



**Policy brief environment and climate
interventions**

Within HaC programming 2026 – 2028

Introduction:

This policy provides direction for integrating environmental and climate-related interventions within Help a Child (HaC) programming. It aims to ensure that environmental issues in the communities are systematically embedded as a cross-cutting theme within projects and programs.

This policy applies to:

- **All Help a Child programmes and projects** (including CCCD, Disaster Response, Kids@Risk, and institutional programmes)
- **All partner organisations and communities** engaged in HaC-supported interventions
- **All programme phases**, from design to implementation and monitoring and evaluation

Help a Child adopts an **integration approach**, whereby environmental and climate interventions are embedded within existing programme structures and methodologies, rather than implemented as separate thematic areas.

1. **Mainstreaming environmental and climate concerns**

Help a Child has a two-pronged approach towards addressing environmental and climate challenges in its programmes. It focusses on (1) mainstreaming environmental attention within existing products and activities. (2) Adding some impactful activities to our existing thematic focus areas, most notably around water and climate-smart agriculture to ensure communities have resilience towards environmental and climate-related challenges.

1. Mainstreaming strategies:

- Embedding environmental and & climate-responsive actions into existing program approaches
- Promoting awareness, capacity building, and sustainable practices at community level
- Supporting community-led action, advocacy, and ecosystem protection
- Ensuring child wellbeing, also for future generations, remains central in all interventions

2. Impactful activities

Based on the 2024 Climate Quick Scan, the following priority interventions have been identified:

1. **Climate-resilient agriculture**
 - a. Training in agroecology, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), soil fertility, drought-resistant crops, and diversification
2. **Awareness and capacity building**
 - a. Community training on climate adaptation, agroforestry, and tree nursery development



3. **Water access and environmental protection**
 - a. Awareness and training on sustainable water use, environmental conservation, and prevention of environmental degradation
4. **Advocacy and infrastructure**
 - a. Supporting communities in lobbying for climate-related infrastructure (e.g. WASH, roads, drainage, water storage)
5. **Ecosystem protection**
 - a. Community-led conservation of forests, riverbanks, swamps, and local ecosystems

No dedicated environmental & climate fund exists within Help a Child. Climate-related activities must be funded through existing programme budgets. Budget lines should explicitly include environmental & climate activities where relevant. Environmental & Climate interventions must remain integrated within programme logic. Climate interventions must always support **child wellbeing objectives**. Standalone climate funding calls are not prioritized. However, to find funding for it, opportunities include: Small grants & Donations for specific integrated climate activities

In the next section, in more detail the integration and addition of attention for the environment is laid down

2. Programme Integration

This section describes the integration of environmental considerations (mainstreaming) in existing activities, as well as the extra activities (adding impact) that are integrated into our programs. Because water and water management is rather a specialized and somewhat separate topic, this will be elaborated on in section 3.

2.1 Integration in Programme Design

- Environmental & Climate risks must be assessed and incorporated at the start of all new programmes and projects. Please use the Environmental Stewardship Tool (EST) see also: [Environmental Stewardship Tool \(EST\) - CRS Emergency Field Operations Manual](#)
- Community Action Plans must include environmental & climate-related challenges and solutions
- Budgeting for environmental & climate actions must be integrated within existing programme components

2.2 Early Childhood Development (ECD) & Child Friendly Spaces (CFS)

Environment & Climate mainstreaming can include:

- Establishment of kitchen gardens and planting of fruit trees around class rooms
- Integration of environmental topics into curricula and child clubs



- Waste management and recycling initiatives
- Promotion of clean cooking solutions
- Exploration of renewable energy solutions (e.g. solar)
- Reforestation efforts around centres
- Community awareness and family engagement in environmental practices

2.3 PIP (Participatory Integrated Planning) Approach

- Training on climate-resilient agricultural practices
- Promotion of agroforestry and tree planting
- Climate adaptation techniques (e.g. contouring, mulching, composting)
- Awareness on sustainable land and water management

2.4 SHG and CLA Approaches

- Sensitization on environmental and climate change challenges
- Development of community bylaws
- Mobilisation for collective action (e.g. clean-up campaigns)
- Facilitation of advocacy and lobbying agendas

Note: Infrastructure development remains outside HaC's direct intervention scope; communities are responsible for advocacy toward government and relevant actors.

2.5 Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- Environmental & Climate related risks are integrated into the DRM
- Activities include:
 - Risk awareness and mitigation planning
 - Environmental protection to reduce disaster risks
 - Community bylaws on natural resource use
- Disaster response must align with climate resilience objectives

3. Water Interventions Policy

Help a Child does not consider water infrastructure development as our core expertise area.

However, because water will be one of the most limiting factors for community empowerment and resilience in the coming future, and thus will affect the promising future for children, we will engage in forms of water management and water interventions:

3.1 Scope of Engagement

Allowed:

- Awareness and sensitisation on water and environmental issues
- Training on water harvesting and small-scale irrigation



- Low-cost solutions within existing programme structures
- Inclusion of basic water facilities in ECD infrastructure

Not allowed:

- Financing large-scale infrastructure (e.g. boreholes, water systems, irrigation equipment)

3.2 Strategic Approach of WASH

- Emphasis on advocacy toward government and specialised WASH organisations

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

- Existing PMEAL frameworks indirectly capture climate resilience through child wellbeing and community empowerment indicators
- Additional climate-specific indicators will be developed over the years
- The overall monitoring burden needs to remain stable

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Help a Child HQ:** Policy guidance, M&E development, strategic oversight
- **Partner Organisations:** Implementation, integration, and community facilitation
- **Communities:** Ownership, participation, advocacy, and local action

6. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with programme developments, partner needs, and emerging climate challenges.



