

# Revised Plan 2011



## Community preparedness and risk reduction

### Executive summary

In line with Strategy 2020, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through its community preparedness and risk reduction initiatives will contribute towards:

- Strategic Aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and prepare for and recover from disasters and crises
- Strategic Aim 2: Enable healthy and safer living
- Strategic Aim 3: Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence

In an attempt to reduce the impact of disasters and complex emergencies, the IFRC will contribute towards building community safety and resilience by strengthening its programme support in primarily three areas: 1) *community-based disaster preparedness*; 2) *disaster risk reduction including climate change adaptation*; and 3) *food security and livelihood*. The outcomes and related activities in this plan have been agreed upon and are consistent with the Zones and National Societies commitments.

The IFRC's Framework for Community Safety and Resilience (the Framework) represents a common Red Cross Red Crescent understanding of disaster risk reduction, and provides a foundation upon which all activities contributing to the building of safe and resilient communities can be created, developed and sustained. Beyond guiding integrated multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction, it also provides an opportunity to advocate on behalf of vulnerable communities and National Societies. The simple but strong message of the Framework will be delivered by the Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction department as per agreement with the Zones and National Societies, in all its external and internal dialogues, advocating for consideration and support of community safety and resilience.

The focus of climate change adaptation as part of the wider disaster risk reduction effort of the IFRC would be on developing methodologies at community level to integrate climate risk into existing community action to promote safety and resilience in order to address the humanitarian consequences of climate change. In addition the IFRC would continue to strengthen its partnerships to allow communities to have better access to the relevant climate information. During the course of the year, the IFRC will continue to mobilize its membership to become actively engaged in national and regional level dialogue and climate change adaptation planning.

Work to strengthen livelihoods in order to improve food security and resilience is at the heart of the IFRC's work in disaster risk reduction in Africa. National Societies will expand their community-based food security programming that addresses the immediate and underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. In order to increase impact, the food security programmes will be further integrated with other sectors, (e.g. HIV, health and care, water and sanitation) by encouraging common geographic and beneficiary targeting. The overall objective will be to develop programmes that effectively address longer-term needs in livelihoods and food security.

In line with the core membership services, the funds directed towards the global-level will be mobilized to provide National Societies with support and guidance channeled through the zones in regard to

coordination; tools, guidance and position papers; advocacy, profiling and knowledge sharing; quality assurance; representation and external relations; governance support and implementation of statutory decisions; and needs-based technical support.

The community preparedness and risk reduction budget for 2011 stands at 3.5 million for 2011. ([Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan](#)).

## Context

The increasing frequency of disasters, coupled with a number of emerging threats and trends, are leaving more people vulnerable to the effects of disasters and inflicting greater damage, loss, and dislocation on vulnerable people worldwide. According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), in 2009, 351 natural disasters killed 10,551 people, and 142 million people were affected.

Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of small and medium scale disasters, especially storms, floods and epidemics, which National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies respond to under their mandate as auxiliaries to the public authorities. The first half of 2009 saw a continuation of this trend, with the Red Cross Red Crescent responding to a high number of smaller-scale, local level disasters.

The situation of vulnerable people is now aggravated by evolving, complex threats such as: climate change, new patterns of marginalisation, demographic growth and a rising proportion of older people, unplanned urbanisation, high levels of violence, involuntary migration, emerging infectious disease and the growing burden of non-communicable disease, environmental degradation, and insecurity of access to food, water, and natural resources.

The humanitarian sector is further challenged by of the recent financial crisis and the increasing involvement of military and political actors in humanitarian response. The complexity of the humanitarian environment has led to demands for improved coordination. At the same time, improved forecasting and technology for early warning call for improvements in our capacity for early action and for information management in disasters. There are also calls for greater innovation and more inclusive ways of delivering assistance, with a strong focus on accountability, good partnership and good donorship. All of the above reinforces the need for a strong IFRC, flexible enough to adapt to a fast changing world.

In this context, the IFRC needs to have the capacity to mitigate, prepare for and respond to disasters worldwide and across all levels – household, community, national, regional and international. The IFRC is committed to achieving its Global Agenda Goal 1: “to reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters” and to the three strategic aims of Strategy 2020:

- 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and prepare for and recover from disasters and crises
- 2: Enable healthy and safer living
- 3: Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence

The IFRC, and the National Societies as auxiliary to the public authorities, are among the leading providers of assistance globally and are responsible to provide relief to people affected by disaster. Depending on their capacity to respond and the scale of the disaster, National Societies can call upon international assistance through the IFRC’s Secretariat. The Federation Secretariat is committed to ensuring the institutional capacity in preparedness for response, response and recovery to provide that support in a timely manner. The Secretariat has a constitutional obligation “to organise, coordinate, and direct international relief action” as a core service to its members and calls upon its membership to provide additional human resources, technical, material and financial assistance to sister societies in affected countries.

With the increase in the number of small and medium scale disasters, the work of National Societies to assist communities to mitigate, prepare for or respond to disasters at a local level is an important added value of our Red Cross Red Crescent network. The effects of food insecurity can also be mitigated at

local level through long-term community projects supported by National Societies. The Geneva Secretariat will provide support to National Societies in building more resilient communities, mitigation and risk reduction, and food security and livelihoods. Geneva office will maintain a strong strategic oversight in all areas of disaster management.

## Priorities and current work with partners

The IFRC secretariat and National Societies work together with communities to 1) mitigate disaster risk in order to build safe and resilient communities; 2) contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and 3) provide specific development solutions for vulnerable populations. To this end, we are committed to the implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes including climate change adaptation through programmes such as raising public awareness and education, preparing and supporting local populations and communities in their everyday efforts to reduce risks and prepare their own local response mechanisms to address disaster emergency situations (i.e., community-based disaster preparedness, community response teams, annual simulations and drills, contingency planning, local stock piling, public awareness and education, community monitoring systems, etc.).

The IFRC's secretariat is a member of the ISDR participating in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Inter-Agency Group (IAG), as well as being represented in the Management Oversight Board of ISDR. It is one of the two only permanent observers in the Consultative Group of the World Bank's GFDRR. The secretariat of the IFRC is an active member of the IASC, chairing the IASC task force on climate change. It is working with global partners such as Zurich Financial Services, Nestle and the UN.

The IFRC is in dialogue with the European Union for a multi-year partnership to strengthen community safety and resilience in African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries by both supporting the creation of an enabling environment for, and scaling-up community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

Increased number of partnerships and long-term support to high-risk communities in food security programmes will ensure sustainability within the communities. Technical expertise is being sought from external institutions such as government, academia; relevant UN institutions, such as the World Food Programme and the Food and Agricultural Organization, African Development Bank; local and international non-governmental organizations; and others. National programmes have been developed in close collaboration with these institutions. Their expertise will also be consulted for mid-term reviews and where necessary in the redesigning of implementation plans, etc.

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Strategic Aim 1: Save lives, protect livelihoods, and prepare for and recover from disasters and crises
Strategic Aim 2: Enable healthy and safer living
Strategic Aim 3: Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence

The community preparedness and risk reduction budget for 2011 stands at 3.5 m.

The plan's overarching goal is to reduce the impact of hazards on the most vulnerable by increasing their capacity to cope with vulnerability and mitigating the consequences of disasters, while promoting respect for diversity and human dignity. The objectives and activities below are in line with Strategy 2020 and will contribute towards achieving above-mentioned Strategic Aims 1 and 2.

The Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction Department in consultation and close cooperation with other departments, zones, National Societies and external partners, will continue to provide assistance in three mutually reinforcing areas: a) *community-based disaster preparedness*; b) *disaster risk reduction including climate change adaptation*; and c) *food security and livelihoods*.

## **Programme Component 1: Community-based disaster preparedness**

**Outcome:** Increased community awareness and understanding of local disaster risk, emerging climate change consequences, and better community preparedness to respond and protect lives and livelihoods.

### **Activities:**

- Harmonize and update concepts, frameworks, strategies, positions, standards, guidelines and tools for community-based preparedness and risk reduction.
- Ensure that VCA and programming are integrated with other sectors such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, health, HIV and AIDS, pandemic preparedness, watsan, shelter and organizational development.
- In line with Strategy 2020, and in conjunction with other technical departments, ensure that tools and guidance documents in disaster risk reduction include appropriate emphasis on gender and urbanisation.
- Network and coordinate with NGOs, UN and other international organizations to ensure the IFRC is kept informed of new or different approaches and issues related to community-based preparedness programming.
- In close collaboration with other departments and services, provide technical support to Zones on community-based early warning, promotion of community-based disaster preparedness, community-based contingency planning and public awareness and education on risk and community preparedness.
- Provide tools and guidance for community-based disaster preparedness systems to ensure sustainable disaster response capacity in high risk communities.
- Compile community preparedness practice and lessons learnt, provide analysis, policy recommendations and implementation guidelines /advice, and make learning available, including in e-learning form to ensure that management, zones and National Society have access to this knowledge.
- Organize inter-zonal community preparedness programming and training thereby enhancing the capacities.
- Work closely with other departments to improve surge capacity functions and human resources.

## **Programme Component 2: Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation**

**Outcome:** Zones and National Societies are provided with sufficient coordination, global representation, guidance, tools and technical support to enable community-level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation to be effectively improved and increased.

### **Activities:**

- Promote, coordinate and monitor activities in relation to the *Framework for Community Safety and Resilience* for Federation-wide implementation of integrated cross-sectoral community-based programming to improve and increase disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Support establishment and development of operational modalities of a Red Cross Red Crescent Community Safety and Resilience Trust Fund.
- Support peer-to-peer experience exchange and capacity reinforcement to scale-up disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programming.
- Ensure gender perspectives in coordination with principles and values, youth and volunteers are incorporated into global disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programming to improve impacts.
- Active participation in internal and external fora to advocate and support the importance of community-level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Continued participation in the UNFCCC processes, particularly COP17 in South Africa.
- Consistent engagement with key donors and Partner National Societies to coordinate, incorporate and prioritize community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations in their policies and resourcing.

- Support the development and dissemination of guidelines, tools and necessary materials to improve community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Provide technical support to Zones and National Societies in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction (incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation) plans and programmes to increase community safety and resilience as per request. .
- Advocate on behalf of and support promotion of global and regional programmes to strengthen community safety and resilience such as the Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI) and the Global Alliance for DRR.
- Development of enhanced methodologies and applications to monitor and evaluate community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Advocate for and support implementation of integrated community-based programmes including climate change, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and food security/livelihoods.
- Explore potential and innovative partnership opportunities.
- Lead preparations of the World Disasters Report and inclusion of relevant disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, food security and livelihoods issues as appropriate and support use of WDR for advocacy purposes within and beyond the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- Twelve months launch and applied research will be conducted, based on WDR 2010 report, in order to map out the Red Cross and Red Crescent current urban interventions, clarify common position, strategy and programming. This will be done in collaboration with the WDR-board organizations, governments, civil society and other key partners.

### **Programme Component 3: Food security and livelihoods**

**Outcome:** National Societies expand integrated community-based food security and/or livelihoods programming and have the necessary structures and capacities to contribute to the reduction of chronic and transitory food insecurity.

#### **Activities:**

- Provide specific and/or tailor-made technical support to National Societies and zones in the areas of food security/livelihoods and nutrition.
- Provide guidance and support to National Societies to conduct reviews with a view to measuring performance against planned food security activities.
- Provide global guidance on integrating long-term food security programme with other programmes such as health, water and sanitation, organizational development and humanitarian values by developing technical notes that would support the addition of specific interventions to existing programming.
- Advise and support zones, regions and National Societies to engage in monitoring food security situations and to become more active in national (government and inter-agency) food security programme planning and coordination mechanism.
- Update and/or develop Global Food Security/nutrition or livelihoods Frameworks, tools and guidance. As required, support National Societies to develop educational materials nutrition education to increase the capacity (knowledge) of staff and volunteers.
- Promote and coordinate the development, maintenance, updating and use of the food security database of experts.
- Promote best practices and support implementation of appropriately adapted food security programmes across the IFRC.
- Liaise with and support zones, regions and National Society's governance to follow-up their commitments to engage in long-term food security (Ouagadougou, Algiers, Johannesburg as well as technical support to PACT process).
- Strengthen the IFRC's food security, livelihood and nutrition networks and participate in global policy forums, meetings, workshops, seminars etc.

## **b) Potential risks and challenges**

The main risks and challenges are:

A challenge to the implementation of the plan is the structural changes within the organization that are ongoing. These may influence working modalities and capacities to implement the plan. In order to mitigate this, a constant dialogue with Senior Management is being maintained.

And finally, the onset of one or more major disasters may divert resource and capacities to support those responses, and as such may divert resources from some of the planned activities. The Disaster Management team is trying to ensure adequate surge capacity mechanisms and resources to offset this likely scenario.

## **Role of the secretariat**

### **a) Technical programme support**

In line with the core membership services, the community preparedness and risk reduction department will provide National Societies and zones with support in regard to development of tools and guidance, coordination; tools, guidance and position papers; advocacy, profiling and knowledge sharing; quality control; representation and external relations; governance support and implementation of statutory decisions; and needs based technical support.

### **b) Partnership development and coordination**

The IFRC is continually working towards increasing coordination with external partners at all levels (governments, UN system and associated bodies, private sector, academia and civil society) especially in the areas of information and technical expertise related to disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and food security. It works in partnership with many different governmental and non-governmental organizations for coordination, fundraising and representation purposes.<sup>1</sup>

### **c) Representation and advocacy**

The IFRC's Framework for Community Safety and Resilience represents a common Red Cross Red Crescent understanding of disaster risk reduction, and provides a foundation upon which all activities contributing to the building of safe and resilient communities can be created, developed and sustained. Beyond guiding integrated multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction, it also provides an opportunity to advocate on behalf of vulnerable communities and National Societies. The simple but strong message of the Framework will be delivered by Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction in all its external and internal dialogues, advocating for consideration and support of community safety and resilience.

Many countries are updating their food and nutrition security policies. National Societies for whom food and nutrition security is a priority will be encouraged to engage with national level dialogue on policies and programming. This will be accomplished through periodic technical notes, workshops and making up-to-date technical materials available to National Societies.

WDR contributes to increasing the level of professionalism in the sector, both operationally as well as in relation to policy, through its combination of facts and statistics, analysis and exploration of trends. It dispels myths about disasters and defines and advocates for good practice. It aims to bridge the gap between research and practice in disaster risk reduction. As the flagship publication of the IFRC, it is very often used by National Societies and Zonal offices to position themselves with their governments and the diplomatic community, thus increasing the opportunity to engage in humanitarian diplomacy on issues of concern. The future edition of the WDR will continue to provide this service.

### **d) Other areas**

Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction will work in collaboration with other departments to provide global guidance on an integrated approach to programming with areas such as health, water and sanitation, shelter, development and humanitarian values.

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<sup>1</sup> For details please refer to 'Partnership development and coordination' section (on page 8).

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

The rationale for integrating a gender perspective in the activities of the IFRC lies in the Red Cross and Red Crescent mandate – to prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination. The Federation's focus is on *gender*, rather than women. Gender equality ensures that there is no sex-based discrimination in the allocation of resources or benefits or in access to services. The goal of the Federation is to ensure that all Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes are non-discriminatory and benefit men and women equally, according to their needs and with the equal participation of men and women at all levels within the National Societies and the Federation's Secretariat.

Recognizing that often in disasters it is women, children and minority groups that are most severely affected, all programme guidance will ensure that gender is incorporated as part of the analysis of the disaster impact, the assessment and the subsequent programming. The individual plans of each sector elaborate on the specific gender-related actions in their respective areas. The IFRC will continue to ensure compliance with agreed standards and guidelines on gender and will prioritise consideration of gender and diversity as key components in any new guidelines and best practice frameworks.

## Quality, accountability and learning

The Secretariat is committed to compliance with the Federation-wide performance and accountability framework and to deliver on its accountability principles, which include explicit standard setting, open monitoring and reporting, transparent information sharing, meaningful beneficiary participation, effective and efficient use of resources, and systems for learning and responding to concerns and complaints. These will all be used to improve programme quality, performance and learning. The IFRC will use various tools such as systematic evaluation, peer review and objective lesson learning exercises to ensure the quality of Secretariat services according to globally accepted DM standards and to assess the impact of those activities on the lives of disaster affected populations.

The Federation-wide reporting system is another element which will aim to reliably monitor and report on key data from National Societies to show the performance and improve the accountability of the IFRC. Specific activities will also be subject to their own review and structured feedback mechanisms, or to independent reviews or evaluations when required. National Societies are highlighting the lessons learned from their work in reports and incorporating learning into their planning, training and capacity building.

Our actions are guided at all times by our Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. The IFRC also works according to our “Code of Conduct”, agreed with eight major disaster response agencies in 1994 and used to monitor behavior and standards in relief delivery. The IFRC also adheres to the disaster relief “Sphere Standards”, which also identifies minimum standards in disaster assistance in the five key sectors of water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and health services. The IFRC is supporting the revision of the “Sphere Standards” to develop improved mechanisms to ensure good practice and accountability in the delivery of assistance. The “Code of Conduct” and the “Sphere Standards” hosted programme will be managed by the Disaster Services Department. The Secretariat also promotes the use of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to cover the costs of monitoring and evaluating DREF funded relief operations and to measure beneficiary satisfaction.

## How we work

The IFRC's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet its mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity."

### **Global Agenda goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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