

**Module 3a:
Advocacy, policy
dialogue and
funding**
Exercise 2
May 2019



Exercises

Title Identify the issues to promote in local and national policies (NAP and others)

Introduction and background for facilitators:	The insights from discussions in the first exercise should now be condensed into the key messages that can be used in advocacy: how the specific, changing vulnerabilities observed in communities need to be addressed, possibly aided by National Society activities and overall Red Cross and Red Crescent approaches on tackling climate risks.
Aim/learning objective:	Based on the insights from the earlier exercise on how changing weather patterns are affecting vulnerability and risks in the country, participants will shape key messages to use in policy dialogues.
Materials and preparation:	Material: 20 large (A5 or A4) paper cards to each of four groups + markers; tape or 'blu tack' for wall mounting cards
Duration:	45 minutes to 1 hour
Participant numbers and/or arrangements:	Organise 4 groups: 2 with Headquarter and 2 with Branch representatives

**The exercise
step by step:**

1. Hand out about 20 large (A5 or A4) paper cards to each group + markers
2. Ask each group to discuss for 20 minutes and list ideas for what climate change adaptation issues they would advocate/ask officials and planners to be mindful of and support. Try to be specific, for example:
 - a. “ensure freshwater access and health awareness during rainy season”
 - b. or “help identify alternative crops and agriculture methods that are better suited to more variable seasons and drought/rain patterns”
 - c. or “help disseminate and train in understanding seasonal forecasts for agriculture planning”,
 - d. or “better drought preparedness support – water harvesting methods etc.”
 - e. “better early warning systems”
3. Ask each group to select the 5 most **important** ones from their list - and write them clearly on large paper cards
4. Ask one of the Branch groups to present their selected 5 ones and stick them on the wall
5. Ask if other Branch groups have anything very similar - and add them to the wall list (cluster with those already glued on the wall)
6. Ask the last Branch group to add their ideas and let them stick their cards to the wall
7. Repeat for the 2 National level groups ...
8. In plenary, discuss what is the evidence/background information available (from VCA etc.?) that supports advocacy messages.
9. Consider organising a “voting” session where the 5 highest priority key messages are identified?
10. Finally, discuss what are the ‘low hanging fruits’ – where it is most easy to engage and get started?

Make sure to save the results so they can be used in future works: photograph and/or have someone type the key ideas.

**Discussion
items:**

- Are the key ideas really related to changing weather/climate patterns, or are they possibly linked to other challenges? This is important to note in order to minimize the risk of decision makers later dismissing ideas because they are caused by other factors.
- How many of the ideas relate directly to activities the National Society is already engaged in? Can the National Society claim it is already engaged in *adaptation* for vulnerable people?
- After discussion – are all participants still happy with the selected ideas, or would they remove/adjust any?
- Important to jointly brainstorm which elements of this discussion can be most convincingly presented in policy discussions with the Government. What is the evidence base that these adaptation measures need support? Prepare a list of to-do’s to strengthen these messages and the evidence base for them (for instance, would you need more specific data from secondary sources, if so, how and with who can you work to get this)?

Facilitator tips:

- This exercise provides the raw material for getting started on policy dialogue on adaptation so end session with agreements on:
- How can the National Society (who?) take the messages and polish them for approval by management
 - Who – among the participants – can take responsibility for documenting and carrying this package of ideas forward to relevant colleagues/management for further refinement?