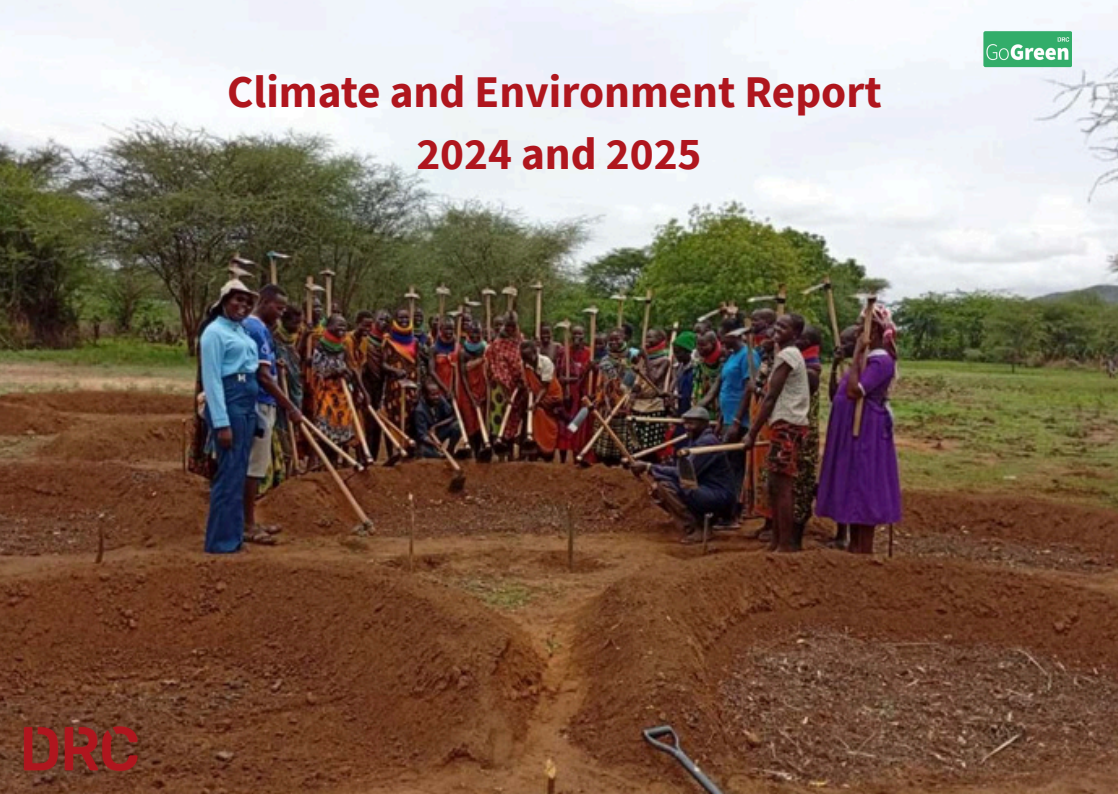
GoGreen DRC

Climate and Environment Report 2024 and 2025



DRC

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Foreword

Taking action where it matters most

Around the world, more and more people are being displaced not only by conflict, but by a changing climate combined with the growing devastating impact of environmental degradation. Unpredictable extreme weather events stemming from changing climatic patterns are setting the scene for people affected by displacement; droughts are lasting longer, floods are more frequent, and temperatures are rising. For those already living in fragile conditions, these pressures are making recovery difficult and the future uncertain.

For the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), this is not an abstract challenge—it is something we see every day. We work with displacement affected communities as they adapt to shifting seasons, rebuild after extreme weather events, and find new ways to earn a living when traditional livelihoods are no longer viable because the land and natural resources can no longer support them.

This report shares how our response has taken shape over 2024–2025. Rather than providing a full account of all DRC activities, it highlights concrete examples from across our operations. These examples show what it means to support people facing both displacement and environmental change — whether by improving access to water, building a healthy ecological foundation, strengthening livelihoods, or preparing for future shocks in daily life.

At its core, our approach is simple: humanitarian action must meet urgent needs today while helping people prepare for tomorrow. This means working in ways that strengthen communities' resilience to climate change, protect the natural resources they depend on, and reduce environmental harm. It also means recognizing displaced people as active leaders in shaping solutions that last. Progress depends on strong partnerships with local organizations, governments, and communities themselves - their knowledge and leadership ensure that solutions are locally grounded and able to continue over time.

We invite you, the reader, to see snapshots of how DRC invests in approaches that link humanitarian work with climate and environmental responsibility because we want not only to respond to crises, but to help create a future, where fewer people are forced to flee, and more can live with stability, dignity, and hope.

Eva Grambye
Executive Director Strategy, Programming and Results

How Danish Refugee Council Works on Climate and Environment

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) recognizes that climate change, combined with environmental degradation, are key drivers that increasingly compound the challenges faced by displaced people and the communities that host them. Our work is guided by key global organizational frameworks that ensure we respond effectively, responsibly, and, at scale.

DRC's climate and environment work is shaped by:

- **DRC Strategy** committing us to strengthening the resilience of people affected by conflict and displacement, while not only reducing the environmental impact but actively improving the environmental performance and impact across our own operations.[1]
- **DRC Response Framework** which guides how we act across the full displacement cycle:
  - Emergency Response – delivering rapid, principled, and high-quality assistance and protection to shocks, while preparing the ground for recovery from day one.
  - Solutions – supporting self-reliance and durable solutions so that displaced people can regain autonomy and access rights and integrate safely and sustainably.

Framework for Climate and Environment sets out the guiding principles for how climate and environmental considerations are integrated into policies, programmes, and sectors across DRC. The framework, built upon three pillars crafted upon the core principles of Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations aligning our work with humanitarian commitments to reduce environmental harm and respond to climate and environmental risks.

DRC's cross-sectoral and climate and environmental mainstreaming approach

DRC's ability to deliver environmentally responsible and climate-resilient programming is anchored in a systematic, cross-cutting approach that integrates climate and environmental considerations across the four core sectors in DRC and across diverse operational contexts:

Protection We help people stay safe and protect their rights in the face of climate risks. This includes addressing climate-related displacement, ensuring access to services, and supporting the most vulnerable.

Economic Recovery We support people to rebuild livelihoods and become more resilient to climate shocks. This includes promoting sustainable income opportunities and helping communities adapt to a changing climate in the face of environmental degradation.

Shelter and Settlements, WASH, and Infrastructure We provide safe, dignified living conditions that are climate resilient. This includes environmentally responsible shelter, access to water and sanitation, and climate resilient infrastructure that can withstand severe weather extremes.

Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding We clear land from mines and explosive hazards in line with international standards set by IMAS on environmental management and climate change in mine action. Preventing conflict and building peace is critical in supporting processes to access land and water, mitigating the potential for conflict over natural resources.

[1]DRC Strategy 2025 covers activities in this report. As of 2026, DRC is advancing a new strategy that embeds climate and environmental priorities as a core, driving force across our work.

Focus: Capacity strengthening of NEAT+ application

To enable effective and autonomous application of NEAT+, DRC has implemented a comprehensive NEAT+ Capacity Building Plan combining self-paced learning, facilitated online workshops, in depth technical trainings, and a Training of Trainers model. Key achievements over the past two years include the rollout of multilingual guidance materials and templates; completion of the NEAT+ e-learning module by over 100 staff and partners; advanced technical trainings and Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions in Bangladesh and Yemen; and tailored technical support to more than 15 country offices. The establishment of an internal NEAT+ community of practice further strengthens cross-country learning, knowledge exchange, and continuous improvement, reinforcing NEAT+ as a cornerstone tool for environmental mainstreaming across DRC global operations.

By embedding climate and environment considerations throughout the Project Cycle Management across sectors, DRC ensures that responses to displacement and protracted crises are not only effective but also sustainable, risk-informed, and forward-looking. At the core of this approach is the **Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)**, a project-level environmental screening tool increasingly applied across DRC's core sectors to identify early, the environmental risks and opportunities.

DRC's cross-cutting approach is prioritized in the integration of climate and environment considerations into sector-specific guidance tools exemplified in its **Decent Livelihoods programming**, where climate and environmental considerations are systematically integrated to both minimize harm and maximize positive environmental outcomes. The DRC **Green Livelihoods Guidance** articulates how to operationalize this vision across contexts. Through this guidance, DRC promotes environmentally sustainable income-generating opportunities that align with displacement-affected people needs and capacities, market realities, and ecological constraints. This creates a coherent, organization-wide system where tools, guidance, and sectoral expertise come together to deliver integrated, climate-sensitive programming.

This report provides a snapshot of DRC's strength and ability to operationalize environmental and climate commitments across sectors through practical tools like NEAT+, targeted capacity building, and sector-specific guidance. This ensures that climate and environmental considerations are not treated as standalone objectives, but as essential, cross-cutting components of all humanitarian and development interventions. By working across sectors and response stages, DRC ensures that climate action supports both immediate humanitarian needs and durable solutions for displacement affected populations anchored in all three pillars of the Framework for Climate and Environment.

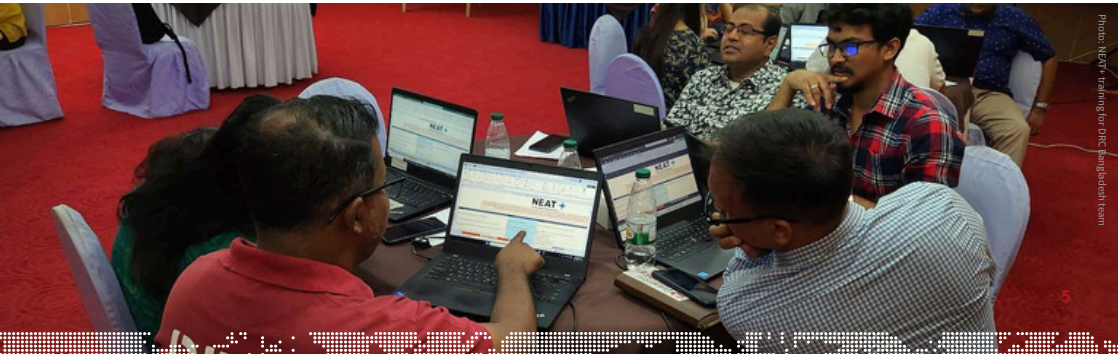


Photo: NEAT+ Training for DRC Bangladesh team

The DRC Framework on Climate and Environment

Adaptation

in Programmatic Responses

Objective:
Strengthen the resilience of displacement-affected communities to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

Mitigation

to reduce DRC's environmental and climate footprint

Objective:
Improve the Climate and Environment footprint of DRC's practices by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising the negative impacts on the environment.

Advocacy

for displaced persons in the context of climate change

Objective:
Support the rights of displaced people affected by climate change addressing climate related protection needs.

Mainstreaming of climate and environmental considerations into DRC policies and sectors
Climate and environmental considerations are mainstreamed into all relevant DRC policies and sectors, and DRC staff and partners are equipped to ensure environmental management throughout the programme cycle while addressing climate and environmental risks.

Commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations:

- Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises
- Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions
- Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities
- Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions
- Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action
- Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection


Photo: DRC HQ

Pillar 1

Climate Adaptation in Programmatic Responses

Pillar 1 focuses on climate adaptation within programmatic responses, recognizing that climate change and environmental degradation are key drivers of vulnerability and displacement. Adaptation means helping people and systems adjust to current and future climate risks, so they can better cope with extreme weather events such as floods or drought. Across its operations, DRC integrates climate adaptation into all stages of response—from emergency assistance to longer-term solutions—supporting communities to anticipate climate risks, protect their livelihoods, and recover more quickly from crises. This includes practical approaches such as disaster preparedness, sustainable natural resource management, and climate-resilient livelihoods supporting individuals, communities and the systems that support them to cope with the negative impacts associated with climate change.

A core element of this pillar is **integrated programming**, where climate adaptation is embedded across sectors rather than delivered through standalone projects. By interlinking our sectors, where possible, DRC ensures that climate risks are addressed in a holistic and coordinated way. This approach allows programmatic interventions to meet immediate needs while also building climate resilience, for example, combining safe shelter with climate-resilient infrastructure, or linking livelihoods support with sustainable land use and landscape restoration. Integrated programming increases impact and delivers solutions that are both cost-effective and sustainable in complex, climate-affected contexts.

West Africa

In West Africa, DRC has continued strengthening its role in climate adaptation by systematically integrating climate and environmental considerations across its programming, in line with the DRC 2025 strategy. DRC has supported locally led, conflict-sensitive and climate-adapted solutions by collaborating with communities to map climate and conflict risks, co-design early warning systems, and pilot livelihood alternatives to adapt to increasingly frequent extreme weather events that have led to flooding or drought. This approach has combined immediate support with investments in livelihood development, natural resource management, and diversified income generation, delivering scalable and cost-effective outcomes.

Two multi-country projects highlight how DRC prioritizes climate adaptation in supporting vulnerable communities. In **Cameroon and the Central African Republic**, the EU-funded SOLID programme promotes climate-resilient livelihoods and responsible land stewardship through agroecology and water management, activities reducing pressure on natural resources while strengthening resilience to weather extremes. Livelihood diversification such as fish farming has provided an alternative food source and income to communities that have traditionally relied upon livestock as their primary income source. In the Sahel (**Mali and Niger**), DRC has supported communities to adapt to extreme weather events through supporting community led adaptation planning resulting in preparedness plans and early warning systems. Climate adaptation activities have focused on improving agricultural yields, making food available throughout the year applying soil and water conservation practices that take into consideration both excess and insufficient rainfall. All these inter-related practices are designed with communities to support their resilience to climate change in one of the world's most climate fragile regions.

Photo: Burkina Faso team member ready to plant!

Focus: Informing scalable policy solutions

In 2024, DRC partnered with **Mixed Migration Centre (MMC)** under the three-year, SDC funded **Exploring Mobility and Building Resilience Against Climate Effects for Women in the Sahel and Coastal Regions (EMBRACE)** project to strengthen protection for climate-affected populations in West Africa. The initiative focuses on generating evidence on climate-driven mobility, developing gender-sensitive pilot interventions, and informing scalable policy solutions. Implementation is currently underway in Senegal, Mali, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Cameroon & Central African Republic - Livelihood Diversification

Solutions et Initiatives Durables (SOLID) Project 2023–2026
European Union funded initiative implemented in partnership with APROSPEN
Durable Solutions

Economy Recovery C1 C2 C5

SOLID invested in refugees and their host communities accessing climate resilient livelihood opportunities. To this end, main strategic impact areas focused on natural resource management as means to promote dialogues among communities, scaling climate-resilient food production through farmer field schools and improved seed varieties, and directing investments in capacity development around agroecology, water management, and biological pest control. DRC promoting agroecology has supported farmers to apply soil regeneration techniques such as crop diversification, intercropping and composting that have increased crop productivity while preserving ecosystems and reducing reliance on expensive external agricultural inputs. Of particular interest to communities was aquaculture development which means establishing community fish farming systems building upon local knowledge on disease prevention, stocking techniques, and aquaculture business management. Diversifying local farming systems and investing in alternative livelihoods, for example, have not only positively contributed to reducing environmental pressures but also increasing community resilience to weather extremes through having alternative coping mechanisms for income, food, and natural resources.

Photo: Promotion of local fish production

Photo: Agropastoral fence reinforced by hedgerows

Mali and Niger – Climate resilient livelihoods

Support for strengthening resilience and improving the adaptative capacities of vulnerable local communities and systems to climate change and climate-related risks in the Sahel

Danida funding complementing funding from GFFO and SDC for 2025 Partnering with Tassaght in Mali and Tillaberi in Niger

Durable Solutions

Economy Recovery

C1 C3 C4 C5 C6

In the summer of 2024, Central Sahel experienced the most intense rainfall recorded for the last 50 years, resulting in damaging floods throughout the region posing a significant threat to livelihoods and further exacerbating food insecurity and challenges to mobility.

DRC strengthened the coping capacities of vulnerable, displacement affected communities in Mali's Bandiagara region and Niger's Tillabéri region by supporting households, local systems, and community structures to better withstand and adapt to accelerating climate risks. Through climate sensitive livelihood support, sustainable agropastoral training, awareness raising on environmentally friendly production, and community driven adaptation planning, the project boosted food security and self-sufficiency while reducing long-term vulnerability to extreme weather events. Complementary measures - such as energy efficient cookstoves, women led savings groups, support to flood affected households, improved access to financial services, strengthened early warning systems, and participatory climate risk mapping - helped protect productive assets, diversify income opportunities, and reinforce local disaster preparedness. Overall, the project enhanced adaptive capacity at household and community levels, promoting inclusive, locally owned strategies for climate resilience in a highly fragile Sahelian context.

Photo: Mali MoA rice production

North Africa

In North Africa, DRC integrates climate adaptation and environmental sustainability into its programming by linking disaster preparedness, green economic development, and inclusive livelihoods. Across **Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt**, DRC applies a forward-looking, risk-informed approach that combines anticipatory action, early warning systems, and capacity strengthening of local actors to better manage increasing climate-related hazards and displacement risks. This is complemented by targeted investments in green entrepreneurship and circular economy solutions, supporting communities—particularly youth—to turn environmental challenges into sustainable economic opportunities.

Through its regional disaster preparedness consortium, DRC strengthens multi-hazard forecasting, early warning systems, and rapid response mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate climate-related shocks. In **Tunisia**, projects such as the Danish Arab Partnership Programme (DAPP) promote green entrepreneurship, enabling innovative recycling and sustainable business models that reduce environmental impact while creating jobs. Together, these examples demonstrate DRC's ability to deliver locally driven, scalable climate adaptation solutions that enhance resilience and provide strong value for donor investment.

Focus: Consortium on Disaster Preparedness Support to Key Emergency Actors in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya

Funded by ECHO, DRC and NRC are jointly implementing a multi-country consortium in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya in close collaboration with government and local partners. The programme enhances regional preparedness through predictive modelling for multi-hazard displacement forecasting, targeted capacity strengthening for first responders, and community-based risk reduction initiatives.

A key feature is the inclusion of a flexible Crisis Modifier, enabling rapid response to sudden-onset emergencies. By integrating these components into existing systems, the consortium delivers practical, scalable solutions that strengthen coordinated disaster response and build long-term resilience across the region.

Focus: Reducing our environmental footprint creates jobs!
The Danish Arab Partnership Programming (DAPP) in Tunisia

Teycyr Chtioui is a young woman that exemplifies the ingenuity of youth addressing key environmental issues while creating job opportunities in their communities. Teycyr Chtioui is co-founder of Chkarty, a Tunisian design brand that creates bags, clutches, and laptop sleeves from recycled textiles that would otherwise end up as waste. "*In 2020, I spent 3 euros on a piece of old fabric, designed a very simple bag, and hired a seamstress to make it. Now I have transformed 8 tons of old fabric and sold 22,000 products*." As a trained designer and photographer, Teycyr had no experience starting or running a business. Through the Danish Arab Partnership Program's job creation project, she joined a four-month startup program that helped her build a sustainable business model. "*That's when I started to understand the business side of things, and I ended up changing my entire setup – it was a big improvement,*" she explains. Sustainability is at the heart of Chkarty. Teycyr collects textile waste from factories and recycling markets and turns it into zero-waste products. As Chkarty grew, Teycyr received further support from DAPP, this time through a five-month incubation program that provided mentorship and prepared her to export abroad. Today, Teycyr employs 12 seamstresses, has built a strong online brand, and looks forward to expanding internationally.

"*In a busy month, I can sell up to 3,000 products, and I am working on starting exports to France. I started with 3 euros, and now I sell for 60,000 euros a year. One of my dreams for the future is to hire more people. It makes me happy that through the growth of my business, I can create jobs in my local community. It feels good*."


Source – DFC Tunisia

East Africa

In East Africa, DRC positions climate adaptation at the core of its response to displacement, fragility, and climate shocks by integrating climate resilience and conflict sensitivity into livelihoods, natural resource management, and provision of basic needs in an emergency. Across the region, projects combine nature-based solutions, regenerative agriculture, and climate-smart economic recovery with locally led peacebuilding approaches to reduce conflict over scarce resources and strengthen social cohesion. This includes support to inclusive natural resource governance, dialogue, and conflict resolution mechanisms that help communities manage social tensions over scarce, often degraded natural resources.

DRC also advances anticipatory action approaches, using multi-hazard forecasting, early warning systems, and community-based planning to enable early response to droughts, floods, and displacement risks before they escalate into crises or conflict. By linking climate adaptation with peacebuilding and risk reduction, this integrated model strengthens communities' ability to prevent and manage both environmental and conflict-related shocks, while supporting more sustainable and resilient livelihoods. This approach demonstrates how humanitarian and development investments can deliver scalable, cost-effective outcomes across climate adaptation and peacebuilding.

In **Ethiopia**, community-led irrigation systems improve water access and climate-resilient food production in drought-prone areas, supported by anticipatory approaches that better prepare communities for water variability. Meanwhile, cross-border programming in **Kenya and Uganda** combines regenerative agriculture with anticipatory action, leveraging climate forecasting and local knowledge to reduce climate-related risks, support peaceful coexistence, and enable communities to act ahead of climate shocks. In **South Sudan**, nature-based solutions such as agroforestry, tree nurseries, and sustainable energy alternatives reduce deforestation while strengthening livelihoods for displaced populations.

Focus: DRC South Sudan – Finding answers for displacement affected populations in nature-based solutions

The Danish Refugee Council implements nature-based solutions through integrated natural resource management approaches that restore ecosystems while supporting livelihoods. In the refugee-hosting camps of Ruweng Administrative Area, this includes the establishment of community-managed tree nurseries, woodlot establishment and management, promotion of agroforestry systems, and sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products such as honey and fruits. Through interventions such as agroforestry, fuel-efficient stoves, and bio-briquette production, DRC has reduced deforestation, improved access to energy, increased carbon sequestration. These interventions contribute to biodiversity conservation, soil restoration, and reduced environmental degradation, while simultaneously providing environmentally sustainable income-generating activities, particularly for women and youth.

Photo: Reaping the benefits of Regenerative Agriculture Design (RAD) in Turkana, Kenya

Ethiopia – Water for food security

Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus Programme - Building sustained climate resilience and food security in disaster affected communities in Ethiopia

Sida and Norwegian Embassy (NMFA) July 2024-December 2027, partners include - Action Against Hunger, Internation Rescue Committee

Durable Solutions

The Wasama irrigation scheme construction under the Humanitarian Development and Peace (HDP) Nexus Programme has shown that reliable water access is fundamental to improving food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience in communities while also supporting a solid foundation for social cohesion. The HDP Nexus program applies an approach where emergency aid, long-term development and peacebuilding efforts are connected so that communities can recover from crisis, build resilience and prevent future conflict. In this program, community-led planning and construction strengthen ownership and sustainability, while the use of local labour provided short-term income and skills, especially for youth. Overall, this intervention has demonstrated how an HDP Nexus approach can restore dignity, build resilience, and create lasting change when communities are actively engaged and work with the environment to manage water resources in a way that benefits everyone. And when communities prioritize everyone having equitable access to water for household and agricultural use – it contributes to lasting peace.

Focus: Increased access to water is "life-changing" in Ethiopia

In the arid plains of Wasama kebele, Ibrahim Mohammed has spent decades coaxing life from the soil. His farming methods-hand tools, oxen, and even camels-were shaped more by necessity than choice. With sorghum and maize as staples, and a modest patch of tomato for household use, his yields barely reached 600 kg per season. "*Flooding would destroy our diversion structures*," he recalls. "*We had no tools, no fertilizer, no knowledge of soil or moisture management.*" Water scarcity was more than an inconvenience - it was a threat to survival. Ibrahim's community faced chronic food insecurity, compounded by the absence of agricultural extension support, credit services, and climate-smart practices. "*If we are secured with the availability of water*," he said, "*we can ensure our food*".

In May 2025, the HDP Nexus Program - implemented by DRC with support from Sida and NMFA broke ground on a small-scale irrigation scheme in Wasama. The community was not just consulted, they were engaged. Through multiple meetings and local labour, residents helped shape the infrastructure. "*I'm very happy with the quality of construction*," Ibrahim shared. "*It even gave us income through labour and transferred skills to our youth.*"

Source: DRC Ethiopia

Kenya & Uganda – Locally Adapted Solutions

Karamoja Strong Community-led resilience in the face of climate-induced loss, displacement, and conflict project
Danida (2025-2027), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is the consortium lead working in partnership, in Uganda with Caritas Moroto Diocese, Karamoja Herders of the Horn (KHH), and in Kenya, SIKOM, Frontiers Children Development Organization (FCDO), Caritas Lodwar and across both countries African Women Rising (AWR) and Samuel Hall East Africa.

Economy Recovery | Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding | C1 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6

This initiative strengthens locally led anticipatory and adaptive practices and interventions in cross-border Karamoja areas by supporting communities to adopt responsive gender-sensitive, climate-resilient livelihood practices. It enhances the capacity of cross-border authorities to monitor and assess climate risks, ensuring that information is well-connected, accessible, and available to communities most affected by climate change. These efforts contribute to reducing loss and damage linked to both climate and conflict-related events, while building climate resilience and enhancing peaceful co-existence across the Karamoja Cluster communities.

Under the Karamoja Strong project, DRC Kenya, in partnership with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and the Meteorological Department, convene community discussions on key weather issues. These discussions strengthen climate resilience by collaboratively interpreting seasonal weather forecasts through both indigenous knowledge systems and scientific meteorological data, fostering community ownership over disaster preparedness measures. Turkana elders share traditional climate and social cohesion risks gathered through interpreting patterns in the intestines of a freshly slaughtered goat. These localised predictions are compared and aligned with the Meteorological Department seasonal forecasts for the rainfall season, including expectations of above or below normal rainfall, pasture and water availability, and corresponding potentials for heightened flood and disease risks. Participants received clear, actionable guidance on flood preparedness, farming and livestock planning, and community dissemination on weather information.

Photo: An elder sharing his forecast information after examining the intestines


Photo: Metrological department Director sharing the JJA rainfall information with the participants.

Focus: Anticipatory Action working in partnership across East Africa and going global

Anticipatory action as a key approach ensuring that displacement responses stand on solid analysis and evidence of linkages between climate change, environment, and displacement – an approach led by local actors. DRC has further developed our approach to conflict- and climate- induced displacement. In **Somalia**, DRC has engaged in a joint project with IOM to develop a multi-hazard displacement forecasting model that for each quarter predicts the number of displaced people due to drought, flood, and conflict. The model has been used to feed into planning processes in the humanitarian community in Somalia. This approach has also been replicated by DRC, in Ethiopia.

Multi-hazard anticipatory action in East Africa. DRC is part of a consortium with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), on scaling harmonized and coordinated multi-hazard anticipatory action in the region, with a particular focus on climate. The inherent multi-hazard approach aims to address the dynamic nature of climate conflict- and displacement-related risks. The project directly contributes to the IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action and supports harmonisation and coordination of Anticipatory Action at regional and national levels through the Regional Technical Working Group.

Anticipatory Action for displacement. DRC and the United Nation International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have established and co-chair a global working group on **Anticipatory Action for Displacement.** The working group focuses on anticipatory action: 1) to prevent or mitigate displacement and the needs arising from displacement, and 2) for people already displaced, recognizing their specific vulnerabilities to climate shocks.

The working group promotes greater technical collaboration, advocacy, and learning to strengthen anticipatory action in displacement settings. It brings together a diverse set of actors to share resources, develop practical guidance, and align strategies for more effective anticipation of displacement risks.

Photo: BORESHA Somalia

Uganda – Regenerative Agriculture and Ecosystem Restoration

Uganda Refugee Resilience Initiative (URRI) 2024 to 2028

Danida Consortium led by DRC in collaboration with DanChurch Aid (DCA), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), Promoters of Agriculture and Market Linkages (PALM Corps), Partners in Development and Centre for Holistic Transformation (PICOT)

Economy Recovery | Shelter & Settlement, WASH and Infrastructure | Protection

C1 C3 C4 C5 C6

The **Uganda Refugee Resilience Initiative (URRI)** is a five-year flagship programme (2024–2028) implemented by a DRC-led consortium to strengthen climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and social cohesion in refugee-hosting areas of West Nile, Uganda. Operating in six districts hosting large refugee populations from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, URRI responds to the compounding impacts of climate change, land degradation, poverty, and displacement. Through an integrated approach centred on regenerative, climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and gender equality, the programme supports refugees and host communities to improve food security, incomes, and resilience while reducing pressure on natural resources.

URRI delivers impact through three mutually reinforcing outcomes: 1) strengthening climate adaptation and livelihoods through inclusive agricultural extension and market linkages; 2) restoring degraded landscapes and promoting sustainable management of land and water through nature-based solutions; and 3) advancing women's leadership, rights, and decision-making in agriculture and environmental governance. The programme is implemented in close partnership with district governments, local NGOs, refugee-led organisations, and the private sector, ensuring strong local ownership and long-term sustainability. By combining low-cost, knowledge-based practices with institutional capacity building and market engagement, URRI demonstrates how humanitarian and development investments can deliver durable, climate-resilient outcomes for displaced and host communities alike positioning the programme as a model for integrated, climate-responsive action in protracted displacement settings**.**

Focus: Paving the way for systematic adoption of Regenerative Agricultural Design (RAD) in DRC

To support displacement-affected populations, who often live in resource-scarce areas, DRC took the decision in 2024 to invest in regenerative agriculture in its food security sub-sector. Regenerative Agriculture Design (RAD) is a context-specific, farmer-led approach that integrates permaculture principles to restore soil health, manage water, and enhance biodiversity. Practical applications in East Africa include large-scale, community-led projects in Uganda refugee camps in West Nile region to pastoralists in the Karamoja region, supporting communities to adapt to weather extremes and reduce conflict over natural resources.

Focus: Investing in soil builds household income – the power in applying a regenerative agriculture approach

In Yumbe District, in north-western Uganda, land long dismissed as too rocky and degraded to farm is proving its potential through the experience of 38-year-old farmer **Waku Iddi**. In Kamala village, Agyogi Parish, rocky plots had been used only for grazing for generations. "*In the 1940s, my father said this land was abundant… but as I grew up, the soil was seen as useless. For over 80 years, nothing was grown from here*," Mr. Iddi recalls.

When PICOT, a local NGO under the URRI programme, asked to use his 0.8-acre plot as a regenerative agriculture demonstration site, scepticism was widespread: "*We all said this land has never produced anything. You can't make miracles here.*" Yet within six months, through trenches, contours, planting basins, organic soil cover, and diversified planting—including sixteen varieties of vegetables and 5 species of trees—the land was transformed. Today, Mr. Iddi earns between UGX 8,000 - 15,000 per week while feeding his family daily with fresh produce. "*Every week I sell produce, and still my family eats better than before. Our diet has changed completely,*" he says, adding, "*I never believed anything could grow here. Now, the land is feeding my family and giving us income. Just months after being dismissed as a "hopeless plot,"* Mr. Iddi's land now stands as a model for the entire community.

Source: DRC Uganda

Latin America

In Latin America, DRC delivers targeted, high-impact climate adaptation programming that links disaster preparedness with green economic inclusion in displacement-affected contexts. DRC effectively combines anticipatory action, early warning systems, and climate-informed livelihoods support to help communities reduce risk, strengthen resilience, and access sustainable income opportunities. This integrated approach enables displaced and host populations to not only withstand climate shocks but also participate in emerging green economy pathways, offering scalable and cost-effective solutions for donor investment.

In **Venezuela**, DRC is a leading actor in disaster preparedness, strengthening community resilience through early warning systems, risk mapping, and anticipatory action that enables communities to act ahead of floods and extreme weather events. In **Colombia**, DRC has promoted green livelihoods and certification, supporting refugees and host communities to access sustainable jobs while improving environmental practices in key sectors. Together, these interventions demonstrate DRC's strength in translating climate risks into practical, locally led adaptation solutions that deliver both resilience and economic inclusion.

Focus: Green Training and Certification for Businesses

DRC Colombia promotes green livelihoods for Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and local entrepreneurs. The program aims at increasing access to sustainable jobs and integrating displaced populations into Colombia's growing green economy, while striving to bridge the gender gap (men hold 75%+ of high/medium green jobs; women are underrepresented and earn less). The selection of the green economy sectors for this project was based on research utilizing Colombia's Green Jobs Opportunity Index (GOJI), which classifies green jobs into high, medium, and low potential categories. DRC conducted a market systems assessment, categorized green jobs, and designed interventions for employability and business support. DRC partnered with companies in the construction/manufacturing sector to promote women's hiring and upskill workers. Partner businesses were supported to improve their environmental practices and access to green business certification. Ensuring equitable access to green job opportunities will not only contribute to their economic self-reliance but also strengthen Colombia's overall economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

Photo: DRC Venezuela

Venezuela – Disaster Preparedness

Climate resilience has become a key priority for the region with DRC becoming a leading actor in Venezuela on disaster preparedness in a displacement context. In **Venezuela**, DRC led two Disaster Preparedness and Anticipatory Action projects in Apure and Zulia and a consortium focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and coordination efforts in partnership with Caritas Venezuela. By identifying community risk profiles, defining indicators and triggers, developing contingency plans and early action protocols, and strengthening or installing early warning systems, communities will be provided with effective tools to prepare for disasters. These disaster preparedness initiatives have been made possible through the support of the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG -ECHO). All activities have had a strong localization approach, implemented in alliance with the national NGO FUDEP, supporting communities and local authorities in co-developing Early Action Protocols with impact-based triggers and context-specific early actions. Interventions have strengthened early warning systems, integrating hydrometeorological and climate-variability data with local observations, and improving risk communication and coordination mechanisms. Together, these efforts enhance the capacity of at-risk communities to anticipate extreme rainfall and rising river levels and to take protective measures before floods escalate into humanitarian emergencies.

Focus: Being prepared for floods is lifesaving

"We, as a community, had no idea what a risk map, escape routes, or other safety measures were. Now we have a community map and escape routes, which, as individuals and as a community, makes us feel much safer. And now we're not afraid of an event happening because we know what to do and we're more organized. We have an emergency plan in place. And thanks to the FUDE and DRC teams, we have the necessary tools. The most valuable technical skill, in my opinion, is prevention—preventing as much as possible—and the first preventative measure would be the INAME forecasts. Before, we had no contact with any agency. Currently, thanks to the training provided by DRC and FUDEP, we have the presence of civil protection officials and firefighters, who have given us their contact information so we can communicate in case of any emergency. This year we plan to activate the early action protocol in the Zulia River area; at a focal point we have already identified. Thanks to these supplies, we, as a committee, can provide first aid to those who need it. We are proud to see a community organized with a clear path forward in the event of an emergency. The greatest impact is seeing ourselves, as a community, prepared to overcome any adversity."

Member of the CRE of the El Gallinazo community, Catatumbo municipality, Zulia

Source - DRC Venezuela

Middle East

DRC is advancing climate resilience across the Middle East by integrating ecosystem restoration, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable land management into its programming, with a strong focus on vulnerable and displacement-affected communities. Through labour-intensive approaches such as Cash for Work, DRC links environmental restoration with livelihood support, restoring degraded landscapes, protecting critical water infrastructure, and strengthening local capacities for climate adaptation. In water-scarce contexts like **Jordan**, interventions such as afforestation, watershed restoration, and erosion control contribute to improved water security, reduced disaster risks, and strengthened agricultural productivity. Across **Yemen**, DRC supports community-driven climate action by building the capacity of civil society organisations and financing locally led adaptation solutions, including water harvesting, climate-resilient agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. In **Iraq**, DRC is promoting innovative and sustainable agricultural practices, such as vermicomposting , using earthworms to break down food scraps into nutrient rich compost, which enhance soil health, reduce emissions, and strengthen long-term resilience of farming systems.

DRC places strong emphasis on inclusive approaches, ensuring that women, youth, displaced populations, and marginalized groups are actively engaged in climate adaptation initiatives. Complementing these efforts, DRC supports knowledge generation, coordination, and advocacy, including drought assessments and multi-stakeholder platforms that inform evidence-based climate responses and policy dialogue.

Syria Community Consortium

Focus: Power in partnerships to support farmers in their fight to adapt to climate change

Syrian Community Consortium (SCC). The Syrian Community Consortium, led by DRC, brings together, International Medical Corps (IMC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Oxfam—four INGOs with over a decade of operational presence in Syria. Building on established early recovery experience, the SCC leverages complementary expertise to support community-led resilience and recovery. Initial achievements include the establishment of community committees, provision of micro-finance and value-chain support, rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, installation of solar lighting in high-use public spaces, and expanded access to mobile and primary health services and non-formal education. Through a phased multi-year approach, the consortium aims to strengthen community capacities to adapt livelihoods and service delivery systems in the face of recurrent climatic shocks.

Jordan - Ecosystem Restoration

Protecting Mujib and Fidan Dams and Surrounding Areas in Southern Ghours through Nature based Solutions and Labour-Intensive Measures Supporting Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Jordanians.
Donor is BMZ implemented by GIZ in partnership with DRC in cooperation with Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Nov 2025 to October 2026
Durable Solutions

Jordan is one of the world's most water-scarce countries, where climate change, land degradation, and rapid population growth place increasing strain on already limited natural resources. Soil erosion and sedimentation threaten dam reservoirs, reducing water storage capacity and undermining long-term agricultural production and water security—particularly for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees whose livelihoods depend on stable access to land and water.

In response, DRC and the German Development Agency (GIZ), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implements the **Cash for Work (CfW) – Protection of Water Dams Project** in partnership with national institutions such as the Jordan Valley Authority. The project combines climate adaptation with livelihood support through a labour-intensive approach that delivers short-term employment while strengthening environmental protection and natural resource management.

Through integrated interventions in land and agriculture, water resource management, and disaster risk reduction, the project helps restore degraded landscapes, reduce soil erosion, and protect critical water infrastructure. Activities including afforestation, watershed restoration, and the construction of check dams and retaining walls improve rainwater harvesting, limit sediment accumulation, and enhance irrigation resources for farmers. At the same time, these measures reduce vulnerability to climate-related shocks such as floods. By linking ecosystem restoration with income generation, the Cash for Work approach provides immediate economic relief while building local capacity in climate-resilient practices. The project demonstrates how targeted donor investment can simultaneously support vulnerable communities, protect vital natural resources, and contribute to long-term resilience and stability in a highly climate-vulnerable context.

Yemen - Food Security

Strengthening the Capacity and Resilience of Yemeni Communities to the Risks of Climate Change 2024-2027
EU partnership with Civil Society Organisations on Climate Change and Youth
Durable Solutions

The project responds to acute climate vulnerabilities—such as water scarcity, floods, droughts, soil degradation, and declining agricultural productivity—that are exacerbating poverty, food insecurity, displacement, and social tension. The project aims to enhance the resilience of conflict-affected communities by strengthening local civil society organisations (CSOs) and enabling community-led climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions aligned with national priorities on environmental sustainability, water management, and local development.

The project will directly benefit around 3,600 households (approximately 25,200 people), at least 50% women, with a strong focus on youth and marginalized groups including IDPs, returnees, Muhamasheen, and people with disabilities. It works through two mutually reinforcing outcomes: (1) building the technical, organisational, and advocacy capacities of eight local CSOs to assess climate risks, raise awareness, and design and implement locally prioritised climate adaptation and mitigation micro-projects such as water harvesting, ecosystem restoration, and climate-resilient agriculture; and, (2) strengthening coordination and evidence-based advocacy among communities, CSOs, government institutions, and research actors through district-level climate action fora and knowledge-sharing platforms. By combining capacity building, financing of community-driven micro-projects, and multi-stakeholder coordination, the action delivers tangible resilience outcomes while laying the groundwork for sustainable, locally led climate governance beyond the project's lifespan.

Photo: DRC Yemen

Focus: Locally Led Climate Adaptation with Indigenous Knowledge as a Foundation in Yemen

For thousands of years, Yemeni communities have developed integrated systems to manage rainfall and floods in environments characterized by highly irregular precipitation and intense runoff. The primary challenge was never a lack of water, but the way rain arrived in short, violent bursts that turned into destructive floods. In response, rainwater harvesting tanks, ponds, small dams, agricultural terraces, and diversion structures were designed as a single, connected system to capture floodwater, slow its movement, control its release, and store water for use during long dry periods.

Ancient technology has been designed as multi-functional. Many storage tanks were constructed above villages, serving a dual purpose: reducing flood energy to protect settlements while securing a reliable water supply throughout dry seasons. Tanks were not isolated engineering works, but components of a wider social system governed by customary rules for water sharing, maintenance, and conflict resolution. This integration of infrastructure and social governance ensured equity, continuity, and long-term sustainability across generations.

Indigenous knowledge offers a core lesson for community-based adaptation. The most effective solutions are rooted in deep local understanding and integrate hydrological design with social organization. Under current climate pressures, the challenge is not to replace these practices, but to strengthen and adapt them through modern science. Climate and hydrological analysis now support improved site selection, storage sizing, safety thresholds, and risk management, while preserving the indigenous knowledge that underpins these systems.

Source: JRC Yemen

Asia and Europe

Across Asia and Europe, DRC integrates climate adaptation into frontline humanitarian responses, demonstrating how immediate assistance can also build resilience to climate change. Highlighted in this section are but a few DRC activities, in selected countries, that support vulnerable populations to adapt to climate change. In **Myanmar**, emergency WASH interventions reduce climate-related health risks through safe water access, early warning systems, and environmentally responsible waste management. In **Afghanistan**, livelihood programmes promote climate-smart agriculture and diversified incomes, enabling vulnerable households to adapt to changing climatic conditions and reduce economic shocks. In **Ukraine**, winterization efforts incorporate energy-efficient shelter repairs and resilient infrastructure, helping communities withstand harsher winters and energy disruptions. Together, these approaches show how DRC delivers cost-effective, scalable solutions that address urgent needs while strengthening climate resilience, offering clear added value for vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change.

Source: DRC Afghanistan

Myanmar - Addressing basic needs for water, sanitation, and hygiene

Myanmar First Line Emergency Response Mechanism (FLER 2 and 3) 2022-24 and 2025-26
ECHO, partnering with Meikswe Myanmar, Alinn BLDO, Dai Fin Social Service and Karuna Mission Social Solidarity Emergency Response

Economy Recovery | Shelter & Settlements, WASH and Infrastructure | Protection | C1 | C3 | C5 | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Project FLER1 to 3 has addressed urgent humanitarian needs while tackling the growing impacts of climate and environmental risks on conflict-affected communities. It strengthens local capacity to deliver timely, coordinated, and climate-sensitive responses through early warning systems and contingency planning. Vulnerable populations receive safe and appropriate emergency assistance, including WASH services that reduce climate-related public health risks. DRC, in collaboration with its partners, promotes environmentally responsible solutions, such as sustainable solid waste management in displacement settings, to reduce contamination and prevent vector-borne diseases. Hygiene promotion further reinforces the link between environmental health and disease prevention. In parallel, communities are supported to access safe and sufficient water, acknowledging water scarcity as a critical climate challenge. By integrating climate and environmental considerations into life-saving interventions, FLER ensures that immediate assistance also contributes to longer-term resilience, offering strong and sustainable value for donor investment.

Focus: Applying knowledge through community collaboration results in taking care of your environment and improving your family's health

Daw May is a widower with five children. Daw May and her family lived in Baungdyut village in Mrauk U Township. However, due to the escalation of the conflict between the United League of Arakan (ULA) and the Myanmar Army Force, Daw May and her family had to flee their village, leaving all their belongings behind. Since then, they have been living at the Aung Zay Ti IDP site in Mrauk U township where DRC provides services. She stated that "These sessions are very useful. After receiving the hygiene promotion awareness messages, I led the latrine cleaning campaign in the camp, and I mobilized the nearest community to participate in the latrine cleaning and environmental cleaning campaign.

Source: DRC Myanmar

Afghanistan – Livelihood diversification

Livelihoods Improvement through Inclusive Food Security (LIFE) project (2022 to 2025)
European Union, working in partnership with Aga Khan Foundation (lead) and Rehabilitation Association Agriculture Development for Afghanistan (RAADA)
Durable Solutions

LIFE safeguarded the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in rural, underserved areas of Northern, Central/Eastern and Western Afghanistan, through a comprehensive package of interventions focused on sustainable food production, climate-smart agriculture and resilient infrastructure, community-based employment, income-generation and saving opportunities, and market-oriented business development.

Watapur District in Kunar Province is home to around 103,500 residents. The majority of the population in the area lives from agricultural production, which mostly takes place on a small scale, with small-holder farmers selling their produce at local markets in village centers such as the main street through Watapur village, the district's capital. DRC, alongside consortium partners, supported local enterprises in Watapur with climate-smart agricultural training, financial and management training, and start-up funding for equipment and business growth. DRC also worked to create market linkages between enterprises to strengthen local value chains and reinforce mutual growth.

Focus: Alternative household income helps families cope with a changing climate and provide hope for the future generation

Rohama and her husband, Samiullah, live in a joint family home in Watapur, where they run a small pastoral farm. Between March and September 2025, the family received 85,000 AFN, approximately 1,090 EUR, as business startup support from DRC, accompanied by agricultural, financial, and management training which were attended separately by both Rohama and Samiullah. "Thanks to the support", Rohama says, "our family's economic situation and outlook for the future have changed for the better". The family was able to purchase six additional cows from the received grant and invest in additional farming equipment such as a hay cutter, artificial insemination tools, and milk processing machines, which ease their daily chores. Rohama hopes that the family's improved economic circumstances, will allow the couple to create better opportunities for their children. Her wish is for them to obtain professional education, such as in medicine or engineering, and eventually settle in the surrounding area.

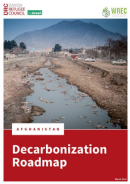
Source - DRC Afghanistan

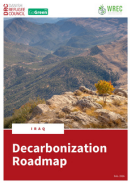
Ukraine - Climate Resilient Infrastructures

Integrated lifesaving assistance and protection services to conflict-affected and most vulnerable individuals in Ukraine (Winterization activities) and Winterization Allocation 2025
Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)
Partners: Lampa, Pomogaem, LoMW, AoS, Misto Syly

The DRC Ukraine Winter Response Plan 2025-26 can be seen as a climate adaptation response that addresses both conflict damage and recovery and intensifying winter conditions. By prioritizing energy-efficient shelter repairs, insulation, and sustainable heating, the intervention not only meets urgent lifesaving needs but also strengthens the ability of homes and critical infrastructure to withstand colder extremes and energy disruptions. This approach reduces long-term vulnerability, lowers energy demand, and supports more resilient service delivery, positioning winterization as a scalable entry point for climate-resilient recovery and a relevant avenue for climate adaptation financing.

Photos: Conflict-affected communities' safety, functionality and energy security is restored through the rehabilitation of homes, social facilities and critical infrastructure. This approach aligns humanitarian winterization assistance with broader climate adaptation goals, contributing to climate-resilient recovery while addressing urgent lifesaving needs. This approach aligns humanitarian winterization assistance with broader climate adaptation goals, contributing to climate-resilient recovery while addressing urgent lifesaving needs.





GoGreen

Pillar 2

Mitigation to Reduce Our Carbon and Environmental Footprint

The Danish Refugee Council is systematically reducing the climate and environmental impact of its humanitarian operations—committed to avoid, minimise, and responsibly manage harm while continuing to deliver life-saving assistance. Guided by its Climate and Environment Framework, DRC is translating ambition into action through clear targets, strong governance, and sustained investment to cut emissions and improve sustainability. Recognising that lasting change requires collective effort, DRC works with partners, donors, and suppliers to accelerate practical, scalable solutions.

This chapter highlights how, over the past two years, DRC has significantly systematized its decarbonization efforts, reducing the carbon and environmental footprint while continuing to meet the urgent needs of people affected by displacement and crisis.

C1 C2 C5

From Strategy to Action

In 2024, DRC launched its Global Decarbonization Roadmap, setting a clear target to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. Grounded in the humanitarian "do no harm" principle, the roadmap ensures that emission reductions never compromise our ability to deliver assistance to displacement-affected populations. The global roadmap underpins Country specific Decarbonization Roadmaps tailored to national contexts. Collectively, these guide the identification of emission sources, priority reduction actions, standardized implementation processes, and monitoring procedures of progress toward the 2030 target. Each individual country roadmap covers their key operational and strategic areas including renewable energy transition, sustainable fleet and mobility systems, lower carbon business travel and freight, sustainable procurement and supply chains, waste management and circularity, and carbon accounting and emissions monitoring. In 2024-2025, roadmaps were completed for DRC's country offices: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Uganda.

Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision-Making

To strengthen evidence-based decision-making and measure progress toward DRC's 2030 emission targets, DRC conducted a series of global assessments in 2024–2025 providing a robust evidence base to guide investments, improve operational efficiency, and deliver measurable environmental and cost-saving outcomes across country operations:

Fleet Inventory & Sustainable Performance Report

The DRC fleet being accountable for 5% of DRCs total carbon emissions led to the completion of a comprehensive fleet assessment across 36 country operations, collecting fuel consumption data and calculated associated carbon emissions including operational practices and maintenance schedules in 2024. This assessment established a global baseline for fleet-related emissions and produced clear, actionable insights on fleet size, vehicle types and age, usage patterns, and fuel consumption. The findings identified opportunities to reduce emissions and operating costs through fleet right sizing, maintenance, route optimization, and expanded use of shared and alternative mobility solutions.

Warehouse Assessment

In 2024, DRC conducted a global warehouse assessment covering 74 warehouses in 18 countries to better understand energy use, waste generation, and operational inefficiencies. The resulting Sustainable Performance Report provides a practical knowledge base for improving warehouse sustainability worldwide. The assessment examined energy sources, waste streams, storage and operational practices, and existing environmental measures. It identified strong potential for facility energy optimization, including solar installations, improved waste segregation, recycling and reuse opportunities, and stronger compliance with environmental standards. The findings are informing the development of minimum environmental standards for warehouses and targeted capacity-building for warehouse teams on sustainability and carbon management.

Waste Management Assessment (WMA)

Piloted in Tanzania and Kenya, the Waste Management Assessment analysed waste volumes, types, infrastructure gaps, and value-chain opportunities. The assessment revealed high volumes of organic waste, plastics, paper, e-waste, and fleet-related waste, alongside significant opportunities for composting, recycling partnerships, and improved segregation. This assessment provides the evidence foundation for DRC's global Waste Management Policy and Standard Operating Procedures, supporting measurable emissions reductions and integration of waste minimization into procurement, fleet, and facility management.

Global Energy Assessment: Transitioning to Renewable Energy

DRC conducted an organization-wide energy assessment covering offices, warehouses, and guesthouses to identify opportunities for renewable energy. As of 2025, 47 DRC facilities across 14 countries are fully or partially powered by solar energy. Solarization has improved energy reliability, reduced reliance on diesel generators, lowered operating costs, and enhanced operational resilience. New facilities are being assessed for solar readiness, prioritizing high-consumption sites. This initiative supports long-term cost efficiency while delivering clear reductions in carbon emissions.

Country-Level Highlights on Reducing Our Carbon and Environmental Footprint

DRC demonstrates strong operational leadership in climate action, translating strategy into practical, measurable emission reduction initiatives across diverse and complex contexts. Across regions, DRC prioritizes implementing low-carbon energy solutions, sustainable logistics and procurement, waste reduction and circular practices, and data-driven fleet and supply chain optimization. Our strength lies in turning pilots into scalable solutions, embedding decarbonization into day-to-day operations while improving reliability, efficiency, and compliance. This chapter highlights how DRC's country teams across regions are delivering ambitious climate results through innovation, partnerships, and operational excellence.

West Africa

In **Burkina Faso**, across its programs and operations, the office implemented measures that have directly contributed to lowering carbon emissions and reducing environmental impact. Key actions include: waste reduction and circular practices; low-carbon choices in emergency response; environmentally responsible logistics and procurement; and development of decarbonization roadmap. The installed solar panels in Dedougou office not only resulted in carbon emission reductions but also an annual saving of 3380 USD.

In **Nigeria**, a large-scale solarization initiative was launched to reduce dependence on diesel generators across field offices and guesthouses, particularly in high-cost and high-risk locations. The initiative achieved a 60–65% reduction in fuel consumption and avoiding approximately 500 tons of CO_2 annually. Certain locations, including Bama, Pulka, and the Banki Safe Space, operate at around 90% solar dependency, demonstrating strong scalability in remote settings. All these actions are not only reducing our environmental footprint but improving operational reliability.

In **Chad**, a sustainable energy initiative represented by a hybrid solar energy system combining photovoltaic panels and battery storage was installed as part of a coordination-led initiative implemented over a two-year period. The installation has significantly reduced the use of diesel generators during daytime operations with savings made each year, lowering fuel dependency and easing associated logistical requirements. In addition to operational efficiencies, the system has contributed to improved air quality and reduced noise pollution.

Focus: Reducing our Environmental footprint

DRC is strengthening waste management systems in displacement contexts by transforming environmental challenges into inclusive economic opportunities. Building on the success of its Fair Recycling initiative in Kenya, which integrated refugees and other marginalized waste pickers into a formal plastic recycling value chain, DRC is scaling partnerships with private-sector actors across multiple countries. Through the Refugee Investment Facility in Kenya, DRC is investing in businesses that create dignified jobs for refugees in waste collection and processing.

East Africa

In **Kenya**, the DRC offices have launched improved waste management practices introducing office waste segregation and established partnerships with licensed recyclers. WREC coalition member have undertaken the following activities, exploring the use of shredding machine in Dadaab camps for managing packaging items; collaborating in building waste value chains in Garissa and Kakuma refugee camps by engaging the private sector or establishing reverse logistics efforts to reduce waste dumping/burning; Ensuring the segregation and reuse or recycle of all hazardous and non-hazardous waste types generated in offices and warehouses reducing open dumping/burning in all counties with WREC Coalition partner presence. DRC Kenya also completed Training of Trainers (ToT) on fleet rightsizing and participated in the Fleet Futures Lab to explore sustainable fleet solutions. DRC **Uganda** has completed its Decarbonization roadmap focused on energy transition and waste reduction and in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, DRC developed fleet tracking tools improving fuel monitoring and enabling evidence-based fleet planning.


Photo: DRC HQ

Asia

Our DRC **Bangladesh** office established an e-waste and asset disposal programme that generates revenue while ensuring full environmental compliance. The DRC **Afghanistan** office has developed a Decarbonization roadmap and consequently all offices are now fully solarized. Waste management achievements include recycling 1,570 kg of archived documents into toilet paper, auctioning unusable assets to generate USD 15,800 that was reinvested into solar upgrades and IT equipment, in addition, systems have been put in place to ensure the safe disposal of used oil, vehicle parts, and e-waste.

Focus: Reducing our environmental footprint in programming

In **Bangladesh**, the **Garments Waste Recycling project** promotes a circular economy by upcycling industrial waste from the garment sector, generating green livelihoods while delivering measurable environmental benefits through partnerships with factories and local civil society organizations.

Middle East

In **Iraq**, DRC offices prioritized laptops made with up to 90% post-consumer recycled plastic as part of sustainable procurement. For circularity and reverse logistics, a take-back programme was established with a local partner to recycle printer cartridges. DRC **Lebanon** is an active member of the Lebanon Vehicle Sharing Initiative alongside eight other INGOs. Optimized occupancy of shared vehicles further reduced per-passenger emissions with an average tailpipe emissions factor of 190 g CO_2e per kilometre applied for impact assessment, 5325kg CO2 avoided and 50% cost reduction for 357 shared trips. In **Syria**, our DRC team has streamlined warehouse operations, reducing its footprint by 85%. Obsolete items have been recycled, donated, or safely disposed of, contributing to lower waste and emissions.

Focus: Bio-Gas Technology

The ECHO funded **Ecosystem Resilience Restoration Initiative in IDP Settlements project**, in **Iraq,** had activities centred around bio-gas Technology. To convert human waste into clean, renewable energy (biogas) and organic fertilizer through anaerobic digestion, thereby improving sanitation, reducing environmental contamination, and generating sustainable energy and agricultural inputs.

Partnership collaboration

Strong partnerships are essential to DRC's strategy for reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable humanitarian logistics. Through active engagement in sector-wide initiatives, networks, and coalitions, DRC contributes to collective learning, aligns with global standards, and accelerates the adoption of system-based low-carbon solutions across the aid ecosystem.

Climate Charter Engagement

As a committed member of the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations**, DRC continues to integrate climate considerations across operational decision-making. In line with this commitment, DRC uses the **Harmonised Carbon Calculation Plus (HCC+)** methodology to standardize greenhouse gas accounting and support evidence-based carbon-reduction strategies.

CSO ProLog Network

DRC is an active member of the **Civil Society Organization Procurement and Logistics (CSO ProLog) Network**, where sustainable procurement is a core focus. Through this forum, DRC collaborates with peer organisations to strengthen procurement standards, share practices, and jointly explore lower-carbon and more circular supply chain solutions.

Hulo – Humanitarian Logistics Cooperative

DRC participates in **Hulo**, the first humanitarian logistics cooperative, which connects logistics actors to increase the efficiency of aid delivery while reducing environmental impact. Hulo contributes to carbon reduction by: pooling logistic resources across organisations; optimizing supply chain management; and developing digital solutions that reduce inefficiencies.

Fleet Forum Collaboration

Fleet management is a significant source of emissions, and DRC's partnership with **Fleet Forum** plays a central role in improving environmental performance. Our collaboration within this forum provides opportunities to participate in: knowledge sharing events, train-the-trainer fleet rightsizing programmes, inter-agency vehicle sharing working group and the utilisation of the GreenMe – Fleet Carbon Reduction Tool.

WREC Coalition – Joint Humanitarian Action for Environmentally Sustainable Logistics

DRC is a founding member of the **Waste, Reverse Logistics, Environment, and Circularity (WREC) Coalition**, under the Global Logistics Cluster. This coalition—formed by DRC, IFRC, SCI, and WFP, alongside private-sector and academic partners—works to strengthen knowledge, awareness, and operational solutions that reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian supply chains. Key collaborative areas include: waste management and measurement; reverse logistics, environmentally sustainable procurement and transport; and circular economy approaches.

Pillar for DRC Kenya

Pillar 3

Advocacy for Displaced People in the Context of Climate Change

The interaction of climate change, environmental degradation alongside economic, social and political shocks and conflict is a growing driver of displacement, increasing vulnerability undermining resilience among displaced and host communities alike. To establish linkages between policy and practice, DRC Country Offices collaborate with local partners, government and research institutions. These partnerships not only pave the pathways for effective programming but also feed into national policies and development plans investing in context specific understanding of climate and environmental risks and their impact on displacement affected populations.

C4 C5 C6

DRC actively shapes Danish development, humanitarian, and climate policy through the membership of Globalt Fokus (GF) as well as being an elected member of the Board of Directors. Globalt Fokus brings together more than 75 civil society organisations and serves as a key platform for collective political influence at a time of growing global crises and shrinking humanitarian space. DRC uses this platform to defend a rights-based, locally anchored, and globally responsible Danish engagement, aligned with Denmark's international obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing on its frontline experience. Through Globalt Fokus, DRC also contributes to concrete policy tools - such as the Climate and Environment Mainstreaming Tool - to ensure that climate action systematically consider displacement, vulnerability, and protection risks. In this way, DRC leverages collective advocacy to turn humanitarian experience into political influence and to ensure displaced people are not sidelined in national and global decision-making.

Focus: Consortium-Based Action for Building Climate Resilience

Across contexts affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and conflict, DRC works through strategic consortia to deliver coordinated, scalable, and locally grounded solutions. These partnerships recognise that climate- and conflict-related shocks are complex and interconnected, requiring multi-disciplinary approaches that combine technical expertise, local knowledge, and sustained collaboration. In line with the Climate Charter Commitment 5, consortium engagement is a cornerstone of our efforts working together to address climate change but also advocate on behalf of displacement affected populations

Across DRC countries, from 2024-25, DRC teams produced a range of publications from studies, assessments to guidance materials – examining climate risks and their impacts on displacement affected populations (Climate Charter Commitment 4). These publications are examples of studies that have influenced program implementation or informed DRC and partners as to the next steps to be taken that benefit displacement affected populations. A selection of these publications is presented below:

Kenya. **Vulnerability Assessment Report October 2025 – Karamoja Strong: Community-led resilience in the face of climate-induced loss, displacement and conflict.** This vulnerability assessment, published by our consortium partner, Samuel Hall, explores the broader climate and conflict resilience landscape of the region. The assessment provided insights that were built into the project, context-specific, inclusive, and anticipatory interventions designed to strengthen resilience, promote peaceful coexistence, and safeguard livelihoods in the Karamoja region.

South Sudan. **Regenerative resilience in the South Sudan displacement context**, Issue 84 – article 3 in the Humanitarian Practice Network (March 2024). This article explores regenerative agriculture through DRC's journey of adopting ancient indigenous knowledge from Mexico, and several other regenerative practices, adapting to the context of Biah IDP camp, South Sudan.

Colombia. **Tecnologia y empoderamiento para la Resiliencia y el Aprendizaje/Technology and Empowerment for Resilience and Learning**. This handbook guides participants to develop an economically viable and environmentally sustainable business.

Syria. **Syria Community Consortium Drought Assessment Report 2026**. The 2025 drought, the most severe Syria has experienced in four decades, had a devastating impact on the agricultural communities of Nashabiyeh and Hosh Nasri in Douma, Rural Damascus. This assessment provided a roadmap for donors and implementing partners to understand the communities' experience with the recent drought and offered recommendations to support recovery and build climate resilience in Douma's drought-affected communities.

Afghanistan. **Integrated Emergency Response to Natural Disasters: Takana Village Case Study (February 2024)**. DRC Afghanistan's program aimed at reducing the impact and risks of shocks on target communities through the implementation of an integrated approach that linked protection, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), emergency shelter, and emergency livelihoods to facilitate the recovery of disaster-affected communities.

Yemen. **Building CSO Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation in Yemen – Trainer's Curriculum**. This comprehensive guide was designed to equip trainers with the knowledge, tools, and methodologies needed to effectively deliver a transformative workshop addressing the unique climate vulnerabilities, socio-economic challenges, and cultural considerations relevant to CSO and NGO staff working in Lahj and Sa'ada governorates

Selected Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) publications in 2024-25.

MMC is a leading, independent source of high-quality data, research, information, and analysis on mixed migration, with teams embedded across DRC offices in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. As part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), both parties benefit from a unique institutional relationship that combines operational insight with analytical independence, which also allows MMC to ground its work in the realities faced by DRC in the field, while maintaining its role as an impartial authority on data, research, and policy development. The partnership enhances the ability to generate timely, evidence-based insights into the growing intersections between climate change, environmental degradation, and forced displacement assuring that action is informed by the latest and most relevant research.

Focus: World Environment Day

Photo: World Environment Day celebrated by DRC Burkina Faso team

Weathering Change: The gendered impacts of climate and environmental changes on pastoralist migration in Northern Senegal (December 2024) examines how climate and environmental stressors are reshaping internal pastoralist migration in northern Senegal, with a particular focus on gendered impacts. The findings provide critical, locally grounded evidence to inform gender-responsive climate adaptation, migration, and resilience programming in climate-vulnerable pastoralist contexts.

The intersection of mobility, environmental and climate change, and conflict in the East and Horn of Africa (August 2025). This report synthesizes the state of knowledge on the interlinkages between environmental degradation, climate change, conflict, and mobility in the East and Horn of Africa, focusing on Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Climate and Mobility in the Middle East (June 2025). This report synthesizes four research case studies on how climate hazards, economic pressures, and other factors shape mobility decisions. The study explores perceptions and attitudes across four locations in the Middle East in Aden (Yemen), Al Maharah (Yemen), Al-Hasakeh (Syria), and Al-Qadissiya (Iraq).

Climate Change and Migration in the Central Sahel (June 2025). As environmental degradation, extreme weather, and resource scarcity become more pronounced, communities across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Chad are experiencing pressures that contribute to complex mobility patterns. This study offers preliminary insights into how environmental factors, are shaping international migration decisions in the region.

GoGreen DRC

Supporting refugees and displaced towards a dignified life

Founded in 1956, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has worked for 70 years to support displaced people in their pursuit of a dignified life. As Denmark's largest humanitarian NGO and a leading international organization, DRC works in nearly 30 countries with a dedicated team of around 6,000 employees and thousands of volunteers. In a world of growing displacement and complex crises, DRC's mission is more relevant than ever: to protect, advocate for, and enable sustainable futures for those forced to flee.