

NETHOPE



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Climate Strategy Framework

A landscape assessment of the NetHope Members on climate action

Table of Contents

Letter from NetHope’s Senior Director of Innovation	3
How to Use this Document	4
NetHope’s Principles on Climate Change	4
NetHope’s Climate Vision	5
NetHope’s Climate Role	5
Initiative Summary	6
Background	7
Methodology	8
Strategic Overview	9
Strategic Outcomes	11
Decarbonization as Society	11
Decarbonization as Communities & Organizations	13
Sustainability & Harm Reduction	14
Program Approaches	15
Climate Advocacy & Justice	15
Climate Adaptation	17
Climate Resilience	18
Climate Mitigation	20
Green Economies	21
Strategic Enablers	22
Education	22
Financing & Grant Giving	23
Gender Equality & Youth	23
Localization & Partnerships	23
Technology	23
Conclusion	24
Appendix	25
Who We Are	26
Climate Consequences for Society	27
Biodiversity & Natural Habitats	27
Global Economies	27
Human Settlements & Populations	28
Climate Consequences for NetHope Members	29
Climate & Conservation Organizations	29
Humanitarian & Social Development Organizations	30
Endnotes	31

Letter from NetHope's Senior Director of Innovation



Jean-Louis Ecochard,
Senior Director of Innovation

There is no question that climate change is producing a lasting humanitarian crisis. Indeed, it creates both new risks to human development and catastrophic amplifications of emergencies. With the disastrous potential to erase a large part of a century of humanitarian progress, climate change has become a top priority for humanitarian leaders and is included in 60 out of 65 NetHope Members' global strategies.

This whitepaper emphasizes NetHope's belief that

there is still time to counteract the worst consequences of climate change if we act together.

While there are multiple pathways to action on this philosophy, this budding responsibility around climate action coincides with previously established ethical principles of "do no harm".

Accordingly, the primary climate component of our Members' strategies focuses on sustainability and harm reduction achieved mostly through climate adaptation and resilience programming. NetHope's belief is that catalyzing digital innovations are underrepresented as a driving force within this space. This creates an opportunity for NetHope to engage and support our community in applying technologies to solve a collective issue sooner and at scale.

While we acknowledge that digital technologies contribute in part to climate change, we also know that the total digital usage of NetHope Members represents a tiny portion of the whole – and that through our Members, digital holds greater promise of humanitarian benefits than any risk of increased climate harm.

The majority of the NetHope community is aligned and unified in its pursuit of harm reduction and sustainability by way of climate adaptation and resilience. While they see many pathways to help achieve results, technology is underrepresented and is the area with the greatest potential for collective climate impact. This creates a unique opportunity for NetHope to explore, develop, and implement promising digital solutions.

Thus in 2022, we started a program to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable people through digital technologies. This program aims to discover climate adaptation and resilience solutions for vulnerable communities that have not been tried and scaled before, and to further set these solutions up for rapid success with references and field tests so they can be scaled quickly.

This report identifies how our journey is grounded in our Members' strategies and priorities.

How to Use this Document

This climate strategy framework displays the programmatic blueprint for how the NetHope membership approaches climate action from a strategy and mission perspective. Represented in this document, the strategic outcomes, program approaches, and enablers of climate action – referred to as the 3-5-5 climate strategy framework – are presented such that future assessments and collaborations can invest and scale impact in climate outcomes, programs, and enablers.

While not specifically focused on ICT implementations or technology use, the strategic intent of the NetHope membership around climate action – laid out in this document – empowers partners to the sector to contextualize funding, resources, and solutions into areas of expertise and interest. From this process of contextualization, NetHope believes that the growing needs of the climate – and its impact on nonprofits and the clients they serve – can guide the responsible design of effective climate solutions. In turn, the implementation of such solutions can increase program effectiveness for nonprofits as they seek to achieve climate outcomes with the same or fewer resources.

NetHope's Principles on Climate Change

Knowing that climate change is the greatest threat humanity has ever faced, NetHope has established three key principles that guide our community's collaboration, engagement, and program development.

- **Climate change effects are worsening, but not everyone is suffering in the same ways.** For example, women, youth, Indigenous people, and vulnerable communities in the Least Developed Countries (LDC) disproportionately feel the shocks of a changing climate. Additionally, climate change is amplifying the complexity and harm of disasters and creating heightened emergencies for affected people.
- **Climate change is cross sectoral and demands integrated collective approaches.** Climate change influences almost all aid, development and conservation programs of NetHope Members.
- **Digital technologies can be effective pathways to increase climate adaptation and resilience.** Communities most at-risk from climate impacts tend to experience immediate value from increased information and connectivity, as these enable people and societies to better plan and adapt to extreme events.

These principles are prompting NetHope to engage the leadership of nonprofits and the tech sector with local actors and communities, and to mobilize urgent and more ambitious resources to start and advance evidence-based digital solutions.

NetHope's Climate Vision

In recognition of worsening climate change, NetHope envisions a social sector in which nonprofits, corporate technology partners, and government and philanthropic agencies work together to confront climate change and build a sustainable future for people and planet. Fundamentally, NetHope believes that to address the climate crisis we must amplify the collective impact of humanitarian and conservation organizations as they act locally and thus can increase adaptation and resiliency of communities against the consequences of a changing climate. For NetHope, this process of mission amplification flows through integrated and aligned efforts around ICT use and digital innovation.

NetHope aims to provide the necessary enabling environment for the social sector to leverage technology more effectively and thereby achieve greater impact for all. In pursuit of enabling the ICT ecosystem which supports the program activities of climate conscious organizations, NetHope has received seed funding – through Cisco and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation – to survey our Members with a landscape assessment that establishes the broad strategic intent of the community on climate change. Through collective action and the responsible use of digital technologies, vulnerable communities can achieve climate adaptation and resilience sooner and with greater ease than if left to do it alone.

NetHope's Climate Role

The space of climate change action is extremely broad and NetHope is focusing on unlocking novel digital solutions to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable people.

Nearly all the NetHope membership has committed to one or more of the strategic outcomes tied to the advancement of climate action or those affected by climate change. In the rare case where climate change was not identified as a strategic priority, there was still recognition that the humanitarian and social development space is increasingly stressed under pressure from a burdened system¹ with less resources and time available to act.

Beginning in 2022 – with the generous support of Cisco and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation – NetHope has started fostering holistic digital enablement in climate action through research, financing, and grant giving. This process begins with this landscape assessment on the strategic alignment of NetHope Members and continues with future research, collaborations, and program development. Under the Digital Breakthrough Initiative, the NetHope community will accelerate program startups that leverage digital solutions for the wellbeing of climate-affected communities. Constituting NetHope's first whitepaper publication around climate and conservation action, this research represents our community's commitment to maintaining a healthy planet and assisting those affected by climate change.

¹Obrecht, A., Swithern, S., & Doherty, J. (2022). (rep.). 2022 The State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS). ALNAP

Initiative Summary

In solidarity with international stakeholders of the conservation, humanitarian, and social development sectors, NetHope recognizes the critical nature of climate change and has begun actively exploring and coordinating the development of community-driven climate solutions that will increase the sustainability and resilience of the nonprofit and client communities. Enabled to do so through a partnership with Cisco and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the 3-5-5 climate strategy framework – three outcomes, five program approaches, and five strategic enablers – described in this report represents the strategic intent of the NetHope membership as it relates to climate action.

With three priority goal areas, five primary program implementations that work directly toward climate goals, and five programmatic enablers that indirectly contribute toward the advancement of climate interests, there is an intertwined system of climate-related activities that contribute toward one another and capture the cross sectoral nature of climate action. The following is the list of outcomes, programs and enablers for climate change documented in NetHope Members' strategies. The most frequent themes are in bold.



- Outcomes: Decarbonization as Society, Decarbonization as Communities & Organizations, and **Sustainability & Harm Reduction**.
- Programs: Climate Advocacy & Justice, **Climate Adaptation, Climate Resilience**, Climate Mitigation, and Green Economies.
- Enablers: Education, **Financing & Grant Giving**, Gender Equality & Youth, Localization & Partnerships, and **Technology**.

Going forward, NetHope plans on expanding research in each outcome, program, and enabling area as we look to expand the impact of climate conscious organizations through technology and effective use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). Overall, this landscape assessment represents NetHope's evolving commitments around climate enablement and is predicated upon

20+ years of ethical and sustainable use of ICT to amplify mission impacts across the NetHope membership. We will now focus on achieving sustainability and harm reduction through climate adaptation and resilience. To further enable these program areas, NetHope will leverage the amplifying impact of technology through grant giving, localization, and partnerships. Having worked to ensure that nonprofits and clients are connected to the global village, NetHope – with the support of Cisco and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation – now seeks to advance the sustainability of activities undertaken in the global village.

Background

Understanding that the international community must do more to advance the interests and wellbeing of climate-affected populations, NetHope seeks to document the strategic alignment of its membership – as it relates to climate action – such that we can develop programs to scale mission impacts through technology. We are enabled to do so by over 30 years of research on the intersection between human activity, greenhouse gas emissions, and global climate change. The following only highlights a few of the numerous contributions and pivotal moments in climate change history since digital technologies in the early 1970s (i.e., satellite imagery, data processing, computer modeling) enabled a deeper understanding of climate change and its potential impact on the future of the planet and humanity.

For several decades, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in 1988, has been collecting, aligning, and circulating peer-reviewed research on the topic of human driven climate change. With the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the IPCC working group published its first report in 1990, which established climate change as a significant problem that required meaningful international collaboration. Since that time, the international community has become more unified under the principle that “emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases... resulting in the warming of earth’s surface... resultant in socioeconomic (including ecological) consequences”². The 1990 report also notes that to ‘maintain business as usual’ the international community will have to limit warming between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees Celsius³.

As the uncertainties surrounding climate change have been substantiated through global action, the lower threshold of 1.5-degrees emerged as the global target for avoiding catastrophic changes in the climate.⁴

Since that time, the international community has gone to great lengths to limit the output of greenhouse gases and support the resilience of communities as they combat climate consequences on the local level. Sadly, these actions have not kept



pace with the accelerating rate of climate change nor with its increasingly present consequences. ([See Appendix for details on the current consequences of the climate crisis on society and on NetHope Members.](#))

At present, the international community is not doing enough to limit emissions and as a result we are likely to surpass the 1.5-degree threshold⁵. Unless major unified action is taken, the world will experience catastrophic changes in climate resulting in untold human suffering⁶. While the NetHope community cannot unilaterally solve the problem of global climate change, we can significantly advance the interests and wellbeing of affected communities through the strategic use and implementation of ICT resources. Accordingly, NetHope is committed to leveraging the amplifying impact of technology to help nonprofits and affected communities combat the consequences of our changing climate.

² IPCC (1992). The IPCC First Assessment Report and 1992 Supplement

³ IPCC (1992). The IPCC First Assessment Report and 1992 Supplement

⁴ IPCC (2021) The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

⁵ The Nature Conservancy. (2022, February 27). The latest IPCC report: What is it and why does it matter? The Nature Conservancy

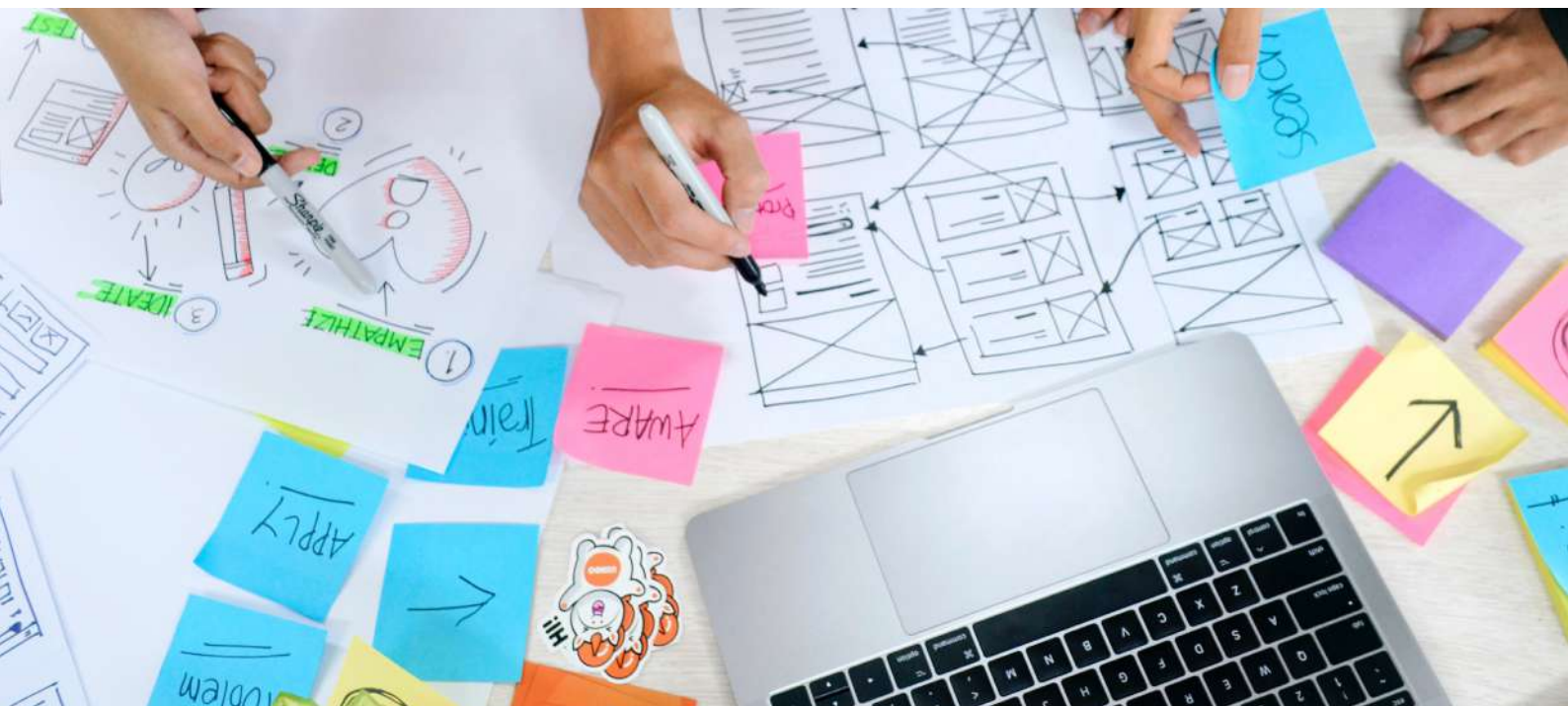
⁶ The Nature Conservancy. (2020). Playbook for Climate Action. Pathways for Countries and Businesses to Help Address Climate Change Today

Methodology

Using a traditional qualitative research methodology, NetHope collected and analyzed the published climate commitments of all 65 nonprofits organizations within its membership at the time. Typically, these commitments were found within strategic documentation. However, also augmenting this primary data source, was the secondary source of program documentation related to climate or environmental activities.

Together, these documents were targeted as the data sources for this project because of effectiveness as proxy for information related to planned internal nonprofit activities. This is especially true for the areas of long-term outcomes, program approaches, and strategic enablers of climate commitments. With over 93% of the membership having published strategic or programmatic documentation around climate action, NetHope was able to achieve data saturation and move to analysis of the climate themes collected, thereby establishing the strategic determination of the membership on climate change.

NetHope then executed a conceptual analysis upon the entire strategic and programmatic data set. Using an affinity mapping process, individual climate themes (i.e., outcomes, programs, and enablers) were documented from each organization and recorded on an individual 'note'. The research team then organized these 'notes', established patterns and relationships between them, and diagrammed these insights into distinct groupings that could be used to represent each priority area, described in the next sections of this document. Each grouping represents its own set of findings on the strategic intent of Members as it relates to climate action.



Strategic Overview

With three priority outcome areas that establish long-term goals, five primary program implementations that work directly toward climate goals, and five programmatic enablers that indirectly contribute toward the advancement of climate interests, there is an intertwined system of climate-related activities that contribute toward one another and capture the cross sectoral nature of climate action.



Based upon this climate strategy framework,

NetHope has identified the most effective pathway of climate action to be through sustainability and harm reduction of affected communities by way of a wide array of adaptation and resilience programs.

To support such outcomes, NetHope plans to leverage the generosity and support of the corporate and philanthropic sectors to advance localization and collective impact, with increased grant giving and scaled innovations for our Member nonprofits. In doing so, NetHope endeavors to help maintain a healthy planet and contribute to sector commitments of zero harm.



Strategic Outcomes



Decarbonization as Society

Climate Outcome Map

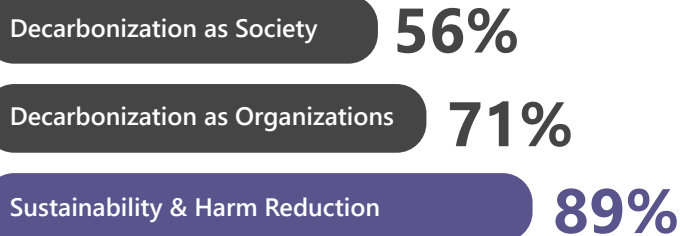


FIGURE A

Associated most closely with the development targets of SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life On Land) are the climate outcomes captured under the umbrella of decarbonization as a society. With a strategic frequency of just 56%, this area is the least pursued outcome by the NetHope membership and of the priorities identified within the 3-5-5 framework (figure a). This low frequency can be attributed to the relatively low presence of Member activity in More Developed Countries (MDCs) where the need for decarbonization is the greatest.

Essential to this outcome area is a widespread effort to foster global movement toward a carbon-neutral society that achieves massive cuts in global emissions leading to global warming beneath the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold. Despite current rates of warming – close to 1 degree Celsius – humanity has until 2050 to achieve the goal of decarbonization outcomes⁷. Many of NetHope’s conservation and environmental organizations seek to achieve this goal through principles and priorities such as “[Integrating] climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning... [promoting] mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change planning... [combatting] desertification... [enhancing] the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and land”⁸. Furthermore, such outcomes are highly associated with targets established by international cooperation in agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement. Yet to achieve decarbonization as a society, drastic changes are needed to alter the way that carbon is emitted into the global atmosphere from global economic activity, as well as the way in which it is stored and absorbed through natural environments and habitats.

Focusing on broad climate action through natural ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic, conservation and environmental focused organizations are leading massive campaigns to preserve and rehabilitate ecosystems to fight climate change and keep global warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius. Accordingly, the program approaches of the NetHope Members that work toward the advancement of these outcomes encompass all the areas identified in the [Program Approaches section](#), but are most closely related to Climate Mitigation as well as Green Economies. Notably, most organizations that are incorporating this set of strategic outcomes are classified as traditional conservation and environmental nonprofits.

However, as the climate crisis has worsened, a widening array of stakeholders from the humanitarian and social development spaces have also joined in and developed programs with decarbonization of society as a primary outcome.



⁷ United Nations (2022). Net zero coalition. United Nations

⁸ Sustainable Development Solution Network. (2022). SDG Indicators and a Monitoring Framework

Decarbonization as Communities & Organizations

Correlated to SDGs 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) is the priority of decarbonization as communities and organizations. With a strategic frequency of 71%, the majority of the NetHope membership has committed itself to this outcome area (figure a). Accordingly, this is the second most prevalent goal of the 3-5-5 climate strategy framework.

Foundational to this set of outcome areas is ensuring that organizations, communities, and the local infrastructure that nonprofits depend on for effective delivery of humanitarian and social aid is sustainable and not co-dependent upon fossil fuels to achieve development goals. At present, many nonprofit organizations are in a state of reliance upon existing infrastructure, energy production, and availability⁹. In most cases these infrastructures are fossil fuel based and highly inefficient, leading to expenditures and adherence to unsustainable processes. Thus, in undertaking a process of decarbonization – as communities and organizations – this set of climate outcomes leads to environmentally friendly approaches which foster local and grassroots development of sustainable energy production and resource use.

Integrated into many of these program strategies are outcomes of “[ensuring] universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services... [Supporting] least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance... substantially [reducing] waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse”¹⁰. While intertwined with goals associated with limiting warming – to the 1.5-degree Celsius mark – many of the outcomes associated with this set of climate goals are broader in nature and while they do not directly answer to the systemic issues around carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, they do contribute to tertiary proactive goals which advance such interests. Furthermore, these outcomes work on a very localized level to foster grassroots movement toward such goals. Accordingly, there is a wide array of organizations involved with this set of outcomes across the conversation, humanitarian, and social development Members of NetHope. Together this wide array of NetHope Members have set forth a climate strategy focusing on localized growth in terms of programming in the areas of Climate Advocacy and Justice as well as Climate Adaptation. In turn, these programs elevate the interests of local populations as they combat the impacts of climate change on a community level basis.

⁹ Lahn, G., & Grafham, O. (2020, October 6). The costs of fueling humanitarian aid

¹⁰ Sustainable Development Solution Network. (2022). SDG Indicators and a Monitoring Framework

Sustainability & Harm Reduction

Distributed amongst the series of the remaining SDGs such as 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), as well as 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) are strategic outcomes associated with the concept of sustainability and harm reduction. This set of climate goals emphasizes the capacity building and resilience boosting of affected populations and communities as they deal with the worst impacts of climate change¹¹. With a strategic frequency of over 89%, this is the most common climate outcome pursued by the NetHope membership (figure a).

Whereas the previous two strategic outcomes were reactive in nature and worked to lower the direct impact of climate change in a corrective manner (i.e., reduction of CO₂), this set of climate goals is proactive in nature, seeking to limit the consequences of the worst impacts related to an already altered climate. This comes with the scientific understanding that with every fraction of a degree that the climate warms comes a series of consequences that must be responded to through local capacity building i.e., building a sustainable future, climate conscious humanitarian response, and social development initiatives that integrate climate awareness into the foundation of program development.

In practice, these interests emerge in the form of principles of “[building] the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and [reducing] their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters... [ensuring] sustainable food production systems and [implementing] resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems... [achieving] universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”¹². Through this process of climate integration emerges a unified conservation, humanitarian, and social development sector seeking to advance the interests of the affected populations, simultaneously dealing with issues of poverty, hunger, and the detrimental impacts of climate change. This group of climate conscious nonprofits includes stakeholders outside of the traditional climate and conservation action space. As a result, most of the NetHope Members have notions of Climate Resilience and Climate Response, as well as elements of Green Economies. With these program approaches come the recognition that decarbonization should be a strategic priority, but simultaneously the social sector should be doing everything it can to limit the impact of an already unfolding crisis, should the benefit of societal decarbonizations take longer than modelled to show positive effects on the wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

¹¹ Danish Refugee Council. (2021). Framework on Climate Change and Environment

¹² Sustainable Development Solution Network. (2022). SDG Indicators and a Monitoring Framework

Program Approaches



Climate Advocacy & Justice

Climate Program Map

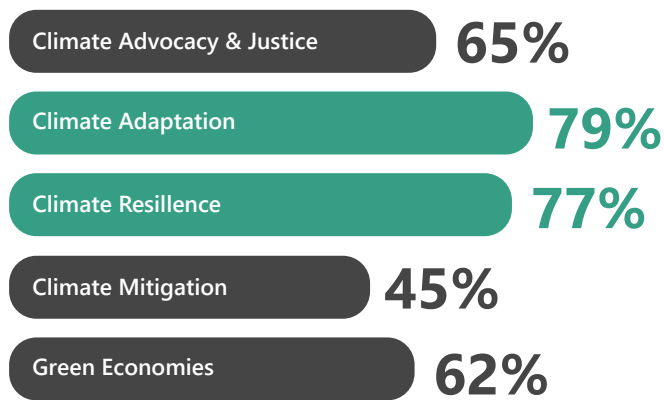


FIGURE B

Inspiring positive conversations, influencing policymakers, and negotiating stakeholders to join the social sector as partners to climate outcomes is a core aspect of what NetHope Members do on a fundamental level to address the problem of climate change. With a program frequency of 65%, advocacy and justice campaigns are amongst the top three ways in which Members engage in climate action (figure b).

Acknowledging the “disproportionate impacts faced by women, girls and marginalized communities must be central to addressing climate-induced loss and damage”¹³. NetHope Members use this program approach to lobby MDCs and decision makers for “support through transferring technology, capacity building, and financial resources” to combat climate change¹⁴. Using mechanisms such as direct lobbying, advocacy campaigns, and leveraged networks of trust, Members are becoming climate ambassadors seeking to channel acquired scientific expertise as well as the experiences of affected populations into advocacy mechanisms which promote movement toward green policies and pathways of climate action. In advocating for nature in this capacity, NetHope Members hope to call attention to the problems of climate change and raise funds, resources, and partnerships to help solve its many ramifications.

Recognizing the greater duty of MDCs to solve climate change¹⁵, the focus of climate advocacy and justice is on strengthening national planning efforts and coordination amongst the global north as well as emphasizing the need to resolve long-standing inequities perpetuated by a changing climate. From multiple perspectives, environmental (e.g., ecoside), economic (e.g., Just Transition), or national (e.g., MDC/LDC), climate challenges extend beyond science or economics to social justice and human rights issues.

This demands that solutions not only reduce emissions and protect the natural world, but also create a fairer, more just and more equal world in the process. Special focus will be needed on the civil rights equality and equity of those disproportionately suffering from climate change impacts such as women, youth, indigenous people and vulnerable communities. By making these inequities clear to power holders and decision makers, climate interests are prioritized at the forefront of global political discourse and governance, thereby leading to greater climate outcomes. While this program approach leads into goals and outcomes most associated with decarbonization as society, climate advocacy and justice also contribute to sustainability and harm reduction goals.



¹³ Action Aid International. (2021). (rep.). Avoiding the Climate Poverty Spiral

¹⁴ Islamic Relief. (2020). (rep.). Islamic Relief Climate Change Policy.

¹⁵ Center for Global Development. (2022). Developed countries are responsible for 79 percent of historical carbon emissions. Center for Global Development | Ideas to Action

Climate Adaptation

To assist local nonprofits and client communities as they adapt to a changing climate, NetHope Members are implementing program approaches that seek to protect affected populations from both the projected and unexpected consequences of climate change. With a program frequency of 79% this is the most common program approach for the NetHope membership as it relates to climate action (figure b).

In practice, programs under this umbrella seek the integration of existing systems of aid, development, and local dependencies into a new era of environmentally friendly practices and standards. This means catalyzing collective action at the intersection of expert communities in humanitarian action, environment, and digital technology. Building off their shared commitment to tackling climate change highlighted in the Strategic Alignment research and their SDG/Paris goals.

With these standards, adaptation programs seek to promote profound change at the system level¹⁶ in order to combat the hazards of climate change. To achieve this change, NetHope Members are focusing on “integrating climate risk management into existing [organizational] activities and programs, rather than developing stand-alone climate change activities”¹⁷. At the grassroots level, such projects materialize in the form of eco-friendly solutions that help client communities such as farmers “adapt to climate change by linking them with information on climate resilient crop varieties, agronomic advice, and weather forecasts”¹⁸.

Accordingly, food, water, health, and waste management projects have been converted into climate conscious operations that remain effective as the impacts of climate change materialize on the local level. Additionally, the social sector has seen a proliferation of programs in the form of climate adaptation funds¹⁹ which invest in novel innovations such as digitized money transfers that pair cash services with nutritional screening or climate education on agricultural practices²⁰. Other climate adaptations include changes in human dynamics on programming such as health and vaccine campaigns. In such cases, “increased immunization coverage” can be achieved by “allowing simplified logistical setup and transport for vaccines that is adapted to the local reality”²¹.

Often integrated into these strategies are programs which provide local communities with support to build public infrastructure that withstands growing threats from sea level rises, public health risks, and extreme weather events. Thus, at the core of climate adaptation is the extension of aid and support to government actors which manage public infrastructure that nonprofits and affected populations depend on. By way of this process, climate adaptation becomes a program approach in which NetHope Members are “[seeking] to change behavior, consumption and production patterns, thereby enhancing the capacity to increase [action] to climate change”²². In extension, NetHope Members are bridging the gap between traditionally siloed program approaches – social development and conservation – and in effect simultaneously addressing the consequences of climate change and other global inequities. Consequently, climate adaptation programs are strongly affiliated with all three strategic outcomes of the NetHope Members: decarbonization as society, decarbonization as organizations, and sustainability and harm reduction.

¹⁶ Congressional Research Service. (2021). Climate Change: Defining Adaptation and Resilience, with Implications for Policy

¹⁷ International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2017). (rep.). IFRC Framework for Climate Action

¹⁸ DanChurchAid. (2022). (rep.). DCA Climate Factsheet

¹⁹ WCS Climate Adaptation Fund. (2021)

²⁰ Médecins Sans Frontières. (2020). (rep.). The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Policy brief on humanitarian impacts

²¹ Congressional Research Service. (2021). Climate Change: Defining Adaptation and Resilience, with Implications for Policy

²² Danish Refugee Council. (2022, August 4). A little goes a long way: Cash transfers make a difference in Ethiopia. DRC | Ethiopia

Climate Resilience

Recognizing the correlation between the carbon cycle, greenhouse gas emissions, and the increasing frequency of catastrophic weather events²³ – such as droughts or floods, hurricanes, and wildfires – NetHope Members have undertaken a series of program implementations that preserve the safety and long-term integrity of communities through mechanisms of resilience and risk reduction. With a program frequency of 77%, this the 2nd most common program approach for the NetHope membership as it relates to climate action (figure b), almost tied with Climate Adaptation.

Defined as, “strengthening the ability of a community to anticipate and deal with shocks and stresses caused by the climate emergency”²⁴ this program approach seeks to remedy the causal factors of disaster events such as unprecedented flooding across areas of Pakistan²⁵, devastating wildfires in Australia²⁶, as well as powerful storm surges in

the Caribbean²⁷ (i.e., Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Dorian). All of which epitomize the growing frequency and threat of extreme weather events for nonprofits and affected populations alike. As humanity approaches the 1.5-degree Celsius warming mark, these types of disasters will become more common²⁸. Cognizant of these threats, emergency and disaster response organizations are beginning to develop niche expertise and programming in climate induced disasters. In practice, this means that nonprofits – mostly in the humanitarian and social development spaces – begin to “manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reducing a community’s exposure to hazards”²⁹.

Programmatically, this approach materializes in mechanisms that build upon existing systems and ways of living. In agriculture, there are many examples that pair training for local farmers and

pastoralist communities – often led by women – with “mobile apps [that] display current water and vegetation conditions on localized grazing maps, enabling pastoralists to make more accurate and cost-effective migration decisions, improve pasture management and collaboration, reduce the risk of herd loss and ultimately transform their lives”³⁰. Regardless of the mission area, climate resiliency and risk reduction seeks to simultaneously address “Emergency needs... while longer-term initiatives tackle the impact of climate change”³¹.

In many cases, longer-term initiatives focus on local capacity building as well as



promoting training amongst local actors on how to “carry out participatory risk assessments using the relevant PVCA (participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments) tools and resources... which could coordinate and manage preparedness and response activities with communities”³². Like climate adaptation, discussed above, climate risk reduction extends from the social sector to partners in the public sector. Most notably, these connections enhance the durability of public infrastructure and support the climate proofing of critical systems such as “revamping of electrical systems given old or faulty wires can cause fires... Posting information in strategic locations... [and deploying] early warning devices and emergency kits”³³. Combining these approaches, anticipatory-action and early warning of climate induced disasters has emerged as one of the most promising program implementations of this approach.

Whereas climate adaptation is focused on transitioning to a new set of environmentally friendly standards and practices, climate resilience and risk reduction is focused on withstanding the momentary hazards of climate change with the end goal of returning to pre-hazard conditions³⁴. In effect, climate resilience seeks to preserve cultural norms and ways of life in local communities, as well as build upon those norms for climate programming. With programming that is reflective (i.e., lessons learned from past experiences and traditions), robust (i.e., people and infrastructure able to withstand extreme conditions), and agile-forward (i.e., flexible plans to ensure systems work and adapt to extreme events), climate resilience is all about cultural plasticity. As a result, climate resilience programs are most closely associated with sustainability and harm reduction, as communities look to become more durable to counteract the effects of climate change.



²³ Mirza, M. M. Q. (2003). Climate change and extreme weather events: can developing countries adapt?. *Climate policy*, 3(3), 233-248.

²⁴ CARE International. (2022). Disaster risk reduction. CARE Climate Justice.

²⁵ Caritas. (2022, September 14). Devastating floods in Pakistan: A chance to help twice over - Pakistan. ReliefWeb

²⁶ The Nature Conservancy Australia. (2020, February 12). Australia's bushfire crisis. Perspectives.

²⁷ Lugo, A. E. (2000). Effects and outcomes of Caribbean hurricanes in a climate change scenario. *Science of the Total Environment*, 262(3), 243-251.

²⁸ Mudd, L., Wang, Y., Letchford, C., & Rosowsky, D. (2014). Assessing climate change impact on the US East Coast hurricane hazard: temperature, frequency, and track. *Natural Hazards Review*, 15(3), 04014001.

²⁹ CARE International. (2022). Disaster risk reduction. CARE Climate Justice.

³⁰ Global Communities. (2021, December 14). Afriscout app debuts in Washington, DC. Global Communities | News | Blog

³¹ GOAL Global. (2021). (rep.). Briefing Paper, 2021: Responding to the Climate Crisis.

³² Christian Aid UK. (2017). (rep.). PARTNERING FOR RESILIENCE Reducing disaster risks through effective partnerships.

³³ World Vision International. (2016). Philippines - Nine ways schools are preparing for disasters in Tagbilaran. Disaster Risk Reduction - Planning ahead to save lives.

³⁴ Congressional Research Service. (2021). Climate Change: Defining Adaptation and Resilience, with Implications for Policy.

Climate Mitigation

Corresponding with traditional implementations of climate action are programs associated with conservation, preservation, and carbon offset strategies. Integral to such approaches is the notion of “bringing down greenhouse gases so as to ensure sustainable behavior by all actors in the humanitarian aid sector”³⁵ and to “meaningfully mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as provide valuable conservation co-benefits for people and nature”³⁶. With a program frequency of 45% this is amongst the more underrepresented areas of climate action for the NetHope membership (figure b).

To accomplish such goals, many NetHope Members have unveiled programs that address climate change from the perspective of the carbon molecule. In practice, this perspective leads to a myriad of climate mitigation programs in the form of preservation techniques such as land trusts and conservation easements, as well as private reserves and other collaborative programs which work on the community level to protect land and biodiversity from destruction and exploitation³⁷. Generally referred to as Natural Climate Solutions (NCS), these techniques materialize as reforestation and land rehabilitation programs which seek to conserve existing ecosystems, thereby ensuring that carbon is being absorbed into the natural environment³⁸.

Many climate offset strategies, commonly implemented by the wider community of humanitarian and social development organizations, are grounded in offsetting unsustainable business practices through green pathways such as tree planting programs³⁹, carbon credit programs⁴⁰, or land preservation programs⁴¹. The sector has also seen a growth of programs dedicated to assessing organizational carbon footprints and implementing specific program interventions to lower carbon output⁴². Often, carbon foot printing is the first step for climate conscious organizations as they seek to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from business activities. After unsustainable aspects of the business are understood, opportunities for effective climate interventions emerge. In this way, NetHope Members are addressing the core causal factors underpinning the rapid acceleration of global climate change and seeking to achieve strategic outcomes associated with decarbonization as a society as well as decarbonization as organizations which work toward carbon neutrality goals.

³⁵ Danish Refugee Council. (2021). Framework on Climate Change and Environment

³⁶ The Nature Conservancy. (2021, June 10). Our commitment to carbon credits and the path to net zero. The Path to Net Zero

³⁷ The Nature Conservancy. (2022). Private lands conservation

³⁸ The Nature Conservancy. (2021). Natural Climate Solutions

³⁹ Rlemke. (2019, April 9). The giving trees: Fighting climate change and strengthening communities in Nicaragua

⁴⁰ The Nature Conservancy. (2021, June 10). Our commitment to carbon credits and the path to net zero. The Path to Net Zero

⁴¹ The Nature Conservancy. (2022). Private lands conservation

⁴² Winrock International. (2021). Winrock International - Carbon Accounting

Green Economies

Acknowledging the inherent and unsustainable nature of energy production and global economic structures, many NetHope Members are working at a local level to transition local communities into green economies that fully leverage the promise of sustainability. This approach has a program frequency of 62% amongst NetHope Members (figure b).

Defined as the pursuit of an economy which is “low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive”⁴³, this program approach seeks to address the concurrent issues of economic development and sustainability. Proving that these concepts are not mutually exclusive, there are a wide array of implementations that promote traditionally contradictory program areas. Notable are climate-oriented education programs which provide job training and skill building through “Green Colleges”⁴⁴ that link economic development with climate in a way that ensures “Young people are educated and have better chances of finding a job or setting up their own business. And resources are preserved by a new, more environmentally aware generation”⁴⁵. Identified as a major barrier to green jobs, capital and skills are being provided to youth to promote climate as a societal concern including “internships, loans... and financing to promote a just transition to a green economy”⁴⁶. In this way, nonprofits seek to empower younger generations to break social norms in the betterment of their communities, local ecosystems, and futures⁴⁷.

Another common approach within this space are industry development services that incubate environmentally friendly practices and startups into the foundation of business and local economic opportunities⁴⁸. Women emerge as a priority in this area as the advancement of goals associated with gender equality also plays a key role in the growth of green economies. Increasingly, organizations acting through this program approach are using gender-based analysis – like the Rapid Gender Analysis⁴⁹ – to understand how the climate crisis impacts women in each context and what interventions are needed to be considerate of needs of affected populations.

In this way, empowering communities most affected by climate change – i.e., women – contributes greatest to the long-term outcomes associated with decarbonization and a green economy. Therefore, strategies to transform entire sectors of local economies are becoming more common as the unsustainable nature of economic practices becomes tangible for organizations and affected populations. Accordingly, the sector’s work toward green economies seeks to accomplish goals associated with each of the climate outcomes of decarbonization as society, decarbonization as communities and organizations, and sustainability and harm reduction.

⁴³ Environment, U. N. (2022). Green economy. Supporting Resource Efficiency

⁴⁴ Bandsom, K. (2018). “Ecopreneurs” for a sustainable future. Welthungerhilfe.de - Für eine Welt ohne Hunger und Armut

⁴⁵ Bandsom, K. (2018). “Ecopreneurs” for a sustainable future. Welthungerhilfe.de - Für eine Welt ohne Hunger und Armut

⁴⁶ Plan International. (2022). (rep.). Young people and green skills: Preparing for a sustainable future

⁴⁷ Bandura, A., & Cherry, L. (2020). Enlisting the power of youth for climate change. *American psychologist*, 75(7), 945

⁴⁸ Ashoka. (2022). Ashoka Support Network: Ashoka: Everyone a changemaker

⁴⁹ CARE International (2020). Evicted by Climate Change. CARE Climate and Resilience Platform

Strategic Enablers



Education

Climate Enabler Map

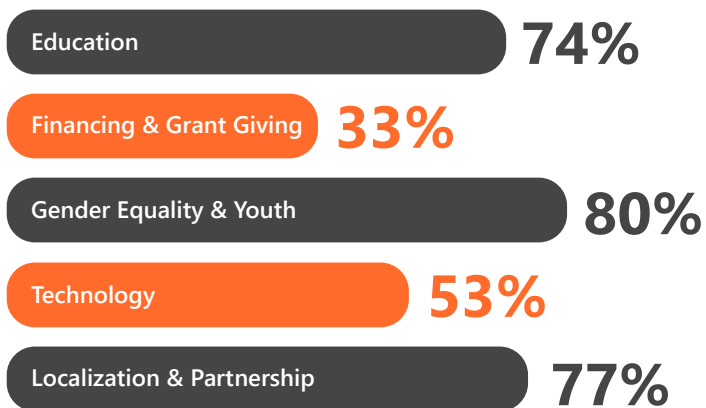


FIGURE C

Across the NetHope membership – 74% of which have climate action as a strategic priority – is a widespread recognition of the importance of education in solving the problem of climate change. Through the leveraging of information and educational resources to expand climate consciousness, promote climate outcomes and program goals, as well as acquire new climate allies, education has emerged as enabler to climate action. Accordingly, nonprofits are expanding knowledge of the climate crisis and seek to provide client communities with the training, skills, and tools they need to counteract the local impact of climate change. In this way, education contributes to the achievement of all climate action outcomes.

Financing & Grant Giving

Foundational to all climate activities is ensuring that there are enough resources available to start-up and scale promising climate initiatives. However, only 33% of NetHope Members have what they need to actively resource and scale promising innovations for the entire social sector. This is why the investing of resources into and in support of our Members is core to the implementation of the Digital Breakthrough Initiative. The sector is currently in a place of scarcity and as such there are not enough resources available to address all the risks associated with climate change. NetHope Members seek to change this. Under this imperative, the NetHope membership remains committed to leveraging funding – wherever it may exist – to facilitate positive action toward all climate outcomes.

Gender Equality & Youth

Recognizing that specific at-risk populations face greater impact from climate change, 80% of the NetHope Members have committed to using gender and youth empowerment as an enabler for climate action. Women face some of the worst consequences of climate change, and the NetHope community remains steadfastly committed to empowering women as an enabler to climate action. Coinciding with concerns of gender equity, youth are increasingly placed at the forefront of climate action such that future generations are empowered to take ownership, promote change, and ensure that a sustainable planet is provided to them. Through empowering the most affected populations of climate change there emerges hope for amplified impact through climate action.

Localization & Partnerships

Integral to climate programming – and 77% of the NetHope Membership – is the establishment of deep connections between nonprofit and humanitarian organizations, corporations, and for-profit organizations, as well as government and philanthropic agencies. Alignment between these entities enables greater international collaboration on pressing climate matters, facilitates the growth of solutions, and opens the door to amplified climate impact which would be unachievable without collective action. Extending these partnerships to local communities – and community leaders, constructs, and pathways of action – becomes critical as this ecosystem seeks to have localized impacts in areas that are facing the greatest threats. Accordingly, the pursuit of localization and partnerships enables the achievement of all climate outcomes as cross-sector and cross-cultural collaborations facilitate the flow of funding, development of solutions, and the sharing of expertise to combat climate change on the community level.

Technology

Core to NetHope's mission is the belief that technology can be leveraged to achieve amplified impact and to align the life-transforming impact of the nonprofit sector. Being underrepresented across the climate strategy framework – at just 53% – this enabler represents NetHope's primary focus as it relates to empowering nonprofits. Via collaboration with Members as well as partners to the sector – such as Cisco and Silicon Valley Community Foundation – this mission area has recently been expanded to climate action with the expectation that NetHope can achieve amplified impact in program areas that promote conservation, climate action, and environmental sustainability. Over time, the promising enabler which technology represents has become shared across the nonprofit community and is the result of a sector trying to achieve more impact with less available resources. Consequently, technology continually emerges as a catalyst for climate action across all climate outcome areas.

Conclusion

In solidarity with stakeholders of the conservation, humanitarian, and social development sectors, NetHope recognizes the critical nature of climate change and has begun actively exploring and coordinating the development of community driven climate solutions that will increase the sustainability and resilience of the nonprofit and client communities. Having been empowered by Cisco and Silicon Valley Community Foundation with funding to research, explore, and scale promising digital innovations that contribute to a healthy planet, this whitepaper is the first of a series of NetHope research initiatives in climate action. Representing the holistic strategic landscape of climate action, the 3-5-5 climate strategy framework highlights how NetHope Members approach climate change on an outcome, program, and enabler basis.

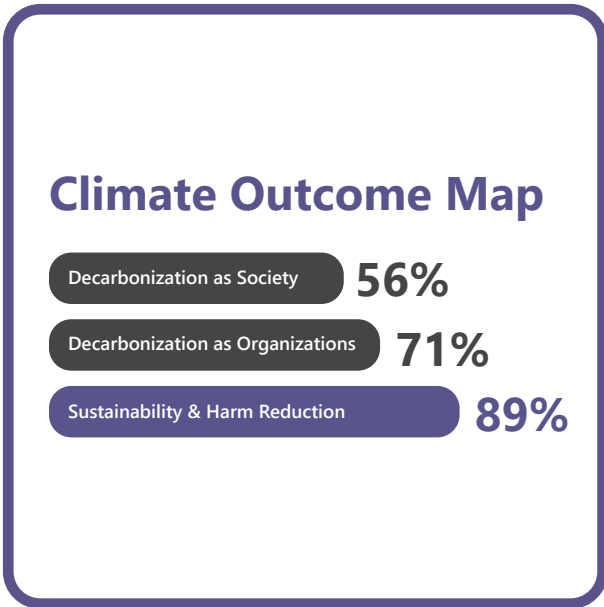
Based upon this climate strategy framework, NetHope Members have taken a priority focus on protecting affected populations from the risks associated with climate change. This is in recognition of the worsening status of the climate crisis and the increasing likelihood that humanity will be unable to avoid the consequences of a changing climate – and are in fact already experiencing those consequences. Rather than continuing to focus on climate mitigation and reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gases, the social sector is now emphasizing sustainability and harm reduction by way of adaptation and resilience modalities. To support such outcomes, the NetHope community is leveraging education and gender and youth empowerment, as well as localization and partnerships, to help maintain a healthy planet and contribute to sector commitments of zero harm.

Intending to support those mechanisms of climate action, NetHope now moves forward with the critical task of aligning our community of technology companies, nonprofits, and government agencies such that we collectively empower the social sector with decisive digital action that contributes to the advancement of climate adaptation resilience modalities. This is only possible if our community effectively leverages opportunities for financing, grant giving, and partnerships into practical yet innovative ICT solutions that can be scaled and synergistically supported across the entire social sector.

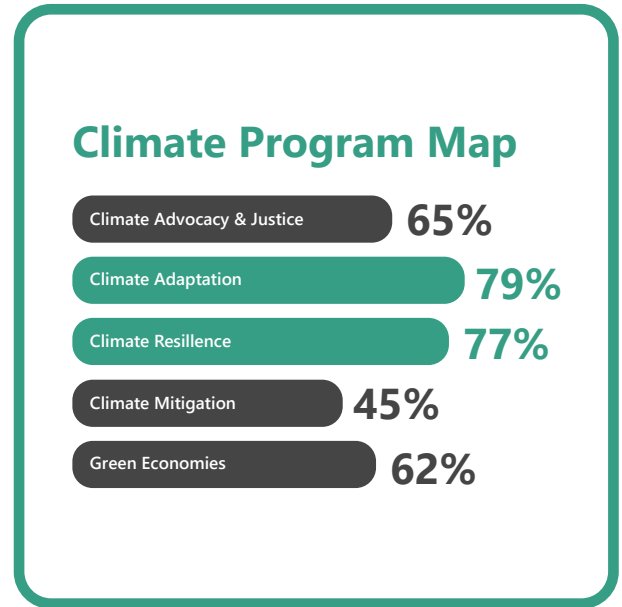


Appendix

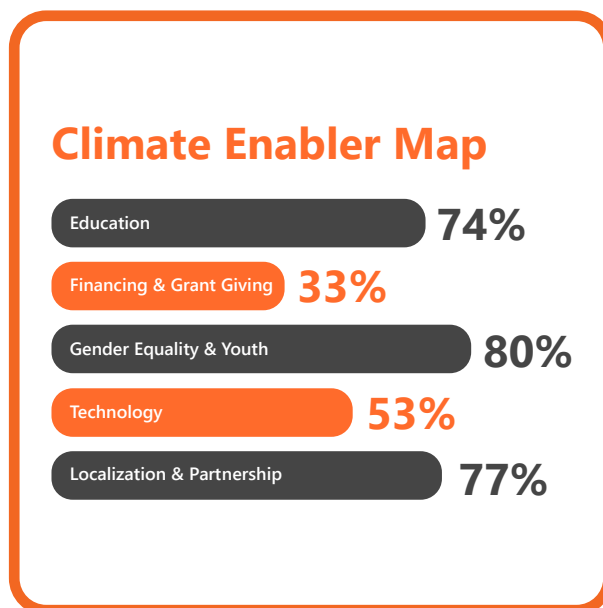
A. Climate Outcome Frequency Map



B. Climate Program Frequency Map



C. Climate Enabler Frequency Map



Who We Are

[NetHope](#) is a community-driven organization that enables nonprofits to better serve their client communities through smarter and more effective use of technology. Working with the nonprofit sector, technology companies, donors, and government agencies, NetHope seeks to empower the social sector with collective digital action. We serve over 60 leading humanitarian, development, and conservation organizations around the world and collaborate with our [Member organizations](#) to innovate and leverage the full potential of information and communications technology (ICT) to help achieve their missions. NetHope and our Members partner with over 50 of the [world's leading technology firms](#) to create innovative solutions to existing and emerging challenges, and to reimagine how technology can improve our world. As a point of principle, the program implementations of NetHope match the needs of our Members and evolve as needed.

Traditionally, NetHope has empowered its Member nonprofits via digital programming focused on demand aggregation of connectivity, capacity or skills, as well as emergency response deployments in a variety of contexts, ranging from the Syrian Refugee Crisis to the Ebola outbreak in Africa and the Ukraine Crisis of 2022. To keep in touch with sector trends and Member needs, NetHope runs the Center for the Digital Nonprofit (CDN) which functions as an in-house research and development unit for Member strategies, programming, and engagement. As a collective, community members also participate in an annual Global Summit, regional Chapter meetings, as well as Working Groups that follow major technology trends. By means of this collaboration comes opportunities for the membership to leverage collective impact grants helping to scale their impact, and special pricing on technology from our partners. Going forward, NetHope looks to expand collective impact opportunities to invest and scale promising initiatives in climate action.



Climate Consequences for Society

Biodiversity & Natural Habitats

Since 1970, Human activity and global climate change have led to the destruction of 60% of mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles, as well as the near elimination of many keystone and other critical species⁵⁰. Unlike previous extinction events, the ongoing 6th mass extinction is not caused by natural phenomena. Rather it has been unleashed by a systemic misuse and unsustainable exploitation of land, water, and energy by humanity. As a result of these practices, it is estimated that the current species extinction rate is 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than it would naturally be and that current population declines are enough to threaten ecological pathways which support human life⁵¹. What's more, entire terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are under threat as coral reefs become exposed to ocean acidification (i.e., Great Barrier Reef bleaching)⁵² as well as fragile forest ecosystems which have been eliminated by massive wildfires (i.e., Australian bushfires)⁵³. Representing the frontlines of the impacts derived from climate change, conservation and environmental action organizations are highly focused on this impact area. The IUCN reports that "Climate change currently affects at least 10,967 species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, increasing the likelihood of their extinction."⁵⁴

Global Economies

Associated with the impacts of climate change are drastic economic consequences in the form of failed crops yields, greater variability and severity of destructive and severe weather, and a proliferation of localized disasters along inland and coastal population centers. With these risks comes the estimate that the global economy is projected to lose \$23 trillion by 2050⁵⁵, the same year in which the world must achieve carbon neutrality. The United States – the world's largest economy – is estimated to lose 1-4% of GDP annually because of these impacts⁵⁶, symbolizing that even MDCs will be exposed to negative consequences from climate change and that wealth does not isolate from consequence. However, research highlights that it is the LDCs which will suffer the greatest impact from climate change. This is a product of the colonialist policies which have denied LDCs the funding, resiliency, and infrastructure to support localized development in the way of climate adaptation and awareness. Furthermore, LDCs more commonly rely on single sectors of the economy for economic growth, such as the case with Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) which are dependent on ocean-based industries for GDP growth⁵⁷. In addition, population centers and hubs of economic activity such as Jakarta, Miami, and Osaka are under significant threat from flooding as humanity approaches the 1.5-degree Celsius warming target⁵⁸. Through flooding and displacement of vibrant urban communities such as those in Miami-Dade County, "permanent flooding is projected to reduce global real GDP by an average of 0.19% in present value terms, with welfare declining by 0.24% as people move to places with less attractive amenities"⁵⁹. Accordingly, the impacts of climate change have severe consequences for natural environments as well as the synthetic constructs of safety and climate exceptionalism – i.e., wealth – that MDCs have long leveraged as protection against the climate crisis.

⁵⁰ Grooten, M., & Almond, R. E. (2018). Living planet report-2018: aiming higher. WWF international

⁵¹ De Vos, J. M., Joppa, L. N., Gittleman, J. L., Stephens, P. R., & Pimm, S. L. (2015). Estimating the normal background rate of species extinction. *Conservation biology*, 29(2), 452-462

⁵² Andrachuk, M, et al. Wildlife Conservation Society. (2022) Coral Reef Governance: Strengthening Community and Collaborative Approaches

⁵³ World Wildlife Fund. (2020, January 13). Australia's Devastating Bushfires

⁵⁴ IUCN (2021, October). Species and Climate Change. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/species-and-climate-change>

⁵⁵ Marchant, N. (2021, June 28). This is how climate change could impact the global economy. *Future of the Environment*

⁵⁶ Jina, A. (2022, February 8). Climate change and the U.S. Economic Future. U.S. ENERGY & CLIMATE ROADMAP: POLICY INSIGHT

⁵⁷ Betzold, C. (2015). Adapting to climate change in small island developing states. *Climatic Change*, 133(3), 481-489

⁵⁸ Nicholls, R. J., Hanson, S., Herweijer, C., Patmore, N., Hallegatte, S., Corfee-Morlot, J., & Muir-Wood, R. (2007). Ranking of the world's cities most exposed to coastal flooding today and in the future

⁵⁹ Desmet, K., Kopp, R. E., Kulp, S. A., Nagy, D. K., Oppenheimer, M., Rossi-Hansberg, E., & Strauss, B. H. (2018). Evaluating the economic cost of coastal flooding (No. w24918)

Human Settlements & Populations

Closely associated with the implications of losses in biodiversity and the decline in global economies are the experiences of affected populations as they deal with the consequences of climate change in unique localized contexts. Across segmentations of the communities which the NetHope Membership serves is an understanding that previously affected populations – such as those who are seeking empowerment in the face of extreme poverty or health risks – are at risk of losing any socioeconomic gains because of impacts from climate change. As previously mentioned, LDCs are more likely to face the severe consequences of climate change. Globally, more than 880 million people live in slums in developing countries of which an estimated 70% are vulnerable to one or more impacts of climate change⁶⁰. Approaching 2050, between 200 million⁶¹ and 1.2 billion people⁶² – depending on warming levels - could become displaced because of climate change. An estimated 80% of people displaced by the climate crisis are women⁶³. Children are likewise impacted by climate change in an extremely negative manner with estimates showing that by 2050, climate change will contribute to an additional 241,000 child deaths, 25.2 million malnourished children and 7.5 million stunted children⁶⁴. What's more, over half of all pathogenic diseases have been exacerbated by climate change leading to a continuing emergence of public health emergencies⁶⁵. From this perspective, previously affected communities will face significant impact from climate change that will worsen pre-existing disparities and make conservation, humanitarian, and social development programs harder to achieve as nonprofits deal with the localized consequences of climate change.



⁶⁰ Hutt, R. (2016, October 19). These are the world's five biggest slums. CITIES AND URBANIZATION

⁶¹ Clement, V., Rigaud, K. K., de Sherbinin, A., Jones, B., Adamo, S., Schewe, J., & Shababat, E. (2021). Groundswell part 2: Acting on internal climate migration

⁶² Institute for Economics and Peace. (2020). (rep.). Over one billion people at threat of being displaced by 2050 due to environmental change, conflict and civil unrest

⁶³ OHCHR. (2022, July 12). Climate change exacerbates violence against women and girls. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

⁶⁴ World Health Organization. (2014). Quantitative risk assessment of the effects of climate change on selected causes of death, 2030s and 2050s

⁶⁵ Mora, C., McKenzie, T., Gaw, I. M., Dean, J. M., von Hammerstein, H., Knudson, T. A., ... & Franklin, E. C. (2022). Over half of known human pathogenic diseases can be aggravated by climate change

Climate Consequences for NetHope Members

Climate & Conservation Organizations

For NetHope Members that fall under the broad classification of conservation or environmental organizations – such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) – reckoning with the consequences of human driven climate change is not a new challenge. These nonprofit actors have been working at the most fundamental level to conserve, preserve, or restore natural habitats and in effect reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere.

However, despite global action and commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, the mission areas of these organizations are becoming more difficult to achieve. With deforestation in the Amazon at an all-time high⁶⁶, global bio-diversity loss occurring at an exponential rate⁶⁷, and the collapse of some of the world's most delicate ecosystems like the Great Barrier Reef⁶⁸, the worst consequences of climate change are already occurring. While climate change imposes extra costs and makes operations harder for these conservation and environmental focused organizations, the true impact from climate change is potential mission failure as the climate collapses in front of its most dedicated protectors and stewards.

Accordingly, the mission focus of these organizations is based around a framework of the molecule – carbon and other greenhouse gases – from the perspective that “we can limit further warming and the dangers it poses – if we act now. Every fraction of a degree matters”⁶⁹. In recognition of the fact that there is still time to act, and thereby limit the worst impacts of global climate change, these NetHope Members have implemented a wide range of climate-focused programming that seeks to reduce carbon at both the organizational and societal levels and thus limit the impact of climate change one fraction of a degree at a time. Paired with emerging approaches on climate resiliency and adaptation, these organizations represent the frontlines of environmental action and serve as examples for the rest of the social sector to follow.



⁶⁶ Silva Junior, C. H., Pessoa, A., Carvalho, N. S., Reis, J. B., Anderson, L. O., & Aragão, L. E. (2021). The Brazilian Amazon deforestation rate in 2020 is the greatest of the decade. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 5(2), 144-145

⁶⁷ Grooten, M., & Almond, R. E. (2018). *Living planet report-2018: aiming higher*. WWF international

⁶⁸ Johnson, J., & Marshall, P. (2007). *Climate change and the great barrier reef*

⁶⁹ The Nature Conservancy. (2020). *Playbook for Climate Action. Pathways for Countries and Businesses to Help Address Climate Change Today*

Humanitarian & Social Development Organizations

Juxtaposed to climate and conservation organizations, mentioned above, are the NetHope Members that fall under the category of humanitarian or social development organizations. This set of organizations – represented by entities such as ActionAid, CARE, Mercy Corps, and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) – have been in the process of bringing climate to the center of their mission areas. This has led to the implementation of climate conscious strategies that reckon with environmental challenges in a new way. Placing climate concerns at the forefront of program implementations has led to the integration of climate adaptation and resilience into traditional social development.

This is a result of increasing attention being given to the way in which climate change impacts this specific set of organizations. As climate change progresses, humanitarians and social development organizations are having to simultaneously solve systemic issues like poverty while also confronting the layered complexities of climate change. Operating in an already burdened system⁷⁰ – further encumbered by climate change – the ability of these nonprofits to deploy and build programs responsive to local needs has become more difficult. Changes in climate has led to an increasing “frequency and intensity of extreme events”⁷¹ and has “aggravated existing larger-scale conflicts and affected the dynamics of lower-scale communal violence”⁷².

Anecdotally, amplified climate disasters can already be seen, with unprecedented droughts in Ethiopia and Somalia⁷³, country-wide flooding in Pakistan⁷⁴, as well as extreme weather events in locations such as Southeast Asia and the Philippines, Latin America and the Caribbean⁷⁵. For humanitarian and social development organizations, the merging of systemic issues like poverty or health and climate change represents a two-fold challenge. First, there are increasing needs from affected populations, possibly in areas that extend outside of their traditional areas of expertise (i.e., climate resilient infrastructure). Second, is that operating in an already burdened system⁷⁶ – further complicated by climate – means that acquiring the necessary resources to be environmentally sustainable or climate conscious may be out of reach. Together, these issues mean that humanitarian and social development organizations need to evolve but increasingly have less of the enabling factors which allow them to do so (i.e., skills, resources, and funding).

In recognition of the threats that climate change poses to humanitarian and social development organizations, many nonprofits have implemented a series of interventions that seek to enhance the long-term sustainability of programming, thereby leading to harm reduction on the local level and an increase in resiliency amongst communities in which they serve. Codependent on existing infrastructure, these organizations have few other options but continue to adapt and find ways to assist people as they respond to needs across LDCs. Yet, the social sector which seeks to support them is in a position where it is morally obligated to coordinate with global goals (carbon reduction) vs the use of carbon to assist the sector (humanitarian and development programs).

⁷⁰ Obrecht, A., Swithern, S., & Doherty, J. (2022). (rep.). 2022 The State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS). ALNAP

⁷¹ CARE International (2020). Evicted by Climate Change. CARE Climate and Resilience Platform

⁷² CARE International. (2022). Disaster risk reduction. CARE Climate Justice

⁷³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022, August 24). Horn of africa drought: Regional humanitarian overview & call to action

⁷⁴ Caritas. (2022, September 14). Devastating floods in Pakistan: A chance to help twice over - Pakistan. ReliefWeb

⁷⁵ Lugo, A. E. (2000). Effects and outcomes of Caribbean hurricanes in a climate change scenario. *Science of the Total Environment*, 262(3), 243-251

⁷⁶ Obrecht, A., Swithern, S., & Doherty, J. (2022). (rep.). 2022 The State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS). ALNAP

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