

Climate Risk Assessment and Green Humanitarian Aid in Somalia



The ECT WASH (Environmentally Sound, Climate Resilient and Transformation of Humanitarian WASH) program is a global initiative aimed at strengthening climate-sensitive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in fragile and disaster-prone regions. This program is implemented from 2023 to 2026 in across thirteen countries by the consortium of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, arche noVa and German Toilet Organisation, together with local partners in the countries. This program integrates climate risk

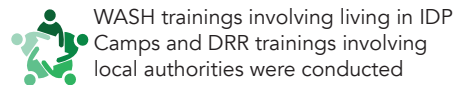
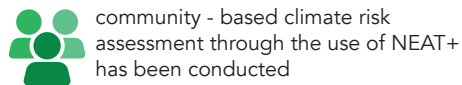
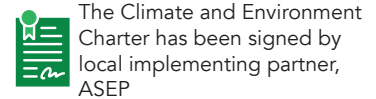
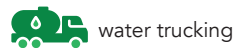
assessments, nature-based solutions, and participatory approaches to enhance community resilience. By incorporating environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness into WASH interventions, the program ensures that vulnerable communities can access safe water and sanitation while adapting to climate change. Through collaboration with local partners, governments, and humanitarian actors, the ECT WASH fosters long-term solutions that bridge humanitarian aid and sustainable development.

Project Brief: Integrating Climate Risk Assessments for Sustainable WASH in Fragile Areas

Somalia faces escalating climate risks, including prolonged droughts, flash floods, and environmental degradation, which severely impact access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. In fragile regions like Gedo and Galmudug, these challenges are compounded by ongoing conflict and displacement, making climate-sensitive WASH interventions critical for long-term resilience. The ECT WASH project, implemented in collaboration with arche nova and its local partner, Action for Social & Economic Progress (ASEP), strengthens climate risk assessments through the use of the NEAT+ tool. This approach enables humanitarian actors to identify environmental risks, integrate nature-based solutions, and ensure that WASH interventions align with Green Humanitarian Aid principles.

A key element of the project is participatory environmental screenings that bring together humanitarian actors, local governments, and communities to assess climate vulnerabilities and develop sustainable mitigation strategies. By conducting structured risk assessments and anticipatory action planning, the initiative enhances community preparedness and minimizes negative environmental impacts. Through targeted capacity-building efforts, including NEAT+ training workshops, local stakeholders gain the skills needed to mainstream environmental considerations into their WASH programs. This not only improves immediate service delivery but also fosters long-term sustainability by equipping communities with tools to adapt to climate variability and resource scarcity.

The ECT WASH project in Somalia: a snapshot up to 2024



Best Practices: Strengthening Environmental Accountability in Humanitarian WASH through the Use of NEAT+ for Environmental Screening

ASEP played a pivotal role in advancing environmental accountability by organizing NEAT+ training workshops for humanitarian actors in Gedo and Galmudug. These workshops provided hands-on exercises and case studies, enabling participants to apply environmental assessment tools in real-world scenarios. By equipping aid workers with practical skills to identify and mitigate environmental risks, the project strengthened the integration of climate-sensitive approaches into humanitarian WASH responses.

As the project emphasized skill development through structured training sessions focusing on anticipatory action, climate adaptation strategies, and sustainable WASH interventions, participants engaged in collaborative discussions, sharing experiences and brainstorming solutions to enhance environmental mainstreaming in their programs. A strong feedback mechanism allowed for continuous improvement, ensuring that training sessions remained relevant to local challenges.

Furthermore, community participation was central to the success of the initiative. By involving local government ministries, civil society organizations, and community members, the project ensured that environmental risk assessments were contextually relevant and aligned with local needs. This participatory approach fostered local ownership and increased the likelihood of sustained environmental protection efforts within the ECT WASH projects.

Despite political tensions limiting staff deployment in certain areas, the project was successfully adapted by conducting online training sessions and supporting local teams to lead activities on the ground. This flexibility ensured the continuity of capacity-building efforts and strengthened the

ability of local actors to independently implement NEAT+ assessments and Green Humanitarian Aid principles.

Long-Term Impact and Sustainability

The project's commitment to environmental accountability has led to a transformative shift in humanitarian planning. Many organizations trained through the initiative have adopted NEAT+ as a standard tool in their project workflows, ensuring that environmental considerations remain a key component of humanitarian aid in Somalia. The strengthened collaboration between government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and local communities has laid the foundation for more resilient WASH systems that can withstand future climate shocks.

Through these best practices, the ECT WASH project demonstrates how integrating climate risk assessments and participatory environmental planning can create lasting, sustainable change in fragile humanitarian settings.

