

The Swedish Red Cross Sustainability Policy

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INTRODUCTION

The Swedish Red Cross shall promote and take responsibility for sustainable social development, which is in line with our mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering. As a national Red Cross Society, we shall set a good example in the way we conduct our activities. As an organisation, we want to develop sustainably to be as successful in the future as we are today.

The policy should permeate all the work of the Swedish Red Cross, where humanitarian needs will be met from a holistic perspective in an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable matter.

This policy applies to all elected officials, volunteers, employees, delegates, trainees, students, consultants, fee earners or others who have undertaken assignments for, or otherwise represent, the Swedish Red Cross in Sweden and/or abroad. In this policy, they are referred to as everyone engaged with the Red Cross. The policy also applies to the international collaborations the Swedish Red Cross has with other national societies and other parts of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Swedish Red Cross shall ensure that all parties are informed of the existence of this policy and its implications.

POLICY COMMITMENTS

- We work systematically to ensure that Red Cross activities in Sweden and internationally lead to sustainable development and reduced environmental, social and economic challenges.
- We are a climate-conscious organisation and take responsibility for reducing our environmental footprint by travelling and consuming sustainably. We take responsibility for material donations to our second-hand business and resources that we use in our operations by reusing, recycling and creating conditions for reuse.
- We strive to contribute to the reduction of social inequalities by working for equality and inclusion at all stages of our work.
- We manage the financial resources placed at our disposal responsibly and act with credibility and transparency. We take responsibility for our capital through ethical investments that in no way violates human rights or international commitments for sustainable development.

BACKGROUND

The world today faces major societal challenges. The climate crisis, with rising average temperatures, is contributing to more and more intense natural disasters as well as challenges to human food and water security.

Natural resources are also being consumed at a faster rate than nature's capacity to produce. Globally, world scientists warn that several of the nine planetary boundaries that define the major environmental threats have been crossed.

The 2030 Agenda and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by world leaders in 2015 and represent a blueprint for all countries to achieve more sustainable development.

Most of the Swedish Red Cross' activities contribute to the goals in some way, but our activities are always defined by humanitarian needs. The Global Goals with their sub-goals are a common way of categorising and concretising what we all need to do to contribute to a more sustainable world. In cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and other organisations, the Swedish Red Cross can drive forward the work to achieve the goals. The Swedish Red Cross definition of sustainable development is according to the UN report "Our Common Future".

The Swedish Red Cross' long-term vision for sustainable development is to promote economic, ecological, and social development, where the interaction between the environment and people is in focus. This implies a continuous process of evaluation, training, and improvement activities for us to evolve.

It is in line with the Statutes of the International Federation of the Red Cross, which state that the Movement shall encourage the development of sustainable National Societies.

APPLICATION

The overall responsibility for ensuring that the organisation complies with the policies lies with the Swedish Red Cross Governing Board and management team. The Branch Boards and Regional Councils are responsible for ensuring that activities at a local level are carried out in line with the policy. The respective operational manager is responsible for ensuring that relevant procedures and follow-up are in place to ensure compliance with the policy.

Everyone engaged with the Red Cross has a personal responsibility to act themselves in accordance with this policy and to be alert to and act on, cases of non-compliance with the policy.

The implications of the overall commitments in this policy are developed in purchasing guidelines, travel guidelines, guidelines for clothing, textiles and other gifts, guidelines for corporate partnerships, the investment policy, anti-discrimination policy and the policy on the prevention of fraud and corruption.

We also contribute to sustainable social development through collaboration with partners and suppliers who turn technologies, methods, approaches, and knowledge that contribute to sustainable development. We require suppliers and partners meet our sustainability requirements and other relevant governance documents and policies.

The strategic direction of the Swedish Red Cross is a guiding document for conducting business in accordance with the sustainability policy, our Code of Conduct and our other policies. The policy and a materiality analysis of sustainability aspects important to the organisation provide the basis for an action plan for sustainable development in the ecological, social, and economic areas. The action plan will ensure that we operate sustainably with clear objectives and guidelines. The objectives are followed annually and reported in a sustainability report in accordance with applicable legislation and international standard for sustainability reporting.

A requirement for success is that we have a high awareness within the organisation regarding the connection between humanitarian needs, crisis, and sustainable development. Therefore, we are transparent and communicative in how we operate in a sustainable manner within the organisation as well as in the wider community.

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to satisfy their needs.

Ecological sustainability means preserving the earth's ecosystems and life-supporting forces in a stable climate and is a prerequisite for achieving social sustainability.

Social sustainability means that human rights are met in a resilient, inclusive and peaceful society.

Economic sustainability means managing materials and human resources long term.