

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT AND CLIMATE



Climate Training



For key concepts and terms please refer to Fact Sheets 1, 2 & 3

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement has always been at the forefront of responding to humanitarian needs in emergencies and disaster situations, whatever their cause. This is a snapshot of the evolution of the Movement's approach to addressing the humanitarian impacts of displacement, climate change and more recently, climate-related displacement. Over the decades, these approaches have been developed and refined, based on continuous learning and the changing humanitarian landscape.

IFRC policy development at a glance

IFRC policies and strategies have continually evolved to support National Societies meet the most pressing humanitarian needs. This has included issues of migration and displacement, the humanitarian impacts of climate change, and most recently focussing attention on the specific issue of climate-related displacement.

Displacement

Addressing the specific needs of people displaced, whether by disasters or other emergencies or as refugees, has been the focus of attention since the early 1980s. Displacement has been the subject of numerous resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) and other policies, most prominently through the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009) and the IFRC Policy on Migration (2009).

Climate change

The link between climate change and humanitarian action was addressed most directly in 1999 at the 27th International Conference, with a commitment for the IFRC to study 'the future impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of disasters and the implications for humanitarian response and preparedness.' Since that time, climate change has been the sustained focus of mainstreaming into policy, programmes and operations across the RCRC Movement, including on displacement, for example through the 'Ambitions to address climate change' (Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, 2020) the IFRC Framework for climate action towards 2020 and Strategy 2030.

Climate-related displacement

The nexus between climate change and displacement has also been an emerging theme, addressed by the RCRC Movement in various ways since 2003, and brought into sharp focus most recently in IFRC Strategy 2030 and the RCRC Movement's 'Ambitions to address climate change' (2020) in which addressing climate-related displacement is one of the four pillars of action.

Key approaches for addressing climate-related displacement

The following approaches contribute to addressing climate-related displacement, drawn from current IFRC strategies and policies.

Action on the ground

- ▶ Increasing focus on climate change mitigation and adaption to prevent or reduce displacement, assessing community risks of displacement, reducing community vulnerabilities, increasing community resilience and reducing disaster risks.
- ▶ Expanding humanitarian support and protection to vulnerable communities who are displaced for reasons relating to climate change.

Red Cross Red Crescent approaches to displacement and climate

- ▶ Using early warning systems and pre-emptive evacuations to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters.
- ▶ Developing partnerships between National Societies and their national governments to address the causes and adverse impacts of climate change.

Advocacy and influence

- ▶ Influencing the global climate change agenda through targeted advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, for example through participation in the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement.
- ▶ Developing awareness within communities, the RCRC Movement, with Governments and the broader international community.
- ▶ Social mobilisation to activate communities to take steps to reduce risks that affect their lives and vulnerability to climate change.
- ▶ Building and developing partnerships and collaborations in climate and disaster research and science.
- ▶ Encouraging governments to adopt laws and policies that support actions to address climate-related displacement.

Policy and capacity building

- ▶ Mainstreaming displacement and climate change approaches in policies, programmes and operations.
- ▶ Developing the capacity of National Societies in this field, including through training, tools and guidance and increased resources.

Recent publications

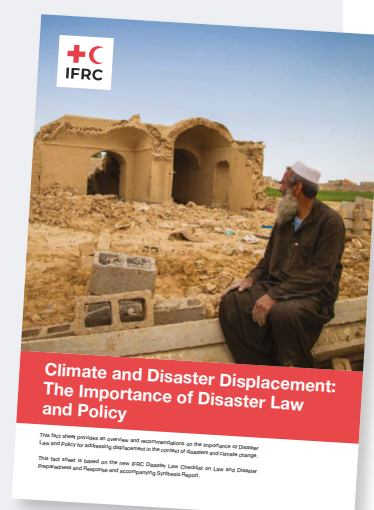
Forecast-Based Financing and Disaster Displacement: Acting Early to Reduce the Humanitarian Impacts of Displacement (2020)

This brief notes there has been increasing interest in the role of anticipatory humanitarian action in the context of disaster displacement, including the adverse effects of climate change. It outlines the existing and potential links between forecast-based financing (FbF) and disaster displacement. It concludes with practical recommendations on how FbF can be adapted to further reduce the humanitarian impacts of disaster displacement across the various phases of displacement.



Climate and Disaster Displacement: The Importance of Disaster Law and Policy (2020)

This IFRC fact sheet provides an overview and recommendations on the importance of law and policy for addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, including through planned relocations, based on the IFRC Disaster Law Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response. Drawing on extensive research and international best practice and standards, the IFRC recommends a series of issues to be considered by law makers when developing and reviewing national disaster law and policy, to provide an adequate framework and practical measures to effectively mitigate risk, recover from and support the realisation of durable solutions to climate-related displacement, with active community participation.



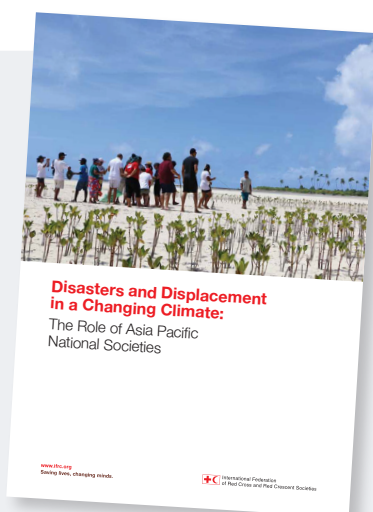
Red Cross Red Crescent approaches to displacement and climate

Recent publications

Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: The Role of Asia Pacific National Societies (2018)

In 2018, the IFRC published this report to enhance collective knowledge and understanding of migration, displacement and planned relocation trends and humanitarian needs. The report provides guidance to enhance humanitarian action in these contexts.

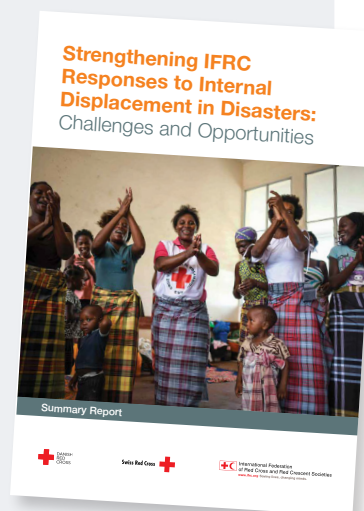
The focus on countries in the Asia Pacific region and the role of Asia Pacific National Societies reflects the particular vulnerability of this region to the impacts of both sudden and slow onset disasters related to climate change. The primary focus of Asia Pacific National



Societies on prevention and preparing for displacement in this context reflects the primacy of the RCRC Movement's goal to protect against and reduce the risk of displacement in the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009).

Strengthening IFRC Responses to Internal Displacement in Disasters: Challenges and Opportunities (2019)

This report captures the ways in which IFRC and National Societies contribute to addressing internal displacement in disaster settings and identifies opportunities for further development. It provides an overview of the international legal and policy framework, and the progress in implementing key RCRC policies. The report identifies that climate change and climate-related disasters are among the leading causes of internal displacement and as such, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures form a critical part of addressing the risks of displacement.



Summary of key policies and strategies

The following graphic on page 4 shows the progressive development of IFRC policies and strategies on displacement and climate change (including climate-related displacement). The documents are described in more detail below.

Ambitions to address climate change (Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, 2020)

- ▶ Describes how the RCRC Movement will make its work climate-smart and increase climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.
- ▶ One of the four pillars of action is 'Addressing climate displacement,' to be achieved by:
 - Reducing risk of climate-induced displacement through better mapping, understanding and prediction of climate related population movements.
 - Preparing for and responding to the humanitarian needs of those displaced and host communities including through preparedness and contingency planning reviewed through a "displacement lens".
 - Supporting durable solutions for safe, voluntary and dignified return, local integration or resettlement.
- ▶ Describes four enabling approaches of: (i) increasing understanding of humanitarian consequences of climate change; (ii) influencing investments, law, policies, plans and practice; (iii) strengthening the capacities and expertise of National Societies; and (iv) innovating and developing new tools and approaches and scaling up existing tools.

Summary of key policies and strategies

Figure 1: Progressive development of IFRC policies and strategies on displacement, climate change and climate-related displacement (these are described further below).

		Displacement	Climate Change	Climate displacement
1980s	Focus on displacement	International Red Cross aid to refugees. The Movement and refugees.		
1990s	Focus on climate change	The Movement, Refugees and Displaced Persons.	IFRC commitment to study the future impact of climate change	
2000s		Movement action in favour of refugees and internally displaced persons. IFRC Policy on Refugees and other displaced people. Movement action in favour of refugees and internally displaced persons. International Migration. IFRC Policy on Migration. Movement Policy on Internal Displacement.	Resolution to implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures to address issues related to climate change. Eight commitments to address the humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change.	
2010s	Focus on climate-related displacement	Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion. Ensuring adequate and timely humanitarian response to migrants' needs and vulnerabilities: the challenges of access.	Humanitarian consequences of climate change.	IFRC Strategy 2020. IFRC Framework for climate action towards 2020. IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022. Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on. Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025
2020 and beyond				IFRC Strategy 2030. Movement ambitions to address climate change

Summary of key policies and strategies

IFRC Strategy 2030 (2019)

- ▶ Guides the IFRC's collective plan of action for the current decade 2020–2030.
- ▶ Highlights climate-related displacement as a growing concern: 'We see the impacts of the climate crisis as a growing reality for millions of people as well as new and unexpected health threats that are contributing to driving migration and displacement at a time when compassion for people on the move is at an all-time low.'
- ▶ Places 'climate change and environmental crises' at the top of the five global challenges to be addressed, predicting they will make some regions uninhabitable, forcing people to move en masse.
- ▶ Reaffirms and builds on the broad Movement focus of mainstreaming climate risk management, risk reduction, environmental management and disaster preparedness in its approaches.
- ▶ Puts affected people and communities at the centre of preparedness and responses to the challenges of climate and environmental crisis.

Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on (Red Cross Red Crescent Council of Delegates Resolution, 2019)

- ▶ Reiterates the needs to ensure the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009) is better known and implemented by all components of the Movement.
- ▶ Acknowledges the global inadequacy of current responses to the effects of climate change and other emergencies.
- ▶ Encourages all components to increase support to authorities in strengthening the development and implementation of domestic laws, including those aimed at comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025

- ▶ Notes that expected future severe weather extremes and climate events will potentially

contribute to growing population movements, requiring a scaling up of humanitarian responses, including the provision of services on restoring family links.

IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022: Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience

- ▶ Acknowledges that '[m]any people cross borders to find work, and an increasing number are moving as a result of climate change.'
- ▶ Aims to strengthen IFRC support to migrants and link together assistance, protection and advocacy work in order to reduce the vulnerability of migrants and to enhance their resilience.

IFRC Framework for climate action towards 2020

- ▶ Drawing on Strategy 2020, the framework articulates and expands on the common vision of the IFRC and National Societies to increase resilience and better preparedness of communities across the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.
- ▶ Success includes ensuring that 'fewer people are displaced because of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change' through:
 - Supporting community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to address environmental degradation or threats to livelihoods due to climate variability.
 - Supporting community disaster preparedness and resilience to alleviate the pressure for people to migrate against their will.
 - Working with partners and governments to ensure participatory and consultative processes for planned relocation as a climate change adaptation measure.

IFRC Plan of Action: Climate Change 2013–2016

- ▶ Acknowledges climate change as among the most serious challenges of this and future generations.
- ▶ Calls for a scaling up of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the context of resilience building and disaster risk reduction.

Summary of key policies and strategies

- ▶ Encourages the identification of gaps and development of criteria to address new needs brought about by climate change, including displacement.

IFRC Policy on Migration (2009)

- ▶ Provides guidance to the IFRC and National Societies on addressing the various aspects of preventing, responding to and ending displacement in disaster settings, including those related to climate change, armed conflict and other situations of violence.
- ▶ Adopts a broad humanitarian and situational approach to address the needs of all people affected ('migrants') by or at risk of cross border human movement ('migration').
- ▶ Noting the impact of environmental degradation and population growth on vulnerability, provides that a key strategy in reducing migration pressures on disaster-prone communities is to focus on disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009)

- ▶ Provides guidance to all components of the Movement across the phases of protection, assistance, humanitarian response and recovery in relation to all those affected, in the situational context of internal displacement.
- ▶ Notes the primary goal of the Movement is 'to protect people against arbitrary displacement and to reduce the risk of displacement caused by natural and man-made hazards.'
- ▶ Provides that the Movement's 'first choice' approach is 'to help people stay in their homes, but only as long as their safety, physical integrity and dignity are not jeopardized and staying is in accordance with their wishes.' In seeking to prevent arbitrary displacement, it guides the Movement to enhance disaster-preparedness and risk-reduction programmes.

IFRC Strategy 2020

- ▶ Acknowledges the effect of forced migration, environmental degradation and climate change on already disadvantaged populations.

- ▶ Highlights the importance of addressing the underlying causes of forced migration, and community disaster risk reduction and management – including adaptation and mitigation – in their programmes and approaches, while continuing to provide assistance and protection throughout the migratory phases.
- ▶ Calls on the Movement to scale up disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation by various means, including advocacy and social mobilization.

Resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

31st International Conference (2011)

- ▶ Conference adopts resolution on 'Migration: Ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion' to strengthen and support for and operationalization of the Movement's approach to migration and displacement.
- ▶ Includes workshops on 'Humanitarian consequences of climate change' and 'Ensuring adequate and timely humanitarian response to migrants' needs and vulnerabilities: the challenges of access'.
- ▶ In discussing the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines, enhancing DRR and the provision of shelter after natural disasters, many states express concern about the increasing impacts of climate change on communities and the need to strengthen focus on risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation.

30th International Conference (2007)

- ▶ Agreement reached on eight commitments to address the 'humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change', with a particular focus on decreasing community vulnerability, increasing community capacity, and adopting risk reduction and management strategies and climate change adaption measures.

Summary of key policies and strategies

28th International Conference (2003)

- ▶ Adopts resolution to implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures to address issues related to climate change, and for National Societies to increase cooperation with States and experts in climate change to limit potential negative impact on vulnerable communities.

27th International Conference (1999)

- ▶ Recognises the link between climate change and humanitarian action and agrees to study 'the future impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of disasters and the implications for humanitarian response and preparedness'.

Other tools and resources

Some of the tools and resources which also help the understanding of the Movement's approach to climate-related displacement are:

- ▶ **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre:** this centre, established jointly by the IFRC and Netherlands Red Cross, supports the Movement and its partners to reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme-weather and vulnerable people.
- ▶ **Climate Training Kit:** an interactive set of materials prepared by the IFRC and the Climate Centre.
- ▶ **Minimum Standards for local climate-smart disaster risk reduction 2.0:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre practical checklist to help local community leaders and DRR practitioners ensure their risk reduction efforts are climate-smart and contribute to climate change adaptation.
- ▶ **Minimum Standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies:** IFRC guidance on how to mainstream dignity, access, participation and safety for all people affected by disasters and crisis.
- ▶ **Map Room:** an online digital map room, developed in partnership between the IFRC, Climate Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University, which includes forecasts to assist to predict, prepare for and response to disasters as well as information on possible early action.
- ▶ **Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR Law Checklist):** prepared by IFRC and UNDP, provides prioritized list of ten key questions that lawmakers, implementing officials, and those supporting them, such as National Societies, are recommended to consider in order to ensure that their laws provide the best support for DRR.
- ▶ **Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR Law Checklist):** prepared by IFRC, provides prioritized list of ten key questions that lawmakers, implementing officials, and those supporting them, such as National Societies, are recommended to consider in order to ensure that their laws provide the best support for DPR.
- ▶ **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide:** drawing on experiences of more than 40 National Societies who started to address climate change in their work from 2002, the guide provides contextual basics of climate change, followed by six thematic modules of addressing climate change, including step-by-step guidance.
- ▶ **IFRC Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) resources:** a series of documents to complement national and sub-national risk, hazard, vulnerability and capacity mapping exercises that identify communities most at risk and actions that can be taken to address risks by, or working with, communities. Resources include the VCA Training Guide and VCA toolbox.

