

# Research Terms of Reference Self-Reliance and Durable Solutions in the Context of Climate Change

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DATES: SEPTEMBER 2025-NOVEMBER 2026

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## 1 Background information

### 1.1 Background on the context

The number of people affected by displacement in contexts of armed conflict and violence is rising, and the characteristics of displacement are shifting, as conflict- and violence-displaced populations face increasing risks and shocks from climate change, including both slow-onset hazards (e.g., drought, desertification) and rapid-onset hazards (e.g., floods, storms). Displacement-affected communities' exposure to the impacts of climate change will continue to rise with the deterioration of their living environment, the absence or loss of livelihood opportunities, and the increase in tensions and violence – or, worse, cause secondary displacement – and interrupt their pathway towards integration and solutions to displacement. Identifying and highlighting more effective ways to integrate climate-related risks is needed to respond to and support solutions to displacement.

The Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) ambition is to support self-reliance and durable solutions (SR & DS) for displaced people, recognising that without integrating climate sensitivity, these goals may not be achievable, as climate impacts can render progress towards self-reliance or identified durable solution pathways ineffective or even impossible.

We already have a clear organisational strategy and frameworks for addressing climate change, promoting self-reliance, and implementing durable solutions; this consultancy will build on those foundations.

However, there is currently too little collective action in the humanitarian sector to better account for climate risks when designing and implementing self-reliance and durable solution responses, and guidance across the entire sector remains largely 'climate blind'.

Additionally, there is currently no shared framework, tool, or set of markers that defines how climate-sensitive durable solutions programming in displacement settings should be designed and

implemented, what the programme must achieve, and how achievement can be measured and ensured – whether at the level of country strategies, response plans, or project implementation. Climate adaptation and durable solutions are often addressed in parallel rather than in an integrated manner, despite their natural interdependence. This leads to missed opportunities for coherence and impact, and can, in the worst case, render responses ineffective, counterproductive, or even harmful.

There is also growing pressure to demonstrate practical application and to develop a flagship proof of concept – not just another set of tools or conceptual frameworks, but tangible approaches that can be tested, implemented, and that provide evidence of what works in the field. Without clear markers, guidance, or tested models, there is a risk that climate sensitivity and efforts to contribute to durable solutions will remain aspirational rather than actionable.

To address this gap, NRC is commissioning applied research that generates field-tested, context-sensitive guidance. This research will be directly linked to a pilot project in two NRC Country Offices (COs) and will support its design and adaptation, providing a real-world basis for validation, refinement, and replication.

## 1.2 NRC's intervention and presence specific to this research

NRC is currently supporting COs to strengthen durable solutions programming and climate adaptation integration through the operationalisation of global strategic initiatives and framing papers, and by integrating climate and SR & DS concepts into response design processes at the Country Office (CO) level. This research will build on existing country-level implementation in transitional and recovery contexts, where integrated programming often involves several of NRC's Core Competencies (CCs), including Education, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Information, Counselling, and Legal Assistance (ICLA), and Protection from Violence.

This research is directly linked to a practical pilot project supported under NRC's Strategic Initiative on Climate Adaptation. Two NRC COs will host the pilot projects linked to this research. These will be selected through an internal Expression of Interest process, which is currently underway, based on strategic alignment, operational readiness, and opportunities for learning and scale-up. The consultant will work closely with the selected offices to co-design and implement climate-sensitive self-reliance and durable solutions programming, ensuring that the pilot activities and the research process are fully aligned.

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## 2 Purpose of the research and intended use

### 2.1 Overarching purpose

The purpose is to co-design, pilot, and refine a practical, usable, context-sensitive approach for integrating climate considerations into NRC humanitarian SR & DS programming (across the programme cycle, i.e., programming, identification, formulation, implementation, and evaluation).

**Specific goals:**

- Develop, test, and refine (based on the pilots) NRC markers for climate-sensitive SR & DS programming.
- Co-design/adapt the design of the NRC Response and programmes (including Theories of Change (TOCs)) at country level in which the markers will be tested and piloted.
- Contribute to the monitoring, evaluation/evidence and learning plan for the country pilots.

- Assess the effectiveness of the pilot and the developed markers using participatory and evidence-driven methods, and generate learning on what works and recommendations for future improvements.
- Generate practical outputs, guidance and tools for NRC teams, and build capacities to apply and use these resources.
- Feed lessons learned and evidence into NRC's learning agenda and plan on climate adaptation in our response.
- Connect and embed these markers and methods within existing NRC frameworks and processes, such as the NRC Response Design Framework, Country Office Strategy, including programme strategies and Theories of Change.

## 2.2 How will the research be used?

Findings will be used to refine NRC's programme guidance, climate learning agenda, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) frameworks. Results will feed into the refinement of NRC's frameworks, tools, and guidance at multiple levels:

**Global Programme and Climate and Environment Teams** will use the findings to:

- Inform NRC's global climate-sensitive programming and SR & DS strategy.
- Refine NRC's One Response Design process and related tools.
- Finalise and promote the marker framework for organisational use.
- Integrate lessons into global guidance, roadmaps, and internal climate learning agendas.

**Country Offices** involved in the pilots will:

- Apply and adapt research outputs – particularly the markers and tools – into strategy, response design, and project-level design & implementation.
- Engage in reflection and learning workshops to interpret and act on findings based on context.
- Implement internal actions based on recommendations, including adaptations to CC TOCs, project delivery, and learning practices.

The findings of this research will inform strategic, programmatic, and operational improvements across NRC's climate-sensitive self-reliance and durable solutions programming.

A set of practical, actionable recommendations for integration into NRC frameworks and systems will be developed and disseminated following report finalisation. Dissemination of such recommendations can include trainings, webinars, and learning briefs.

## 3 Scope and research questions

### 3.1 Scope

**Dates of the research:** September 2025 – November 2026

**Geographical coverage:** Two NRC COs will host the pilot projects. Additional data may be gathered from other contexts through desk reviews and interviews.

The research is anchored in a 14-month pilot in two NRC COs. The consultant will support the COs in co-developing/adapting and implementing a climate-sensitive DS project, working closely with NRC's global- and country-level programme (SR & DS, Climate, and relevant CCs) and MEAL team. NRC is currently in discussion with Country Offices to identify and finalise the pilot location(s), based on strategic alignment, operational readiness, and opportunities for learning and scale-up.

Approaches and tools developed will be designed to be embedded into existing relevant NRC processes (such as the One Response Design Process).

The steps/key elements of this scope of work are:

- **Inception phase**, including review of relevant external and internal practices (through desk review and interviews with relevant stakeholders).
- **Co-design a practical set of 'markers'** (see definition below and explanation note in the Annex 1): Develop a context-sensitive set of design and process markers that define/show what relevant climate-sensitive, durable solutions programming looks like in NRC operations, at both strategic (Response Plan) and operational (project activities) levels.
- **Develop a methodology/approach for testing these markers**: Propose (and pilot) a methodology for how these markers can be applied in practice across the programme cycle – including in-country strategies, response planning, project design, delivery, and adaptive learning – with a specific focus on usability by Area Office teams.
- **Support and facilitate the co-design (or adaptation) of the pilot project which will be implemented by the selected NRC COs**: Together with NRC Global Lead on Climate and Environment, the programme teams and with support from NRC MEAL staff, advise on climate adaptation mainstreaming in the pilot projects, in order to integrate and test the markers and proposed methodology.
- **Support the NRC Evidence and Learning Plan for the pilot**: Together with the NRC Global MEAL Specialist, review and advise on the evidence needs in order to meet the learning objectives of the pilot. This will include co-designing the approach, tools, and resources required for evidence gathering – to ensure adjustments of the pilot during implementation based on learning, and to assess the effectiveness and what works and implementing evidence gathering in line with the learning objectives and plan.
- **Test markers through the pilot project**: Validate and refine through real-world application based on evidence and learning throughout implementation. This includes technical support, follow-up, and support with guiding the piloting of the markers in activities planned and implemented in the selected NRC COs.
- **Test markers and methods through other ongoing NRC projects, focusing on usability at the Area Office level in at least 2 different contexts (physical, social and crisis affected)**: Refine markers through desk review of relevant documents (including illustrative successes and lessons learned), interviews with stakeholders, and a learning workshop to review and adapt the markers. The consultant can propose potential contexts, additional to the contexts where the pilot project will be implemented, according to NRC's operational presence (see [Where we work](#)).
- **Measure results/carry out an assessment or effectiveness review**: Evaluate and validate the approach (in at least two NRC country contexts). This includes developing an assessment template for integrating climate considerations into programme design – co-developed with displacement-affected communities. Relevant approaches will be determined during the design phase together with the consultant.
- **Adjust tools and approaches based on learning and evaluation**: This includes existing NRC tools and approaches that could be adjusted with the learning developed through this research, e.g. one response design, strategy development guidance, etc.
- **Produce practical tools, guidance, and synthesis of learning to enable replication in other contexts**, including:
  - i. A practitioner's guide or how-to manual for the use of the markers, including ways in which the approach validated in the two pilot settings under study can be adapted and piloted in different types of contexts.
  - ii. A community-facing framing tool for surfacing climate and solutions risks/aspirations, aligned with NRC's Community Engagement and Accountability policy (and integrated in CEA guidance).
  - iii. A synthesis of evidence and learning, including a compilation of promising practices, tested approaches, and lessons learned – from within NRC (particularly based on pilots) and externally – to highlight what works, what doesn't, and why.
  - iv. Recommendations and next steps: A roadmap for NRC to embed climate-sensitive solutions into strategies and learning systems.
- **Facilitate collaborative learning, feedback, uptake, and capacity building**: Run participatory workshops and validation sessions with NRC and its local partners teams, ensuring broad engagement across field and HO actors. This includes building NRC's internal capacity and supporting cross-context learning.

The consultancy work must be integrated within NRC's One Response Design process and align with internal systems for project design and MEAL.

**Definition of Markers:** NRC will adopt and adapt the concept of “markers” as qualitative coding tools that highlight whether, and to what extent, climate adaptation considerations have been meaningfully integrated into self-reliance and durable solutions programme design and implementation. These markers are \*not\* standards, minimum requirements, or outcomes, but a way to reflect the presence (or absence) of climate-informed self-reliance and durable solutions design and delivery. The research will focus on developing two types of markers:

- **Design markers:** Show the extent to which climate risks and adaptation strategies have been considered in NRC self-reliance and durable solutions response and programme design (e.g., through situation and context analysis, risk-informed TOCs, inclusive planning, partnerships, etc.).
- **Process markers:** Reflect how climate sensitivity is integrated during implementation (e.g., community feedback, engagement with the government and other local actors, adaptive programming, cross-sectoral coordination).

Marker use will align with NRC's One Response Framework and build on comparable systems (see explanation note in Annex 1), adapted to NRC's operational realities.

The consultant will also support the selected COs to develop a detailed budget and work plan for the pilot project, including adequate resourcing (including staffing).

## 3.2 Key research and learning questions

Through this scope of work and research, NRC is aiming to respond to the following questions:

1. Where and what are the climate sensitivity gaps in NRC self-reliance and durable solutions programming, design and implementation processes potentially hindering or impeding the achievement of SR & DS in the given contexts?
2. What is a practical and context-relevant set of markers that define quality climate-sensitive SR & DS programming in NRC operations, at both the strategic (Response Plan) and operational (project) levels?
3. What adjustments are required in programmatic design and at operational level (or were required in the context of the pilot(s))?
4. What worked well in the design and implementation of the pilots of climate-sensitive markers?
5. What measurable outcomes result from marker-aligned programming? What was effective – and why?
6. What are realistic methodologies or approaches for applying these markers across NRC's programme cycle – from Country Office strategy processes to response and project design and implementation, to monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive learning? What contextual aspects need to be taken into consideration?

## 4 Methodology

**A detailed methodology and approach will be developed together with the research consultant.** It is envisaged that the consultant will use desk review, interviews, participatory design and research methods, and evaluation principles. The research will be structured in four phases:

### Phase 1: Co-Design and Planning (Sep–Dec 2025)

- Review of existing internal and external approaches related to climate adaptation and Durable Solutions.
- Self-Reliance/Durable Solutions barrier assessments in the two project pilots contexts.
- Co-development of draft markers in consultation with NRC Climate and Environment, Durable Solutions, programme and MEAL teams.

- Co-design (or adaptation of existing design) for the pilot(s) to integrate the markers.
- Together with the Global MEAL Specialist: identification of pilot evidence and learning needs (including refinement of learning questions), and MEAL plan (including baseline, approach to assessment of effectiveness and/or impact), with clear roles and responsibilities and resources required.
- Support COs to refine their project proposal/design, as well as contribute to refinement of the detailed budget.

#### **Phase 2: Pilot Implementation and Markers Refinement (Jan–Sep 2026)**

- During the implementation of pilot activities using draft markers: regular feedback loops and technical support to field teams. This includes facilitation of relevant learning and reflection moments to allow adjustments during the pilot and support adaptive management.
- Adjustments to guidance, tools, and the marker framework.

#### **Phase 3: Effectiveness/Impact Measurement and Learning (Sep–Nov 2026)**

- As per the evidence and learning plan for the pilots: execution of an impact study or effectiveness review (with NRC MEAL team).
- Data collection and reflection workshops at CO level.
- Synthesis of findings, focusing on usability, relevance, and outcomes.

#### **Phase 4: Finalisation and Uptake (Nov 2026)**

- Learning workshop at global level.
- Finalisation of marker framework, tools, and guidance materials.
- Recommendations for scale-up and integration into NRC systems.

## 5 Management of the research and deliverables

### 5.1 Research management structure

#### 5.1.1 NRC Research Leads

##### **Research Manager (NRC Global Lead Climate and Environment):**

The person responsible for ensuring that this research/consultancy takes place, in collaboration with the Global Lead Self-Reliance and Durable Solutions. The Research Manager will ensure that the Steering Committee is established, that roles and responsibilities are clear, and that the agreed timeline is followed. They will convene Steering Committee meetings and serve as the Researcher's main focal point for programmatic technical aspects on climate.

##### **Research Coordinator (NRC Project Adviser Climate and Environment):**

The person responsible for internally coordinating the research and administrative elements. The Coordinator will ensure internal coordination and input from key programme stakeholders. They will be responsible for ensuring in-country involvement and awareness, coordinating activities and contacts, etc.

##### **Research MEAL Technical Lead (NRC Global MEAL Specialist):**

The person responsible for providing technical support and ensuring that research processes and methods meet NRC guidelines. This role will review and provide specific deliverables as relevant to the MEAL function and will work with the researcher on MEAL, evidence, and learning aspects for the pilots. This role is fulfilled by the Global MEAL Specialist, in consultation with NRC's Global Evaluation and Qualitative Methods Specialist.

##### **Research Management Structure:**

The research management will involve a **Steering Committee (SC)**, which will make decisions about the research. The Research Steering Committee will oversee administration and overall coordination, including monitoring progress and making decisions about the research (and pilots, as relevant).

**Specific tasks of the Steering Committee:**

- Review and approve the Terms of Reference for the research.
- Select the Research Consultant.
- Review and comment on the inception report and approve the proposed methodology and strategy.
- Review and comment on the draft key deliverables – including the research report, recommendations, and final products – with differentiated contributions from programme and MEAL stakeholders. Programme teams will provide input on deliverables such as the marker framework, implementation guidance, and strategy alignment, while MEAL leads will review and advise on the evidence and learning plan, effectiveness assessment tools, and TOC-related components of the pilot.
- Establish and approve a dissemination and utilization strategy.

**5.1.2 SC Members:**

- Chair of the Steering Committee: Global Programme Development and Core Competencies Director
- Research Manager (Global Lead Climate and Environment)
- Global Lead SR & DS
- Head of Programme (HoP) or Regional Head of Programme (RHOP) – pilot countries (2)
- Global Lead CC (as relevant to the selected context)
- MEAL: Global Lead Evidence and Learning

**5.1.3 Research Focal Points in the COs**

Dedicated focal points will be assigned with overall responsibility for the pilots, in addition to focal points for research in those COs.

**5.1.4 Research Reference Group**

Consists of key research focal points and team members who will be involved in and contribute to this research, and who need to be kept in the loop at different stages throughout the process. They may be asked to review or be consulted on specific deliverables.

## 5.2 Budget

A budget of USD 150,000 is available to the Consultant to complete the assignment and deliver the outputs described above. The budget must cover all direct costs related to the consultancy. These include consultancy fees, travel to NRC offices and field sites (as required and including costs for security protocols), accommodation, per diems, interpretation and translation, subcontracted research assistance, workshop facilitation, communications, and any other associated costs. The consultant will submit a detailed breakdown of costs as part of the proposal, which NRC will review for relevance and cost efficiency.

NRC will manage additional funding for the implementation of the pilots in the selected Country Offices (COs).

**For External Service Provider/Consultant based outside of Norway:**

NRC is VAT exempt. Contracts' fees and invoices must be calculated excluding VAT. NRC confirmation of legal status can be shared upon demand. For EU registered consultants, please refer to: [Charging and deducting VAT & invoicing rules - Your Europe](#).

**For External Service Provider/Consultant based in Norway:**

Suppliers would submit their costs including VAT in accordance with the standard current rates for VAT in Norway – General rate 25%. This covers consultancies, Food items 15%, Travel and accommodation 12% (only applicable for the HO travel within Norway). VAT in this case is booked as part of the costs allocated to projects. NRC in Norway applies to get VAT compensated following Norwegian regulations. The VAT compensation is not directly linked to the specific VAT paid and is booked as income on a separate line in the NRC financial accounts, in line with the auditor's instructions.



## 6 Deliverables and timeline

6.1 Deliverables and reporting deadlines

1

**Inception report:** Finalised methodology and research approach based on desk review, interviews, and consultations with NRC programme, MEAL, and pilot COs. *Due: End of September 2025*

2

**Draft Marker Framework and Pilot Blueprint:** First version of the climate-sensitive SR & DS markers (design and process markers) with accompanying blueprint for pilot integration, including TOC components. *Due: End of November 2025*

3

**Input into Evidence and Learning Plan and Draft MEAL Framework:** Input into the pilot’s MEAL framework including refined learning questions, evidence needs, baseline approach, measurement strategy, learning moments, and an outline of the resources required. *Jointly developed with NRC MEAL team. Due: December 2025*

4

**Self-Reliance/Durable Solutions barriers assessment** in the two project pilot contexts. *Due: December 2025*

5

**Detailed Plan and Budget:** Finalised plan for markers implementation in pilot projects, including timeline, learning moments, and budget for specific and additional activities. *Jointly developed with NRC programme and MEAL teams. Due: December 2025*

6

**Technical Support During Pilot Implementation:** Ongoing support to the CO(s) during pilot implementation phase, including feedback loops, learning/reflection facilitation, and iterative refinement of the marker tools. *Ongoing: September 2025 – November 2026*

7

**Interim Learning Brief and Workshop:** Summary of interim findings and learning, co-facilitated workshop with NRC teams (HO and CO) to reflect on pilot progress and adjust as needed. *Due: May 2026*

8

**Effectiveness Review Report:** Based on data collected and analysed during pilot implementation; includes assessment of what worked, what didn’t, and why, including usability of markers. *Due: November 2026*

9

**Final consultancy Report and Marker Toolkit:** Synthesis of findings, lessons learned, tested marker framework, and guidance for institutionalisation. *Due: November 2026*

10

**Guidance Materials and Templates:** Practitioner’s guide/manual for using markers, CO-facing tools (e.g. community engagement framing tool), and templates for markers replication. *Due: November 2026*

11

**Recommendations and Roadmap for Scale-Up:** Summary of key recommendations and proposed next steps for integrating markers into NRC systems (strategy, learning agenda, One Response process). *Due: November 2026*

6.2 Timeframe

The research will be conducted over 14 months, from September 2025 to November 2026. The table below outlines key phases and deliverables across the project timeline.

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities / Milestones	Lead
Phase 1: Co-Design & Planning	Sep – Dec 2025	<div><div>• Inception report (Sep)</div><div>• Draft markers and pilot blueprint (Nov)</div><div>• Evidence and learning plan</div><div>• Barriers assessment (Dec)</div><div>• Markers plan and budget (Dec)</div></div>	Consultant + NRC



<b>Phase 2:</b> Pilot Implementation and Tool Refinement	Jan – Sep 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field implementation using draft markers</li> <li>• Ongoing support to COs</li> <li>• Reflection &amp; learning sessions</li> <li>• Marker refinement</li> </ul>	Consultant + COs
<b>Phase 3:</b> Effectiveness/Impact Measurement and Learning	Sep – Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness review</li> <li>• Data collection and synthesis</li> <li>• Draft final research report and toolkit</li> </ul>	Consultant + MEAL
<b>Phase 4:</b> Finalisation & Uptake	Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global learning workshop</li> <li>• Final research report</li> <li>• Marker toolkit and guidance documents</li> <li>• Recommendations and roadmap for scale-up</li> </ul>	Consultant + NRC
<b>Additional Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific workshop and feedback moments (e.g. interim learning brief in May 2026) should be highlighted in the consultant's proposed work plan.</li> <li>• NRC will coordinate review and validation at key milestones through the Steering Committee and Reference Group.</li> </ul>			

## 7 Research consultant/team

The Norwegian Refugee Council is seeking a consultancy team with a strong understanding of both climate risks and conflict-affected displacement contexts, humanitarian response, as well as a track record of conducting applied, participatory research. The successful partner will combine analytical expertise with practical experience of working in operational humanitarian or development settings, particularly those impacted by conflict, displacement, and climate change.

### Essential:

- Proven experience in applied, participatory research on climate change adaptation and displacement.
- Demonstrated ability to co-design practical tools (e.g., markers, guidelines, templates, implementation methodologies, including monitoring and assessment tools) with field actors, and to test these through field-based validation processes in diverse or fragile contexts.
- Expertise in climate- and environment-sensitive humanitarian or development programming, especially in conflict-affected or displacement settings, including familiarity with climate risk assessments, adaptation strategies, and programmatic integration.
- Understanding of longer-term programming supporting self-reliance and durable solutions to displacement beyond emergency assistance.
- Understanding of markers and similar tools established and used in humanitarian and development programming.
- Experience in humanitarian assistance and/or development projects.
- Experience with designing monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks and tools, including for pilot initiatives and projects.
- Strong written communication and synthesis skills, with the ability to translate complex research and workshop findings into clear, actionable outputs (e.g., guides, roadmaps, templates).

### Desirable:

- NRC or similar INGO or UN experience.

- Familiarity with NRC's or comparable programme cycle and tools.
- English, Arabic, French, or Spanish language skills (depending on the COs selected).

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## 8 Application process and requirements

**Application Deadline: 31 August 2025, 23:59 CEST (Oslo time)**

**Deadline for Questions:** 20 August 2025, 23:59 CEST (Oslo time)

NRC Response to questions will be published on 22 August 2025.

**Interviews (If applicable): 7 September 2025**

Bids must include the following:

- Technical proposal including approach and methods, including comments on the TOR, proposed timeframe and work plan (bids over 10 pages will be automatically excluded). The technical proposal should include a brief presentation about the research team capacities, with particular emphasis on previous experience with assignments similar to these.
- The consultant(s)' CV(s) are added as annex to the technical proposal and do not count towards the page limit.
- Financial proposal including detailed budget breakdown by type of cost.

Submit completed bids to [ch.climatedsconsultancy@nrc.no](mailto:ch.climatedsconsultancy@nrc.no).

# ANNEX 1: Markers explainer

## Introduction

This short note is prepared as an annex to the TOR of the research on Self Reliance & Durable Solutions in the Context of Climate Change. The objective is to incorporate climate sensitivity into programming towards durable solutions for displaced populations. The consultancy will explore the development of a practical, context-sensitive set of markers that define what quality climate-sensitive durable solutions programming looks like in NRC operations, at both the strategic (Response Plan) and operational (project) levels.

The intent of this note is to provide a preliminary definition of the term *markers* and relevant example of similar approaches, noting that they are presented as examples (not references) and that the research will be implemented within and in line with NRC policies and frameworks, including the One Response framework<sup>1</sup> where climate and environment are integrated as “quality marker” along with other cross cutting thematic.

## What do we mean by markers?

At this stage of reflection, and following two co-designing workshops (held in April 2025) discussions, we have three main findings:

- Without climate considerations identified, durable solutions pathways and attempts to increase self-reliance of displaced people might be ineffective or impossible.
- There is no approach or mechanism to identify/highlight/mark whether (and where) a programme (including design and implementation process) takes into consideration climate adaptation aspects for programming towards self-reliance and durable solutions.
- We have no mechanism to identify/highlight/mark whether (and where) a programme (including design and implementation process) takes into account good practise for durable solutions programming, so they are intentionally contributing towards self-reliance and durable solutions to displacement.

We decided to use the term marker, based on the definition of markers in development and humanitarian policies and projects:

- Markers are **qualitative tags**.
- They **capture specific elements of programming** associated with policies and commitments (and eventually reporting requirements).
- They are tracked through a **simple coding system** (e.g., 0-1-2; A-B-C; absent/not targeted, included, significant) based on **qualitative information**.
- “Codes” (or scoring) are associated with criteria and its related methodology. If a programme/project/policy is not eligible to the criteria it is ranked as 0 – not targeted by the marker.

**Climate sensitive SR & DS markers would be “coding” our programmes:** they would show where programmes are intentionally contributing to self-reliance and durable solutions and where and whether climate risks and considerations have been adequately and systematically considered in these (e.g., similar to Safe and Inclusive Programming (SIP) in NRC).

**Climate sensitive SR & DS Markers criteria** would identify elements in the design and process and implementation that are relevant for (climate and environment-sensitive self-reliance and durable

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<sup>1</sup> Package of tools and processes that supports the implementation of the Response Policy and allows us to stand upon our commitments to quality and accountability (in line with the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)).

solutions) quality programming as part of the One Response framework development and would then be highlighted through markers as taken into account/or not to ensure climate elements are integrated into our response design.

## What markers are not?

**Minimum requirements nor standards:** We cannot say what would be a bare minimum or an essential condition for climate adaptation in our durable solutions programmes given the diversity of activities, contexts, climatic conditions and hazards. Unless programmes are designed under climate financing mechanisms, there are no mandatory requirements nor standards applicable for climate adaptation in humanitarian action.

We can however look at how climate adaptation and intentionality to contribute towards self-reliance and durable solutions is promoted into our design and implementation of response, based on underlying standards or good practices, to see where activities contribute to reduce the vulnerability of displaced people to the impacts of climate change and climate-related risks, and therefore increasing capacities to achieve self-reliance and durable solutions.

**Objectives nor outcomes:** Markers are not supposed to guide and articulate what NRC (through its strategies and projects) should *aim to achieve* (protection, inclusion and access to services are mentioned as examples). This is rather done through the strategy and programme/project design (result framework or TOC development).

**Quality markers of CC specific design:** They already exist within the Quality Assessment Tools (QATs). Quality markers are tools used to evaluate and ensure a desired level of quality in programmes. They are based on NRC programme compliance framework<sup>2</sup>.

## Examples of markers

Here are some examples of markers established and used in humanitarian and development programming:

[OCHA Environment Marker](#) is a tool for tracking a project's expected impact on the environment and whether recommended actions have been undertaken. It is built on simple coding measures, using the letters A, B and C, with a plus sign (+) for adequate enhancement or mitigation measures.

The [Rio markers](#) (policy level), established by OECD to measure policy compliance, offer three possible values (or scores) for, indicating whether the Rio Convention themes are (0) not targeted, (1) a significant objective or (2) a principal objective of the action. Rio markers indicate whether policies or projects contribute to climate change adaptation. The spirit of the markers is to promote mainstreaming of climate considerations in all sectors of development.

[GAC Policy markers](#) are following the same approach as the Rio Markers, to capture if Global Affairs Canada's investments are considering climate change adaptation in the design and impact of the investment (0-1-2 scores from "Not targeted" to "Principal").

[DG ECHO Resilience markers](#) are a tool to assess to what extent humanitarian actions funded by ECHO integrate resilience considerations. It seeks to enhance the quality of humanitarian actions by ensuring a systematic consideration and inclusion of resilience considerations in project proposals, implementation and assessment. Based on 4 criteria (Yes/Not sufficiently) the submitted action receives an overall resilience mark depending on how many criteria are met.

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<sup>2</sup> Example of NRC quality marker: For Housing Land and Property (HLP), due diligence is as quality marker "a process to identify to an acceptable degree of certainty, who are the rights-holders to a building, parcel of land, property, or a specific resource that will be used by humanitarian actors to deliver assistance".

[IASC Gender markers](#) are a tool that codes, on a 2 -0 scale, whether or not a humanitarian project is designed to ensure that women, men, boys and girls of all ages will benefit equally from it, and that it will contribute to increasing gender equality.



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