

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE STATEMENT

FIND's vision is of a world where diagnosis guides the way to health for all people. FIND works to diagnose infectious diseases in low- and middle-income countries where populations are not only more vulnerable to diseases of poverty but are disproportionately affected by negative environmental and climate changes. Diagnosis is the first step on the pathway to disease control and prevention, not to mention disease surveillance and elimination. Healthier communities are more resilient to environmental shocks; they are better able to prepare for and deal with the adverse effects of environmental and/or climate change. FIND's commitment is: i) to strengthen and empower vulnerable patient populations through its programmatic interventions to enable the pathway to improved health outcomes through early diagnosis; and ii) to mitigate the environmental impact of its programmes and operations.

FIND's approach

Enable innovation:

- Support development of tools that can be used closer to where patients live (point of care). This will help reduce the environmental impact of long-distance travel for patients (to far-away clinics) and samples (to centralized testing sites).
- Encourage developers to design assays towards minimal wastage (packaging, shelf-life,) and to use recycled and/or recyclable materials where possible.
- Ensure connectivity capabilities of all tests that FIND supports to maximize impact of test use and minimise wastage (improved stock management).

Empower in-country users:

- Assess disposal practices at testing sites and where possible to help develop and implement appropriate removal methods.
- Work with manufacturers to find local waste-management solutions.
- Ensure that there are solar-powered alternatives to power critical tools to avoid contributing to electricity use and reliance on strained systems.

Minimize carbon emissions:

- Measure and minimise FIND's own organizational carbon emissions.
- Use video- or tele-conferencing for meetings as much as possible to minimize travel.
- Use local offices/consultants to implement activities wherever possible.
- Encourage the use of alternate transport methods (public transport, bicycles, walking, etc.) in all offices where such methods are safe.

Responsible recycling and management of waste:

- Ensure that all FIND offices adhere to local waste-management requirements and make full use of all available recycling services. For FIND Geneva, this includes ensuring that all inspections performed by the cantonal inspectors are passed without observations.
- Move toward a paperless office: encourage staff in all offices to avoid printing unless necessary; set printing defaults to recto-verso; use paper recycling bins (both for regular and confidential material); process all approvals, internal documentation electronically.

Develop strong partnerships:

- Build relationships with similar public health organizations that have developed and implemented environmental and climate change policies to share and use lessons learnt to establish and promote best practices at FIND.
- Work to build relationships between manufacturers, country programmes, global health procurers and distributors to ensure best supply chain practices and infrastructure to minimise waste and unnecessary transportation.
- Encourage our partners to adopt environmentally sound practices.