

Asso webinar: *MSF's climate commitments. How are they are being operationalized?*

The evidence of the health and humanitarian consequences of climate and global environmental change is extensive.¹ MSF is seeing first-hand the suffering caused or exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation, most often experienced by the most vulnerable people. Recognising the role of the climate crisis in amplifying humanitarian needs, MSF is adapting its operations to be more responsive to the populations it serves. Whilst at the same time being driven by the principle of 'do no harm' (to avoid taking any measure that risks doing greater harm than good) MSF also recognises its duty to reduce and mitigate its own environmental footprint.²

In 2020 MSF agreed to the [MSF Environmental Pact](https://www.msf.org/msfs-2020-environmental-pact), aiming at building on the momentum, consolidating our commitment and providing a vision to accelerate MSF activities related to climate. In the pact, MSF commits to measure, report and set targets to minimize the carbon and waste footprint of MSF projects and entities, adapt responses, engage and collaborate with communities and local actors, bear witness of experiences of impacts of climate change and to hold ourselves accountable to these commitments.³ In 2021, MSF again made a pledge, this time to reduce its emissions by at least 50 per cent compared to 2019 levels by 2030.⁴

The implementation of these commitments is a shared responsibility, but there is no one size fits all solution to the huge and multifaceted task of decreasing the carbon footprint of our entire movement. Different entities may choose different approaches, contexts in which changes are to be made vary and the same solutions may not be available to all applicable contexts. Even finding adequate, context-specific ways to reduce and mitigate our environmental footprint can be a challenge. In the contexts in which our core work happens, to respond to urgent humanitarian needs, it is often difficult to do it in an environmentally responsible way. As a global organization, travel is an integral part of the way we work and stay connected. Working more climate friendly and changing cultures takes time. Needless to say, it will take enormous efforts from all around the movement to reach our ambitious goals.

Despite the challenges, work towards realizing our commitments is progressing. MSF operational entities are presenting their baselines and developing roadmaps to a lower-carbon future. Teams around the world are reaping the co-benefits of innovative local solutions.⁵ Partner sections are forming "green teams" to develop strategies and ideas to lowering carbon footprint from the offices and climate networks are formed across the movement.

In addition to decentralized initiatives, the joint incubator project Climate Smart MSF works to assist and align efforts globally and help scale climate solutions in MSF to future-proof and transform our organization. Climate Smart MSF works to catalyze mitigation measures to address climate change impacts from our medical humanitarian operations on a global, movement wide level.⁶ As part of this project a Carbon Accounting committee has been setup and an Environmental Toolkit has been developed to help MSF entities and projects to identify their reduction potential.

Many efforts and initiatives are being carried out, however, it can be difficult to fully grasp what is being done where, what this transition will mean, in practice, around the movement. What are operational entities planning and how will implementation look like? In the field and at HQ level? What are the main changes to be made and by who? What are the dilemmas we are facing when creating solutions?

To help clarify these questions, understand the work being done and what lies ahead, **it is a pleasure to invite you for an asso webinar on *MSF's climate commitments and how they are being operationalized* on April 18, 18-19 CET, online via zoom.**

During the session we will hear about current global efforts to act on our shared commitments from Climate Smart MSF, from OCBA and OCG on how they are working with their roadmaps and concrete examples of climate friendly solutions that are being implemented.

Agenda

18:00 – Opening Paula Gil President MSF-Spain/OCBA & Leo Ho, President, MSF-Austria

18:05 – Global commitments and current efforts, Francesc López, Lead, Climate Smart MSF

18:15 – OCBA's roadmap and concrete examples, Patricia Fernandez Wyss, OCBA Logistics and Supply chain Director

18:25 – OCG's roadmap and concrete examples, Dikolela Kalubi, Planetary Health Coordinator, OCG

18:35 – Q&A

19:00 – Closure of the webinar

¹ Environmental Pact MSF, <https://www.msf.org/msfs-2020-environmental-pact>

² MSF policy brief for the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change, <https://www.msf.org/msf-policy-brief-lancet-countdown-health-and-climate-change>

³ Environmental Pact MSF, <https://www.msf.org/msfs-2020-environmental-pact>

⁴ <https://www.msf.org/climate-emergency-msf-commits-reduce-carbon-emissions-help-safeguard-most-vulnerable>

⁵ MSF policy brief for the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change, <https://www.msf.org/msf-policy-brief-lancet-countdown-health-and-climate-change>

⁶ Climate Smart MSF is a joint incubator project of Operational Centre Geneva and MSF Canada with co-sponsors Operational Center Barcelona and Amsterdam, supported by the Transformational Investment Capacity (TIC). <https://msfintl.sharepoint.com/sites/ClimateSmartMSF>