

**Module 1a:
Science and
impacts**
An overview of
this module
May 2019



Module overview

INTRODUCTION

This module provides a basic understanding of why and how the climate is changing – and the main impacts, including the humanitarian consequences.

In most training, parts of this module – if not all of it – may be needed to ensure all participants have the same level of knowledge for subsequent discussions and planning of humanitarian action

If you as facilitator need to make a short-cut and provide just a refresher of the most important climate science and overall impacts, you may start with the *Science quiz* (find it in *Games*) – an energizing and fun way to rehearse the basics.

The material here is generic, i.e. for *global* use, so facilitators in specific regions or countries may need to add local information; the exercise on seeking secondary information can help that process.

If needed, for a better understanding of climate change impacts locally and regionally, we recommend you contact the Climate Centre team (kit@climatecentre.org).

Module 1b on *Climate and the Red Cross Red Crescent* is closely related to this module and the two can be easily combined; module 1b contains more information on the roles and responsibilities of the Red Cross Red Crescent in addressing climate risks.

OBJECTIVE

The module aims to increase your knowledge about the basic facts of climate change and its humanitarian consequences.

PRODUCTS

1. Relevant reading

Facilitators can acquire general knowledge on the risks caused by climate change and climate variability by reading the first chapter of the existing *Climate Guide* – several years old now, but it still provides a concise summary.

To aid National Societies engagement, we offer a special guidance note on *Collaboration with Met Agencies* as well as a note on *How to do a National Climate Risk Assessment*.

Finally, a short report explains the differences of expected living conditions in a world with global average warming if 1.5°C versus 2°C; does 0.5°C really make a difference? Yes it does – and there are serious humanitarian reasons for helping limit global warming as much as possible.

2. PowerPoint presentations with explanatory notes

This module offers two presentations:

- One explaining the basic science and impacts, and we recommend facilitators use only those slides they feel comfortable presenting. Although the presentation is generic, it includes some optional points on regional impacts.
- Another supporting climate risk assessment by National Societies as part of their existing national- and community-level activities.

Both presentations contain comprehensive supporting information for facilitators in the accompanying notes pages (for speakers only).

3. Games

In this section you will find the quiz that we promote to stimulate interactive learning that can stir up competitive energy in groups and is an efficient way to increase knowledge and trigger debate.

A number of other games are included that can be useful for younger children or as energizers throughout a longer training. Our Number 1 game, [Paying for Predictions](#), is also included as it can help to open different discussions on the need to take climate risks into account.

4. Recommended films

In this section you will find a short selection of films and animations explaining some of the key scientific issues like the greenhouse effect and 'weather' vs. 'climate' – plus an older, but still relevant, IFRC film on the humanitarian impacts of climate change. In particular the animated film [Attributing extreme weather events](#) (by CDKN) is useful for explaining how much we can blame climate change for extreme weather events and disasters; it can even be downloaded for offline use.

More films and local voices from risk-prone communities are available in Module 1b. We believe these testimonies and images well convey the concerns we have and the importance within the Red Cross Red Crescent of addressing the risks of climate change.

5. Experience from Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies

This part of the module includes a climate change background document from the Solomon Islands describing how climate change is affecting the country and how people plan to deal with the impacts.

In addition, we include a *Regional climate vulnerability assessment* from south-east Europe, two case studies on drought in East Africa, and links to Climate Centre news pieces with examples on collaboration between the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and providers of climate service.

6. Frequently asked questions

This section addresses questions we have received over the past few years, and we would encourage facilitators to read them through in advance.

You can also display questions in plenary session and ask for answers from the audience at the end.
