

Module 2b: Disaster management and climate

What is in this module?

May 2019



The flooded streets of Bangkruai, a suburb on of Bangkok. Hundreds died in Thailand and people were cut off by the floodwaters for weeks in 2011-12 in one of the worst-ever climatic disasters in the region. (Félix Genêt Laframboise/IFRC)

What is in this module?

Introduction

Climate change is often perceived as an issue to be dealt with alongside disaster management. Although this is an oversimplification, disaster management – including community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) – does embody some entry points for attention to climate risks.

This module focuses specifically on the core elements of disaster management and response, so ideally it should be used alongside closely related modules, especially:

- 2a *Early warning early action*
- 2c *Community resilience and climate*
- 2d *Health, WASH and climate*
- 2e *Urban and climate.*

Module 1b *Climate and the Red Cross Red Crescent* should be consulted first, however. The PowerPoint presentation in this module follows the steps in the IFRC's new *Preparedness for Effective Response* (PER) brief. But no matter what model or terminology is applied, the principles for making disaster management more climate-smart do not change.

Objective

The module aims to increase your knowledge about how to incorporate climate change into disaster management approaches.

Products

1. PowerPoint presentations with explanatory notes

The backbone of this module is two PowerPoint presentations to help facilitators explain climate change in relation to disaster management.

The presentation is structured around PER but the content is relevant for any model of disaster management.

Please consult Modules 2a and 2c for more in-depth coverage of early warning early action, forecast-based financing, community resilience and DRR.

2. Exercises and games

There are two exercises. The first, on disaster preparedness, demonstrates how a National Society can adjust its planning based on warnings and information available at different timescales from hours all the way up to years. The second focuses on practical entry points for making National Society disaster management climate-smart.

A card game, [Before the Storm](#), helps you think through the many actions a National Society can take on different timescales depending after forecasts. It is great fun and stimulates debate.

3. Recommended films and videos

In this section you will find two examples from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement disaster management related to climate:

- [Survivors guide: flood alert in Mozambique](#) [23:58] by IFRC. The film shows how the Red Cross network of community-based trained volunteers are ready to raise the alarm in villages as soon as the water level starts to rise and help affected people to move to higher ground
- [Desperately seeking peace - from conflict to climate threats](#) [1:19] by IFRC. Meet Ismail. Seventy-one years old, he fled violence in Myanmar. He now lives with hundreds of thousands of others, precariously in shelters built into hillsides in a Bangladesh refugee camp. Could climate change be making life even harder for Ismail?

4. Experience from Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies

In this part of the module we have included the *Disaster Management Strategic Framework 2010–15* of the Nepal Red Cross Society as an example of a disaster-management strategy clearly encompassing climate change. Similarly, the British Red Cross *International Strategy 2019–2014* contains insightful references to climate, extreme events and forecast-based financing.

In addition, the IFRC ‘Small and simple actions to address climate change’ is included here (also in module 1b).

5. Frequently asked questions

There are no FAQs for this module but those for Modules 2a and 2c overlap with disaster management.

6. Relevant reading

This section includes:

- IFRC guidance on contingency planning
- IFRC guidance on setting up a national mechanism
- An IFRC checklist for drought for the Pacific, relevant for other regions
- IFRC guidance on public awareness and education for DRR
- The Minimum Standards for local climate-smart DRR.