



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich)'s approach to proactively address environmental, social and governance factors as part of our day-to-day business activity supports several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Visit the [SDG website](#)



SDG 3
Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all, at all ages

As an employer and provider of life insurance, savings and pensions, we have a responsibility to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles. We are doing this through various channels:

- LiveWell by Zurich was first established in 2021 and aims to inspire its users to take control of their own health. Its innovative digital engagement platform is built around a holistic approach, factoring in four key pillars of physical, mental, social and financial health.
- Research and campaigns focusing on national economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the expectation that employers play a bigger role in supporting the wellbeing of employees. This includes identifying practical steps employers can take to meet workers' needs in our rapidly changing, digital society and analyzing the impact of COVID-19 on reskilling
- Improving access to healthcare and financing healthcare infrastructure through our impact investing strategy.
- Promoting and encouraging work of the Z Zurich Foundation* with the ambition to help improve the mental wellbeing of several million people by 2024 through innovative programs and prevention campaigns aimed at overcoming the stigma often associated with seeking help.
- Workplace wellbeing is measured in our bespoke sustainable buildings program.

* The Z Zurich Foundation is a Swiss-based charitable foundation established by members of the Zurich Insurance Group. It is the main vehicle by which Zurich Insurance Group delivers on its global community investment strategy.



SDG 4
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The UN estimates an additional 101 million children and young people (from grades 1 to 8) across the world fell below the minimum reading proficiency level in 2020 due to the pandemic, which wiped out the education gains achieved over the past 20 years. The most vulnerable children and those unable to access remote learning are at increased risk of never returning to school and of being forced into child marriage or child labor, the UN has said. Zurich supports the financing of all levels of schooling in Western Europe and emerging market countries through private public partnership and social bonds.

In addition, through its social equity pillar, the Z Zurich Foundation supports youth programs that give their participants the perspective, community and access they need to build a better future and reach their full potential.





SDG 7
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



SDG 8
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Despite significant progress over the past decade on improving access to electricity, increasing renewable energy use, and improving energy efficiency, the world is still falling short of providing affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Zurich finances access to renewable energy in emerging markets through its green bond investments via unilateral development banks. Zurich invested, for example, in a green bond which finances a USD 65 million solar project in Kenya. This project has enabled 170,000 people to benefit from access to renewable energy.

We pay special attention to transactions that might contravene human rights. We have set guidelines detailing our position and what we consider to be best practices. We also provide guidance and training for underwriters and other relevant stakeholder groups, and have established risk assessment and referral processes.

In addition, the Z Zurich Foundation, through its grant programs initiative, provides support and funds to help Zurich offices to work with local community organizations. The aim is to develop multi-year programs targeted at young people and focusing on social equity and creating a society of equal opportunity.

Zurich is committed to creating a sense of security and trust in the workplace. Our people sustainability principles prioritize employee development and upskilling to offer career choices that match talents and ambitions.





SDG 11
**Make cities inclusive, safe,
resilient and sustainable**

As our planet warms and weather patterns change, we are seeing more frequent and intense floods, heat waves and wildfires. The disruption caused by these events can devastate homes, disrupt communication networks and displace people.

Zurich believes that doing business responsibly will promote resilience in the future. This can be best achieved by enhancing risk prevention and mitigation. Zurich has invested in a number of activities to enhance resilience:

- Zurich's Swiss business has developed a user-friendly, online interactive platform, the Natural Hazard Radar, to allow people living in Switzerland to assess risks to property from floods, landslides, mud and rockslides.
- Zurich North America, the Z Zurich Foundation and Resilient Cities Network have teamed up to create a multi-year program designed to strengthen climate resilience and help address social inequity in vulnerable communities in Houston, Texas, and Boston, Massachusetts.

Read more: [Strengthening climate resilience in U.S.](#)

- Zurich and the Z Zurich Foundation have worked on climate change adaptation since 2013, when together with other members they founded the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (the Alliance)¹, a multi-sectoral partnership focused on finding practical ways to help communities strengthen their resilience to floods globally and save lives. The Alliance focuses on enabling communities to prosper, in spite of flooding, by improving the way they build, maintain and use all their assets. As there was no validated framework to measure resilience, the Alliance developed its own – a set of guidelines and methods – to assess resilience to floods at a community level. In the first phase of the program 2013-2018, the Alliance applied the tool across 110 communities and reached 225,000 people with its work. The tool is now applied in the second phase of the program in 24 program countries in over 300 communities and, so far, had a positive impact on at least 600,000 people. The total of communities reached in the first and second phase is over 400.
- Urban areas with higher concentrations of people and infrastructure are particularly susceptible. With climate disasters increasingly impacting communities around the world, the need for resilient cities has never been greater. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Z Zurich Foundation launched the Urban Climate Resilience Program (UCRP) on January 1, 2023, in ten countries around the world: Australia, Columbia, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Spain, Turkey, the UK, and the US. The UCRP builds upon the Foundation's ongoing climate change work with the Alliance in rural environments and expands into urban spaces.

¹ All members of the Alliance, with the exception of Zurich Insurance Company Ltd, are funded by the Z Zurich Foundation.





SDG 13
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

As a responsible investor, we use capital markets to search for and fund solutions to many of the pressing social or environmental issues of our time. As a founding member of the UN-backed Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, we committed in 2019 to holding a net-zero investment portfolio by 2050. Achieving this goal requires ambitious carbon emissions reduction targets that are consistent with a 1.5°C future. We have set interim reduction targets for 2025 for listed equity, corporate bond and our direct real estate investments and in 2022 have helped to avoid 3.2 million metric tons¹ of CO₂-equivalent emissions through our impact investment portfolio.

In July 2021, we became a founding member of the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance (NZIA).² As a founding member of the NZIA, we have committed to transition all operational and attributable greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions³ from our insurance and reinsurance underwriting portfolios to net-zero emissions by 2050.

We have also made the commitment, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations, to establish intermediate, science-based targets every five years in line with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement.

We have accelerated our net-zero target in operations by twenty years. Once we have reduced absolute emissions by seventy percent by 2029 (compared to a 2019 base year), we aim to achieve net-zero emissions in 2030. We have been operating as a carbon-neutral business since 2014 with our support of an avoided deforestation project, the **Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve**. In 2021, we launched our path to net-zero with our first pre-purchasing agreements for carbon removals.

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance takes a collaborative approach to supporting communities at risk of floods. Together with members of the Alliance, we use our in-house expertise as an insurer to help communities reduce flood risk (for more information, see SDG 11).

- 1 Impact numbers for 2021 and following include methodology upgrade from previous years, as explained in Zurich's impact measurement methodology paper: www.zurich.com/-media/project/zurich/dotcom/sustainability/docs/zurich-impact-measurement-framework.pdf
- 2 <https://www.unepfi.org/net-zero-insurance/>
- 3 GHG emissions here refers to insurers' and reinsurers' Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Insurers' and reinsurers' Scope 3 emissions should include their customers' Scope 1 and 2 and Scope 3 emissions, where significant, and where data allows.

