

An exercise with climate change cards to enhance knowledge at community level

Strengthening community knowledge about climate change is an essential component of local climate action, and in particular for locally led adaptation. The IFRC and the Climate Centre developed community group exercises to support NS Branches or District offices with the community discussions on climate change and preparations to discuss locally led adaptation options. This climate change cards exercise aims to enhance knowledge of communities on climate change through interactive group discussions, which can be facilitated at the start of the community engagement phase for the EVCA roll out, to support the design of locally led adaptation. This note contains the explanation how this climate card exercise can be facilitated by Red Cross or Red Crescent Branches, staff or volunteers.

FACILITATOR NOTES

Time: 1 hours

Materials: A printout of the 'Exercise1. Climate change cards': double-sided prints are needed from this slide deck with the photo on the front and the explanation on the back.

Objectives of the exercise:

We developed a set of climate cards as a local engagement tool, which is designed to check community climate risk perceptions and insights, and to promote community understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change. The exercise is well-suited to build on existing levels of knowledge of any group. It can reveal knowledge gaps and misconceptions through the various discussions rounds that this activity offers. At the start, standard cards will be used to discuss what climate change is and how it is caused. These cards are followed by the different impacts of the climate crisis upon local communities. Questions and discussions should be facilitated for each card, asking communities about utilizing lived experience and indigenous knowledge to discuss and agree with communities on what might happen in the future and how communities could change the way they live to fend themselves against these changes and their impacts.

This game is particularly suited to discuss the future changes with communities ('plausible futures'), building on what they have experienced to date ('lived experiences'). Results from this exercise can be used to further discuss locally led adaptation options.

When to use it: This tool can be used at the start of the roll out of the EVCA, as an accompanying tool for National Societies, to achieve locally led adaptation. It is advisable to use it for community engagement in Step 5 of the Climate Action Journey, in conjunction with the EVCA toolbox and the Community Risk Perception survey, to identify key community concerns and priorities for climate planning.

How to facilitate it

Facilitator will hand out the cards to 11 groups of people (can be duos, or bigger groups).

bring the group in a circle and divides the IFRC climate cards across a number of colleagues. Each colleague will group up with two members of the community to discuss which card they have (will explain one card and read out what is on the back of the card. After each card is read out, the facilitator asks if there are questions and if the card is clear. The Facilitator is inviting and asks the participants if they heard about this and what they know about it.

Important is to explain that there is quite some uncertainty around many of the climate change projections. Also, it is difficult to indicate what will happen at the local level. While many things are unknown, we love to hear from the community members if they recognize changes in weather and seasons they already experienced. Invite them to talk about changes they have witnessed.

As a facilitator, it is important to make sure not everything is blamed on climate change. Some risks might be caused by other things, such as deforestation, mining, bad water management or land use. It is important to distinguish this and to discuss if and how climate change is worsening some of the existing risks in the community.

Skills needed: The facilitator(s) needs to be trained in the EVCA and informed on climate science and aware of the context of the National Climate Risk Assessment, to both answer questions brought up during the session and ensure group discussions are factually correct, and experience with community engagement and community-led approaches. They can invite experts from your National or sub-National Weather Agency to help them facilitate discussions or answer questions. They will need to accurately explain any available downscaled climate information for the region, which therefore needs to be collected and discussed in advance with the Weather Agency (which is captured in the national climate risk assessment or a [climate factsheet](#)). It is important to capture the input of participants through recording or transcription with detailed notes.