

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD POLICY

TAMEER E KHALAQ FOUNDATION  
CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES & DRR UNIT



**TAMEER E KHALAQ  
FOUNDATION**

This policy has been approved by the Board of Directors

## PREAMBLE

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change highlights profound inequities in the global distribution of its impacts. Despite contributing minimally to greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan bears a disproportionate burden due to its geographical location and socio-economic challenges. Even in Pakistan there is a disproportionate effect of climate change on different communities i.e., marginalized communities, including rural populations and urban poor, face heightened risks from extreme weather events, water scarcity, and food insecurity.

The 2022 floods in Pakistan wreaked havoc, showcasing the devastating impact of climate change. Rising temperatures intensified rainfall, swelling rivers, and amplifying the destruction of homes and livelihoods and these marginalized communities faced the brunt of it. Addressing Pakistan's vulnerability within the framework of climate justice necessitates equitable access to resources, technology, and adaptation measures, ensuring the most vulnerable populations are prioritized in climate action agendas.

Implementing a climate change policy is crucial for NGOs due to their pivotal role in advocating for environmental stewardship and social responsibility. These policies enable NGOs to influence governmental decisions, mobilize public support, and drive corporate accountability towards sustainable practices. Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation aims to lead by example and catalyze meaningful change towards a more resilient and equitable future.

To accelerate its efforts for climate action and develop initiatives and programs focused on building the resilience of marginalized and climate-induced disaster affected communities, as well as help them adapt to the many impacts of climate change, Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation has also established a dedicated unit for "Climate Change Initiatives and DRR". The Climate Change and Environmental Safeguards policy is a living and evolving document that characterizes the necessary actions to be taken by TKF in its projects and programs to move towards a resilient and sustainable Pakistan.

## POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that climate change is mainstreamed in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors and to steer Pakistan towards climate resilient development.
2. Implement and design initiatives for marginalized communities to strengthen them and build their resilience in the face of climate change adversities.
3. Develop and implement localized climate adaptation strategies to mitigate climate change impacts on vulnerable communities and ecosystems.
4. Promote knowledge exchange and capacity building on climate adaptation measures among stakeholders.
5. Foster multi-sectoral collaborations to integrate climate resilience into development planning.
6. Encourage innovation in adaptation technologies and practices through research and development.

## POLICY MEASURES

### 1. Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

1.1 Identify communities and regions most vulnerable to climate change impacts such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and changing precipitation patterns and develop programs and initiatives for such communities.

1.2 Work in close collaboration with local stakeholders to develop community-based adaptation plans tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each region.

1.3 Incorporate nature-based solutions in all projects and programs that will be developed for community welfare to enhance resilience to climate change.

1.4 Incorporate climate resilience criteria into the design and construction of infrastructure projects, including schools, healthcare facilities, and water supply systems etc.

1.5 Promote and support the adoption of renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, and hydropower to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

1.6 Promote a just energy transition, to help the communities in Pakistan that do not currently have access to energy or other resources.

1.7 Promote climate-resilient agriculture techniques and develop training modules for farmers, to counter the impacts of unpredictable weather patterns impacting the agricultural yields every year.

### 2. Environmental Sustainability

2.1 Implement conservation projects to protect biodiversity hotspots, preserve critical habitats, and promote sustainable land use practices.

2.2 Increase educational programs, outreach, and events on ecosystem protection and sustainable management of land for agriculture and tourism

2.3 Increase efforts on the development of appropriate waste management systems and techniques to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste, including initiatives for composting organic waste and promoting responsible consumption habits.

2.4 Develop programs to transfer this knowledge to the grass-root community level and provide them with the resources to implement such techniques.

2.5 Promote water conservation practices, such as rainwater harvesting, water-efficient irrigation techniques, and the restoration of watersheds and wetlands.

2.6 Incorporate ecosystem conservation measures into project planning and design, conducting biodiversity assessments, implementing habitat restoration initiatives, and collaborating with local conservation organizations and communities to safeguard natural habitats and biodiversity.

### **3. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Emergency Response**

3.1 Develop and strengthen community-based early warning systems for natural hazards such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes to improve preparedness and response.

3.2 Ensure early warnings are communicated to the vulnerable communities and assist with pre-disaster evacuation and migrations to camps with access to basic necessities.

3.3 Conduct training and capacity-building activities to empower communities to effectively respond to disasters, including first aid training, search and rescue drills, and evacuation planning.

3.4 Encourage and work on the development of resilient infrastructure and construction techniques to reduce the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters and climate-related risks.

3.5 Conduct trainings and help develop climate-resilient streams of income for the vulnerable communities affected by disasters frequently and annually.

3.6 Enhance the capacity of communities, institutions, and government bodies to mitigate risks and respond effectively to a range of natural disasters, including floods, droughts, avalanches, heatwaves and earthquakes.

3.7 Prioritizing capacity building interventions targeted at women councilors and community leaders, recognizing their crucial role in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Investing in training programs aimed at equipping these stakeholders with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to effectively coordinate and lead emergency response efforts at the grassroots level.

3.8 Ensuring that staff members are regularly trained on protection issues and effective coordination in emergency response situations to ensure optimal response and coordination with stakeholders, including other organizations, donors, and government bodies.

3.9 All staff members required to sign a code of conduct to uphold principles of protection, impartiality, and non-bias in their interactions with beneficiaries.



3.10 Foster collaboration with government agencies and other humanitarian organizations involved in emergency response and disaster management to ensure effective response, minimizing duplication of efforts.

3.11 Actively involving local communities in decision-making processes, needs assessments, and the design and implementation of response interventions, ensuring that interventions are contextually appropriate and responsive to the needs of affected populations.

3.12 Conduct regular reviews, evaluations, and lessons learned exercises to identify areas for improvement, strengthen response mechanisms, and enhance the effectiveness and impact of DRR interventions.

#### **4. Education and Awareness**

4.1 Conduct educational campaigns to raise awareness about climate change, environmental conservation, and disaster risk reduction among local communities, schools, and stakeholders.

4.2 Provide training and capacity-building programs for community members, local leaders, and government officials on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction strategies.

4.3 Provide climate change education at school level through informal means of educations e.g., seminars, workshops, simulation activities etc.

4.4 Encourage the young entrepreneurs, scientists and researchers to design and develop solution for climate change mitigation and assist them through mentorship and funding in upscaling such ideas.

4.5 Conduct educational campaigns for farmers on climate change and its impacts and the coping techniques they can learn to minimize impacts to foster a culture of learning and empowerment within communities.

4.6 Implement non-formal education projects aimed at marginalized children and youth engaged in child labor. The projects would involve establishing education centers, developing tailored curriculum and providing intensive teacher training in small windows of time.

4.7 Leverage mainstream and social media to increase the general public's awareness of the climate change and environmental impacts currently being faced by Pakistan and expected in the future.

4.8 Facilitate knowledge exchange and learning forums to share best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches for integrating climate and environmental considerations into project implementation.

## 5. Healthcare

5.1 Support research initiatives to better understand the complex interactions between climate change and human health, informing evidence-based policies and interventions to mitigate health risks associated with climate change.

5.2 Foster innovation in healthcare technologies and solutions that address climate-related health challenges, such as heat stress mitigation devices, water purification systems, and climate-resilient medical infrastructure.

5.3 Conduct health education campaigns to raise awareness about climate-related health risks and preventive measures, empowering communities to protect themselves and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

5.4 Deploy mobile healthcare units equipped with medical supplies and personnel to provide healthcare services in disaster-prone or hard-to-reach areas, ensuring continuity of care during emergencies.

5.5 Promote the use of telemedicine and remote healthcare services to enhance access to healthcare in remote and climate-vulnerable areas, reducing the need for travel and minimizing carbon emissions.

5.6 Develop healthcare initiatives in close collaboration with the community members especially women to ensure that the programs and initiatives are gender sensitive.

## 6. Project Design and Planning

6.1 Prior to initiating any project, assess potential climate change and environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, habitat destruction, and resource depletion.

6.2 Integrate climate resilience measures into project design, considering factors such as changing weather patterns, extreme events, and long-term environmental changes.

6.3 Ensure that projects adhere to environmental sustainability principles, including minimizing waste generation, reducing energy consumption, and conserving natural resources.

6.4 Encourage the implementation of measures to mitigate project-related emissions, such as energy efficiency improvements, fuel switching and the use of low-carbon technologies and materials.

6.5 Engage relevant stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and environmental experts, in the project design and planning process. Include their input to ensure that climate considerations are adequately addressed and local needs are met.

6.6 Ensure carbon friendly project design and implementation by ensuring that the least amount of carbon footprint is generated with any project activity

6.7 Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for project staff and partners on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. This will ensure that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to implement climate-friendly practices effectively.

6.8 Ensure that all project design and planning activities comply with relevant national and international regulatory frameworks related to climate change, environmental protection and sustainable development.

## **7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning**

7.1 Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the carbon footprint of each project and program implemented, to encourage reduction.

7.2 Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of humanitarian projects and interventions, including indicators to measure progress on climate adaptation and resilience.

7.3 Conduct periodic reviews, evaluations, and lessons learned exercises to identify best practices, challenges, and opportunities for improvement in program design, implementation, and management.

7.4 Foster a culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement within the organization by promoting knowledge sharing, capacity building, and the adoption of evidence-based practices.

7.5 Regularly review and update the climate change and environment safeguards policy to incorporate new scientific findings, emerging trends, and lessons learned from implementation.



## 8. Partnerships and Collaboration:

8.1 Collaborate with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and other stakeholders to leverage resources, share knowledge, and coordinate efforts to address climate change and environmental challenges.

8.2 Engage with the private sector to promote sustainable business practices, innovation, and investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies.

8.3 Engage with the corporate sector to redirect their corporate social responsibility for climate change and sustainability initiatives to improve the lifestyle of communities affected by it.

8.4 Collaborating with various donors and partners to support healthcare and education initiatives and ensure sustainable outcomes, to strengthen the local communities and build their resilience.

8.5 Encourage and establish meaningful public-private partnerships to enhance and progress work on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We are a national not-for-profit strengthening communities through access to education, health, a better environment, and opportunities for livelihood while ensuring food security. We also reach out to communities affected by disasters.

Our competency also lies in third-party monitoring & evaluation, certifications, research, and capacity building, to help make development projects more effective and efficient.

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