November 2017

# The **Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020** for the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Between 1996 and 2015 worldwide…

- **More than 90% of natural hazards were related to climate: storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves**
- **Extreme weather killed more than 500,000 people**
- **Damage totalled than USD 3.08 trillion**



In Bangladesh's Tangail district in early September, Fatema Begum took two of her children to a Red Crescent mobile health team, one of 20 visiting remote villages in the wake of catastrophic floods.

*Climate change has been a key driver of risk and loss for many years now, bringing uncertainty and extreme weather, and generating increased demands on Red Cross and Red Crescent services. Since 2007, when the International Conference resolved to address the humanitarian consequences of climate change, National Societies have been integrating climate risks into planning and programmes. Now with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals in place, global attention has shifted even further to areas aligned with our work: climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and – our main institutional priority – building resilience –* **resilience.**

*Until the Paris Agreement comes into force in 2020, it will be crucial for National Societies to scale up climate-smart programming, influence the development of climate-related laws, policies and plans, and carve out a distinct role in the climate change agenda. The IFRC's new* **Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020**, *briefly summarized in Q&A form, outlines how we will keep pace with the changing scientific, policy and operational landscape, and strengthen our role and contribution to tackling climate change.*

## What action are we taking now on climate?

Many National Societies are locally implementing climate-smart risk reduction and forecast-based financing (FbF) programmes that link climate and meteorological data with early action. A number are also engaging with governments to develop National Adaptation Plans that prioritize addressing risks to the most vulnerable people. At the global level, we are joining dialogues on climate change to bring attention to changing climate related risks and building resilience of the most vulnerable people.

## Why should the IFRC scale up its work on climate change?

Because the role of the Movement in reducing exposure and vulnerability, supporting adaptation efforts, and mobilizing climate action will be critical to facing the humanitarian and development challenges ahead.

## What is our vision for climate action?

For communities across the world to be more resilient to climate variability and weather extremes, and better prepared for climate impacts now, and in the future. This is in line with Strategy 2020 and integral to the IFRC's One Billion Coalition and its Framework for Community Resilience.

## What are the strengths of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in tackling climate change?

- We have a mandate (from governments at the International Conference in 2007) to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of climate change
- We are responding to, and seeking to reduce, the impacts of climate change on a daily basis
- We are actively bringing coherence to development, humanitarian and climate change approaches through our community-based work and initiatives like forecast-based financing
- We have a global outreach and local presence, making us a clear partner of choice in delivering climate change adaptation results on the ground, particularly for reaching people in "the last mile"
- National Societies, through their auxiliary role, can serve as an interlocutor between governments and communities and support climate planning and programming tailored to local needs

## What are our 'asks' for climate-related policy, planning and investment?

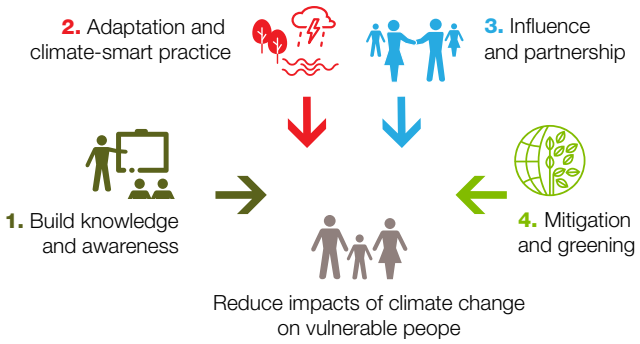
- **Reach the most vulnerable people**, ensuring that within the global and national decisions policies and plans, the needs of the most vulnerable people to climate change are addressed
- **Increase finance for adaptation and resilience**, in order to strike a balance with finance committed for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions
- **Ensure the role of local actors in climate action is enabled**, including through promoting decentralised, equitable, transparent and accountable disbursement of climate finance.
- **Implement integrated risk management approaches** to build resilience, through aligning disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and eco-system management approaches in laws, policies, plans and investment decisions

## How are our climate ambitions reflected in the IFRC plan and budget for 2016-2020?

The IFRC Plan and Budget 2016-2020 states that National Societies will be supported in their auxiliary role to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including through engaging in the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. Specific outputs include improving early warning systems, conducting awareness raising activities and adopting climate risk-informed and environmentally responsible values and practices.

## How will we increase our impact in tackling climate change?

Towards 2020, we will focus on Four Areas of Work to scale up our climate action, as pictured.




The Framework for Climate Action together with the annex of Good Practices and Toolkits, sets out what success looks like for each of these areas and example activities that can be taken by National Societies, the IFRC and its Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

For more information, email **climatecentre@climatecentre.org**, and download the **IFRC framework** from **www.climatecentre.org/framework**.