

Climate and Environment Charter 24-25

Climate change and population ageing are two of the defining trends of this century. Age International recognises the increasing urgency of the climate crisis for older people globally, their families and communities. We recognise that they are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

Human-induced climate change is directly linked to the increase in humanitarian crises, from which older people are among those most at risk. Standard humanitarian responses are too often failing older people, and this undermines core humanitarian principles. The climate crisis is changing the nature of emergencies and leading to increasingly intense, frequent and complex humanitarian situations.

Given the nature of Age International's work as a supporting member of the Global HelpAge Network that is not involved in the direct delivery of programmes, we have chosen to champion commitments 2, 5, and 6. We believe that focusing on these areas allows us to maximise our impact, particularly in improving the lives of older people.

Commitment 2 - Maximise the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

- We will adopt an environmental policy by 2025 which will be communicated and implemented across the organisation.
- We will collect data on travel-related carbon emissions in 2024-25 and look at steps to reduce these in 2025-26.
- We will work more closely with Age UK, since we share an office, to reduce our environmental impact.

Commitment 5 - Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action

- We will continue to engage in humanitarian, climate and development networks, ensuring that the voices and experiences of older people are included in discussions to strengthen inclusive climate action.
- We will seek funding to support partners to deliver adaptation work in low and middle-income countries.

Commitment 6 - Use our influence to mobilise urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection

- We will use our experience and knowledge of ageing and older people's rights and needs in low and middle-income countries to influence the UK Government in relevant areas of its climate change response. This is with the aim of increasing the visibility and inclusion of older people and global population ageing within these responses, and in related policies and plans.
- As members of the CAN UK network and in collaboration with HelpAge, Age International will join national and global calls relevant to ensuring that older people's rights are respected as part of more equitable, just, and inclusive approaches to climate adaptation and to climate finance.
- We will use our communications platforms to mobilise UK public support for the greater inclusion of the rights and needs of older people in the context of climate change. This includes groups at greater risk, namely older women and older people with disabilities in low and middle-income countries.