sustain our shared global environment and community. **All our project activities are integrated into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with a strong strategic focus on climate protection, climate-resilient livelihoods and disaster risk reduction.** Currently, we have 36 active projects in 23 countries to which 2.24 million people have access. Our office has been managing humanitarian, development and advocacy initiatives for 36 years, with experience in the management and administration of projects funded by the German Foreign Office, EU DG Intpa, ECHO, BMZ, Blue Action Fund and other major donors. ADRA Germany's Africa and Asia-Pacific units manage large grants across these geographic regions with multiple partners (consortia settings). Our robust Finance Department provides support to project finance staff. The Controlling & Compliance Department ensures high implementation standards and conducts partner capacity assessments to work with strengths and improve weaknesses of consortium partners.

ADRA Germany has an extensive pool of technical expertise: A M&E Unit, a Resilience Working Group with Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change (ESCC) specialists as well as the Gender Working Group, which support the implantation of gender-responsive to gender-transformative approaches and provides capacity development. Our Advocacy Unit works in Germany and internationally. We engage with the German and European policy level on a regular basis, through frequent position papers and discussion rounds and in close cooperation with other civil society actors and NGO federations. In network working groups, we exchange our experiences and formulate statements together. International climate finance and donors with an increasing climate focus make it possible to increase the protection of green livelihoods in project implementation, while ensuring that the voices of all project stakeholders are heard and taken into consideration on local, regional and national levels.

### Localized climate action within the ADRA network

The role of local communities is an essential part of our work. Our federative structure enables long-term and strategic commitment while still allowing each individual office a high degree of independence and autonomy. Local communities and organizations ensure broad expertise and networking. Thanks to its roots in local communities, our network can draw on established structures and capacities, employees and volunteers in many places. The majority of ADRA offices have developed from these very communities and local structures. **With its legally independent offices, the ADRA network is unique in its nature** and has been an example of lived localization and strong partnership for many years.

### Steps towards greener project implementation

Climate action is a tradition in ADRA projects and forms an integral part of project design and our statutes. We therefore have important expertise to share in the hope that we can inspire and support more sustainable land-use projects. As an organization, we have extensive expertise in carbon accounting, co-publishing the comprehensive **Carbon Reduction Guide** in 2021. ADRA Germany is moving towards net zero operations with the goal of climate neutrality until 2030. For this, a carbon accounting project has been launched. We have signed the

Climate Charter in 2022 and engage in climate advocacy on national, European and international level. We were also part of the ICRC pilot towards the establishment of the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator. At COP26 in 2021 and COP27 in 2022, we held sessions on community climate resilience. As a network, we have obtained the UNFCCC observer status and joined COP28 in Dubai in 2023. Important instruments are the promotion of resilience of affected population groups and disaster preparedness; the extended nexus as a holistic approach is therefore an important step for the equitable distribution of climate change impacts in the sense of "adaptation and mitigation". Important elements are to be found in shared learning, in order to raise awareness of the challenges of climate change, also in the context of development policy or humanitarian projects.

### **Climate, sustainability and environmental activities and plans ADRA Germany office and national level**

1. ADRA Germany Program Strategy for the next 5 years with emphasis on Resilience and CCA & CCM (SDG 13 being one of the few main focus priorities)
2. Carbon Accounting since 2019; at first with ADRA custom calculator, since 2022 – ICRC calculator pilot for the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator and introduction of project carbon accounting in addition to office emissions calculations and ADRA Germany emissions dashboard
3. Position paper on e.g. One Health and Nature-based Solutions
4. ADRA Germany Organizational Sustainability and Carbon Neutrality (OSCN) working group and Resilience Working Group
5. Technical staff (two full-time positions) check all new projects against our environmental, climate & sustainability standards since 2023
6. Development of technical requirements for our programs, Waste Management & Circular Economy Checklist (Clean Energy & Energy efficiency Checklist planned)
7. Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment for our development projects (NEAT+ as environmental screening tool for humanitarian projects planned)
8. Signature to the Climate Charter and publication of roadmap for Charter Commitments
9. Establishment of ADRA DE Climate & Sustainability action plan under new project and compensation of remaining emissions through national, sustainable and transparent offsetting measures that support local German biodiversity (no outsourcing of responsibility)
10. Plant-based catering internal events
11. Integration of sustainable/green procurement into procurement policies
12. Focus on climate and biodiversity in advocacy engagement towards institutional donors and parliament on German and EU level

### **Global network and international level**

13. Participation in multiple ADRA Network Technical Groups focusing on Climate-resilient Livelihoods, Resilience as well as a Climate taskforce and a COP engagement taskforce
14. Publication Carbon Reduction Guide
15. ADRA Network Environmental & Climate Change and Resilience policies
16. Active participation and co-work on ECHO Environmental Minimum Requirements
17. COP participation since 2021, observer status for network attained in 2023
18. ADRA Germany and network statements towards COP and other high-level events

Focal point: Carina Rolly, [carina.rolly@adra.de](mailto:carina.rolly@adra.de)