

CBM Policy on Environmental Responsibility

Rationale

Climate change continues to accelerate. According to the International Panel on Climate Change, it has the power to push more than 100 million people back into poverty by 2030 and to displace at least 200 million people by 2050.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies that progress in tackling poverty will only be achieved when social, economic and environmental factors are recognised as being closely interlinked, with joint evidence-based solutions put in place.

CBM sees the devastating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation occurring in many of the world's poorest communities. We are aware these impacts could reverse many of the development gains of recent decades and present large challenges to our future work, to the detriment of people with disability and their families.

Purpose

In keeping with our values, commitments to the people we serve, our partners and donors, the Environmental Responsibility policy reflects CBM's commitment to contribute to global efforts to reduce climate change. The policy outlines our commitments and the framework for CBM's action, as well as the mechanism to monitor and adjust our environmental performance, in line with the INGO Accountability Charter and our Programme Quality Framework.

Scope

CBM will seek opportunities to protect and enhance environmental sustainability through the offset of carbon emissions, as well as through targeted actions in its operations and work with partners. We will encourage our partners and contractors to do the same.

The policy is applicable to all our offices and staff and it will be implemented in a progressive manner. We recognise that conditions and circumstances vary according to settings and countries. Therefore, each CBM office will decide on how to proceed in view of context and needs.

Statement and Commitments

CBM is committed to assessing and avoiding potential negative impacts on the environment and seeking opportunities to enhance environmental sustainability in our operations, programme work and to the benefit of persons with disabilities, wherever possible. We will do this by:

1. Assessing, avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts on environmental sustainability arising from our work with partners.
2. Pursuing actions to avoid, reduce or mitigate the negative impacts of our operations on the environment, such as through compensation for our CO2 emissions.
3. Seeking opportunities where possible that enhance environmental sustainability in our operations and work with partners, while ensuring sustained functioning of our activities.
4. Seeking opportunities where appropriate, which will see people with disabilities and their families participating in and benefit from poverty-reducing environmental strategies as their human right.

CBM implementation guidelines provide offices and staff with recommendations and actions that support environmental sustainability.

Governance and accountability

CBM environmental performance will be reviewed once a year. A quantitative report on CBM's environmental performance will be made available. CBM's management will review and discuss CBM actions on a yearly basis.