

FORGING AHEAD

NGO Climate Compact Report
on Progress to Date from the
Annual Member Survey

DECEMBER 2022



the David &
Lucile Packard
FOUNDATION



INTRODUCTION

Our coalition has continued to tackle each of the four NGO Climate Compact commitments. We have collectively increased our advocacy efforts toward the U.S. government and other institutions on climate and environmental issues and have started seeing some progress from our outreach efforts. Many of our Members have further expanded their internal efforts to hire technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to continue educating and advising their program teams. We can and should feel grateful for and proud of our collective work on this effort.

In April 2020, InterAction launched the NGO Climate Compact with the goal of galvanizing NGOs to commit to large-scale and unified action to address climate change and environmental degradation. We knew the urgency and importance of this work then, but in the more than two years that have passed since its launch, we continue experiencing and responding to the impacts of climate-induced disasters around the world as we keep seeing how the 1.5 C threshold keeps slipping out of reach. The urgency of our commitments towards unified climate action has only heightened.

As we keep watching the impacts from the climate crisis threaten decades of progress across global development, exacerbate conflict, and intensify humanitarian crises, we see our window of opportunity to act closing in. As a community, we have come to understand that, in order to achieve our community's mission to serve the world's most vulnerable people, we must also advocate for and address climate change.

However, we are aware of the challenges that come from trying to prioritize climate action while we are facing and responding to multiple global crises. At InterAction, we have a responsibility to help our Members continue to elevate climate action within their organizations. For us, this means creating more initiatives, dialogues, learning opportunities, and events for Members to engage on climate work. It is

also our responsibility to sustain the level of urgency and excitement that was present for many of you when we launched the NGO Climate Compact two years ago.

As we look forward towards the second iteration of the NGO Climate Compact, we must continue expanding and accelerating our fight against climate change. We need more robust and bold commitments from all our Members and partners. Our power to make an impact relies on our collective action.

About the NGO Climate Compact

On the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020, InterAction and many Member NGOs launched the **NGO Climate Compact** (the Compact) to pledge concerted, unified, and urgent action to address climate change and environmental degradation.

The purpose of the Compact has been to initiate large-scale change across the InterAction coalition, which is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international NGOs, as well as the global development and humanitarian assistance sector more broadly. The Compact acknowledges that addressing climate change and environmental degradation is central to achieving our community's mission to serve the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

The Compact aims to contribute to higher-level global goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the U.N. Paris Agreement on Climate Change, by advancing the global agenda on drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting people with the least power and fewest resources to build resilience against the consequences of climate change.

The first iteration of the Compact spanned April 2020 to December 2022 and consisted of four commitment areas: education and advocacy; climate mainstreaming in programs; internal environmental sustainability; and learning. The Compact's four areas of

commitment emphasized actions that Members could take before the end of 2022 to develop and advance joint action, kick-start individual organizational initiatives, and generate dialogue and learning, all of which will support more effective climate action in the future.

To maintain a necessary pace of action, signatories to the Compact report annually to InterAction on their progress against these commitments. As we come to the end of 2022, it is time for our community to review the Compact commitments and lay out next steps to continue to advance the climate agenda.

Compact Accomplishments over the Past Year

Between July 2021 and August 2022, InterAction hosted over 40 learning events, climate working group meetings, advocacy meetings, and roundtables at multiple levels, all based on Member input from the baseline survey, the 2021 survey, and rolling Member feedback. They included events on climate advocacy, climate mainstreaming in programs, and environmental sustainability:

Twelve 60- to 90-minute learning opportunities and dialogues held at the staff level, including with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and the Department of State (State), on topics such as climate change adaptation, climate mainstreaming, and international climate finance.

One CEO-level Earth Day roundtable with senior leaders in the Biden Administration from USAID, State, DFC, and the Department of Treasury focused on the upcoming work and new initiatives by U.S. development agencies to integrate and elevate climate considerations and support vulnerable countries to adapt to climate impacts, including the PREPARE initiative.

One CEO-level session aimed at starting discussions for the future of the NGO Climate Compact. This session took place at InterAction's CEO retreat in March 2022, engaging over 60 CEOs across the coalition in a conversation on the role of international NGOs in addressing climate change.

Thirty-one advocacy meetings with U.S. government (USG) agencies, U.S. Congress, and international finance institutions (IFIs) coordinated for InterAction Member staff (and where relevant, executives) to attend.

A Forum 2022 Session on Climate Mainstreaming ("Climate Mainstreaming: from Policy to Practice") included senior leaders from USAID, DFC, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) discussing how the USG is harnessing its capabilities to integrate climate policies throughout its agencies, as well as discussing how NGO Members are implementing these programs in the field.

BACKGROUND ON AND PURPOSE OF SURVEY

From September 26 to November 3, 2022, InterAction ran its third annual survey of the NGO **signatories** to the Compact (now numbering 93) to capture coalition-level progress toward the four commitment areas in the Compact: education and advocacy; climate mainstreaming in programs; internal environmental sustainability; and learning. InterAction surveyed Members on their current level of progress toward each of these four commitment areas, the challenges they've faced in implementing the Compact, and their feedback on InterAction's climate program.

The first annual survey of NGO signatories, which captured a baseline of coalition-level information, was conducted in June 2020 and the second annual survey was conducted in July 2021.

Methodology

InterAction staff designed a 22-question online survey that included both quantitative and qualitative measures, using the 2020 and 2021 surveys as a base to ensure continuity of questions that measure change

over time. Staff improved survey questions from the previous year, added new questions to collect additional information, and turned certain open-ended questions into multiple-choice or multiple-select questions based on the categories of responses collected in 2021.

InterAction disseminated the survey via email to individuals designated by the CEO or President of each Member when they signed the Compact. InterAction collected survey responses over five weeks using SurveyMonkey.

The sample and population size were 93 organizations, and 42 organizations responded, resulting in an overall response rate of 46% (compared to 43% for 2020 and 48% for 2021). Of the 42 respondents, 17 organizations had completed the survey in 2020 and 2021, 5 organizations had completed the survey in 2021 only, 2 organizations had completed the survey in 2020 only, and 18 organizations completed the survey for the first time in 2022. The following table provides a breakdown of survey responses by organization and year:

Type of respondent	Number of organizations
Repeat survey respondent (completed survey in 2020, 2021, and 2022)	17
Survey respondent in 2021 and 2022	5
Survey respondent in 2020 and 2022	2
Survey respondent in 2022 only	18

InterAction's analysis assumes that respondents had fairly open access to information within their organizations and that, as a result, the data reported accurately captures the actions of Climate Compact signatories.

Reasons underpinning this assumption include:

- Similar to past surveys, no questions were mandatory, and InterAction asked respondents to skip any question that they felt they did not have or could not get full information about their organization's actions or views.
- Question response rates ranged from 43% to 90% (18-38 organizations out of 42 respondents), with most falling between 71% and 90% (33-38 organizations), suggesting that respondents were highly engaged in the survey and that their attention remained consistent regardless of the types of questions or level of effort required to respond.
- Organizations designated one staff person to respond to the survey on behalf of their organization and to report on or seek out the

information that they needed to answer the questions.

- Respondents' level of seniority ranged from the highest executive to mid-level managers and subject-matter experts. Given their diverse functional roles, some respondents may have had incomplete information on the actions of their organization.
- With no obvious incentive to exaggerate responses due to the survey's anonymity, respondents' progress was likely not overreported and may even exhibit a downward bias.

The following analysis applies the findings from 42 signatories to the full group of 93 signatories. InterAction compared characteristics of organizations that responded and those that did not to account for potential selection effects that would impact whether the results could be applied to the full sample. This analysis found no major differences between respondents and non-respondents. However, the survey results do not apply to InterAction Members that are not signatories to the Compact.



Photo by Iqro Rinaldi

FEEDBACK ON INTERACTION'S CLIMATE PROGRAM

Working Groups and Other Offerings

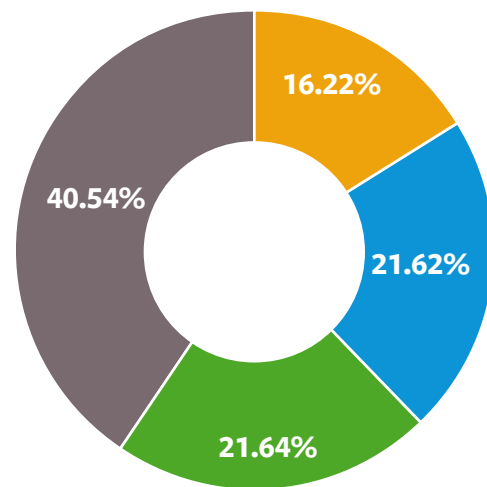
Within its climate program, InterAction hosts climate working group meetings, advocacy meetings, and roundtables at multiple levels. Between July 2021 and August 2022, over 40 events took place.

InterAction asked signatories how satisfied they have been with these working groups and the CEO roundtable on a scale from “highly satisfied” to “highly dissatisfied.” Based on feedback from the 2020 and 2021 survey, a new category, “no one in my organization participates,” was added. Satisfaction levels with these four offerings varied. Only one respondent marked that they were “dissatisfied” with the climate mainstreaming and environmental sustainability working groups, while no respondents marked that they were “highly dissatisfied” for any of the working groups or the CEO roundtable. The Climate Advocacy Working Group and the CEO roundtable tied for the highest satisfaction rating. The Climate Advocacy Working Group had the lowest satisfaction rating in the 2021 survey. This growth in satisfaction could be attributed to the increased level of engagement that this working group had with congressional offices and federal agencies.

The new metric, “no one in my organization participates,” highlights the lack of activity from signatories, with responses ranging from 41% to 67% for each activity. This new data point can help InterAction formulate how to bring more voices into the conversation and engage with organizations who would like to be more involved but currently lack the bandwidth.

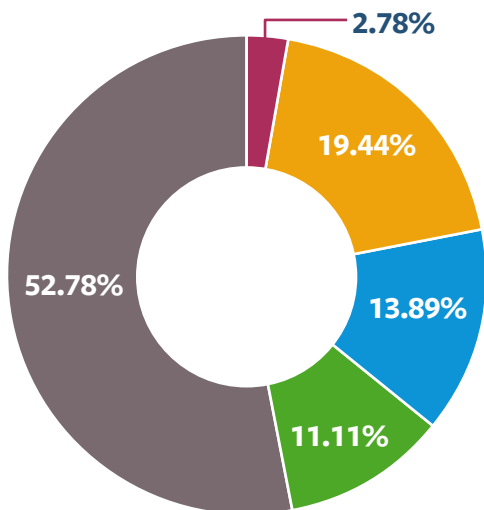
The following graphs show the number and percentage of respondents by their satisfaction level for each of the three working groups and CEO roundtable. Response rates for the following four graphs are from the 37 organizations who answered these questions.

Climate Advocacy Working Group

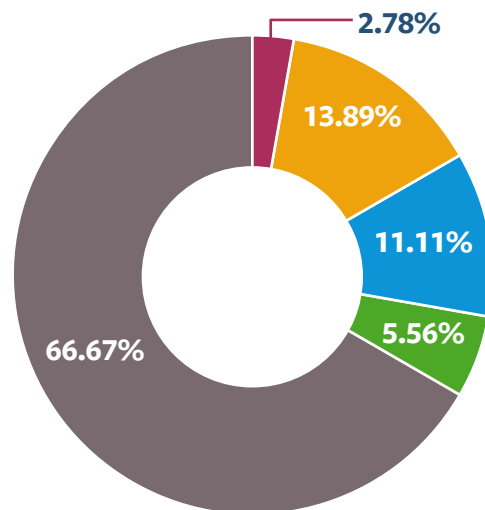


- No one in my organization participates in this working group or roundtable
- Highly satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Highly dissatisfied

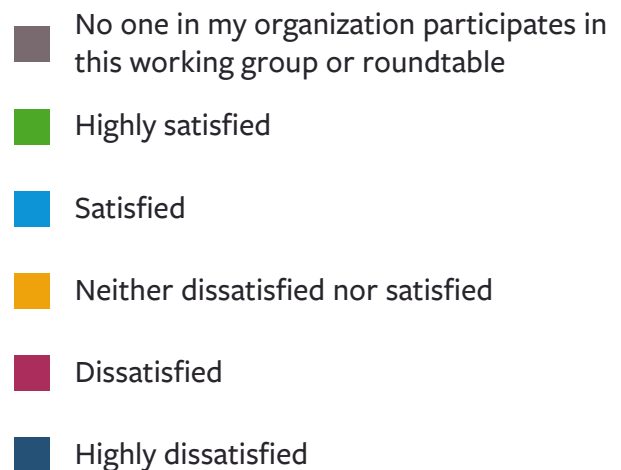
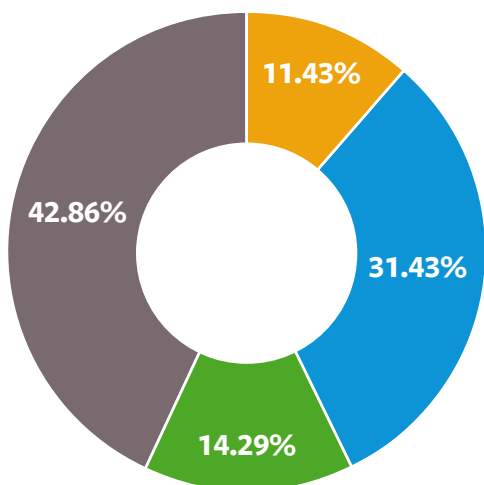
Climate Mainstreaming Working Group



Environmental Sustainability Working Group



Biannual CEO Roundtable on Climate Leadership



Respondents who marked anything lower than “highly satisfied” were given the option to provide feedback on what their organizations would want to see change about these offerings. This was asked as an open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses. These responses were then

coded into categories during analysis to allow for comparison.¹ Eighteen organizations responded to this question and 24 did not.

The most frequent suggestions from respondents included:

¹ Coding qualitative data is beneficial to succinctly display common responses relative to one another. However, this kind of analysis introduces some subjectivity that reduces internal validity. Anonymized raw data is available for review upon request.

- Expanding the focus from federal engagement to design and implementation for Members.
- Expanding the conversation to big picture ideas rather than specific action items.
- Providing smaller Members or Members earlier along in the process of integrating climate and environmental considerations in their operations with practical support and more opportunities to engage.
- Connecting Members who are doing similar work to find crossover and combat fragmentation.
- Changing the CEO roundtable format to provide space for more participation, interaction, conversations, and brainstorming.
- Ensuring event invitations are more broadly circulated across and outside of the working groups.

Several respondents cited their own lack of participation and engagement in these offerings due to staff, funding, and COVID-related limitations.

The survey also asked signatories to provide any topics or issues they would like to see included in InterAction events, working group meetings, and roundtables over the next 12 months. This was an open-ended question, with responses coded into categories after the fact. Thirty-one organizations answered this question and 11 did not.

Twenty-one topics or issues were suggested by more than one NGO. The topics or issues most frequently suggested by NGOs included:

- Focusing on climate change's intersectional impacts, such as gender, and its role in the rise of natural disasters.
- Expanding information on community led climate action best practices, policy, and funding opportunities.
- Creating a peer-to-peer information exchange to learn from and connect Members doing climate adaptation and resilience work.

Continuing the conversation from COP27 around the need to establish financial mechanisms to address climate-related loss and damage disproportionately felt by frontline and vulnerable communities. InterAction's letter to world leaders on the urgency of

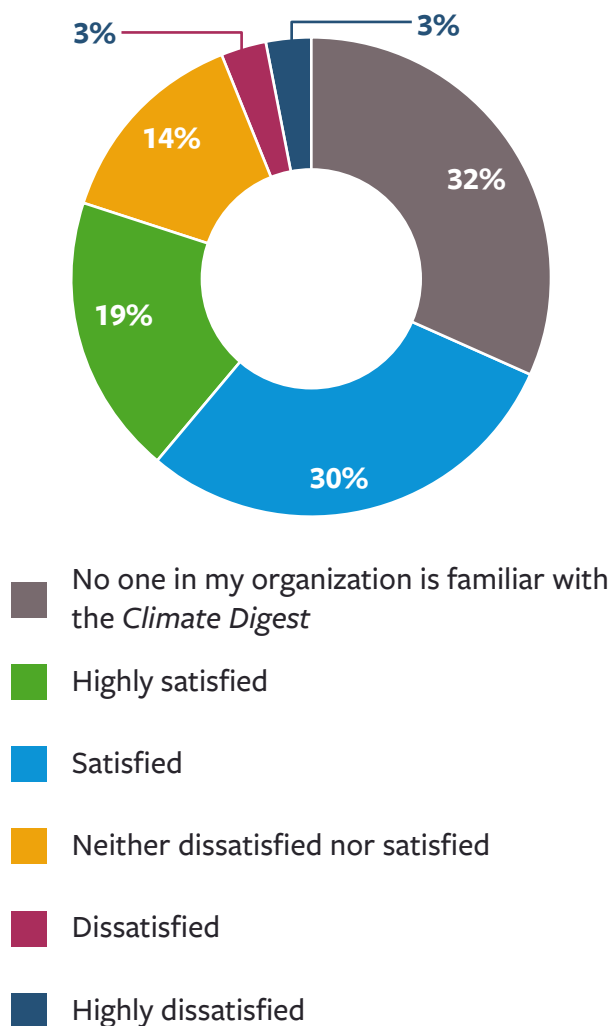
establishing a Loss and Damage Facility can be found here.

All Member suggestions fell within the existing areas of the current working groups (organizational sustainability, climate mainstreaming, and climate advocacy), which confirms that all topics or issues suggested could be handled within the structure of the program as it has existed.

Communications

InterAction sends a monthly newsletter called the *Climate Digest* to support information-sharing and communication across the Compact signatories and other stakeholders. The survey asked signatories how satisfied they are with the *Climate Digest*. Thirty-seven

Satisfaction with the *Climate Digest*



organizations answered this question and five did not. The previous graph shows the number and percentage of respondents by their satisfaction level with the *Climate Digest*.

Overall, respondents expressed continued satisfaction with the *Climate Digest*; only one respondent each marked that their organization was “dissatisfied” or “highly dissatisfied.” Notably, 32% of respondents are not familiar with the *Climate Digest*, even though the *Climate Digest* is routinely sent to a list of approximately 240 people with an average 33% open rate. This could represent an opportunity for InterAction to advertise and expand engagement with the *Climate Digest* more broadly.

Lastly, respondents were asked to suggest ways to improve InterAction’s communications with Members on climate issues, including on the frequency and content of emails, social media, the *Climate Digest*, and any other communications.

This was asked as an open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses, which were then coded into categories during analysis to allow for comparison. Nineteen organizations responded to this question and 23 did not. Suggestions for improvement centered on consolidating communications, shortening the length of the intro paragraph, highlighting Member achievements, including a short summary blurb, and focusing on solutions.



Photo by Shahab Naseri

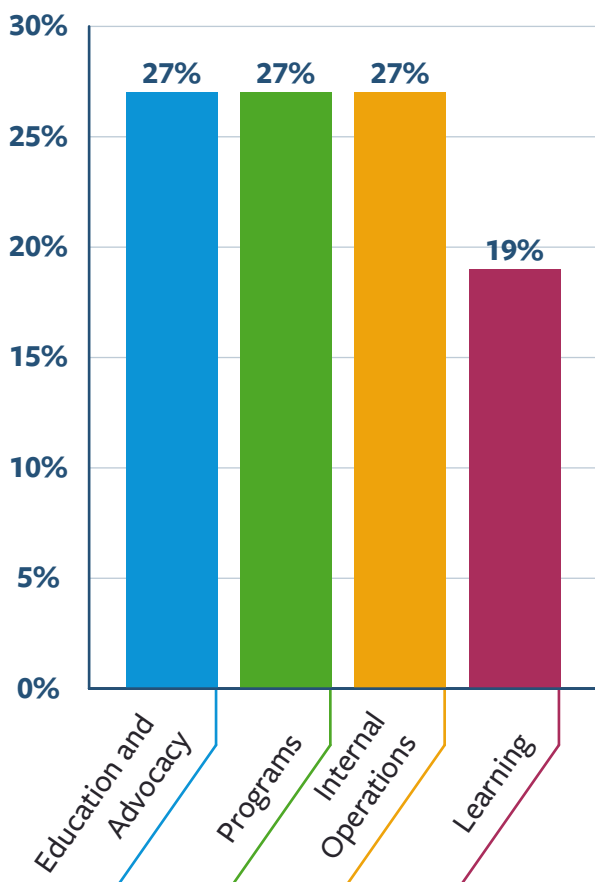
MEMBER PROGRESS ON CLIMATE ACTION

Future Opportunities

Q “In which of the four areas of the Climate Compact does your organization need InterAction’s support in order to make progress?”

Thirty-seven organizations answered this question and five did not. Signatories were almost evenly split concerning where the most help was needed. Education and Advocacy, Programs, and Internal

Areas of the Climate Compact Where InterAction’s Support is Needed

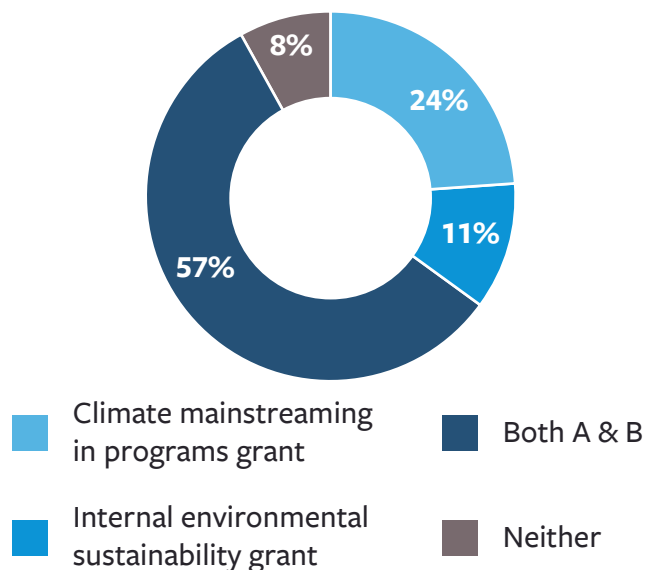


Operations tied with 27% of responses each. This breakdown likely suggests that InterAction is on the right track and should continue its efforts equally among these four focus areas. Throughout the survey, signatories expressed interest in “cross-learning” across focus areas. Cross-learning could present a unique opportunity for InterAction going forward to ensure that all focus areas get the same level of engagement.

Q “If given the opportunity to apply for a \$10-45K grant from InterAction to support your organization in the implementation of the NGO Climate Compact, which do you think your organization would be interested in?”

Signatories overwhelmingly showed interest in both “Climate Mainstreaming in Programs” and “Internal Environmental Sustainability” grant opportunities. Several of the signatories cited how they might use this grant money, such as increased research, advocacy, and scope of work in these grant areas.

Future Grant Opportunity Interest



Challenges

Q “What are the biggest challenges that your organization is facing related to climate advocacy, mainstreaming climate in programs and strategy, and internal sustainability?”

Based on last year’s open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses, the question was changed to a multiple-choice question where respondents were able to choose more than one response. Thirty-seven organizations answered this question and there were more responses than respondents.

The most common issues cited were “staff bandwidth to work on climate issues,” “competing priorities,” and “insufficient technical or relevant expertise.” These findings highlight that internal constraints are limiting organizations abilities to make headway on the Compact. InterAction must not only galvanize

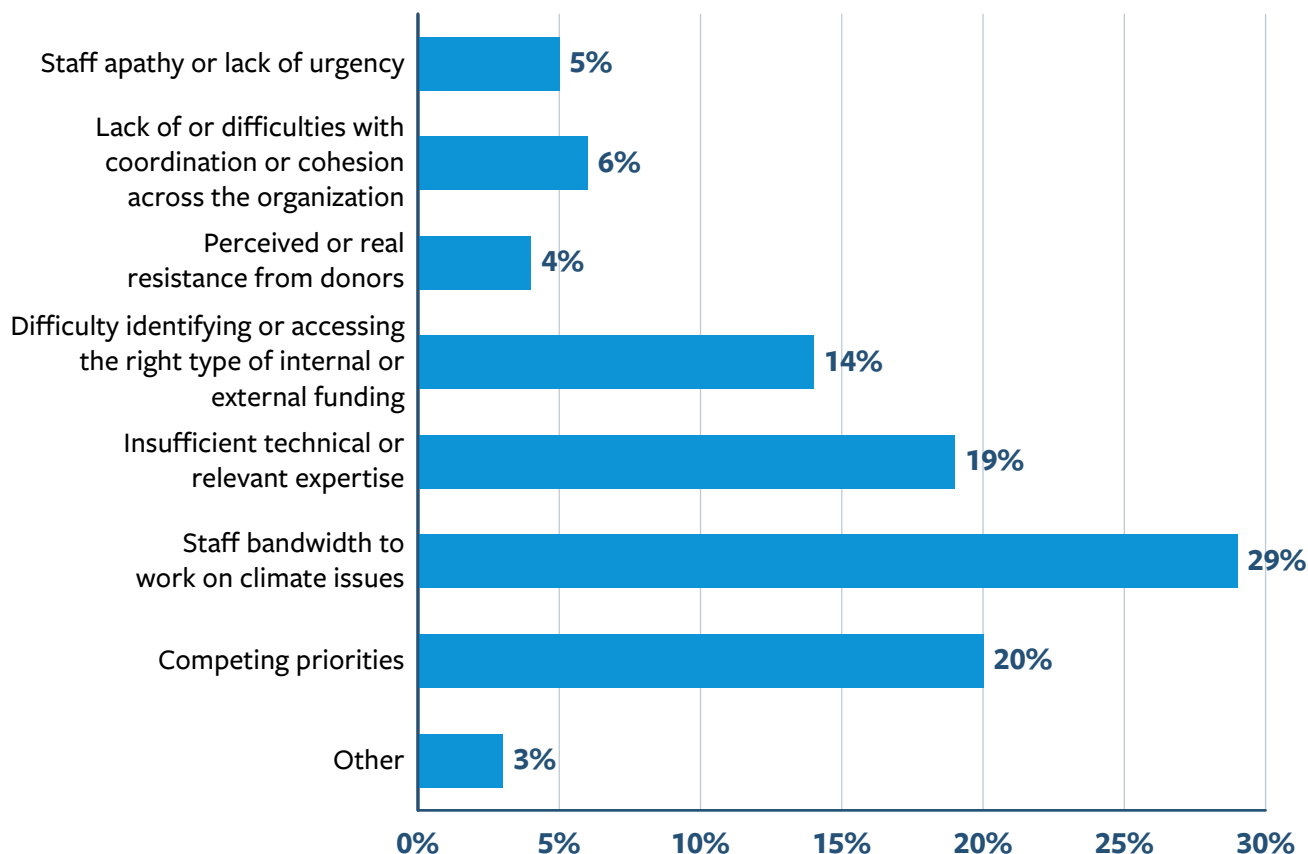
Members to continue to include climate on the agenda but also to continue providing learning opportunities for Members to continue building the relevant internal technical expertise. Other challenges cited by respondents included the need for a focus on growth and systems changes and difficulty connecting previous and ongoing disaster risk reduction work to newer climate initiatives.

2022 Member Achievements

Q “What are some collective or individual wins or significant impacts that your organization has experienced as a result of its participation in any of the 3 working groups associated with the Climate Compact (Climate Advocacy, Climate Mainstreaming, and Sustainability Working Groups)?”

Twenty-four organizations responded and 18 respondents did not. Below are three examples of

Challenges in Implementing the NGO Climate Compact



climate wins Members shared. They have been edited for clarity and brevity.

“ We were able to influence both the USAID Climate Strategy and PREPARE. In our case, we successfully had children and youth added into the USAID Climate Strategy. Collectively, we built relationships in the Conservative Climate Caucus and with other key members of Congress that will be important for our climate advocacy work ahead.

“ We have implemented solar power programs at our own facility and are also continuing to support solar programs with our partners. These include both medical and educational facilities such as clinics and schools.

“ We were featured in InterAction’s *Climate Digest* for winning the Keeling Curve Prize (which recognizes the most impactful climate projects worldwide).

Impacts of COVID-19

Q “How does COVID-19 continue impacting your organization’s thinking on climate-oriented advocacy, programs, and internal sustainability, if at all?”

Across the four commitment areas, COVID-19 has impacted signatories in both positive and negative ways, yet some key negative and positive impacts have lessened over the past year while others have remained constant. Signatories were able to check multiple boxes, and due to most organizations experiencing multiple impacts, there are more responses than respondents.

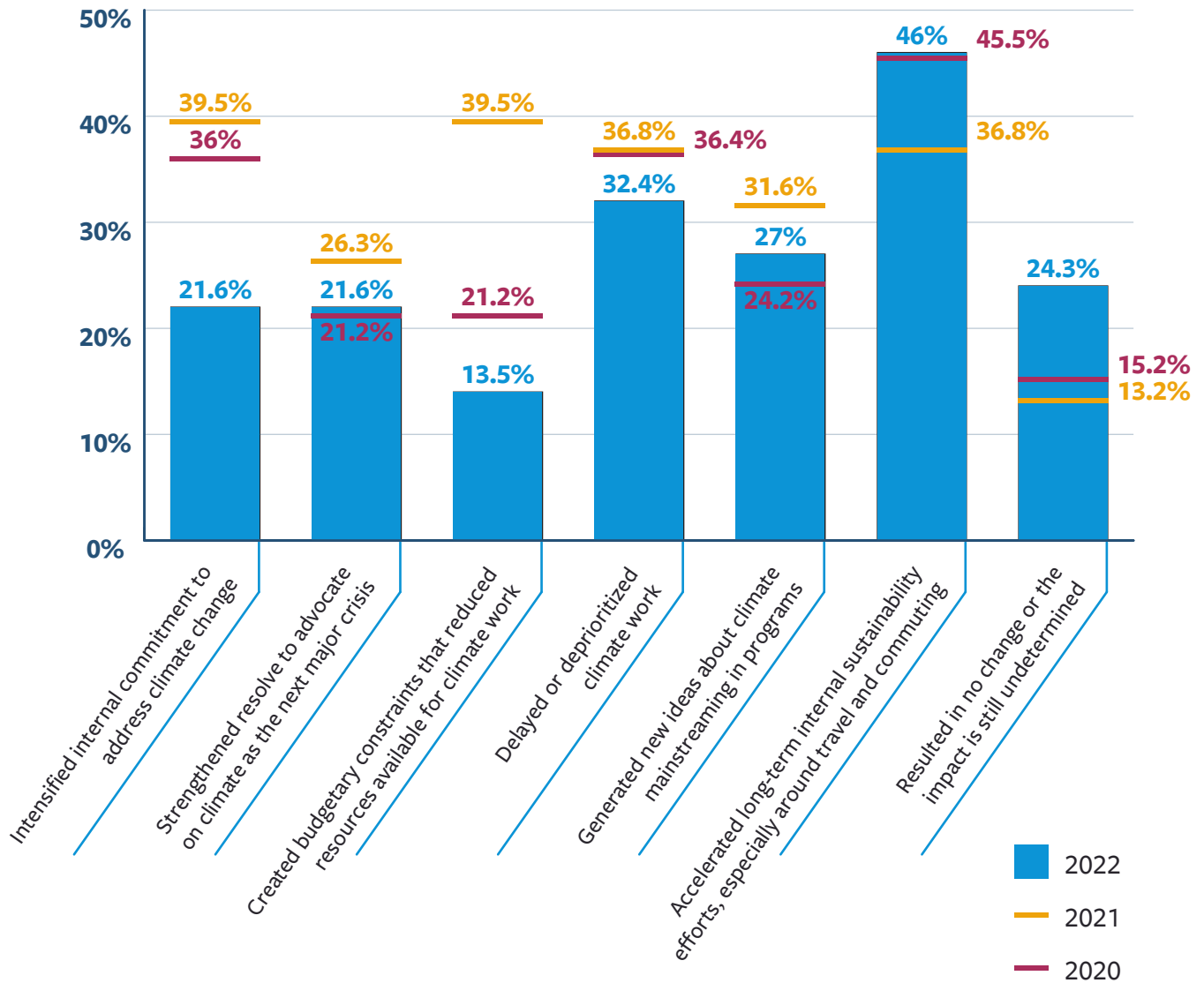
Over the past few years, positive impacts of COVID-19 have included “intensified internal commitments to address climate change,” “strengthened resolve to advocate on climate as the next major crisis,” the

“generation of new ideas about climate mainstreaming in programs,” and the “acceleration of long-term internal sustainability efforts.” While several of those positive impacts peaked in 2021, 2022 saw a sharp decline in an “intensified internal commitment to address climate change” from 39.5% to 21.6%, and a smaller decline in the “generation of new ideas about climate mainstreaming in programs” from 31.6% to 27%. From 2020 to 2022, “strengthened resolve to advocate on climate” has remained constant. “Accelerated long term sustainability efforts” has risen past its 2020 level of 45.5% and peaked at 46%.

Results show that the budget constraints due to COVID-19 have significantly lessened compared to 2020 and 2021. Compared to 39.5% of respondents in 2021, only 13.5% of respondents in 2022 cited that COVID-19 had created budgetary constraints that reduced available resources for climate work. This is less than the 21.2% of respondents who felt COVID-19 related budget impacts in 2020. In both 2020 and 2021, respondent’s consensus around “delayed or deprioritized climate work” remained constant at 36%. This year that consensus broke with a slight decline to 32.4%.

These changes could signal the end of deeply felt COVID-19 impacts and the normalization of what positive changes might stick around for the long haul. While the decrease in budgetary constraints have reduced, which opens the door to act on climate change, organizations no longer feel as committed to address climate change. However, the rise of long-term sustainability efforts—especially around travel and commuting—could signal that organizations have succeeded in addressing climate action organizationally but are struggling to implement changes to their mission and larger work. This underscores the need for InterAction to provide more educational and programmatic support to Members seeking to advance climate work during this time.

Impacts of COVID-19 on Coalition Progress on Climate Access



NGO CLIMATE COMPACT 2.0

As the first iteration of the Compact draws to a close, InterAction is exploring what the NGO Climate Compact 2.0 might look like as climate action grows more pressing. We consulted signatories on how to best adapt.

Q *“The Compact originally had four areas of commitments: Education and Advocacy, Programs, Internal Operations, and Learning. Looking ahead, are there any additional areas that should be included? Are any of these areas no longer relevant?”*

Twenty-three organizations responded and 19 organizations did not. The consensus from respondents was that all the categories are still highly relevant and need to be addressed with urgency. The ideas most frequently suggested were:

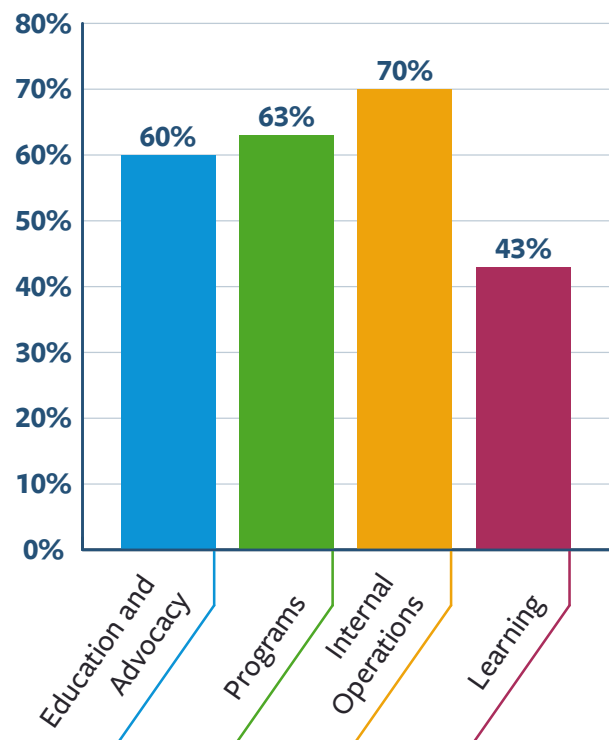
- Connecting and coordinating across commitment groups and solutions.
- Collaborating with other forums and organizations doing similar work.
- Increasing support for internal operations.

Originally, the Compact’s approach was to allow for a flexible, phased implementation process at the organizational level that considered local contexts and different operational realities. InterAction gauged if organizations would be open to the use of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time bound (SMART) goals within the commitments moving forward. Thirty-seven organizations responded and five did not. Overwhelmingly, 81% of respondents are interested in using SMART goals for their future commitments.

Those who responded “yes” were then asked which of the four areas of commitment should use SMART goals. One hundred percent of respondents who answered yes answered this second prompt.

Respondents were able to choose as many areas of commitment as they saw fit, resulting in more responses than respondents. “Internal Operations” was the most popular choice for the use of SMART goals in the future, receiving 70% of selections. Sixty-three percent, 60%, and 43% of respondents felt that Programs, Education and Advocacy, and Learning should use SMART goals, respectively. All four areas of commitment received moderate to high support for SMART goals in the future. This signals that switching to this model for all commitment areas for Climate Compact 2.0 would likely be supported by signatories.

Commitment Areas that Should Use SMART Goals in the Future



Coalition Progress in NGO Climate Compact Commitment Areas

InterAction asked signatories about their progress toward the four areas of commitment within the Compact:

1. Education and Advocacy
2. Climate Mainstreaming in Programs
3. Internal Environmental Sustainability
4. Learning

InterAction compared the stage of progress based on whether a respondent was a repeat respondent (e.g., completed the survey in 2020 or 2021 and 2022) or a first-time respondent (e.g., completed the survey for the first in 2022). Thirty-eight organizations responded to the prompt and five did not.

The analysis separates progress for these two cohorts, repeat respondents (n=25) and first-time respondents (n=13), to compare the two groups and adjust for any selection effects. The weighted average for coalition-level progress for all respondents in 2022, 2021, and 2022 can be found in tables 1-4 in the Appendix.

The stage of progress for each respondent (x-axis) in the following four graphs is measured by the weighted average of five response choices to a specific action

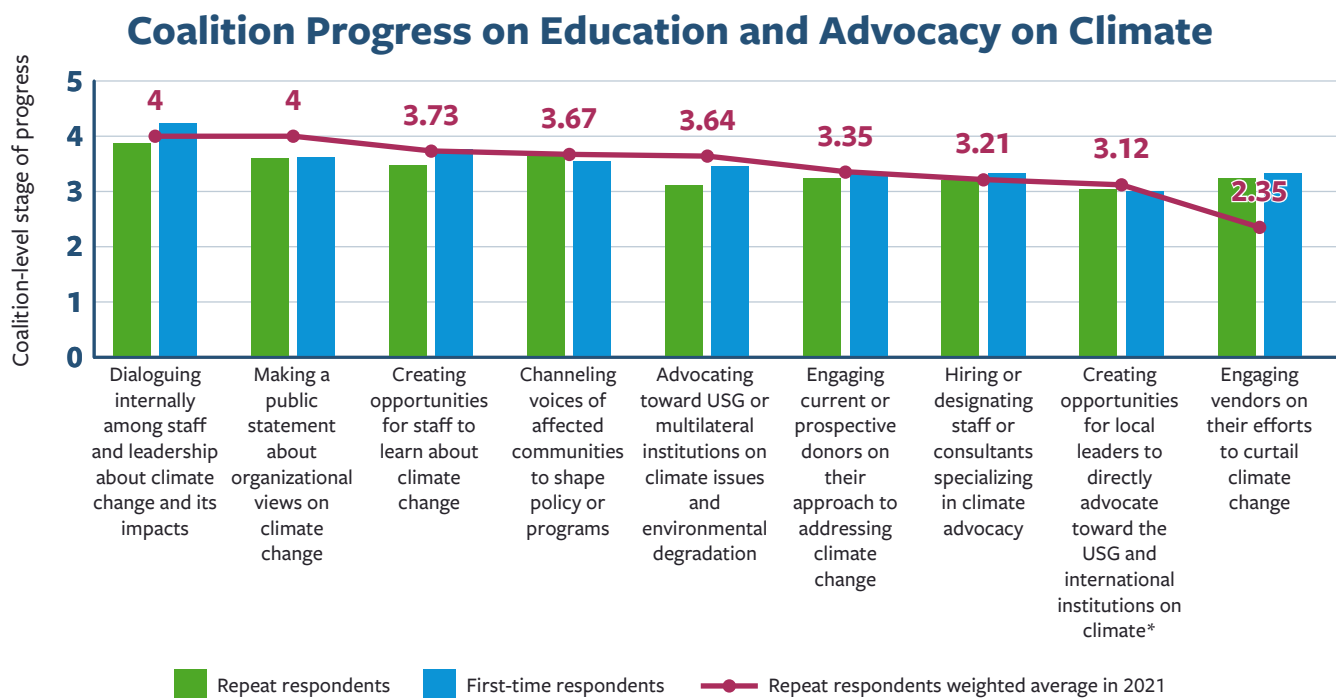
on a Likert scale. The response choices were: (1) Will not pursue; (2) Has not started exploring; (3) Is currently exploring; (4) Is doing now; (5) Has completed; (6) I don't know/Does not apply. The last answer choice was not included in the weighted average.

For repeat respondents, the baseline weighted averages from the 2021 survey are denoted with a line chart in each graph. The y-axis, "coalition-level stage of progress," shows how far along signatories are in implementing climate programs. A score of 0-1 correlates to "no action planned," 1-3 correlates to "exploratory phase," and 3-5 correlates to "implementation phase."

It is important to note that while this survey is identifying coalition progress against certain desired actions, this progress cannot necessarily be attributed to the Compact, as other changes (e.g., an Administration with climate as one of its top priorities and passage of the Inflation Reduction Act) may also have impacted the stage of progress on climate by signatories.

1) Education and Advocacy

Similar to last year's findings, signatories progressed furthest in the Education and Advocacy program.



For nearly all actions under this commitment, respondents noted being well into the implementation phase. Among repeat survey respondents, progress was made over the past year in engaging vendors on their efforts to curtail climate change. Among repeat and first-time respondents, the actions at the most advanced stage of progress are dialoguing internally among staff and leadership about climate change and its impacts and creating opportunities for staff to learn about climate change.

First-time respondents are generally at the same stage or slightly ahead of progress for all actions under Education and Advocacy compared to repeat respondents. Notably, repeat respondents have weighted averages lower than or equal to their averages in 2021, signifying a stagnation in progress from early adopters for Education and Advocacy. However, data across both groups indicate signatories are struggling with the same areas of action within Education and Advocacy, such as creating opportunities for local leaders to directly advocate toward the USG and international organizations on climate.

2) Climate Mainstreaming in Programs

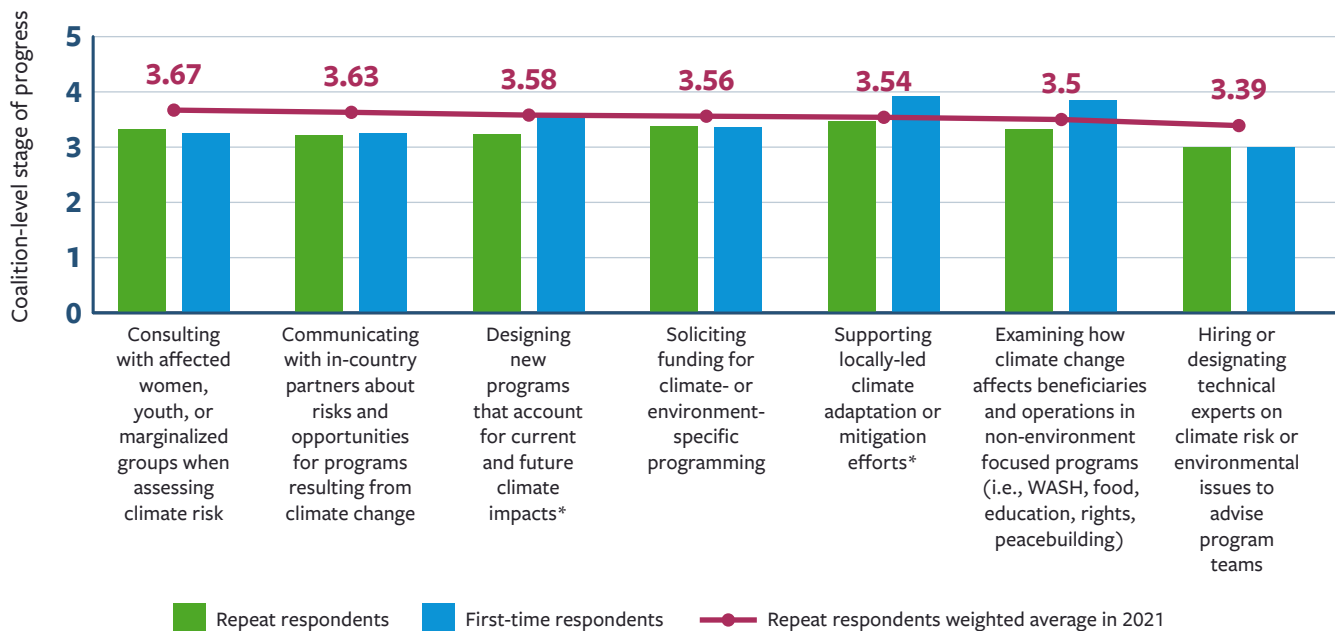
Compared to Advocacy and Education, signatories are generally at an earlier stage of progress for Climate

Mainstreaming in Programs, though, on average, they are in the early implementation phase for actions under this commitment area.

Among repeat survey respondents, there was a lack of progress in all actions compared to the weighted average in 2021. The greatest reduction was in hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams. This reduction could be attributed to the high amount of progress made the previous year when many experts were hired or designated. Like Education and Advocacy, the weighted averages of repeat respondents were lower than their averages in 2021. Again, this could signify a greater trend of general stagnation from early adopters.

First-time respondents are at an equal or further stage of progress for nearly all measures under Climate Mainstreaming in Programs compared to repeat respondents. They are equally behind in hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams. They are furthest along in progress in supporting locally led climate adaptation or mitigation efforts and examining how climate change affects beneficiaries and operations in non-environment focused programs.

Coalition Progress on Climate Mainstreaming in Programs



3) Internal Environmental Sustainability

Compared to all other working groups, signatories are at the earliest stage of progress for Internal Environmental Sustainability. Most signatories are in the exploratory phase for actions in this commitment area, rather than in the implementation phase.

Compared to the prior commitment areas, first-time and repeat survey respondents have weighted averages that are closer in value, signifying lower cohort-dependent effects on progress for Internal Environmental Sustainability. The largest differences in stages of progress between first-time and repeat respondents remain in communicating with the Board of Directors about fiduciary aspects of climate action and conducting a baseline study of the organization's carbon footprint.

Signatories are entering the implementation process by developing an organization-wide policy, plan, set of principles, or strategy on climate; creating an internal, volunteer-based team to focus on environmental sustainability; reducing emissions and waste at headquarters, country or field offices, or supply chains; and identifying main categories of greenhouse gas emissions and waste at headquarters, country, or field offices, or in the supply chain.

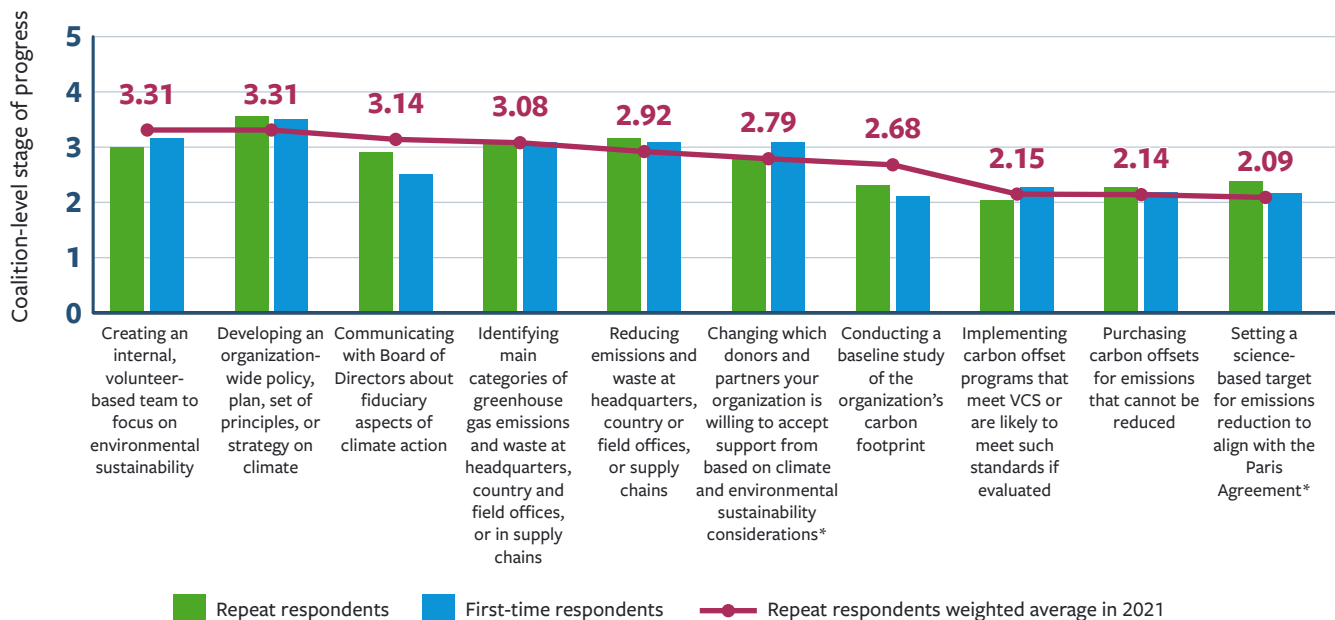
Signatories are generally in an earlier stage of exploration on actions aimed at influencing stakeholders and outside partners and offsetting carbon emissions; communicating with the Board of Directors about fiduciary aspects of climate action; changing which donors and partners their organization is willing to accept support from based on climate and environmental sustainability considerations; implementing carbon offset programs that meet verified carbon standards (VCS) or are likely to meet such standards if evaluated; purchasing carbon offsets for emissions that cannot be reduced; and setting a science-based target for emissions reduction to align with the Paris Agreement.

The weighted average of repeat respondents is once again lower than the weighted average from repeat respondents from 2021. Although Internal Environmental Sustainability is least far along in progress and has lower cohort-dependent impacts than the other program areas, it is also supporting the general trend of stagnation.

4) Learning

For measures under the Learning commitment area, signatories are in the late exploratory phase or early implementation phase. This is the only area where repeat respondents are further along than first-time

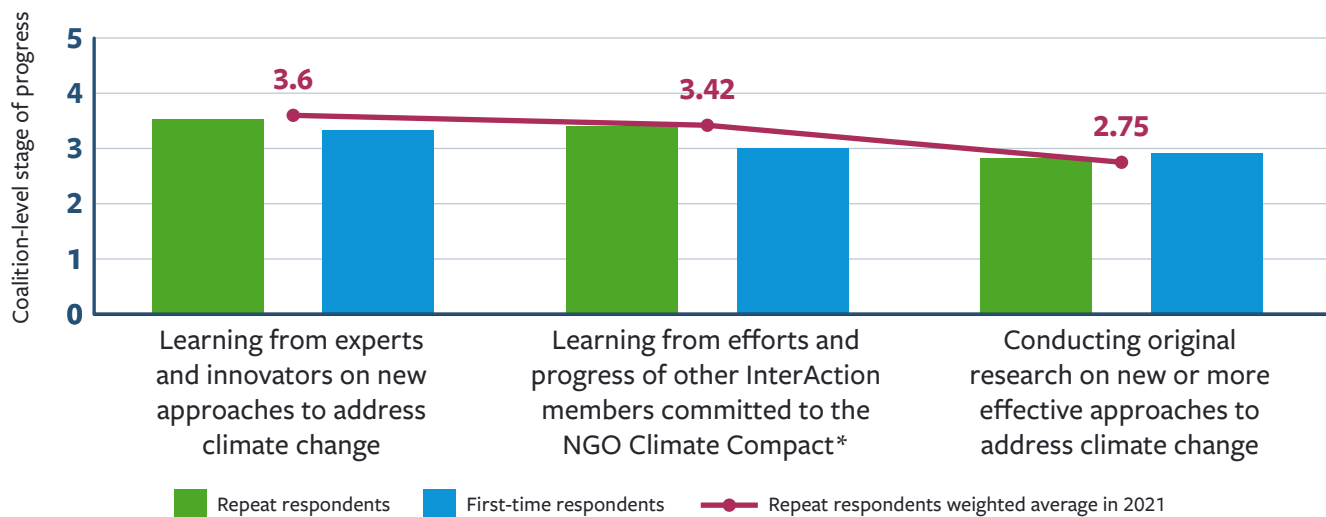
Coalition Progress on Internal Environmental Sustainability



respondents. Like the other commitment areas, repeat respondents have a lower weighted average compared to repeat respondents from 2021. Signatories have remained in the early implementation phase in learning from experts and innovators on new approaches to address climate change and learning

from efforts and progress of other InterAction Members committed to the Compact. Respondents have stayed in the late exploratory phase in conducting original research on new or more effective approaches to address climate change.

Coalition Progress on Learning on Climate



CONCLUSION

Stagnation of Progress

This year's survey has continued InterAction's measurement of progress over time, providing deeper insights about the pace and areas of progress compared to the 2021 report. In comparing the progress of signatories who are repeat respondents, organizations have not made consistent progress over the past year on measures under each commitment area. As InterAction and its signatories have moved further away from the launch and initial excitement of the Compact, it is possible that momentum has stalled. As we move into the development of the second iteration of the NGO Climate Compact, we will have the opportunity to explore some of the underlying reasons for this apparent stagnation and identify potential ways to re-invigorate our Members.

However, respondents overwhelmingly expressed interest in a Climate Compact 2.0 that used SMART goals for all action areas as well as potential future grant opportunities (if funding becomes available) to support climate mainstreaming and internal environmental sustainability. This gives InterAction an opportunity to discover what intervention is needed to keep early adopters engaged and excited about their climate work.

Challenges in Climate Action

Organizations cited several core challenges to acting on climate change. A large percentage of respondents noted their organizations' competing priorities, insufficient technical or relevant expertise, and lack of staff bandwidth to work on climate issues. The new metric, "no one in my organization participates" in the working group action areas, highlights the challenges organizations currently face. As COVID-19 has shifted from a pandemic to an endemic disease, resource constraints have lifted, with a nearly 50% reduction in respondents citing budgetary constraints as an issue.

However, this return to normal has seen a decrease in internal commitments to address climate change and to advocate on climate as the next major crisis.

Time is of the essence on climate progress and InterAction's community has work to do to ensure that passion and action match.

The Compact has wrapped up its first full cycle and we are ready to develop and jump into its second iteration with increased collaboration and urgency from all Members.

Acknowledgments

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The NGO Climate Compact builds upon the long-standing work of the broader climate movement and decades of experience by NGO leaders and partners in environmental policy and programming.

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This report builds upon the InterAction report on the baseline survey results from August 2020, "[At the Starting Blocks: NGO Climate Compact Signatories Report on Progress to Date from Baseline Member Survey](#)," as well as our second annual NGO Climate Compact Survey from September 2021, "[Picking up the Pace](#)."

Cover photo by Andi-Nursam Adiputra

APPENDIX: COALITION-LEVEL DATA ON PROGRESS IN NGO CLIMATE COMPACT COMMITMENT AREAS

The below tables provide the weighted averages for coalition-level progress in the Compact commitment areas for all respondents in 2022 (n=38), 2021 (n = 43), and 2020 (n = 36). Some actions were included for the first time in the 2021 survey; in such cases, “N/A” is listed under the 2020 weighted average.

TABLE 1 Coalition Progress on Education and Advocacy on Climate	2022 weighted average	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Dialoguing internally among staff and leadership about climate change and its impacts	4	3.87	3.56
Making a public statement about organizational views on climate change	3.61	3.68	3.41
Creating opportunities for staff to learn about climate change	3.58	3.50	3.43
Channeling voices of affected communities to shape policy or programs	3.61	3.49	3.55
Advocating toward U.S. government or multilateral institutions on climate issues and environmental degradation	3.24	3.32	2.70
Engaging current or prospective donors on their approach to addressing climate change	3.27	3.08	2.81
Hiring or designating staff or consultants specializing in climate advocacy	3.24	3.00	2.66
Creating opportunities for local leaders to directly advocate toward the U.S. government and international institutions on climate	3.03	2.86	N/A
Engaging vendors on their efforts to curtail climate change	2.51	2.31	2.39

TABLE 2 Coalition Progress on Climate Mainstreaming in Programs	2022 weighted average	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Designing new programs that account for current and future climate impacts	3.31	3.49	N/A
Communicating with in-country partners about risks and opportunities for programs resulting from climate change	3.22	3.46	3.21
Consulting with affected women, youth, or marginalized groups when assessing climate risk	3.33	3.44	3.27
Soliciting funding for climate- or environment-specific programming	3.37	3.37	3.56
Supporting locally led climate adaptation or mitigation efforts	3.61	3.36	N/A
Examining how climate change affects beneficiaries and operations in non-environment focused programs (i.e., WASH, food, education, rights, peacebuilding)	3.50	3.51	3.52
Hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams	3.00	3.15	2.79

TABLE 3 Coalition Progress on Internal Environmental Sustainability	2022 weighted average	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Creating an internal, volunteer-based team to focus on environmental sustainability	3.05	3.29	3.12
Developing an organization-wide policy, plan, set of principles, or strategy on climate	3.54	3.18	3.06
Reducing emissions and waste at headquarters, country or field offices, or supply chains	2.79	3.08	2.91
Communicating with Board of Directors about fiduciary aspects of climate action	3.11	2.91	2.87
Identifying main categories of greenhouse gas emissions and waste at headquarters, country, and field offices, or in supply chains	3.13	2.89	2.73

TABLE 3 Coalition Progress on Internal Environmental Sustainability	2022 weighted average	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Conducting a baseline study of the organization's carbon footprint (total greenhouse gas emissions)	2.92	2.81	2.45
Changing which donors and partners your organization is willing to accept support from based on climate and environmental sustainability considerations	2.24	2.56	N/A
Setting a science-based target for emissions reduction to align with the Paris Agreement	2.11	2.12	N/A
Implementing carbon offset programs that meet verified carbon standards (VCS) or are likely to meet such standards if evaluated	2.25	2.10	2.10
Purchasing carbon offsets for emissions that cannot be reduced	2.31	2.03	2.13

TABLE 4 Coalition Progress on Learning on Climate	2022 weighted average	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Learning from experts and innovators on new approaches to address climate change	3.46	3.47	3.31
Learning from efforts and progress of other InterAction Members committed to the NGO Climate Compact	3.27	3.21	N/A
Conducting original research on new or more effective approaches to address climate change	2.86	2.75	2.86