

Médecins Sans Frontières Australia

CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORT 2022



**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Executive summary

► **This Climate Emergency Report 2022 describes Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Australia’s commitments and progress to reduce its carbon emissions footprint (CEF) and to support MSF-wide climate crisis mitigation and adaptation goals and activities.**

Since the MSF Australia Climate Emergency Report 2021 was published, MSF globally has committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, compared to 2019 levels. This commitment requires all institutional members of MSF to develop roadmaps on how they will achieve this target and to publish annual progress reports. The MSF Australia Climate Emergency Report 2022 fulfills this obligation.

Addressing the climate crisis is a key objective of MSF Australia’s 2020-23 strategic plan. The plan sets two targets for 2023: the first to reduce the organisation’s overall carbon footprint by 15 per cent, and the second to reduce paper communication by at least 30 per cent while maintaining donor retention through more cost effective, innovative and sustainable communication.

This report uses data collected on MSF Australia’s carbon emissions during 2021, measured against the baseline year of 2019.

MSF Australia’s total CEF in 2019 has been recalculated in 2022 to give a more accurate year-on-year measurement of progress.

Through more thorough analysis of 2019 activity data, some double counting on postage and printing costs was identified and new expenditure coding was introduced to remedy this. In addition, MSF Australia has improved its methods of estimating carbon emissions from Scope 3 (indirect value chain emissions), enabling its carbon auditors, Pangolin Associates, to calculate results with a higher degree of confidence. It is important to note that the reduction in the 2019 baseline CEF is due to internal accounting and is not the result of intentional decarbonisation actions taken.

MSF Australia’s total CEF in 2021 was 1,140 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂-e), representing a 28 per cent decrease compared to the 2019 baseline CEF of 1,587 tCO₂-e. In 2019 MSF Australia’s CEF was 16.2 tonnes per staff member (98 full time employees, or FTE), and by 2021 this had decreased by 17 per cent to 13.4 tonnes per staff member (85 FTE).

When measured against the 2019 baseline, MSF Australia’s 2021 results are tracking towards the organisation’s short-term strategic targets and longer-term decarbonisation goals.

However, these results were largely achieved through a reduction in organisational mobility—in particular, reduced project staff (fieldworker) deployments from Australia and New Zealand on account of global COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The 2021 Climate Emergency Report made a series of recommendations for MSF Australia to meet its climate-related strategic plan goals. Progress on these recommendations has been captured in a scorecard (see page 5). While MSF Australia has made some good progress on climate governance, leadership and awareness this year, there has not been significant progress on strengthening data capture systems, improving procurement policies, or strengthening relationships with suppliers to monitor and reduce their carbon.

Several new decarbonisation opportunities and challenges emerged in 2022.

Firstly, the MSF Australia Transformation program, which is modernising systems through digital transformation, has the potential to contribute to carbon reductions across operations.

The Transformation program can help MSF Australia to better capture data on carbon emissions, share real-time analysis of performance and improve reporting against sustainability targets and goals. It is imperative that MSF Australia’s net zero commitment, which is one of the most complex organisational challenges, is included as a core part of its systems transformation.

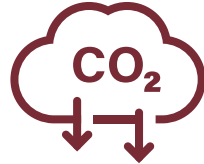
Secondly, the MSF Australia Board has recognised the essential role that organisational directors play in managing climate risks and has formed an environment, social and governance (ESG) committee to oversee the development and adoption of an ESG framework.

This includes policies and procedures priorities that will strengthen MSF Australia’s environmental accountability.

In 2021 the vast proportion of MSF Australia’s emissions were generated from services procured via third party suppliers (Scope 3), and specifically paper, printing and flights. While MSF Australia cannot control the operations of these suppliers, it can choose to work with suppliers who share a commitment towards decarbonisation.

Work has now begun to upgrade MSF Australia’s procurement policies and practices to include criteria to assess both environmental and social sustainability.

While focusing on the CEF performance for 2021 in terms of quantifiable emissions, this report also considers MSF Australia’s progress in implementing broader environmental policy and practice recommendations aimed at reducing carbon emissions as much as practical and achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. The report describes the broader contributions MSF Australia is making to advance climate crisis mitigation and adaptation across MSF. This includes practical measures that can be implemented at an operational level, such as reducing medical waste, encouraging local and regional procurement and improving power generation practices.



MSF globally has committed to **reduce its carbon emissions by 50 per cent by 2030**

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES

Médecins Sans Frontières is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that was founded in France in 1971. The organisation delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, exclusion from healthcare and natural disasters. Assistance is provided based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

Today Médecins Sans Frontières is a worldwide movement of 24 associations, including one in Australia.

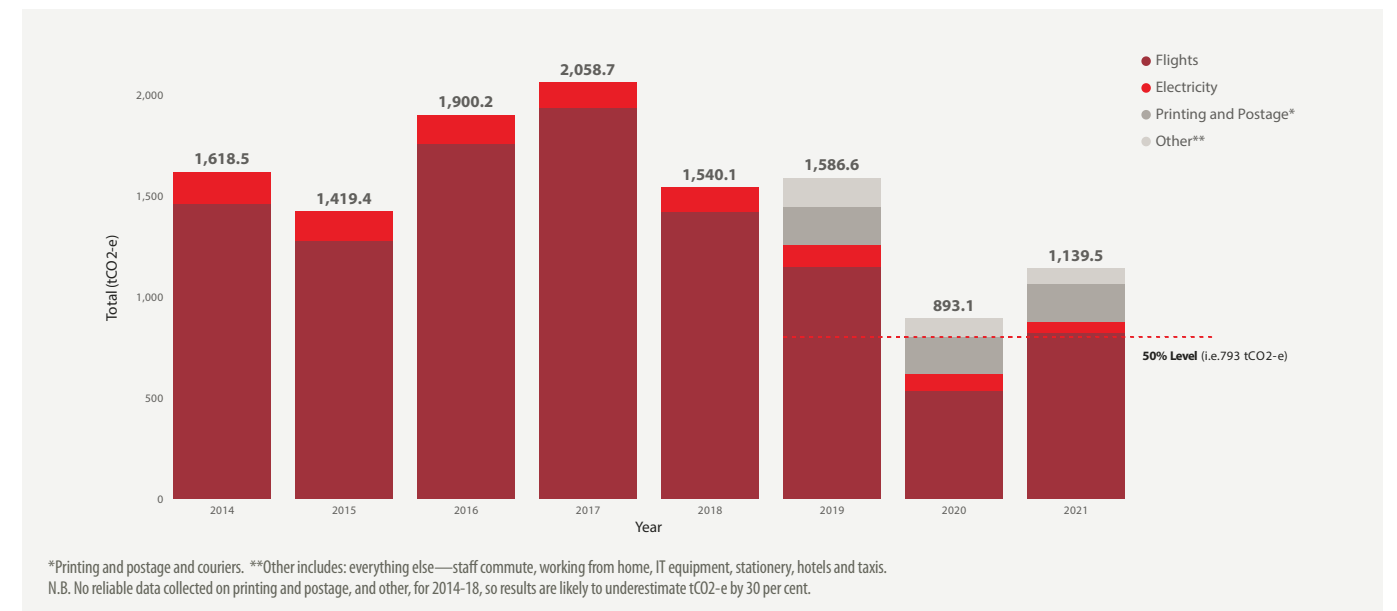
Cover: A man pulls his belongings through flood waters in Bentiu, South Sudan. © Peter Caton

Right: Recycling waste at a waste transfer station in Harare, Zimbabwe, a community-based initiative set up by Médecins Sans Frontières that allows recyclers to exchange recyclable solid waste for cash.

© Believe Nyakudjara/MSF



MSF Australia’s Carbon Emissions Footprint 2014-2021



MSF commitments

- **In December 2021 the MSF Executive Committee set an MSF-wide carbon reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030, against a 2019 baseline.**

This target requires each MSF member to:

- develop individualised plans or road maps to work towards this target,
- establish a baseline using 2019 carbon emissions data, and
- report in a standard comparable manner on an annual basis.

- *An MSF medical team travels by boat to run mobile clinics in Johi town, Dadu district, Sindh in Pakistan during the 2022 floods.*
© Asim Hafeez

MSF Australia has committed to address the climate crisis in its strategic plan 2021-23:

Goal 3

By 2023, in association with partner sections, MSF Australia will have:

- reduced its carbon footprint by 15 per cent, with the target to be carbon neutral by 2030,
- supported research on climate change,
- explored options for green finance in partnership with other sections and operational centres, and
- worked to reduce medical waste in its programs.

Goal 4

By 2023, aligned with MSF internationally, MSF Australia will communicate with its audiences on societal issues that impact the people MSF supports, such as diversity and inclusion or climate change.

Goal 5

MSF Australia will be creative in its communication methods, reducing paper communication by at least 30 per cent by 2023 and maintaining donor retention through less expensive and more climate-friendly ways of communicating.



Standing together and speaking out

Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

In March 2022, MSF joined over 300 other humanitarian organisations in signing the Climate and Environment Charter.

This charter is intended to galvanise and steer collective action in response to climate and environmental crises, in particular for those who will experience the brunt of their impacts. Its commitments should be implemented through organisation-specific targets and action plans, informed by the need for urgent action and the individual capacity and mandates of organisations.

This charter is guided by the latest scientific evidence and the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other relevant international law and standards, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international environmental law.

Standing together as local, national and international humanitarian organisations, we commit to:

1. Step up the response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises.
2. Maximise the environmental sustainability of their work and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
3. Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities.
4. Increase capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions.
5. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action.
6. Use influence to mobilise urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection.
7. Develop targets and measure progress as commitments are implemented.

The triple threat of climate change, conflict and health emergencies: a deadly mix for the most vulnerable

Ahead of the COP 27 climate summit in November 2022, MSF and the International Committee of the Red Cross issued a joint statement:

Climate change is not a distant threat. It is already dramatically affecting vulnerable people across the globe. In particular, the changing climate is having devastating consequences for people living in conflict situations and those who don't have access to basic healthcare. Of the 25 countries most vulnerable to climate change and least ready to adapt, the majority are also experiencing armed conflict. In many of these locations, people lack access to basic healthcare. When climate shocks occur in countries with limited food, water and economic resources, people's lives, health and livelihoods are threatened.

As humanitarians, we are alarmed by the current reality and projections for the future. We see droughts, floods, insect plagues and changing rainfall patterns which can all jeopardise food production and people's means of survival. We see more extreme and more powerful weather events such as cyclones which destroy essential health infrastructure. We see changing patterns of deadly diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera. Conflict and violence increase the need for emergency health assistance while also limiting the capacity of health facilities.

All these situations are occurring in a world that has warmed 1.2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, as we witness how the world's most vulnerable people pay the deadly price of a problem overwhelmingly caused by the world's richest nations. Additional warming will lead to disastrous consequences unless urgent and ambitious mitigation measures are taken and adequate support is mobilised for the most affected people and countries, so they can adapt to growing climate risks.

Financial and technical support must reach people who need it the most, which is not happening at the scale it should. The Paris Agreement's commitment to increase support for the least developed countries fails to acknowledge that a significant number of them are also affected by conflict and should be prioritised. To date, promises to reduce carbon emissions and support countries experiencing the biggest impacts have not been met.

We are calling on world leaders to live up to their commitments under the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 and ensure that vulnerable and conflict-affected people are adequately supported to adapt to a changing climate. We must collectively find solutions and ensure access to adequate climate finance in challenging environments. Leaving people behind is not an option.

Progress scorecard

MSF Global Commitments

1. Measure, report and set targets.

MSF international carbon reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030 (from 2019 baseline). Each MSF member to develop a carbon reduction roadmap and report annually.

2. Adapt our responses to continue to deliver high quality care and improved public health while also minimising ecological damage and conserving finite natural resources.

3. Engage and collaborate with communities, local responders and organisations. Develop partnerships to share medical-operational data to contribute to knowledge generation and translation. **Research** should prioritise questions that improve our understanding of the humanitarian and health impacts of climate and environmental change to strengthen operations and inform and support our advocacy objectives.

4. Bear witness to people experiencing the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, paying attention to disproportionate impacts felt by vulnerable groups. Align diverse experiences with our humanitarian operational and advocacy goals.

5. Hold ourselves accountable through our associative governance mechanisms to ensure that MSF upholds these commitments and takes proactive measures to mitigate risk and the negative impact of the climate crisis on health.

MSF Australia Priorities and Progress 2022

MSF Australia has a 2019 baseline, has developed a roadmap and emissions reduction target and publishes annual carbon reports. Goals included in our strategic plan. Also sharing lessons learned with other MSF members.

MSF Australia is contributing to learning materials for project staff on addressing the health impacts of climate change. Commitment reflected in our strategic plan goal to reduce medical waste in our programs. MSF Australia does not have a procurement policy that takes into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

MSF Australia has started to explore potential collaboration and partnerships but has not (yet) engaged in any agreement or directly supported research. Commitment reflected in our strategic plan to support research on climate change.

MSF Australia is supporting communications and advocacy on the health impacts of climate change in the Pacific (Kiribati) and for other vulnerable groups (including Rohingya and Afghans).

MSF Australia governance and leadership recognise their roles in mitigating climate risks and are preparing an ESG framework. MSF Australia reports annually on the climate emergency and maintains a dedicated webpage.

- on track
- commenced
- no substantial progress in 2022

Calculating the carbon footprint

MSF Australia receives pro-bono support from Pangolin Associates to produce annual calendar year greenhouse gas (GHG) assessments. The purpose of these assessments is to identify the types and amounts of GHG emissions attributable to MSF's operations.

The GHG assessments may permit MSF Australia to: i) partially or fully offset the effect of its emissions through the purchase of certified carbon credits; ii) establish operational GHG benchmarks; iii) identify business risks in dealing with climate change; and iv) identify potential compliance/reporting obligations.

The guidelines used for GHG assessments are in accordance with The GHG Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition) and Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard 2 published by the World Resource Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development and with the International Standards Organisation (14064-1:2018 greenhouse gases).

► *Médecins Sans Frontières supports a community-based health project in Magaria, southern Niger, to respond to high rates of malnutrition and malaria in remote areas. In Niger, changing rain patterns are affecting food production and the spread of infectious diseases. © Mario Fawaz/MSF*

A GHG assessment separates emissions into three scope levels, all of which are covered in the present assessment. The separation of scopes ensures that no double accounting occurs.

Scope 1 emissions are those over which a company has direct control via ownership of activities.

Scope 2 emissions are those generated from purchased electricity, heat or steam.

Scope 3 is indirect emissions from activities or services purchased from other third-party companies and includes indirect emissions associated with scope 1 and 2 sources.

All GHG emissions figures are reported in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂-e). Direct GHG emissions and indirect GHG emissions have been reported using the operational control approach as defined by the GHG Protocol. Only GHG emissions that fall within the Australian operations of the organisational and operational boundaries have been reported.

The GHG emissions have been determined based on direct measurement, purchase invoices or estimations multiplied by relevant carbon conversion factors using method 1 of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Determination.



Carbon emissions footprint 2021

► In 2021, MSF Australia emitted a total of 1,140 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂-e). This is a decrease of 447 tCO₂-e, or 28 per cent, in emissions compared to the 2019 total of 1,587 tCO₂-e. In per capita terms, this equates to 13.4 tonnes emitted per staff member (85 FTE) in 2021, a decrease of 17 per cent from 16.2 tonnes per staff member (98 FTE) in 2019.

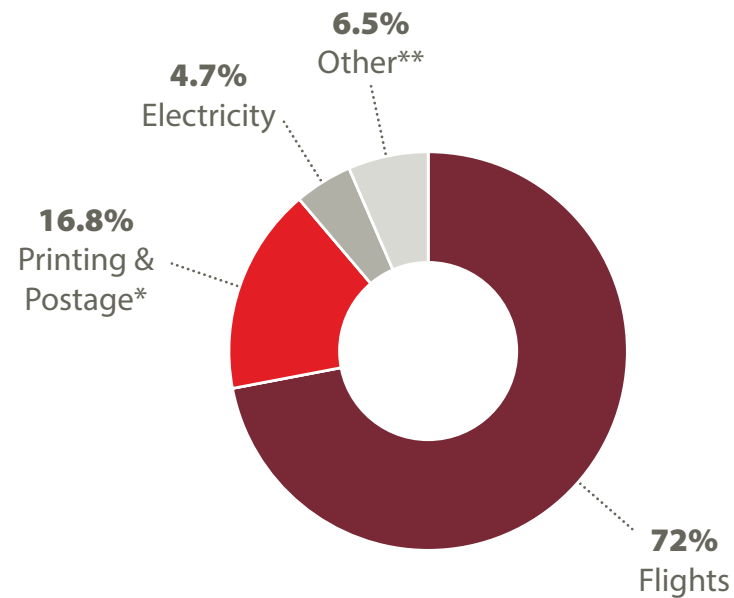
This decrease in carbon emissions can largely be attributed to changes to MSF Australia's business activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—notably, reduced project staff deployments, staff travel, printing, postage and other related office costs. However, improved reporting also played an important role in reducing MSF Australia's overall CEF, particularly in terms of increased accuracy of data from MSF Australia sources and third-party suppliers (including Australia Post) and improved information on emission factors for local utilities (electricity). In 2019, 2020 and 2021, MSF Australia's largest sources of carbon emissions were flights, printing, postage and electricity.

Internationally, MSF has adopted 2019 as the baseline year for measuring targets and achievements in reducing the CEF. This aligns with the MSF Australia 2021-23 strategic plan and recognises the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on 2020 data.

MSF Australia's carbon footprint 2021

*Printing and postage and couriers.

**Other includes staff commute, working from home, telecommunications, advertising, IT equipment, stationery, hotel use and taxis.



Flights



2019	1,145.7 tCO ₂ -e
2021	819.9 tCO ₂ -e

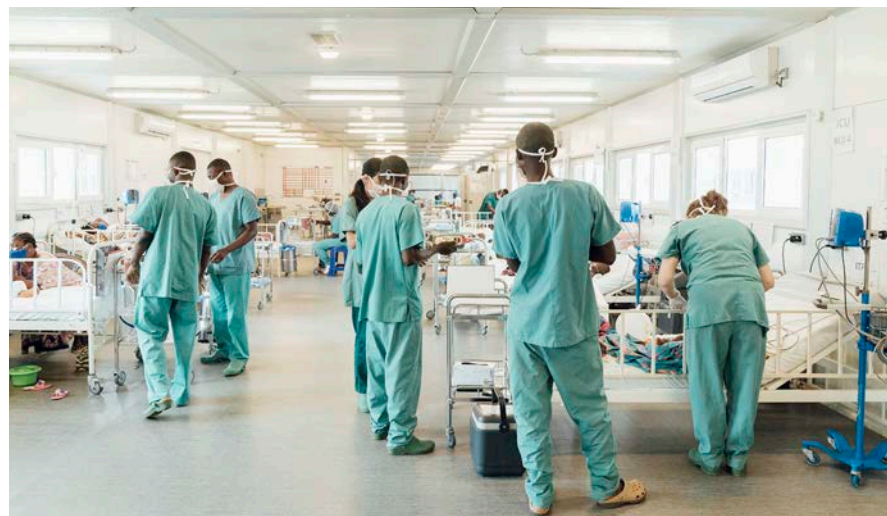
↓ 28% decrease

In 2021, MSF Australia supported the departure of 108 project staff from Australia and New Zealand to 30 countries. MSF Australia project and office staff flew a total of 3,875,919 km, generating 819.9 tCO₂-e which was 72 per cent of MSF Australia's total emissions for 2021. This was 28.4 per cent less than the baseline of 1,145.7 tCO₂-e in 2019, when MSF Australia staff flew 6,970,972 km.

FLIGHT TYPE	KMS FLOWN	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL KM FLOWN	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E/YEAR)	PERCENTAGE OF FLIGHT EMISSIONS
Domestic	4,664	0.1	1.3	0.2
Short haul	591,164	15.3	105.5	12.9
Long haul	3,280,092	82.4	713.1	87

FLIGHT DATA	TOTAL KM FLOWN	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E)
2019	6,970,972	1,145.7
2020	2,792,284	533.7
2021	3,875,919	819.9

► The 182-bed MSF hospital in Hangha town, Kenema district, Sierra Leone (opened in 2019), runs on a holistic renewable energy system, including synchronised generators, photovoltaic solar panels, batteries and the option for city power connection.
© Peter Bräunig



The carbon equivalent of MSF Australia's flights in 2021 = **160 homes' electricity use for one year**

Printing & Postage



↑ 2% increase

While MSF Australia's CEF from printing, postage and couriers (combined) decreased between 2019 and 2021, there were year-on-year differences for printing, postage and couriers when recorded separately. This reflects changes in data collection and reporting methods and data quality issues that were addressed in 2021.

Through more thorough analysis of 2019 activity data, some double counting on postage and printing costs was identified and the 2019 baseline was adjusted accordingly.

In 2021, MSF Australia's total carbon footprint from printing, postage and couriers was 191.1 tCO2-e, an increase of 1.9 per cent on the 2019 baseline of 187.4 tCO2-e.

In 2021, MSF Australia's total carbon footprint from printing was 85.4 tCO2-e, a decrease of 8.7 per cent on the 2019 baseline of 93.5 tCO2-e.

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from postage was 91.8 tCO2-e, a decrease of 0.6 per cent on the 2019 baseline of 92.4 tCO2-e.

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from the use of couriers was 13.9 tCO2-e, an increase of 92.7 per cent on the 2019 baseline of 1.5 tCO2-e.

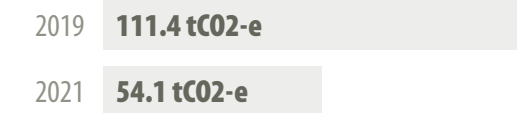
PRINTING	PRINTING COSTS (AUD)	EMISSIONS (TCO2-E/YEAR)	% OF TOTAL EMISSIONS
2019	362,646.0	93.5	5.9
2020	537,422.6	74.4	8.3
2021	331,008.0	85.4	7.5

POSTAGE	ITEMS POSTED	EMISSIONS (TCO2-E/YEAR)	% OF TOTAL EMISSIONS
2019	1,258,255	92.4	5.0
2020	1,513,874	111.2	12.5
2021	1,249,192	91.8	8.1



The carbon equivalent of MSF Australia's printing and postage in 2021 = **763,791 kilometres driven by an average passenger vehicle**

Electricity



↓ 51% reduction

In 2021, MSF Australia's total carbon footprint from 58,931 kWh of office electricity usage was 50.1 tCO2-e. This was a decrease of 45.4 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 91.8 tCO2-e, generated from 102,049 kWh of electricity usage.

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from 4,758 kWh of base building electricity usage (for example elevator, garage etc.) was 4.0 tCO2-e. This was a decrease of 79.6 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 19.6 tCO2-e, generated from 21,741 kWh of electricity usage.

OFFICE ELECTRICITY	ENERGY USAGE (KWH)	EMISSIONS (TCO2-E)
2019	102,049	91.8
2020	80,829	72.7
2021	58,931	50.1

BASE BUILDING	ENERGY USAGE (KWH)	EMISSIONS (TCO2-E)
2019	21,741	19.6
2020	10,910.2	9.8
2021	4,758	4.0

OFFICE ELECTRICITY AND BASE BUILDING (TOTAL)	ENERGY USAGE (KWH)	EMISSIONS (TCO2-E)
2019	123,790	111.4
2020	91,739.2	82.5
2021	63,688	54.1



The carbon equivalent of MSF Australia's electricity in 2021 = **27,151 kilograms of coal burned**

Staff travel & support



2019	138.8 tCO ₂ -e
2021	52.3 tCO ₂ -e

↓ **62.4% reduction**

Staff commuting

In 2021, MSF Australia staff travelled (round-trip) a total of 79,865 km to and from the office. The total carbon footprint of staff commuting was 8.2 tCO₂-e. This is a reduction of 90 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 81.9 tCO₂-e, emitted from a total of 548,364km of commuting.

WORK COMMUTE	TOTAL KM TRAVELLED	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E)
2019	548,364	81.9
2020	115,255	7.4
2021	79,865	8.2

Staff taxis

In 2021, MSF Australia's total carbon footprint from staff usage of taxis was 0.1 tCO₂-e, a decrease of 93 per cent compared to the 2019 baseline of 1.5 tCO₂-e.

Staff working from home

In 2021, MSF Australia staff worked a total of 119,784 hours from home, generating a carbon footprint of 17.3 tCO₂-e.

Telecommunications

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from telecommunications was 7.7 tCO₂e, a decrease of 45 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 14 tCO₂e.

Other utilities

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from water, waste and refrigerant was 4.4 tCO₂e, a decrease of 20 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 5.5 tCO₂e.

Stationery

In 2021, the total carbon footprint of stationery was 1.7 tCO₂-e, a decrease of 19 per cent from the 2019 baseline of 2.1 tCO₂-e.

IT equipment

In 2021, the total carbon footprint from MSF Australia's IT equipment was 8.1 tCO₂-e, an increase of 5 per cent compared to the 2019 baseline of 7.7 tCO₂-e.

IT EQUIPMENT	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E)
2019	7.7
2020	26.1
2021	8.1

Hotel accommodation – Domestic

In 2021, MSF Australia staff stayed a total of 27 nights ('occupancy nights') in domestic hotel accommodation, generating a total of 1.1 tCO₂-e in carbon emissions. This was an 86 per cent decrease compared to 7.9 tCO₂-e generated in 2019, from 135 occupancy nights.

DOMESTIC HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	OCCUPANCY NIGHTS	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E)
2019	135	7.9
2020	85	2.4
2021	27	1.1

Hotel accommodation – International

In 2021, there were 130 occupancy nights in international hotel accommodation, generating a total of 3.7 tCO₂-e in carbon emissions. This was an 80 per cent decrease compared to 18.2 tCO₂-e generated in 2019, from 584 occupancy nights.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL ACCOMMODATION	OCCUPANCY NIGHTS	EMISSIONS (TCO ₂ -E)
2019	584	18.2
2020	67	0.7
2021	130	3.7

Supporting the MSF movement

Alongside focusing on its carbon footprint, MSF Australia is also compelled to support MSF-wide mitigation and adaptation activities and to put patients at the centre of its actions.

MSF Australia is providing support to MSF operational centres and program teams, targeting practical initiatives that can have an immediate impact on planetary health and patient wellbeing. This includes providing project staff with the relevant knowledge and expertise to change practices and introduce new technologies.



▶ A woman returns home from an MSF food distribution in southern Madagascar, where MSF is responding to malnutrition made worse by three consecutive years of drought that have affected harvests and access to food.
© Solen Murlon/MSF

A roadmap towards carbon neutral

► **MSF Australia supports the MSF-wide carbon reduction target of 50 per cent by 2030 (against a 2019 baseline) and has set its own target of being carbon neutral by 2030.**

MSF Australia's roadmap towards carbon neutral is framed within three pillars:

- 1. Operations** – supporting MSF operational teams to reduce carbon without compromising patient care.
- 2. Footprint** – reducing the MSF Australia carbon footprint as much as possible while maintaining an acceptable social mission ratio (spending on program expenses, program support and awareness-raising) and offsetting residual carbon.
- 3. Advocacy** – sharing evidence and analysis of the health impacts of climate change with policy and decision makers in Australia and the SEEAP region.



2019

Baseline (pre-COVID)
Pro-bono support from Pangolin Associates



2022

Ethical/sustainable policies and practices to drive **decarbonisation**:

- Flights
- Printing
- Office electricity

Medical **waste reduction** at operational level and in project staff support (learning materials)



2025

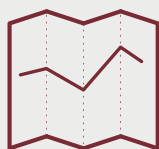
Offsetting residual carbon:

- Flights/shipping
- Paper and printing

Participation in green financing collaborations

2021

Improved **data collection**
Mapping MSF needs and gaps
Awareness raising



2023

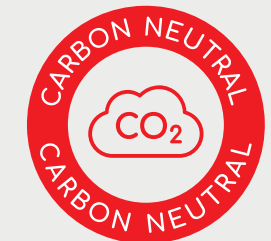
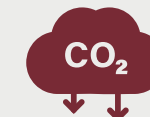
Improved climate-related **research capacity** and partnerships
Exploring **green financing**

Project staff/operations support:
- Carbon audits
- Waste reduction
- Renewable energy

2027

Insetting residual carbon:

- Flights/shipping
- Paper and printing
- Electricity



2030

Carbon neutrality achieved, certified and institutionalised (MSF Australia values and KPIs) participation in green financing collaborations

PACIFIC / REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI:

The health impacts of climate change

In 2022, MSF commenced support to improve health outcomes for people in Kiribati by supporting primary and secondary health care with a specific focus on maternal and neonatal health, non-communicable diseases in pregnancy and infrastructure improvements (sustainable energy, water and waste management).

Kiribati presents a complex context for MSF and challenges many of the organisation's existing ways of working. With a population of only 120,000 people spread across 20 remote atolls and islands, Kiribati has one of the lowest universal healthcare coverage rates globally. Non-communicable disease, tuberculosis and leprosy burdens are amongst the highest globally, and there are high levels of obesity among adults, and of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age. Health needs are exacerbated by the impact of the climate crisis.

Kiribati is already experiencing some of the most tangible impacts of the climate emergency. The people of Kiribati face the constant and escalating threats of extreme weather events and sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion, crop failure and growing food insecurity, and unsustainable waste management practices.

MSF aims to respond to the health impacts of climate change in Kiribati through piloting new models of care, especially for patients living in remote parts of the island nation. MSF will also seek to improve access to equipment, medicines and laboratory supplies through utilising more agile and sustainable regional supply and procurement systems.

The project team will work closely with government and community counterparts to make environmentally informed decisions relating to supply and medical practice, and will seek to capture and share data on the climate-related impacts on health in the country.

► On South Tarawa, Kiribati, the rising sea level is a constant threat. © Joanne Lillie



Decarbonisation priorities

► MSF Australia's leadership team has identified the following decarbonisation priorities for 2023.

a) An ESG framework to deliver greater accountability

- Support the MSF Australia Board to establish an ESG framework to guide organisational risk management and decision making.
- Empower staff in each MSF Australia department and transversal team to be accountable for the delivery of strategic plan environmental goals and targets.
- Strengthen procurement processes to adequately assess suppliers on ESG criteria.
- Facilitate internal communication and capacity building through the Climate Emergency Working Group and ensure that group composition is inclusive and representative of MSF Australia.

b) Improved data collection for better analysis and greater transparency

- Develop a systematic and transparent data collection and management system. This will facilitate more accurate measurements and allow MSF Australia to identify ambitious but achievable time-bound carbon management targets and better monitor and track decarbonisation progress.
- Improve categorisation of third-party services used by MSF Australia to more accurately measure emissions, with the support of its pro-bono carbon auditors, Pangolin Associates.

c) Reducing paper, printing and postage

- Develop a clear paper and printing decarbonisation strategy and detailed plan with input from all MSF Australia departments.
- Work with third-party suppliers and services to improve emissions estimates and encourage reduction actions down the supply chain.
- Adopt a sustainable procurement policy that considers the environmental impact of the products and services procured and weighs selection criteria in favour of responsible suppliers.
- Reduce the use of printing materials in the office.

d) Flights: Less non-essential travel and using lower-emissions aircraft

- Update the MSF Australia travel and flights policy to be more selective about which aircrafts project and HQ staff fly on, preferencing more modern, lower-carbon-emitting aircraft where the fare differential is acceptable.
- Reduce non-essential air travel and encourage use of video conferencing and telehealth practices where possible.

e) Electricity: Managing energy

- Switch to a 100 per cent renewable electricity provider.
- Develop and implement an office electricity usage policy to encourage green-friendly routine practices, such as switching off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Installing sensors and timers for lights in the office.
- Consult with MSF Australia staff to better understand the carbon footprint of working from home and develop guidance and incentives for reducing home carbon emissions.

MSF Australia is thankful for the pro-bono support it receives from Pangolin Associates for our annual greenhouse gas assessments.
pangolinassociates.com/

Pangolin Associates



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MSF supported the rehabilitation of the hospital and five other health centres in Nosy Varika, Madagascar, following cyclones Batsirai and Emnati in February 2022.
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