



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation



“Night” – Michael Amendolia, Kenya 2021

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**



Climate change, pollution and environmental degradation present major threats to global eye health and delivery of eye health care, and risk undermining decades of progress in reducing the burden of avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

Recognising these risks, The Foundation is committed to good environmental stewardship in supporting eye care services, and to building resilience by understanding and adapting our programs and operations to climate risks.

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy (ORG-057) sets out requirements for annual reporting on our efforts to integrate environmental sustainability in our operations, programs and advocacy, and to mitigate the environmental impacts of our work. In 2022, our key environmental sustainability actions included:



The Foundation's Environmental Sustainability Working Group (**ESWG**) increased its profile and output, leading a number of significant sustainability initiatives.

### **Endorsement of The Foundation's Environmental Sustainability Policy**

In May 2022, The Foundation endorsed its first ever comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Policy. This document sets out The Foundation's principles and high-level commitments to environmental sustainability within its **workplace culture, operations, programming** and **advocacy**. The policy sets out an ambitious vision for The Foundation to reduce the environmental impacts associated with travel, energy use and waste management, building the ES capacity of partners, and advocating within our sphere of influence for greater action on environmental sustainability and climate change (including within the eye health sector, the international development sector, and to our Implementing Partners, including Government Partners).

## Organisational emissions baseline and decarbonisation planning

The ESWG developed a detailed plan to collect a baseline of The Foundation's organisational Greenhouse Gas emissions, focussing on activities where The Foundation has operational control. In 2023, this baseline will be used to develop an evidence based, costed decarbonisation plan to reduce our emissions over time and develop achievable emissions reductions targets.

This baseline data will also allow for preparation of annual disclosures on The Foundation's carbon footprint and reporting on progress towards reducing emissions year on year.

Data collection and validation for the baseline is ongoing and is expected to be completed by early Q2 2023.



## Integrating Environmental Sustainability in The Foundation's Eye Health programs

The Foundation is integrating environmental sustainability and climate resilience activities into a new community eye care hospital project we have started developing with **Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology (TIO) in Nijgadh, Nepal (2022-2026)**. The project includes direct investments in energy, water and waste management solutions to enhance the hospital's environmental efficiency, and ongoing support to integrate ESCC in future clinical operations and impact measures, leveraging TIO's existing expertise and guidelines such as the IAPB Climate Action Working Group's Guide for Environmentally Sustainable Practices in Eye Health, which The Foundation helped develop. The Foundation has also supported environmental sustainability related activities through direct investments in water, sanitation and hygiene solutions (WASH) under the Facial Cleanliness and Environmental Improvements (F&E) pillars of trachoma elimination.

For 2023, The Foundation's key priorities for environmental sustainability include:

- Completion of the organisational emissions baseline.
- Development of the organisational decarbonisation plan, which will be used to set emissions reduction targets and a phased plan to reduce emissions over time, that can serve as basis for reporting and detailed disclosures from 2024.
- Expansion of environmental sustainability activities in The Foundation's eye health programming by identifying at least 3 additional pilot projects where we can build the capacity of partners to integrate environmental sustainability in policy, governance, and program operations.
- The ESWG will be supporting integration of practical, evidence-based environmental sustainability commitments and climate change action in the next organisational strategy.

