



ZURICH FLOOD RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP –
LOCAL ACTIONS

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Saving lives, changing minds.





INTRODUCTION

Floods affect more people globally than any other type of natural hazard. In the last ten years alone floods have affected over **734 million people**.¹ Moreover, as a result of climate change, both the number of floods and their impact on affected communities are expected to increase dramatically.

In 2018, IFRC, Zurich Insurance and a combination of non-governmental and research organisations formed a five year partnership called the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (the Alliance). Its long-term vision is that floods will have no negative impact on the ability of people and businesses to thrive.



Objectives

The nine Alliance partners have selected three strategic objectives:

- To improve flood resilience practice.
- To increase funding for flood resilience.
- To strengthen policy at global and country level to support flood resilience.



18 countries

The partner organisations currently work in flood-prone communities in 18 countries around the globe.



2 million people

The Alliance aims to reach 2 million people with community-based resilience programmes in some of the most flood-prone contexts.

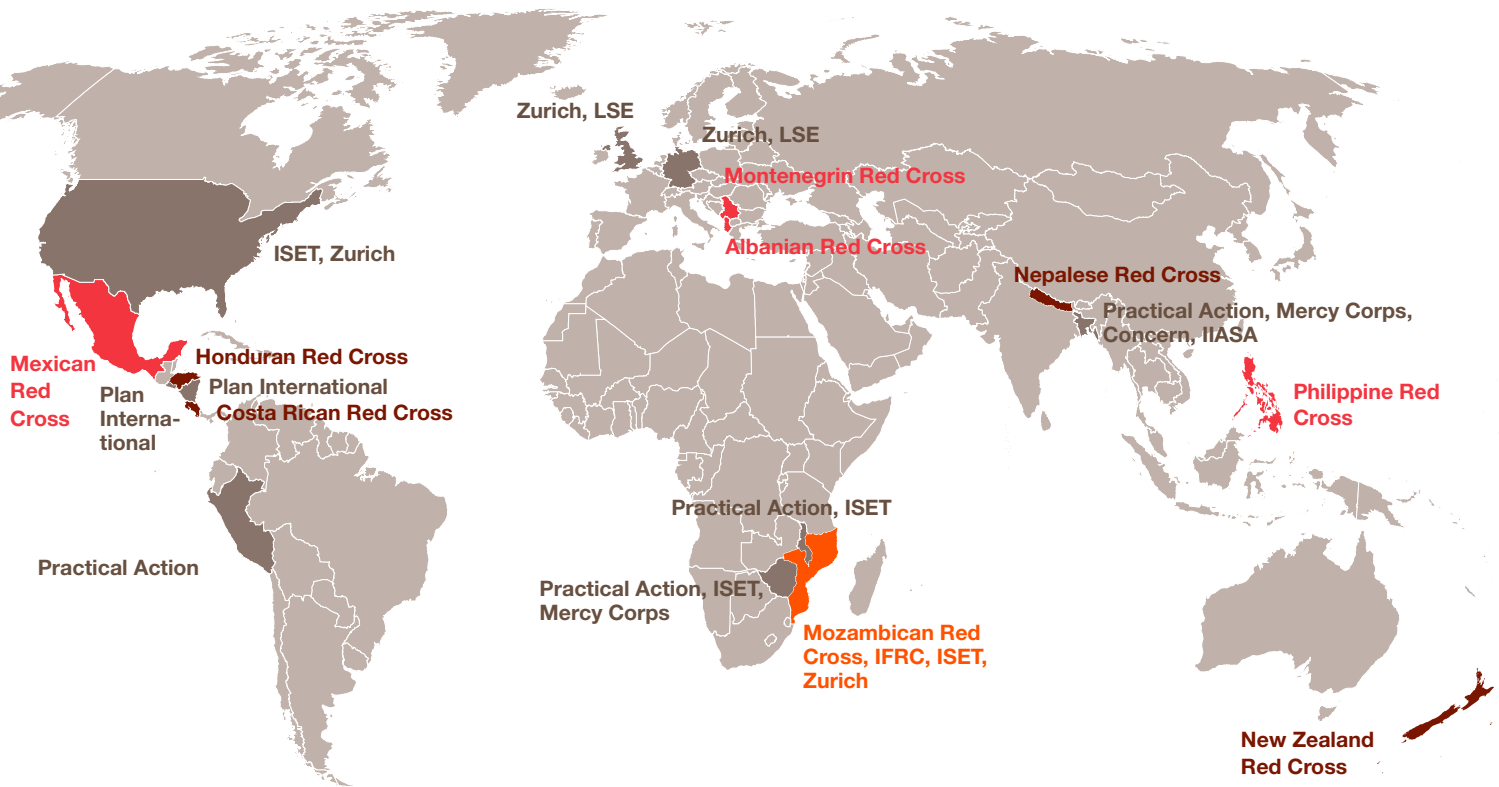


USD 1 billion

The Alliance aims to leverage an extra USD 1 billion at global, national and sub-national levels for flood resilience.

¹ <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/10/B-WDR-2018-EN-LR.pdf>.

Where we work: Global partnership – local actions



Community-based flood resilience programmes (Albania, Mexico, Montenegro, Philippines)

Disaster law programmes (Costa Rica, Honduras, Nepal, New Zealand)

Post-event review capability (Mozambique)

Partner organization programmes

- Concern (Bangladesh)
- IIASA (Bangladesh)
- ISET (Malawi, Mozambique, USA, Zimbabwe)
- LSE (Germany, United Kingdom)
- Mercy Corps (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Zimbabwe)
- Plan International (El Salvador, Nicaragua)
- Practical Action (Bangladesh, Malawi, Nepal, Peru, Zimbabwe)
- Zurich (Germany, Mexico, Mozambique, United Kingdom, USA)





Community-based flood resilience programmes

Red Cross National Societies (National Societies) work to prevent and alleviate human suffering and improve the safety, health, and overall well-being of the communities they serve. Within the Alliance, National Societies in five countries have set up community flood resilience programmes that seek to reinforce the connections between people, communities and the systems that support them, and assist communities to plan, prepare for and manage change in a period of increasingly complex and dynamic risks.

National Societies strengthen resilience in a meaningful and sustainable way by facilitating a participatory journey led by local leaders. Resilience is not something that can be brought to or built for communities: it requires working in partnership with many actors to first identify and then address the most critical vulnerabilities and capacities.

Disaster law programmes

National Societies are uniquely positioned to influence decision-makers, due to their auxiliary role to their public authorities in the humanitarian field. Supported by the IFRC's Disaster Law Programme, National Society teams in Costa Rica, Honduras, Nepal and New Zealand offer their expertise, use evidence-based advocacy, and provide technical support to governments, to strengthen their legal frameworks on disaster risk management and flood resilience.



Post-event review capability

The Post-Event Review Capability (PERC)² is a framework which the Alliance developed to analyse disaster events systematically. Focusing on how a specific hazard event becomes a disaster, PERC evaluates successes and lessons that can be learned about the management of disaster risks before an event, during a disaster response, and during recovery. PERC also identifies opportunities for intervention or action that could reduce the risks that similar hazard events pose in the future. It applies a system-wide approach, analysing disasters across scales and sectors as well as all aspects of the disaster management cycle, including prospective and corrective risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. A PERC study provides a bird's-eye view of why a disaster occurred and how resilience might be built.



² <https://floodresilience.net/perc>.

The resilience approach

In their approach to resilience programming, National Societies

- Acknowledge that **many elements of a system can protect the lives and livelihoods of communities** – individuals and households, but also community leaders, development committees, schools, central markets, river basins, etc.
- Assist communities to adopt **risk-informed, holistic approaches** to address their underlying vulnerabilities.
- Promote **demand-driven** programming and **people-centred** approaches.
- Design interventions that generate **transformational change**, strengthening the ability of a community to cope and connect with local actors.
- **Monitor and evaluate the impact** of community-based interventions using the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC).
- Share **lessons learned** and **best practices** within the network and beyond.

The measurement approach

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC)³ is a process for measuring community flood resilience that encompasses a framework and an online application to facilitate the approach. The framework applies 44 indicators or ‘sources of resilience’ to assess a situation in normal (non-flood) periods, and 29 indicators to measure the situation after a flood. Each indicator relates to one of the five capitals (human, social, physical, natural, financial), and together they build up a complete picture of all the factors that influence resilience to floods.

The FRMC enables users to track community progress on resilience over time in a standardized way. It thus provides vital information for the decision-making process in terms of prioritizing the resilience-building measures most needed by the community.

The FRMC includes an approach for testing and empirically validating the framework, and a technology-based data-gathering tool to measure and evaluate community flood resilience.

The tool is an accessible web-based platform for compiling and analysing results. A smartphone- or tablet-based app may be used offline to collect data in the field.

Building resilient communities in a changing climate

As the climate changes, weather and climate-related hazards are expected to intensify and to become more frequent and unpredictable, making communities more vulnerable to flooding and a wide range of other hazards. The **IFRC Strategy 2030** listed climate actions among the top priorities in the next ten years. In alignment with IFRC’s strategy, the Alliance coordinates and works closely with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre to fully integrate climate change considerations at all levels and directly assist country teams to make their resilience programmes ‘climate-smart’.

The five capitals (5Cs)



Human (education, skills, health).



Social (social relationships and networks, bonds that promote cooperation, links facilitating exchange of and access to ideas and resources).



Physical (things produced by economic activity from other capital, such as infrastructure, equipment, improvements in crops, livestock).



Natural (natural resource base, including land productivity and actions to sustain it, as well as water and other resources that sustain livelihoods).



Financial (level, variability and diversity of income sources and access to other financial resources that contribute to wealth).

³ <https://floodresilience.net/frmc>.

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.

Sharing knowledge

The Flood Resilience Portal provides resources for practitioners who live and work in flood-affected communities. It provides easy access to resources on how to strengthen communities' resilience to flood risk.

Subscribe to the portal and join the community of practitioners at: <https://floodresilience.net>.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Partnership

