Red Cross Red Crescent support to the Millennium Development Goals – Building community safety and resilience

**Background**

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) offers unique contributions to the building of safe, resilient communities. Contact to this end, the focus on communities and specifically communities that are at risk from both new and old disaster impacts. We know that we have been implementing DRR for some years now, but with the world becoming increasingly unsafe, it is important that we try to build on the foundations of previous endeavours and to move from what works and is effective. We also need to be more systematic in what we do as well as enhancing what we are doing to ensure that the basic objectives of safety and resilience are being addressed.

We are not necessarily concerned with a lot of new areas of work but rather with building on, enhancing and adapting what National Societies have already been doing and will continue to do in the future, looking for opportunities to make DRR more effective and relevant to both existing and new disaster risks. Thus, the framework for community safety and resilience is concerned with what contributions the Red Cross Red Crescent can make in building community safety and resilience through a focus on disaster risk and its reduction. This framework has emerged from a consultative process. At the National Society level, the framework was presented at five regional meetings for review and feedback. These regional meetings were held in Johannesburg, Katmandu, Panama, Panama, and Rabat and were attended by over 70 National Societies. Across the seven zones, a reference group was established to provide ongoing feedback on the framework including National Society concerns. At the secretariat level, the framework has been continuously under the scrutiny of a Global Alliance on DRR advisory group set up among disaster risk management staff, while the disaster preparedness and risk reduction group of the Participating National Societies have also been regularly consulted. Suggestions and recommendations from these groups have been incorporated into the framework.

**Appendix 1: main areas of focus for the core components**

**1. Community empowerment for action**
- Awareness-raising for community organizations
- Awareness-raising for National Society staff and volunteers and the community
- Climate change and new hazards
- Focus on schools
- Developing partnerships with knowledge centres

**2. Strengthening partnerships with international, governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations**
- The promotion of local platforms for DRR
- The support of multi-stakeholder partnerships in programmes to promote community resilience
- Capacity development at all levels
- Knowledge-sharing at all levels
- Leadership and capacity building at all levels of protecting the cause of community resilience
- Advocacy for the Global Agenda and links with the IFRC

**3. Risk assessment and identification and the establishment of community-based early warning and prediction**
- Risk assessment and analysis including VCA
- Community empowerment for action
- Information management and dissemination for timely response and for developing resilience to longer-term programming to anticipate future risks
- Climate change and new hazards
- Advocacy for community action
- Construction of durable and sustainable programme baselines
- Developing links with partners
- Community-based early warning

**4. Other disaster risk reduction efforts and programmes**
- Establishment of branch disaster response teams
- Workplace
- Developing partnerships with knowledge centres
- Developing partnerships with knowledge centres
- Developing partnerships with knowledge centres
- Building from the priorities of the VCA household levels
- Establishing branch disaster response teams
- Awareness-raising for community organizations
- Awareness-raising for National Society staff and volunteers and the community
- Climate change and new hazards
- Focus on schools
- Developing partnerships with knowledge centres.

**Red Cross Red Crescent global policies and strategies**

**Global alliance for disaster risk reduction**

**Other disaster risk reduction efforts and programmes**

**Red Cross Red Crescent framework for community safety and resilience**

**Millennium Development Goals**

Community safety and resilience

For further information, please contact:

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National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been implementing DRR for many years although it might not have been characterized as such. The 1980s saw new directives in programming with development-based activities being implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including community-based disaster preparedness.

This new approach has been reinforced in our global commitments. In 1995, a new disaster preparedness policy recognized disaster preparedness as the link between emergency response, recovery and development.

In 2005, the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted Final Goal 3.1 of its Agenda for Humanitarian Action which acknowledges the importance of DRR and underlines measures to minimize the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations.

Regional conferences in Algiers, Gjakova and Singapore reinforced this focus. DRR is identified as a key action in achieving the goals of Strategic Plan 2010, stating particularly that we should ‘scale up our actions with vulnerable communities and their organizations, strengthen promotion, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction’.

The 36th International Conference in 2007 adopted the declaration “together for humanity” which stated the importance of ensuring that “environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change are integrated, where relevant, in disaster risk reduction and disaster management policies and plans.”

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) also supports and resolves to work towards achieving the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by the global community following the world conference on DRR held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005 (see below).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) also supports and resolves to work towards achieving the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by the global community following the world conference on DRR held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005 (see below).
Increasing our work in DRM over the coming five-year period will contribute to the development and sustainability of safe and resilient communities. Incidentally, it is likely that all the actions we take in the implementation of DRR projects and programmes will be linked to the five priorities of the HFA. This is important because the HFA is truly global and has been adopted by most governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations. It is important that we take advantage of this part of the global network and it is important, therefore, for us to address the HFA priorities as an issue in our DRR work.

To strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response, it is necessary to:

- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and relevant vulnerability indicators;
- Strengthen disaster prevention and preparedness for effective response.

The Global Alliance on DRR

The Global Alliance on DRR will be the principal instrument for increasing our work in DRM and will strengthen the Global Red Cross Red Crescent programme, project interventions and activities in areas involving the safeguarding of safe and resilient communities can be created, developed and strengthened.

The Global Alliance for DRM, focused on the implementation of DRM projects and programmes for the five priorities of the HFA, has been developed and sustained.

The strengthening of DRM for safety and resilience aims to reduce and avoid major disasters. The Global Alliance, with its objective of ensuring the implementation of the DRM priorities, can be seen as a mobilising support to enable us to achieve a major programme outcome. The Global Alliance is, therefore, the mechanism for mobilising support for DRM, to turn the framework into a real implementation effort, and is a mobilising support to enable us to achieve a major programme outcome. The Global Alliance is, therefore, the mechanism for mobilising support for DRM, to turn the framework into a real implementation effort, and is a mobilising support to enable us to achieve a major programme outcome. The Global Alliance is, therefore, the mechanism for mobilising support for DRM, to turn the framework into a real implementation effort, and is a mobilising support to enable us to achieve a major programme outcome. The Global Alliance is, therefore, the mechanism for mobilising support for DRM, to turn the framework into a real implementation effort, and is a mobilising support to enable us to achieve a major programme outcome.

The focuses of the core Red Cross Red Crescent cross-cutting components that are associated to every National Society in addressing community safety and resilience. We are confident that there are aspects of our work that we do well and that are consistent with our core principles, values and objectives. We should seek to encourage all National Societies to communicate to their communities and members to take action to address community safety and resilience in their area.

Adequate financial and human resources to support National Societies to undertake such activity. In each case, National Societies should be encouraged to ensure that their planning and programming is integrated, seeking the linkages between the different core and country-specific components to promote common safety and resilience goals.

The tools in implementing programmes

Our National Societies already have many of the tools they need to implement programmes to support community safety and resilience and DRR. However, they may not be oriented towards the advancement of community safety and resilience goals and there may be gaps that are identified in their current and future programme planning and implementation. The tools in implementing programmes are:

1. A strong auxiliary relationship with local governments and national governments. One of the unique comparative advantages of National Societies has been our comparative advantage in building relationships with governments and other key stakeholders. Those are important elements of effective implementation of the DRM activities. The Franklin core contribution of National Societies should be to encourage them to ensure that effective implementation of Red Cross Red Crescent assistance goes beyond the aid and help that is reflected within national laws, policies, strategies and programmes. In particular, National Societies should play a leading role in the development and implement policies, legal frameworks and strategies.

2. Partnerships with international, government, private and civil society-based organizations. It is important to recognize that the ability of National Societies to achieve the goals of the Global Alliance for DRM in their own context will depend on their ability to join forces with others to achieve the goals. These partnerships can be identified as having three core components, related to their national governments, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

A list of possible areas of focus for each of these core components is given in Annex 1. First, the core components, integrated across the programmes of the Red Cross Red Crescent activity, help to identify our brand in DRR and support the building of community safety and resilience. The focus on our work in the context of the core components in DRM recognises the importance of our considerable network of volunteers who have a key role in the development and delivery of services and support to community safety and resilience, especially in cases in which our volunteers do from the Red Cross Red Crescent movement and the capacity development that is a key part of the prevention and recovery of disasters. National Societies have a heavy emphasis on building the capacity of their volunteers to respond to disasters and for the delivery of DRM assistance.

4. Partnerships with local governments and national governments.

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Focus on building community safety and resilience in the face of disaster risks. This is important because the HFA is truly global and it is important, therefore, for us to positively address the HFA priorities which are:

- Built environment and sustainability in the face of disaster risk is constructively interlinked with other core priorities.
- The Global Alliance on DRR can emerge as an outcome of the HFA process, building on the good coordination these sector-based contributions to every National Society in addressing community safety and resilience. We are conscious that there are aspects of regional and national governments, government and non-governmental organizations.

Core Red Cross Red Crescent cross-cutting components

These are considered to be components that are involved in addressing disaster risks that they face, that can able to make our contribution but the systematic and on-going process of such risk reduction objectives. It is important to recognize that the building of community safety and resilience in the face of disaster risk cannot be achieved by the Red Cross Red Crescent alone. We can certainly make our contribution but the systematic and on-going process of such risk reduction objectives.

- Reliance on information: the provision of reliefs and the immediate needs following a disaster as well as follow-up recovery activities aimed at getting communities back on their feet, in an effort to play a major role in meeting longer-term risk reduction objectives. It is understood that humanitarian response to disaster and recovery following a disaster involves the sustained commitment of National Societies. However, this is not an ad hoc effort but involves stronger capacity in safety and resilience and decreased vulnerability as a whole to be sustained. It is important to assess whether the investment in disaster risk reduction is expected to benefit communities in the future.

- Community-based disaster preparedness.

Support across the spectrum of Red Cross Red Crescent activities to help our societies to bring back stronger. Many new areas of work, provided that the National Society can demonstrate clearly the case for intervention. National Societies should be encouraged to ensure that their planning and project cycle is continuous and that the various projects and programmes contribute to the promotion of community safety and resilience goals.

The tools in implementing programmes

Our National Societies already have many of the tools they need to implement programmes to support community safety and resilience and DRR. However, they may not be oriented towards the advancement of community safety and resilience goals and there may be gaps that are identified in terms of the need to continue to scale-up DRR activities.

To achieve community safety and resilience goals we need to ensure that our National Societies have:

- The ability and capacity to identify strengths and weaknesses in communities and to respond to community priorities.

The Global Alliance on DRR

One of the unique aspects of the Red Cross Red Crescent Community framework is the ability to build a greater common interest with communities and to respond to community priorities. In this case, the framework for community safety and resilience in the face of disaster risk can be achieved by the Red Cross Red Crescent together. We can certainly make our contribution but the systematic and on-going process of such risk reduction objectives.

- Advocacy, education and awareness-raising.

Red Cross Red Crescent framework that aims to build a greater common interest with communities and the ability to build a greater common interest with communities and to respond to community priorities.

To achieve community safety and resilience goals, we should look at National Societies that are implementing or supporting the community prioritization of the programme or thematic areas, particularly those that are addressing country or sector-specific DRR. It is likely that many National Societies will be involved in these areas already, therefore, we should identify common policy or strategic needs, especially emerging priorities.

- Partnerships and diplomacy.

An active youth strategy

A gender mainstreaming approach in all programme or thematic areas, particularly those that are addressing country or sector-specific DRR. It is likely that many National Societies will be involved in these areas already, therefore, we should identify common policy or strategic needs, especially emerging priorities.

- Partnerships and diplomacy.

A gender mainstreaming approach in all programme or thematic areas, particularly those that are addressing country or sector-specific DRR. It is likely that many National Societies will be involved in these areas already, therefore, we should identify common policy or strategic needs, especially emerging priorities.

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The framework for community safety and resilience – in the face of disaster risk

1 Risk assessment and identification and the establishment of community-based early warning and prediction. Activities that may stem from a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) or from other processes that help community to identify the risks that they face, and the vulnerabilities that such risks produce or exacerbate, in order to prevent their occurrence and to reduce their impact. These activities can also include, in particular, activities that relate to the provision of information to the community, such as evacuation and emergency procedures, or to the establishment of warning and prediction systems.

2 Community-based disaster preparedness activities. Support specific components of the local and national relief and recovery strategies from which the community can benefit, such as emergency planning and training, organizational adaptation, and the establishment of warning and prediction systems.

3 Advocacy, education and awareness-raising. Activities that aim to promote community safety and resilience by improving the awareness of citizens and communities of the risks that they face, and the capacities that they have to respond to them.

4 Funding and support activities. Activities that aim to promote community safety and resilience by providing financial resources to communities, and by encouraging and supporting national and international governments, and other organizations at different levels, the private sector, and civil society, to contribute to the promotion of community safety and resilience.

5 A strong auxiliary relationship with local and international governments. The framework for community safety and resilience is one of the main components of any disaster risk management strategy, and is therefore strongly related to the development of a strong relationship with the government. This framework is intended to provide a basis for the establishment of effective partnerships with local and international governments, and to promote the development of effective partnerships with local and international organizations, and to promote the development of effective partnerships with local and international organizations. The framework is intended to provide a basis for the establishment of effective partnerships with local and international governments. The framework is intended to provide a basis for the establishment of effective partnerships with local and international governments. The framework is intended to provide a basis for the establishment of effective partnerships with local and international governments. The framework is intended to provide a basis for the establishment of effective partnerships with local and international governments.

The Global Alliance on DRR

The Global Alliance on DRR will be the principal instrument for increasing the level of awareness and action in DRR at the national and international levels, and will be the main platform through which the Global Alliance will aim to promote the achievement of the following objectives:

1. To promote the development of national and international strategies for promoting community safety and resilience.

2. To facilitate the exchange of information and best practices on community safety and resilience.

3. To support the establishment of partnerships and networks between governments, international organizations, and civil society organizations.

4. To promote the establishment of national and international mechanisms for promoting community safety and resilience.

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Red Cross Red Crescent support to the Millennium Development Goals – Building community safety and resilience

Background

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) offers unique contributions to the building of safer, wiser communities. Contact with the reality of disaster risk reduction is a focus on community and specifically on communities that are rich from regular and new disaster impacts. We know that we have been implementing DRR for some years now, but with the world becoming increasingly unsafe, it is important that we try to build the foundations of future endeavours and for none of what works and what is effective. We also need to be more systematic in what we do as well as ensuring what we are doing ensures that the basic objections of safety and resilience are being addressed.

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Across the seven zones, a reference group was established to provide ongoing feedback on the framework reflecting National Society concerns. At the secretariat level the framework has been constantly under the scrutiny of all Kinshasa and DRR advisory group set up amongst disaster management staff, while the disaster preparedness and risk reduction groups of the Participating National Societies has also been regularly consulted. Suggestions and recommendations from these groups have been incorporated into the framework.

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Red Cross Red Crescent framework for community safety and resilience

Global alliance for disaster risk reduction

Appenndix 1: main areas of focus for the core components

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Red Cross Red Crescent framework for community safety and resilience

Risk assessment and identification and the establishment of community-based early warning and prediction

Risk assessment test analysis including VCA

Community empowerment for action

Innositve management and dissemination for timely response and for developing resilience to longer term programming to anticipate future risks

Climate change and new hazards

Advocacy for community action

Construction of the partner programme and the framework of community-based policies and strategies

Developing links with programmes

Capacity building for early warning

Community-based disaster preparedness

Building from the principles of the VCA

Developing preparedness at community and household levels

Building community infrastructure

Contingency planning

Community organization through branches

Establishing branch disaster response teams

Climate change and new hazards

Skills training

Identification of target groups – schools, home, workplace

Developing partnerships with knowledge centres

Programming at the level disaster preparedness with long duration risk reduction

Advocacy, education and awareness-raising

Knowledge and experience sharing

Awareness-raising for community organizations

Capacity development for National Society staff and volunteers and the community

Climate change and new hazards

Focus on schools

Developing partnerships with knowledge centres.

Strength auxiliary relationships with local and national governments

Support institution building – the inclusion of National Societies in national policies and plans

Representation of National Societies on national platform for DRR

National Societies as advocates for the identification of community-level delivery in national policies, strategies, plans and programmes

Protection of inclusive action at the local level with communities, National Societies, local governments and other stakeholders.

Partnerships with international, governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations

The promotion of local platform for DRR

The support of multi-stakeholder partnerships in programmes to promote community resilience

Capacity development at all levels

Knowledge sharing at all levels

Leadership in all aspects of protecting the cause of community resilience

Advocacy for the Global Agenda and links with the HFA.

A framework for community safety and resilience

In the face of disaster risk

Our global commitment

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been implementing DRR for many years although it might not have been characterized as such. The 1994 new wave direction programme with development-based activities being implemented in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including community-based disaster mitigation.

This new approach has now been adopted in our global commitments. In 1999, a new disaster preparedness policy recognized disaster preparation as the link between emergency response, recovery and development.

In 2005, the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted Final Goal 3.1 of its Agenda for Humanitarian Action which acknowledges the importance of DRR and underscores measures to minimize the impact of disaster on vulnerable populations.

Regional conferences in Algiers, Gajahmada and Singapore reinforced this focus. DRR is identified as a key action in achieving the goals of Strategy 2010, stating particularly that we should “scale up our action with vulnerable communities actively preventing, disaster preparation and disaster risk reduction.”

The 30th International Congress in 2007 adopted the declaration “together for humanity” which stated the importance of ensuring that “environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change are integrated, where relevant, into disaster risk reduction and disaster management policies and plans.”

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) therefore supports and resolves to work towards achieving the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by the global community following the world conference on DRR held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005 (see below).

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Appendix: the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Community people busy in vulnerability mapping and disaster preparedness training.

GOALS – Building community safety and resilience

Red Cross Red Crescent framework for community safety and resilience

Community safety and resilience

Red Cross Red Crescent global policies and strategies.
Red Cross Red Crescent support to the Millenium Development Goals – Building community safety and resilience

Background

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) offers unique contributions to the building of safer, wiser communities. Conceptually, it is the focus on community and specifically communities that are at risk from regular and new disaster impacts. We know that we have been implementing DRR for some years now, but with the world becoming increasingly urban, it is important that we try to build on the foundations of previous endeavours and be more of what works and what is effective. We also need to be more systematic in what we do as well as enabling what we do to resonate so that the dominant objective of safety and resilience are being addressed.

Global alliance for disaster risk reduction

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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Federation for Disaster Reduction (IFDR) work in collaboration to strengthen the contribution of local communities to disaster risk reduction. The 19 and 20th International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) also supported and endorsed this focus on community resilience and the development of more systematic and effective ways for DRR to be implemented.

A framework for community safety and resilience

In the face of disaster risk

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A framework for community safety and resilience

In the face of disaster risk

Risk assessment and identification and the establishment of community-based early warning and prediction

– Risk assessment and analysis including VCA
– Community empowerment for action
– Information management and dissemination for timely response and for developing resilience to longer-term programming to anticipate future risks
– Climate change and new hazards
– Advocacy for community action
– Construction of national and basin programme baselines
– Developing links with preparedness
– Capacity-building for early warning

Community-based disaster preparedness

– Building from the priorities of the VCA
– Developing preparedness at community and household levels
– Building community infrastructure
– Contingency planning
– Community organization through branches
– Establishing branch disaster response teams
– Climate change and new hazards
– Skills training
– Identification of target groups – schools, home, workplace
– Developing partnerships with knowledge centres
– Programming at 8 disaster preparedness with longer-term disaster risk reduction

Advocacy, education and awareness-raising

– Awareness-raising for community organizations
– Capacity development for National Society staff and volunteers and the community
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