



IFRC Plan of Action

Climate Change

2013 - 2016

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

© **International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva, 2013**

Copies of all or part of this manual may be made for noncommercial use, providing the source is acknowledged. The IFRC would appreciate all request being directed to the IFRC at secretariat@ifrc.org.

The opinions and recommendations expressed in this manual do not necessarily represent the official policy of the IFRC or of individual National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies. The designations and maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. All photos used in this manual are copyright of the IFRC unless otherwise indicated.

Cover photo: *Benoit Matsha-Carpentier / IFRC*

**An IFRC Plan of Action for Climate Change 2013 - 2016
1258700 E 500**

P.O. Box 303
CH-1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 730 42 22
Fax: +41 22 733 03 95
E-mail: secretariat@ifrc.org
Web site: www.ifrc.org

IFRC Plan of Action Climate Change 2013 - 2016

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through our 187 member National Societies. Together, 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.

Table of contents

Foreword	4
Abbreviations and acronyms	6
Glossary	7
Executive Summary	10

Part 1. Why a Plan of Action for Climate Change?	12
---	-----------

Part 2. Background	14
2.1. The impacts of a changing climate on IFRC work	15

Part 3. IFRC Strategic approach and guiding principles	18
---	-----------

Part 4. Achieving the strategic objectives	22
---	-----------

Objective 1 – Strengthening organisational capacity on climate change	22
--	-----------

Objective 2 – Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into IFRC policy, sectoral programmes and interventions across the contexts	25
---	-----------

Objective 3 – Promoting advocacy, public awareness and partnerships	28
--	-----------

Part 5. Resource mobilization	32
--------------------------------------	-----------

Part 6. Measuring success: Strengthen monitoring and reporting	34
---	-----------

Part 7. Next Steps	36
---------------------------	-----------

Foreword

Dear colleagues,

Climate change is among the most serious challenges of this and future generations. This was once more highlighted in the outcome document of the Rio+20 conference¹. Climate change acts as a stress multiplier and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. It may also trigger events of unknown magnitude that can potentially make current humanitarian capacity ineffective and be a barrier to achieving humanitarian goals. Threats associated with climate change are therefore inseparable from IFRC's mission of building safer and resilient communities.

In line with the outcome of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007, many National Societies have started to develop programmes and actions to address rising climate risks. *Strategy 2020* underlines IFRC's climate change adaptation work through the scale up of disaster risk reduction measures. It also calls for a contribution to climate change mitigation through advocacy and social mobilization to promote sustainable community development. Development that optimizes communities' carbon footprints, for example by using energy more efficiently and undertaking simple environmental actions, and also minimizing the impact of the way we conduct business throughout the IFRC.

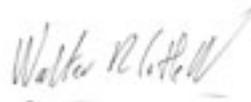
With the release of this Plan of Action, the IFRC would like to reiterate its strong commitment to work together with its members to raise the ambition and contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in addressing climate change in good coordination with government plans. The protection and rehabilitation of the environment to strengthen food security and livelihoods in

¹ "The Future We Want", 2012, paragraphs 17 & 25

the context of climate change, the scale up of public awareness and public education on climate change and environmental values and practices, and the strengthening of participatory local governance are among the priorities identified.

This calls for the scale up of Red Cross and Red Crescent climate change mitigation and adaptation synergetic measures in the context of resilience building and disaster risk reduction. The sustained and trusted presence of National Societies within local communities holds great potential for an effective implementation on the ground. It will contribute to reaching the required scale while ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable communities are accounted for by governments in the development of national strategies (e.g. National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions). And it will act as a bridge between internationally and nationally led discussions, resulting instruments and the local communities where action eventually needs to take place.

The 2013-2016 Plan of Action for Climate Change has been developed and finalized with your precious input and feedback. We now very much look forward to working with you and your National Society and to supporting you in its national interpretations and implementation.



Walter Cotte Witingan
Under Secretary General, Program Services Division

Abbreviations and acronyms

GHGs: Greenhouse gases

NAP: National Action Plan on Climate Change

NAPAs: National Adaptation Programmes of Action

NAMA: Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNISDR: United Nations International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction

Glossary

Carbon footprint:

The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. This is usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 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 CO₂. Our carbon footprint is the sum of the CO₂ equivalent emissions caused by our activities, usually calculated over a year.¹

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 both 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:

“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

¹ <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/resources/glossary.html>

and its impacts. Adaptation can include changes in behaviour, technology, institutions, policies, and other aspects of human systems. (IPCC Definition)

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. (UNFCCC)

Climate proofing:

Climate proofing is the modification of existing and future projects so that they are resilient to impacts from climate change and/or do not contribute to increased vulnerability of the projects goals. (Klein et al., 2007)

Climate-smart:

A climate smart organization results from the systematic integration of climate change impacts – alongside other risks and opportunities and themes – into core programmes, policies and activities at different levels.

Global warming:

The progressive rise of the earth's surface temperature caused by the enhanced greenhouse effect. Global warming may be responsible for changes in global climate patterns.

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 (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

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)

NAMA:

Refers to a set of policies and actions that countries undertake as part of a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The term recognizes that different countries may take different nationally appropriate actions on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It also emphasizes financial assistance from developed countries to developing countries to reduce emissions.

NAP:

Under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), a process was established to enable least developed country parties (LDC) 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. Other developing country parties are also invited to employ the modalities formulated to support the national adaptation plans in the elaboration of their planning efforts.

NAPAs:

Provide a process for Least Developed Countries (LDC) to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs to adapt to climate change – those for which further delay would increase vulnerability and/or costs at a later stage.

Weather:

Is the set of meteorological conditions – wind, rain, snow, sunshine, temperature, etc – at a particular time and place.

Executive summary

While the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC) is already addressing risks brought by climate change, it can do more and better through a more systematic and coordinated integration of climate change issues into its programmes, policies and operations.

The IFRC Plan of Action aims to:

- ✚ (i) provide a clear vision on the IFRC key priorities for building community resilience to climate change;
- ✚ (ii) identify key objectives and activities needed for scaling up work on climate change in the next 5 years; and
- ✚ (iii) provide an overall framework to increase coordination and knowledge sharing within IFRC.

Key priorities for IFRC work on climate change in the coming years will be:

- ✚ Climate-proofing IFRC programmes and operations
- ✚ Strengthening community preparedness and response capacities, with a specific focus on community-based early warning and monitoring systems
- ✚ Scaling up public education and awareness activities on disaster risk reduction and climate change to build capacities at both NSs and community levels
- ✚ Increasing engagement with national level planning, in particular with reference to the NAP process, and ensure that information collected through VCAs (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments) are fed into national/local planning
- ✚ Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and rehabilitation of the environment to increase resilience of livelihoods to shocks and reduce risk.

These will be achieved through three Strategic Objectives and two enabling conditions:

Objective 1: Strengthening organisational capacity on climate change	Objective 2: Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into policies, programmes and operations	Objective 3: Promoting advocacy, public awareness and partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase staff knowledge and build capacity • Revise/develop tools and methods • Strengthen coordination • Improve information and knowledge management • Greening the IFRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream climate change issues into programmes • Improve communication and understanding of climate information • Identify gaps and develop criteria to address ‘new’ needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence policy development at national, regional and global levels • Ensure that humanitarian consequences of climate change are reflected in national planning • Communication for better understanding • Partnerships for greater impact
Develop a joint resource mobilization strategy to access climate finance		
Improve monitoring and evaluation, set targets and indicators to assess impact of activities		

Following the adoption of this Plan of Action, there needs to be : i) development of implementation plans and timeframe at Geneva, Zone and regional levels in consultation with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies; ii) allocation of resources and identification of roles and responsibilities for delivery; iii) development of adequate mechanisms to ensure monitoring and reporting.

1. Why a Plan of Action for climate change?

The need to address and limit the humanitarian consequences of climate change has been an important part of the work of the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC) during the last decade. Environmental threats such as climate change are inseparable from IFRC's mission of building safer and resilient communities and addressing climate change is clearly stated as a priority under the Strategic Aim 2 of the IFRC *Strategy 2020*² "Enable Healthy and Safe Living".

The impacts of climate change on those most vulnerable are, and will continue, rising and there is an urgent need to scale up IFRC work to both reduce the causes of climate change and address its consequences. To do so, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and IFRC Secretariat staff alike have identified the need for an overall vision and clear framework for action to provide directions and clear objectives. The shared view is that while the IFRC has already been addressing risks brought by climate change, more can be achieved through a more systematic and coordinated integration of climate change issues into its programmes, policies and operations.

This Plan of Action has therefore been developed to support IFRC work on climate change by providing overall directions and guidance on both activities aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Plan of Action is also intended to support a better dialogue with partners at all levels, in particular National Governments, for both IFRC Secretariat and National Societies.

² <http://www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/vision-and-mission/strategy-2020/>

This document should be seen as a first step, as it lays out only an overall guidance. This will need to be followed by more detailed, regional plans for implementation; which will be developed (in consultation with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies) in order to achieve the objectives outlined in this document, with clear measurable targets, outputs and indicators for monitoring and evaluation to assess the impacts of activities implemented and support greater learning through lessons learnt.

The development of the IFRC Plan of Action on climate change has been supported by consultation with IFRC Secretariat staff at Geneva, Zones and Regional levels, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the IFRC Advisory Body on Sustainable Development and Health (ABSDH) and the IFRC Taskforce on Climate change. As the aim of this initial document is that of providing overall strategic guidance, an implementation plan and timeframe with clearly allocated resources, possibly on a regional level, will need to be developed together with all relevant stakeholders and responsibilities clearly allocated for its implementation.

The Plan of Action is divided into 5 main sections:

- Section 1 provides background information on climate change and key issues for the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- Section 2 identifies and describes the goal and the strategic objectives of the Plan of Action.
- Section 3 details the activities that need to be implemented to achieve each one of the three strategic objectives.
- Section 4 focuses on resource mobilization.
- Section 5 focuses on monitoring and evaluation and what needs to be put in place to effectively evaluate impacts of activities addressing climate change.

2. Background

There is international consensus that climate change is one of the most serious challenges of this and future generations. Warming of the climate system is unequivocal and adverse impacts have already been observed on natural resources, ecosystems, food security, human health and socio-economic sectors.

'...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. This means using energy more efficiently to reduce the impact of the way we live on the environment in terms of the production of greenhouse gases...'

IFRC, *Strategy 2020*

Although substantial uncertainty remains, climate models predict that the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, already affecting several hundred million people, will increase even with relatively small average temperature increases negatively affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions. This, together with an increased exposure to risk, linked to processes such as environmental degradation, population growth, unplanned urbanization, access to resources and unsustainable development patterns, will impact on the ability of vulnerable people and societies to cope with and recover from each subsequent event. Rather than being an isolated, specific risk climate change increases a range of livelihood threats and vulnerabilities. While over

the centuries, human societies developed the capacities to adapt to environmental change and climate variability, today the speed

and intensity of change is outpacing the capacity of both human and natural systems to adapt, slowly eroding the resilience of ecosystems and human livelihoods.

Increased vulnerability to climate change is likely to include adverse effects on food security and agricultural yields; changes in water quality and quantity; decrease in energy security; damage to coastal-marine areas and resources; damage to coral reefs, fish stocks, and associated ecosystem services; migration of population hit by extreme climatic events such as floods and droughts; biodiversity loss and loss of associated ecosystem services a result of forest loss; and increase in climate-change related disasters and infrastructure loss in rural and urban areas.

While climate change impacts will vary from region to region and will be closely related to existing vulnerability and risk exposure, poor people in developing countries will be the hardest hit as their livelihoods are usually dependent on the natural resource base and climate-sensitive activities such as rain-fed agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. At the same time, they have limited resources to cope with or recover from economic and environmental shocks. Climate impacts are likely to affect the most vulnerable groups disproportionately, especially the poor, indigenous peoples, and pastoralists making climate change a significant development challenge.

2.1 The impacts of a changing climate on IFRC work

The need to address and limit the humanitarian consequences of climate change has been an important part of the work of the IFRC during the last decade and environmental threats such as climate change³ are inseparable from IFRC's mission of building safer and resilient communities⁴.

³ Operationally, there is significant overlap between disaster risk reduction and activities implemented to support climate change adaptation, with the latest bringing an important dynamic and long-term element to risk reduction and development planning.

⁴ IFRC Strategy 2020 – <http://www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/vision-and-mission/strategy-2020/>

Many local communities with whom Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies work are already reporting increased weather variability, shifting of seasons, duration of heat and cold waves, higher temperatures and number of days experiencing higher temperatures, emergence of new weather related hazards. Impacts are already being felt in different parts of the world on the natural environment and key ecosystems, agriculture, food production and livelihoods, human and animal health.

While great uncertainties remain on how much the world will warm, and what exactly the effects of global warming will be, what we do know is that climate change will act as a stress multiplier, interacting with other global pressures⁵ to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Indeed, it will hit some regions unequally, impacting more severely developing countries and increasing risks of poor communities already in need of assistance.

As primary providers of food, fuel and water in most developing countries, women will be more affected by climate change. For poor, rural and indigenous women in particular, climate change impacts will limit their capacity to cope with and recover from natural hazards and disasters, exacerbate lack of access to water, land and forest resources, reduce crop yields and increase malnutrition, limit income generating opportunities. In addition, climate change impacts are likely to disproportionately exacerbate the vulnerability of marginalized populations including indigenous people and nomadic pastoralists, people with disabilities, the very young and the elderly.

As Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are increasingly called upon to address new or more intense hazards, it has become essential to step up our support to local communities to increase their resilience to current and future risks and help them adapt their livelihoods in a rapidly changing environment.

⁵ Such as environmental degradation, population growth, unsustainable development patterns and rapid urbanization.

Some of the main impacts of climate change:

- increased climate variability – impacts on agriculture, water availability, health (human and livestock), etc.;
- increased frequency/intensity of severe weather events (i.e. tropical cyclones, storm surges) – impacts on sectors such as agriculture, water, health and infrastructures;
- increased temperatures, higher number of heat waves and hot days – implications for health, agriculture, wildfires, etc.;
- increased pressure on natural resources and loss of available habitats;
- sea levels rise – severe implications for coastal areas and low-lying islands;
- acidification of the oceans – with implications on fisheries, corals etc.;
- biodiversity loss – severe implications for rural communities whose livelihoods are often dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems services (i.e. reduced water resources; changes in the primary productivity of crops and rangeland);
- increased pressures on fragile rural infrastructures such as roads, irrigation systems, storage facilities;
- urban infrastructures – increasingly inadequate for more extreme events;
- higher food insecurity, increased water scarcity might enhance conflict over scarce natural resources.

Impacts will vary from place to place depending also on different levels of exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity.

3. IFRC Strategic approach to climate change

While IFRC is already addressing risks brought by climate change, until now this has been done through a set of disconnected ad hoc activities and without an overall monitoring of impacts on the ground. In order to ‘do more and better’ a more systematic and coordinated integration of climate change issues into Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes, policies and operations at all levels is needed.

In this regard, the IFRC Plan of Action aims to:

- (iv) provide a clear vision on what are IFRC key priorities for building community resilience to climate change;
- (v) identify key objectives and activities needed for scaling-up work on climate change in the next 5 years; and
- (vi) provide an overall framework to increase coordination and knowledge sharing within IFRC.

Climate change is...

Increasing the frequency and severity of several hazards.

Increasing people’s vulnerability and exposure to regularly experienced shocks and stresses.

Increasing uncertainty and unexpected events.

With regard to some of the key priorities for IFRC work on climate change these are closely linked to the fact that in the coming years, it will be necessary to give more systematic attention to climate-related risks, taking into account that:

- The intensity, frequency and magnitude of current hazards are likely to increase under changing climatic conditions. This will change existing risk patterns. IFRC will need to gain a better understanding of the likely direction and magnitude of climate change impacts.

- Climate change is increasing the scale of volatility and risk and it will no longer be possible to rely on historical averages alone. In other words, historical drought or flooding frequency and intensity are less and less a guide to the future.
- IFRC needs to better understand the impact of a changing climate on long-term trends in order to address future anticipated risks. While impacts are already felt, the worst impacts will be felt in the future.
- There will be new sources of risk beyond the traditional ones – such as sea-level rise and glacier-melt impact on water supply – and IFRC needs to build resilience and increase preparedness for future and yet unidentified shocks.

Key priority areas of intervention in the coming years for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to ensure that future/changing risks are effectively integrated into resilience building activities will be:

- Climate-proofing IFRC programmes and operations
- Strengthening community preparedness and response capacities, with a specific focus on community-based early warning and monitoring systems
- Scaling up public education and awareness activities on disaster risk reduction and climate change to build capacities at both NSs and community levels and strengthen local level governance
- Increasing engagement with national level planning, in particular with reference to the NAP process, and ensure that information collected through community VCAs are fed into national/local level planning
- Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and rehabilitation of the environment to increase resilience of livelihoods to shocks and reduce risk.

As already mentioned, the overall goal of the Plan of Action is to maximize IFRC capacity to address climate change related issues and to support greater resilience in light of a changing climate.

This will be achieved through **three strategic objectives**:

- ↘ **Objective 1**
Strengthening organisational capacity on climate change
- ↘ **Objective 2**
Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into policies, sectorial programmes and interventions across the contexts
- ↘ **Objective 3**
Promoting advocacy, public awareness and partnerships

While Section 4 below will provide a further analysis of the three Strategic objectives and of the activities that fall below each objectives, Section 5 and 6 will highlight other important measures that need to be taken to ensure that these objectives and related activities can be successfully reached. This include having in place an effective resource mobilization strategy (section 5) and the set-up of an efficient system for monitoring and evaluation (Section 6) to enable us to monitor impact on the ground, derive lessons learnt and continue to learn/improve our resilience building operations.

Key Guiding principles for IFRC work on climate change:

- 1. Adopt a holistic approach** – climate change should not be addressed in isolation but in the context of existing IFRC's programmes, policies and operations and within a wider humanitarian-development context. This means including issues such as environmental degradation, population pressure, unplanned/rapid urbanization, gender, migration;
- 2. Build on activities that the Red Cross and Red Crescent already works on** – both climate change adaptation and mitigation do not entail engaging in completely new activities. IFRC interventions are designed to increase resilience to shocks in different contexts and there is already ample knowledge and experience with specific risk reduction interventions that can be used together with greater understanding of climate change impacts;
- 3. Focus on partnerships** – IFRC work on climate change would have more impact when working with and through others. It is particularly important to increase key partnerships at country level with other organizations, national and local public institutions;
- 4. Adopt participatory approaches** to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved and the needs of vulnerable groups within communities (i.e. elderly, disabled, women, ethnic minorities) their knowledge and ideas in identifying innovative solutions are taken into account;
- 5. Recognize the relevance of traditional and indigenous knowledge in addressing issues** such as climate variability and in supporting the development of innovative solutions.

4. Achieving the strategic objectives

Climate change mitigation: actions that are aimed at reducing the sources of greenhouse gases (i.e. reduce use of fossil fuels and increase that of renewable energy sources) or enhancing carbon sinks (i.e. land restoration practices, reforestation).

Climate change adaptation: activities undertaken to plan for and adapt to in response to actual or expected changes in climate and their effects.

The following sections detail the actions that IFRC will need to take in the coming years to achieve the three strategic objectives. While most actions refer to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, whenever actions are specific to either mitigation or adaptation this is clearly stated in the text.

In addition, actions identified under the different objectives will be divided between those that should be carried out by

the IFRC Secretariat and those that instead are to be carried out by Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.

Objective 1 – Strengthening organisational capacity on climate change

The cross-sectorial nature of climate-related issues requires greater internal coordination and alignment with IFRC programmes and interventions. However within the IFRC, there remains a limited number of people with specific knowledge on climate change. To ensure that climate change impacts will be effectively address across all of IFRC programming. To do so successfully, there is a need to:

- ↘ build staff and volunteers capacities on climate change across thematic programmes;
- ↘ ensure that knowledge and experiences on climate change are effectively collected, communicated and shared;
- ↘ strengthen learning and knowledge management.

Objective 1
Strengthening organisational capacity on climate change

	IFRC Secretariat	Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies
Increase staff knowledge on climate change issues and build capacity on climate change adaptation and mitigation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-line training modules on Fednet 2. Regional trainings on climate change for IFRC staff and NSs 3. Trainings for NSs leadership on CC to support greater dialogue with governments 4. Develop CC support materials (standard ppts, thematic papers, training toolkits) tailored to regional contexts 5. Support Red Cross and Red Crescent NSs to tailor training materials/organise local training events 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify different CC focal points, including youth and volunteers 2. Encourage staff and volunteers to access existing training possibilities 3. After attending training, share information with colleagues and volunteers, replicate trainings and continue updating 4. Organise NSs own training event, if needed ask IFRC for support 5. Translate and tailor to local circumstances CC support materials developed by IFRC and include in branch capacities development activities
Revise existing and (if necessary) develop new tools to support planning, climate proofing and monitoring IFRC activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalise revision of the VCA to include climate change 2. Identify need for revision of other existing tools 3. Identify needs for development of new planning tools 4. Develop guidance for climate change mitigation planning 5. Roll out through trainings revised/new tools for widespread adoption 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide feedback to IFRC on implementation of new tools that include also climate change or on need to revise others 2. Share with IFRC information on tools that you have revised to address changing risks 3. If necessary adapt guidance to local context 4. Attend whenever possible trainings on new/revised tools and share this knowledge with colleagues to build their capacities

**Strengthen
coordination
mechanisms
at all levels**

1. Enhance IFRC Climate Change Task Force's role as a coordination mechanism at technical level; promote also at Zone/regional levels
 2. Improve information flows between IFRC staff in Geneva and zone/regional offices
 3. Map existing initiatives addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation
 4. Develop an interactive world map to highlight Red Cross and Red Crescent activities that build resilience to CC
 5. Set-up a CC database to support information sharing, analysis, share lessons learned
 6. Improve communication on CC across the IFRC and between IFRC Secretariat and Red Cross and Red Crescent NSs
 7. Increase engagement with NSs youth networks
 8. Increase engagement with NSs leadership on CC issues and on policies processes such as the UNFCCC COP
1. Share information on existing initiatives focusing on CC with the IFRC to allow for widespread mapping and for inclusion in the CC database
 2. If not adequate, suggest how communication could be improved around CC – what information would be useful to your NS? What are the best ways to share information?
 3. Encourage youth networks of your NS to engage in climate change related activities
 4. Identify key actors on CC at country level, develop a plan to target them accordingly with NS priorities
 5. Leadership and technical teams should carry out together the advocacy/ engagement plan with key stakeholders
 6. Follow country level national dialogues and your government position for the COP and advocate for inclusion of key Red Cross and Red Crescent messages into their programme

<p>Greening IFRC</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess IFRC institutional carbon footprint⁶ 2. Map existing National Societies experiences 3. Develop guidelines to reduce IFRC carbon footprint 4. Set targets for IFRC to reduce its carbon footprint 5. Revise IFRC operations domestically and internationally to reduce GHG emissions generated⁷ 6. Support National Societies in carrying out baseline studies and determining targets/impacts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt and if necessary revise to tailor to local context Guidelines to reduce carbon footprint of your NS operations 2. Set clear targets and adapt indicators to your context to be able to report back on progress achieved
-----------------------------	--	---

Objective 2 – Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into IFRC policy, sectoral programmes and interventions across the contexts

Climate change is a stressor that will impact every aspect of IFRC work. For this reason in the next 5 years the focus needs to be on strengthening its integration at all levels, including policies, programmes and interventions. More resources will need to be invested in better understanding climate change impacts and in ensuring that these are effectively taken into account at all stages of Red Cross and Red Crescent work: from planning to implementation. The table below provides an overview of key activities that will lead to the effective integration of climate change related issues into Red Cross and Red Crescent work.

⁶ Some National Societies have already started to monitor and reduce their own carbon footprint, and there is a number of zero or low-cost measures that can be implemented.

⁷ i.e. air travel, water use efficiency, energy use efficiency, enhance recycling, waste disposal, sustainable procurement, etc.

Objective 2
Mainstreaming CCA and CCM into IFRC policies, programmes and interventions

	IFRC Secretariat	Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies
<p>Mainstreaming of climate change concerns into programme areas</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key areas of NSs work that need support with understanding and mainstreaming CC issues 2. Develop sectorial guidelines to ensure that current and future risks are addressed in different programmes⁸ and in the planning cycles 3. If needed, develop more specific programmatic guidelines, tailored to regional contexts, to climate proof operations 4. Ensure that materials available are adequately shared with NSs 5. Develop and update regional climate scenarios summaries, by working closely with experts 6. Develop scenarios of possible impacts on Red Cross and Red Crescent work in different regions/ countries to guide planning 7. Ensure that CC issues are integrated into relevant IFRC policies and documents 8. Develop joint initiatives between different programmes 9. Mainstream climate change into public education and public awareness initiatives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If needed, translate and tailor to local context mainstreaming guidelines to ensure climate change considerations are integrated in the overall planning cycle 2. Provide feedback to IFRC if mainstreaming guidelines are not adequate or support is needed to tailor them to local context 3. Identify gaps in existing tools and provide feedback to IFRC on what issues you need most support with/what tools are still needed 4. Ensure that climate change issues are integrated into key messages for decision makers/communities and as part of public education programmes 5. Integrate climate change considerations (i.e. changing vulnerabilities and patterns of risks) into needs assessments

⁸ Disaster Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, Food Security, Health, Shelter, Water and Sanitation, Migration, Logistics

Improve communication and understanding of climate information (on a range of timescales) to better support community based early warning

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen linkages with research/scientific organizations to access climate information and impact scenarios at country and regional level. 2. Ensure that programming is informed by future risks, in particular by looking at a range of climate scenarios and overlay them with current and future non-climate stressors⁹ 3. Improve communication of climate information to Red Cross and Red Crescent NSs 4. Identify best practices for incorporating weather and climate information into different programmatic areas¹⁰ 5. Ensure IFRC engagement with the Global Framework of Climate Services (GFCS) at all levels, especially implementation at country levels 6. Support NSs to strengthen collaboration/communications with National Research centre and National Meteorological Services | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give feedback to IFRC on what information you need most to improve your understanding on climate change/programming 2. If not clear, invite IFRC or other experts to explain future climate scenarios in your country and what this means for Red Cross and Red Crescent work 3. With IFRC support, engage in the GFCS implementation in your country (not yet started) and in similar initiatives 4. Stngthen dialogue with National Research Centres and National Meteorological Services 5. Share your good practices/innovation or lessons learnt with IFRC to support IFRC-wide learning and sharing of experiences 6. Promote and engage in community based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS) in close collaboration with meteorological services. 7. Develop case studies to share your experiences |
|---|---|

⁹ Population growth, environmental degradation, urbanization, mobility, etc.

¹⁰ i.e. water use efficiency measures and opportunities to identify populations most in need of water/sanitation, etc.

<p>Identify gaps and develop criteria to address ‘new’ needs brought about by climate change¹¹</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work closely with regional/national research centres to better understand near- and long-term impacts of CC 2. Develop partnerships to support innovative research on CC to benefit Red Cross and Red Crescent community work 3. Identify what will need to be done differently because of CC and new areas needing more attention 4. Acquire and disseminate the best available downscaled climate change projections 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen collaboration with research centres/universities and technical colleges in your country 2. Explore opportunities to have research students contribute to your work, in particular by providing information on climate change impacts/exploring innovative solutions (i.e. introduction of new plant/crop varieties)
--	--	--

Objective 3 – Promoting advocacy, public awareness and partnerships

Described as the biggest challenges of our century, climate change impacts will further stretch Red Cross and Red Crescent capacities to support those most vulnerable. As never before, it will be increasingly important for the IFRC to invest more resources into strengthening or developing new partnerships, promote greater awareness of the humanitarian consequences of climate change and increase its advocacy efforts to ensure more equitable solutions and at the same time to better position the IFRC as a key stakeholder in building resilience to climate change at community levels. The table below describes in more details what can be done to increase our advocacy work at all levels.

¹¹ For example the increased demand for support to responsible resettlement that is coming from small island states; environmental change and displacement; increased need for better land management; impacts of decreasing water availabilities from melting snow packs and glaciers on water and sewage infrastructures, water supplies and water storage, etc.

Objective 3

Promoting advocacy, public awareness and partnerships

	IFRC Secretariat	Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies
Influence policy development at national, regional and global levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote stronger recognition of a people/ community centred approach and needs in relevant international and regional conferences¹² 2. Monitor and attend whenever possible international fora with a focus on relevant sectors (i.e. agriculture, forestry, food security, water, health, migration and displacement, etc) 3. Participate to relevant climate change policy-making processes at regional and international level 4. Produce better evidence (i.e. VCA) to influence policy making at different levels (international, regional, country) 5. Support NSs in building capacity to collect and analyse data on climate related impacts and evidence¹³ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support public authorities to identify the vulnerability/ capacities of local communities, as well as sharing solutions for increasing community resilience. 2. Consult with local public authorities closely on climate change related issues 3. Identify governmental entry-points for consultations on climate change. 4. Carry out VCAs, analyse results and share with relevant departments in the NS and key stakeholders at national and local level to contribute to the dialogue on CC and identify immediate needs and opportunities for joint activities. 4. Map out potential impacts of climate change and identify suitable activities based on the NS priorities, capacity and potentials before reaching out to relevant ministries (health, environment, agriculture, education, etc). 5. At branch level: need to systematically gather evidence of challenges faced and progress made to share with NS HQ but also to feed into early warning systems.

¹² i.e. at UN Climate Change Conference (the so-called CoP), UNFCCC Climate Talks, related UN Regional Commissions' meetings, regional intergovernmental conferences etc.

¹³ early identification of climate change implications and impacts at local level could serve also as reference for early warning

<p>Ensure that humanitarian consequences of climate change on most vulnerable people are reflected in national planning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Link up with relevant platforms at global and regional levels, such as UNISDR, IPCC¹⁴, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platforms, etc. 2. Support NS leadership to engage in dialogue with national governments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen Red Cross and Red Crescent inputs into national policy and planning processes, in particular the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), by providing evidence collected through VCAs or similar community based assessments 2. Identify key governmental focal points for CC in your country and proactively engage with them to raise Red Cross and Red Crescent profile in this field
<p>Engage more proactively on climate change mitigation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase advocacy on climate change mitigation and key messages at relevant international and regional events, with key partners and non-traditional partners alike (i.e. private sector) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase support to Government on climate change mitigation: i.e. NSs of Annex 1¹⁵ countries could share data from the ground and assist to limit or reduce their country GHG emissions.
<p>Communication for better understanding</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support NSs to raise awareness on Red Cross and Red Crescent potential role in supporting community-based implementation of climate change adaptation & mitigation activities 2. Support NSs promoting a better understanding of the consequences of climate change and to broker innovative solutions at community level¹⁶ 3. Develop materials for the promotion of key messages on climate change during relevant international days¹⁶ 4. Support (when needed) NSs to improve reporting, data collection and development of knowledge products 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase visibility of Red Cross and Red Crescent work on resilience building, including climate change 2. Promote understanding on climate change and its implications with local communities, raise awareness on specific local vulnerabilities and solutions. 3. Use different establishments to encourage local participation in CC awareness raising activities, i.e. Youth Red Cross, Mother's Club, can serve as hubs at communities level to increase awareness and encourage local actions

	<p>4. Support (when needed) NSs to improve reporting, data collection and development of knowledge products</p>	<p>4. Regular communications to the media, as well as briefings (including field visits) to local stakeholders (governments, foreign embassies, relevant organisations, etc.) to raise the visibility of the NS and its work.</p> <p>5. Consider using relevant international days for the promotion of the understanding on Climate Change¹⁷</p>
<p>Partnerships for greater impacts</p>	<p>1. Map existing initiatives at country/regional/global levels and proactively act to develop linkages and build synergies</p> <p>2. Strengthen collaboration with other organizations addressing climate change to improve overall effectiveness of interventions¹⁸</p> <p>3. Strengthen partnerships with national and regional research centres to have up-to-date scientific knowledge</p>	<p>1. Develop partnerships with non-traditional partners in local and national government (i.e. ministry of environment) working also on climate change.</p> <p>2. Strengthen dialogue and information/knowledge sharing with key actors in your country, i.e. local institutions, including Met Office and UN country offices.</p> <p>3. Reach out to the embassies, EU delegations, the private sector, academic and philanthropic organisations to maximise efforts and effectiveness of cooperation.</p>

¹⁴ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

¹⁵ Non Annex 1 Parties are allocated emission reduction targets, but these are not legally binding

¹⁶ i.e. March 21 (World Day for Water), April 7 (World Health Day), June 5 (World Environment Day), June 17 (World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought), 2nd Wednesday of October (International Day for Disaster Reduction), December 6 (Day of Action against Climate Change) etc.

¹⁷ For example: March 21 (World Day for Water), March 22 (World Meteorological Day), April 7 (World Health Day), April 25 (World Malaria Day), May 8 (World Red Cross Red Crescent Day), June 5 (World Environment Day), June 8 (World Ocean Day), June 17 (World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought) 2nd Wednesday of October (International Day for Disaster Reduction), October 16 (World Food Day), October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty), December 6 (Day of Action against Climate Change) etc.

¹⁸ i.e. organizations carrying out awareness raising on climate change to develop partnerships

5. Resource mobilization

To support the systematic integration of climate change issues into its operations, IFRC needs to have in place an effective resource mobilization framework to leverage new funding opportunities in addition to traditional donors.

Because of increased competition, it will be important in the coming years to look at new sources of funding to enable the effective scaling up of climate proofing activities. It is important to keep in mind that there are considerable opportunities at country level that should be further explored by Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. For more information on these please refer to the *IFRC Guide to Accessing Climate Finance* (2013).

New key sources might include:

- ✎ Global Environment Facility: the GEF represent an important strategic partner. In 2012, IFRC has submitted an application to become one of GEF implementing partners, with a specific focus on climate change. If successful, through the GEF partnership IFRC could deepen its implementation of measures supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, and increase its cooperation with other GEF agencies and National Governments.
- ✎ Green Climate Fund: IFRC should continue to monitor the set up and operationalization
- ✎ Development Banks: IFRC has already started to engage with development banks in the different regions and will scale up its engagement to leverage funds to support climate proof resilience building and sustainable development activities at community levels. More efforts will need to be undertaken to increase coordination at different levels.

- Private sector and foundations: possibilities may exist to leverage funds through corporate private sector, private foundations and private funds.
- European Union: through the Red Cross and Red Crescent EU Liaison office the IFRC is currently exploring possibilities for leveraging cooperation and mobilizing resources

Some of these resources, and way to access them, are described in details in the up-coming *IFRC guide to Accessing Climate Finance* (to be released in 2013), that looks at available funding opportunities that are accessible to the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

While this is important and will provide more information on how to access the different funds, the most important step in the coming years is that of supporting a more coordinated effort for mobilizing resources for climate change. To do so IFRC should:

- Develop tailored materials to support dialogue with prospective donors
- Focus on the development of integrated projects and ensure information sharing and coordination amongst all actors
- Ensure that information is timely shared with all actors involved and that responsibilities are equally shared at different levels to ensure successful outcomes
- Clearly communicate and share information on different initiatives with donors.

An important step to direct resources directly to community based projects of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, would be the setting up of the Community Resilience Trust Fund at IFRC Geneva Secretariat. A feasibility study to explore the potential of setting up such a Fund is currently under-way.

6. Measuring success: strengthening monitoring and reporting

While several programmes and initiatives have been undertaken in the past to address the impacts of climate change adaptation, to date there exists little information on their long-term effectiveness, in particular with regard to supporting climate change adaptation. As already mentioned in previous sections knowledge about climate changes risks/impacts is uncertain – today we still do not know exactly what we need to adapt to or what ‘successful’ adaptation really means in practice. This means that it will be crucial for IFRC to track and learn from the activities implemented in order to respond effectively to changing contexts. This will also ensure that lessons-learned are well extracted and support IFRC wide capacity to learn from field-based activities.

In addition, better monitoring and reporting on its climate change related activities will also support IFRC to better position itself as a key actor in the climate change arena and increase its ability to leverage funds to be channelled to vulnerable local communities.

To do so, IFRC should:

- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of climate-related outcomes.
 - Review existing participatory monitoring tools and evaluate their effectiveness in the IFRC context – if necessary, these could be tailored to respond to IFRC needs and tested as pilots.
 - Programmes and projects should develop clear targets and indicators that monitor outcomes related to climate change as part of the wider risk resilience building efforts.
-

- Strengthen reporting and dissemination of results and outcomes related to climate change, to help provide input into global discussions and negotiations and support resource mobilization efforts.
- Support NSs, when needed, to analyse and report on climate-related outcomes
- Include key indicators to measure volunteers/branch participation in climate change initiatives/programmes

7. Next Steps

As the aim of this document is that of providing an overall vision for IFRC work on climate change in the next five years, for its implementation it will be necessary to:

- ✎ Develop an implementation plan and timeframe at Geneva, Zone and regional levels in consultation with relevant Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to operationalize this document;
- ✎ Ensure that sufficient resources (both financial and human) are available and identify clear roles and responsibilities in a participatory manner for delivery of key actions – in particular would be good to have pilot initiatives with some National Societies to do this jointly;
- ✎ Develop adequate mechanisms to ensure monitoring and reporting. This will inform and support the development of future plans of actions.

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.

**For more information on this IFRC publication,
please contact:**

**International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Mohammed Omer Mukhier

Head, Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction Department

E-mail: mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org

Tel: +41 (0)22 730 4222

