Meeting the Red Cross Red Crescent commitments to address the causes and consequences of climate change

Stocktaking of the achievements towards

30th International Conference Resolution 1 'Together for humanity', Geneva 2007

IFRC Strategy 2020, Geneva 2010

and IFRC Plan of Action for Climate Change 2013-2016, Geneva 2013

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Cover Picture: Philippines, Palawan, Busuanga, April 2015. Credits: Kate Marshall, IFRC

List of Abbreviations

AU	African Union
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation
COP	Conference of the Parties
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FbF	Forecast-based Financing for climate risk management
GCF	Global Climate Fund
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IFR	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRI	International Research Institute for Climate and Society
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
PfCC	Preparedness for Climate Change
PfR	Partners for Resilience
RCCC	Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
SEEFCCA	South East European Forum on CCA
SPREP	Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCA	Vulnerability And Capacity Assessment
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Executive Summary

At least 75 per cent of individual disasters are caused by hydro meteorological hazards-hazards which will only increase in frequency and intensity with climate change. Functioning as public authority auxiliary in the humanitarian field, and with more than half of its operations consisting in rescue and response to hydro-meteorological disasters, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement made a strong commitment to address 'the humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change' at its 30th International Conference in 2007.

This report highlights the progress of the Red Cross Red Crescent in addressing climate change, providing key examples from national government dialogue to local community action. Achievements towards the IFRC Plan of Action for Climate Change 2013-2016, IFRC Strategy 2020 and 2007 Resolution are systematically reviewed, relying on the eight 2007 International Conference commitments presented here in their abridged form, with added emphasis numbered commitments:

> "We are resolved to [1] *work with partners* to [2] *raise awareness* of these serious humanitarian concerns, including their causes, and to [3] *provide humanitarian assistance* to the most vulnerable people, in particular those in affected developing countries.
>
> We will capitalize on the community base of National Societies to [4] *decrease the vulnerability* of communities where environmental hazards and degradation are severe and adaptive capacity is low.
>
> We reaffirm that preparedness for disaster is a key element in the management of response, and we will seek to [5] *improve individual and collective capacity to respond swiftly* to humanitarian challenges induced by environmental degradation and climate change.
>
> We are resolved to [6] *ensure that environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change* are integrated, where relevant, in disaster-risk reduction and disaster-management policies and plans. We will seek to [7] *mobilize the necessary human and financial resources* to implement them, giving priority to actions for the most vulnerable people.
>
> We acknowledge the commitment of States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the core mechanism for addressing climate change at the global level, and we affirm that aspects of the Movement's work [8] *support and complement* elements of the UNFCCC."

Progress has been made concerning all eight commitments. The IFRC, including its member National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in 189 countries, has repeatedly proved itself well placed to facilitate climate change cooperation at all levels and across sectors. The report particularly puts forward as key building blocks for this success: capacity building through various tools developed by IFRC, awareness raising through innovative channels, and strong partnerships with a variety of actors from local to international fora. Moreover, the sustained presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in communities and its day to day interaction with community members is a formidable asset in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development and protection of development gains.

To further increase the effectiveness of operations and address climate change more thoroughly, this report also identifies challenges encountered along the way. Some are

common to mainstreaming in general (i.e. maintaining a trained pool of staff, adequate institutional functions, forming partnerships with non-traditional actors and horizontal integration across organizations also applies to gender mainstreaming). In contrast, some challenges are more specifically related to climate change, such as the interpretation and communication of climate change, the broad nature of the issue incorporating both adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation, its novelty in the national and institutional contexts.

Based on the identification of achievements and challenges, further implementation recommendations are made to address climate change with actions from international to community level.

Introduction

For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), humanity today cannot advance without addressing climate change. Ensuring that individuals and communities are equipped with capacity to anticipate, to reduce the impact of, to cope with, to take advantage of opportunities and to recover from actual or expected climate change and variability constitutes the very foundation for sustainable development. So is the adoption of more environmentally sustainable living, including sustainable natural resource management. The sustained and trusted presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in communities and their day-to-day interaction with community members is a formidable asset in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development and protecting development gains.

***Picture 1**. Floating Village in Artex, Panghulo Barangay, Malabon City, Philippines. August 2013. Credist: Madeline Wilson, IFRC*

In line with IFRC's strong resolution, this publication showcases the strength and potential of the IFRC network in addressing climate change. It reflects National Societies' engagement, from national government dialogues to local community action, highlighting practical interventions to reduce more frequent and intense climate risks posed to the most vulnerable. Across countries, the Red Cross Red Crescent at large also mainstreams climate change into strategies, policy and programming. Therefore, the purpose of this report is threefold:

(i) take stock of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities addressing climate change, as outlined in the IFRC Plan of Action for Climate Change 2013-2016;

(ii) juxtapose the achievements with the objectives set at the 2007 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (hereafter 'International Conference') under Resolution 1;

(iii) report to the 32nd International Conference on the achievements and challenges encountered along the way.

Based on these achievements, further implementation recommendations are made to address climate change with actions from international to community level.

Following climate change background information *(section 1)* and a presentation of the respective roles of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in the global effort addressing climate change *(section 2)*, this report provides a comprehensive although non-exhaustive overview of how National Societies have implemented 1) the 2007 International Conference resolution, 2) the IFRC's Strategy 2020, 3) related international agenda such as the Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction *(section 3)*. This overview includes Red Cross and Red Crescent success stories from different regions. Rounding off the report, a *fourth section* proposes recommendations to further enhance the Red Cross Red Crescent climate change efforts from community to international level.

1. Background

1.1. Climate Change is unequivocal and inevitable

2014 was officially the hottest year in the history of meteorological records, starting in 1880. That same year, the publication of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings clearly indicated a scientific consensus on the “unequivocal” and steadfast progressing nature of global change (IPCC, 2014). The IPCC further considered it "virtually certain" that human influence causes the unprecedented warming of the atmosphere and ocean, mainly through the burning fossil fuels and deforestation.

Indeed, meteorological measurements confirm a global rise of average surface temperature, making the past 30 years the warmest period of the last 140 years. Aside from gradually rising temperatures, climate change is also manifest through ocean acidification, the melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets, and rising sea levels. The international scientific community agrees that the first and most severe climate change impacts will derive from linked climate variability, inducing extreme events such as droughts and flooding (IPCC, 2012). Environmental degradation, water and food insecurity are also likely to be aggravated by climate change.

Projected global changes to the climate system will inevitably vary from region to region, their implications for climate-related hazards and potential impacts on populations are further outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of projected climate change, implications for climate hazards and potential impacts (based on IPCC 2012 and IPCC 2014)

Projected change to the climate system	*Impacts on hazards*	*Impacts (both direct and indirect) of hazards on populations*
▪ **Continuous increase in average temperatures** ▪ **Ocean acidification** ▪ **Ocean warming and sea-level rise** ▪ **Increasing temperature and precipitation departures from average values (in both frequency and intensity)** ▪ **Increased wind speed** ▪ **Decreased ice and snow cover** ▪ **Changes to wind patterns**	▪ Increased inundation events along coastlines ▪ Decreased availability of drinking and irrigation water, decreased water quality ▪ Increased flooding and heat stress in urban areas ▪ Decreased ecosystem health ▪ Increased frequency of forest fires and landslides ▪ Increased strength of cyclones ▪ Changed frequency and spatial and temporal distribution of vector and water borne diseases ▪ Increased glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) ▪ Shifting seasonal patterns ▪ Increase wildfires ▪ Reduced protection from reefs increasing the threat of storm surge or tsunami	▪ Death, injury and ill-health (including under-nutrition, heat stress and vector and water borne diseases) ▪ Disrupted and loss of livelihoods (especially rural agricultural and tourism related livelihoods) ▪ Increased erosion of coastlines and damage of coastal property ▪ Increased displacement of people (both permanent and temporary) ▪ Increased risk of violent conflict ▪ Damaged and disrupted infrastructure, especially in urban areas ▪ Increased risk of food insecurity (both land and marine) ▪ Decreased area of coastal land suitable for habitation and agriculture ▪ Increased economic losses ▪ Increased risk of poverty

1.2. Consequences of inaction

The IPCC warns of the cost of inaction: a failure to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will see the global climate become more volatile with more frequent, severe and unpredictable climatic events accompanied by natural resource shortages (e.g. freshwater). While not all extreme events can be attributed to climate change, it is obvious that existing humanitarian challenges will be exacerbated - calling for increased response, preparedness and prevention from the humanitarian and development systems. In 2012, the RCCC Director co-authored the IPCC's SREX report, assessing scientific information on the causality between climate change and the rise of severe extreme events. The report reemphasised the necessity for the humanitarian sector to become a strong actor on climate change and to engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue at all levels to enhance resilience in face of a changing climate.

Climate change represents one of the greatest global challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. Although the causes of climate change can only be tackled effectively by all-inclusive, international political commitment, it is crucial to address already increasing impacts through local action.

1.3. Climate change impacts will hit us – but mostly the poor and marginalised

The IPCC observations demonstrate the climate vulnerability of natural and human systems across the globe. The IPCC also highlights that "people who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized are especially vulnerable to climate change and also to some adaptation and mitigation responses" (IPCC, 2014). Thus, poor people in all countries, and in developing nations especially, are disproportionately more exposed and sensitive to varying climate patterns. These already vulnerable communities will suffer more frequently, and to a greater extent, from disasters.

As the latest IPCC report was released in March 2014, IFRC President Mr. Tadateru Konoe offered an editorial summarising the main humanitarian messages of the report:

- "There is strong confirmation that risks have been rising in recent decades - a message that has long been clear to millions of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers around the world;
- Fortunately, immense capacities exist to address rising risks – capacities that can be even more effective when applied with greater awareness and investment ahead of potential problems; the first line of defence for vulnerable communities in many risk-prone countries is preparedness and greater resilience;
- If, and only if, we cut GHG emissions drastically and soon, will we continue to be able to manage the impacts. If, on the other hand, we continue emitting GHGs as we do today, we will be reaching the limits of adaptation in more and more places, and the humanitarian consequences will be dire;

  We must ensure that information on risk finds its way to those who need it most, especially vulnerable groups directly affected, so local knowledge is combined with the best available science. We must also ensure that an even wider audience is aware of the big choices ahead – about how we address risks that are rising now, and the even bigger risks we can still avoid".

1.4. Global commitments needed to halt climate change

Most countries have signed the international treaty of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), aiming to tackle global warming. The main purpose of the UNFCCC is "to stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system" – i.e. to keep global warming below the dangerous threshold of 1.5 or 2 degree Celsius temperature rise by the end of the century. Any such action taken to reduce longer-term risk and hazards of a changing climate, by either cutting down on emission sources, or enhancing GHG sinks (e.g. planting trees), is summarized under Climate Change Mitigation (CCM).

Since 2007, the UNFCCC negotiations also address Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) to meet the challenges of the already unavoidable consequences of climate change. CCA refers to measures taken to manage increasing climate variability and extremes, minimize potential damages, cope with the consequences and take advantage of new opportunities, such as increased attention directed towards building more environmental and sustainable development practices.

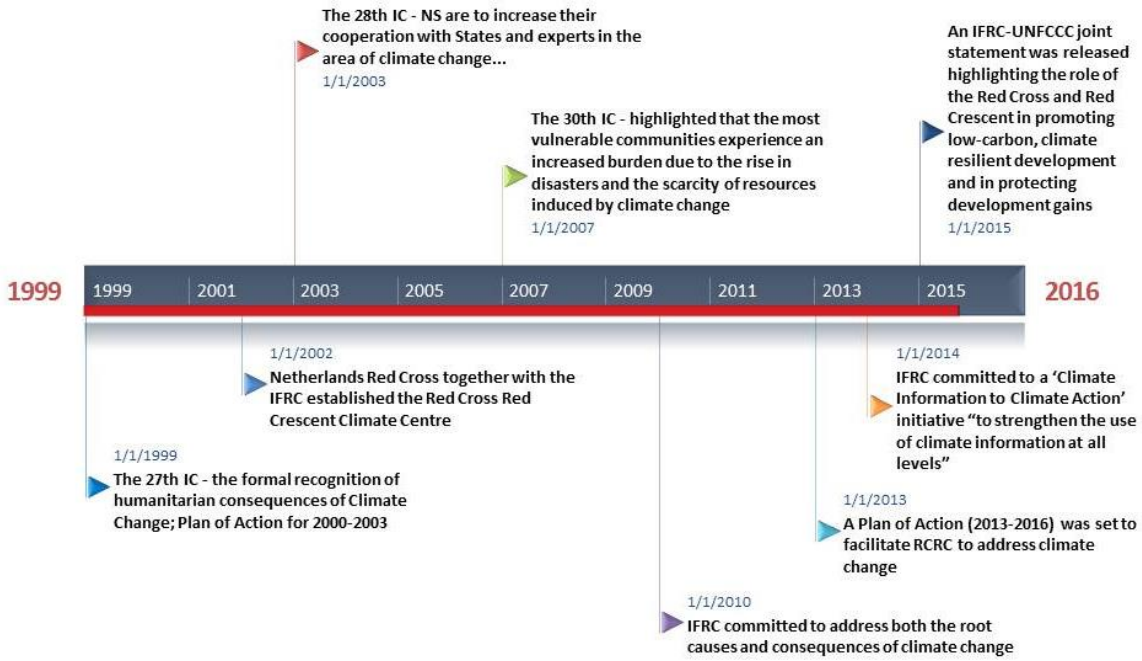
The IPCC states with clarity that both adaptation and mitigation strategies are mutually necessary in order to reduce the humanitarian consequences of climate change. Major financial commitments are needed to allow to step up scope, scale and geographical coverage of both CCM and CCA activities.

2. Climate change and the Red Cross Red Crescent

Facing new and more intense climate-related disasters in their day-to-day work with vulnerable communities, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been increasingly confronted to the damaging impacts of climate change. Building on community knowledge and capitalizing on extensive global and local networks, the Red Cross Red Crescent has been translating global climate change science information into action. Building on its power of unity, the Red Cross Red Crescent has also relied on its capacity to shape global climate change policies in the interest of the most vulnerable, whom it pledges to serve.

1.5. Commitments to address the humanitarian implications of climate change

The IFRC has recognized and inspired the interaction between climate change and humanitarian action since 1999. Key dates are pinpointed on figure 2, and further detailed below.



1999: The 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent constituted the first formal step in taking the humanitarian implications of climate change into consideration. The 2000-2003 Plan for Action adopted at the Conference thus stated:

> "*the International Federation, while drawing upon existing research and the competence of relevant international bodies, will undertake a study to assess the future impact of climatic changes upon the frequency and severity of disasters and the implications for humanitarian response and preparedness"*.

2002: Partly stimulated by the above study, the Netherlands Red Cross in partnership with the IFRC established the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (hereafter RCCC) in 2002. Since its foundation, the aim of the RCCC is to support the Red Cross Red Crescent and partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people. RCCC connects scientific knowledge, policy and practice, ensuring the humanitarian community is serving the most vulnerable across the globe.

2003: The resolution adopted at the 28th International Conference specified that

> "*States are strongly encouraged to prioritize and provide resources to implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures, including measures to address issues relating to climate change and variability. National Societies will increase their cooperation with States and experts in the area of climate change in order to limit the potential negative impact on vulnerable populations. In so doing, they may draw on the recommendations outlined in the report 'Preparedness for climate change' as requested by the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference in 1999"*.

2007: Governments party to the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement gathered for the 30th International Conference in 2007. The Conference focused on pathways to alleviate suffering caused by the great challenges facing the world. Environmental degradation and climate change were identified among the priorities requiring a collective response. The 2007 International Conference highlighted that the most vulnerable communities experience an increased burden due to the rise in disasters and the scarcity of resources induced by climate change. Climate change perpetuates poverty, triggers migration, increases health risks and aggravates the risk of violence and conflict.

Pictures 2a and 2b. *29th International Conference International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Credits: Jorge Perez, IFRC*

Resolution 1 'Together for Humanity' (Box 1) laid down the institutional building blocks to bridge the frequent divide between climate science projections, and action-driven local relief work attending to the needs of the most vulnerable. At the International Conference, National Societies and governments resolved to address the humanitarian impacts of climate change by pledging to:

1. "work with partners...";
2. "... raise awareness of these serious humanitarian concerns, including their causes";
3. "decrease the vulnerability of communities";
4. "provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people, in particular those in affected developing countries";
5. "improve individual and collective capacity to respond swiftly to humanitarian challenges";
6. "ensure that environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change are integrated [...] in disaster-risk reduction and disaster management policies and plans";
7. "mobilize the necessary human and financial resources to implement them, giving priority to actions for the most vulnerable people";
8. "support and complement elements of the UNFCCC".

Box 1: Excerpts from *Resolution 1 – Declaration: Together for humanity* from 30th International Conference, Geneva, 26-30 November 2007.

Humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change

"We are deeply concerned that people everywhere, especially the poorest of the poor, face an increased burden due to the rise in disasters and the scarcity of resources induced by multiple factors, such as environmental degradation and climate change, which contribute to poverty, migration, health risks and an aggravated risk of violence and conflict.

We are resolved to work with partners to raise awareness of these serious humanitarian concerns, including their causes, and to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people, in particular those in affected developing countries.

We will capitalize on the community base of National Societies to decrease the vulnerability of communities where environmental hazards and degradation are severe and adaptive capacity is low.

We reaffirm that preparedness for disaster is a key element in the management of response, and we will seek to improve individual and collective capacity to respond swiftly to humanitarian challenges induced by environmental degradation and climate change.

We are resolved to ensure that environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change are integrated, where relevant, in disaster-risk reduction and disaster-management policies and plans. We will seek to mobilize the necessary human and financial resources to implement them, giving priority to actions for the most vulnerable people.

We acknowledge the commitment of States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the core mechanism for addressing climate change at the global level, and we affirm that aspects of the Movement's work support and complement elements of the UNFCCC".

2010: IFRC's commitment to address both the root causes and consequences of climate change was enshrined in its Strategy 2020 (IFRC 2010; Box 2). Strategy 2020 calls for a contribution to CCA through scaling up disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures, and contribution to CCM through advocacy and social mobilization.

Box 2: Excerpts from *IFRC Strategy, 2020* (IFRC 2010)

"A major driver of disaster risk is extreme weather events and environmental degradation, both of which have been linked to climate change. Recognizing that our understanding of the extent and impact of climate change will continue to evolve, we contribute to measures for adaptation – actions to reduce the vulnerability of communities to modified environments – and mitigation – environment-friendly behaviours that also reduce the extent of global warming which causes climate change".

"Our climate change adaptation work is through scaling up disaster risk reduction measures and strengthening traditional methods of coping with disasters that are relevant in particular environmental contexts. We also contribute to mitigating the progression of climate change through advocacy and social mobilization to promote sustainable community development that optimizes communities' carbon footprints. 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. We exemplify this through the way we conduct our own business throughout the International Federation".

2013: A Plan of Action (2013-2016) was set to facilitate the Red Cross Red Crescent to address climate change in good coordination with government plans. It provides a clear vision on the IFRC key priorities for building community resilience. The Plan for Action further identifies main objectives and activities needed for scaling up work on climate change, and provides an overall framework to increase coordination and knowledge sharing within IFRC.

2014: At the 2014 Climate Summit in New York, the IFRC committed to a 'Climate Information to Climate Action' initiative combining its own efforts with those of government and multilateral partners "to strengthen the use of climate information at all levels". The initiative would not only draw on improved climate data, but also data on vulnerability, exposure, and population. The IFRC welcomed the new international commitment for climate information to become a "public good" for use in agriculture and food security, water, health, and DRR by 2017, and across all climate-sensitive sectors by 2021. These objectives were set in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The commitment further detailed that by the end of 2015, the IFRC would support high-risk communities in at least 40 countries to use climate information to enhance their resilience. Within the same time frame, the Red Cross Red Crescent also committed to scale up public awareness and education on changing climate risks by mobilizing its 17 million volunteers and 189 National Societies, and systematically communicating to the general public about the role of climate change in major disasters. The IFRC also quadrupled the number of cities where urban risk reduction programmes are implemented by the end of 2015.

2015: An IFRC-UNFCCC joint statement was released during the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, highlighting the Red Cross Red Crescent's role in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development and in protecting development gains, especially via their day-to-day interaction with community members (see Annex I for full statement).

2.1 The role of National Societies

All governments recognize National Societies as auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. Although it is the primary responsibility of governments to provide services to those in need, National Societies supplement them in the fulfilment of this role by addressing the vulnerabilities existing within their respective borders. The partnership between governments and National Societies offers the latter a privileged seat in governmental decision-making fora, and access to humanitarian action resources. Building on the expertise and extensive network of the Red Cross Red Crescent, key climate change risks can effectively be addressed through National Societies networks, from international down to community-based volunteer networks.

Further examples on how National Societies have been working, often in collaboration with their governments, are provided in section 3. That same section also highlights types of activities undertaken to implement the 2007 International Conference commitments and achieve the Strategy 2020 objectives.

1.6. The Role of the IFRC and the RCCC

The IFRC and the RCCC support National Societies to reduce the risk and impact of climate change induced disasters by aiming for two strategic goals: (i) create a sustainable framework to secure the availability of human, technical and financial resources; (ii) establish and constantly maintain up to date knowledge on climate change. A third long-term outcome shall constitute a strategic asset: to dispose of a universal organizational knowledge about climate change, climate change related funding and climate-smart DRR and preparedness, including food and livelihood security, at all levels.

On the ground, this universal knowledge is expected to equip vulnerable people across the globe with relevant understanding about a changing climate, and the climate smart local actions to take to adapt to new conditions and thus build resilience. Over the last years, the IFRC has identified the following interventions to reach its goals:

1. *At community level*:

- To develop National Society capacity and skills to use climate and weather information across timescales, enhancing disaster preparedness and DRR, community based health-care, agriculture, food security, and recovery planning linked to Early Warning Systems, contingency planning, branch and community preparedness and response (as part of training curriculum for key staff and volunteers);
- To disseminate knowledge and develop skills to integrate climate change concerns into community assessments and to facilitate climate smart action planning;
- To support National Societies to work with local authorities to promote the consideration of climate change concerns and information in development planning and decision-making;

- To raise awareness and mobilize around environmental values and practices to promote a more environmentally sustainable way of living;
- To raise awareness and bring the topic to the attention of the wider public as an urgent and serious humanitarian concern and encourage collective effort;
- To build confidence to coordinate and liaise with local authorities and other partners for cooperation.

2. At national level:

- To encourage National Societies to engage in national level policy dialogue and build partnership with relevant ministries and technical agencies to address the implications of climate change for the most vulnerable populations and to integrate activities as appropriate in the national development plan;
- To encourage National Societies to become an active player in the field of climate change, including through National Adaptation Programmes of Action and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions consultation and implementation processes as well as the development of climate change related law and policy, and to mobilize nationally allocated climate finance for local action;
- To integrate and mainstream climate change concerns and information into Red Cross Red Crescent programs from short to longer terms and across relevant areas, through sensible and more coherent policies, strategies, tools, training and operational plans;
- To create better awareness of and interest in climate change issues amongst National Society leadership and its different departments so as to enhance national level decision making;
- To promote (finance mechanisms for) a holistic approach to disaster risk management uniting prevention, preparedness, emergency and recovery phases.

3. At global and regional level:

- To engage in relevant global negotiations on climate change under UNFCCC, including finance mechanisms to ensure local action and the most vulnerable people will ultimately benefit from climate finance;
- To engage with relevant regional organisations and processes in order to promote better integration of climate change concerns within DRR and management frameworks and arrangements
- To dedicate trained human resources to support the integration of climate change, as guided by Strategy 2020, within IFRC and National Societies;
- To develop strong communication and capacity for awareness raising and advocacy to engage with policy dialogues and the public on climate change;

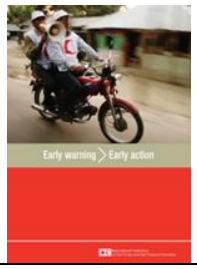
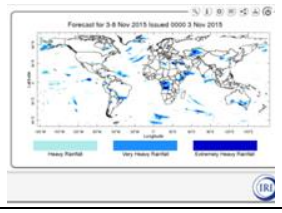
  To cooperate with key stakeholders for effective partnerships with e.g. inter-governmental organisations, climate science institutes, etc. to maximise the collaboration outcome in addressing climate change.

The IFRC has developed a range of tools to assist the Movement partners in incorporating climate change aspects in plans, programs and humanitarian diplomacy. It

also ensures that best practices are widely shared, for instance disseminating participatory videos listed at the end of Table 2.

Table 2. Main tools and guidance developed to assist the Movement partners in achieving targeted climate risk management interventions

Tool	Objective
IFRC Plan of Action Climate Change 2013-2016 (2014)	 The Plan of Action provides a clear vision on the IFRC key priorities for building community resilience to climate change. It identifies main objectives and activities needed for scaling up work on climate change and provides an overall framework to increase coordination and knowledge sharing within IFRC.
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide (2007)	 The guide offers an overview of climate change science based on the 2007 IPCC report, its humanitarian consequences and implications for the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It presents a step-by-step approach for National Societies to get involved in tackling climate change at all levels, through generic guidelines and good practices.
How to engage with National Adaptation Plans (2013)	 The guide supports National Societies in their engagement on national level policy discussions regarding CCA through getting involved in the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
Accessing climate finance (2013)	 The guide provides National Societies an overview of dedicated funding sources for climate change and how to access them. As a 'living' document, it is regularly updated to reflect the mobile financing environment.
A Guide to mainstreaming DRR and CCA (2013)	 The guide assists National Societies and IFRC staff to systemically integrate risk reduction measures in their planning, including climate-related risk.

Integrating Climate Change and Urban Risks into the VCA (2011)		The vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) is a comprehensive methodology for reducing risk. This guide integrates information on the additional risks and vulnerabilities linked to climate change when carrying out a VCA to ensure the success and efficiency of longer-term vulnerability-reduction strategies.
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Training Kit (2015)		The kit was developed to support capacity building on climate risk management. It aims to help trainers and facilitators shape interactive training events or workshops, and tap into existing knowledge within the Movement.
Minimum Standards for local climate-smart DRR (2013)		The document provides a practical checklist to help local community leaders and DRR practitioners ensure that risk reduction efforts are climate-smart and contribute to CCA.
'Early Warning - Early Action' handbook (2008)		The "Early Warning – Early Action" handbook was developed by the IFRC and as one answer to rising climate risks. The Red Cross Red Crescent is investing more into people-centred Early Warning Systems so that their Early Actions (preparedness and mitigation/prevention) are suited to the extreme weather event.
IFRC MapRoom		This collection of maps provides information that can be used for humanitarian decision-making around the world, developed by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society and the IFRC. It also provides information on the types of Early Action that can be taken based on these maps.
Climate change – an introduction to staff and volunteers (e-learning course)		The online course available on the IFRC learning platform introduces to the causes and consequences of climate change and the ways these issues can be addressed at the community level. It also aims to reach an all-inclusive organizational preparedness.

The impact of climate change on human mobility – guidance note (2014)		This guidance note outlines the effects of climate change on migration, the IFRC's approach to migration and steps to support communities who may be affected by displacement, either short or long term.
The Checklist on Law and DRR (UNDP and IFRC, 2015)		This checklist provides guidance on how to assess the content and implementation of laws and regulations to determine whether they are promoting an integrated approach to DRR, climate change adaptation and environmental and natural resource management.
Communicating Climate Change for Risk reduction in Pacific Communities - guidance note for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and Volunteers (2013)		A community-based response to climate change requires that communities not only understand the threat of climate change but are also motivated to take action to reduce the risks. This Guidance Note draws on research and experience gathered from practitioners across the Pacific. It presents common challenges, a set of principles and examples to support communicating climate change for risk reduction. Some notes of caution have also been included.
Participatory Videos on Climate Change	Belize : Participatory Video on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness (2012) Colombia: Participatory Video on Community Adaptation to Climate Change (2012) Mexico: Participatory Video with School Children on Climate Change (2012) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Participatory Video on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (2012) Egypt: Participatory Video on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (2011) Malawi: Participatory Video on Adaptation to Climate Change by Mphunga Villagers (2009) Tanzania:The importance of Climate Information to Communities (2014) Tanzania: Climate Risk Information: Connecting the dots between Maasais, national and international actors (2014)	

2. Red Cross Red Crescent response to climate change

Working with the most vulnerable communities across the world, National Societies have developed innovative approaches to address climate change in a systematic way. National Societies are on the way to incorporate climate (change) risks into different levels of their organization, mainstreaming[1] climate smart DRR, CCA and CCM (e.g. by tree-planting campaigns) throughout the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and on the ground. The IFRC concept of *Early Warning, Early Action* was operationalized with success, and new financing mechanisms of Early Actions prior to a disaster are currently piloted by a number of National Societies.

This chapter highlights good practices from 2007 onwards, showcasing progress made by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in addressing climate change. Note that the paper cannot do justice to the wealth of examples available within the Red Cross Red Crescent. Also, some of the cases included here are not necessarily originally planned to address the climate change challenge, but represent activities that could be considered for replication and scaling up in more dedicated climate-smart programming.

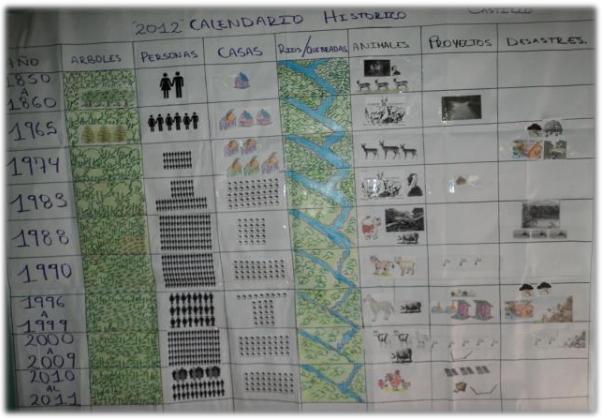
The examples are here presented in accordance with the eight commitments made toward the implementation of Resolution #1 of the 2007 International Conference.

2.1. Commitment 1: "work with partners... "

The global nature of climate change requires actors to work together in reducing vulnerability and adapting to its impacts, as well as addressing the root causes of climate change.

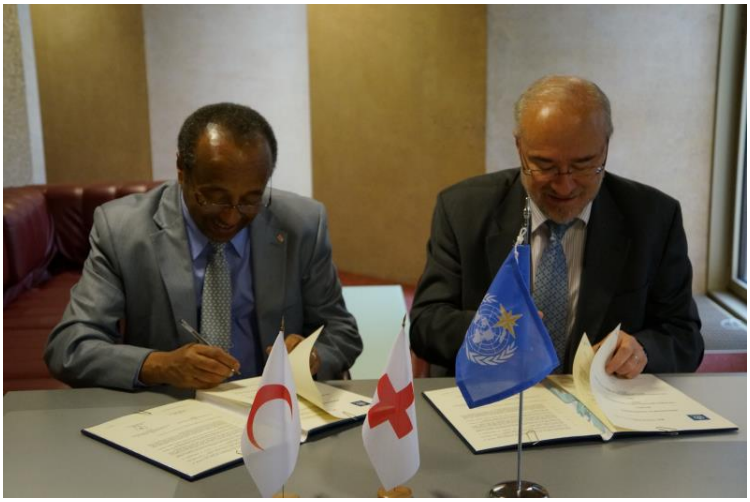
The prime Red Cross Red Crescent partner are **communities** themselves. As a community-based organization and the world's largest humanitarian network, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement can rely on more than 100 million members and volunteers, providing key access and mobilization of local communities and resources. Although the extent to which communities are in the driving seat varies from Red Cross Red Crescent project to project, communities are always more than just 'beneficiaries'. To start with, they identify local risks and priorities themselves during Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs). In programs such as Partners for Resilience (PfR), implemented in nine countries by an alliance of organizations including National Societies, committees with elected community members played a central role in action planning, implementation and monitoring. Local institutions, such as cross-border pastoralist networks, were strengthened to improve Early Warning and Early Action processes. Community members often took the lead, training others as 'model farmers' or participating in exchange visits to motivate their peers. This high level of community involvement leads to increased programme effectiveness (local solutions for local problems), efficiency and cost effectiveness (high acceptance of mitigation and adaptation activities and pooling of resources), and sustainability (building on and strengthening local institutions which remain in place after programme phase out). [ID1]

[1] Note: Mainstreaming refers to the combination of initiatives, measures and strategies to reduce vulnerability to climate through policy formation regarding disaster management plans, food security, water resource management, health issues, sustainable livelihoods, institutional structures and implementation design



Pictures 3a and 3b. *Historical timelines and mapping of community environment and resources are integral part of the VCA process – a knowledge best provided by community members themselves. Credits: Nicaragua and Mexican Red Cross*

Recognising that impacts of climate-related extreme weather events are among the most costly, there are increasing examples of collaboration in dealing with **private sector and various knowledge centres**. Also, climate change impacts do not stop at borders; not a single government nor organization can address them alone. Complementing **national and sub-national** level advocacy for mitigation and adaptation, the IFRC has thus engaged with **international partners** to advocate for collective effort and community involvement to address climate change. Examples of these partnerships (with a formal agreement with IFRC) are provided in table 3.



Picture 2. *The Secretaries General of the IFRC and WMO signed a memorandum of understanding at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services. Credits: Joy Muller, IFRC*

Table 3. Examples of further formal partnerships with IFRC in areas of common concern, including climate

Type of work with partners	Example
Private sector partnerships	**Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance** is an innovative partnership between Zurich Insurance, Wharton Business School, International Institute of Applied System Analysis, IFRC and Practical Action. It aims to enhance community flood resilience by finding innovative ways to increase the impact of DRR efforts at the community, national and global levels. The programme uses insurance expertise to enhance resilience to flooding while looking at the role of financing for communities that need it the most. The initiative is developing early-warning systems and other measures in flood-prone areas of Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal and Peru. The programme was selected as one of the twelve shining examples of climate change action in the 2014 Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities.
Partnerships with governments	The **Government of Kenya**, the Kenya Red Cross Society, and IFRC have signed a tripartite agreement in 2014 to jointly undertake the Sustainable Environment and Restoration Programme (SERP) aimed at improving environmental and climate change management in the country.As part of Kenya's development strategy, Vision 2030, the Government of Kenya aims to carry out environmental management initiatives including increasing forest cover, protecting and restoring river basins and 'water towers', and managing solid waste. The **Government of Iran**, Iranian Red Crescent Society and IFRC have signed an agreement in 2015 concerning the protection of environment and sustainable development. As a part of the tripartite agreement, parties are aiming to further strengthen relations and strategic partnership in environment protection, nature conservation and sustainable development. Agreement covers the following focus fields: expansion of scientific-educational activities, DRR activities, advocacy campaigns on environmental protection and sustainable resource utilisation.
Partnerships for Climate Services	The results of two independent evaluations demonstrated that new partnerships were developed as a result of the **Preparedness for climate change programme partnerships** (PfCC) programme. Almost all 64 National Societies formed new or enhanced partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, meteorological institutions, and/or universities. Partnerships were initiated through workshops, information was collected from new sources, and joint projects were formed such as development of community based Early Warning systems. Collaboration with existing partners has also been enhanced, driven by the growing need to share knowledge, and information, coordinate efforts and unite resources to increase preparedness and minimize risk. The PfCC programme along with the 2007 International Conference made a profound impact on awareness and acceptance of climate change as a humanitarian concern within Red Cross Red Crescent. Since 2011, the **International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)** is developing tailored forecasting and monitoring products to help the IFRC improve its capabilities to both respond to and prepare for disasters. The need to incorporate climate information into disaster-risk reduction and decision making is urgent, evidenced by the increasing frequency, intensity and humanitarian consequences of disasters around the world. The IRI's climate-risk management approach involves combining state-of-the-art climate information with knowledge on vulnerability and sector specific impacts. Over the last 11 years, the IRI has developed a variety of tools to better understand, anticipate and respond to climate and weather events and their socioeconomic impacts – including the IFRC MapRoom and seasonal (3-months) forecasts which are increasingly used by IFRC and National Societies. The partnership is also well positioned to use improved models for climate anomalies and extreme weather forecasts. This could be vital for Early Warning

and response measures as both extremes and anomalies present particularly complicated conditions for disaster response

IFRC and WMO work together to reduce the risk of climate-related hazards facing vulnerable communities around the world. The two organizations, which have collaborated on disaster risk for many years, signed a memorandum of understanding in 2013, on the side lines of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services. Invited by WMO at the end of 2007, the IFRC participated in the International Organising Committee of the third World Climate Conference. The preparatory process started in 2008 and the conference took place in September 2009. The IFRC actively contributed to the design of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) – an outcome of the conference. At country level, the IFRC assists National Societies (i.e. Malawi and Tanzania) for the Frameworks' implementation, while at the international level, it remains as a member of the Partner Advisory Board of the GFCS and continues its support.

The Global Framework for Climate Services is a global partnership of governments and organizations that produce and use climate services to address climate variability and change. IFRC signed a memorandum with the World Metrological Organization and pledged to make science-based climate information and prediction accessible and understandable to local actors and communities to reduce the risk of climate-related disasters.

IFRC and the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development signed a cooperation agreement in 2009, first of its kind between a humanitarian organization and Sub-Saharan meteorological institute. With technological advances achieved in the area of climatology and hydrology, it is now possible to forecast likely disastrous situations and reduce their impact. The agreement thus enables improved design and implementation of development projects incorporating risk prevention in relation to disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones.

The Finnish-Pacific Project is funded by the Finnish Government and administered, by the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). IFRC and SPREP are collaborating to implement the community based component of the project which involves the creation of partnerships between National Meteorological Services and Red Cross National Societies in 10 Pacific Nations. They are working with local communities and villages to develop Early Warning Systems and improve dialogue between disaster managers, meteorological services and end users of weather and climate information. Community feedback on the formats of weather and climate information are being used in the development of new and improved products by the National Meteorological Services.

IFRC and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) signed a partnership agreement in 2014, aiming to improve the way in which weather and climate information is delivered, understood and acted on, by communities living with the everyday impacts of climate change, ultimately strengthening community resilience by making climate and weather information relevant to the needs of communities living on the frontline of climate change. IFRC and SPREP are collaborating to implement the community based component of the project which involves the creation of partnerships between National Meteorological Services and Red Cross National Societies in 10 Pacific Nations. They work with local communities and villages to develop Early Warning Systems and improve dialogue between disaster managers, NMSs and end users of weather and climate information.

Commission of the African Union (AU)	The IFRC has permanent observer status with full diplomatic accreditation at the AU. Moreover, the IFRC Africa humanitarian diplomacy office was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in September 2011. Its goal is to link humanitarian diplomacy activities with AU member states and international organizations through the formulation and implementation of a clear and strategic agenda. The humanitarian diplomacy and AU representation office brings together the following disciplines to ensure maximum output: communications and advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy affairs, international relations and public affairs, strategic partnerships, and disaster law. Concerning the latter for instance, the disaster law programme in Africa has conducted legal preparedness projects in collaboration with several African National Societies, and supported the development of legislation relating to both international disaster response and disaster risk reduction at the community level since 2009. IFRC and AU also partner up for more punctual projects, such as the launch of the 2012 World Disaster Report.
African Development Bank	The African Development Bank, mandated with spurring socio-economic development in its 54 member countries, has united its forces with IFRC following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2015. Combining substantial financial means and unique access to vulnerable communities, both organizations aim to jointly foster disaster preparedness and response, especially to flooding and food insecurity. In addition to specific climate change related activities, potential areas of collaboration include health care, food security, youth development, and water and sanitation.
Green Cross International	IFRC and Green Cross International signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014, extending their collaboration in reducing the risks of environmental-related hazards facing vulnerable communities around the world. Both organizations emphasize the importance of addressing climate and environmental risks in strengthening the resilience of communities in the face of natural and man-made disasters. The agreement sets out the parties' intention to strengthen cooperation in three main areas: CCA and mitigation including the promotion of environmental values and practices, adequate access to water and sanitation, as well as nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness.
Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	In 2012, IFRC and IGAD signed an agreement to cooperate in a number of matters of mutual interest, including the promotion of effective disaster laws. Both organizations aim to collaborate to improve the legal preparedness of IGAD Member States for international humanitarian assistance, both from within as well as from outside the region. This collaboration promotes the establishment of domestic legislation for regulating national disaster management structures as recommended by the Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (the IDRL Guidelines), as well as laws that promote DRR activities and engagement at the community level in IGAD's Member States. The Agreement also provides for the promotion of regional and bilateral agreements facilitating border crossing assistance amongst IGAD's membership. Considering its origins and current role in the Africa region, IGAD is an important partner for IFRC when it comes to the development of legal preparedness. The agreement is another step to making emergency assistance in the region more efficient and more cost-effective.
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)	In 2013, IFRC and IFOAM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim to advance the food and nutrition security, climate resilience and sustainable household livelihoods agenda through the promotion and realisation of interventions based on the IFOAM 'principles of Organic Agriculture' and in particular the agricultural practices of organic agriculture and agro-ecology.

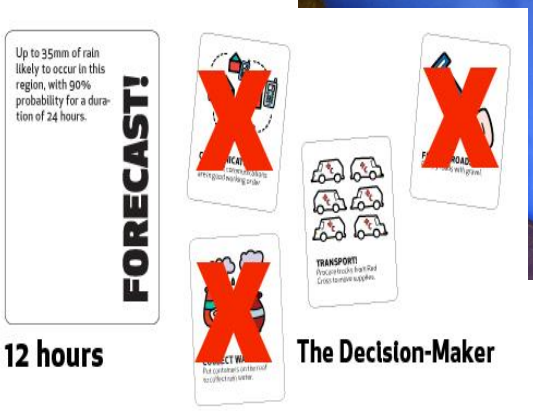
Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Secheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	IFRC entered into formal partnerships with the two key African institutions, with the aim to improve services for the vulnerable population. The partnerships focus on promoting the economic and social development of local communities in African continent, concentrating on initiatives to reduce poverty; improve climate change and DRR; food security, nutrition and sustainable development; youth, gender and sustainable development; health care and HIV/AIDS.
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	IFRC and **FAO** signed a new partnership agreement to help improve food security and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in 2013. FAO will provide technical guidance to complement IFRC's extensive network to assist poor households cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition. FAO and IFRC have developed a three-year action plan that includes activities to address climate change and combat land degradation, including tree planting and sustainable water management, and to reduce food losses and waste.
Partnerships in South East Europe	National Societies and selected **civil society actors** in Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia have joined forces in advocating and raising awareness about climate change concerns in their countries. The South East European Forum on CCA (SEEFCCA) was formed as a regional cooperation between the **Croatian Red Cross, Macedonian Red Cross, Montenegro Red Cross, Serbia Red Cross** and the **RCCC**, sponsored by the European Union's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, Austrian Red Cross, Institute for Economic Promotion of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The aim of the regional collaboration has been to provide a collective response to climate change impacts and share experiences through training, awareness raising, multi-sector network building and responding to heat waves. The SEEFCCA established a communication and advocacy network through knowledge exchange, personal contacts, online channels and the national networks. It has also become an expertise pool, developing high quality materials. A number of regional cooperation actions were initiated in partnership with the Regional Cooperation Council, the Climate Impact Research & Response Coordination for a larger Europe, South East Europe Virtual Climate Change Centre in project activities, European Environment Agency. With this regional outreach, knowledge was transferred in both directions: from and to regional institutions. Lessons learned from the SEEFCCA experience directly fed into the development of Climate Forum East, a similar project aimed at building civil society capacity for advocacy and policy dialogue in the Eastern Partnership countries (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**).
Partnerships with 'youth'	Youth is specifically targeted by Red Cross Red Crescent capacity building efforts. The **French and Spanish Red Cross** rely on games such as 'Tri-attitude' (on waste sorting and recycling) and 'Terra' to build youth's capacity on environmental topics. Keeping word with their 2012 'Declaration of Youth' according to which they want to be actors of change, French youngsters in turn build the awareness and capacity of others, as they organize their own activities. On 'Red Touch Day (14 November 2015), youth launched their own activities such as 'environmentally friendly breakfasts' and cleaning campaigns.

2.2. Commitment 2: "raise awareness on these serious humanitarian concerns, including their causes"

Not all population is equally aware and informed about vulnerability and the measures they can take to pro-actively adapt to climate change - awareness raising is thus a crucial element to manage the impacts of climate change, enhance adaptive capacity, and reduce overall vulnerability. The Red Cross Red Crescent pledged to promote the

awareness of people and organizations across the globe, as articulated at the 2014 UN Climate Summit by the IFRC Secretary General:

> "By the end of 2015, the IFRC will support high-risk communities in at least 40 countries to use climate information to enhance their resilience. We also commit within the same time frame to scale up public awareness and education on changing climate risks by mobilizing our 17 million volunteers and 189 National Societies, and systematically communicating to the general public about the role of climate change in major disasters."



Picture 5 (above). *Puppets allow children to examine their own emotions from a safe distance. Credits: Maya Schaerer, Nicaragua Red Cross*

Picture 6 (left). *Using games to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Credits: Senegal Red Cross*

The Red Cross Red Crescent conducts public awareness and education both through community-based activities and work with partners and governments, relying on creative, simple communication methods. Indeed, climate science information for DRR and preparedness must still be conveyed in a way that is clear yet attention grabbing, and given in a manner the audience is able to visualize, understand and engage with. While science plays a role in climate change response, public understanding is primarily shaped by experience, proximity and risk perceptions. Communication about global warming must be localized (tying up to local realities), expressed in simple and effective terms. The aim of such communication is to stimulate self-mobilization and action amongst all communities, institutions and policy makers, also mobilizing traditional knowledge and local resources. Understanding of climate and environmental change motivates people to change their behaviour and pro-actively prepare for the 'surprises' of a changing climate.

Various effective communication channels have been developed to inspire governments to address climate change, some of them listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Examples of awareness raising activities

Type of awareness raising	Example
Drama	*Theatre plays* were widely used as a tool by many National Society to raise awareness, amongst others by National Societies from **Macedonia, Fiji and Kiribati**. *Community puppet shows* were also held by the National Societies in Samoa, Colombia and Guatemala using the drama skills of volunteers, to raise awareness of climate change and provide practical solutions such as interpretation of weather warnings and health promotion.
Radio	In **Kenya**, the Red Cross contributed to train radio staff on communication of forecasts and probability. They also funded through their *Partners for Resilience* programme a radio mast to broadcast climate change and seasonal risk information to the wider public.
Animations	Two short humorous animation films were produced in 2013 by an alliance of agencies in the Pacific to link climate science with decision-making and preparedness in the region. The Pacific Adventures of the Climate Crab gives an overview of climate processes, impacts and possible adaptation measures in the wider **Pacific region**. Klaod Nasara (which means "cloud Meeting place" in Bislama) focuses on similar topics and was translated into 3 languages. Both films are accompanied by resource toolkits which aim to help facilitate dialogue and action. The project was implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the Commonweath Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian and Vanuatu Red Cross and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the SPC-GIZ Climate Change Programme and the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department. Input was collected from 14 Pacific island states. So far 9,000 DVD copies of the animation have been distributed across the Pacific, and been incorporated into the curriculum of schools across 5 countries. The animations have had over 19,000 Youtube views and been translated in Tonga, Niue and Kiribati.
Art workshop and art competition	An Art workshop and art competition were organized by National Societies in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia**. A regional drawing competition for schoolchildren with national prizes and the winners from all three countries exhibited afterwards.
Participatory video	Other examples of National Societies using participatory videos for CCA and mitigation include: **Colombia, Egypt, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico and Tanzania**.
Documentaries	Airing of climate change documentaries on national television took place in **Argentina, the Pacific Islands** and the **Caribbean Islands** with the support of local broadcasting services. The documentaries' aim was to mobilize community disaster response volunteers and to promote disaster preparedness and response in the face of a changing climate.
Online computer game	In **Syria**, the National Society developed an online computer game for children to learn more about the impacts of climate change and how to reduce emissions.
Game play	A widely practiced way of learning about the implications of climate (change) risks and humanitarian decision making processes based on Early Warning s was done through games. National Societies of **Uganda, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Philippines** were even trained to run these games in their own networks.
Information, Education and Communication materials	Production and distribution of brochures, leaflets and posters relating to climate change was done by many of the **64 National Societies** participating in the 2006-2011 Preparedness for Climate Change Programme.
Primary and secondary	**Tuvalu Red Cross** organized Disaster Reduction Day in schools to raise awareness about climate change and actions to reduce risks (in partnership with the NDMO and

education programs	Meteorological Service). In **Kiribati**, technical resource people and the National Society provided a workshop on climate change to school teachers. The teachers implemented the knowledge in the classroom through interpretation of climate change and DRR into poetry, songs and plays. In the **Solomon Islands**, the National Society organized volunteer events such as training courses, awareness and clean-up days with Honiara Youth Committee, school education and provided tertiary course input. In **Honduras**, the Red Cross in collaboration with the Secretariat of Education incorporated climate change and risk reduction in the school curriculums. In Indonesia, Colombia, Nicaragua, the National Societies held teacher and student trainings on climate change.
Audio-visual competition	A competition was organized by the **Italian Red Cross** with the title 'Change yourself and Ciak!' to educate the public about climate change and the environment.
Applications for mobile phones	*A mobile application quiz* was developed by **Serbia Red Cross**. It is an innovative, interactive application for hand held devices. The quiz was used by volunteers to involve passers-by in talking about CCA.
Roadshow	The **Bangladesh** Red Crescent Society supported by the Canadian Red Cross and the IFRC, built a stage on a truck and visited more than 10 districts in Bangladesh covering cyclone-, flood- and drought-prone areas. Relying on interactive popular theatre medium and youth volunteers, the roadshow communicated messages on CCA to more than 10,000 people along its route. The roadshow also asked people to outline how they envision a resilient community. In order to capture grassroots voices, volunteers used crowd-mapping technology to later analyse in strategic planning. Colourful hand fans with CCA messages on them were distributed for people to take home as a reminder of the new information they learnt during the road show event.
Real life simulations	**French Red Cross** simulated the evacuation of the population in the city of Alfortville, exposed to flooding, as part of its programme 'Aware and Resilient'.

2.3. Commitment 3: "decrease the vulnerability of communities" and commitment 4 "provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people, in particular those in affected developing countries"

Supporting National Societies to help build sustainable resilient communities capable of dealing with disaster and climate change impacts is crucial. A wealth of tools, guidelines and training material have been developed to help National Societies, their staff and volunteers facilitate a change in approach (see Table 5). Making use of the latest scientific information, planning should gear vulnerable communities for changing risk patterns.

National Societies have been working in collaboration with local communities to explore how they could change their lifestyles and livelihoods to face climatic changes. Environmental resource management activities play a particularly important role, as poor and vulnerable communities are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihood - therefore even more sensitive to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. By enabling people to protect, diversify and enlarge their (natural) resource base through environmentally sustainable livelihood strategies, resilience to climate change and variability is strengthened. Over the past 5-10 years, community-based resilience building projects have increasingly included aspects relating to a changing climate, including different timing (changing seasonality) and more intense and frequent extreme events.

National Societies have implemented climate change actions in at least 102 countries, with a special focus on the most vulnerable communities in all types of settings, including small islands states, urban areas, arid and semi-arid lands, flood-prone zones and drought prone regions.

Table 5. Example of activities to decrease community vulnerability

Type of work with partners	Example
Toolkits for decreasing vulnerability to climate change	The Caribbean CCA (3CA) Toolkit was developed by the IFRC and Belize Red Cross. It was designed to help communities incorporate CCA into community-based disaster management activities and implement climate change programming in DRR. It contains a training set in 3CA methodology, pre-designed tools to collect data at community level, and techniques to communicate climate change. Participating National Societies include **Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.**
Documentation	The Solomon Islands Red Cross completed a research based background document on climate change and used this analysis as a basis for subsequent planning. The document contained community perspectives and climate related information gathered from diverse stakeholders. The document is utilized as an example during trainings conducted globally.
Partners for Resilience	PfR is a global partnership for an integrated approach towards community resilience. It is an alliance of five Netherlands-based humanitarian, development and environmental organizations: Netherlands Red Cross (lead agency), CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Wetlands International - financially supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PfR aim to reduce the impact of natural hazards on the livelihoods of vulnerable people worldwide by building community resilience and addressing climate change through ecosystem management and restoration. In all project areas, local government authorities have included the PfR programme in their policies and budgets to reduce the impact of climate change on their environment and communities. PfR programs have been implemented through local Red Cross partners in nine countries: **Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Uganda.**
Using games to reduce vulnerability to climate change	The upstream and downstream communities of El Castillito and Moropoto in **Nicaragua** experienced the power of games as a fun and effective way to promote learning about CCA, DRR, and sound ecosystem management. With their neighbours, friends and PfR partners, community members played a game in which players representing upstream and downstream communities made decisions about growing crops, protecting assets and feeding their families – all while managing the risk (represented by dice) of floods and drought. The game is a simplified version of a reality they live day to day, and an innovative way to think about adaptation methods suitable to their lives. The **Senegal Red Cross** (supported by the IFRC and the Climate Centre, Parsons School for Design 'PetLab') brought together climate scientists, National Society staff and community members, including volunteers, to create a game reflecting the ideas of Early Warning - Early Action. Players created over 300 action cards during the workshop, generating new ideas for disaster preparedness. The game was first used in the island of Doune Babe Dieye, where people suffer and die from entirely predictable storms. The **Uganda Red Cross**, with support from the German Red Cross, played the Climate Centre decision-making game 'Paying for Predictions', to help politicians, students and disaster managers understand that science-based forecasts can help anticipate extreme events.. The 'Upriver' game, helps Zambian people understand what happens during floods and take part in early-warning communications by SMS. Upriver was designed by EGL and the Climate Centre in collaboration with the **Zambian Red Cross**, with support from the **American Red Cross** and the Research Council of Norway through the project, Courting Catastrophe?.
Climate change action grants	The Australian Government funded 'Community-based Climate Change Action Grants' supporting the work of **Vietnam Red Cross** to introduce communities to climate resilient livelihood strategies including alternative animal husbandry techniques and new rice varieties - successfully reducing fertilizer use and GHG emissions. The project also

	improved disease resistance and substantially increased farmers' profit margins.
Drought resilience	**Kenya Red Cross** has trained communities on eco-system based, climate smart DRR and Early Warning Systems for drought. The National Society, in partnership with technical and national partners, also helped people to diversify and create sustainable livelihoods by the introduction of drought resistant crop, fruit, tree varieties, and reforestation (expanding nursery sites).
Livelihood support	**Nepal Red Cross** has been working to provide livelihood support and develop environmentally sustainable communities through plantations, soil erosion protection, effective waste management, knowledge diffusion about different crops and ways to preserve food, seeds and samplings. **Ethiopia Red Cross** has provided communities with agricultural infrastructure (irrigation, dams, terracing, eye-brow basins), seeds and tools. **Mongolian Red Cross** provided vocational training for alternative livelihood resources. In **North Korea**, the National Society offered kitchen gardening, animal husbandry and food processing skills training. The **French Red Cross** is active in various countries, implementing projects which protect and enlarge the resource base on which communities can build their livelihoods: improvement of irrigation and sanitation systems, farmers' schools introducing drought resistant techniques, cereal banks and many more.
Working in Small Island Developing Sates	The Maldives is the lowest-lying country in the world and is endangered by rising sea levels. In the Maldives, the Red Crescent supports communities through conducting climate risk integrated participatory risk assessments. In addition to assessing disaster risks, the Red Cross helps communities record changes in climate, understand the impact of changing weather patterns on their livelihoods, take stock of current indigenous adaptation strategies, and build an action plan for adaptation and mitigation at the community level. This allows for greater cooperation and investment from both community and external partners to build community resilience. In Samoa, the integrated, holistic community assessment (household surveys, participatory assessment, working with community representatives to prioritize) identified urban areas in the capital Apia particularly vulnerable (exposed and sensitive) to climate risks due to their socio-economic status, location and conditions. The Red Cross and the national Health Ministry are using the findings to design programmes. The Building Resilience in Communities and DRR programme aimed to increase community resilience in three Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Suriname. As a result, community homes are safer against disaster and climate change hazards, communities know how to implement risk reduction projects and readiness actions and have improved health conditions.
Flood prone areas	**Danish Red Cross** has started organized meetings for local communities, taking the coordinating role of bringing together stakeholders from local government, local emergency response structures and insurance companies into flood affected areas. National Societies in **Indonesia, Mexico, Peru and Nepal** are developing early-warning systems and other measures in flood-prone areas as part of the Zurich Flood Resilience Programme.
Arid and semi-arid lands	**Syrian Arab Red Crescent's** participatory assessment identified tree planting as key activity to reduce the long-term effects of drought, to improve the income of communities by providing grazing and firewood, to reduce the risk to sandstorms by trees acting as windbreaks and stabilizing top soil. French Red Cross sets up cereal banks for population in Tschad, Tanzania and Niger in cases of low or no harvest.
Urban areas	Given the high population density and high concentration of vulnerable people in urban areas, integrating CCA practices in urban disaster risk management CCA is very important. The Greater Jakarta Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Project supports the **Indonesia Red Cross** (Palang Merah Indonesia) to build capacity on Disaster Preparedness and Response, and to strengthen urban communities' resilience to potential disaster risks and impacts posed by climate variability, climate change and

	environmental degradation. The project links into the National Society's ongoing Clean and Green Initiative, promoting flood control activities that also have an environmental benefit, such as solid waste management, minimizing litter, and recycling, with the aim to decrease the amount of garbage going into canals and rivers and clogging drains. The project engages youth to raise awareness about environmental issues and motivate citizens to take part in these activities.
Bio-rights approach	Partners for Resilience has put the innovative bio-rights approach in practice in **Guatemala**. The aim of the approach is to provide local communities with a loan to invest in sustainable income generating activities. Communities repay their loan in the form of conservation and rehabilitation of the environment, such as reforestation and refraining from unsustainable land use practices. The approach reaches several objectives at the same time as communities conserve their natural environment reducing the risk of disasters, and diversify and decrease their dependency on solely one crop by investing in alternative livelihood options.

Although climate change effects, and the approaches to deal with them, are often framed in relation to 'disasters' (the International Conference commitments thus only refer to integrating climate change into DRR and disaster response policies and plans), climate change also has a range health-related effects. Hence, as part of holistic resilience building, efforts to reduce vulnerability must frequently also address evolving health risks. Several National Societies target the changing patterns of water and vector-borne diseases through water/sanitation schemes. The Early Warning – Early Action approach was also applied in relation to health and prevention education to communities, relying on seasonal and weather forecast for drought, flood or heat wave risks (see Table 6).

Table 6. Example of activities addressing climate and health

Activity addressing climate and health	Example
Health risk management	The ' Health Risk Management' project, financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, integrates climate change and variability with health programming through combining community priorities with climate factors in operations and risk reduction. Climate information has been built into regular public-health work to take into account changing risks. The project addressed two types of climate-induced diseases: diarrheal in Kenya and Tanzania and dengue fever in Indonesia and Vietnam. Through the programme, **Kenya Red Cross** improved water and sanitation facilities, raised awareness of hygiene and hygiene practice, provided information on Early Warning for health promotion, conducted school- and community-led total sanitation training, presented seasonal and weather forecasts from the meteorological department and facilitated income-generating projects to build modern toilets. The **Tanzania Red Cross** applied seasonal intervention strategies, provided health and prevention education to communities and communicated seasonal and weather forecast. As part of the Health Risk Management Project, The **Indonesian Red Cross** established national level partnership with the Health Ministry, carried out VCA, distributed educational materials and developed a contingency planning. In **Vietnam**, Red Cross volunteers were backed up by the distribution of nearly 60,000 printed leaflets for households and school students, and 400 each of flip-charts, volunteer handbooks and banners carrying key messages about dengue fever.
Climate sensitive diseases	'Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health', financially supported by Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization and implemented in collaboration with the Fiji Ministry of Health, was the first global project that worked directly with developing countries to design and

	implement practical measures to protect health due to rapidly changing climate. In the project's framework, **Fiji Red Cross** carried out VCAs, provided community information on the impacts of climate change and demonstrated health practices to prevent Climate Sensitive Diseases in order to apply climate sensitive disease prevention.
Heatwave action plans	Heatwaves action plans were developed to mobilize volunteers during heat waves and to enhance outreach to the most vulnerable and excluded groups of society in Europe: the isolated, poor, handicapped and elderly people. European Red Cross Societies in **France, Germany, Italy** and the **Netherlands** have initiated activities to reduce adverse impacts, and have been working with governments to design national action plans. In **Georgia**, the National Society is currently working with government representatives and other experts to develop an urban heat wave Early Warning system, which will alert citizens when a heat wave is forecasted, and provide them with information on how to adapt to high temperatures, with a focus on elderly and homeless people.

2.4. Commitment 5: "improve individual and collective capacity to respond swiftly to humanitarian challenges"

The burden of the humanitarian system will increase due to climate change. The Red Cross Red Crescent is taking steps to improve its preparedness and response to disasters, including enhanced use of weather and climate information for proactive response preparedness (see Table 8). The 'Early Warning – Early Action' approach has been widely adopted, standard contingency planning processes adjusted to also prepare for more extreme events. Challenges in applying medium to longer-term weather and climate projections in practical disaster preparedness remain. More advanced methods to turn scientific information into relevant decisions are increasingly being explored.

Picture 7. *Satellite phone communication programme. Credit: Christopher Black, IFRC*

Table 7. Examples of work improving preparedness and response

Type of work improving preparedness and response	Example
Forecast based Financing	The Forecast-based Financing for climate risk management (FbF) is based on the realization that disbursement of humanitarian funding should be made available before a disaster happens rather than only post-disaster. The financing is triggered by science-based parameters involving the forecast of an extreme event that is likely to cause avoidable losses and suffering. This early-warning network is now a reality in Togo and Uganda thanks to the financial assistance of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and German Red Cross. Through the installation of rain gauges in Togo's river basins, **Togo Red Cross** volunteers are now able to send data to the project partner - the national hydrological service - to anticipate weather events and their aftermaths. In **Uganda**, the Red Cross elevated houses, carried out VCA and led the educational game 'Paying for Predictions' as part of the FbF project.
Pacific satellite phone communication programme	Low lying islands in the Pacific are experiencing worsening coastal flooding events. In response, small and growing National Societies increasingly focus on disaster preparedness. **Tuvalu Red Cross** in collaboration with New Zealand Red Cross and IFRC distributed satellite phones and provided training to enhance Early Warning and reduce response times in the islands for climate as well as non-climate related events.
Early Warning - Early Action	Following warning about a possible heat wave, the **Croatia Red Cross** communicates with the affected counties in the South East European region. The designated National Societies address vulnerable populations directly through their active volunteer networks trained in advance for such events. In **Belarus**, climate information was used to reduce the time of disaster response management. The Red Cross took Early Action rather than waiting simply to respond by requesting DREF funding for flood preparedness after receiving a forecast for severe flooding. In addition, in the light of spring flooding risks, the Emergencies Ministry asked the Red Cross to assist in national response efforts and scale-up preparedness before the flood by training extra volunteers and practicing search and rescue. With support from the **Canadian Red Cross, Thailand Red Cross** integrated DRR and CCA, and built Community Resilience through Early Warning Systems / Early Warning Early Action.
Courting catastrophe?	'Courting catastrophe? Humanitarian policy and practice in a changing climate' is a collaborative and interdisciplinary research project focused on urban climate risk and rural flooding, financed by the UK Department for International Development and the Research Council of Norway through the NORGLOBAL programme. The research project is led by the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric) at the University of Life Sciences, Norway in partnership with Comsats Institute of Information Technology, Institute of Environment, Gender and Development Studies, Mekelle University, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development, Nepal Institute of Development Studies, **Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**, and The Development Fund. The project focused on rural flooding in **Zambia**, identifying pathways to prevent climate variability damages.

2.5. Commitment 6: "ensure that environmental degradation and adaptation to climate change are integrated [...] in disaster-risk reduction and disaster management policies and plans"

There are three main reasons for integrating DRR and CCA measures: (i) minimizing duplications, (ii) reducing potential conflicts in policy development, and (iii) making efficient use of scarce resources. Numerous National Societies already engage in integrated DRR and climate adaptation strategies, providing a unique learning opportunity for the Movement.

Very concretely, incorporating CCA into 'regular' disaster reduction measures is a way to ensure that DRR measures fulfil their objectives on the long term (for instance that a well dug today will still function with lowering water tables). This can be attained through small changes, e.g. the establishment of networks providing climate information and technical advice, continuously drawing on information about changing risks

Table 8. Examples of work integrating CCA into DRR policies and plans

Type of work integrating climate change into DRR and disaster management policies and plans	Example
Integration into policies	**Australian Red Cross** Policy Statement on Climate Change outlines the commitment of the National Society to supporting vulnerable individuals and communities in Australia and in the Asia Pacific Region to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In 2012 **IFRC** and the Organization of **American States** (OAS) co-sponsored the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability. The event was focused on managing risks of extreme events and disasters to advance CCA and aimed to develop recommendations on improving governance in emergency legislation.
Integration into strategies	The first goal of the **Solomon Islands Red Cross** Strategic plan 2010-2015 is to "Support the development of safe, peaceful & cohesive communities and enable successful adaptation to changing environments". To achieve this, Solomon Islands Red Cross will "increase resilience to the impact of climate change, extreme weather events & natural disasters by working with communities to achieve equitable, peaceful & sustainable DRR outcomes". **Nepal Red Cross** integrated climate change in its 'Disaster Management Strategic Framework 2010-15". More recently, **Swiss Red Cross and Danish Red Cross** have included concerns for changing risk patterns in their strategies for international support, including support to climate-smart risk reduction measures.
Integrating climate change into community based DRR planning	The **IFRC** included climate risk in the IFRC's VCA approach in order to identify the major climate risks and priorities of vulnerable communities. The key to CCA at the community level has been to encourage those vulnerable to climate change to assess and understand the possible impact of a changing climate in their everyday lives. Building on the findings of VCA, the Red Cross Red Crescent can understand the various ways communities can be empowered to reduce risk and build resilience in order to successfully adapt and develop coping capacity.
Integrating climate change in the Caribbean	Mainstreaming Climate Change into Disaster Risk Management for the **Caribbean Region** was a regional programme for integration of climate change in the Caribbean, in order to enhance community resilience in Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency CDERA states/territories and to mitigate and respond to the

	adverse effects of climate change and disasters. The project was sponsored by Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and Austrian Development Agency, and was implemented by National Societies in collaboration with Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), IFRC, Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC). It focused on integrating climate change into vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs) and fostering regional partnerships.
Partners for Resilience	The **Netherlands Red Cross, the RCCC**, CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, Wetlands International and more than 30 humanitarian partners in the South increased the resilience of citizens against natural disasters, climate change and the deterioration of ecosystems with their alliance 'Partners for Resilience'. It is one of the biggest programmes of its kind, integrating DRR, CCA and environmental resource management approaches, working on ecosystem-based and climate-smart DRR in nine countries across the world, reaching more than 400,000 people.

Moreover, increasing attention should be paid to solutions that harness synergies between CCA and CCM. While the concerns for climate change's immediate humanitarian consequences has caused a focus on CCA to handle upcoming changes, there also is urgency to contribute to CCM. This need to prevent the further escalation of climate change is made explicit in the IFRC Strategy 2020 (Box 2). Win-win situations exist as activities such as tree planting and agro-forestry programmes not only help mitigate climate change, but also enhance local livelihoods, improve food security, reduce disaster risk, and combat desertification – thus also contributing to socio-economic development goals. The IFRC calls upon governments and development agencies to prioritise those activities within their GHG mitigation portfolios.

Picture 8. *Mangrove planting in Indonesia. Credits: Jenelle Eli, American Red Cross*

As global deforestation accounts for more than 20% of the world's GHG emissions, reduced deforestation and improved forest management is crucial for a sustainable climate response. The IFRC has been promoting such practices, being involved in reforestation and forest conservation related projects worldwide to simultaneously adapt and mitigate climate change risks.

Leading by example and inspiring communities for collective effort, the IFRC has displayed a strong commitment to tackle climate change within its global network. Greening organizational functions has been taken up these past years, highlighting both challenges and opportunities.

Table 9. Examples of CCM activities

Type of work to address CCM, often with CCA co-benefits	Example
Environmental management - forestation	**Swiss Red Cross** in collaboration with Honduras Red Cross reforested a significant part of their project area while working together on integrated CCA and DRR.
	The **Mongolia Red Cross** has planted trees in the Southern part of the country and established community based fire response teams in order to protect forested areas.
	In **North Korea**, the National Society carried out a reforestation project covering the establishment of a community tree nursery, training and agro-forestry management.
	The **Nepal Red Cross** has been assisting communities to sustainably manage community forests and nurseries.
	As part of the ecosystem-based, climate-smart DRR project sponsored by the Partners for Resilience, **Philippine Red Cross** implemented a reforestation plan in Mindanao.
	Rwanda Red Cross included tree planting in its disaster risk management programme. In 2010-2011, for example, more than 500,000 trees were planted in two districts of the western province with the support of IFRC.
	Sri Lanka Red Cross developed a national tree planning campaign to focus efforts on reforestation. Its programme work at community level for mitigation purposes included the initiation of farmers' field schools, community seed banking, forest market gardening and community forestry.
	Syrian Arab Red Crescent identified tree planting as a key activity through the participatory assessment. According to the assessment, forestation will reduce the long-term effects of drought, improve the income of communities by providing grazing and firewood and reduce the risk to sandstorms by trees acting as windbreaks and stabilizing topsoil.
	Uganda Red Cross introduced drought-resistant trees and early-maturing crops to reduce vulnerabilities of local communities and contribute to GHG mitigation efforts. Furthermore, the Red Cross was involved in a 1,000,000 tree planting initiative between 2010 and 2012, engaging the national forestry authority and private companies to contribute.
	Vietnam Red Cross in partnership with the IFRC and Japanese and Danish **Red Cross**, has been planting and protecting mangrove forests in Vietnam since the 90s, understanding the interconnected economic, environmental and social benefits. Mangrove afforestation has been an efficient and effective way for disaster mitigation protecting coastal inhabitants from typhoons and storms, enhancing livelihoods as well as mitigating climate change. Throughout the 17 years of its existence, around USD 8.88 Mio were spent on the programme (accumulated annual figures, un-annualised). The present value of estimated minimum CO2 emissions absorbed by the VNRC planted mangroves stands at USD 218 Mio, assuming a price of USD 20/t CO2 (IFRC estimates, 2011). In addition, the Vietnam **Red Cross** and American **Red Cross** are working in partnership with Winrock, SNV, and the Centre for Sustainable and Rural Development as part of the Forest and Deltas Programme. The project combines CCM, adaptation and DRR, with the goals to: 1) support land use practices that slow, stop and reverse emissions from deforestation and degradation of forests and 2) increase resilience of people, places and livelihoods in delta areas through assistance on adaptation and DRRs. While the Red Cross role within the partnership primarily focuses on elements related to DRR and CCA, the larger programme also includes Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and payment for environmental services (PES).
	The Sustainable Environment Restoration Programme (SERP) was launched by the

	Kenyan Red Cross and the IFRC together with the Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The aim is to plant and care for 2.5 billion trees by 2018, restore river basins, conduct environmental education in all schools and manage solid waste to tackle environmental degradation and climate change consequences.
	The **Iranian Red Crescent**, the IFRC and the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran have signed an agreement on the Protection of Environment and Sustainable Natural Resources.
	Colombian Red Cross's Climate Change Programme, has a set of internal and external activities based around two action lines: Awareness and Protection, and Resilience and Adaptation. Awareness and Protection involves not only raising awareness towards climate change and GHG reduction but also activities that help improve the environment. The Resilience and Adaptation activities involve working with communities identified as being struck by climate change effects and require intervention projects (this line includes livelihoods, food safety, infrastructure, etc.) The Business Action Line involves working with employees of companies to build Green Committees that raise awareness and propose green projects in their offices and their companies impact areas.
Fuel efficient stoves	**Guatemalan Red Cross** developed a plan to distribute improved cooking stoves to reduce deforestation and emissions, improve the health of those affected by smoke, and increase the efficiency of traditional cooking. The new stoves are just as simple but produce less smoke and require much less firewood, saving nearly 20 hectares of forest annually.
	Ethiopian Red Cross also introduced fuel-efficient, wood-saving stoves to ease the pressure on local forests, as part of the Partners for Resilience project.
	Other examples of National Societies introducing improved stoves include, **Honduras, Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.**
Reducing food waste	Owing that half of all greenhouse gas emissions are related to the global food system, the National Society in **Taiwan**_launched the 'Cherish food' campaign to raise awareness and reduce food waste. The aim of the programme was to change consumer behaviour and through that indirectly mitigate emissions related to agricultural production and waste.
Lead by Example	Carbon footprint evaluation for the IFRC Secretariat: A detailed evaluation of the **IFRC Secretariat**, Geneva, has been conducted to identify its institutional carbon footprint, with the view to initiate a second phase with a series of measures to avoid, reduce and compensate emissions. Clean fleet strategy: The IFRC Global Logistics Service - managing the Global Fleet of about a thousand vehicles - is pursuing a Clean Fleet Strategy in order to reduce its environmental footprint. This includes eco-driving training, working with country delegations to ensure local fleet is not over-specified, and advocating for reduced cost and increased availability of environmentally friendly vehicles. Some National Societies are in the process of adopting this strategy. For instance, **the French Red Cross** plans to have its entire fleet of ambulances (including electric ambulances) replaced by 2010 – in addition to leading by example by renovating buildings to make them compliant to environmental norms, recycling electronic devices, mainstreaming of energy saving devices and renewable energy and promotion of public transportation and remote work practices. Green Building: The IFRC's future office building in Geneva is a physical manifestation of our pledge in response to climate change by being environmentally friendly. A Green Building Team is initiating a participatory approach to environmental issues related to the design of the new headquarters. The new IFRC premises will apply for the label MINERGIE-P-ECO. The MINERGIE-P®-Standard certifies buildings with a very low energy consumption, especially relating to heating energy consumption. This standard corresponds to the internationally known passive house standard. In addition, the MINERGIE-ECO®-Standard adds ecological

requirements such as recyclability, indoor air quality and noise protection.

Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit: The Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit was developed through a partnership between the American Red Cross and the World Wildlife Fund. It was originally tested in **Indonesia and Sri Lanka**, and has since been used in **Chile, Haiti, India, and Pakistan** to make sure that recovery programs include environmentally sustainable considerations. The development and implementation of the toolkit provide a great basis for further environmental stewardship initiatives. It has received a Green Star Award in 2013.

The Green Response project initiated by the **Swedish Red Cross** evaluated the environmental friendliness of **Red Cross** operations by looking at support services (i.e., logistics: fleet management and procurement, and base camp modus operandi) and selected disaster response programs (i.e., relief products, water and sanitation, and shelters) from an environmental perspective in collaboration with National Societies in **Haiti and El Salvador**. The Green Response report offered a holistic environmental impact assessment of the **Red Cross** presence and gave recommendations for a disaster response model that reduces the negative middle and longer-term environmental impact of humanitarian operations and promotes sustainability within our Movement.

2.6. Commitment 7:"mobilize the necessary human and financial resources [JM2][...] giving priority to actions for the most vulnerable people"

Working on the ground, National Societies have the essential competency to identify and assist the most vulnerable communities affected severely by major climate threats and by channelling climate action through established volunteer networks. They do however mobilize human resources beyond communities only (cf. commitment 1 on partnerships for instance), and develop these resources through broad and in-depth capacity building efforts (cf. commitment 5, listing initiatives such as the climate change e-learning course developed by IFRC).

Continued humanitarian diplomacy at all levels by a large range of civil society organisations, ad Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and partners as a strong voice, has contributed to increased allocation of resources towards climate change issues. Hence, international development banks, European Union as well as national level humanitarian and development donors allocate more grants to support dedicated climate change programmes or, more often, include climate change among several aspects to be considered in sector-specific activities such as food security, water/sanitation and disaster management.

Picture 9. *Tuvalu, September 2007.Credits: Giora Dan, IFRC*

Table 10. Examples in the area of building capacity and mobilizing resources

Type of work building capacity and mobilising resources	Example
Drawing upon academic partnerships	Climate Science for humanitarian work [??3] is an academic research partnership with masters students from Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate And Society and the **Climate Centre**. They provided insights on how to link climate information with humanitarian decisions in **Africa, the Americas and the Asia Pacific.**
Sensitisation workshops	Sensitization workshop/trainings for internal staff and volunteers were held in more than 70 countries in the world, for instance in **Colombia, Cook Islands, Croatia, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Macedonia, Montenegro, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nepal, Samoa, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Belize, France and China.**
Partnerships for overall capacity building	The One Billion Coalition launched by **IFRC** in 2014 aims to mobilize broad partnerships with other organizations, the private sector and local and national public institutions, with the ambition to engage at least one billion people by 2025 in reducing the risks they face and improving their ability to respond to and recover from adversity. An important intermediary step is capacity building of and with support of partner institutions.
Mobilization of climate finance	National Societies (especially in the West) are now accessing climate finance directly from their governments. Examples are: **Norwegian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross** (notably for PfR and the follow-up currently in planning, PfRII)**, German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross**. The Danish government finances the NAP programme in **Malawi, Kenya, Georgia, Armenia and Nepal**, with funds channelled via **Danish Red Cross, IFRC** and the five relevant National Societies. The private sector is involved as well, a notorious example being funding provided by Zurich Insurance, who collaborates with **IFRC** for flood risk reduction and community resilience building programme Floods Resilience Alliance. For the program part implemented in Mexico, CHF 5 Mio are allocated over a period of five years. Since September 2014, IFRC has an 'international entity' observer status to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) board, and submitted an application for accreditation to access the GCF in May 2015. The GCF is centrepiece for UN efforts to channel multi-stakeholder funds for CCA and CCM, UNFCCC COP agreed to a target of $100 billion with $10 billion committed by Governments to date and $6 billion confirmed in contribution agreements. If eligible as Medium scale entity, IFRC will be able to access funds above US$50 million and up to and including US$250 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme and duration. The funding would be used for one of the following sectors: energy generation and access, energy efficiency, land use/forestry, enhancing livelihoods, health and wellbeing, food and water security, ecosystems services, climate information/Early Warning Systems, awareness strengthening and climate risk reduction.

2.7. Commitment 8: "support and complement elements of the UNFCCC" [local to global humanitarian diplomacy]

The IFRC lead the Inter-agency Standing Committee's Task Force on Climate Change between 2008 and 2010 (end of its functioning). The Task Force played an important role to promote the integration of CCA into humanitarian action and to ensure that

agency technical expertise and analysis supported Member State decision making within the UNFCCC process.

A IFRC-UNFCCC joint statement (see Annex I for full statement) was released during the World Conference for DRR in 2015, highlighting the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in day-to-day interaction with community members in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development, and in protecting development gains. The statement emphasized that synergies between DRR, CCA and CCM can benefit to people in vulnerable communities. The UNFCCC in turn encouraged more National Societies to work with governments to develop and implement national action plans.

Raising political awareness is key to increasing leadership of the principal actors in the adaptation and mitigation policy processes, i.e. policy makers and politicians. At the local, regional and national governing level, National Societies have been establishing their roles as climate change advocates representing vulnerable communities worldwide. The IFRC approach has been successful in translating local bottom-up responses to the policy level, proposing and advocating policy innovations in order to enhance the overall resilience of systems and communities.

Table 11. Examples of work supporting UNFCCC activities

Type of work to support the UNFCCC	Example
Representation of National Societies and the Movement at the UNFCCC COP conferences	The IFRC has brought on board its member National Societies to participate in the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP). High-level speeches, exhibitions, side events, youth activities have been regularly organized to share community concerns on climate change and call for people-centred solutions for adaptation and mitigation. Development and Climate Days have been organized by the **RCCC** with partners during COPs for knowledge sharing. In 2010, the IFRC has become an observer (in the category of international organisations) to UNFCCC.
Involvement in National Communications	In **Montenegro**, civil society organizations (CSO) and government are shaping policies together. Montenegro Red Cross, as a member of the South East European Forum on CCA (SEEFCCA) network, was invited to take part in the Preparation of the Second National Communication (NC) on Climate Change of Montenegro to the UNFCCC workshop. The purpose was to support the development of the National Communication to the UNFCCC and fulfilment of obligations arising from the Convention, strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of Montenegro in climate change, and to support the integration of these issues in different sectors and national development priorities.
Inputting into NAPAs and engaging in national adaptation plans (NAPs)	**Pakistan Red Crescent** and partners facilitated the Supplementary and Complementary National CCA and Mitigation Plan, ensuring that DRR/CCM mainstreaming is occurring in the vulnerable sectors of economy, steering Pakistan towards low carbon growth. **Sri Lanka Red Cross** established an active partnership with the Ministry of CCA and DRR and conducted a national level CCA seminar that presented recommendations to Ministry of Environment. The National Society has also been networking with other relevant agencies. The NAPs are "next generation NAPAs" and from 2015 Armenia, Georgia, Nepal, Kenya and Malawi Red Cross Societies – with funding via Danish Red Cross and technical assistance from IFRC and the Climate Centre – are stepping up the National Society advocacy to influence the NAP processes.
National level roundtables, seminars and conferences	**Yemen Red Crescent** in partnership with the Yemeni Ministry of Water and Environment organized the **First Consultative Meeting on Climate change and DRR conference** in order to reach a common vision to confront climate change and strengthen capacities of local communities to reduce the dangers of natural

	disasters. Recognising that governments alone cannot tackle the challenges of disaster management, the **Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities** was formed in 2012 with the goal of supporting the development of a more sustainable, coordinated national approach to making communities more resilient. It brings together six of the country's leading CEOs, from the Australian Red Cross, Insurance Australia Group, Investa Property Group, Munich Re, Optus and Westpac Group. Their aim is to influence public policy via evidence-based reporting on the unsustainable cost to life, property and the economy of natural disasters to the Australian community. The Roundtable won a certificate of Distinction of the Sasakawa Award 2015 which was with the theme "Shaping the Future". Representatives from the **Red Cross Society of China** and the Chinese government gathered for group presentations held by the Red Cross Red Crescent and meteorological representatives on the concept of climate change and current climate trends. The informative session included summaries of the interaction of climate with agriculture, health and disaster management, making the issue tangible and relevant for government officials. In the **North African region**, the **RCCC** collaborated with the Centre for the Co-operation in the Mediterranean to share regional experiences of climate change in the form of a seminar.
Local level climate diplomacy	In the **Philippines**, Partners for Resilience have been highly successful in advocating an integrated DRR approach among local government agencies at project sites. Relevant local government authorities have included the Partners for Resilience programme in their policies and budgets to reduce the impact of climate change on their environment and communities.
Contributing to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	In 2008 the **IFRC** became an observer (in the category of international organization) to the IPCC. In 2010 the IFRC put forward a nomination to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As a result, Dr van Aalst, Director of the RCCC was selected as a lead author of Chapter 21, *Regional Context*, of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The draft process started in 2010 and ended in 2014. Dr. van Aalst was also a lead author in the IPCC's Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance CCA (SREX 2012). The **IFRC** has fulfilled its promise to provide input for the UNFCCC and presented the current state of knowledge on climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability as a contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Providing real-life community examples from Belarus, Guatemala, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Togo and Uganda, we have highlighted the severity of changing risk patterns and their primary effect on the most vulnerable groups. The report also presented the innovative tools and approaches Red Cross Red Crescent has used to manage climate change and variability.
Hosting events linked with the IPCC	In addition to the written contribution, the Red Cross Red Crescent also participates in IPCC related events. An example is the Caribbean Launch of the Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC - a public education event intended to raise the profile of climate change as a key development challenge in the **Caribbean region**, and the high degree of scientific certainty surrounding the predictions about our changing and variable climate. The IFRC was present, sharing their experience of working in the area of CCA and building resilience of vulnerable communities.

3. Challenges and recommendations for the way forward

3.1. Main challenges

Closing off the stocktaking report, this section outlines self-identified challenges encountered by National Societies in mainstreaming climate change. It is important to reflect on these challenges, as they constitute impediments to the implementation of mainstreaming activities, thus guide the direction of future capacity building and technical support. Table 13 outlines the five most frequently occurring challenges as listed by National Societies, and their implications for necessary future support.

Table 12. Current challenges

Top 5 Challenges	Implications for future support
1. Integrating climate change into community based programmes	Future support is needed to assist National Societies in the integration of climate change into community-based risk reduction methodologies. Capacity building support is also needed to strengthen the ability of staff and volunteers to facilitate transformative processes within communities, enabling them to deal with the growing climate challenge.
2. Developing partnerships with non-traditional partners	Reaching the above goal requires further partnerships with external organisations, environment departments and ongoing investment in facilitators – i.e. reaching out to stakeholders that have not historically been partners of National Societies (such as environment ministries and environmental NGOs). Further guidance has been developed for National Societies to engage with national climate change policy and stakeholders, including in national adaptation planning.
3. Maintaining a pool of staff and volunteers trained in climate change	A key future focus is reaching further into National Societies with training and capacity building of staff and volunteers. The 'Climate Training Kit', the climate change e-learning guide and training workshops (e.g. building on expertise from the forecast-based decision making and Early Warning trainings rolled out in 13 francophone African countries in 2015) will constitute key tools to build capacity.
4. Climate change communication is difficult, particularly at the community level	How to practically reach communities with understandable climate information (both language- and concept-wise), and consistently with adaptation and risk challenges as identified by National Societies, as well as globally through the Global Framework for Climate Services. The IFRC and the RCCC have been involved in the Global Climate Services Framework. Implementation of this framework at various levels could enable better communication of climate risks to communities, with National Societies playing a role in conjunction with their meteorological offices. Further specific guidance on the 'how' to communicate climate change would benefit National Societies.
5. Climate change will place greater demands on National Societies	The changes in the frequency, intensity and location of extreme events that have been outlined by the IPCC (2014) have negative implications for the world's largest humanitarian network. Further investments are required in disaster response mechanisms, as well as related preparedness and community risk reduction activities. Organisational adaptation to changing disaster patterns, for instance responding to new and emerging threats, constitutes a crucial area of potential work.

Some of these challenges, such as enabling horizontal integration across an organisation, having adequate institutional functions and capacity, as well as a trained pool of staff, are common to mainstreaming in general (e.g. they also occur when mainstreaming gender and disaster risk management). In contrast, some challenges are more specifically related to climate change, including the interpretation and communication of climate change, the broad nature of the issue incorporating both

mitigation of GHGs and adaptation, and the novelty of the issue in numerous national and institutional contexts.

Many of the challenges evidently require more than a one-off activity, but an ongoing investment that will require long-term commitment. As climate change will worsen in the coming decades, the Red Cross Red Crescent will need to continually reassess its actions to address the scale of the problem.

3.2. Recommendations for the way forward

To cope with the recorded increase in climate-related disasters and to address the long-term impacts of climate change on health, food security and migration and displacement, the Red Cross Red Crescent needs to be prepared and develop coping strategies which can contribute to sustainable development.

A global threat such as climate change requires local actions to reduce risks and its negative impact. A bottom-up approach is therefore required to complement policy implementation to address climate change. Since the adoption of the resolution of the International Conference in 2007, the IFRC and National Societies have been addressing climate change from various fronts.

Many National Societies cooperated closely with governments. This specific and distinctive partnership between a state and a National Society gives the latter a unique position for its service delivery to people. For the implementation of the UNFCCC in its post-2015 era, governments engaging their own National Society and other relevant partners will therefore be key for addressing climate change with a bottom-up approach.

3.2.1. Recommendations to Governments

The Red Cross Red Crescent calls on governments to:

- Engage in effective cross-disciplinary (i.e. finance, development, environment, interior ministries) collaboration, to develop a national plan in a holistic way and then consider stakeholders and allocate budget efficiently;
- Review and strengthen their legal and policy frameworks to promote a more integrated, holistic and inclusive approach to DRR, climate change adaptation and environmental and natural resource management;
- Engage local actors, including its National Society, in the designing and implementation of national adaptation and mitigation plans;
- Prioritize DRR in adaptation and development budgets, preparing for both one time disaster and slow onset events (integrating CCA);
- Ensure that relevant climate information is available to inform decisions, especially by the most vulnerable communities at the local level, implementing the vision expressed in the Global Framework for Climate Services;
- Prioritize within their mitigation portfolio, together with development agencies, those activities (e.g. tree planting and agro-forestry programmes), that not only help mitigate climate change, but also enhance local livelihoods, improve food security,

reduce disaster risk, and combat desertification. These actions will also support and contribute to socio-economic development goals;

- Scale up their implementation of UNFCCC Article 6 obligations related to education, training and public awareness on climate change, as well as on DRR to build the capacities of people and their communities and strengthen local level governance;
- Increase investments in youth-led and youth-targeted climate change education activities and skills training, including non-formal education, and involve and engage young people at all levels of the decision making process relate to climate change;
- Strengthen inclusive and participatory local governance and action for DRR and CCA and improve local and community preparedness and response capacities;
- Play an active role in ensuring follow-up and up-scaling of Red Cross activities limited in time, for CCA and mitigation projects to have sustainable and lasting effects in target communities and beyond.

3.2.2. Recommendations to National Societies

Guidance for staff and volunteers:

- Set up a channel for communications with the national climate change focal point;
- Proactively communicate and engage with their local and national public authorities on regular basis to share ground information and observations in order to enhance government action outcomes for the benefits of local communities;
- Develop a National Society climate change policy in order to provide clear framework within which staff and volunteers can operate, plan and implement the work related to integrating climate change;
- Ensure strong reference to climate change in the National Society strategic plan, possibly with separate goals/objectives and strategic directions;
- Identify partners at all levels and develop joint work to maximize the effect of collaboration;
- Collect information on the progress made on the ground after implementation of related programs and consolidate an annual report for the government and partners to take note.

Mainstreaming:

- Climate change issues should be taken into consideration when preparing National Society sectorial plans such as Health and Disaster Management. Community action plans should be climate sensitive, and appropriate measures taken to protect the environment when implementing community based projects;
- Prepare a climate change risk profile for the country if possible with specific information on geographical locations where National Society operations take place;

- Evaluate the added value brought by National Societies in supporting Government to address climate change and what is needed to enhance the action, then communicate to government's focal person;
- Approach relevant UN country offices to build partnerships;
- Integrate climate change aspects in to community based assessment tools such as VCA, CBHFA and prepare climate smart community action plans. Identify specific issues related to climate change in the project communities in order to bring these issues to the national policy dialogues and for a;
- Conduct public awareness and public education campaigns on climate change by mobilizing volunteers.

Capacity Building:

- Regularly update the National Society leadership and the senior management on current discussions, issues and policy instruments on climate change and provide exposure to key events such as COP;
- Provide trainings and skill development programmes to staff and volunteers, particularly those who engage in project implementation and campaigning on climate change;
- Include climate change training sessions in the regular volunteer, health and disaster management trainings;
- Create a group of climate change champions in the National Society to provide technical advice to branches and to create innovate campaigns such as 'Youth and Climate, tree planting programmes.

Policy and advocacy:

- Regularly share the findings of community assessments such as VCAs at the national level policy discussions and adaptation planning process;
- Contribute to the review and development of law and policy for DRR and climate change adaption;
- Develop a set of key messages and policy asks based on the needs of vulnerable groups and engage with relevant ministries to feed in to the policy negotiations and help the government to prepare for international conferences such as COPs;
- Be involved in the climate change networks in the country and regularly engage in the key events and policy discussions.

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Annex I: IFRC and UNFCCC call for cooperative action to meet climate challenge

Statement by Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Risks from climate change are on the rise, jeopardizing hard-won development gains and posing formidable challenges to people and communities around the world. Millions of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers – from small island states to large urban centers – can testify to this reality, and the recently released IPCC 5th Assessment Report confirms that the challenge of climate change is unprecedented in human history. Overcoming this challenge requires an unprecedented level of cooperation.

Climate science shows what the world needs to achieve. We have a three-part goal to successfully address climate change: peaking global emissions in the next decade, triggering a deep de-carbonization of the global economy, and achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible in the second half of the century.

One thing is certain at this crucial moment – reducing the risks of climate change requires collaborative and coordinated action by every government, industry, investor, agency and citizen.

As governments move closer to a new, universal climate change agreement in Paris later this year, the humanitarian community is also charting its course forward at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) being convened this month in Sendai, Japan. We urge all leaders and participants in Sendai to add their voices to the growing chorus calling for climate action. In this way, they will open the door to a safer tomorrow for everyone on the planet.

At the WCDRR, the IFRC will call for the new post-2015 framework to be inclusive of a broader community resilience agenda that safeguards sustainable development gains and integrates disaster risk reduction together with public health, poverty reduction and climate change strategies. We will announce our One Billion Coalition for Resilience initiative to bring together a wide range of like-minded individuals and organization to form new partnerships that expand our reach to engage more local communities across the globe.

Yet past GHG emissions still commit us to climate risks for decades to come. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are tackling the effects of climate change through disaster risk reduction and resilience building. At the Climate Summit in September last year, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) committed to support high-risk communities in at least 40 countries, in using climate information to enhance their resilience and to scale up public awareness and education on changing climate risks by mobilizing its vast network of volunteers and systematically communicating to the general public about the effects of climate change in major disasters.

It is imperative to immediately curb emissions drastically or we will be reaching the limits of adaptation in many communities, often with dramatic humanitarian consequences. The IFRC is active in the effort to reduce emissions, avert risks and adapt to climate impacts. Guided by its Strategy 2020, the IFRC calls for advocacy and social

mobilization to promote sustainable community development that minimizes the carbon footprints of communities and its own IFRC activities.

The IFRC is strongly committed to working with its 189 member National Societies to address the causes and consequences of climate change at scale and in the context of national climate change strategies. Engaging and empowering local communities ensures that these strategies materialize on the ground. The sustained and trusted presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in communities and their day-to-day interaction with community members is a formidable asset in promoting low-carbon, climate resilient development and in protecting development gains.

The IFRC and its members have a long track record in public awareness and education, crucial components in promoting environmentally sustainable living. By spreading environmental values and best practices through education programs, awareness campaigns and information distribution, the IFRC can contribute to climate friendly behavior and action such as tree planting and care, solid waste management, food waste minimization and recycling. IFRC is committed to mobilizing its extensive network of 189 National Societies and over 17 million active volunteers in the effort to get everyone involved in meeting the climate change challenge.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also directly contributing to reducing GHG emissions. For example in Viet Nam, the Red Cross has been planting and protecting mangrove forests since 1994. Today, these mangroves are the first line of defense against rising waters and destruction caused by typhoons or storm surge. These forests are also carbon sinks that help reduce emissions and ultimately achieve full climate neutrality, where global emissions are balanced by the planet's ability to absorb the emissions.

Similarly, the Kenyan Red Cross Society and the IFRC have recently launched the Sustainable Environment Restoration Programme, together with the Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, with the aim of planting and caring for 2.5 billion trees by 2018, restoring river basins, conducting environmental education in all schools, and managing solid waste to tackle environmental degradation and climate change.

These are but two important examples. By building on synergies between disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and emission reduction, the IFRC can deliver benefits to people in communities counted among the most vulnerable to climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes these initiatives as models for global mobilization of Red Cross and Red Crescent members and encourages more National Societies to work with governments to develop and implement ambitious national action plans.

From distribution of clean cook stoves, to education on the value of natural capital, to the implementation of climate-safe development, Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are a powerful force with still greater potential to deliver health and socioeconomic benefits to communities that will be hit hardest by climate change.