UNFPA's ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Humanitarian Hub for Whole of Syria and Arab States

Syria, Gaziantep Cross-Border, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye

June 2025

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Abbreviations and acronyms

3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience
ASRO	Arab States Regional Office
CSOs	Civil society organisations
DMS	Division of Management Services
EES	Environmental Efficiency Standard
ELL	Environmental Efficiency Ladder
ESS	Environmental Efficiency Strategy
FASB	Facilities and Administrative Services Branch
FGD	Focus group discussions
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBV AOR	Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility
GFP	Green Focal Point
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GWP	Global warming potential
GXB	Gaziantep Cross-Border Operation
HQ	Headquarters
IDP	Internally displaced person
INGOs	International non-governmental organisations
KII	Key informant interview
MPAs	Minimum Preparedness Actions
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODP	Ozone depleting potential
RFP	Request for proposals
SDP	Service delivery point
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SRH TWG	Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WGSS	Women's and girls' safe spaces
WHO	World Health Organization
WoS	Whole of Syria

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Executive summary

Climate change is an interdependent issue that affects everybody. In the Middle East, up to 400 million people are being and will be affected by climate-related events. The 13-year conflict in Syria has plunged the region into a prolonged humanitarian crisis, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys. Environmental issues and other shocks have further increased these vulnerabilities. From the 2023 earthquake that struck Syria and Türkiye to high temperatures in Jordan, from heavy rains, strong winds and snow in Lebanon to flooding, landslides, droughts, to wildfires in Türkiye, and from wildfires and environmental pollution in Syria to water scarcity in Jordan, climate events continue to worsen conditions for already at-risk groups, particularly refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), female-headed households, people with disabilities, small to medium farmers, and other vulnerable communities.

United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) operations must be based on and permeated by a climate change and environment perspective. As a result, UNFPA commissioned to conduct this environmental assessment in Gaziantep Cross-Border (GXB) operating exclusively in north-west Syria, government-controlled areas in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Türkiye. The objectives of this assessment are to identify: (1) opportunities for positive environmental impact from the project/programme on the environment; (2) risks for negative environmental impact from the project/programme that can harm the environment; and (3) the management of risks from environmental degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity affecting the sustainability of the project/programme.

This environmental assessment has found the following:

1. **Objective 1:** UNFPA country offices have 'completed' a significant number of tasks across the three steps from the Environmental Efficiency Ladder (ELL) Checklist as part of the UNFPA Environmental Efficiency Strategy (EES), demonstrating their strong commitment to environmental sustainability. Most of the tasks that remain incomplete are marked as 'ongoing', highlighting the continued efforts by county offices to enhance their environmental practices. Only a few tasks are marked as 'not started' and 'not applicable'. Overall, all UNFPA country offices are scheduled to complete the 31 applicable tasks by the end of 2025, showcasing UNFPA's collective commitment to the environment. The success showcased by UNFPA country offices not only highlight how their operations and programming are environmentally aligned, but also demonstrate their alignment with broader environmental sustainability goals.
2. **Objective 1:** Through practical steps, UNFPA country offices have demonstrated that their programming and operations effectively showcase significant positive impacts on the environment. Ranked from top to bottom in order of greater environmental impact, the initiatives are as follows:

Table 1: Positive Environmental Impacts by Country Office

Country Office	Positive Environmental Impacts
Syria	1. Awareness campaigns about the interconnections between population dynamics, reproductive health and environmental issues. 2. The development of a climate change handbook with environmental guidelines and best practices. 3. The use of solar systems in youth centres and other facilities such as WGSS and static clinics to avoid the use of generators.
GXB	1. The implementation of waste management systems in women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) and health facilities. 2. The distribution of reusable sanitary towels with proper disposal messaging. 3. Minimal carbon footprint by a reduction in business travel.
Jordan	1. The robust solid waste management system in WGSS, health facilities and youth centres. 2. The embedding of climate change topics in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness programmes.
Lebanon	1. The implementation of waste management systems in WGSS and health facilities. 2. The creation of beach cleaning activities with beneficiaries, the raising awareness campaigns. 3. The digitalization of monitoring activities to reduce paper use.
Türkiye	1. The digitalization of activities, such as implementing paperless office practices like using AODocs and DocuSign. 2. The use of environmentally friendly and reusable materials to package dignity kits. 3. The renting of containers for supported service units, instead of constructing new containers.

3. **Objective 1:** In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants from all UNFPA country offices highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for budget resources for these activities. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.
4. **Objective 2:** When asked to rank the negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment, key informants were able to unanimously identify only one. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal, but that there is a risk that staff may not be sufficiently aware of environmental issues to fully analyse potential risks. The risks of negative impacts from UNFPA that can harm the environment are as follows:

Climate change is an interdependent issue that affects everybody. In the Middle East, up to 400 million people are being and will be affected by climate-related events.

Table 2: Negative environmental impacts by country office

Country Office	Negative Environmental Impacts
Syria	The 108 mobile teams, often old vans or micro buses, carry environmental responsibilities due to fuel consumption by contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.
GXB	The use of traditional fuel for heating, which is unsustainable due to its potential environmental impact as well as the low-quality of generators used.
Jordan	The over-reliance on fossil fuels for power generation in WGSS, health facilities, and youth centres.
Lebanon	The lack of medical waste disposal awareness and supplies.
Türkiye	The lack of waste disposal management, as well as supplies and equipment.

5. **Objective 3:** All UNFPA country offices currently lack a personalised management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks. Data from key informants highlights that while climate-related events could affect the sustainability of UNFPA programming, country offices do not have a formal system. As a result, a specific recommendation with indicators has been drafted below.
6. **Objective 3:** Although all UNFPA country offices lack a personalized management system with targets and indicators, country offices track the carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. The data highlights that there is a general downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years with the reduction of fuel for vehicles, air travel, purchased electricity/district heating and fuel for generators/boilers. However, there are some exceptions in certain years, in which an upward trend is visible due to the influx of refugees, mass displacement, COVID-19, monetary depreciation and the global energy crisis.

Recommendations

1. **All objectives: Consider ways in which the regional hub can conduct on-the-job training, monitoring and mentorship to UNFPA staff in analysing environmental issues.** It was notable through this assessment that country office staff were able to identify few if any negative environmental consequences of UNFPA programming, or environmental risks associated with programming. A full understanding of environmental risks is likely to require some macro-level analysis, and is likely to be difficult to achieve given day to day operational constraints facing country teams. It could be possible for the regional hub to develop expertise and provide support to country offices to better analyse environmental risks, in the context of the complex Middle East environmental context.
2. **All objectives: Disseminate the ELL checklist alongside the overarching UNFPA EES to ensure comprehensive awareness and understanding among UNFPA staff**. Across all five UNFPA country offices, significant and meaningful positive contributions to the environment have been identified, showcasing UNFPA country offices' commitment to sustainability in all forms. However, key informants highlighted that they were not aware of the ELL checklist and overarching ESS. As a result, it is essential for senior management from each UNFPA country office to prioritize the dissemination of objectives and goals to ensure awareness and accountability. Such practice would enable individuals across all UNFPA programming, including implementing partners, to work towards a common goal while keeping the ELL in mind as a commitment to the environment.
3. **All objectives: Prioritize and ensure compliance with the ELL checklist from the UNFPA EES**. UNFPA country offices have successfully completed a significant number of tasks across the three steps and are on track to complete most of the remaining by 2025, demonstrating their commitment to environmental sustainability. To guarantee the completion of the rest of the tasks by 2025, UNFPA country offices should intensify and enhance efforts by integrating them into core activities and prioritizing them across all of their UNFPA operations.

4. **Objective 1: Strengthen partnerships with United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) with an environmental mandate or a strong focus on sustainability to enhance environmental initiatives.** Environmental efforts are embedded into the core of UNFPA programming, showcased by the extensive examples, as well as steps and tasks completed. However, UNFPA country offices should strengthen existing partnerships or establish new collaborations with other United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), INGOs and CSOs to leverage their existing initiatives, and foster joint efforts. This particular strategic approach would not only enhance environmental sustainability, but could also enable UNFPA country offices to improve their capacity in climate adaptation.

5. **Objective 1: Enhance communication and training with implementing partners on environmental best practices, as well the provision of supplies.** While key informants from implementing partners expressed a shared commitment to sustainability with UNFPA programming, others pointed out areas for improvement. As a result, to ensure that all UNFPA programmes, as well as internal and external actors involved, are environmentally conscious and adhere to the UNFPA ESS, UNFPA should improve communication with implementing partners by sharing environmentally related materials and providing training on topics such as garbage collection, waste disposal, carbon footprint reduction and other relevant best practices. Along with such training, UNFPA should provide supplies to equip implementing partners with the necessary tools for waste management and garbage collection, such as recycling containers, bins and environmentally friendly materials.

6. **All objectives: Create and establish targets and indicators that can manage environmental risks for each country office**. Currently, although country offices monitor carbon footprint activity through the UNFPA global portal, none of the UNFPA country offices has a personalized and in-depth formal system that allows them to monitor a variety of environmental risks, as well as the positive and negative impact of their operations. To ensure that UNFPA programming is environmentally resilient and to track environmental impact, UNFPA country offices should create specific indicators under the Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) or other preferred frameworks. The indicators that could be tracked, in addition to carbon footprint activities, are: (1) energy consumption; (2) waste reduction and management; (3) water usage; (4) the use of environmentally friendly materials and equipment; (5) resilience to climate, in terms of disaster preparedness; and (6) training and awareness to staff and implementing partners on environmentally related matters, such as garbage collection or waste disposal, among others. These indicators can be quantified using percentages and numerical data. Additionally, to ensure compliance, these indicators should be included in each contract and programmatic document.

7. **All objectives: Enhance efforts to reduce carbon footprint activities during emergencies by establishing an environmental emergency preparedness plan**. Although the carbon footprint has been significantly reduced across all country offices, these activities tend to increase during emergencies. As a result, country offices should focus on further reducing carbon footprint, especially in times of crisis, through the development of an emergency preparedness plan that maps out different strategies for minimising environmental impact during emergencies and emergency response operations.

8. **Objective 2: Collaborate with the ministries of public health and other stakeholders to provide medical waste disposal equipment.** Key informants in most country offices expressed the need to improve medical waste disposal, while UNFPA Lebanon expressed the lack of adequate equipment for medical disposal. As a result, country offices should collaborate with the ministries of public health and other United Nations agencies to support the provision of the necessary infrastructure and tools for waste medical management. Such collaboration should focus on improving existing capacity for safe disposal, reducing environmental risks and ultimately ensuring compliance with national health and safety standards.

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1. Introduction

"Climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme events, such as droughts, heat waves, floods and wildfires. Extreme events fundamentally challenge the ways in which societies access, benefit from and interact with the environment with impacts on natural resources, food security, infrastructure, social and health services, and livelihoods."[1]

According to the World Bank, the Middle East is one of the world's vulnerable regions to climate change events, ranging from higher temperatures, droughts, air pollution, to rising seas and to water scarcity.[2] Climate research highlights that up to 400 million people are being and will be affected by climate-related events in the Middle East.[3] The International Monetary Fund highlights that geographical locations affected by conflict, such as the Syrian conflict, are disproportionately affected by climate change.[4] Thus, environmental risks and issues pose a more serious threat to countries with severe humanitarian crises, such as **GXB, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Türkiye,** further exacerbating their precarious situation. It is important to highlight that there are two responses covering Syria: the 'Syria' response includes only government-controlled areas, while GXB operates exclusively in north-west Syria. Coupled with economic instability, conflict, acute poverty and lack of resources, environmental issues work as a driver that affects the well-being of local host communities, refugees and IDPs. Although all of the five geographical locations highlighted above suffer from environmental issues, it is important to highlight that they vary slightly and are context specific.

1.1 UNFPA in the regional Syrian crisis

UNFPA plays a pivotal role in the United Nations' response to growing challenges in the regional Syria crisis. Its mission encompasses addressing GBV and its aftermath, ensuring safe childbirth under challenging circumstances, meeting reproductive and maternal health needs during emergencies and addressing the requirements of adolescents as they transition to adulthood. Under its latest strategic blueprint, UNFPA is committed to:

1. Ending preventable maternal deaths.
2. Ending the unmet need for family planning.
3. Ending GBV and harmful traditional practices.[5]

UNFPA's operational capacity in the context of the regional Syria crisis is noteworthy. With operations directed from country offices across all Regional Refugee and Resilience (3RP) countries as well as cross-border through Türkiye, UNFPA maintains a comprehensive approach that takes the totality of the needs and challenges into account.

To streamline its Syria-centric response efforts, UNFPA set up the Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States ('the Hub'), established in Amman in 2013 following the declaration of an L3-level crisis in Syria. The Hub was established under the framework of the Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) structure, prior to the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165 (S/RES/2165)[6] and the development of the overarching Whole of Syria (WoS) response structure. It was created as part of a strategic effort to scale up UNFPA's Syrian response and improve coordination between different country-level offices. 'the Hub' plays a vital role in harmonizing UNFPA's response across the region, ensuring a united front in the face of the ongoing crisis.

As the lead agency for the Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) and co-chair of the GBV sub-sector for refugee response, UNFPA spearheads the comprehensive coordination of GBV matters, including the development and upkeep of referral systems. During emergencies, the emphasis is primarily on health and psychosocial support, leaving limited avenues to engage with legal services. In many areas, justice systems are either absent or burdened with complex, both formal and informal, procedures that make it challenging for GBV survivors to trust and access services. The 'Voices from Syria' GBV AoR report sheds light on the apprehensions of numerous survivors, highlighting their concerns about the confidentiality and fairness of available legal services.[7]

1 UNFPA. (2023). The Need for Integrated Climate Change Action in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Programming - Evidence and Recommendations for the Arab Region.
2 World Bank. (2023). Climate and Development in the Middle East and North Africa.
3 Greenpeace Research Laboratories (2022). Living on the Edge: The Implications of Climate Change for Six Countries in the Middle East North Africa Region.
4 International Monetary Fund. (2023). How the Middle East and Central Asia Can Better Address Climate Challenges.
5 UNFPA. (2022). Investing in Three Transformative Results: Realising Powerful Returns.
6 Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (2014). Resolution 2165 (Syria) S/RES/2165.
7 UNFPA. (2023). Whole of Syria Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility: Voices from Syria 2023 - Assessment Findings of the Humanitarian Needs Overview [EN/AR].


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UNFPA is also the lead of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group (SRH TWG), under the Health Cluster, which seeks to engage sexual and reproductive health (SRH) partners across the response, coordinate efforts for the most efficient and effective interventions, and to ensure that safe, standardized and quality services are accessible to women and girls most in need. In addition to the clinical services provided, UNFPA reinforces the need for accurate SRH education, information and options-based counselling and supports the principle of bodily autonomy as a human right. UNFPA also acknowledges the importance of fostering social inclusion, including by catering to the needs of the LGBTQI+ community. However, it remains vital to tread with caution given the sensitivity of the matter in the Arab region, particularly within the contexts of the communities served.

Table 3. People reached and service delivery points supported in 2023[8]

Country	People reached by GBV services	People reached by SRH services	People reached by youth services	No. of WGSSs	No. of HFs	No. of Mobile Clinics	No. of YCs
Syria	560,050	1,158,764	42,370	45	96	108	12
GXB	123,373	175,443	0	14	9	2	0
Jordan	8,820	93,979	7,053	17	12	1	1
Lebanon	53,886	104,643	0	17	42	5	0
Turkiye	111,248	101,144	7,111	8	0	4	4

8 UNFPA. (2024). Regional Quarterly Report on the *Syria* Crisis. https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/publications/regional-quarterly-report-syria-crisis-1

Humanitarian programming support for the Whole of Syria response, including Syria, north-west Syria through cross-border operations from Türkiye and to refugee hosting countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye, have enabled UNFPA to adapt to the current crisis to continue providing critical, lifesaving services to women, girls, men and boys in need throughout the region despite widespread social, economic, political and health challenges.

As a result, and as part of the ongoing programming and informed by the recommendations lessons learned of the '2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises' exercise,[9] UNFPA proposes to continue its response to prevent and mitigate the risk of GBV and facilitate quality and timely access to lifesaving SRH services in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye. The overall goal is to increase the sense of well-being of women and girls accessing UNFPA programmes and supported services and activities.

To ensure that they align with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations system 2020–2030,[10] UNFPA created the Environmental Efficiency Strategy (EES) 2021–2025.[11] As part of the ESS, UNFPA developed the ELL[12] progress checklist to keep track of the progress that each country office is making towards becoming more environmentally friendly.[13] It is split into 3 steps with 31 tasks. Each task on the checklist can be 'not started', 'ongoing', 'completed', or 'not applicable'. It is important to highlight that all country offices should have the 31 tasks marked as 'completed' by 2025.

1.2 Objectives

The **main objective** of this environment assessment is to *develop strategic action points for UNFPA to take and implement within their projects/programmes, ensuring their contributions to environmentally sustainable development.* Additionally, the environmental assessment is conducted according to three criteria, which shall identify:

1. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from the project/programme on the environment;
2. Risks for negative environmental impact from the project/programme that can harm the environment; and
3. The management of risks from environmental degradation ,climate change and loss of biodiversity affecting the sustainability of the project/programme.

9 UNFPA. (2024). 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaziantep Cross-Border, Türkiye, and Yemen.
10 United Nations System. (2019). Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030.
11 UNFPA. (2021). UNFPA Environmental Efficiency Strategy 2021-2025.
12 UNFPA. (2021). Environmental Efficiency Ladder.
13 See Annex 4.

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2. Methodology

2.1 Methodology

This assessment adopted a qualitative methods approach, including: (1) desk review; (2) 26 key informant interviews (KIIs); and (3) 100 focus group discussions (FGDs). The tools were developed by the evaluation team, with guidance, contributions and approval from UNFPA. KIIs were conducted between July and September 2024, and FGDs were conducted in the first half of 2023 as part of the 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises. The process of which is outlined below.


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2.2 Desk review

A comprehensive review of available literature was undertaken from June to August 2024, both through internal and external documents, to gain a holistic image of the context-specific environment and climate in the region, understand how UNFPA contributes to the environment, and identify challenges to overcome them.

2.2.1 Internal documentation

A thorough review of documentation produced internally by UNFPA was undertaken. These included, inter alia: UNFPA Environmental Efficiency Strategy (ESS) 2021–2025; UNFPA reports, such as Gender-based Violence in the Context of Climate Change in the Arab Region 2023: Review of Evidence and Pathways,[14] UNFPA and the Climate Crisis,[15] and The Need for Integrated Climate Change Action in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-based Violence (GBV) Programming: Evidence and Recommendations for the Arab Region;[16] ESS risk matrix; EEL Progress Checklist;[17] Social and Environmental Action Plan; UNFPA Policies and Procedures for Implementing the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in Programming;[18] as well as SES checklist, operational guides; presentations on the direct and indirect impact of climate change, including on SRH and rights, climate change workshops for implementing partners; and integration initiatives, and flash appeals.

2.2.2 External documentation

A critical review was undertaken of externally produced documentation on climate change and the environment in the region. As this is an environmental assessment of UNFPA, it should be noted that the vast majority of publicly available documentation in the strategic and programmatic area remains the domain of UNFPA. Notwithstanding this, external sources reviewed included: academic journals and think tank articles; partner organization reports, the United Nations model approach self-assessment tool; reports by implementing partners on climate change and GBV as well as on the impact of climate change on women and girls, and pieces from Women Deliver, including the link between climate change and SRH and rights.

14 UNFPA. (2023). Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Climate Change in the Arab Region 2023: Review of Evidence and Pathways.
15 UNFPA. (2020). UNFPA and the Climate Crisis.
16 UNFPA. (2023). The Need for Integrated Climate Change Action in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Programming: Evidence and Recommendations for the Arab Region.
17 UNFPA. (n.d.). Environmental Efficiency Ladder (EEL) Progress Checklist.
18 UNFPA. (2022). UNFPA Policies and Procedures for Implementing the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in Programming.

2.3 Data collection

2.3.1 Sampling strategy

26 KIIs with internal and external stakeholders and **100 FGDs** with UNFPA beneficiaries were conducted. For both KIIs and FGDs, a purposive sampling method was adopted, where all stakeholders were identified with the support of UNFPA country offices, based on their relevance to the stakeholder selection criteria for each data collection step. A gender lens was applied, with females making up at least 50 per cent of consulted individuals. The proposed sampling strategy and the number of KIIs and FGDs ensured adequate data saturation; and provided the information necessary to formulate relevant and actionable recommendations. Data was collected in English, Arabic and Turkish, and it spanned across the five humanitarian responses: GXB, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Türkiye. The proposed sampling strategy and the number of KIIs and FGDs ensured adequate data saturation and provided the necessary information to formulate relevant and actionable recommendations.[19]

2.3.2 Key informant interviews

26 KIIs with internal and external stakeholders were conducted between June and September 2024 *(see Table 2* for the list of key informants by stakeholder). This extensive data collection was conducted remotely by consultants in English and Turkish, spanning over five humanitarian responses, capturing feedback from UNFPA staff, implementing partners and experts *(see Table 2)*. The KIIs were all recommended by UNFPA country offices. The key informant list also aimed to gain perspectives from those at global, national and local levels from the five humanitarian responses.

A questionnaire was developed by the consultants, which was approved by UNFPA ASRO (see Annex 1 for a complete list of questions). The questionnaire was semi-structured, aiming to provide respondents with the space to share examples, experiences and recommendations. All key informants were asked for informed consent before the interview. Confidentiality and anonymity were guaranteed as a part of this process. Additionally, all interview notes, recordings and transcriptions were stored on password protected devices.

Table 4: Number of KIIs by stakeholder

Stakeholders	Number of KIIs
UNFPA staff	12
Implementing partners	8
Experts	6
Total	**26**

Table 5: Number of KIIs by humanitarian response[20]

Humanitarian response	Number of KIIs
Syria	3
GXB	4
Jordan	5
Lebanon	3
Türkiye	10
Global	1
Total	**26**

19 Guest, Greg, et al., (2020). A Simple Method to Assess and Report Thematic Saturation in Qualitative Research. *PLoS One,* 15(5).

20 See Annex 1 for a complete breakdown of key informants.

26 KIIs with internal and external stakeholders and 100 FGDs with UNFPA beneficiaries were conducted.

2.3.3 FGDs

Across the five humanitarian responses, 100 FGDs were conducted in the first half of 2023 with UNFPA beneficiaries,[21] totalling 800 engagements (see Table 4). It is important to highlight that these FGDs were originally conducted for the 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises,[22] which introduced climate, environmental impact and resilience as a new dimension. More specifically, for the first time, FGDs included questions on climate and resilience in order to better understand how women and girls experience shocks, and how the provision of service is affected in the aftermath of shocks, such as climate change.

A questionnaire was developed by the consultants, which was approved by UNFPA ASRO.[23] As for KIIs, the questionnaire for FGDs was semi-structured, aiming to provide UNFPA beneficiaries with the space to share experiences. All FGD participants were asked for informed consent before the interview. Confidentiality and anonymity were guaranteed as a part of this process. Additionally, all FGDs notes were translated, and recordings and transcriptions were stored on password protected devices.

Table 6: Number of FGDs by humanitarian response

Humanitarian Response	Number of FGDs
Syria	55
GXB	13
Jordan	15
Lebanon	9
Türkiye	8
Total	**100**

2.4 Limitations

The research and findings from this environmental assessment is subjected to three limitations. First, the adoption of a purposive sampling from a list of key informants provided by UNFPA country offices increases the potential for bias, as it moderately shapes the diversity of perspectives, which might lead to overrepresentation or underrepresentation of certain groups. To mitigate this, triangulation with secondary sources took place, allowing for cross validation. Second, the humanitarian response in Türkiye had a higher number of key informants compared to other humanitarian responses, leading to a slightly unequal distribution. However, considering the context-specific nature of this environmental assessment, the findings were drafted for each humanitarian response individually. Third, considering the time constraints and budget limitations, a larger sample size for KIIs was not achievable, limiting the comprehensiveness of the data obtained. However, the KII sample size reached data saturation, and the large number of FGDs provided key nuances and perspectives from UNFPA beneficiaries, increasing the internal validity of this assessment.

21 The specific methodology can be found in the 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises.
22 UNFPA. (2024). 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises.
23 See Annex 3 for the questions asked under the climate, environmental impact, and resilience dimension.

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3. Findings

This report focuses on environmental and climate mitigation activities within the different operations in the region. In other words, how are they incorporating climate change mitigation and resilience in your programmes, including at the policy level such as ensuring the presence of SRH in the Nationally Determined Contributions?

GXB: UNFPA Gaziantep shared technical guidance on heatwave impacts on SRH and a heatwave emergency preparedness plan. Developed with the World Health Organization (WHO) and SRH TWG, these resources address risks like preterm births and dehydration, offering practical mitigation strategies and multi-sectoral preparedness to ensure healthcare resilience during heatwaves.

Syria: UNFPA Syria builds resilience among vulnerable populations by ensuring access to SRH services and addressing climate-induced challenges. Programmes include community education on the links between climate change, health and GBV, as well as training healthcare providers to manage climate-related GBV risks. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations and government agencies integrate SRH into education, health and disaster response strategies to maintain service accessibility during crises.

Jordan: UNFPA Jordan integrates SRH and GBV services with climate resilience by strengthening health systems, fostering eco-friendly practices and partnering with government and community organisations. Efforts include comprehensive sexuality education, capacity building and ensuring service accessibility for vulnerable groups to address climate-related challenges.

Lebanon: Despite political challenges, UNFPA Lebanon advocates for SRH inclusion in Nationally Determined Contributions and incorporates climate mitigation in preparedness plans. These efforts ensure SRH services remain accessible and support policy recognition of SRH within national strategies.

Türkiye: UNFPA Türkiye integrates climate considerations into programmes and disaster preparedness, focusing on GBV prevention and response. Advocacy at the 29th Conference of the Parties and other forums highlights linkages between climate change, GBV and SRH, with the aim to influence national policies, preparedness.

More specifically, this environmental assessment examines the following components per country office, considering their own contexts and operational environments:

1. **Compliance with UNFPA's EES.**
2. **Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment.**
3. **Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment.**
4. **Management of risks from the environment and monitoring of environmental impact from UNFPA programming.**

3.1 Syria

In the last 13 years, Syria has been in a particularly precarious situation, remaining as the world's largest in terms of displacement.[24] The complex and multi-sided civil war has left over 12 million people forcibly displaced across the region, both refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). As of 2024, there are over 7.2 million internally displaced persons and 17,100 refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria.[25] According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 16.7 million people require humanitarian assistance.[26] Climate-related events have exacerbated the situation and vulnerabilities in Syria. In recent years, the geographical location of Syria, specifically in the eastern Mediterranean basin, has made it significantly vulnerable to climate-related events and climate variability.[27] The 2023 earthquake caused one of the biggest environmental disasters in Syria, which took the lives of 5,900 people, injured thousands of civilians and severely damaged infrastructure in the country, including hospitals and schools. Wildfires have been on the rise over the last few years, creating a vicious cycle in which individuals cut down trees to obtain fuel, which in turn, leads to deforestation, exacerbating wildfires. Environmental pollution continues to affect the well-being of Syrians, caused by damaged water infrastructure. Additionally, according to the World Meteorological Organization, there have been drier

24 UNHCR. (2024). Syria Situation.
25 UNHCR. (2024). Syria Situation.
26 OCHA. (2024). Syrian Arab Republic: 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 2024) [EN/AR].
27 OCHA. (2023). Syria: Facing the Dual Challenge of Climate Change and Conflict.

conditions in the last four years in Syria, particularly during the winter.[28] The rise of environmental issues in Syria has affected agricultural communities, has reduced economic development and social stability, has reduced livelihood opportunities, has made reintegration difficult and has driven essential services such as access to water to the verge of breaking down.

Additionally, since September 23, 2024, over 285,000 people (70 per cent Syrians, 30 per cent Lebanese) have crossed into Syria from Lebanon, with up to 480,000 expected to be affected. Among them, over 6,800 women are pregnant, and 4,700 are expected to give birth in the next six months. UNFPA is prioritizing SRH, GBV prevention and essential services for women and girls, as the influx strains already fragile health systems.[29]

1. Compliance with UNFPA's EES

UNFPA Syria has completed 18 steps out of 31 tasks from the ELL checklist as of December 2023, highlighting that **significant progress has been made since 2021,** and has marked 9 tasks as ongoing, demonstrating their commitment to the ELL and environmental sustainability. UNFPA Syria has completed all the tasks from step 1, ensuring and establishing environmental management and awareness within their country office. Syria has also completed most tasks from step 3, highlighting their commitment to active and action-based tasks that generate tangible results in relation to the environment. Lastly, UNFPA Syria is undertaking most of the tasks from step 2, and some from step 3, in relation to reducing the use of single-use plastic, office streams, electronic waste and the use of 'UNFPA Green Events Checklist' in large events, among others.

Table 8. UNFPA Syria's environmental ELL checklist

TASK		STATUS
STEP 1		
1	Designating Green Focal Point (GFP)	Completed
2	Completing the Greening the Blue tutorial	Completed
3	Completing the COREM "Green" tab	Completed
4	Monitoring and reporting emissions for GHG inventory	Completed
5	Holding annual Management Reviews	Completed

28 OCHA. (2023). Syria: Facing the Dual Challenge of Climate Change and Conflict.
29 UNHCR (2024). Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria, October 2024 to March 2025.

TASK		STATUS
STEP 2		
6	Monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste	Not Applicable
7	Monitoring water consumption and wastewater treatment	Completed
8	Completing the "EES Risk Analysis Matrix" with HQ	Ongoing
9	Establishing objectives & targets	Ongoing
10	Defining action plans for main environmental issue(s)	Ongoing
STEP 3		
11	Implementing EDGE (or other building) standard	Not Applicable
12	Implementing energy efficiency measures and reducing energy consumption	Completed
13	Switching to renewable energy sources	Completed
14	Eliminating refrigerants with ODP (ozone depleting potential) and high GWP (global warming potential) in air-conditioning system	Ongoing
15	Monitoring and reducing single-use plastics in operations	Ongoing
16	Reducing and responsibly disposing of general waste streams (office waste)	Ongoing
17	Reducing and responsibly disposing of electronic waste	Ongoing
18	Reducing and responsibly disposing of other hazardous waste streams	Not-Applicable
19	Investing in water efficient fixtures in all new constructions, including container offices	Completed
20	Ensuring no wastewater is disposed untreated on soil or in water bodies	Completed
21	Consulting qualified expertise in assessing potential impacts of new premises in local biodiversity	Completed
22	Limiting number of people from same Division/Branch/Office going on the same mission	Completed
23	Reinforcing the office's competence in organizing remote conferences	Completed
24	Joining fleet sharing programmes, considering common premises	Completed
25	Ensuring the UNFPA fleet is managed efficiently	Completed
26	Implementing printing control measures	Completed
27	Including environmental considerations in high-risk procurement process (major works)	Completed
28	Using "UNFPA Green Events Checklist" in large events	Ongoing
29	Including environmental objectives to senior management appraisals (already in place for All Heads of Office)	Ongoing
30	Ensuring all newcomers follow the Environmental Efficiency induction session	Completed
31	Applying the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in all new Programmes (BONUS Task)	Completed

2. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment

UNFPA Syria's programming and operations contribute positively to the environment. The strong commitment to sustainability by Syria is exemplified by environmentally conscious initiatives, highlighting their commitment to sustainability. The main three are as follows, ranked according to how frequently they were mentioned and their significance in terms of positive impact. First, awareness campaigns about the interconnections between population dynamics, reproductive health and environmental issues, encouraging communities to adopt sustainable practices. More specifically, the delivery of SRH kits, particularly in humanitarian settings, with the use of environmentally friendly materials. Second, the development of a climate change handbook[30] with environmental guidelines and best practices, educating individuals on the importance of protecting the planet and shared with implementing partners to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly practices. Third, the use of solar systems in youth centres and other facilities such as WGSS and static clinics to avoid the use of generators, contributing positively to the use of renewable energy. Additionally, UNFPA Syria conducted research on the impact of climate change on women and girls in Daraa Governorate, which highlights a critical gap in access to reproductive health services, as climate change intensifies shortages in essential resources like medical supplies, infrastructure and skilled staff, underscoring the need for targeted interventions for vulnerable populations.[31]

In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for environmental protection and impact. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.

> *"SRH kits… emphasise environmental responsibility by using eco-friendly materials and packaging whenever feasible." (Syria KII participant).*

> *"We have developed a climate change handbook, which talks about the current situation. When this handbook or guideline was shared with our implementing partners, I have also urged them and asked them to choose one commitment that they can do as an implementing partner in which they can reflect their interest to have a contribution to save our environment." (Syria KII participant).*

> *"The fourth one was asking our implementing partner to have a solar system in the user-friendly spaces whenever they can." (Syria KII participant).*

Additionally, in Syria, UNFPA purchased dignity kits through supply chain operations management, international procurement. We orient the community on disposing of sanitary items that do not damage the environment. In Syria, there is a serious shortage of water in many locations, thus reusable sanitary pads are not preferred by the women and girls. The UNFPA Green Procurement Strategy outlines the environmental focus areas for which UNFPA has instituted requirements toward sustainability and the process through which suppliers are expected to demonstrate they meet these requirements. To make improvements, suppliers exercise influence in four parts of their organization: at site level, supply chain, products and packaging. UNFPA quality assurance activities in Syria follow a systematic process to ensure that products meet specified requirements and standards. Quality assurance activities include prequalification, technical evaluations, quality control and monitoring. Quality control activities determine whether the specified standards are being maintained through inspection, sampling and laboratory testing. It is important to note that these quality control activities cover the dignity kits as well.

3. Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment

When asked to rank the negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment, key informants were able to unanimously identify the extensive use of fuel for mobile teams. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal; it may however also indicate that programme staff are insufficiently aware of environmental risks to fully analyse the effects on programming. More specifically, UNFPA Syria has the most mobile teams in the

30 UNFPA Syria. (2022). Climate Change Handbook (AR).
31 UNFPA. (2023). Impact of Climate Change on Women and Girls in Daraa Governorate.

Arab States region, with a total of 108. **Although a greater number of mobile teams enables UNFPA Syria to reach more beneficiaries across the country, it also carries environmental responsibilities due to fuel consumption.** The extensive use of fuel contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, which suggests the need to explore more eco-friendly alternatives to reduce the carbon foot activity, also highlighted by key informants. However, it is important to highlight that the services delivery through mobile teams should not be compromised as it significantly benefits individuals across the country.

"We have mobile teams and we are using some old vans or micro buses, and these are still working on diesel or even petrol. But these machines are old and the emissions from these machines are high. So, you can notice it by your eyes, you can see when they drive how smoke is coming outside, which is very sad to see, but the shortage in the funds makes it difficult to have modern transportation." (Syria KII participant).

"Many times at a personal level, it's difficult to have fuel. So, I'm afraid that since we are talking about serving remote areas, we have mobile teams, and the mobile teams are using vehicles to reach those villages." (Syria KII participant).

"The logistics involved in transporting supplies can lead to increased carbon emissions, particularly in conflict-affected regions where infrastructure is damaged." (Syria KII participant).

4. Management of risks from the environment

UNFPA Syria currently lacks a management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks. Informants highlighted that globally and on an annual basis, UNFPA has established several monitoring measures and indicators, including: (1) the tracking of waste generation and disposal methods; (2) the monitoring, sourcing and sustainability of materials used in health kits to assess environmental impact; (3) measuring carbon emissions linked to programme logistics and transportation. An informant highlighted that these are not included in the country office monitoring and evaluation plan due to challenges in terms of collecting data. Nevertheless, informants highlighted that UNFPA Syria is aware of the risks, and stated that the programming is moderately resilient, with the caveat that the civil war along with environmental risks limits its resilience.

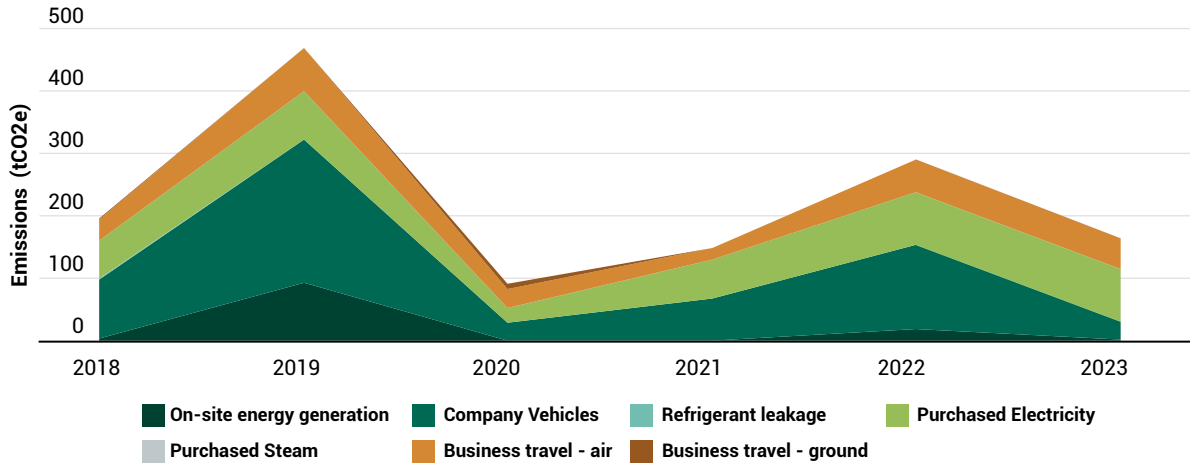
"We need to have a cooperation plan with other UN agencies and the government to be able to apply [to collect data]." (Syria KII informant).

"UNFPA's programming is moderately resilient due to its adaptive strategies and response mechanisms that are designed to be flexible. However, the ongoing conflict and the associated challenges can limit full resilience." (Syria KII informant).

"I think it's very important to assess the sustainability of the interventions and if it is not sustainable, if it will not be for long term to find alternatives to be more sustainable." (Syria KII informant).

Although UNFPA Syria lacks a personalised management system with targets and indicators, the country office tracks their carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. As the graph below highlights, the main emissions sources are fuel for vehicles (green), air travel (grey), purchased electricity/district heating (blue) and fuel for generators/boilers (red). In 2023, the specific details were company vehicles: 28.73 tCO_2e, purchased energy: 84.63 tCO_2e, refrigerant leakage: 0 tCO_2e, business travel - air: 48.67 tCO_2e, on-site energy generation: 1.5 tCO_2e and business travel - ground: 0 tCO_2e. The total tCO_2e in 2023 for UNFPA Syria was 163.54. The graph shows a general downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years, with the exception of 2019 and 2022. These specific years are characterized by a higher population movement and mass displacement internally and to neighbouring countries. Such conditions resulted in higher emergency relief efforts by UNFPA Syria through the distribution of resources, which ultimately led to an increase in fuel for vehicles and greater air travel. Additionally, there was a significant surge in the usage of purchased electricity, district heating, and fuel for generators and boilers. However, it is important to highlight that the influx of refugees coming from Lebanon, both Syrian and Lebanese, since September 2024 may likely increase carbon footprint activity for UNFPA Syria's operations.

Figure 2. UNFPA Syria's Carbon Footprint Activity



3.2 Gaziantep Cross-border

The 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) reports that out of 5.1 million population in north-west Syria, 4.2 million of them require humanitarian assistance, with 2.1 million in need of GBV services.[32] The 13-year conflict in Syria, coupled with the February 2023 earthquake, has plunged the region into a prolonged humanitarian crisis. The earthquake caused one of the biggest environmental disasters in the region, which resulted in the death of more than 4,500 individuals and 10,400 injured in north-west Syria.[33] Forty-three per cent of the injured individuals were women and girls, and 20 per cent were children of the age of 5 to 14. The north-west Syria Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements reports that at least 148 communities were affected by the earthquake, with the Districts of Harim and Afrin as the most affected. Additionally, the earthquake also destroyed 10,600 buildings, including hospitals and schools, with 1,869 buildings completely destroyed and 8,731 buildings partially destroyed.[34] The earthquake exacerbated existing threats and generated additional vulnerabilities, such as acute poverty, lower agricultural productivity, water scarcity, food insecurity and public health concerns.[35]

The earthquake also resulted in millions of people being exposed to harsh winter conditions.[36] Additionally, wildfires and deforestation have increased over the past few years, significantly affecting cities such as Idlib.[37] Coupled with continuous hostilities, escalating inflation and a deteriorating economic climate, environmental risks in north-west Syria have exacerbated the situation. The resilience of communities, particularly women and girls residing in IDP camps, has been severely undermined.

1. Compliance with UNFPA's EES

UNFPA GXB has completed 4 steps out of 31 tasks from the ELL checklist as of December 2023, highlighting that while **progress has been made since 2021, significant efforts should be maintained** to ensure the completion of the remaining 27 tasks by the end of 2025. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that UNFPA GXB has marked 20 of these tasks as ongoing, demonstrating their commitment to the ELL and environmental sustainability as a whole. In terms of completed tasks, UNFPA GXB has increased the use of remote conferences, joined fleet sharing programming, and included environmental considerations in high-risk procurement processes. On the other hand, to generate greater positive results, UNFPA GXB is currently discussing viable options to start the remaining tasks in relation to the monitoring of water consumption and wastewater treatment and the implementation of energy efficiency measures and reduction energy consumption.

32 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2023). Humanitarian Needs Overview in north-west Syria.
33 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2023). NW Syria: Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements - 1st edition, September 2023.
34 UNHCR. (2023). NW Syria: Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements - 1st edition, September 2023.
35 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (2023). Northwestern Syria in the Time of Cholera, Earthquakes, and Environmental Degradation.
36 United Nations Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Response. (2024). Türkiye-Syria Earthquake.
37 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (2023). Northwestern Syria in the Time of Cholera, Earthquakes, and Environmental Degradation.

Table 7. UNFPA GXB's environmental ELL checklist

TASK		STATUS
STEP 1		
1	Designating Green Focal Point (GFP)	Completed
2	Completing the Greening the Blue tutorial	Ongoing
3	Completing the COREM "Green" tab	Ongoing
4	Monitoring and reporting emissions for GHG inventory	Not Started
5	Holding annual Management Reviews	Ongoing
STEP 2		
6	Monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste	Ongoing
7	Monitoring water consumption and wastewater treatment	Not Started
8	Completing the "EES Risk Analysis Matrix" with HQ	Not Started
9	Establishing objectives & targets	Ongoing
10	Defining action plans for main environmental issue(s)	Ongoing
STEP 3		
11	Implementing EDGE (or other building) standard	Not Started
12	Implementing energy efficiency measures and reducing energy consumption	Not Started
13	Switching to renewable energy sources	Not Started
14	Eliminating refrigerants with ODP (ozone depleting potential) and high GWP (global warming potential) in air-conditioning system	Ongoing
15	Monitoring and reducing single-use plastics in operations	Ongoing
16	Reducing and responsibly disposing of general waste streams (office waste)	Ongoing
17	Reducing and responsibly disposing of electronic waste	Ongoing
18	Reducing and responsibly disposing of other hazardous waste streams	Ongoing
19	Investing in water efficient fixtures in all new constructions, including container offices	Ongoing
20	Ensuring no wastewater is disposed untreated on soil or in water bodies	Ongoing
21	Consulting qualified expertise in assessing potential impacts of new premises in local biodiversity	Ongoing
22	Limiting number of people from same Division/Branch/Office going on the same mission	Ongoing
23	Reinforcing the office's competence in organizing remote conferences	Completed
24	Joining fleet sharing programmes, considering common premises	Completed
25	Ensuring the UNFPA fleet is managed efficiently	Ongoing
26	Implementing printing control measures	Ongoing

TASK		STATUS
27	Including environmental considerations in high-risk procurement process (major works)	Completed
28	Using "UNFPA Green Events Checklist" in large events	Ongoing
29	Including environmental objectives to senior management appraisals (already in place for All Heads of Office)	Not Started
30	Ensuring all newcomers follow the Environmental Efficiency induction session	Ongoing
31	Applying the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in all new Programmes (BONUS Task)	Ongoing

2. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment

Through practical steps, GXB has demonstrated that their programming and operations effectively showcase a significant positive impact on the environment. UNFPA GXB has been able to showcase its commitment to sustainability through different forms; the main initiatives unanimously discussed by key informants are as follows, ranked according to how frequently they were mentioned and their significance in terms of positive impact. First, the implementation of waste management systems in women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) and health facilities. When these are not sufficient, UNFPA GXB organizes garbage collection and disposal collections in centres, highlighting its dedication to waste management. At healthcare facilities, UNFPA establishes a robust infection prevention and control waste management system with clear protocols for waste classification, collection, transportation and disposal. This system ensures the safe handling of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste, reducing risks to healthcare workers and communities and aligning with environmental protection standards. Second, the distribution of reusable sanitary towels with proper disposal messaging, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among UNFPA beneficiaries. Third, the minimal carbon footprint, which has been achieved through limited travel to north-west Syria and replaced by increased use of video conferencing technology.

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However, it is important to highlight that in the context of north-west Syria, the lack of a formal government structure and the absence of recycling facilities or manufacturers made the implementation of recycling initiatives currently infeasible. Addressing this challenge would require establishing the necessary infrastructure and governance mechanisms to enable recycling efforts in the future.

In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for environment protection and impact. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.

"When I go to the WGSS in north-west Syria, or when I go to the health facilities, for example, I see the waste disposal bins everywhere, which means that there are organised garbage collection and disposal." (GXB KII participant).

"I think there's also very good messaging around disposal, how these are disposed as well after use." (GXB KII participant).

"I think our carbon footprint is really very minimal because we rarely go to north-west Syria as well. It's not like we have a fleet of 100 vehicles moving in there. We have trucks that move there once in a while." (GXB KII participant).

3. Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment

UNFPA GXB has pioneered the use of solar panels, available in three health facilities, including a hospital, to overcome challenges of severe electricity shortages. However, **the potential risk that might have a greater negative environmental impact from UNFPA GXB is the over-reliance on fossil fuels for power generation in WGSS and health facilities.** When asked to rank the negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment, key informants were able to unanimously identify only one. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal; it may however also indicate that programme staff are insufficiently aware of environmental risks to fully analyse the effects on programming. More specifically, key informants expressed concerns about the use of traditional fuel for heating, which is ultimately unsustainable due to its potential environmental impact as well as the low-quality of generators used, suggesting the possibility of exploring the installation of more solar panels in the facilities, as suggested by key informants.

"So, we really need to move into ensuring that our service delivery points, for example, harness the use of solar panels. This, the over reliance on fossil fuel, for me, I think, is one of the negative ways that we are contributing to environmental degradation." (GXB KII participant).

"It would be a big move if we were able to support them [implementing partners] with the movement from using generators to solar systems." (GXB KII participant).

4. Management of risks from the environment

UNFPA GXB installed solar panel systems in two of the supported facilities to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. However, **UNFPA GXB currently lacks a management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks and monitor environmental impact.** Data from informants highlights that while climate-related events and other shocks such as potential earthquakes could affect the sustainability of UNFPA programming in GXB, the country office does not have a formal system that ensures that the programming is resilient to future environmental changes. Informants highlighted that while the creation of targets and indicators are possible, proper communication of the environmental strategy from senior management to field staff is necessary to ensure accountability.

"I don't think we have any indicators for that. And, yeah, [we] could see what kind of indicator that we can include." (GXB KII participant).

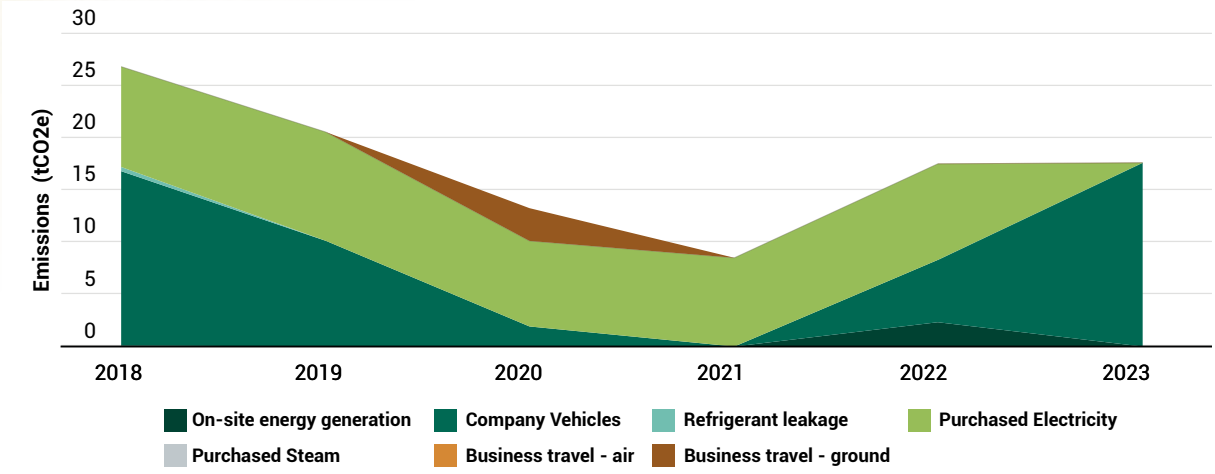
"That is something that's not been introduced to the area yet. Like, I mean, there's a lot of, like, discussion about that, but there's [still] no[t] [enough] action to be taken." (GXB KII Participant).

"So, to be honest, I think globally there is a lot of work that is being done. Now, how much is this trickling down to different country offices. How much is this trickling down to the regional offices? It's an accountability issue." (GXB KII participant).

> It would be a big move if we were able to support them [implementing partners] with the movement from using generators to solar systems." (GXB KII participant).

Although UNFPA GXB lacks a personalized management system with targets and indicators, the country office tracks its carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. As the graph below highlights, the main emissions sources are fuel for vehicles (green), air travel (grey), purchased electricity/district heating (blue) and fuel for generators/boilers (red). In 2023, the specific details were company vehicles: 17.65 tCO2e and purchased energy: 0 tCO2e. The total tCO2e in 2023 for UNFPA GXB was 17.64. The graph shows a general downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years, with the exception from 2021 to 2023. These specific years are characterized by a higher population movement and mass displacement internally and to neighbouring countries. Such conditions resulted in higher emergency relief efforts by the UNFPA GXB country office by distribution of resources, which ultimately led to an increase in fuel for vehicles. However, it is important to highlight that the influx of refugees coming from Lebanon, both Syrian and Lebanese, since September 2024 may likely increase carbon footprint activity for UNFPA GXB's operations.

Figure 1. UNFPA GXB's carbon footprint activity



3.3 Jordan

Jordan is the second-highest refugee-hosting country per capita,[38] including 1.36 million Syrian refugees. 90 per cent of these refugees reside in host communities, while the remaining 10 per cent live in camps.[39] Jordan is one of the countries most impacted by the Syrian conflict. Jordan ranks as the second most water-scarce nation globally with a high population growth rate.[40] Climate change and environmental risks pose a significant risk to communities in Jordan. The country has been particularly affected by extreme heat, with temperatures having risen by 1.5°C over the past century, air pollution, water scarcity,[41] landslides, flash floods and infectious diseases that turned into epidemics.[42] These environmental issues have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the populations in Jordan. In other words, they have increased the frequency of severe droughts with estimates that Jordan could receive 51 per cent to 75 per cent less water, reduced crop yields and food security and reduced school enrolment.[43] It is important to highlight that climate-related events are more likely to affect female-headed households, people with disabilities, small to medium farmers and other communities with heightened existing vulnerabilities.[44] Climate change exacerbates existing issues, such as economic stress, social conflict and internal instability, resulting in low levels of climate resilience.[45]

38 UNHCR. (2024). Jordan: Refugee Response & Resilience Strategy (2024 -2025).
39 UNHCR. (2023). Jordan.
40 UNICEF. (2024). Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.
41 International Medical Corps. (2024). Jordan: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Final Report (22 August 2024).
42 World Bank - Climate Change Knowledge Portal. (2024). Jordan.
43 International Medical Corps. (2024). Jordan: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Final Report (22 August 2024).
44 International Medical Corps. (2024). Jordan: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Final Report (22 August 2024).
45 El-Anis, I., & Poberezhskaya, M. (2023). Responding to Climate Change in Jordan: Understanding Institutional Developments, Political Restrictions and Economic Opportunities. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 1–19.

1. Compliance with UNFPA's EES

UNFPA Jordan has completed 8 steps out of 31 tasks from the ELL checklist as of December 2023, highlighting that **progress has been made since 2021. Additionally, UNFPA Jordan has 15 of these tasks as ongoing, with a commitment to completing them by 2025, demonstrating their commitment to the ELL and environmental sustainability**. Jordan has had positive results by monitoring, reducing and managing environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions, waste production, water consumption and plastic use. Similarly, Jordan is currently undertaking 14 tasks related to practices and efficiency measures to integrate environmental objectives into daily operations and long-term planning, which will ultimately advance Jordan by the end of 2025, highlighting the continuous progress that is being made. While Jordan has a few 'not started' and 'not applicable' tasks, the country office should continue working towards completing and adapting them, such as using the 'UNFPA Green Events Checklist' (see Appendix 4) in large events.

Table 9. UNFPA Jordan's ELL checklist

TASK		STATUS
STEP 1		
1	Designating Green Focal Point (GFP)	Completed
2	Completing the Greening the Blue tutorial	Ongoing
3	Completing the COREM "Green" tab	Completed
4	Monitoring and reporting emissions for GHG inventory	Completed
5	Holding annual Management Reviews	Ongoing
STEP 2		
6	Monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste	Completed
7	Monitoring water consumption and wastewater treatment	Completed
8	Completing the "EES Risk Analysis Matrix" with HQ	Not Started
9	Establishing objectives & targets	Ongoing
10	Defining action plans for main environmental issue(s)	Ongoing
STEP 3		
11	Implementing EDGE (or other building) standard	Ongoing
12	Implementing energy efficiency measures and reducing energy consumption	Ongoing
13	Switching to renewable energy sources	Not started
14	Eliminating refrigerants with ODP (ozone depleting potential) and high GWP (global warming potential) in air-conditioning system	Not started
15	Monitoring and reducing single-use plastics in operations	Completed
16	Reducing and responsibly disposing of general waste streams (office waste)	Ongoing
17	Reducing and responsibly disposing of electronic waste	Ongoing
18	Reducing and responsibly disposing of other hazardous waste streams	Ongoing
19	Investing in water efficient fixtures in all new constructions, including container offices	Ongoing

TASK		STATUS
20	Ensuring no wastewater is disposed untreated on soil or in water bodies	Completed
21	Consulting qualified expertise in assessing potential impacts of new premises in local biodiversity	Not Applicable
22	Limiting number of people from same Division/Branch/Office going on the same mission	Ongoing
23	Reinforcing the office's competence in organizing remote conferences	Ongoing
24	Joining fleet sharing programmes, considering common premises[46]	Not Applicable
25	Ensuring the UNFPA fleet is managed efficiently	Ongoing
26	Implementing printing control measures	Ongoing
27	Including environmental considerations in high-risk procurement process (major works)	Not Applicable
28	Using "UNFPA Green Events Checklist" in large events	Not Applicable
29	Including environmental objectives to senior management appraisals (already in place for All Heads of Office)	Completed
30	Ensuring all newcomers follow the Environmental Efficiency induction session	Ongoing
31	Applying the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in all new Programmes (BONUS Task)	Not Applicable

2. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment

The programming and operations from UNFPA Jordan contribute positively to the environment. The strong commitment to sustainability by Jordan is exemplified by environmentally conscious initiatives, highlighting their commitment to sustainability. The main two are as follows, ranked according to how frequently they were mentioned and their significance in terms of positive impact. First, a robust solid waste management system in WGSS, health facilities and youth centres and specifically clinics in refugee communities, with equipment, information sessions and guidance provided, particularly to women and girls. Second, the embedding of climate change topics in SRH and GBV awareness programmes, which has led to increased understanding about the intersection between health and the environment, enabling women and girls to make more informed decisions.

In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for environmental protection and impact. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.

> *"We work rigorously on our solid waste management. For example, aspects of security of our clinics have clear guidance on how to support those efforts in a national context." (Jordan KII participant).*

> *"And so we are already doing [it], and we've done in the past months and currently are undertaking some awareness sessions on climate change, on the impact of climate change." (Jordan KII participant).*

46 It is important to note that UNFPA Jordan CO shared the premises with the UNFPA Humanitarian Hub for the Whole of Syria and the Arab States and UNFPA Yemen CO.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Additionally, in Jordan, UNFPA ensures that the production and packaging of dignity kits procured locally are environmentally sustainable through several key strategies. First, UNFPA works closely with local suppliers to prioritize the use of eco-friendly materials, such as biodegradable or recyclable packaging and sustainable sourcing of kit components. Suppliers are encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible production practices, reducing the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and transportation.

Moreover, UNFPA integrates environmental sustainability criteria into procurement processes, ensuring that vendors comply with standards for waste reduction, resource efficiency and environmentally conscious practices. The organization also raises awareness among stakeholders about the importance of sustainability in the supply chain, fostering collaboration and innovation to minimize environmental impact. By embedding these principles into the dignity kit supply chain, UNFPA aligns its efforts with broader goals of reducing waste and promoting sustainable development in Jordan.

3. Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment

The main risk that might have a greater negative environmental impact from UNFPA Jordan is the over-reliance on fossil fuels for power generation in WGSS, health facilities and youth centres. When asked to rank the negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment, key informants were able to unanimously identify only one. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal; it may however also indicate that programme staff are insufficiently aware of environmental risks to fully analyse the effects on programming. More specifically, key informants expressed the risk that traditional fuel for heating imposes, being unsustainable in the long term with a visible negative impact. To mitigate the consequences, key informants suggested the need to enhance and implement further the existing solar energy initiatives with tangible results, acknowledging the high investment required in the current budget constraints. Additionally, key informants also highlighted the opportunity of partnering with other United Nations agencies, INGOs, or CSOs, particularly those with environmental mandate, to work together and learn from their best practices.

"We're looking for enhancements in our full clinics inside camps in particular because they can be transferred fully to solar panel generated power supplies. Noting that this is also a cost-effective approach." (Jordan KII participant).

"Adding or looking at solar systems, [and] electric cars. So, this is something that perhaps as of today, I don't think we're doing yet, but there was this thinking about starting to introduce this [considering] budgetary considerations later on into our programming." (Jordan KII participant).

"I think that joint programming specifically with the agency leading the environmental agenda could be enhanced better." (Jordan KII participant).

4. Management of risks from the environment

Although UNFPA Jordan currently lacks a formal management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks, **the office is starting to generate evidence around the impact of environmental issues onto their programming in order to inform and guide programming resilience to climate.** Informants suggested the need to formalize such a process, which could provide implementing partners with the opportunity to have input, in line with localization efforts. Additionally, other key informants highlighted that such targets and indicators would be helpful as they would be context-specific.

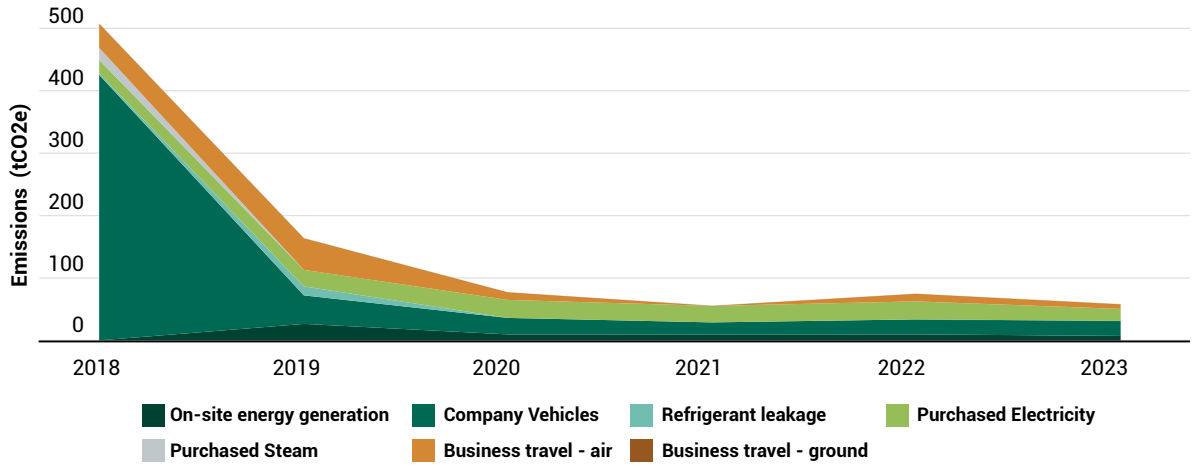
In terms of how resilient UNFPA Jordan is to different environmental risks, it is important to highlight that UNFPA Jordan is part of the ASRO risk assessment system, the strategic information system managed by headquarters, and the Regional Risk Committee at ASRO. Through these, the country office has identified potential risks at the strategic, programmatic and operational levels, along with a mitigation plan for each risk.

> *"But I think what we are missing is more the feasibility of these solutions to the Jordanian context." (Jordan KII participant).*

> *"[We have been] generating evidence around the impact of hazardous and environmental crises onto our programming. This is not like it comes from a vacuum. This is initial, but it's a global effort to have specific impacts of environmental hazardous crises into our programming, including its impact on women." (Jordan KII participant).*

Although UNFPA Jordan lacks a personalized management system with targets and indicators, the country office tracks its carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. As the graph below highlights, the main emissions sources are fuel for vehicles (green), air travel (grey), purchased electricity/district heating (blue) and fuel for generators/boilers (red). In 2023, the specific details were company vehicles: 23.97 tCO2e, purchased energy: 19.66 tCO2e, refrigerant leakage: 0 tCO2e, business travel - air: 6.53 tCO2e, on-site energy generation: 6.66 tCO2e and business travel - ground: 0.16 tCO2e. The total tCO2e in 2023 for UNFPA Jordan was 56.98. The graph shows a downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years, with business travel and on-site generation going from 500 tCO2e in 2018 to less than 100 tCO2e in 2023.

Figure 3. UNFPA Jordan's carbon footprint activity



> We need to have a cooperation plan with other UN agencies and the government to be able to apply [to collect data]." (Syria KII informant).

3.4 Lebanon

As of 2024, Lebanon continues to have the highest ratio of refugee to host community population of any country in the world, with approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees and some 11,238 refugees of other nationalities.[47] Syrians account for over 20 per cent of Lebanon's population and, as a result, the Syrian crisis continues to be one of the key concerns in the country. The environmental crisis in Lebanon is multi-dimensional, ranging from rising temperatures, extreme weather events such as heavy rain, strong winds and snow,[48] heat waves and droughts,[49] to air pollution, waste management issues, wildfires and deforestation.[50] The lack of reliable electric heating sources and constant reliance on generators in Lebanon has increased deforestation.[51] Such generators spew toxins into the air, and sewage rapidly pollutes the water.[52] Over the past 50 years, Lebanon's forest cover has reduced by 17 per cent. Annually, Lebanon loses approximately 1,500 to 2,000 hectares to wildfire and deforestation.[53] As a result, environmental threats and issues in Lebanon have reduced agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities, loss of biodiversity and have also exacerbated vulnerabilities to the population in Lebanon, with a greater negative impact on women, girls, children and people with disabilities.

Additionally, the escalation of recent hostilities has exacerbated vulnerabilities in Lebanon across different dimensions, including environmental impact. Specifically, agricultural lands have been damaged by the conflict, including physical degradation, chemical pollution and contamination from explosive remnants, which has ultimately resulted in soil fertility loss. Furthermore, the use of phosphorus shelling has affected groundwater, which has had significant negative consequences on the environment and the health of individuals. As white phosphorus is toxic to many organisms, there have been documented cases of death among mammals, birds and fish, which further highlights the broader environmental damage caused by the war.[54]

On the other hand, since September 23, 2024, over 285,000 people (70 per cent Syrians, 30 per cent Lebanese) have left Lebanon and crossed into Syria, with up to 480,000 expected to be affected. Among them, over 6,800 women are pregnant, and 4,700 are expected to give birth in the next six months. UNFPA is prioritizing SRH, GBV prevention and essential services for women and girls, as the influx strains already fragile health systems.[55] As a result, on October 3, 2024, UNFPA launched a Flash Appeal into the current humanitarian crisis in Lebanon, which in collaboration with the Government of Lebanon, seeks to address the needs of women and girls, as well as ensure that their SRH and protection needs are prioritized across the humanitarian response. As of October, UNFPA has increased the distribution of dignity kits and provides GBV risk mitigation and response, SRH services, as well as psychological support in shelters across Lebanon.[56]

47 UNHCR. (2024). Lebanon at a Glance.
48 UNHCR. (2024). Final Inter-Sector Storm Response - January 2024.
49 UNDP. (2023). A Green Future is Possible for Lebanon.
50 The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. (2024). The Devastating Impact of Lebanon's Environmental Failures.
51 The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. (2024). The Devastating Impact of Lebanon's Environmental Failures.
52 The Economist. (2022). Lebanon's Economic Crisis is Wrecking the Environment, Too.
53 United States Agency for International Development (USAID). (n.d). Environment and Global Climate Change.
54 UNDP. (2023). Gaza War: Preliminary Findings on the Socio-Economic and Environmental impact on Lebanon.
55 UNHCR (2024). Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx from Lebanon to Syria, October 2024 to March 2025.
56 UNFPA. (2024). Flash Appeal Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon.

1. Compliance with UNFPA's EES

UNFPA Lebanon has completed 21 steps out of 31 tasks from the ELL checklist as of December 2023, highlighting that **significant progress has been made since 2021,** and is on track to complete 3 more by 2025, demonstrating their commitment to the ELL and environmental sustainability. Lebanon has completed all steps from step 1, ensuring and establishing environmental management and awareness within their country office. Lebanon has also completed all tasks of step 2, except one, highlighting their commitment to complete tasks step by step, following the environmental hierarchy advised by UNFPA. Lastly, while UNFPA Lebanon has also completed most tasks of step 3, the country office is also undertaking remaining tasks in relation to the reduction of single-use plastic, office streams and the investment in water efficient fixtures, which are scheduled to be completed by 2025.

Table 10. UNFPA Lebanon's ELL checklist

TASK		STATUS
STEP 1		
1	Designating Green Focal Point (GFP)	Completed
2	Completing the Greening the Blue tutorial	Completed
3	Completing the COREM "Green" tab	Completed
4	Monitoring and reporting emissions for GHG inventory	Completed
5	Holding annual Management Reviews	Completed
STEP 2		
6	Monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste	Completed
7	Monitoring water consumption and wastewater treatment	Completed
8	Completing the "EES Risk Analysis Matrix" with HQ	Not started
9	Establishing objectives & targets	Completed
10	Defining action plans for main environmental issue(s)	Completed
STEP 3		
11	Implementing EDGE (or other building) standard	Not Applicable
12	Implementing energy efficiency measures and reducing energy consumption	Completed
13	Switching to renewable energy sources	Not started
14	Eliminating refrigerants with ODP (ozone depleting potential) and high GWP (global warming potential) in air-conditioning system	Completed
15	Monitoring and reducing single-use plastics in operations	Ongoing
16	Reducing and responsibly disposing of general waste streams (office waste)	Ongoing
17	Reducing and responsibly disposing of electronic waste	Completed
18	Reducing and responsibly disposing of other hazardous waste streams	Not Applicable
19	Investing in water efficient fixtures in all new constructions, including container offices	Ongoing
20	Ensuring no wastewater is disposed untreated on soil or in water bodies	Completed

TASK		STATUS
21	Consulting qualified expertise in assessing potential impacts of new premises in local biodiversity	Not Applicable
22	Limiting number of people from same Division/Branch/Office going on the same mission	Completed
23	Reinforcing the office's competence in organizing remote conferences	Completed
24	Joining fleet sharing programmes, considering common premises	Completed
25	Ensuring the UNFPA fleet is managed efficiently	Completed
26	Implementing printing control measures	Completed
27	Including environmental considerations in high-risk procurement process (major works)	Not Applicable
28	Using "UNFPA Green Events Checklist" in large events	Not Applicable
29	Including environmental objectives to senior management appraisals (already in place for All Heads of Office)	Completed
30	Ensuring all newcomers follow the Environmental Efficiency induction session	Completed
31	Applying the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in all new Programmes (BONUS Task)	Completed

2. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment

Through practical steps, UNFPA Lebanon's programming and operations contribute positively to the environment. The strong commitment to sustainability by Lebanon is exemplified by environmentally conscious initiatives. The main three are as follows, ranked from top to bottom, highlighting their significance. First, the implementation of waste management systems in WGSS and health facilities, with different compartments for sorting waste. Second, the creation of beach cleaning activities with beneficiaries, the raising awareness campaigns on how to recycle and its positive environmental impact and the detailed communication with implementing partners on best environmental practices, showcasing UNFPA Lebanon's commitment while actively involving people in sustainability practices. Third, the digitalization of monitoring activities to reduce paper use through the use of platforms such as Kobo, along with an increase of remote conferences to avoid travel. Additionally, while a primary health facility is powered by solar panels, the main obstacle to extending solar power to other facilities are financial constraints.

In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for environmental protection and impact. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.

"We sort waste in our offices, you know, when we put plastic in alone, food alone, etc." (Lebanon KII participant).

"We talk with our beneficiaries about the benefits of recycling, about how to impact the environment, [and] about how to use this waste for resources." (Lebanon KII participant).

"The purpose of the campaign is to clean the beaches in Tripoli and Akkar." (Lebanon KII participant).

"UNFPA encourages its suppliers to use environmentally preferable material and to avoid those that may have harmful effects on human plants and animals. For the distribution of kits, for example, UNFPA considers the times that the distributions have to be made, trying to reduce the number of travels from transporting companies." (Lebanon KII participant).

"Utilizing all the monitoring activity in order to reduce paper use in our offices and in our implementation." (Lebanon KII participant).

Additionally, in Lebanon, UNFPA ensures that the production and packaging of dignity kits procured locally are environmentally sustainable through several key strategies. Suppliers are encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible production practices, reducing the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and transportation. Dignity kits are transported in big batches to minimize the carbon emission footprint and reduce the amount of packaging material.

3. Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment

When asked to rank UNFPA's negative environmental impact, key informants were able to unanimously identify only one. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal; it may however also indicate that programme staff are insufficiently aware of environmental risks to fully analyse the effects on programming. More specifically, while UNFPA's programming in Lebanon includes a robust waste management system, the primary environmental risk stems from insufficient awareness and inadequate supplies for proper medical waste disposal.

Key informants expressed that such risk can be mitigated through public campaigns, adequate equipment and initiatives in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health. Additionally, key informants highlighted that efforts towards an adequate medical waste disposal, as well as to other environmental initiatives, could be spearheaded through the support of United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

"We could use medical waste disposal in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health." (Lebanon KII participant).

"We don't have a joint effort or joint project with these main UN agencies. So, in the future we can work more on climate change. We don't have a project dedicated to climate change." (Lebanon KII participant).

"So maybe it would be good to have [a] joint programme or joint effort with UN agencies who work directly and have proposal[s] on climate change." (Lebanon KII participant).

4. Management of risks from the environment

UNFPA Lebanon currently lacks a management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks. Data from informants highlights that while climate-related events could affect the sustainability of UNFPA programming in Lebanon, the country office does not have a formal system that ensures that programming is resilient to future environmental changes. When explaining the rationale, informants highlighted that most of the programmes follow the Lebanon Response Plan, which does not include environmentally related targets. Informants also expressed that targets and indicators should be part of every project to ensure accountability, and to ensure that UNFPA Lebanon projects are environmentally resilient.

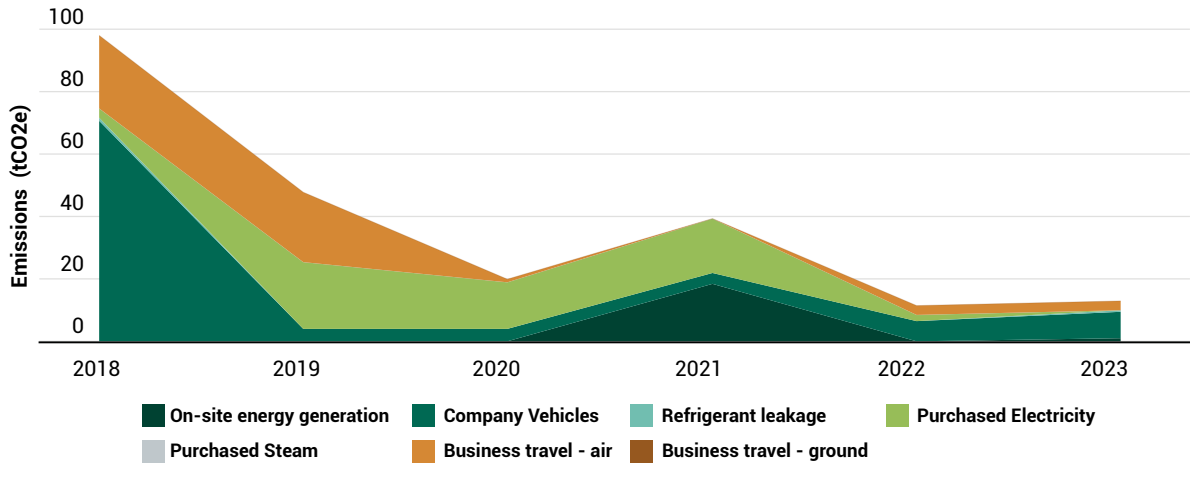
> *"No. In fact, no. Because most of the programmes, when it comes to protection, are linked to the, what we call the Lebanon Response Plan. So, all the indicators that we report on for UNFPA projects or any other projects are related directly to the indicators of the Lebanon Response Plan, which sadly, do not have anything related to the environment." (Lebanon KII participant).*

> *"This [targets and indicators] should be included in the contract, in the programme document, so we can respect it and we can also be held accountable if we do not do it." (Lebanon KII participant).*

> *"Unfortunately, no. We don't have any indicator on the environment nor on anything. We don't have, we didn't integrate any indicator on environment or climate change in our monitoring framework." (Lebanon KII participant).*

Although UNFPA Lebanon lacks a personalized management system with targets and indicators, the country office tracks its carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. As the graph below highlights, the main emissions sources are fuel for vehicles (green), air travel (grey), purchased electricity/district heating (blue) and fuel for generators/boilers (red). In 2023, the specific details were company vehicles: 8.54 tCO2e, purchased energy: 0 tCO2e, refrigerant leakage: 0.57 tCO2e, business travel - air: 3.23 tCO2e and on-site energy generation: 0.66 tCO2e. The total tCO2e in 2023 for UNFPA Lebanon was 13.00. The graph shows a downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years, with the exception of 2020 with a higher population movement, influx of refugees from Syria, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut port explosion, which ultimately slightly increased fuel for vehicles, air travel, and purchased electricity/district heating and fuel for generators/boilers. More specifically, CO2 emissions, particularly from onsite electricity generation, peaked following the Beirut port explosion in 2020.[57] It is important to highlight that the consequences of the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon may likely increase carbon footprint activity for UNFPA Lebanon's operations.

Figure 4. UNFPA Lebanon's carbon footprint activity



57 Zhao, Yi-Bo., et al. (2023). Any Long-term Effect of the Beirut Port Explosion on the Airborne Particulate Matter? *Aerosol and Air Quality Research,* 23, 220395.

3.5 Türkiye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Türkiye hosts the largest refugee population in the world,[58] with approximately 3.7 million refugees, including 3.1 million Syrians.[59] According to the 3RP Strategic Overview 2024, Türkiye has 11,203,175 people in need of humanitarian assistance: 3,629,581 are refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, while 7,573,594 are host community members. [60] The 13-year conflict in Syria, coupled with the February 2023 earthquake, has plunged Türkiye into a prolonged humanitarian crisis. The earthquake caused one of the biggest environmental disasters in the country, which resulted in the death of more than 50,391 individuals in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya and Elazığ Provinces, including at least 6,600 Syrians present in Türkiye.[61] The earthquake also injured 107,204 people, 3 million people have been relocated, and more than 298,000 buildings collapsed or were severely damaged.[62] On the other hand, there have been other environmental issues that have affected Türkiye, ranging from flooding, landslides, droughts, to wildfires, heatwaves and extreme wind storms.[63] Environmental issues in Türkiye pose major risks to ecosystems, public health, agriculture, labour productivity, infrastructure[64] and exacerbate vulnerabilities among the most affected populations by increasing their risk of climate migration. Such environmental-related events have further exacerbated the country's lack of social cohesion, deteriorated health conditions, heightened poverty levels, and decreased livelihood opportunities,[65] [66], ultimately leaving the country in a precarious state.

1. Compliance with UNFPA's EES

UNFPA Türkiye has completed 8 steps out of 31 tasks from the ELL checklist as of December 2023, highlighting that **progress has been made since 2021. UNFPA Türkiye has also 14 of these tasks as ongoing, with a commitment to completing them by 2025, demonstrating their commitment to the ELL and environmental sustainability as a whole.** UNFPA Türkiye has completed most of the tasks of step 1, ensuring and establishing environmental management and awareness within their country office. Similarly, Türkiye is currently undertaking 14 tasks related to practices and efficiency measures to integrate environmental objectives into daily operations and long-term planning, which will ultimately advance UNFPA Türkiye's environmental agenda by the end of 2025, highlighting the continuous progress that is being made. While UNFPA Türkiye has a few 'not started' and 'not applicable' tasks, the country office should continue working towards completing and adapting them, such as monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste.

58 UNHCR. (2024). Türkiye.
59 USAID. (2024). Türkiye Assistance Overview.
60 UNHCR. (2024). 3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2024.
61 USAID. (2024). Türkiye Assistance Overview.
62 USAID. (2024). Türkiye Assistance Overview.
63 World Bank. (n.d.). Towards a Greener and More Resilient Türkiye.
64 World Bank Blogs. (2023). 5 Ways Türkiye (and Other Countries) Can Reduce Climate and Disaster Risk.
65 WHO. (2022). Health and Climate Change Country Profile 2022.
66 Baker Institute for Public Policy. (2024). Unable or Unwilling To Move? How Climate Change Impacts the Decision To Migrate Among Turkish Farmers.

Table 11. UNFPA Türkiye's ELL checklist

TASK		STATUS
STEP 1		
1	Designating Green Focal Point (GFP)	Completed
2	Completing the Greening the Blue tutorial	Ongoing
3	Completing the COREM "Green" tab	Completed
4	Monitoring and reporting emissions for GHG inventory	Completed
5	Holding annual Management Reviews	Completed
STEP 2		
6	Monitoring waste production and treatment, including hazardous waste	Not started
7	Monitoring water consumption and wastewater treatment	Ongoing
8	Completing the "EES Risk Analysis Matrix" with HQ	Completed
9	Establishing objectives & targets	Completed
10	Defining action plans for main environmental issue(s)	Completed
STEP 3		
11	Implementing EDGE (or other building) standard	Not Applicable
12	Implementing energy efficiency measures and reducing energy consumption	Ongoing
13	Switching to renewable energy sources	Not Applicable
14	Eliminating refrigerants with ODP (ozone depleting potential) and high GWP (global warming potential) in air-conditioning system	Not Applicable
15	Monitoring and reducing single-use plastics in operations	Ongoing
16	Reducing and responsibly disposing of general waste streams (office waste)	Ongoing
17	Reducing and responsibly disposing of electronic waste	Ongoing
18	Reducing and responsibly disposing of other hazardous waste streams	Not Applicable
19	Investing in water efficient fixtures in all new constructions, including container offices	Not started
20	Ensuring no wastewater is disposed untreated on soil or in water bodies	Ongoing
21	Consulting qualified expertise in assessing potential impacts of new premises in local biodiversity	Not Applicable
22	Limiting number of people from same Division/Branch/Office going on the same mission	Ongoing
23	Reinforcing the office's competence in organizing remote conferences	Ongoing
24	Joining fleet sharing programmes, considering common premises	Not Applicable
25	Ensuring the UNFPA fleet is managed efficiently	Ongoing
26	Implementing printing control measures	Ongoing
27	Including environmental considerations in high-risk procurement process (major works)	Not Applicable

TASK		STATUS
28	Using "UNFPA Green Events Checklist" in large events	Ongoing
29	Including environmental objectives to senior management appraisals (already in place for All Heads of Office)	Completed
30	Ensuring all newcomers follow the Environmental Efficiency induction session	Ongoing
31	Applying the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in all new Programmes (BONUS Task)	Ongoing

2. Opportunities for positive environmental impact from UNFPA on the environment

UNFPA Türkiye's programming and operations contribute positively to the environment. The strong commitment to sustainability by UNFPA Türkiye's is exemplified by environmentally conscious initiatives, highlighting their commitment to sustainability. The main three are as follows, ranked according to how frequently they were mentioned and their significance in terms of positive impact. First, the digitalisation of activities, such as implementing paperless office practices like using AoDocs and DocuSign instead of printing, and conducting remote conference calls instead of in-person meetings that might require travelling from one province to another by plane. Second, the use of environmentally friendly materials to package dignity kits, which can easily be reused by beneficiaries for other purposes. Third, considering the aftermath of the earthquake in terms of the high number of buildings damaged, individuals were left in need of tents and containers for both living purposes and service provision. Consequently, Türkiye rented containers for the supported service units, ensuring that beneficiaries had access to regular and additional programming and support, instead of building new containers that might have contributed negatively to the environment.

In terms of measures taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment, key informants highlighted the need for increased awareness regarding environmental impact among UNFPA staff, implementing partners and community members. This sense of awareness is essential for fostering a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for environment protection and impact. Additionally, key informants reported that for certain initiatives to maintain and amplify their environmental positive impact, it is paramount to allocate budget resources for these activities. In turn, this would expand the scope of the activities and enhance their positive contributions to the environment.

"Let's say, reduce the paper usage or the travel needs, trying to select the online method instead of participating [in] meetings in person." (Türkiye KII participant).

"So, it also has positive impacts and with a reduction of the carbon footprint and it provides us almost non paper usage." (Türkiye KII participant).

"Even though we held our monthly meetings, we continued, however, [to have] them online, [which] decreased the potential flights." (Türkiye KII participant).

"Also, some materials that are used for the dignity kits, for example, instead of providing one-time bags, we are using textile cloth bags so that it's reused by the beneficiary for other purposes as well." (Türkiye KII participant).

"So as a country office decision, we decided to rent containers instead of purchasing one or having it newly produced, considering that after like five years after recovery, these containers will be a problem for the environment." (Türkiye KII participant).


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3. Risks for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment

When asked to rank the negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment, key informants were able to unanimously identify only one. In the broader context, this suggests that any negative effects on the environment from UNFPA are minimal; it may however also indicate that programme staff are insufficiently aware of environmental risks to fully analyse the effects on programming. More specifically, although waste disposal management is in place and has been strengthened by local authorities across UNFPA Türkiye, as indicated by several key informants from UNFPA, **the main risk for negative environmental impact from UNFPA that can harm the environment remains waste disposal management**. More specifically, informants from implementing partners highlighted the need of waste disposal equipment and supplies to adhere to environmental standards, as well as the need of environmental campaigns that raise awareness about waste collection, either in-person training to staff or through brochures to both staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

"Our UNFPA supported service units are always in touch with the local authorities to ensure public health. So, when they have, when they notice any kind of unstructured waste area, they also notify the governor or the responsible authority at the province to clean this off." (Türkiye KII participant).

"So, for example, UNFPA could send us some brochures regarding a waste collection." (Türkiye KII participant).

"And also, they [UNFPA] could maybe, for example, train or staff about these environmental issues like garbage collection or waste disposal." (Türkiye KII participant).

> Let's say, reduce the paper usage or the travel needs, trying to select the online method instead of participating [in] meetings in person." (Türkiye KII participant).

4. Management of risks from the environment

UNFPA Türkiye currently lacks a personalized management system with targets and indicators that can help manage environmental risks. Data from informants highlights that while climate-related events could affect the sustainability of UNFPA programming in Türkiye, the country office does not have a formal system. Informants highlighted the possibility of adding such targets into existing or new monitoring mechanisms. On the other hand, informants from implementing partners highlighted that in addition to indicators, they could also designate a green focal point that reports to UNFPA regarding environmental matters.

"So, we are providing all these usages, electricity, travel details, usage of aeroplane, all the details to the [global] portal on a yearly basis during May, June and the assessment is done through that portal and headquarters review all these information and make the comparison according to previous years." (Türkiye KII participant).

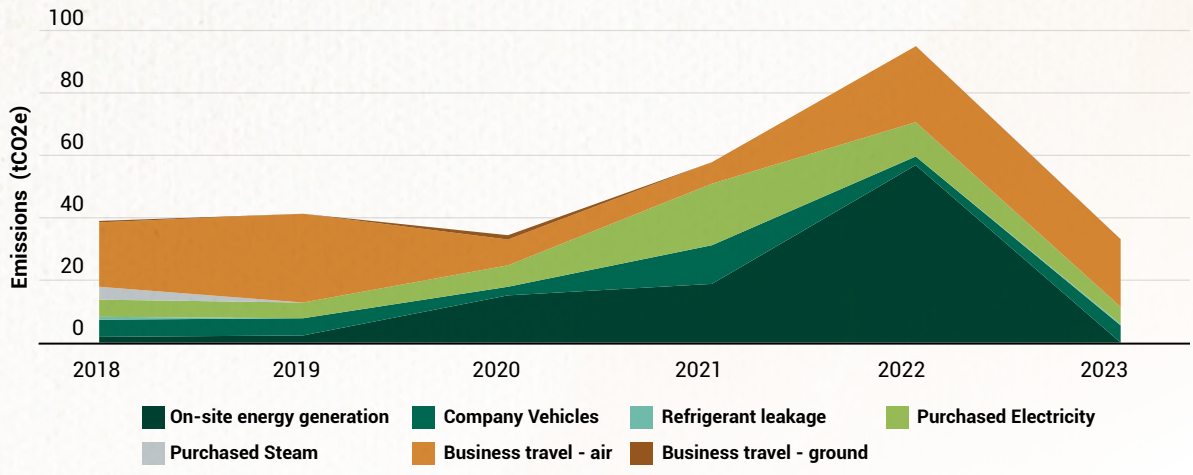
"No, this is not yet in place. However, the climate change issue is on the agenda of our [UNFPA Türkiye] country's representatives. So, this is probably soon to be coming, because she has been working on it for so long." (Türkiye KII participant).

"[In terms of] projects and programmes directly, we do not collect as a milestone or indicator and report." (Türkiye KII participant).

"We could clarify the environmental action plan and actually we define a green focus person in our offices or green contact person, green [focal] point kind of person." (Türkiye KII participant).

Although UNFPA Türkiye lacks a personalized management system with targets and indicators, the country office tracks its carbon footprint by providing data on usages of electricity, water consumption, travel details and others through the UNFPA global portal, on a yearly basis. As the graph below highlights, the main emissions sources are fuel for vehicles (green), air travel (grey), purchased electricity/district heating (blue) and fuel for generators/boilers (red). In 2023, the specific details were company vehicles: 16.43 tCO2e, purchased energy: 16.38 tCO2e, refrigerant leakage: 0.46 tCO2e, business travel - air: 65.39 tCO2e, on-site energy generation: 0 tCO2e, and business travel - ground: 0.5 tCO2e. The total tCO2e in 2023 for UNFPA Türkiye was 99.17. The graph shows a general downward trend of carbon footprint activity over the years, with the exception of air travel in 2019 and an overall upward trend in 2022. In 2022, fuel for vehicles, air travel, purchased electricity/district heating and fuel for generators/boilers significantly increased due to the global energy crisis due to the war in Ukraine, which significantly affected Türkiye as it relies heavily on imported energy. Additionally, in 2022, Türkiye also faced significant inflation and a depreciation of the Turkish Lira, which affected the cost of imported fuels, leading to higher operational costs.

Figure 5. UNFPA Türkiye's carbon footprint activity



3.6 Climate, environmental impact, and resilience

In 2023, for the first time, questions were asked in FGDs about the wider variety of shocks facing UNFPA beneficiaries, and analysis was conducted on the ways in which these shocks are affecting the needs of women and girls, both in the short-term and long-term. Such an exercise was part of the 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises.[67] The following findings emerged from 100 FGDs across the five UNFPA country offices.

Climate and environment do have an impact, with both short-term and long-term effects. Fifty per cent of respondents to FGDs identified climate issues as the top shocks affecting their lives. Climate issues can both act as a shock, by causing a crisis or a meteorological event, and as a factor that exacerbates pre-existing challenges. For UNFPA beneficiaries, the most significant impact of climate change and other shocks is the exacerbation of pre-existing issues. Türkiye represented a major exception to this rule, as in the aftermath of the earthquake, participants appeared to have greater awareness of the ways in which climate conditions and events could affect them. Even in GXB, where such shocks represented a direct and primary shock, it was still tied to economic shocks: participants in these FGDs discussed the ways in which the earthquake had affected prices and markets.

"The centre informed us how to protect ourselves during the earthquake." (Türkiye FGD participant).

"We do not want winter to come because thunder is like an earthquake for us." (GXB FGD participant).

UNFPA programming helps individuals affected by climate and meteorological shocks achieve greater psychological and social resilience. There is clear evidence, across quantitative and qualitative data, that UNFPA programming helps individuals and households achieve psychological and social resilience; this in turn helps them to develop the networks and communities needed to manage climate-related shocks.

"The earthquake greatly affected my psychological state because I could not leave my house during the earthquake. I lost my daughter and her children, and my health condition also worsened." (GXB FGD participant).

"...Personnel used the training hall and child-friendly area as an accommodation area for personnel and storage for five months. While the centre started its activities 2 months after the earthquake, training and awareness sessions [started] 5 months after the earthquake." (Türkiye KII participant).

Huge vulnerabilities remain, and partnerships may be the key to enhancing climate resilience. Generally speaking, affected communities could develop greater resilience through climate-sensitive economic programming, and through direct climate change-related programming. Such programmes, however, require strong technical expertise. Partnerships between UNFPA and other agencies that possess this expertise would be the optimal solution.

67 UNFPA. (2024). 2023 Impact Assessment of UNFPA's Multi-Country Response to Humanitarian Crises.

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4. Recommendations to country offices

1. **Consider ways in which the regional hub can conduct on-the-job training, monitoring and mentorship to UNFPA staff in analysing environmental issues**. It was notable through this assessment that country office staff were able to identify few if any negative environmental consequences of UNFPA programming, or environmental risks associated with programming. A full understanding of environmental risks is likely to require some macro-level analysis, and is likely to be difficult to achieve given day-to-day operational constraints facing country teams. It could be possible for the regional hub to develop expertise and provide support to country offices to better analyse environmental risks, in the context of the complex Middle East environmental context.

2. **Disseminate the ELL checklist alongside the overarching UNFPA EES to ensure comprehensive awareness and understanding among UNFPA staff.** Across all five UNFPA country offices, significant and meaningful positive contributions to the environment have been identified, showcasing UNFPA country offices' commitment to sustainability in all forms. However, key informants highlighted that they were not aware of the ELL checklist and overarching ESS. As a result, it is essential for senior management from each UNFPA country office to prioritise the dissemination of objectives and goals to ensure awareness and accountability. Such practice would enable individuals across all UNFPA programming, including implementing partners, to work towards a common goal while keeping the ELL in mind as a commitment to the environment.

3. **Prioritize and ensure compliance with the ELL checklist from the UNFPA EES.** UNFPA country offices have successfully completed a significant number of tasks across the three steps and are on track to complete most of the remaining by 2025, demonstrating their commitment to environmental sustainability. To guarantee the completion of the rest of the tasks by 2025, UNFPA country offices should intensify and enhance efforts by integrating them into core activities and prioritizing them across all of their UNFPA operations.

4. **Strengthen partnerships with United Nations agencies, INGOs and CSOs with an environmental mandate or a strong focus on sustainability to enhance environmental initiatives.** Environmental efforts are embedded into the core of UNFPA programming, showcased by the extensive examples, as well as steps and tasks completed. However, UNFPA country offices should strengthen existing partnerships or establish new collaborations with other United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNDP, INGOs and CSOs to leverage their existing initiatives, and foster joint efforts. This particular strategic approach would not only enhance environmental sustainability, but could also enable UNFPA country offices to improve their capacity in climate adaptation.

5. **Enhance communication and training with implementing partners on environmental best practices, as well the provision of supplies.** While key informants from implementing partners expressed a shared commitment to sustainability with UNFPA programming, others pointed out areas for improvement. As a result, to ensure that all UNFPA programmes, as well as internal and external actors involved, are environmentally conscious and adhere to the UNFPA ESS, UNFPA should improve communication with implementing partners by sharing environmentally related materials and providing training on topics such as garbage collection, waste disposal, carbon footprint reduction and other relevant best practices. Along with such training, UNFPA should provide supplies to equip implementing partners with the necessary tools for waste management and garbage collection, such as recycling containers, bins and environmentally friendly materials.

6. **Create and establish targets and indicators that can manage environmental risks for each country office.** Currently, although country offices monitor carbon footprint activity through the UNFPA global portal, none of the UNFPA country offices have a personalized and in-depth formal system that allows them to monitor a variety of environmental risks, as well as the positive and negative impact of their operations. To ensure that UNFPA programming is environmentally resilient and to track environmental impact, UNFPA country offices should create specific indicators under the Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) or other preferred frameworks. The indicators that could be tracked, in addition to carbon footprint activities, are: (1) energy consumption; (2) waste reduction and management; (3) water usage; (4) the use of environmentally friendly materials and equipment; (5) resilience to climate, in terms of disaster preparedness; and (6) training and awareness to staff and implementing partners on environmental related matters, such as garbage collection or waste disposal, among others. These indicators can be quantified using percentages and numerical data. Additionally, to ensure compliance, these indicators should be included in each contract and programmatic document.

7. **Enhance efforts to reduce carbon footprint activities during emergencies by establishing an environmental emergency preparedness plan.** Although carbon footprint has significantly reduced across all country offices, these activities tend to increase during emergencies. As a result, country offices should focus on further reducing carbon footprint, especially in times of crisis, through the development of an emergency preparedness plan that maps out different strategies for minimizing environmental impact during emergencies and emergency response operations.

8. **Collaborate with the ministries of public health and other stakeholders to provide medical waste disposal equipment**. Key informants in most country offices expressed the need to improve medical waste disposal, while the Lebanon Country Office expressed the lack of adequate equipment for medical disposal. As a result, country offices should collaborate with the ministries of public health and other United Nations agencies to support the provision of the necessary infrastructure and tools for waste medical management. Such collaboration should focus on improving existing capacity for safe disposal, reducing environmental risks and ultimately ensuring compliance with national health and safety standards.

A full understanding of environmental risks is likely to require some macro-level analysis, and is likely to be difficult to achieve given day-to-day operational constraints facing country teams.

Annex 1: List of key informants

#	Humanitarian Response	KII Profile	Organization	Name	Title
1.	GXB	UNFPA	UNFPA	Ken Otieno	GBV Programme Specialist
2.	GXB	UNFPA	UNFPA	Okba Doghim	SRH and GBV Integration Specialist
3.	GXB	Implementing partner	Shafak	Zayed Alzayed	SRH Programme Specialist
4.	GXB	Expert	Syria Relief and Development	Alaa Katerji	SRH TWG Co-lead
5.	Jordan	UNFPA	UNFPA	Yara Deir	GBV Programme Analyst
6.	Jordan	UNFPA	UNFPA	Giada Cicognola	GBV Programme Analyst
7.	Jordan	UNFPA	UNFPA	Ali Al-Gharabli	SRH Programme Analyst
8.	Jordan	Implementing partner	Institute for Family Health	Esraa Shakboua	Project Manager
9.	Jordan	Expert	WHO	Eng. Mazen Malkawi	Advisor, Environmental Health Exposures
10.	Lebanon	UNFPA	UNFPA	Dawaliby	Reproductive Health Coordinator (Green Focal Point)
11.	Lebanon	Implementing partner	Akkarouna	Yassine Yassine	Project Manager
12.	Lebanon	Implementing partner	Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women	Michel Daia	Project Manager
13.	Syria	UNFPA	UNFPA	Hala Al-Khair	SRH Programme Analyst
14.	Syria	UNFPA	UNFPA	Reem Bajari	Youth Programme Analyst
15.	Syria	Implementing partner	Aga Khan Health Services	Maher Abou Mayaleh	The CEO of Aga Khan Health Services
16.	Türkiye	UNFPA	UNFPA	Eda Özyurt Kılınç	GBV in Emergencies Programme Analyst
17.	Türkiye	UNFPA	UNFPA	Nazlı Moral Uydu	Programme Analyst
18.	Türkiye	UNFPA	UNFPA	Gizem Okumuş	Administrative and Human Resources Associate / Green Focal Point
19.	Türkiye	UNFPA	UNFPA	Basak Bilgesu Gelbal	Second Green Focal Point
20.	Türkiye	Implementing partner	HARRAN University	Gülsüm Dağ	Social Worker
21.	Türkiye	Implementing partner	HARRAN University	Osman Serhat Polat	Project Coordinator

#	Humanitarian Response	KII Profile	Organization	Name	Title
22.	Türkiye	Implementing partner	KAMER	Nebahat Akkoç	Founder
23.	Türkiye	Expert	Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants	Levent Ulusoy	Deputy Executive Director
24.	Türkiye	Expert	Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants	Onur Can Yılmaz	Senior Partnerships and Programme Development Officer
25.	Türkiye	Expert	Other Expert	Büşra Cebeci	Green Transformation Working Group
26.	ASRO	UNFPA	UNFPA	Elke Mayrhofer	Regional Humanitarian Advisor/ Climate Change Focal Point

Annex 2: Key informant interviews questionnaire

Introductory transcript:

- My name is Danilo Angulo, and I am the consultant conducting the UNFPA environmental assessment related to UNFPA programming and operations. The goals of this environmental assessment are to identify opportunities or positive impacts from the UNFPA programming on the environment, as well as the negative impacts and risks from the UNFPA programming that could harm the environment, and how UNFPA manages the risks from environmental degradation, climate change, and loss of biodiversity.
- The interview will last 45 minutes to 1 hour. The audio portion of this interview will be recorded for transcript purposes. However, the interview and everything mentioned in it are confidential. We will secure the recording and transcript in a password-protected place. If it's OK with you, we would like to ask your permission to use quotes in the final environmental assessment report; the quotes will be fully anonymized and no identifying information will be provided.

Assessment criterion:

1st Criteria : Opportunities or a positive impact from the programme on the environment.

2nd Criteria : Negative impacts and risks from the programme that can harm the environment.

3rd Criteria : Management of risks from environmental degradation ,climate change ,and loss of biodiversity.

Concept of Environment used for this Assessment : Reduction of pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases ,preventing loss of biodiversity ,and environmental protection.

Interview questions

Context-specific:

1. Can you please describe your current role?
   a. How long have you been in your current position?
   b. How long have you been working with UNFPA ,your organisation ,or implementing partner?
2. What does the environmental context look like now and what environmental problems can be foreseen in the future?
3. How are different groups including women ,girls ,boys ,and men affected by environmental degradation ,climate change ,and loss of biodiversity?

1st Criteria:

1. Could you please provide examples of ways in which UNFPA programming contributes positively to the environment) ?E.g ,.if a youth centre organised garbage collection days ,if a health facility built a hazardous waste disposal facility ,etc(.
   a. What specific UNFPA programming provides the most contributions to the environment?
   b. Has the UNFPA programming been adjusted to enhance these opportunities?
   c. How can these positive contributions be ranked in order?
2. What measures can be taken to enhance positive contributions of UNFPA programming to the environment?
3. Are you aware of UNFPA efforts to enhance environmental sustainability ?Can you please describe what these efforts consist of?

2nd Criteria:

1. Could you please provide examples of ways in which UNFPA programming contributes **least** positively to the environment? What are the negative impacts and risks of UNFPA programming that can harm the environment?
   a. How can these potential negative impacts and risks be ranked in order?
   b. What measures can be taken to manage and mitigate these risks?
2. Are there any specific regions of the humanitarian response/country where UNFPA programming has a higher or lower environmental impact?
3. What partnerships or collaborations can UNFPA form to enhance its environmental sustainability efforts?
   a. How can UNFPA engage local communities in minimising environmental harm from its programming?

3rd Criteria:

1. What environment-related risks pose a threat to the sustainability of the UNFPA programming?
   a. How resilient is the UNFPA programming to these types of risks?
   b. How can these risks be ranked?
2. What monitoring measures ,targets ,and/or indicators are in place to monitor the positive and negative environmental impact from the UNFPA programming ?Could you provide some examples?
   a. What targets and indicators could be used to monitor the environmental contributions from the UNFPA programming?
2. Do UNFPA and implementing partner organisations have capacity for environmental management, in terms of staff capacity ,policies ,guidelines ,environmental management system ?Are there opportunities to improve the capacity ?If there is a document that better explains this ,could you please send it to us?
3. Do you have any recommendations you would like to have considered as part of this environmental assessment ?Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Annex 3: FGD questionnaire — climate, environmental impact, and resilience dimension

Focus group discussion (fgd) questionnaire

Note: the below focus group discussion tool can be used for Safe Spaces, Health Facilities, and Youth Centres. Please ask questions appropriate to the Service Delivery Point (SDP). Note that not all respondent groups will have information to share, some may wish to not respond to some questions or have limited information to give. That is okay.

#	Pre-dimensions: respondent data
	Name of Facilitator:
	Date FGD (day/month/year):
	Location data
	Country:
	Governorate:
	Sub-district:
	Community:
	Neighborhood (if relevant):
	Type of SDP: WGSS / YC/ HF/ WHCC(TCO only)
	Name and Location of SDP:
	Participant Data
	Number of FGD participants:
	Age/Sex of Participants

Participant	Age	Sex
Participant 1		
Participant 2		
Participant 3		
Participant 4		
Participant 5		
Participant 6		
Participant 7		
Participant 8		

SPECIFIC INTEREST FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (tick which one applies)

☐ None – general FGD
☐ Adolescent girls (10-19)
  ○ Young adolescent girls (10-14)
  ○ Older adolescent girls (15-19)
☐ Older women (60+)
☐ Persons with disabilities
☐ LGBTQI individuals

Status of Participants (select all that apply)

☐ Recently arrived IDPs (have been in current location for less than 1 year)
☐ IDPs displaced for a longer time (have been in current location from over 1 year)
☐ Host community
☐ Returnees
☐ Refugees

Is this FGD exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and/or their caregivers? (tick which one applies)

☐ Yes, people with disabilities ONLY
☐ Yes, people with disabilities AND their caregivers together
☐ Yes, caregivers of people with disabilities ONLY
☐ No

D Dimension a. Climate, environmental impact, and resilience

Resilience

A. What were the three main categories of shocks and stresses that you faced this year?
B. What were the major impacts of these shocks/stressors on your life?
C. Please number 1, 2, 3 in order of priority and provide more information below

Rank up to 5, ties will be allowed (2 options can have the same ranking)

Geophysical	*Meteorological*	*Political/Conflict*	*Economic*	*Disease/Pandemic*	*Social*	*Technological*	*Other*
ie, Earthquake;	*Drought ;Floods; Extreme Heat; Water scarcity*	*War ;coup; political unrest; corruption*	*Price increase; currency shocks; market collapse*	*Lingering effects of COVID-19 pandemic ;other disease such as Cholera*	*Demographic change; migration; exclusion; discrimination*	*Large scale power outage; lack of internet access*	

1.

2.

3.

Did UNFPA's activities support you in responding to the shocks we just discussed, and how? Were the services provided in a timely manner? How were the quality of services?

Impact

Over the last year, what difference did the services you accessed from UNFPA/UNFPA supported programmes make to your life ? Please explain in more detail. Please provide a specific example for those that apply

☐ Psychological…
☐ Social…
☐ Economic…
☐ Physical…
☐ Other…

Annex 4 :UNFPA green events checklist

This document lists recommended guidelines for event organizers) UNFPA and external (as well as best practices to reduce the environmental footprint of UNFPA events ,based on the United Nations Green events guidance.

Recommended guidelines

#	Recommendation	Implementation guidance
1	 Avoid single-use plastic items for catering including: • Plastic cups • Water bottles • Cutlery	• Specify request in the Terms of Reference for catering company • Choose venues having water fountains
2	 Avoid distributing single-use plastic promotional products	• Give preference to products made from natural, compostable materials • Give preference to reusable products • Give preference to locally sourced items
3	 Reduce printing to a minimum	• Limit the number of hard copies of UNFPA publications • Make digital products accessible (QR codes, etc.) • Limit the number of signage, posters, brochures, backdrops
4	 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle communication materials	• As a minimum, separate and recycle all paper-based products • Ensure signage, backdrops, carpets, etc. are collected and safely disposed • Request venue to identify local charity/school to donate materials to post-event

#	Recommendation	Implementation guidance
5	Sort and recycle waste	• Ensure venue / catering company separates food waste, recyclables (paper, plastic, metal, glass), and regular trash, and dispose of them accordingly
6	Propose vegan and vegetarian options	• Specify request in the Terms of Reference for catering company
7	Give preference to locally sourced products	• Specify request in the Terms of Reference for catering company
8	Limit the number of participants from the same team/ Division	• Share list of participants online • Propose tools for remote participation • Specify recommendation in the invitation to the event
9	Avoid Business class flights	• Specify recommendation in the invitation to the event
10	Limit local transportation	• Ensure venue is accessible to public transportation • Select venue close to accommodation options • Provide car-sharing options between the venue and selected accommodation options
11	Appoint a Green Events Focal Point	• Liaise with Environmental Efficiency Specialist (FASB/DMS) from the onset • Train events team on sustainable event objectives and processes

Best practices

Energy

1. Request and verify that venue efficiently manages the room temperature to reduce energy consumption while ensuring attendee comfort.
2. Request and verify that the venue efficiently manages the lighting to reduce energy consumption.
3. Choose venue which maximizes the use of natural light.
4. Request low energy consuming audiovisual equipment and lighting ,LED ,reusable backdrops and light washing.

Food and beverage

5. Ask the caterer to donate safe, unserved food (e.g. food banks, homeless shelters) depending on local regulations. Record name of charity and volume donated.
6. Ask caterer to pursue composting (or biofuel) for food waste that can't be donated.
7. Feature centrepiece decorations with re-use possibilities (live plants, edible fruits etc.).
8. Request caterer to source fair trade products where possible and at no extra cost (coffee, sugar, chocolate, etc.).
9. Request caterer to provide certified organic options.
10. Request that pre-plating food is avoided/reduced to minimize food waste.

Procurement

11. Ask host destination to send you a list of suppliers committed to sustainable practices (be it based on their certifications, services, products) and use these 'sustainable practices' as part of supplier selection process.
12. Request information about the chosen venue and hotel sustainability credentials, initiatives and policies in the Request for Proposals (RFP), and consider these as part of the selection process/ criteria
13. Send venue and key suppliers this Green events checklist.

Production and exhibition

14. Avoid the use of conference bags and other give-aways (cups, bottles, pins etc.).
15. Ensure sustainability requirements are in the briefing document for stage and expo design and production.
16. Request that stage sets, brand environments and booths/stands are reusable and made from more sustainable materials.
17. Request carpets to be rented. If they must be purchased, ensure it is recyclable and will actually be recycled.

Communication

18. Provide receptacle to collect unwanted/surplus congress bags, badges, lanyards.
19. Ensure event website/app includes information on how participants can donate bags, badges and unwanted giveaways.
20. Ensure event website/app includes information on how to travel sustainably (e.g., directions using public transport system such as the bus, metro, or travelling by foot).
21. If printed programmes are required, reduce printed event programme to 2 page maximum.
22. Only print on recycled or certified (FSC, Swan, Blue Angel, Type 1 eco labels) paper.
23. Document all commitments and sustainability credentials of suppliers for use in communications.
24. Communicate any sustainability initiatives on event website, programme and onsite.

Accessibility and inclusiveness

25. Determine if there are any delegates with special needs and ensure these needs can be/are catered to - be it regarding certain food (e.g., halal, vegetarian, gluten-free), mobility (ramps, wheelchairs), or sensory requirements (e.g., if hearing aids/a sign language interpreter/personal assistants are needed).

UNFPA's ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Humanitarian Hub for Whole of Syria and Arab States

Syria, Gaziantep Cross-Border, Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye