



For Youth Business Innovation  
Network

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## For Youth Business Innovation Network (4YBIN)

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MANUAL



January 23, 2023

MEKELLE



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Contents	Page
1.INRODUCTION.....	1
2) Environmental Degradation's Effects on Hunger.....	2
2.1 Human Activity's Effects on the Environment .....	3
2.2 Guiding Concepts .....	3
2.3 Guiding concepts in actual application.....	4
2.4 Policy Instruments .....	4
2.5 A. Statement of Policy.....	5
2.6 Capacity-building .....	7
2.7 Review mechanisms for the Environment Policy.....	7





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### Profile of 4YBIN

#### Mission

The mission of 4YBIN is saving the lives of vulnerable groups by responding to their humanitarian needs, and ultimately transforming the living standards of economically disadvantaged communities through the promotion of entrepreneurship and enterprising culture particularly amongst the youth.

#### Vision

Vision of 4YBIN is becoming the leading Ethiopian local NGO in providing humanitarian support and excellent entrepreneurship and business incubation support to the youth within 10 years.

#### Goals

Goal of 4YBIN is to provide vulnerable groups with timely humanitarian assistance and provide the youth with comprehensive support packages to start their own businesses including business idea generation, business plan development, entrepreneurship and technical training, technology selection, financing startups and creating market linkages.

#### Principles

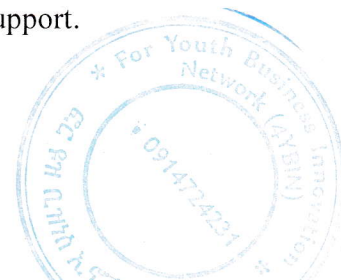
4YBIN's programs, projects, interventions, decisions and actions shall be based on its consciously selected sets of basic principles underpinning its philosophy. 4YBIN automatically rejects any decision, action or activity contradicting these core principles; and endeavors to ingrain the principles into its cultures and rituals. Here under follow 4YBIN's core principles:

**Humanity First:** 4YBIN prioritizes its humanity above everything else and shall not discriminate beneficiaries on the basis his/her ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender, culture, nationality and any other profiles of the aid recipient.

**Sustainable Improvement of Life:** 4YBIN's projects and interventions shall focus on permanently improving the life situation our support recipients and ensures that this materializes by maintaining durable relationships with its beneficiaries.

**Neutrality:** 4YBIN does not side with any political group or government and shall not be, in any way, instrument of governments or political groups of varying forms.

**Accountability:** 4YBIN's decisions, actions and activities of any sort shall be accountable to donors providing resources and beneficiaries seeking our support.





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**Need Based and Competitive:** 4YBIN's programs, projects and interventions shall be based on objective assessments of the needs, interests and demonstrated experiences and excellence of the youth seeking support.

**Participatory:** 4YBIN upholds that its interventions and projects only succeed if participation of all stakeholders at all phases of the project life cycle is ensured. 4YBIN shall ensure that all stakeholders are involved in planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions and programming.

**Human Dignity:** 4YBIN respects the dignity and inalienable human rights of all people and shall in any way regard not disadvantaged youth of any sort as destined to misfortunes.

**Environmental Stewardship:** 4YBIN ensures that the environment is clean and healthy for human life, and shall advocate responsible use natural resources in gratifying the needs of current and future generations.





## 1. INTRODUCTION

Healthy natural ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources are necessary to achieve food security and end hunger. The effects of degraded land and forests, limited water supplies, loss of biodiversity, contaminated soils, water, and air, and improper waste management are felt by many food-insecure populations.

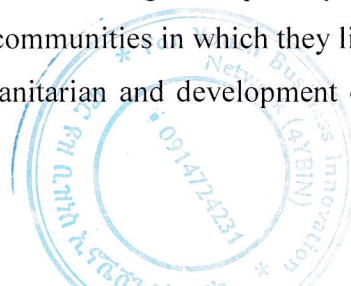
These environmental variables restrict the availability, accessibility, stability, and use of food while also having an effect on human health. Healthy environment is essential to the survival of all life. For their livelihoods and general well-being, millions of rural households rely on ecosystem services and natural resources like land, water, and forests. Degradation of the environment frequently results in decreased agricultural productivity and increased crop and livestock failure risk, which has an effect on the security of food and nutrition, especially for indigenous communities.

Poor urban households frequently live in highly polluted environments where lack of clean water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste disposal services contribute to contamination of water and food, inadequate levels of hygiene, and exposure to vector-borne diseases such as malaria. All of these factors contribute to food insecurity and malnutrition.

The effects of environmental degradation caused by humans exacerbate the problems of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, unstable prices, and water scarcity for populations experiencing food insecurity. Natural disasters contribute to the loss and deterioration of ecosystems, while climate change accelerates the degradation of natural resources.<sup>8</sup> Both have important ramifications for livelihoods.

Nowadays, financial institutions, governments, the private sector, and development and humanitarian actors use environmental and social safeguards extensively. These precautions are meant to prevent permanent environmental harm, anticipate negative effects on the populations that benefit and those in the immediate vicinity, and guarantee the sustainable use and management of natural resources while maximizing the positive effects of activities on the environment. These are necessary to put an end to hunger and poverty.

In order to improve people's lives and the communities in which they live, 4YBIN is dedicated to influencing policies and practices in humanitarian and development contexts. 4YBIN seeks to





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empower stakeholders in development and humanitarian efforts to make better and more efficient decisions by producing and disseminating practices, tools, and knowledge. Furthermore, 4YBIN supports the 2030 Agenda's goal of a world free from hunger within the framework of sustainable development that is both socially and environmentally just. 4YBIN acknowledges the interdependence of the environmental, social, and economic aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need for them to be consistently represented in its work.

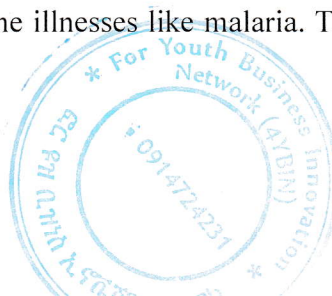
Healthy natural ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources are necessary to achieve food security and end hunger. The effects of degraded land and forests, scarce water supplies, loss of biodiversity, contaminated soils, water, and air, and improper waste management are felt by many foods' insecure populations. These environmental variables restrict the availability, accessibility, stability, and use of food while also having an effect on human health.

By methodically incorporating environmental concerns into 4YBIN's efforts to combat hunger, this policy attempts to close a gap in the organization's policy framework while also adhering to the organization's commitments and donor requirements. It also builds on lessons learned from experience. It expands on earlier developments and enhances continuous thought about social issues. 4YBIN will be better prepared to assist in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ending hunger if it has a strong environmental policy and systems that consistently respond to environmental risks and opportunities for improvement.

## **2) Environmental Degradation's Effects on Hunger**

A healthy environment is necessary for the continuation of all life. For their livelihoods and general well-being, millions of rural households rely on ecosystem services and natural resources like land, water, and forests. Degradation of the environment frequently results in decreased agricultural productivity and a higher chance of crop and livestock failure, which has an effect on the security of food and nutrition, especially for indigenous communities.

Living in highly polluted environments with limited access to solid waste disposal, clean water, sanitation, and drainage, impoverished urban households are often at risk of food and water contamination, poor hygiene, and vector-borne illnesses like malaria. These are all of the things that lead to malnutrition and food insecurity.





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The effects of environmental degradation caused by humans exacerbate the problems of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, unstable prices, and water scarcity for populations experiencing food insecurity. Natural disasters contribute to the loss and deterioration of ecosystems, while climate change accelerates the degradation of natural resources. Both have important ramifications for livelihoods.

### **2.1 Human Activity's Effects on the Environment**

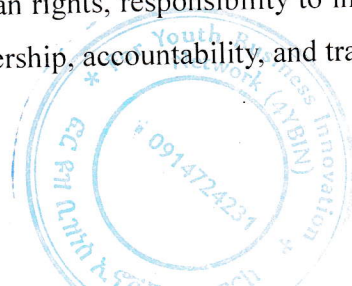
The environment has suffered for decades as short-term economic growth and social development objectives have been prioritized, frequently making initial gains unsustainable in the long run. The need for food, water, fuel, metals, fiber, and wood is growing, and these factors, along with population growth, unsustainable consumption, and the use of dangerous chemicals, are putting more and more strain on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the related goods and services that all people, especially the impoverished in rural areas, depend on. Due to this, there has been widespread and occasionally irreversible degradation, including loss of forests and biodiversity, a decline in genetic diversity, desertification, soil erosion and salinization, a shortage of water, and pollution of the soil, water, and air.

If environmental factors are not sufficiently taken into account from the beginning, humanitarian operations may have a negative impact on the environment. Groundwater depletion, water pollution, improper waste management, excessive chemical use, and uncontrolled use of natural resources have all been linked to certain humanitarian operations.

Moreover, the displacement of natural resources and degradation of surrounding ecosystems caused by the movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees often heightens tensions and increases the risk of conflict with host populations.

### **2.2 4YBIN's Guiding Ideals and Concepts**

A set of guiding principles is established by this policy to assist in its implementation. These values and principles align with those of 4YBIN, which include humanity, impartiality and neutrality, operational independence, human rights, responsibility to impacted populations, unity of purpose, integrity and dedication, partnership, accountability, and transparency.





### **2.3 Guiding concepts in actual application**

Most of the policy's guiding principles are already being followed by 4YBIN: Environmental concerns are taken into account in the three-pronged approach to the planning and design of resilience-building, effective safety nets, disaster risk reduction, and preparedness activities.

In order to determine the areas that require risk reduction and natural resource management, national-level integrated context analysis evaluates the geographic distribution of land degradation and its connections to food insecurity.

At the subnational level, seasonal livelihood programming consists of a multi-sectoral road map that integrates natural resource management activities as well as gender-based analysis of rural livelihoods and the use of natural resources. In order to address hunger and land degradation, community-based participatory planning examines the relationships between people, livelihoods, and ecosystems at the local level and proposes environmental rehabilitation strategies.

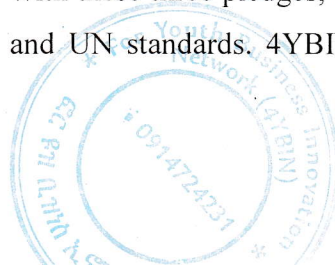
Disaster risk reduction initiatives, as well as energy and waste management, employ the mitigation hierarchy, which prioritizes preventing risks and impacts and then minimizes, mitigates, and manages those that cannot be avoided.

4YBIN and its partners aim to tackle the issue of cooking energy needs in order to promote long-term food security, while also safeguarding human health, safety, and the environment, through their Safe Access to Fuel and Energy initiative. When a crisis first arises, life-cycle and preventive strategies are used to address problems with food assistance utilization as well as hazards associated with a lack of access to cooking fuel.

By lowering the need for transportation, the P4P program's local food procurement helps to lessen the environmental impact of 4YBIN's operations. This demonstrates how life-cycle thinking and continuous improvement concepts can be used in real-world situations.

### **2.4 Policy Instruments**

With the adoption of this policy, 4YBIN undertakes to create and uphold an environmental management system (EMS), a procedure for identifying and classifying environmental risk, and a set of fundamental environmental standards. With these three pledges, 4YBIN's environmental policy now complies with both international and UN standards. 4YBIN's involvement in the







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development and testing of the United Nations Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability informs the framework that this policy establishes.

4YBIN will incorporate general environmental standards into the planning, organizing, and execution of all its operations and activities. These guidelines cover things like biodiversity preservation, safeguarding natural areas from desertification, managing natural resources sustainably, controlling pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. In order to optimize the efficacy of these standards, 4YBIN will collaborate with suppliers and cooperating partners, acknowledging variations in viability and the requirement for awareness-building and capacity building. The standards are intended to enhance and supplement 4YBIN's current social protection efforts and framework. International guidelines like the Global Reporting Initiative, as well as widely acknowledged best practices, the security of important allies, and funding sources like the Green Purchasing policy.

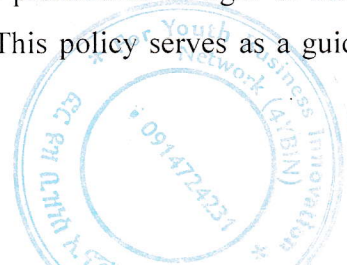
### **2.5 A. Statement of Policy**

As a humanitarian and development organization, 4YBIN understands that access to food, water, and livelihoods for communities and beneficiaries is threatened by climate change, and that the environment is essential to sustainable development.

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Promoting a Zero world—zero poverty, zero carbon emissions, and zero exclusion—is 4YBIN's mission. Accordingly, 4YBIN pledges to practice responsible environmental management in all aspects of its operations, including development and humanitarian initiatives. 4YBIN pledges to reduce the environmental effect of its operations and, whenever feasible, to balance it with the needs necessary to carry out its mission.

This policy seeks to eventually achieve carbon neutrality while safeguarding the environment and lowering the likelihood of adverse effects. We understand that this is a long-term commitment to continuously updating our procedures in light of scientific and technological advancements in the environmental field. This policy serves as a guide for 4YBIN employees





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and the other organizations mentioned in Article 1 of this policy. It should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

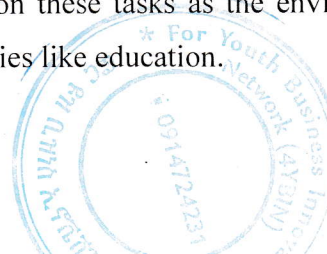
- 4YBIN's Code of Conduct;
- 4YBIN's Grievance Policy;
- 4YBIN's Child Protection Policy;
- 4YBIN's Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy;
- 4YBIN's Policy Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;
- 4YBIN's Data Protection Policy;
- 4YBIN's Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Money laundering Policy;
- 4YBIN's procedures, manuals, and handbooks;

Development that is sustainable is that which satisfies current needs without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to satisfy their own. Long-term sustainability can only be achieved by taking into account the interactions between the economy, society, and environment and protecting and enhancing each of these dimensions.

Most impoverished men and women in the world depend directly on their surroundings to survive. Their means of subsistence are derived from the utilization of natural resources for forestry, fishing, agriculture, raising livestock, and traditional medicine. The welfare and susceptibility of the most vulnerable members of society are directly impacted by a decrease in the quantity or quality of these resources.

Furthermore, impoverished individuals—both men and women—often reside in the most marginalized, deteriorated, and contaminated settings, such as crowded inner cities and flood-prone areas. They are therefore more vulnerable to illness and the effects of both man-made and natural disasters. While illnesses like cholera and malaria can spread as a result of environmental degradation and change, illnesses like HIV/AIDS can also make people more susceptible to environmental degradation.

Because of their gender roles, women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation because they are responsible for caring for livestock, fetching water, and gathering fuel wood. Women and girls spend more time on these tasks as the environment deteriorates, which leaves them with less time for other activities like education.





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The environmental deterioration affects impoverished men and women, especially those living in rural areas and indigenous communities. These men and women need complete access to and ownership rights over their natural resources in order to manage and control them to the best of their abilities. In order to guarantee these communities' involvement in the processes that determine usage and ownership rights, their empowerment is essential.

### **2.6 Capacity-building**

The success of the mainstreaming strategy suggested in this policy depends on having a solid understanding of environmental sustainability and the analytical abilities to examine the connections between the environment and poverty. Employees must feel comfortable addressing environmental issues related to their industry or field of work.

### **2.7 Review mechanisms for the Environment Policy**

The environment team, in cooperation with the Evaluation and Audit Unit, will be responsible for overseeing overall performance in the area of the environment. A comprehensive review of the environment policy and strategy will be conducted at the conclusion of the third year of implementation, leading to the policy's reformulation as necessary. Internal monitoring and the appointment of an environmental watchdog will also be part of this review mechanism.

**Approved by Board of 4YBIN January 23, 2023**

