

HUMANITARIAN
ADVISORY GROUP



JOINT
ENVIRONMENT
UNIT



ICRC

CVA, Climate & Environment CoP

A greener response? Mitigating the environmental impacts of CVA -
January 2024



Housekeeping



This webinar is scheduled for 90 minutes



Please put your microphone on mute. Use the chat to introduce yourself.



Michael Belaro



Céline Sinitzky Billard



The webinar is being recorded.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction to the CoP
2. State of the World's Cash Report – Climate Chapter (CALP)
3. Greening the Humanitarian System (Humanitarian Advisory Group)
4. Integrating Environmental Considerations in Humanitarian Response (UNEP/OCHA)
5. Minimum Expenditure Baskets – Calculating the Carbon Footprint (ACF)
6. Panel Discussion (with audience Q&A)
7. Wrap-up



Relaunching the CoP

Defining priorities, ways of working and activities

CoP – Defining Purpose, Priorities and Activities

- What are your priorities (topics) in relation to CVA, the climate and environment?
- What would you like to get out of engagement in the CoP (and how would you like to engage)?
- Which activities should the CoP prioritize? What are the gaps and what is useful?
- Sub-groups/working groups?
- ✓ Fill in the SURVEY to let us know more
- ✓ Contact us (Celine.Sinitzky@calpnetwork.org and Ruth.McCormack@calpnetwork.org)





Mitigating the environmental impacts of CVA

Designing, implementing and measuring greener humanitarian responses

Presenters and Panelists



**Jesse
McCommon**

Humanitarian
Advisory Group



**Tina El
Khoury**

UNEP / OCHA



Camille Evain

Action Against Hunger
(ACF)



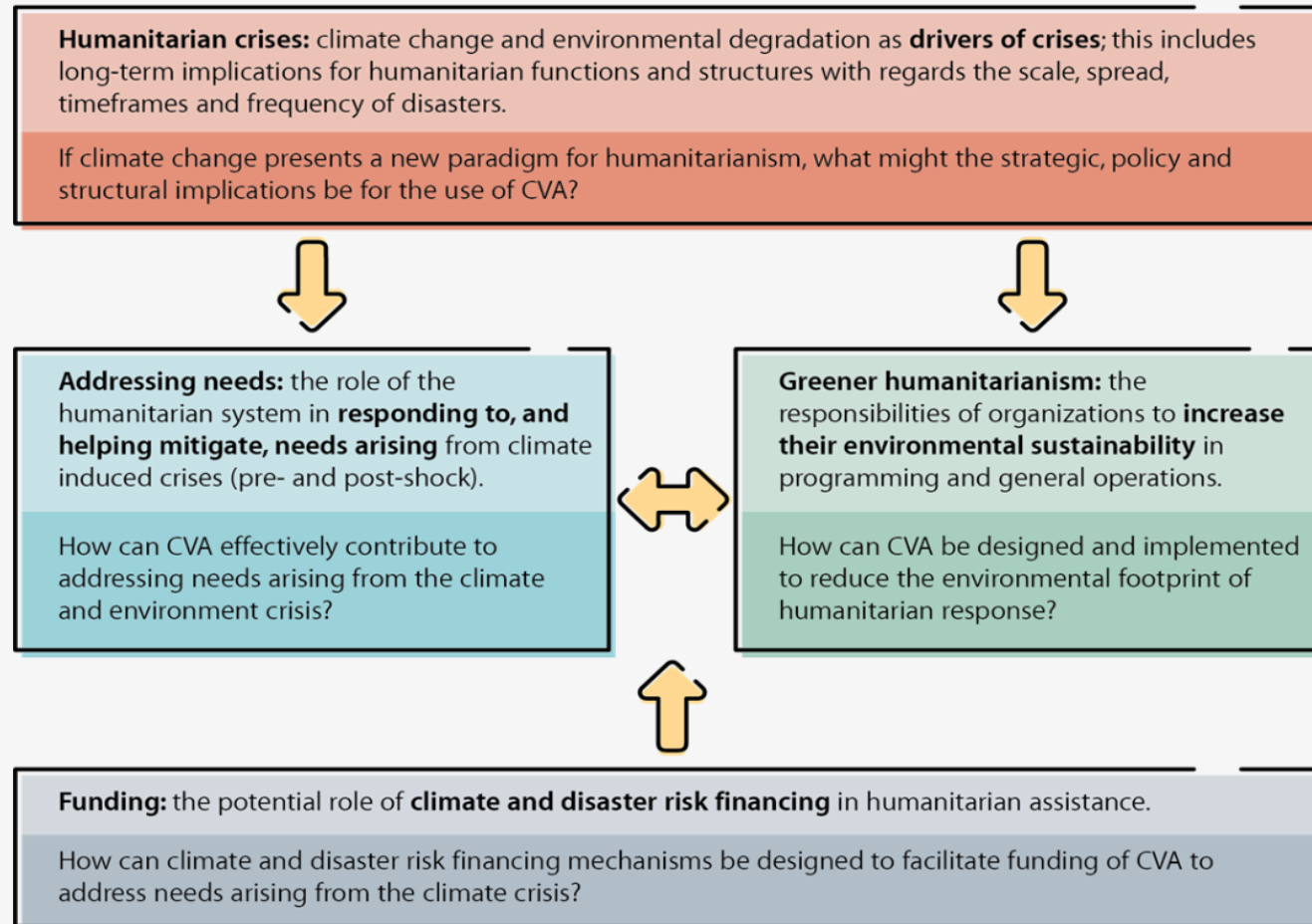
Clara Setiawan

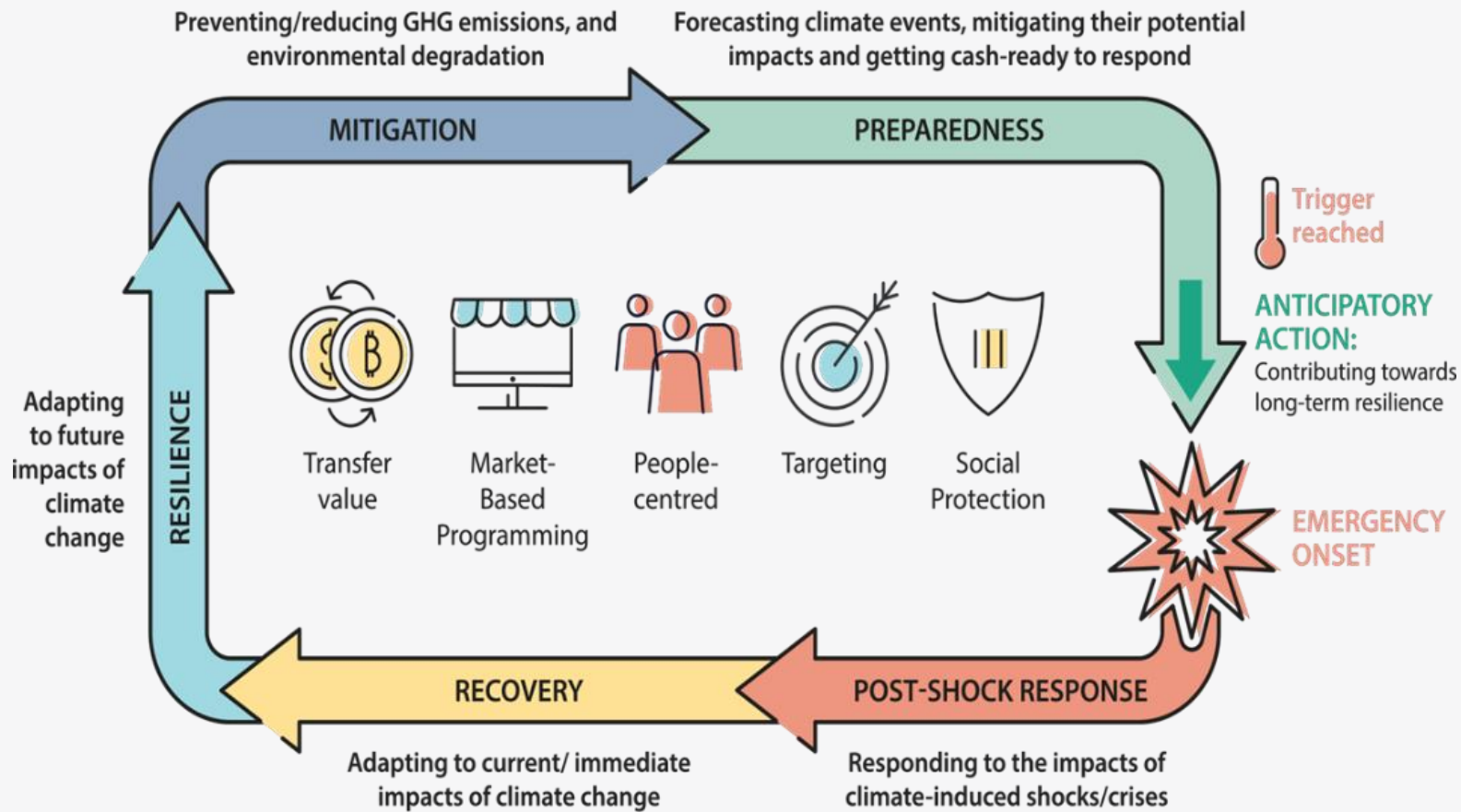
ICRC



ICRC

State of the World's Cash 2023 – Chapter 9

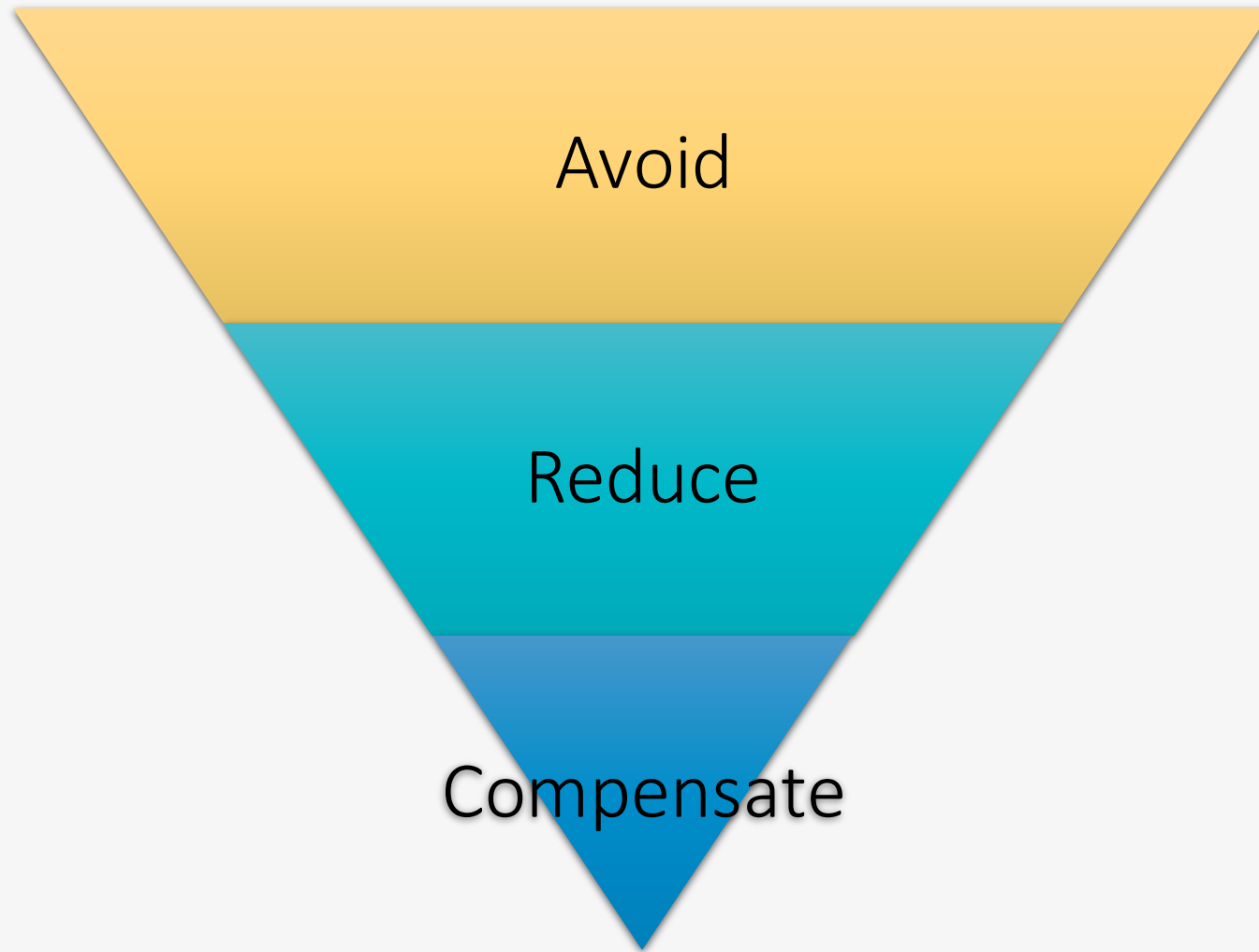




@CALPNetwork

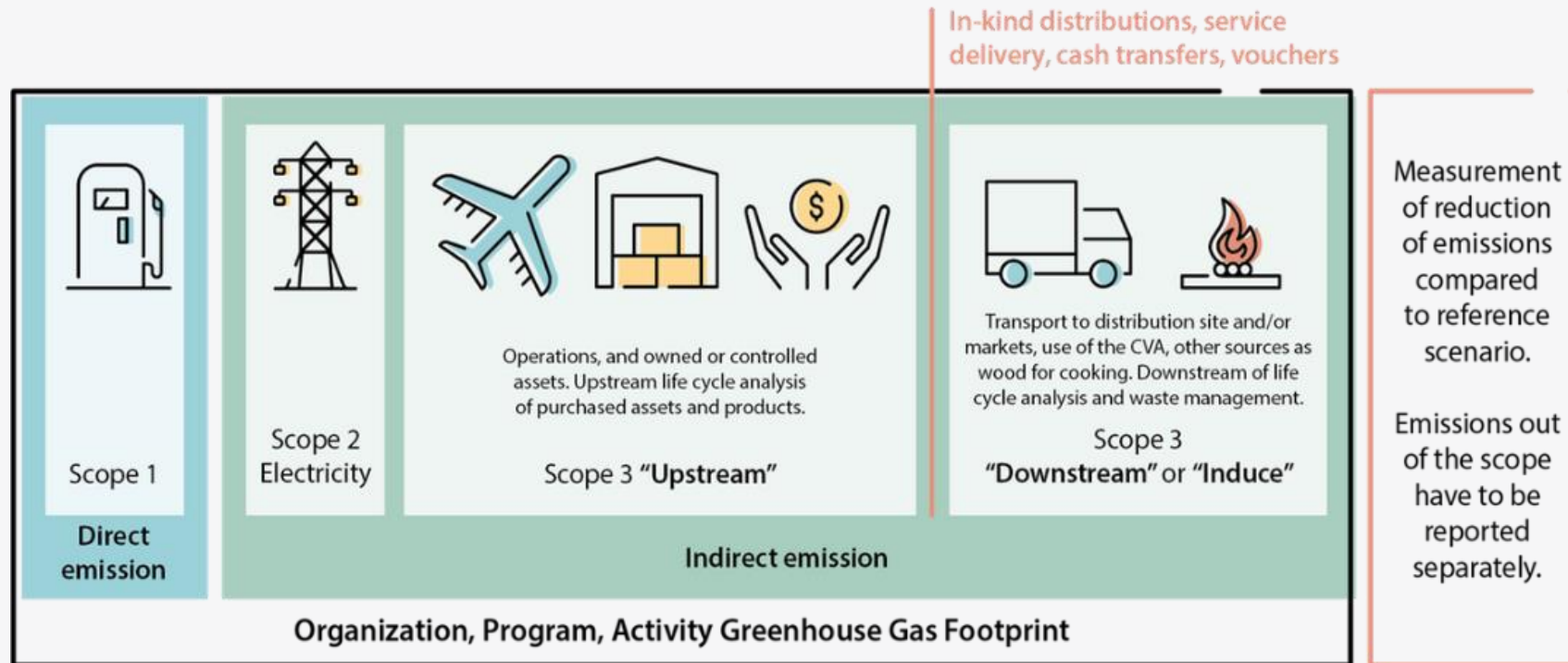
- Framework for analyzing CVA and climate / environment across the cycle
- Synthesis of evidence and perspectives

Mitigation – Greening Humanitarian Assistance



Mitigation – Greening CVA

- CVA is widely considered to be ‘greener’ than in-kind assistance – but measuring the environmental footprint is complex



Product stage of life

Modality of implementation

Product stage of life	Modality of implementation			
	In-Kind	Services	Voucher	Cash
Extraction/production	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue
Manufacturing	Orange and light blue	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue
Transportation	Orange	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue
Distribution	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light blue
Use	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue
Collection	Orange	Orange	Orange and light blue	(*)
End-of-life Tr.	Light blue	Light blue	Light blue	(*)

● Under humanitarian sector direct implementation. *Possibility to take actions directly to reduce the impact.*

● Mainly not included in scope of implementation. *Necessary to influence local practices, reinforce local supply and recycling chain, support local infrastructure, etc.*

(*) Except for CfW programmes with purpose of waste management

- Various approaches to help mitigate the environmental impacts of CVA
- Environmental impacts of digital payments are not well understood
- Limited evidence of environmental factors being incorporated into MEBs



HAG

Jesse McCommon

Greening the Humanitarian System

Humanitarian Advisory Group



HUMANITARIAN HORIZONS RESEARCH PROGRAM 2021-24: Achieving better outcomes for crisis-affected people

Humanitarian Horizons 2021–24 is Humanitarian Advisory Group’s (HAG) strategic, sector-wide research program. Focusing on the Indo-Pacific region, Humanitarian Horizons aims to progress thinking on the role of the humanitarian sector and produce evidence on how to achieve better outcomes for affected communities. The program has been at the forefront of humanitarian thinking and practitioner-based research in our region over the past five years. The 2021-24 program builds on our experience and research work from the pilot phase (2017–18) and the Humanitarian Horizons 2018– 21 program.

The intended outcome of all research streams is evidence and action to support effective humanitarian action in the Indo-Pacific region.



RESEARCH STREAM 1
Power, People and Local Leadership



RESEARCH STREAM 2
Greening the System



RESEARCH STREAM 3
Real time Analysis and Influence



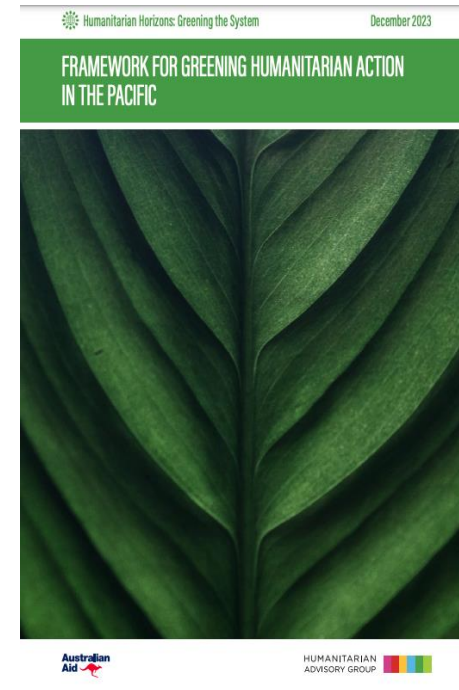
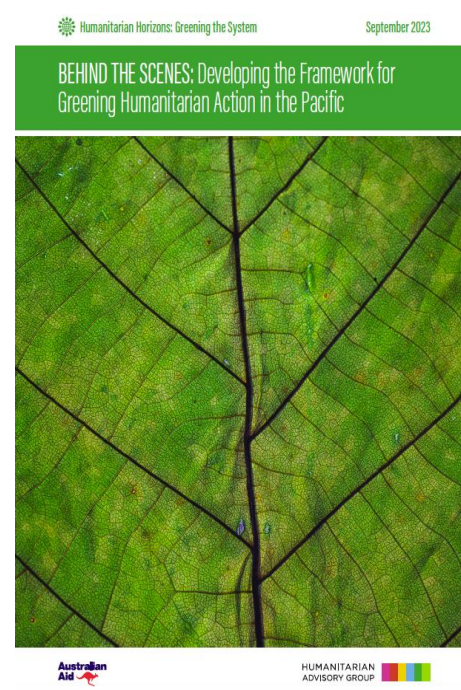
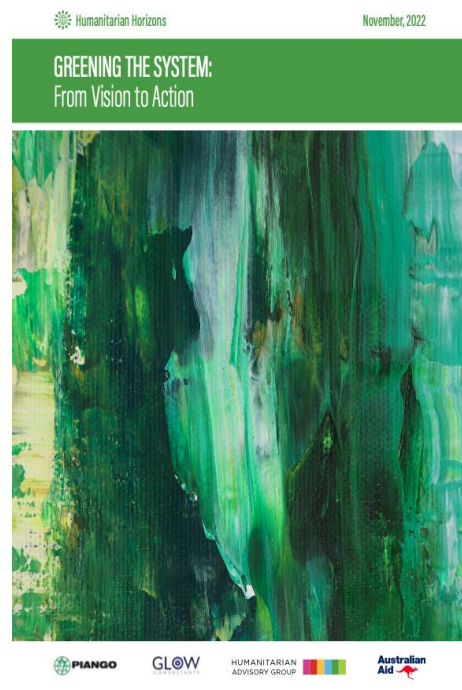
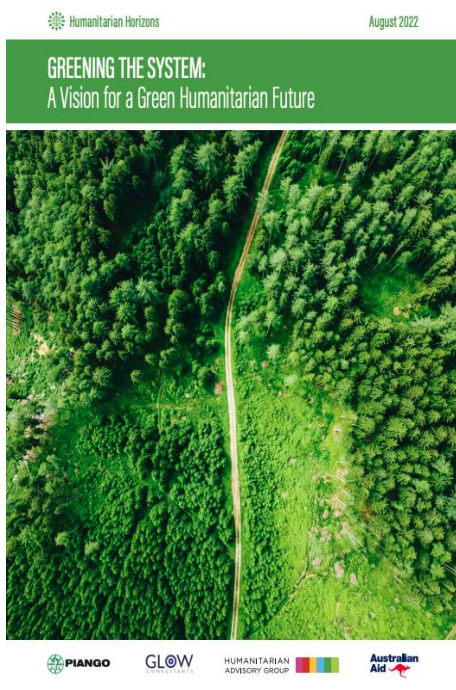
GOVERNANCE STREAM
Learning, Sharing and Accountability



Research overview



Objective: To support the sector to measurably reduce the negative impacts of humanitarian action on the environment and climate



FRAMEWORK FOR GREENING HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

Framework for Greening Humanitarian Action in the Pacific



1. PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS



2. MANAGE WATER USE



3. TACKLE WASTE



4. RACE TOWARDS NET ZERO



5. CHOOSE CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS



Desired outcomes | Activity areas | Actions | Tools

KEY AREA 1: PROTECT HABITATS AND THEIR INHABITANTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Humanitarian action has a net positive impact on habitats and biodiversity through sustainable infrastructure and climate-smart agricultural practices.

Activity area 1.2

Agricultural activities are climate smart and mitigate negative environmental outcomes

Actions

1. Conduct environmental screening to identify the potential positive and negative effects associated with agriculture and farming activities (see Annex 1).
2. Use weather and climate information to plan climate-smart farming and agricultural activities.
3. Protect ecosystems and habitats by avoiding introducing new species to areas, and protecting existing biodiversity, such as large trees.
4. Work with conservation agencies to support community-based initiatives that integrate nature-based solutions, such as tree or mangrove replanting.
5. Increase the productivity, sustainability and resilience of community agri-food systems to reduce the impacts of disasters (see Box 3).

Good practice example:

- Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) launched ‘Cash for Crops’ initiative after the tsunami in 2022
- Provided financial support to farmers to harvest crops that were damaged by the tsunami and provided the harvested food to communities who were evacuated from their homes
- Supported local farmers to engage with climate-smart agricultural practices to help them to build sustainable systems
- Facilitated the replanting of trees and crops to reverse soil erosion and land degradation



KEY AREA 3: TACKLE WASTE

DESIRED OUTCOME: Humanitarian action prioritizes reduction and appropriate management of waste

Activity area 3.1

The use of plastic and packaging in equipment and relief items is minimised



Actions

1. Promote cash voucher assistance (CVA) if assessments show local markets can provide sustainable, quality products with minimal packaging.
2. Consult sustainable item information sheets to inform choice of relief items, and encourage donors to consult them.
3. Impose environmental policies that reduce packaging as early in the supply chain as possible (e.g. initial purchase agreements).
4. Integrate environmental standards into tender and contract documentation (e.g. avoiding single-use plastics) (see Box 6).

Good practice example:

- The Humanitarian Logistic Capability (HLC) and the reduction of packaging waste
- Introduced guidelines for suppliers on suitable packaging for pre-positioned humanitarian emergency relief supplies

Figure 5: Waste removed from relief kits



1.7kg of waste removed per chainsaw/early recovery kit

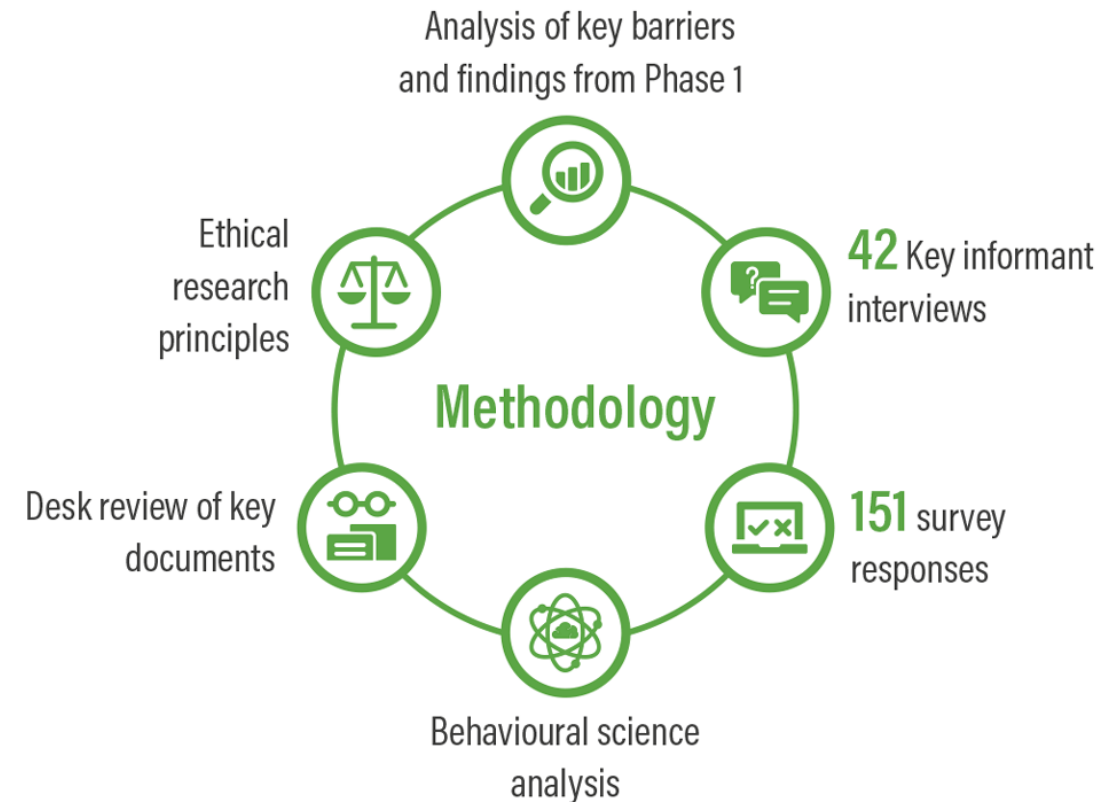
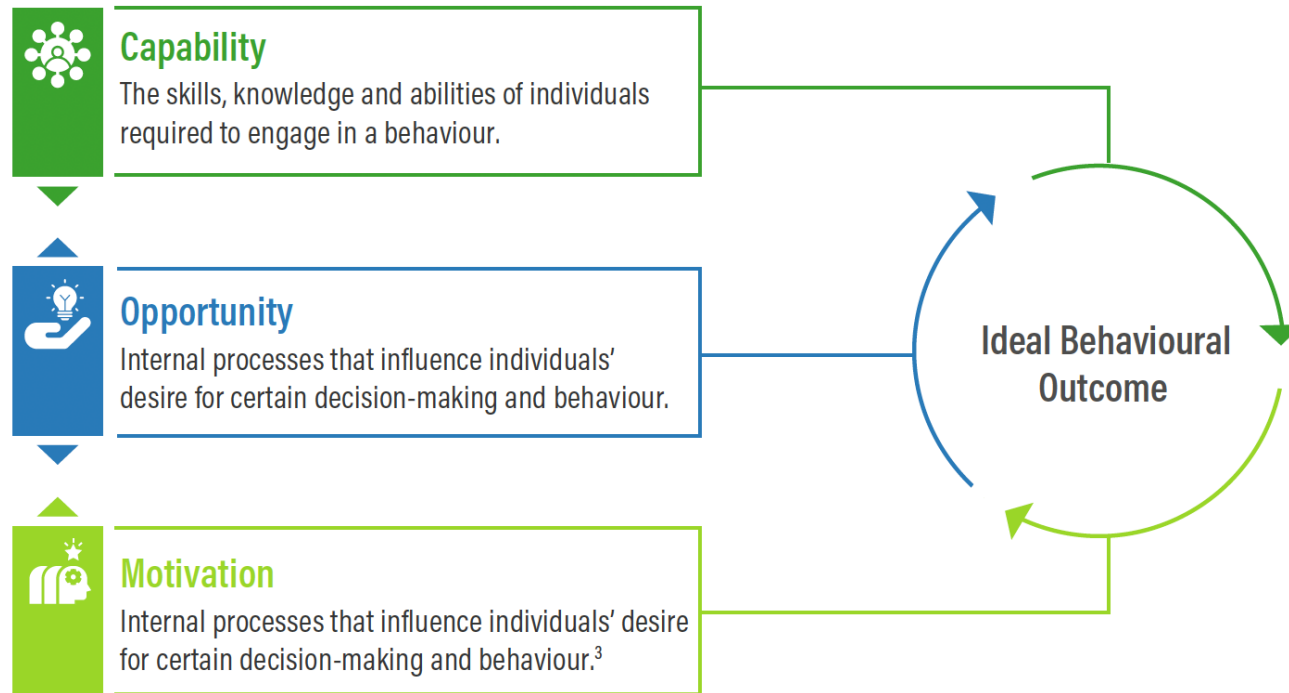


4.2kg of waste per light tower kit



20kg of waste per assistive technology kit

Pathways Toward a Green Humanitarian Response



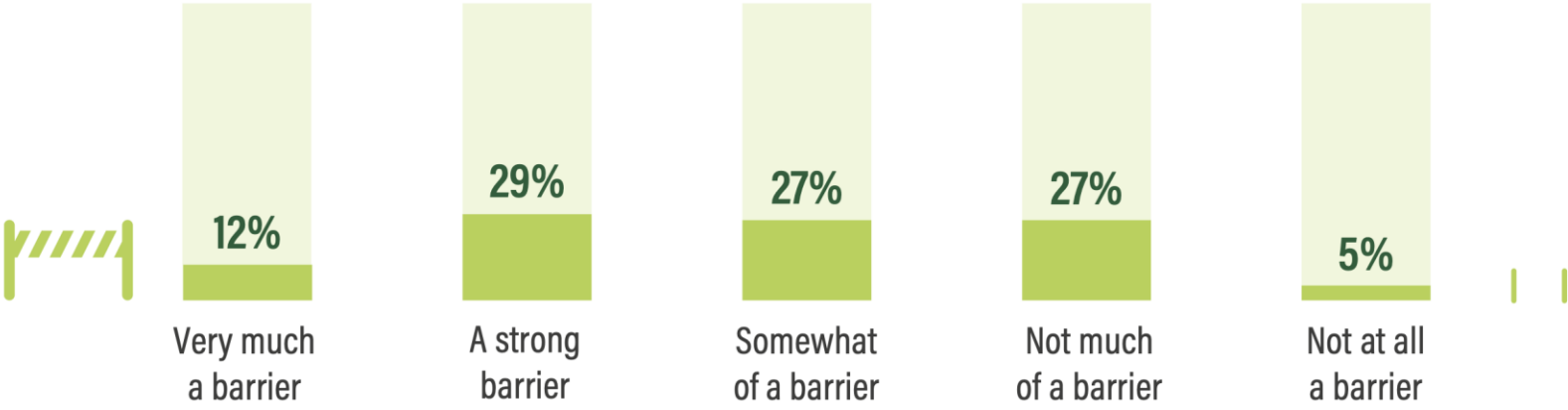
Existing Barriers to greening humanitarian action



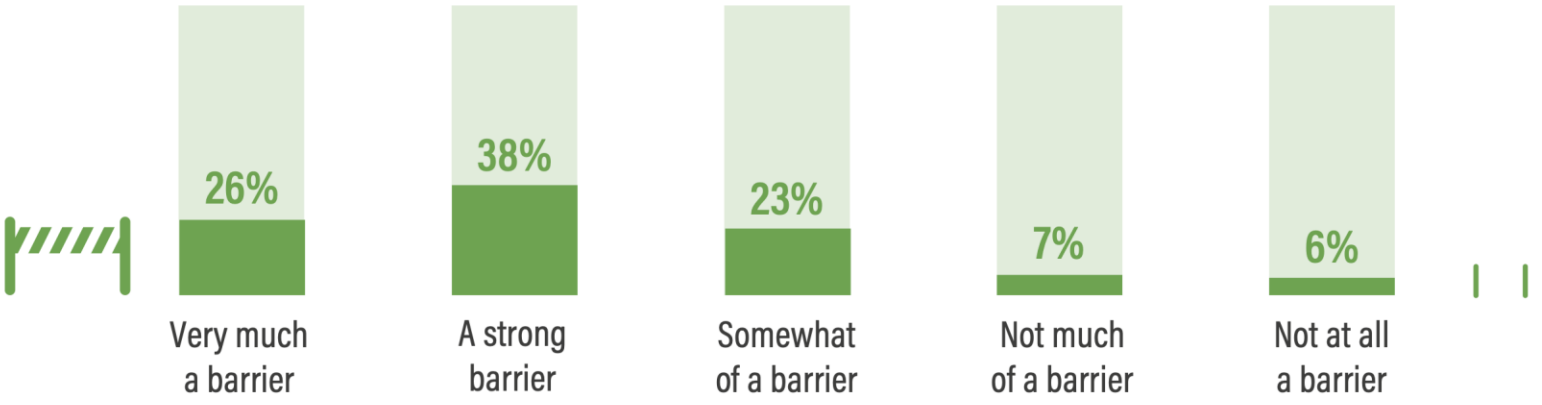
Key survey findings



Survey finding: to what extent is a lack of motivation a barrier to greening the humanitarian system?⁶



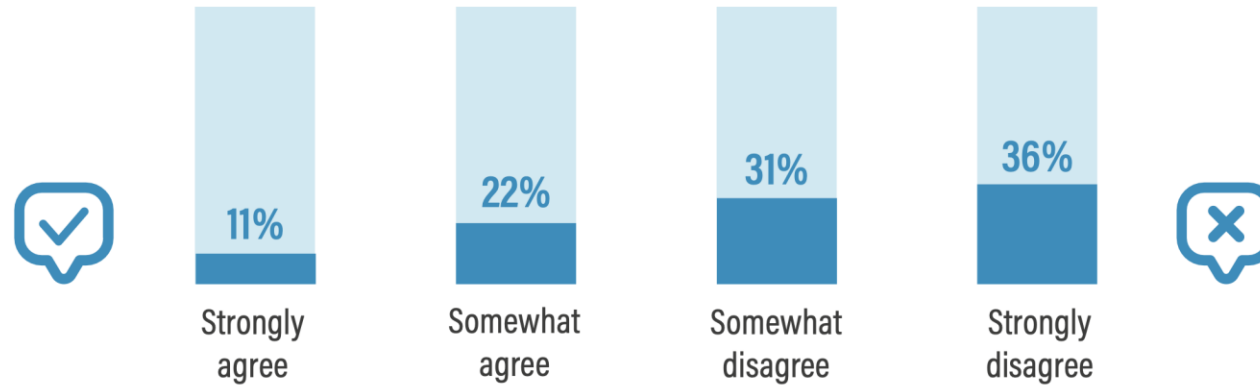
Survey finding: to what extent is a lack of greening expertise and capability in many organisations a barrier to greening humanitarian aid?²⁶



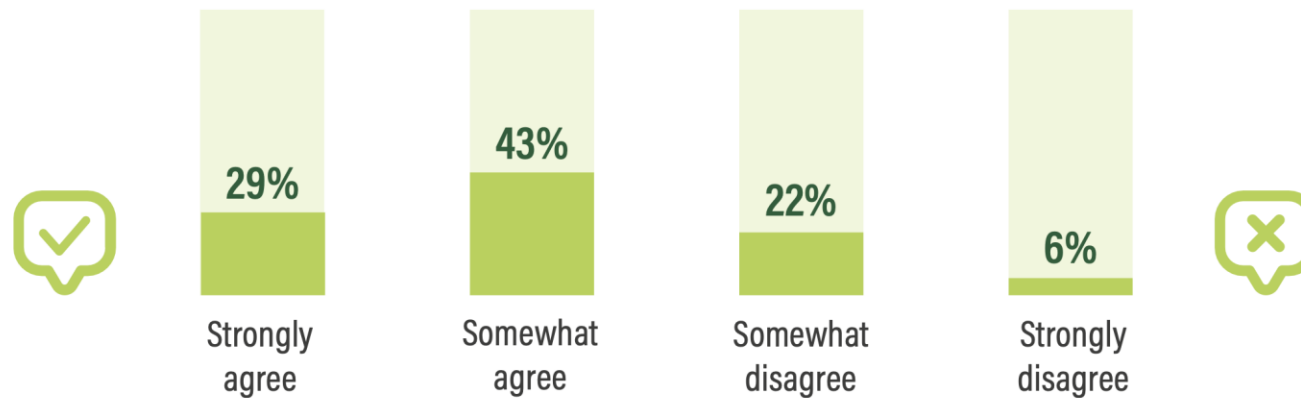
Key survey findings



Survey finding: Donor funding is adequate and flexible enough to enable agencies to green their operations⁴³



Survey finding: greening humanitarian aid is achievable without compromising the effectiveness of lifesaving objectives:



Actions for a Greener Humanitarian System



CHAMPIONS
FOR CHANGE



Motivation

- ✓ Communicate effectively
- ✓ Support leaders to drive change
- ✓ Hold leaders accountable



Capability

- ✓ Empower and share knowledge with colleagues



Opportunity

- ✓ Identify and advocate for the most feasible and impactful solutions



HUMANITARIAN
LEADERS AND
MANAGERS



Motivation

- ✓ Communicate the why
- ✓ Create accountability



Capability

- ✓ Build organisational capability
- ✓ Build partnerships and share knowledge



Opportunity

- ✓ Make shifts in behaviours easy



HUMANITARIAN
DONORS



Motivation

- ✓ Communicate commitment
- ✓ Hold humanitarian actors accountable



Capability

- ✓ Provide guidance to accompany donor requirements
- ✓ Support organisational capacity and initiatives to develop skills and knowledge



Opportunity

- ✓ Prioritise funding for green action
- ✓ Support stronger national enabling environments

So, how does this relate to cash?

- Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) can play a big role in greening humanitarian response.
- CVA has the potential to significantly reduce emissions from the transport of relief items and substantially cut down on waste from humanitarian response.
- Waste is the biggest negative environmental impact from humanitarian programming in the Pacific. The framework references the importance of CVA in several key areas.
- While this research did not apply specific focus on CVA programming in green response, there is significant scope for further exploration.
- Insights from the behavioural study can inform future planning and implementation of climate-sensitive CVA.



Interested to learn more?

If you want to learn more about this research or are interested in sharing or implementing the framework in your organization, please contact the research team.

Jesse McCommon at jmccommon@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org

Sam Quinn at squinn@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org





UNEP - OCHA

Tina El Khoury

UNEP/ OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU)

CALP CVA Climate & Environment CoP: How to mitigate climate change in cash programming?

Presented by:

Diego Reyes - Associate Programme Officer

Tina El Khoury – Project Manager

16 January 2024



JOINT
ENVIRONMENT
UNIT

TOGETHER
FOR A BETTER
RESPONSE.

UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU)

Environmental Dimensions of Emergencies



Environmental Emergencies

- Coordination
- Mobilisation
- Training
- Over 200 missions
- Over 100 countries



Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA)

- Policy review and coordination
- Guided learning
- Humanitarian tools
- www.eecentre.org
- www.ehaconnect.org



Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) For CASH

Resources:

Cash theme - EHA Connect
Training
EHA Network

Tools:

NEAT+
VEHA Tool

NEAT+

Rapid and simple environmental screening tool designed for humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern to make emergency and recovery interventions more sustainable.



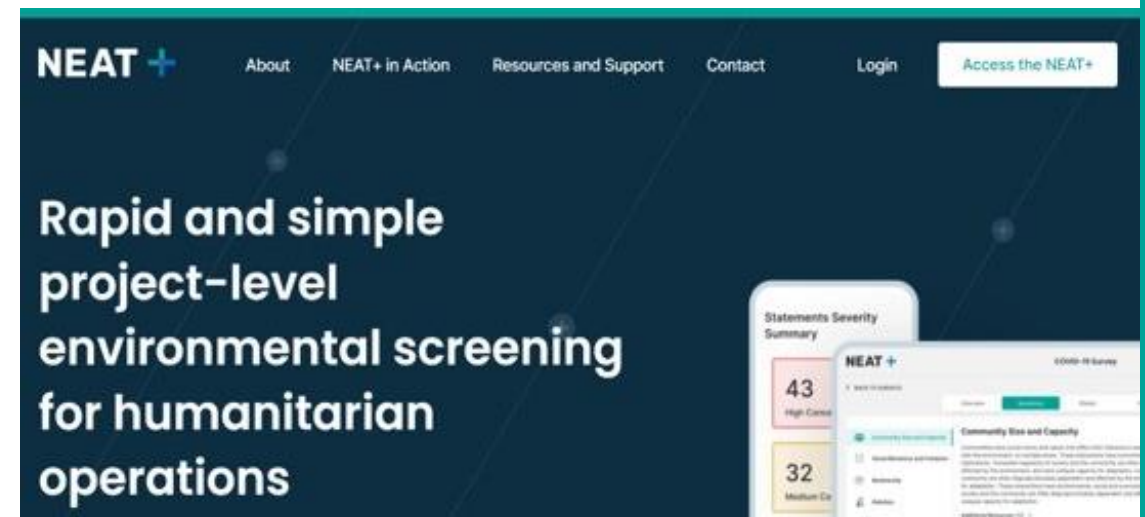
R-NEAT+

Kobo & Excel or Excel
English, French, Spanish
ES Module
Shelter, WASH, Food
Security



U-NEAT+

Online/ cloud based
English
ES Module
Shelter, WASH, Food
Security, Livelihood



VEHA Tool

An online tool to easily integrate environmental considerations in humanitarian response.



GUIDANCE SELECTION

1. Choose sector

Food Security

2. Choose subsector

Food Access

3. Choose humanitarian activity

Targeting, distribution and delivery

4. Choose humanitarian subactivity

Cash and Vouchers Activities (CVA)

Select guidance type ⓘ

Field Implementation Guidance

← BACK TO SECTOR

Let's stay in touch!

Diego Reyes – diego.reyes1@un.org
Tina El Khoury – tina.elkhoury@un.org

Thank you

The image features an abstract graphic on the right side, consisting of several overlapping, organic shapes in various shades of blue. A small, solid blue circle is positioned at the top of the graphic. The background is white on the left and transitions into a dark blue gradient on the right.

ACF

Camille Evain

CALCULATING GHG-FOOTPRINT OF FOOD-PROGRAMS USING CASH TRANSFERS

- Why this study & methodology
- Main findings
- Next steps

Camille EVAÏN – Head of Environment & Climate Unit

2024, January 16th

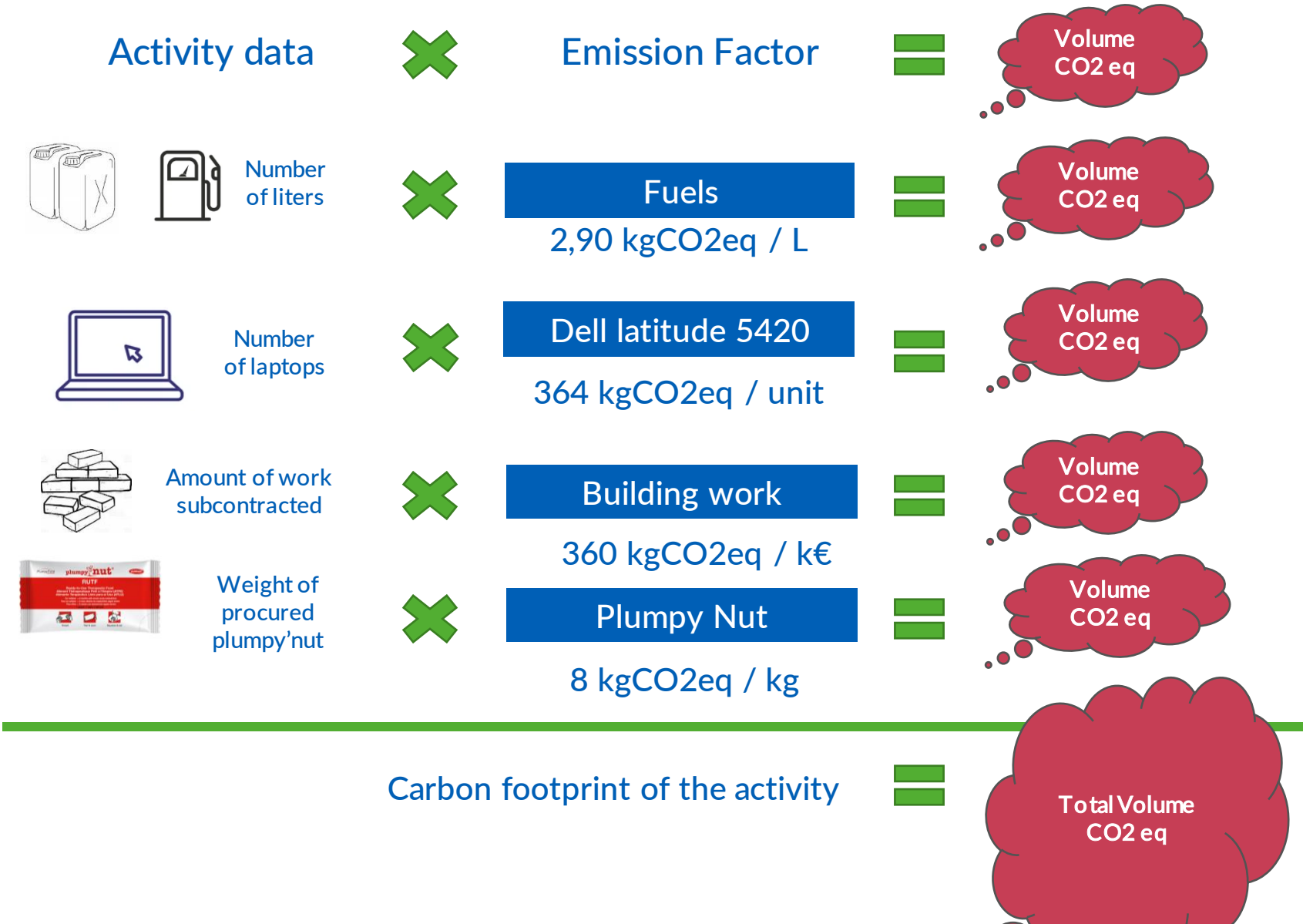


PART 1 :

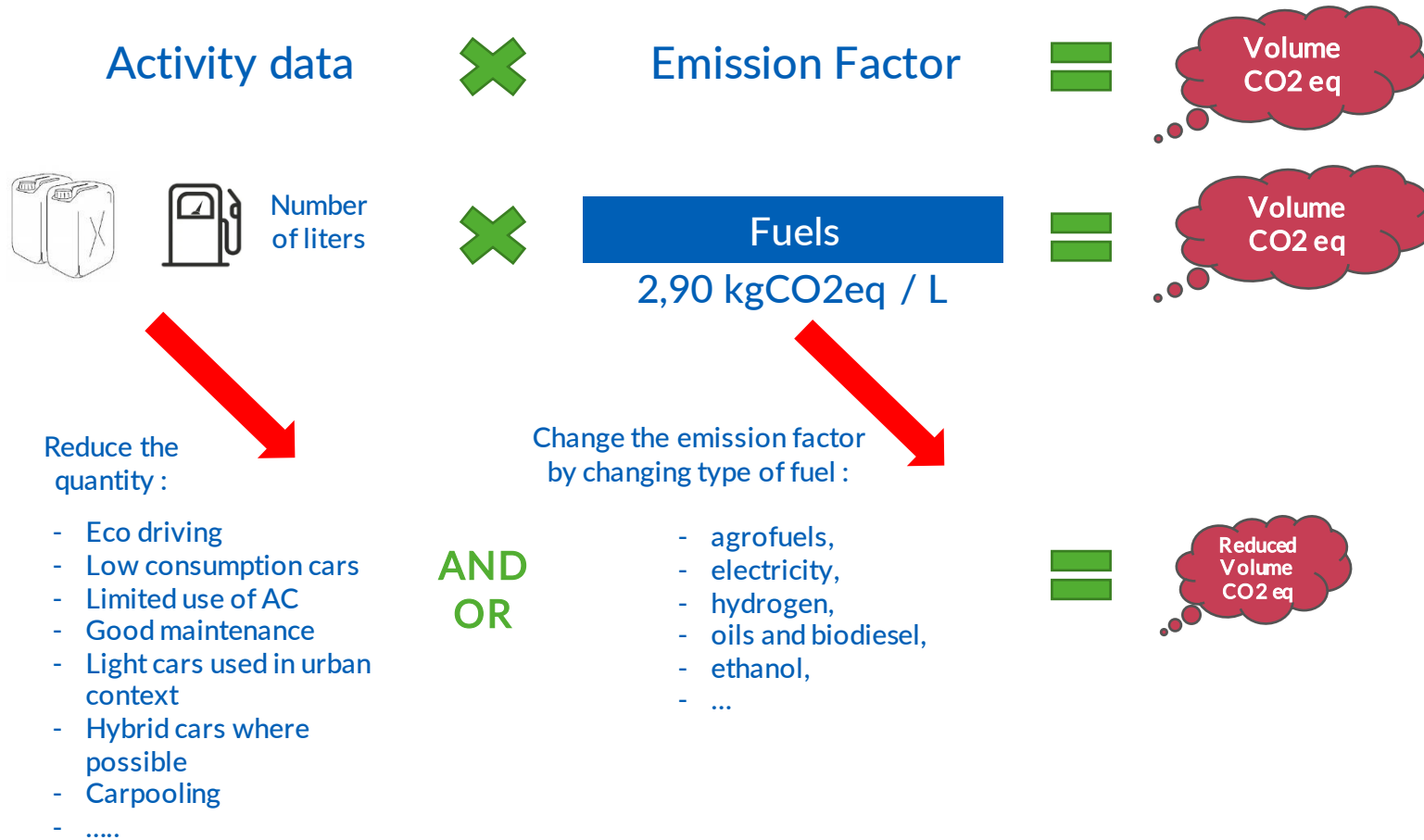
WHY THIS STUDY



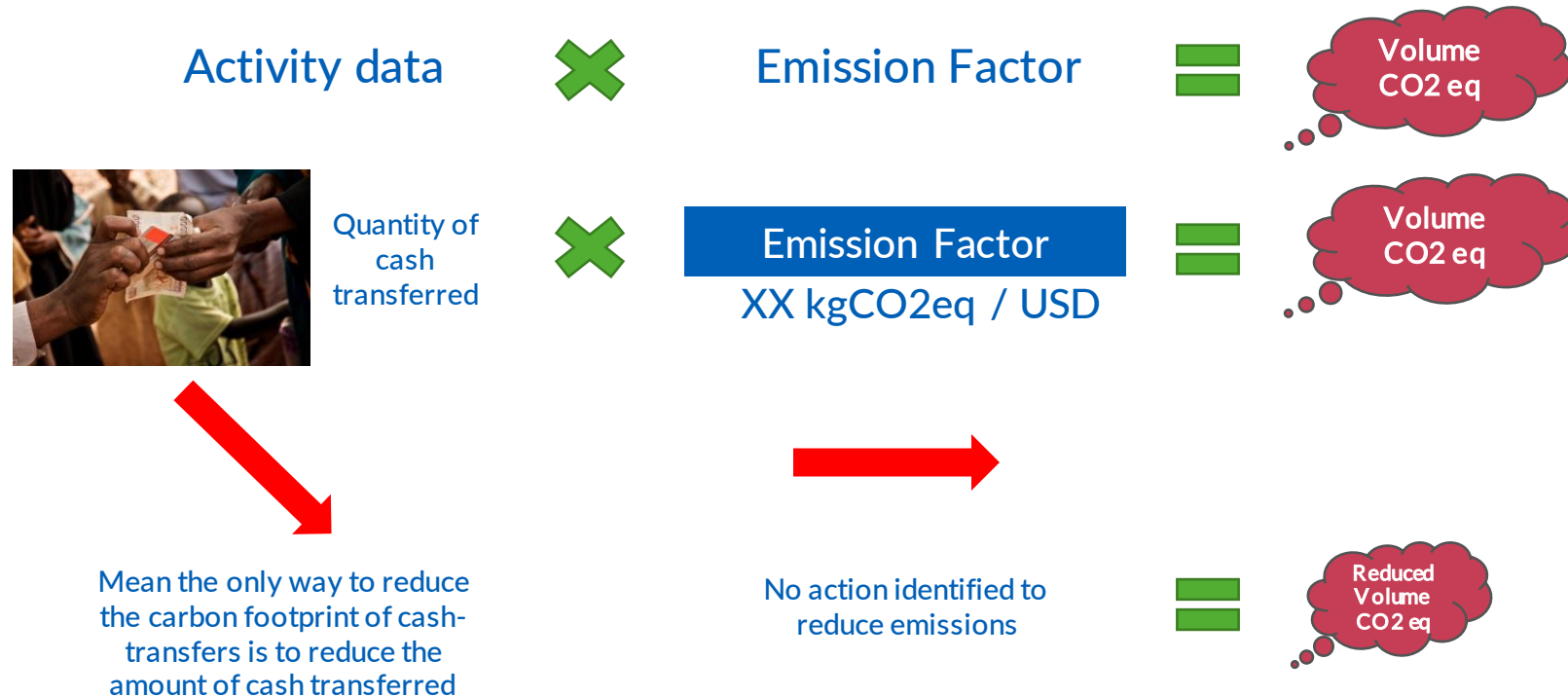
HOW WORKS GHG-ACCOUNTING



HOW WORKS GHG-ACCOUNTING



HOW WORKS GHG-ACCOUNTING



The study focuses on emission factors and seek to identify levers to reduce these emissions factors

METHODOLOGY

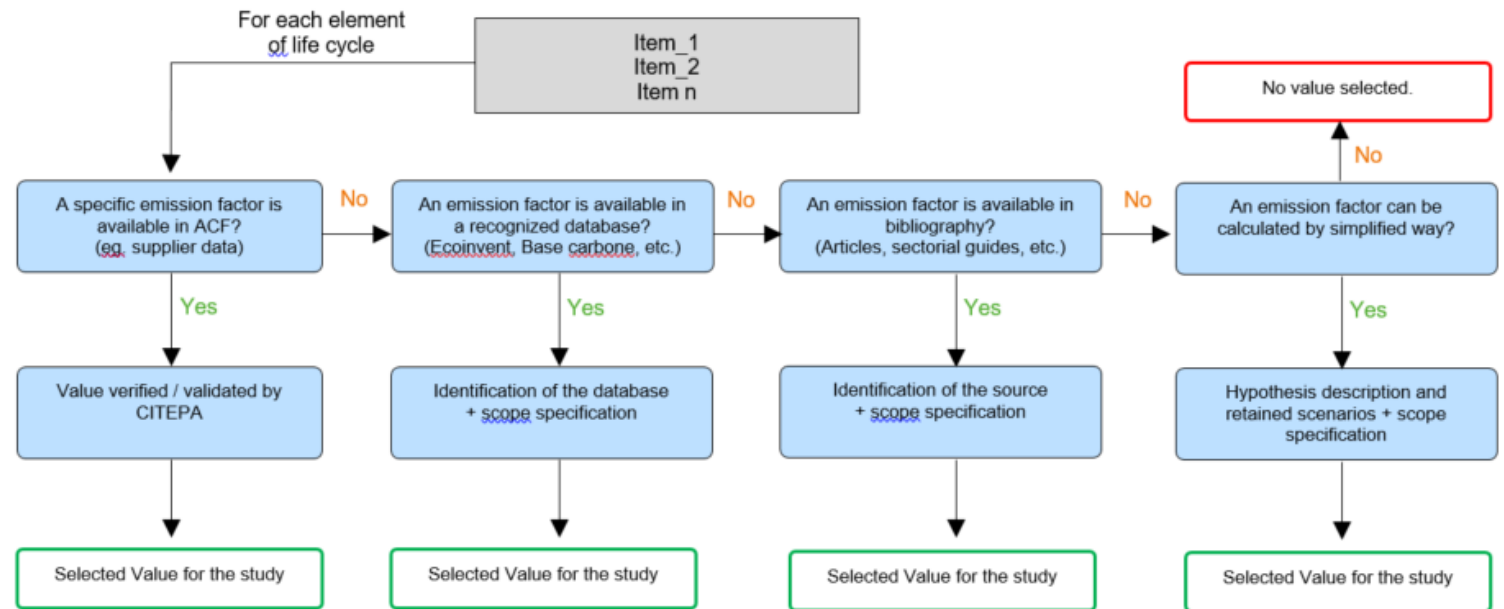
1 – Identify main Minimum Expenditure baskets of countries where ACF-France is operating

- 23 Countries of operation
- 20 MEBs identified
- 16 MEBs enough detailed to be used for the study

be used for the study

2 – Find for each item in MEBs, identify the most adapted emission factor

- Use of international database
- Calculate approximative emission factor if nothing available



METHODOLOGY

- 1 – Identify main Minimum Expenditure baskets of countries where ACF-France is operating
 - 23 Countries of operation
 - 20 MEBs identified
 - 16 MEBs enough detailed to be used for the study

- 2 – Find for each item in MEBs, identify the most adapted emission factor
 - Use of international database
 - Calculate approximative emission factor if nothing available

- 3 – Create a pivot table with all items and associated emission factors

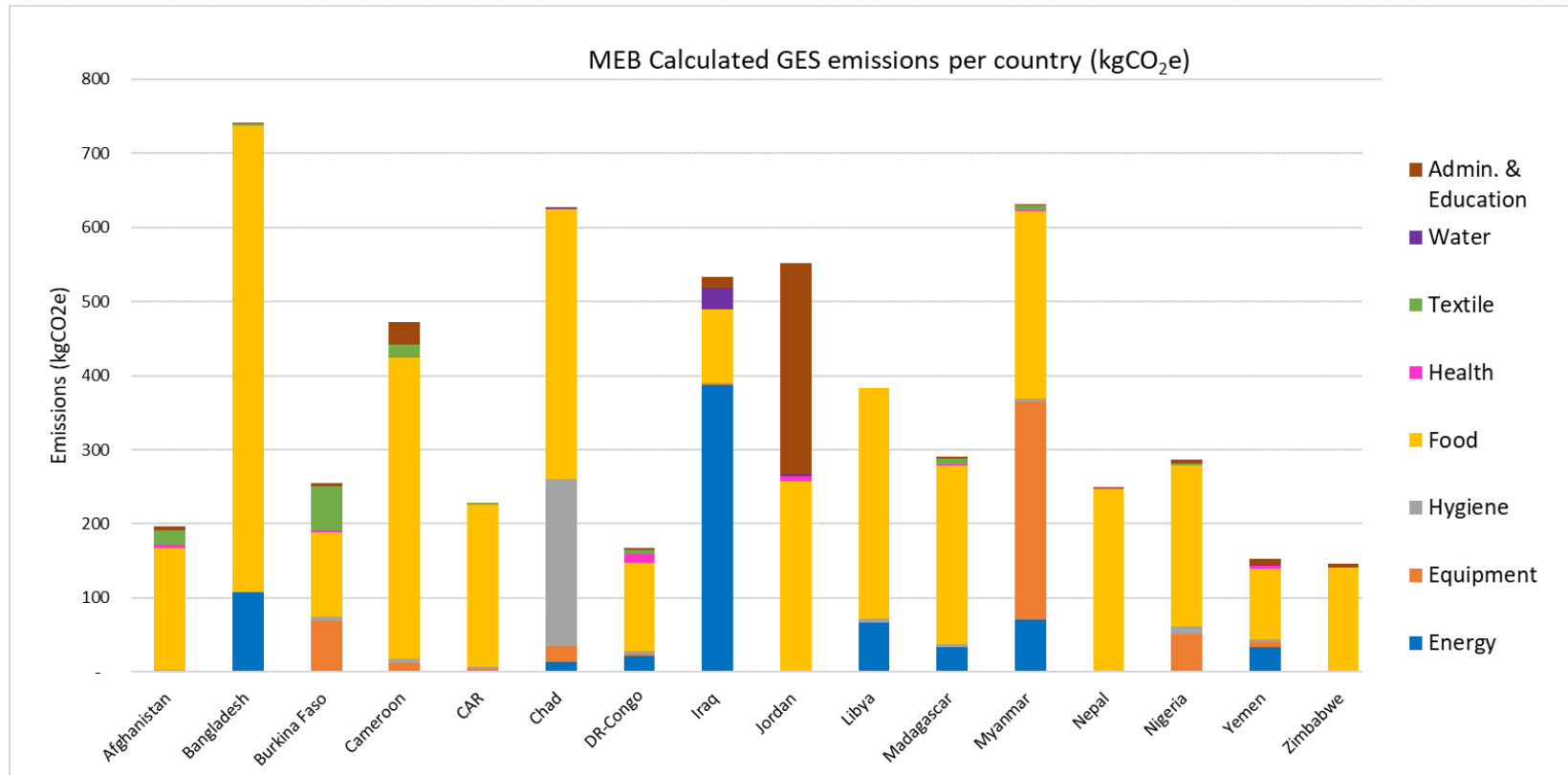
- 4 – Generate carbon accounting of MEBS, focus on food items, reduce the carbon footprint by the amount of a MEB to calculate its carbon intensity (kgCO₂e/USD transferred).

PART 2 :

MAIN FINDINGS



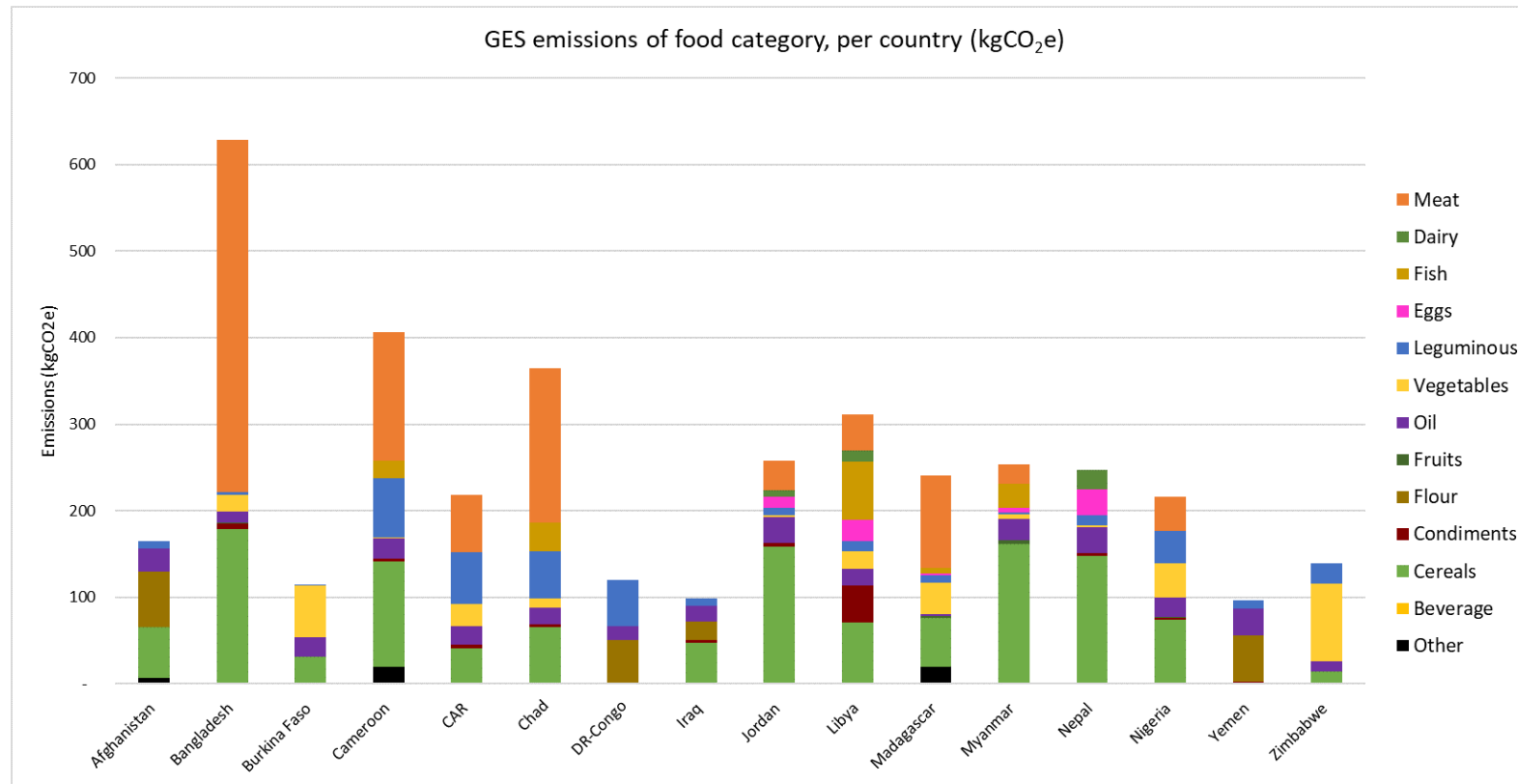
ABSOLUTE GHG EMISSIONS OF MEBs



1 - MEBs composition are too much different to be compared (in terms of items, size of households, etc.)

2 - Reflects that MEBs is a theoretical tool to estimate the amount of cash to transfer, and not a decision making tool for customers, neither a survey result of what people did buy with the cash

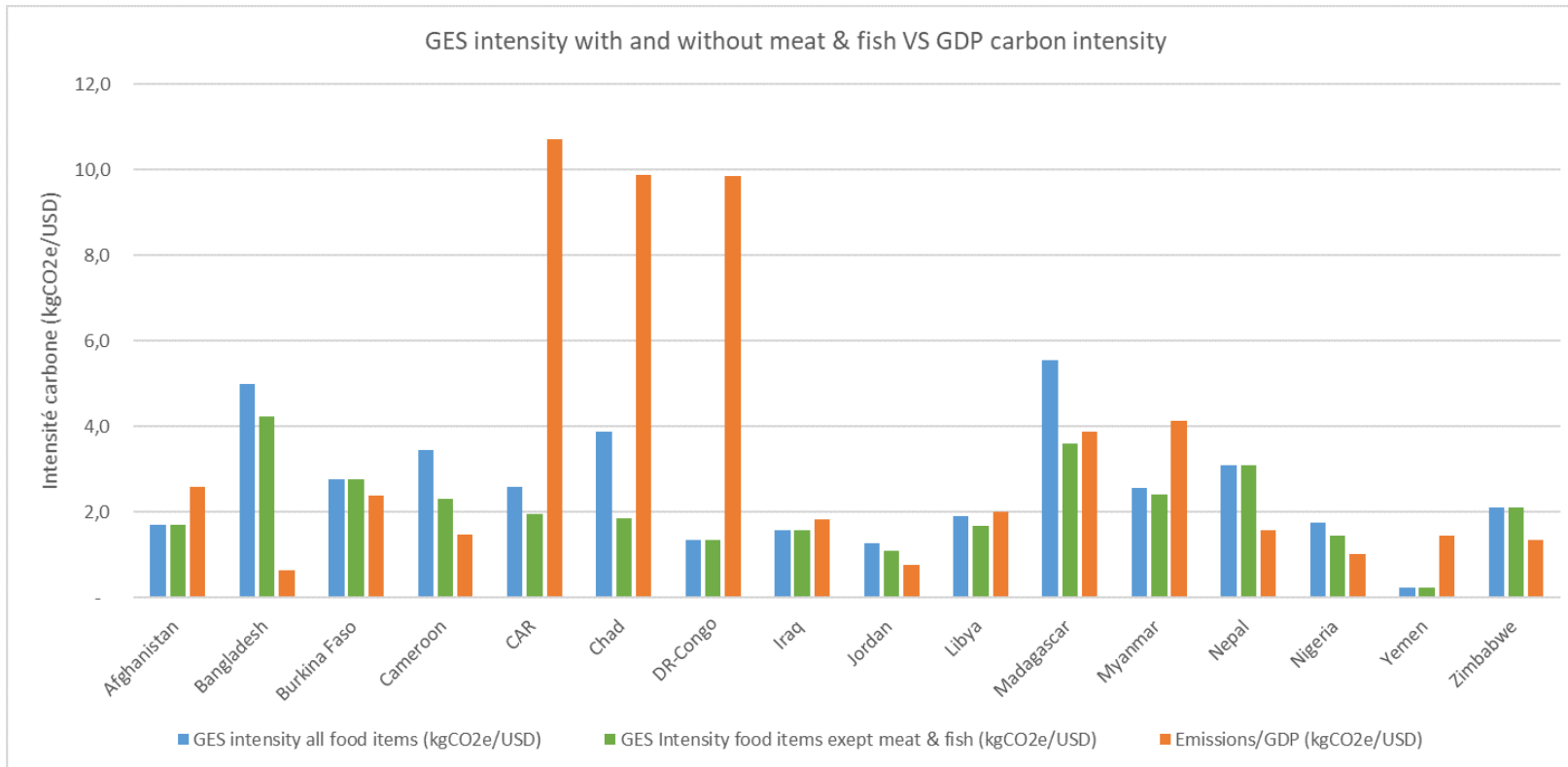
FOCUS ON FOOD ITEMS IN MEBS



1 - The presence of meat and fish can double the carbon footprint of a MEB. It has a bigger influence than the number of people in the household.

2 - Some baskets show a very small quantity of food items. The MEB is a tool to estimate “non covered” essential items. If the purchase of cereal is considered accessible, then cereals are not taken into account in MEB’s composition (ex. DR-Congo)

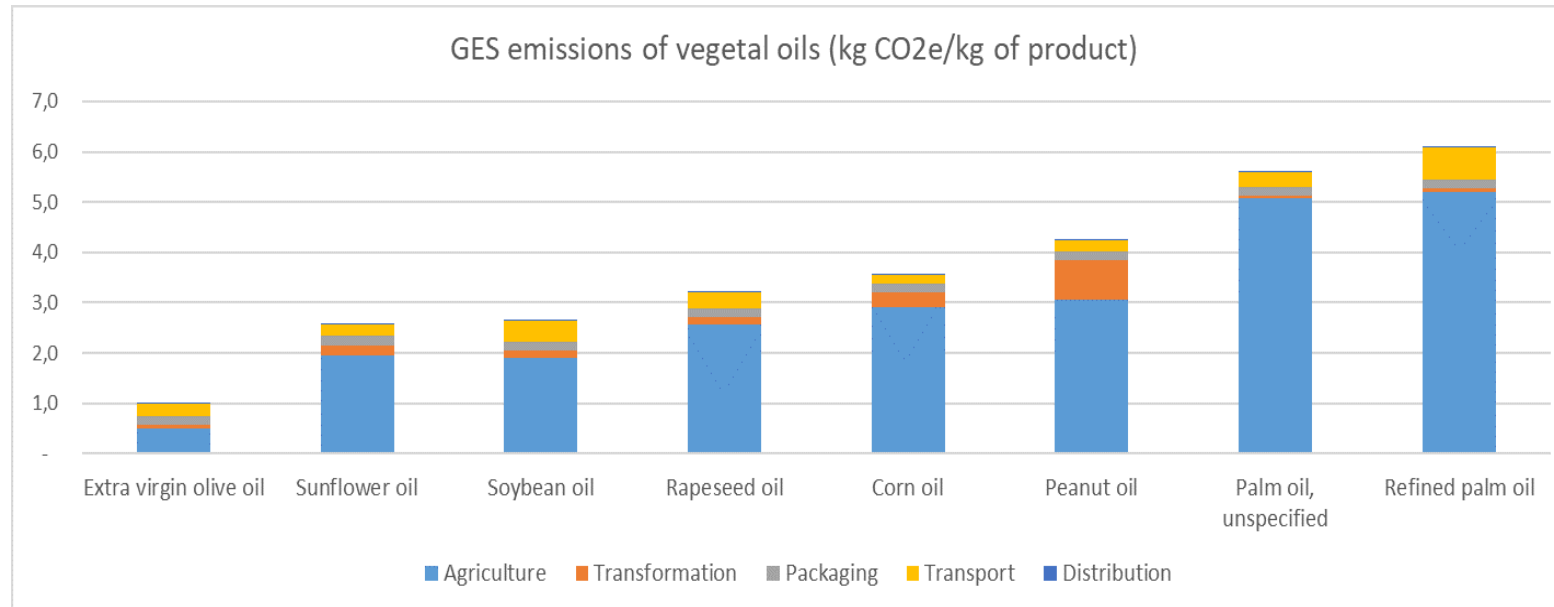
EMISSION FACTORS



1 – Average emission factor calculated is 2,6 kgCO₂e/USD transferred with meat & fish, and 2,1 kgCO₂e/USD without meat & fish.

2 – Carbon intensity of MEBs present comparable result with the GDP intensity calculation, however the GDP method is not linked to the nature of the activity.

EMISSION OF ITEMS (EX. OILS)



1 - The analyse of items, and there possibility of substitution shows that the nature of the items purchase can multiply by 2 or 3 the carbon footprint of what people purchase.

2 - This is not an encouragement to modify content of theoretical MEBs, but it is a confirmation that influence of local market (product origin, accessibility on local market, etc.) can be a lever to reduce the footprint of activities using cash transfers.

PART 3 :
CONCLUSION
& NEXT STEPS



CONCLUSION

- 1 - Applied to ACF-France 2021 data, it means that carbon footprint of activities using cash transfers release about 57 000 tCO₂e (+/-25%), without taking in account means of implementation. About 30% of total emission, for less than 10% of the operational financial volume of activity.
- 2- It is not that precise, but enough to conclude that reducing carbon footprint of cash transfers is not an option to achieve the goal of reducing the global footprint by 50% by 2030. It is a mandatory
- 3 - ACF Estimate after the study that main results are found. It seems not necessary to further develop the calculation matrix or extend the study to other countries.
- 4 - The goal is more to use programs survey as primary data (instead of theoretical MEBs), and identify or calculate emission factors corresponding to products accessible on local market.
- 5 - Add all other emissions to carbon intensity of MEBs to estimate the global footprint of activities using cash transfers (road km, electronic items, etc.)

A project to develop 4 & 5 as been develop with World Vision, Oxfam and DRC. We are looking for funding to support that project.

More information and presentation at environnementrequest@actioncontrelafaim.org

Full study available here : <https://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/publication/estimation-of-the-carbon-footprint-of-activities-using-cash-transfers/>

Thank you



Discussant perspective

Clara Setiawan

www.calpnetwork.org



@calpnetwork