International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020

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Saving lives, changing minds.

International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network. Together with our 191 member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, we reach 97 million people annually through long-term services and development programmes as well as 85 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes. We act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. We do so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

Guided by Strategy 2020 – our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade – we are committed to 'saving lives and changing minds'.

Our strength lies in our volunteer network, our community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. We work to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development and in response to disasters. We persuade decision-makers to act at all times in the interests of vulnerable people.

The result: we enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.

Cover photo: *Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers in Cox's Bazar disseminate warning information amid floods caused by heavy rains and storm surges after Tropical Cyclone Roanu. (Photo: BDRCS)*

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Foreword

*By **Elhadj As Sy**, Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*

This document presents a new Framework for Climate Action for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Its relevance could not have been illustrated more starkly than in recent months in 2017, when the world has been confronted with a sequence of dramatic climate-related disasters. We had the devastating Asian monsoon which left a large part of Bangladesh underwater and killed hundreds of people, and the rapid-fire hurricanes that battered the Caribbean and the southern US. Both featured the very intense rainfall now linked to climate change. Meanwhile the scientists who studied it said that the blistering summer heatwave in Europe was no less than ten times more likely as a result of climate change. But our concern is not just about these headline-grabbing disasters. We are conscious of rising uncertainty, and increasing extremes which continue to affect people's lives around the world.

More than 90 per cent of natural hazards are now regarded as climate-related, and climate change is a key driver of risk, bringing with it ever-more intense weather and growing uncertainty. Our role in trying to reduce that risk and address the needs of the most vulnerable people will be still more pivotal over the next few years, while the demand for Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian services is likely to surge.

This framework document sets out how we intend to keep pace with the changing operational, scientific and policy landscapes on climate, defining a stronger role for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement both through programmes in the field and advocacy in the corridors of power.

Over the past decade National Societies have taken great strides in integrating climate risks in their operations and in their engagement with governments and other partners. For its part, the secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre have provided guidance and training through publications and workshops, as well as, for example, the *Minimum standards for local climate-smart disaster risk reduction*, first developed in 2012, and the *Plan of Action for Climate Change 2013–2016*.

Now, under the Paris Agreement, world leaders have committed to keep global warming under control *and* to jointly address the rising risks, with special attention paid to the most vulnerable. This includes a pledge by developed countries to mobilize $US 100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020. This provides opportunities to ensure that resources reach the people who need them most: vulnerable communities in the front line of extreme weather and climate change.

Further, community *resilience* is both our own institutional priority and squarely at the intersection of global frameworks and commitments on humanitarian action, development and the environment. All this comes with an increasing commitment to localization and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

The work of National Societies in their own communities and the global discourse are aligning more closely than ever before. In the field of climate, as much as any other, the Red Cross Red Crescent is the embodiment of the concept of 'local to global'. This framework document identifies how the Movement can make the most of its comparative advantage, mobilizing the power of humanity in the face of rising risks.

1. Objectives and how to use this framework

The Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020 was developed on the basis an online consultation process, in which over 100 respondents from 47 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ("National Societies") and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ("the IFRC") offices shared their priorities, challenges and vision for addressing climate change in the years ahead. It aims to strengthen our collective contribution, within the parameters of our own mandate and principles, to tackling climate change towards 2020, when the Paris Agreement fully enters into force.

The objectives of this framework are to:

- *Articulate* the role or "identity" of the IFRC and National Societies in the climate change agenda, both nationally and internationally, and highlight our comparative advantages
- *Identify* key policy asks and priorities to advance the Red Cross Red Crescent global position and influence in addressing climate variability and change
- *Guide* National Societies and the IFRC on how to integrate climate within their programmes and operations, including response activities, and strengthen the auxiliary role through engagement in policy, plans and finance mechanisms relevant to climate change and its impacts
- *Provide* a direction and format for National Societies and IFRC offices to develop their own plans and strategies related to climate resilience, taking into account local needs and contexts.

This framework was designed to support both IFRC and National Society planning processes and dialogue with partners and governments. Opportunities to make use of this framework include:

- Developing climate-related plans and strategies
- Integrating climate-smart activities into planning processes at various levels and within various departments or sectors
- Determining advocacy and awareness raising priorities and positions

- Drafting project proposals for funding opportunities that relate to climate change
- Undertaking research or working with research partners
- Preparing for meetings and discussions with government representatives, meteorological agencies and partners interested in working together on climate related issues
- Enhancing engagement in national fora/committees, local consortia or global events and conferences.

For further support on how to use this framework and its annex "Good Climate Practices and Toolkits", please write to climatecentre@climatecentre.org.

Drought in Kenya's Ewaso Ngiro river basin

2. Introduction: Why scale up our climate action?

A new climate reality

The science is clear. As summarized every few years by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: climate change is already happening and is increasing at an alarming pace. These changes will continue for several decades, even if there are dramatic cuts in global emissions of greenhouse gases. Between 1996 and 2015:

Extreme weather killed **528 000** peopleworldwide

92% of natural hazards are climate related

The total damage cost **3.08** trillion US

Climate change amplifies existing risks and creates new risks for natural and human systems. As always, these risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for poorer people living in areas of low development: the very people the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement seeks to support. For instance, vulnerable people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods are facing increasing risk of declining yields, failing crops, pests and diseases. In the same vein, displaced persons (including refugees and internally displaced persons) often live in disaster-prone and climate-exposed areas. Moreover, the rapid rate of urbanization, including growing informal settlements around urban areas, is ramping up exposure and vulnerability to climate risks in cities the world over.

These risks emerge not only from climate-related *hazards* (such as extreme events like storms, droughts and floods and slow-onset events like sea-level rise and glacial retreat), but from a combination with exposure (people and assets in harm's way) and vulnerability (susceptibility to harm) of human and natural systems. The role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in reducing exposure and vulnerability, supporting adaptation efforts, and mobilizing climate action will be critical to facing the humanitarian and development challenges ahead.

The challenges: now and ahead

Climate change is affecting almost every aspect of our work, including health, disaster response, shelter, livelihoods, relief, and disaster risk reduction. While many impacts are already being felt, and we know several types of extreme events will continue to increase in the future, climate change also increases the uncertainties we face. A country may be hit by a once-in-a-century flood this year and by a heatwave or drought the next. And it may face more complex disasters, compounded by poverty, disease or conflict.

Looking ahead, we must be prepared to face the following challenges:

a. Climate Change is increasing the **intensity, frequency and uncertainty of weather and climate-related hazards, shocks and stresses** (which also include epidemic and pandemic risks)

b. Climate change is **exacerbating existing vulnerability** to a range of hazards (for example, by the impact of recurrent shocks on people's assets, or through ecosystem degradation) especially when combined with other drivers of risk such as urbanization, conflict and migration.

c. The most vulnerable people have **limited capacity to cope with and adapt** to the changing weather and climate patterns and risk being left behind in national efforts to tackle climate resilience and sustainable development. For example, it is estimated that agricultural productivity may experience a decline of 9 to 21 per cent due to the effects of climate change and vulnerable people will have limited options to adapt their practices or access alternative technologies and services.[1]

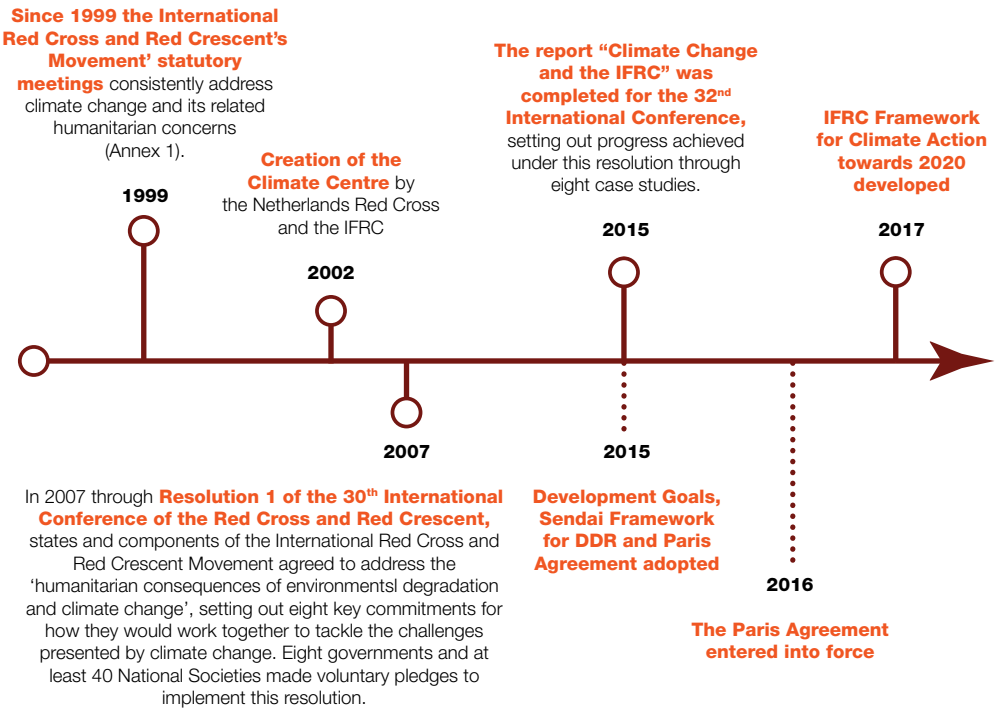
d. **Mitigation measures** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are critical to prevent global warming from getting out of hand, but will not prevent continued climate change and rising risks for many decades to come.

The IFRC will need to scale up its preparedness work for events ranging from local emergencies to mega-disasters, from predictable events to unexpected disasters. More holistically, we will also need to dedicate more concentrated efforts to reducing human vulnerability to longer-term consequences of climate change that will threaten development, poverty reduction and food-security gains.

[1] *Cline*, William R., 2007, Global Warming and Agriculture: Impact Estimates by Country (Washington: Center for Global Development and Peterson Institute for International Economics), IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, Chapter 7 Food Security and Food Production Systems. A Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Where are we now?

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has recognized the humanitarian consequences of climate change since 1999:



Beyond the formal commitments made during the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the IFRC has also made important commitments to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. We have committed to reduce disaster and climate-related risks in an integrated and coherent manner through these interrelated intergovernmental processes, including by leveraging the auxiliary role of National Societies to their governments and through aligning the IFRC operational plans with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, much of our community preparedness and risk reduction work has been supporting communities to deal with rising risks as a result of climate change, even if we have not been explicitly recognizing all activities as "climate change efforts". Indeed, our approach to resilience inherently includes building resilience in a changing climate, as set out in Part 3. An overview of key achievements is set out in the publication *Climate Change and the IFRC* developed for the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Key achievements in our climate efforts to date include:

- National Societies engaging with their governments in the development of National Adaptation Plans to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable
- Developing and implementing forecast-based financing systems to link climate and meteorological data with early warning early action
- Numerous local climate-smart risk reduction interventions integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management at the community level
- Supporting the development of the global policy dialogue on climate change to bring greater focus to disaster risk reduction and resilience (for example, through the Cancun Adaptation Framework).

3. Our vision and ambition for climate action

Our vision is for communities across the world to be more resilient and better prepared for climate change impacts now and in the future. Drawing on Strategy 2020, the IFRC and National Societies seek to reduce the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people around the world through interventions at numerous levels.

The IFRC's Strategy 2020 highlights that climate change is "set to alter profoundly the way we live, and how we seek and share further economic growth". Addressing climate change and variability is a key component of the IFRC's approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction, as set out in "Strategic Aim 2: Enable healthy and safe living" of Strategy 2020. Several of our tools and initiatives demonstrate how climate change is considered within our approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction.

> **Strategy 2020 excerpt[2]**
>
> *A major driver of disaster risk is extreme weather events and environmental degradation, both of which have been linked to climate change. Recognizing that our understanding of the extent and impact of climate change will continue to evolve, we contribute to measures for adaptation – actions to reduce the vulnerability of communities to modified environments – and mitigation – environment-friendly behaviours that also reduce the extent of global warming which causes climate change. Our climate change adaptation work is through scaling up disaster risk reduction measures and strengthening traditional methods of coping with disasters that are relevant in particular environmental contexts. We also contribute to mitigating the progression of climate change through advocacy and social mobilization to promote sustainable community development that optimizes communities' carbon footprints.*

As being resilient includes being flexible and responsive in the face of changing risks, and climate change is increasingly influencing risk patterns everywhere, climate change considerations are an integral element of the IFRC Framework for Community Resilience.[3] The Roadmap to Community Resilience[4] sets out in more detail how climate change must be considered in supporting community resilience, especially in understanding risks and connecting with stakeholders (such as meteorological departments or research institutions), and sustainably managing natural resources.

[2] IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) (2010) *Strategy 2020. pp16.* Geneva, Switzerland.

[3] IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) (2015) *Framework for Community Resilience. pp.3.* Geneva, Switzerland.

[4] IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) (2016) *Roadmap for Community Resilience.*

The One Billion Coalition for Resilience seeks to build resilience to changing and rising risks through mobilizing coalitions, alliances and networks from the local to the global level. The IFRC's Minimum Standards Commitments on Gender and Diversity guides humanitarian work to reduce rising risks of those who face gender- and diversity-based inequality, discrimination and violence, which will become increasingly important in a changing climate. IFRC's global community health programme, Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), is an approach to primary prevention of numerous health issues, including climate-related health risks, resulting from unexpected extremes in climate and disasters.

The IFRC Plan and Budget 2016-2020 sets out in more detail how we contribute to **Sustainable Development Goal 13: 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'** through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as set out below.

Climate-change related outcomes from the IFRC Plan and Budget 2016–2020:

With regard to climate risks, National Societies will be supported in their auxiliary role to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including through engaging in the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. Continuous efforts will be made to stimulate a multi-stakeholder engagement in the Climate Action Agenda through the One Billion Coalition, and to work in partnership to contribute to climate risk screening in development planning that considers potential impacts to the most vulnerable. The implementation of Forecast-based Financing, namely the release of humanitarian funding based on forecast information to address event-specific pre-identified risks, will be scaled up to reduce risks, enhance preparedness and response, and make disaster risk management overall more effective

Outputs include:

- Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters including behaviour-change aligned health interventions
- Community emergency response teams are trained and equipped
- Community contingency plans and standard operating procedures are developed or updated consistent with the national and local plans and procedures
- Community early warning capacities linked with local or national meteorological systems are established or improved
- Community awareness and public education campaigns are conducted using harmonized messages on risk reduction
- School safety activities including awareness-raising are conducted in target communities
- Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices
- Greening strategies are implemented
- Community awareness raising programmes on climate change and environmental responsibility are conducted in target communities.

4. Our comparative advantages in climate action

The causes of climate change have the world's attention and many organizations campaign on the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions. Few, however, are dealing with the impact of climate change on vulnerable people to the same extent and scale as the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. As we seek to tackle the humanitarian challenges posed by climate change, we will highlight and strengthen our comparative advantages, in particular **focusing on climate change adaptation**.

Our comparative advantages:

- We have a **mandate, given to us by governments at the International Conference, to raise awareness of the serious humanitarian concerns related to climate change.** This means advocating on behalf of those most at risk from the effects of climate change, those who are the most vulnerable and marginalized.
- Through our humanitarian action on the ground, we are continually **responding to current and predicted humanitarian consequences of climate change** (both extreme events and slow-onset events) and are actively **supporting better information, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.**
- As the largest humanitarian organization in the world, we are helping to **bring coherence between the humanitarian, development and climate change agendas** and are promoting and implementing integrated risk management approaches at the national and local level, such as forecast-based financing.
- Through our 191 National Societies, 170,000 branches and 17 million volunteers, we have a **global outreach and local presence**, which allows us to understand and respond to local contexts and priorities, and bring this perspective to national and international processes. This makes us **a clear partner of choice in climate initiatives seeking to make a difference "on the ground", or with the "last mile".**
- National Societies, through **their auxiliary role**, have a rare and important ability to act as an **interlocutor between communities and governments**, supporting their governments to address both the root causes and humanitarian consequences of climate change through action that is community-based and tailored to local needs.

Red Cross furrow irrigation projects, near Malindi, Kenya

5. Our climate policy asks

In the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the IFRC has been drawing attention to the most vulnerable people that may be bypassed within the global focus on vulnerable *countries*, and help bring focus to the need to prioritize climate change adaptation and link it with disaster risk reduction efforts. Over this time, we have seen positive progress within the global discourse on climate change.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, was the first global legally binding agreement to include a global goal on adaptation and an ambition to build climate resilience.[5] It also recognizes the "need to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events." The dialogue and process stemming from these articles has brought a greater focus to climate resilience, thereby bringing the global policy agenda on climate change further towards the ongoing focus of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The balanced approach that the Paris Agreement presents between adaptation and mitigation, and its emphasis on climate resilience, will provide new opportunities for us as a key actor for supporting the implementation of adaptation commitments at the national and local level to reach the most vulnerable people. While we will continue to support the scaling up of climate change mitigation commitments and low carbon sustainable development, **the strengthened focus on climate change adaptation will align with the comparative advantages of the IFRC**, including our presence at the local level and our disaster risk reduction, management and response work.

As we move to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, we must continue to work with governments to deliver our key messages on climate change.

[5] See article 7 of the Paris Agreement.

In our engagements with governments and partners we will seek to call on states and key stakeholders to:

a) **Reach the most vulnerable people**, ensuring that within the global and national decisions policies and plans, the needs of the most vulnerable people to climate change are addressed through community engagement, consultation, and gender disaggregated assessments

b) **Increase finance for adaptation and resilience**, in order to strike a balance with finance committed for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions

c) **Ensure the role of local actors in climate action is enabled**, including through promoting decentralised, equitable, transparent and accountable disbursement of climate finance

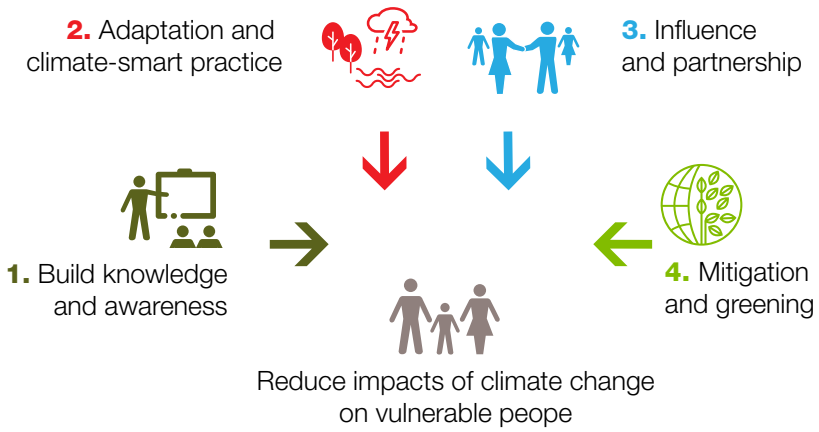
d) **Implement integrated risk management approaches** to build resilience, through aligning disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and eco-system management efforts in policies, plans, laws and investment decisions. This requires addressing risk in the short term (weather forecasts), the medium (seasonal forecasts) and long term (climate change), and making more concerted efforts to anticipate disasters and invest in preparedness and early action, for instance through forecast-based financing.

These four overarching themes will form the basis of our advocacy messaging, though specific messages will be tailored according to specific processes and audiences, as set out in Part 6.3.

6. Areas of work

Bearing in mind the challenges we expect to face in a changing climate, this section sets out our priority areas of work moving forward towards 2020, and how we can utilize our comparative advantages, disseminate our policy asks, and achieve greater results in our ambition to **reduce the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people around the world.**

Towards 2020, we will focus on the following four areas of work:



6.1 Build internal and community knowledge and awareness

In order to tackle rising risks, we must understand them. This applies to both the IFRC network and the communities we seek to serve. In order to equip vulnerable groups and communities with the right knowledge and resources, we must first enhance our own capacity to understand and anticipate existing and future risks. This knowledge and awareness is the foundation for each of the other areas of work set out in this framework.

Towards 2020 greater focus will be dedicated to enhancing knowledge and understanding on climate-smart community programming and relevant policy frameworks among National Societies and IFRC offices. Institutionally, we must all make greater efforts to increase understanding and generate commitment to scaling up our climate action, including by engaging and mobilizing established networks, such as the gender and diversity network and regional youth networks.

Particular emphasis will be placed on capacity building efforts that enable a better understanding of how scientific information can be used and communicated to benefit the most vulnerable. This will include facilitating knowledge exchange between the global level, via the IFRC, and the country and local level, through National Societies, to promote two-way communication channels and dialogue with communities on needs, available information and services. The IFRC and its Climate Centre will also seek to raise public awareness through media and communications about changing risks and the potential role of climate change when specific disasters occur.[6]

The IFRC, through support of the Climate Centre, have developed a range of tools and processes to support innovative dialogue and capacity building in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction processes. Some tools are stand-alone tools (the Climate Training Kit and its User Guide and the e-course on climate change) and others require more advanced facilitation skills, including some of the serious games. The IFRC, through the Climate Centre, is available to provide technical support in running sessions, where necessary.

National Societies that have been exposed to trainings and games about various aspects of climate change can enhance practice not only within their own organizations, but can play an important facilitation role with external partners and the communities they work with. By serving as a link between communities and decision-makers, National Societies can not only build knowledge and understanding within communities, but play a role in bringing community needs and realities into programming, decision-making and policy-making, as set out in the following areas of work. The annexed template includes examples of activities to plan to increase knowledge, awareness and dialogue, both amongst Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers, and communities.

What success looks like:

National Societies, IFRC regional delegations and the secretariat are well equipped to use climate change-related knowledge in their work, and are conducting awareness raising activities together with partners. National Societies have contributed to men, women and children in rural and urban communities gaining increased knowledge on changing risks and measures that can be taken to address them.

[6] Drawing in particular on the Climate Centre's work on attribution.

6.2 Support climate change adaptation and adopt climate-smart practice

Most areas of our work can be strengthened through making it climate-smart. Our strategy to address rising risks as a result of climate change is to integrate climate risk management into existing Red Cross and Red Crescent activities and programmes, rather than to develop stand-alone climate change activities. This ensures sustainability and attention to climate at all levels and all sectors.

i. Make our programmes and operations climate-risk informed

Mainstreaming climate change may not require the introduction of new or different activities, but it will require dedicated attention and processes to ensure our activities and plans are climate-risk informed. Climate change is not a wholly new or separate risk, but one additional factor on top of many others that determine the risks in a particular country or community. The kinds of specific assets and activities needed to respond to or prepare for shocks and stresses (such as emergency stocks, shelters, community-based early-warning systems, communication tools or networks of volunteers) may remain largely the same.

In that sense, **climate change is a planning and resources issue**. It affects priorities and plans, and may prompt a National Society to increase its efforts, refocus its activities in anticipation of more or different types of climate and weather-related hazards, or engage in new and different partnerships. The mainstreaming method proposed in "A guide to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation"[7] therefore applies early in the planning of projects, programmes and interventions.

To make programmes climate-smart, a general starting point is to find out what the current and projected climate risks are to a specific location, country or region, and then to consider how each activity could best anticipate changes in climate and weather-related hazards. Acknowledging that most National Societies do not have the necessary in-house climate science expertise, this process will usually require reaching out to meteorological agencies, academic institutions or other local partners with scientific expertise. The IFRC stands ready to support National Societies in engaging with these kinds of partners and establishing ongoing relationships to bring greater understanding of climate projections into our work.[8]

[7] IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) (2013) *A guide to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.*

[8] See e.g see this Q and A for further information on how to engage with meteorological agencies http://climatecentre.org/downloads/files/Stakeholders%20Analysis.pdf.

The IFRC will also increasingly integrate risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities within emergency appeals, to promote emergency response and recovery that is forward-looking and climate smart, and promote climate-smart activities within its longer-term programming. The table in the annex **Good Practices and Toolkits** sets out examples of how to mainstream climate into different areas of focus through specific actions.

ii. Use climate forecasts to enable early action and build resilience

In the past decade, a global focus on "Early Warning Early Action" has spurred investments in weather and climate services, communication protocols, and capacity for early action. As a result, lives have been saved during hazardous events, particularly in cyclone-prone regions.
In 2008 the IFRC defined Early Warning Early Action as "routinely taking action before a disaster or health emergency happens, making full use of scientific information on all time scales." This is notable because it refers to responding systematically to a *forecast*, not just to a disaster that has already happened.

In the coming years, the IFRC will focus on two related components of the Early Warning Early Action agenda: Forecast-based Financing and connecting the "last mile" in early warning systems, from producers of early warnings (such as meteorological agencies) to local communities. These priority areas will serve as a clear connection between our climate, disaster risk reduction, response and recovery work.

Develop Forecast-based Financing mechanisms

Since 2007, IFRC and National Societies have been developing and working on the concept of Forecast-based Financing (FbF). FbF is a mechanism that enables access to funding for early action and preparedness for response based on a specific weather forecast and risk analysis. A key element of FbF is that the allocation of resources is agreed in advance. The relevant forecast thresholds that trigger the early actions, as well as roles and responsibilities of all involved in implementing the actions, are defined in early action protocols.

FbF is considered a core part of our work on climate change, as it uses climate science and weather information to ensure that actions are taken in advance of the impact of climate and weather-related hazards. Early actions enabled by FbF represent an important piece of how we are supporting climate change adaptation.

Pilots of the FbF mechanism have already tackled climate hazards in more than 15 countries, and IFRC has committed to doubling its support to FbF at the country level through the Grand Bargain and World Humanitarian Summit processes. In 2018 a new FbF window to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) will be established. The FbF

window will aim to ensure funding for pre-defined early actions that reduce the impact of an extreme event before the disaster strikes, based on a forecast. The window will enable National Societies to operationalize an anticipatory mechanism that reduces risks and enhances the effectiveness of preparedness and response actions.

In addition to operationalizing FbF within our own systems, the IFRC will also promote the inclusion of FbF mechanisms in national policies, laws and social protection mechanisms for more sustained and systematic interventions that reach the most vulnerable populations.

Connect the "last mile" of Early Warning Systems

When it comes to the development of multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (and climate services more generally), the clear strength of the IFRC and National Societies is the ability to reach vulnerable communities, known as "the last mile" in early warning systems. This may be through volunteers physically travelling to remote communities, or it could be through SMS or google alert systems – all in agreement with respective authorities.Through these different mechanisms, the National Societies' volunteer network can perform outreach, conveying trust, information and opportunities to vulnerable populations.

In the coming years, the IFRC and National Societies will seek to work with partners to connect the "last mile" to national and international systems. This will involve ensuring higher level decision-making and planning take into account local needs and the perspectives of the most vulnerable, including women and men, boys and girls. It will also require strengthening partnerships with meteorological agencies and hydropower dam operators, increasing our work on data preparedness and community based early warning systems.

What success looks like:

National Society and IFRC interventions in different sectors are climate-risk informed and implemented with an understanding of different scenarios that may occur as a result of climate change. Communities are better prepared for forecast weather events and new extremes, with preventative measures and resources for implementation ahead of impact. Fewer people are displaced because of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

6.3 Influence and partner to increase our impact

For more than two decades, the IFRC and National Societies have been taking part in the annual UN climate change conferences to highlight the need of communities facing challenges brought by climate change and many National Societies have also engaged with national planning on climate change. Given the increasing political attention and financial support for climate action globally and in many countries, the time is ripe for us to step up. Strengthening our visibility and position as a stakeholder, an expert, and a partner of choice in reducing risks and supporting adaptation to climate change, particularly at the community level, will require increased efforts towards 2020.

As recognized auxiliaries to their governments, National Societies are a key actor supporting public authorities in addressing climate risks and often have seats in major decision-making fora at the national level. At the international level, the IFRC is in a strong position to contribute to the development of global and regional policies and frameworks, and to strengthen the position of the Movement with multilateral organizations and financial institutions.

A key component of our policy efforts will be directed at the evolving climate finance architecture, to ensure climate finance benefits the most vulnerable, and to strengthen the position of National Societies as implementing partners and recipients of climate finance. This includes direct engagement with global donors and multilateral funding agencies, but particularly also requires collaboration with national and international entities that are accredited for particular funds (such as the Green Climate Fund), providing technical advice to National Societies on the development of proposals, and serving as implementing partners for specific projects. In addition, the IFRC will continue to pursue accreditation opportunities for particular funds, where feasible and aligned with our objectives.

i. Successfully influence policies, plans and investments

By highlighting our comparative advantages (as outlined in Part 4 above) and pushing our key policy asks (Part 5 above), we will engage in policy and financing fora at the global, regional and national levels.

Global level

At the global level, the IFRC and its Climate Centre will strengthen their engagement and advocacy in global climate change and other processes, to deliver our key policy asks and increase our global visibility in the climate action agenda. In particular, this will include engaging further in the:

- UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COPs) and meetings related to the Paris Agreement, including the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) work on Loss and Damage, the Adaptation Committee, the Global Task Force on Displacement, and the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Green Climate Fund and other climate financing streams
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Blueprint for Action on El Niño and Climate
- Anticipate Absorb Reshape (A2R) initiative
- Platform for disaster displacement
- Global Framework for Climate Services
- United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC decisions and resolutions
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which has been tasked with the mandate of making all SDGs gender-responsive, including SDG 13 on climate change.

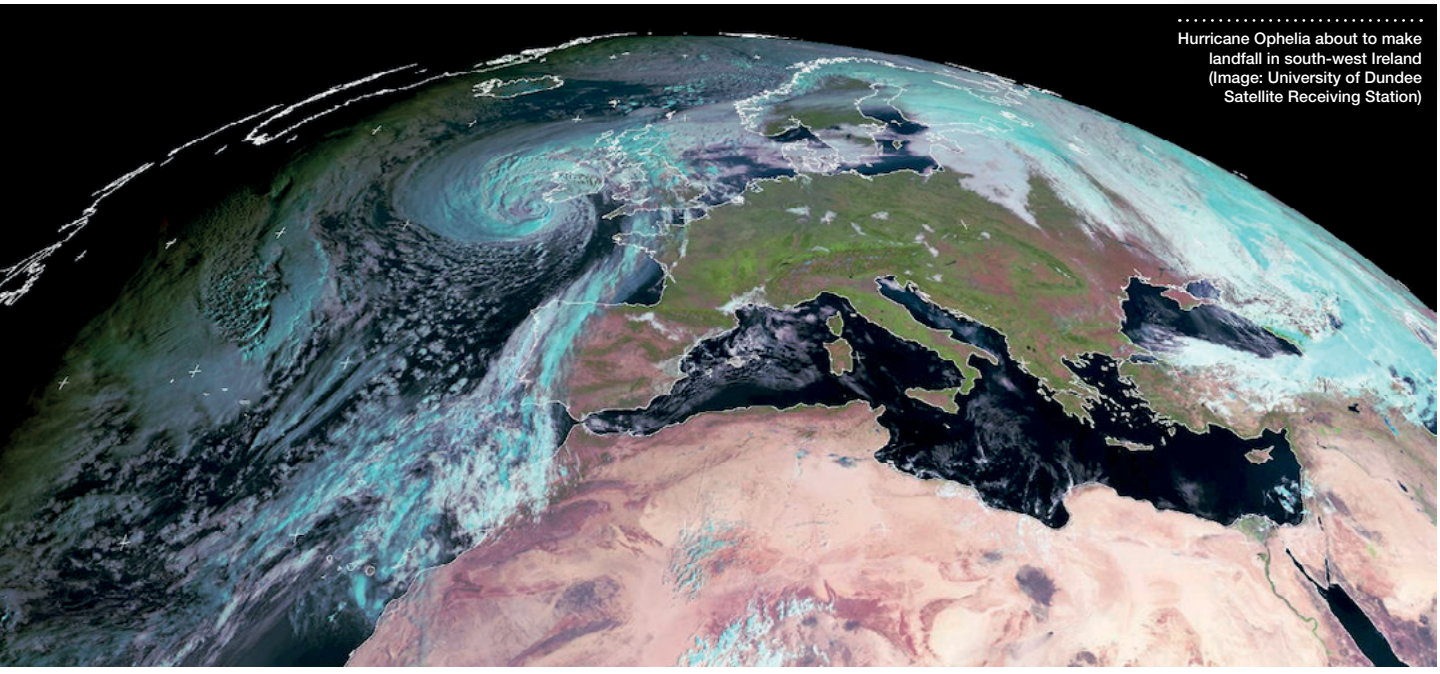
Regional level

Recognizing the increasing power and influence of regional organizations and decision-making bodies, the IFRC, its Climate Centre and relevant National Societies will contribute to the development and implementation of regional frameworks and processes. For example, technical expertise and implementation support has been, and will continue to be offered to the:

- ASEAN Action Plan for Joint Response to Climate Change at the National and Regional Level and ASEAN Agreement for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- Pacific's Framework for Resilient Development and SPREP initiatives
- African Union, African Economic Community of West African States and African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology
- Andean Community (CAN), Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management
- Coordination Centre for Disaster Preparedness in Central America (CEPREDENAC), Central American Policy for Integrated Disaster Risk Management
- Regional disaster risk reduction platforms under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Regional Consultative Processes (RCPS) on migration related issues.

Aside from formal regional exchanges, there a number of bilateral or multilateral exchanges and initiatives being taken by national governments in which IFRC and National Societies can offer their support and engagement. This includes, for instance, sharing climate data, setting up warning systems, or undertaking joint training.



Hurricane Ophelia about to make landfall in south-west Ireland (Image: University of Dundee Satellite Receiving Station)

Country level

The coming two years – before the Paris Agreement takes effect in 2020 – will be a crucial time for National Societies to support their governments in shaping national and local laws, policies and plans to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement. It will also provide opportunities for influencing investment decisions and large-scale projects developed pursuant to climate finance commitments under the Paris Agreement and other global frameworks.

At the country-level our efforts will focus on:

- Supporting governments to scale up their ambitions (both on adaptation and mitigation) set out in their **Nationally Determined Contributions** under the Paris Agreement, as well as their commitments made under other global processes (for example, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction)

- Engaging in the development of **National Adaptation Plans** to reflect the needs and interests of the most vulnerable communities and our key policy asks. A number of National Societies have already been involved in the NAP processes and are available to share advice and lessons learned (see case studies here)

- Provision of advice in the development of **laws and regulations related to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation,** as part of ongoing disaster law advocacy efforts

- Working with national agencies and donors **to establish forecast-based financing mechanisms and arrangements within national laws, plans and mechanisms**

- Promoting integration of climate risk management and disaster risk reduction into other relevant sectors that aim to support the most vulnerable, such as social protection policies and programmes, to sustainably address the root causes of vulnerability

- At the sub-national and local level, engaging in the development of **local climate change adaptation and disaster risk management plans**

- Influencing climate change adaptation investments, project and programme **proposals and implementation plans** to ensure they are beneficial and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable

- Undertaking **public advocacy campaigns and awareness raising activities with communities**, schools and other civil society organizations on the need to scale up climate action.

Under the IFRC's Plan and Budget 2016–2020 our policy and advocacy related efforts will fall under **Strategies for Implementation 3. Influence others as leading strategic partners in humanitarian action and community resilience**. The annex on Good Practices and Toolkits contains examples of activities that can further our position and influence.

ii. Broaden our partnerships

Scaling up our work on climate change requires the use of new information and expertise. While we have considerable experience in health, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, we will need to draw on expertise and scientific knowledge of partners in order to both make our work climate smart and strengthen our visibility and credibility as a strong climate actor. In particular, this will require us to engage and collaborate with providers of climate such as hydrometeorological agencies.

Additionally, in vulnerable areas the underlying risk factors like land degradation, poor ecosystem management, illegal logging and mining, urbanization as well as chronic poverty, food insecurity or substandard agricultural practices, are also negatively impacting lives and livelihoods. Climate change usually aggravates these existing risks (rather than being the actual cause of these risks) and coalitions with other experts on these type of issues, in combination with dialogues with local authorities and municipalities, will strengthen our work. Particular attention will also be directed towards how we can work more concretely with the private sector to better understand and reduce risk and scale up climate action.

At the country level, many networks, platforms and multi-stakeholder dialogues relating to climate change exist, providing useful opportunities to broker new partnerships and ways of working. For instance, processes related to National Adaptation Plans, development or disaster risk reduction planning often require multi stakeholder engagement.

Towards 2020, the IFRC will seek to foster and strengthen new and different types of partnerships to increase our impact. The annex contains further examples of new partnerships to pursue.

What success looks like:

National Societies and the IFRC successfully influence climate-related laws, policies, plans and investments to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable, and are increasingly recognized and consulted in this role. New partnerships are established with organizations and networks that strengthen are work and visibility in addressing climate change.

6.4 Support climate change mitigation and minimize adverse impacts on the environment

Without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the climate will continue to change in the coming decades, to levels that will be beyond the coping capacity of many human and natural systems. While helping the most vulnerable to deal with weather and climate risks is clearly closest to our mandate, as a humanitarian movement, we also have a role in avoiding such future risks. The IFRC therefore has a strong interest in the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As set out in Strategy 2020 and the IFRC Operational Plan 2016–2020, the IFRC seeks to promote sustainable community development that minimizes the carbon footprints of communities and its own IFRC activities. In supporting mitigation efforts and minimizing the adverse impacts of our work on the environment, we will seek to both promote climate-friendly behaviour and activities, and green our own way of working.

i. Promote climate-friendly behaviour and identify activities that bring co-benefits to mitigation and adaptation

The sustained and trusted presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in communities and their day-to-day interaction with community members is a formidable asset in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development. The IFRC and its members have a long track record in public awareness and education, crucial components in promoting environmentally sustainable living. By working with experts in this area, spreading environmental values and best practices through education programmes, awareness campaigns and information distribution, the IFRC can contribute to climate-friendly behaviour and actions such as tree planting and care, solid waste management, use of renewable energy, food waste minimization and recycling. Many National Societies are also directly contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for example through tree-planting, restoring mangroves and protecting ecosystems that also serve as a natural disaster buffers.

While the IFRC prioritizes adaptation interventions to reduce vulnerability, often there are good interventions which can contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as mangrove and tree-planting efforts. By building on synergies between disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and emission reduction, the IFRC will seek to promote and implement activities that bring co-benefits to mitigation and adaptation.

ii. Green our way of working

Recognizing the urgency to mitigate climate change, and that many practices that contribute to a carbon footprint reduction like energy efficiency measures also contribute to financial savings, the IFRC will seek to reduce its own carbon footprint. As set out in strategy 2020, the IFRC seeks to exemplify the effective use of energy and reduction of carbon-emissions through the way we conduct our own business. For example, the new IFRC secretariat office building in Geneva is being built according to the highest green standard and a new environmental policy is in the process of being developed.

In recognition that a degraded environment will ultimately hinder the survival and recovery prospects for the people affected by disasters, and can increase the risk for future disasters, a collection of National Societies has initiated a Green Response Approach working group. This approach seeks to ensure a minimized adverse impact on the environment resulting from emergency operations, and greater accountability to the affected population, by actively promoting alternative, less environmentally harmful solutions in addressing needs. Much of the Green Response Approach is undertaken before disaster happens, through planning and assessments. The Green Response Approach working group develops and promotes voluntary guidelines and standards to support Movement partners in implementing a green response. For example, through engaging with professionals in each thematic area (such as shelter, sanitation and logistics) to develop minimum standards and commitments to minimize our environmental impact. Towards 2020, the working group will seek to work with more sectors and provide ongoing support to IFRC and National Society operations to green our preparedness and response.

What success looks like:

National Societies and IFRC offices are promoting environmentally sustainable practices in communities, are actively seeking to reduce their own carbon footprint to contribute to climate change mitigation, and are systematically implementing a green response.

Conclusion

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a critical role in reducing climate risks and addressing the humanitarian and development challenges ahead. The vision of more resilient communities better able to withstand these risks is embodied in the IFRC's One Billion Coalition and its Framework for Community Resilience.

Concretely over the next few years, we will expand our teams of well-trained and equipped first responders, update contingency plans and standard operating procedures, link early warning early action to national meteorological services, and engage in public education, including games, environmental protection and greening work.

In 2018 the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund will incorporate a new window on FbF, increasing the overall effectiveness of risk management, while risk reduction and adaptation will be factored even into emergency appeals. In coordination with government, the IFRC and National Societies will travel the "last mile" of early warning through to remote communities.

Highlighting our comparative advantages as the Red Cross and Red Crescent, we will engage in policy and financing forums at all levels. We will help governments scale up their ambitions on adaptation and mitigation, and their commitments under other global processes, expand engagement in National Adaptation Plans, advise on risk management in the context of advocacy for disaster law, and engage in advocacy with civil society and schools.

Terminology

Carbon footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. This is usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2), which is the major greenhouse gas. For example, when we burn fossil fuels to run our vehicles or heat our homes, we are releasing carbon dioxide. The food we buy gets to the grocery store by motor vehicle, and possibly train or plane, which emits CO_2. Our carbon footprint is the sum of the CO_2 emissions caused by our activities, usually calculated over a year.

Climate: The climate of an area is its local weather conditions – such as temperature, precipitation (rainfall, snow, etc.), humidity, sunshine, cloudiness, wind, and air pressure. It is the weather averaged over a long period of time, taking account of the average conditions as well as the variability of these conditions. Some people say climate is what you expect, and weather is what you get.

Climate change: A significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change can result from natural changes (such as changes in the sun's intensity or oceanic circulation) and human activities that alter the gaseous composition of the atmosphere (such as fossil fuel burning or deforestation).

Climate change adaptation: The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. The definition recognizes that humans can adjust to past ("actual") climate change and its impacts, or prepare for projected future ("expected") climate change and its impacts. Adaptation can include changes in behaviour, technology, institutions, policies, and other aspects of human systems.

Climate change mitigation: Actions that reduce the sources of greenhouse gases, or enhance carbon sinks. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching from oil to natural gas as a heating fuel, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other sinks to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

Disaster risk management: A systematic process of implementing policies, strategies, and measures to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This includes, among other things, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

Disaster risk reduction: Measures at all levels to curb disaster losses, through reducing exposure to different hazards, and reducing the vulnerability of populations. Effective disaster risk-reduction practices use a systematic approach to reduce human, social, economic and environmental vulnerability to natural hazards.

Early warning system: The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Naturally occurring and human-made gases that trap infrared radiation as it is reflected from the earth's surface, trapping heat and keeping the earth warm. The six main GHGs whose emissions are human-caused are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6).

Mainstreaming: In the context of climate change, mainstreaming implies that awareness of climate impacts and associated measures to address these impacts, are integrated into the existing and future policies and plans of developing countries, as well as multilateral institutions, donor agencies and NGOs (Mitchell et al., 2006)

National Adaptation Plan (NAP): Under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), a process was established to enable least developed country Parties (LDCs) to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs). This process will build upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.

National Determined Contributions (NDCs): The Nationally Determined Contribution are the objectives states have set for themselves in term of GHG emission and climate adaptation in the context of the Paris Agreement. Following the ratification of the Paris Agreement, NDCs are legally binding.

Paris Agreement: (also called the Paris climate accord or Paris climate agreement), is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that will commence implementation from 2020. It aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.

Resilience: the ability of individuals, communities, organizations or countries exposed to disasters, crises and underlying vulnerabilities to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses without compromising their long-term prospects.

Risk: The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences.

Vulnerability: The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or assets that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of climate change and other hazards.

Weather: The set of meteorological conditions – wind, rain, snow, sunshine, temperature, etc. – at a particular time and place.

Good practices and toolkits for climate action

To support the implementation of the Areas of Work set out in the IFRC Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020, this annex provides examples of activities to plan and a set of resources and guidance materials relevant to each Area of Work. For more information and guidance, please write to climatecentre@climatecentre.org.

Red Cross assistance after Hurricane Irma, St Maarten

1. Build internal and community knowledge and awareness

The below activities are examples of activities to plan to promote better understanding internally, greater awareness externally, and to facilitate processes of information and knowledge exchange.

Areas of focus	Background	Example Activities to consider
Disaster risk reduction	The IFRC Plan and Budget 2016-2020 includes as key outcomes: ↘ Community awareness and public education campaigns are conducted using harmonized messages on risk reduction. ↘ School safety activities are conducted in target communities. ↘ Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices	↘ Invite every staff member to complete the E-learning course on climate change ↘ Conduct exercises or arrange sessions to see if the majority of staff at national and branch levels are able to explain, in basic terms, the causes of climate change as well as the main trends, projections and likely impacts of current and future climate change in their country ↘ Consult climate centre colleagues and or the climate centre website to conduct games as part of workshops and meetings to stimulate learning and motivate colleagues and partners to take action ↘ Conduct community awareness raising activities (e.g. through serious games or interactive communication such as flash mobs) on reducing risks and increasing safety to climate-related disasters (e.g. heatwaves) ↘ Conduct school-based activities sharing climate change awareness messages that are linked with locally relevant risk reduction measures, where appropriate ↘ Offer to facilitate planning processes or workshop sessions related to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and response, and draw from innovative and interactive methodology shared through the climate centre Games website

The Knowledge and Awarenss Raising Toolkit

There are a range of tools and resources available to increase knowledge and awareness, and to support the interactive processes.

1. The Climate Training Kit contains modules, each with sample presentations, exercises, film clips, and reading materials, on understanding the basics of climate change and how to integrate climate in disaster management, community based DRR and health programmes
2. The e-course Climate Change – an introduction for staff and volunteers is available on the IFRC learning platform and aims help staff and volunteers understand how they can contribute to addressing related issues in their day to day work within local communities.
3. Games are a fun but serious way of helping humanity tackle the complexities, volatilities and uncertainties that could be hallmarks of the “new normal” for the global climate. The Climate Centre Games website provides information on a range of different games that can be conducted for various participants and subjects, and includes detailed instructions, Frequently Asked Questions and support services.

2. Support adaptation and adopt climate-smart practice

2.1 Make our programmes and operations climate risk informed

The below table demonstrates how climate change can be considered through each of the IFRC areas of focus, as set out in the IFRC Operational Plan 2016-2020, to make our programming 'climate smart'.

Areas of Focus[1]	Background	Example Activities to consider
Disaster Risk Reduction	Increased risks and vulnerabilities due to climate change will bring more and different weather-related disasters, affecting all aspects of disaster risk management, ranging from an increase in relief operations to a need for more and better disaster risk reduction	↘ Identify a climate change focal point and small team or working group within the NS ↘ Reach out to research institutes or meteorological departments to find out the general climate projections for your country/region to take into account in planning. Remain regularly updated with climate-related stakeholders ↘ Review VCA guidelines and assess whether they adequately address future risks in light of a changing climate (eg. can you expect more recurrent droughts? Heavier rainy seasons, more extreme flood levels?) ↘ Use the Minimum Standards for local Climate-smart Disaster Risk Reduction to develop community based DRR and contingency plans ↘ Enhance community based early warning systems to adapt to changing hazards, including the need to communicate them effectively to the people at risk (further detail provided below) ↘ Establish a relationship (e.g through MoU) with Hydro-meteorological department to help tailor and disseminate climate/weather information that will be useful and actionable for communities ↘ Carry out a climate risk assessments with partners to identify priorities and options for action
Shelter	Mainstreaming climate change adaptation in shelter and settlements requires planning interventions that consider how certain locations and types of shelters may increase vulnerability or exposure with an increase or change in climate and weather-related disasters	↘ Implement PASSA (including PASSA Youth) methodology to enable the consideration of changing climate risks into shelter planning ↘ Consider future unprecedented tropical cyclones and other hydrometeorological hazards in building back better ↘ Understand local building practices and how these practices can influence the behaviour of strutures when exposed to climate-related hazards (such as cyclones or floods) ↘ Understand the local building materials and their markets to gauge their effects on the environment and local (natural) resources ↘ Consider changing climate risks if involved in relocation initiatives

[1] Areas of focus from the 2018-2020 IFRC Operational Plan

Areas of Focus[1]	Background	Example Activities to consider
Livelihoods and basic needs	Climate change is a major threat to food security and will need to be addressed in food-security and livelihood programmes, both through enhanced relief and better prevention and diversified livelihood options based on forecasts and climate projections. When livelihoods are sustainable, vulnerable people can better cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance their capabilities and assets, and support other livelihoods locally and more widely, without damaging the natural resource base	↘ Consider potential climate change impacts in developing livelihood research methods and supporting livelihood **diversification** – not only shifts to new crops (climate-smart agricultural seasonal calendars) ↘ Integrate risk management and resilience approaches which include ecosystem and landscape approaches and climate smart components (like seasonal planning based on seasonal forecast information.) ↘ Promote the use of drought-flood resistant seeds, having the understanding between climate variability and climate change ↘ Support the development and dissemination of climate information (with meteorological departments and partners) that supports communities/farmers to take decisions on livelihood practices (e.g to reserve plots of land in anticipation of a dry season)
Health	Climate change increases disaster related mortality and disability, increases risks of vector and water-borne disease, and can affect the health of individuals and communities due to an accumulation of stresses and diseases related to weather and climate (e.g heat wave, drought, flooding). These changing risks need to be considered in developing health and care programming	↘ Assess the likely epidemiological impacts of disaster risks and the projected effects of climate change in health programme locations, including the risk to health facilities ↘ Understand and prioritise disease risk based on epidemiology and changing climate indicators, including the increased risk for new and emerging infectious diseases ↘ Build on, not detract from, existing effective health outreach programmes that target the most vulnerable to the impacts of hazards and climate change ↘ Raise awareness among at-risk populations of their right to health and how this is affected by disaster and climate risk ↘ Support at-risk populations to assess the relevance and effectiveness of traditional health practices in relation to climate change and disaster risk, and encourage scale-up of successful ones ↘ Advocate for the engagement of health sector actors (governmental, nongovernmental, private sector, health providers) in national platforms, forums and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation ↘ Heat wave and extreme cold action plans and awareness raising ↘ Behaviour-change based primary prevention activities ↘ Promote/Model elimination of vector breeding sites resulting from extremes in climate and weather

[1] Areas of focus from the 2018-2020 IFRC Operational Plan

Areas of Focus[1]	Background	Example Activities to consider
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	It is clear that climate change will have a major impact on the global water cycle and the water sources and flows in many countries. These changes will need to be factored into the design of WASH programmes and infrastructure. These changes increase the likelihood of damage and disruption to drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and systems. Climate-induced water stress is also expected to cause competition and tension between different types of water users	↘ Assess the extent to which current WASH systems in programme locations are exposed to projected impacts of climate change on surface and groundwater sources ↘ Base WASH interventions on assessments of current hazards and future scenarios that consider climate change observations, projections and uncertainties ↘ Promote the development of WASH systems that are climate and hazard-resilient, and sustainable in terms of the resources and expertise available locally to maintain them ↘ Promote better water management practices (of existing, available water), including local water harvesting and conservation methods
Protection, gender and inclusion	Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and can lead to further marginalisation of vulnerable groups. In many contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources. Vulnerable groups will also face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping and adaptation capacity. At the same time, women, youth and vulnerable groups can be effective agents of change for both mitigation and adaptation	↘ Work with communities to listen and identify the needs and concerns of those most vulnerable to climate change (including women, children, people with disabilities, migrants, socially marginalised people) ↘ Drawing from the IFRC Minimum Standards Commitments on Gender and Diversity, advocate for the needs of the disadvantaged and marginalised groups are addressed in climate change policy and plans (specifically for example, National Adaptation Plans) ↘ Disaggregate data used for programmes to ensure women and vulnerable groups are being reached and supported ↘ Promote social-safety nets that are anticipatory of future climate risks (e.g social protection mechanisms that anticipate floods/droughts, etc) ↘ Engage youth as agents of change, including through serious games, drama skits, and implementation of the Y-adapt curriculum
Migration	Migration associated with disasters and environmental degradation is an emerging migration trend. Additionally, migrants are more likely to resettle in places vulnerable to environmental changes, which means we will need to increasingly consider how weather and climate patterns will affect migrant populations	↘ Support community-based actions for DRR and CCA when environmental degradation make living conditions increasingly precarious or livelihoods increasingly eroded as a result of increased climate variability ↘ Support disaster preparedness and resilience building at community level to alleviate pressures that can induce people to migrate against their will and desire ↘ Minimize forced displacement by consistently investing resources in food security, livelihoods, health, shelter, DRR, CCA to increase the resilience of affected communities ↘ Work with partners and governments to ensure that any relocation that is planned as a climate change adaptation measure is done through a participatory and consultative process with affected communities

[1] Areas of focus from the 2018-2020 IFRC Operational Plan

The Mainstreaming Toolkit

To find out how to mainstream climate change into existing programmes and operations, see the below publications:

1. The Climate Training Kit contains modules, each with sample presentations, exercises, film clips, and reading materials, on understanding the basics of climate change and how to integrate climate in disaster management, community based DRR and health programmes.
2. Integrating climate change and urban risks into the VCA explains how to conduct climate-sensitive vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA).
3. The IFRC developed A guide to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to demystify and accompany step by step the integration of DRR and CCA in different sectors and contexts.
4. The Minimum Standards for local climate-smart disaster risk reduction 2.0 provide a practical checklist to help local community leaders and DRR practitioners ensure their risk reduction efforts are climate-smart and contribute to climate change adaptation.
5. The Road Map to Community Resilience is a new tool developed by the Federation to provide guidance on how to operationalize the Framework for Community Resilience, including for communities to be climate-smart.
6. '**Small and simple actions to address climate change**' provides guidance on specific actions that can be taken by National Societies and volunteers in both adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

2.2 Use climate forecasts to enable early action and build resilience

See below example of activities to plan to advance and scale up work on using climate forecasts to enable early action and build resilience.

Areas of focus	Background	Example Activities to consider
Disaster Risk Reduction (Early Warning Early Action)	As climate and weather-related risks increase, and become more frequent and severe, early warning systems will need to prompt early action by and for communities most at risk	↘ Work on the development of a FbF mechanism with government and other key stakeholders ↘ Develop a disaster response/contingency plan that includes forecast-based actions at various levels. These contingency plans should consider forecast information on different timescales (days, months, years) for pre-emptive action ↘ Establish partnership with meteorological agencies to support the dissemination of climate and weather information to vulnerable communities and work together to understand better the potential of given forecast at national and international level ↘ Improve and mobilise Information Management systems to use the best exposure and vulnerability information that is necessary to enable early action ↘ Connect with partners implementing hydro-meteorological investment projects and hydro-power dam operators and offer to support in "reaching the last mile"; the communities most at risk. ↘ Work with partners in the Disaster Risk Reduction community to identify early actions that can be triggered by a forecast at different lead times, to reduce the most prominent risks and prepare for better response and recovery ↘ Connect with health researchers, linking climate events to increased risk of outbreaks of certain diseases

The Early Warning Early Action Toolkit

Guidance documents on scaling up our Early Warning Early Action work include:

1. The Forecast based financing manual provides technical guidance for the design of Fbf interventions. It has been developed from the lessons and experiences of several ongoing pilot projects, making this manual a living document.
2. An early warning has no effect without early action. Therefore, the IFRC developed the Early Warning Early Action guidance. It seeks to help NS to prepare for the certain and the uncertain and enhance Communication for action.
3. Community Early Warning Systems: Guiding principles is one of a set of guides prepared by IFRC, along with the guides for vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and public awareness and public education. It also joins the Disaster response and contingency planning guide to provide a solid toolkit for the disaster risk reduction/management practitioner.
4. Red Cross Red Crescent Guide to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) provides guidance on how best to enable two-way communication with communities to ensure their voices are heard and needs addressed.
5. Climate related stakeholders and questions to ask them provides guidance on how to initiate contact and engage with (1) Meteorological Services, (2) Government focal points on climate change, (3) Health, and (4) Other stakeholders (local government representatives, community informants, etc).

3. Influence and partner for greater impact

3.1 Successfully influence policies, plans and investments

While noting that there are also examples of awareness raising and advocacy activities in the above section, the below are examples of more specific activities to influence policies, plans and investments according to the key policy asks set out in the Framework for Climate Action.

Areas of focus	Background	Example Activities to consider
Influence others as leading strategic partners in humanitarian action and community resilience	As a global network, the IFRC together with National Societies is well-placed to influence decisions, as well as legislative and policy shifts at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable. As states move to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement and related frameworks, we will be in a strong opportunity to support, engage and influence	↘ Reach out to the UNFCCC focal point (often Ministry of Environment) to engage in the revising of a Nationally Determined Contributions, especially on adaptation elements ↘ Engage in and contribute to the development of National Adaptation Plans ↘ Use the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction with governments and stakeholders to promote strong laws for DRR and Climate Change ↘ Undertake a mapping of current and planned projects related to hydropower and hydrometeorology and identify opportunities to influence and ensure attention on reaching and benefitting the most vulnerable ↘ Assist in reviewing sector-specific plans (agriculture, health, infrastructure, social protection etc.) to help ensure they risk informed and climate-smart ↘ IFRC regional office and National Societies work with regional organizations in the development and implementation of climate change related plans and frameworks ↘ Promote the use of VCAs (which have included climate change risks) in the development of local climate change, disaster risk reduction and development planning processes ↘ Conduct awareness raising activities, as also set out in section on knowledge and awareness, and in the climate-smart practices section related to protection, gender and inclusion. ↘ Support the state reporting processes aligned to the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the SDG's to demonstrate National Society contributions

Toolkit on Climate Advocacy and Influence

A number of publications and training resources have been developed to support our work in this area. See:

1. With support from the Danish Red Cross, training materials have been developed for National Societies on how to liaise in the National Adaptation Planning process.
2. The added value of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in the development of National Adaptation Plans is a review of success case study on NAP engagement in Kenya, Malawi, Georgia, Armenia and Nepal.
3. In the new five-year strategic partnership of the Partners for Resilience programme, PfR helps civil society organizations – including the Red Cross Red Crescent – talk 'policy' on climate and resilience to government, underpinned by its own unique vision honed in the experience of the 2011-15 phase.
4. The IFRC's 2013 guidance 'How to engage with National Adaptation Plans' was developed to strengthen National Societies' capacities to interact with governments on NAPs – a good way to accelerate adaptation coherently at the national level.
5. The Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction provides a prioritized and succinct list of ten key questions that lawmakers, implementing officials, and those supporting them need to consider in order to ensure a more integrated approach to disaster risk reduction by taking into account climate change and sustainable development considerations within the review of legislation.

3.2 Broaden our partnerships

Partnerships to explore to strengthen our climate work and positioning include:

- National Hydro-Meteorological Agencies
- National UNFCCC focal point (in many cases the Ministry of Environment)
- Regional Meteorological Services
- Hydropower dam operators
- Local Authorities and Municipalities
- "Knowledge centres" like universities and research institutes etc.
- CSO's with complementary different sectorial expertise (for example in environmental or ecosystem management issues)
- Corporations, businesses and private sector alliances
- "Out of the box" partners such as artists or musicians, that may be effective in awareness raising and advocacy efforts

4. Support mitigation and minimize adverse impacts on the environment

4.1 Promote climate-friendly behaviour and identify activities that bring co-benefits to mitigation and adaptation

Examples of activities to conduct to promote climate-friendly behaviour are set out below.

Areas of focus	Background	Example Activities to consider
Disaster risk reduction	Contributing to climate change mitigation will help reduce the severity of climate change and its humanitarian consequences	↘ Conduct a tree-planting campaign learning from other National Societies (such as Kenya RC) ↘ Identify eco-system based disaster risk reduction measures that can be implemented as part of DRR programmes, such as mangrove restoration ↘ Explore activities that could bring co-benefits, such as promoting the use of fuel-saving stoves which can both improve health situation for women, contribute to mitigation through the reduction of the log wood cutting and reduce erosion and landslide risk

4.2 Green our way of working

Areas of focus	Background	Example Activities to consider
Disaster risk reduction	The IFRC plan and budget 2016-2020 refers to implementing greening strategies as a key outcome under disaster risk reduction, in recognition that reducing the environmental impact of our work will increase our effectiveness	↘ Reach out to the Green Response working group for support in reviewing and improving logistics/procurement manuals, etc. ↘ Undertake an assessment of the carbon footprint of Secretariat headquarters/offices and develop an environmental policy and action plan (including issues related to procurement and travel) ↘ Adopt & monitor use of environmental safeguarding principles ↘ Generalize use of green procurement guidelines ↘ Support implementation of the revised Sphere standards that mainstream sustainability ↘ Conducting an environmental baseline to track environmental impact of emergency response systems ↘ Establish a plan for waste management for emergency operations (including potentially flying items back to a country that is better able to manage the waste in a sound way) ↘ Train delegates in how to undertake an environmental analysis (through Green Response working group)

Toolbox on Mitigation and Minimizing Adverse Impacts on the Environment

For more information on the Green Response Working Group, contact Caroline.Gardestedt@redcross.se. Other tools and guidelines include:

1. Green Recovery & Reconstruction Toolkit provides guidance on how project design, monitoring, and evaluation can better incorporate and address environmental issues within the typical project cycle of a post-disaster humanitarian aid project.
2. Q-SAND (Quantifying Sustainability in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters) was developed by BRE and IFRC as a self-assessment sustainability tool focused on shelter and settlement reconstruction in the aftermath of natural disasters.
3. The revised Sphere Handbook 2018 standards, in particular the environmental sustainability standards
4. The Emergency Shelter Environmental Impact Assessment and Action Checklist is designed to guide environmental impact assessments for emergency and transitional shelter situations.

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

Further information is available from:

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