

## **Greening the sector: getting started #1 - Summary report**

KUNO series on climate change and the humanitarian sector

Online webinar, 13 October 2022 (14.00-15.30 CET)

### **Speakers:**

**Gisele Henriques**, Technical Advisor DRR/Resilience Catholic Relief Services about the Environmental Stewardship Tool.

**Bruno Jochum**, Director of the Climate Action Accelerator about the CAA.

**Jinu Varghese**, Regional Manager of SEEDS India about bottom-up climate change adaptation from a humanitarian aid perspective.

**Peter Heintze**, KUNO, moderator.

### **Practical tools – the low hanging fruit**

This first webinar of the series ‘Climate change and humanitarian action’ is focused on how humanitarian organisations can start to integrate environmentally inclusive approaches in their practices. The tools discussed, provided tangible starting-points that organisations can build on to make their practices more sustainable. Additionally, these tools can act as discussion starters, as benchmarks for humanitarian operations or organisations. But also as monitoring systems for donors and stakeholders. They can help to raise awareness for adopting sustainable strategies in the humanitarian sector.

### **Environmental Stewardship Tool (EST)**

Caritas Internationalis Member Organizations developed the EST as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) /Resilience Coordination Initiative. Environmental stewardship is the sustainable use and management of resources, active restoration activities and actions which result in the positive adaptation of vulnerable communities. EST is an **Excel tool** which allows for rapid identification of environmental risk and potential impacts as a result of a planned intervention. The tool identifies what these impacts could be and what their level of ‘risk’ is (low, medium or high). The sectors addressed are DRR, livelihoods and food security, shelter and settlements and WASH.

More information on the EST can be found on this [website](#), the tool itself is accessible [here](#).

### **Climate Action Accelerator**

The Climate Action Accelerator (CAA) screens an entire organization on sustainability and negative environmental impacts. CAA is a non-profit initiative that aims to mobilize a critical mass of community organisations in order to scale up climate solutions, contain global warming and avoid the risk of dangerous runaway climate change. CAA wants to help shift the aid, health and higher education sectors towards a radical transformation of their

practices, pursuing emissions reduction targets and a 'net-zero' trajectory, in line with the Paris Agreement.

CAA presents an inventory of solutions, a roadmap based on key learnings, a carbon measurement and monitoring tool adapted to the aid sector. Especially the repository provides organisations sustainable climate solutions and case studies to help accelerate the transformation of their practices. Examples of key solutions are maximizing the switch from air to maritime freight supply to the rationalization of staff travel or the implementation of environmental criteria to guide purchasing decisions.

More information and access to CAA's tools and roadmaps can be found [here](#).

### **Bottom-up climate change adaptation – a local humanitarian perspective**

SEEDS (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) is an Indian aid organization with the goal of building resilient communities through a holistic and inclusive approach. India is highly vulnerable to a range of natural disasters that are all exacerbated due to the impacts of climate change. Their vision for 2030 is to enable the bottom 1% of the vulnerable people to climate emergency, to withstand it and secure their future potential. With doing so, the larger community will be more protected.

SEEDS bottom-up climate change approach asks for a close collaboration with local communities, training them and providing them with sustainable tools and practices to ensure they leave behind skill sets and not just infrastructure meant for assistance. By closely cooperating with local actors, SEEDS is able to design and execute context specific interventions. For example: native people should provide pivotal information regarding the ecological area and its life, and by doing so enabling aid with a sustainable impact. Every humanitarian intervention must be an effort to leave behind new capacity and skills, not just rescue and re-building.

SEEDS sees a role for technology in capturing, accessing and planning impact in communities, for example providing risk information at cluster level.

More information on SEEDS can be found on their [website](#).

### **The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)**

Not presented in the webinar but worth mentioning is the NEAT+ (the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool), developed by the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action Joint Initiative. In the design phase of a humanitarian response, NEAT+ can be used to analyse the surroundings on environmental sensitivities and risks. The tool flags these issues as low, medium or high concern and provides subsequent mitigation tips for addressing these issues and adapting the plan. Using NEAT+ in the design phase of

humanitarian responses allows humanitarian actors to identify issues before designing longer-term responses. NEAT+ works only in combination with the [Kobo Toolbox](#), a data collection tool used by many humanitarian organisations.

For more information on NEAT+, click [here](#), for video instructions of NEAT+, click [here](#).

### **Starting the dialogue**

The panelists agreed that besides an introduction to the existing tools, there needs to be a shift in mindset among the humanitarian organisations, especially on the decision-making level. People on ‘the ground’ in the humanitarian sector know there is a lot of work to be done, but at the same time the top of the organisations are often stuck in their old ways of working and practices. Hence the importance of support for new initiatives, to provide time and space to explore new opportunities. These conversations need to happen across all organizational levels active in the humanitarian sector, from CEO’s to donors, they all need to be involved and see the necessity.

This webinar was recorded, you can find the video on our [YouTube channel](#). More information on the series this webinar is part of (Climate change and humanitarian action) can be found on our [website](#).