

Executive Summary: Scope 3 Emissions Report

While UNOPS already accounts for direct and indirect emissions from its operations in its annual Environmental Inventory and pledged to reduce them by 45%, it is equally important to address emissions across the value chain (also called Scope 3 emissions). UNOPS released this first public, comprehensive Scope 3 GHG report in 2025, following its ambitious pledge, made during the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), to account for its extended value chain emissions and drive meaningful improvements.

Value chain emissions are extremely broad and diverse. To define clear and transparent boundaries for Scope 3 reporting, prioritize significant impacts, and enable targeted mitigation efforts, UNOPS developed a [materiality methodology](#). It looked at emission magnitude and beyond, to include factors such as influenceability, stakeholder priorities, sustainability co-benefits, opportunities for innovation, risk mitigation, and alignment with best practice. The materiality assessment followed in this report is the result of a careful adaptation of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol guidance to the operational constraints of UNOPS activities in the development sector. Applying this materiality lens allows UNOPS to focus its efforts where it matters most: to align climate action with broader sustainability goals, and to strengthen communication with stakeholders.

Value chain emissions reflect the majority of an organisation's climate footprint, accounting for over 70%¹. Overall, the results of this inventory show that UNOPS' value chain emissions account for the majority of its global footprint. This is a clear reflection of the multitude of suppliers, contractors, implementing partners, freight-forwarders and beneficiaries around the globe. UNOPS projects supply chain is responsible for roughly 2% of its emissions. The use of the products and assets delivered by UNOPS is the single largest emission category, reflecting the high share of infrastructure projects in UNOPS portfolio.

The remaining emissions are scattered across other categories; they are very small in terms of quantity but score high on other materiality considerations. Importantly, emissions from UNOPS financial investments fall short of the 5% quantitative materiality threshold; however, they are undoubtedly another important category in UNOPS' Scope 3 overview.

This report not only represents UNOPS' tangible response to its climate pledge, but it also establishes a solid foundation for the organisation's future Scope 3 work. There is a clear path ahead to improving both the quality of the UNOPS' reported data and its ability to act upon it.

To address value chain emissions, organisations have numerous levers available, including deeply engaging suppliers, redesigning products for efficiency and circularity, optimizing logistics, promoting sustainable customer use, and innovating business models, focusing on collaboration, data, and setting clear expectations to shift the entire value chain towards lower carbon footprints. As part of UNOPS climate strategy, focussing on UNOPS' hotspots identified in the report, UNOPS will deepen its supplier engagement to incentivise and build capacity in its relevant sectors, establish procurement guidance for hotspot categories, including reducing travel distance for goods, identify opportunities for circularity, and collaborate with its partners to share relevant information on options and opportunities to deliver lower carbon solutions.

¹ [Source](#)