



## **COUNCIL OF DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

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### **Workshop Report Addressing Humanitarian Consequences of Climate Change**

#### **Workshop Officers**

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#### **Introduction**

It is not science fiction. We see climate change, we feel climate change, and we forecast more climate change.

Climate change is real and close to all of us in different ways. Seasons and weather is uncertain and there has been a change of patterns, increased intensity of events but also frequency, generating more humanitarian consequences in the last decade.

There is a general and clear call for action on climate change adaptation by agreeing that the time to act is now; Climate change is clearly happening and the Movement must prepare for the increased number and intensity of global disasters but also we should prioritise our action on risk reduction actions (prevention and adaptation).

#### **Key Messages**

- Climate change is nothing new in the RC/RC action but we need to expand our activities due to increasing vulnerabilities and risk. We need to improve in mainstreaming climate change into existing core RC/RC programmes such a disaster response, community work and others.
- Based on the projection, forecasting and prediction of disaster we have to improve our contingency planning for seasonal disasters and food insecurity.
- Climate change adaptation is not a stand-alone programme but a cross-cutting issue.
- Due to complexity of Climate Change, there is a wide call for expanding partnerships with diverse partners such as authorities, research and science centres, local communities, corporate sector, etc. We cannot work alone in tackling the impacts of Climate Change.
- Our focus for addressing the impacts of Climate Change should be community based DRR – we must focus on raising awareness, prevention and mitigation measures with the most vulnerable communities in order to strengthen community safety and resilience.
- Public awareness and education with focus on schools and communities. Our RC/RC youth have the potential to be agents of behavior change.

- Connect our action with scientific, research centres transforming science information and knowledge into simple humanitarian messages and actions at community level.
- We must learn from communities and base our advocacy messages on the concerns of the most vulnerable – using our unique network to connecting local, national, regional and global climate change issues.
- Through our auxiliary status with governments, National Societies can inform and influence governments in their climate change policies and actions at national and international levels – drawing attention to the concerns of vulnerable communities and the need for more resources for CCA measures.
- We should not exclusively concentrate on awareness but call for action, changing mindset and changing behavior – we need to keep a balance between disaster response and disaster risk reduction and ensure that our actions reflect needs based on vulnerability and capacity assessment, led by local communities.

### **Problems/ challenges/ constraints**

- Participants highlighted that even though climate change understanding is increasing in their national societies, they find it still difficult to translate into actionable policy and programmes.
- Many national societies highlighted that even though the climate change debate has been very visible, it has been largely a policy discussion that is yet to filter down to practical community level actions.
- Predictable longer term funding, to enable in depth investment and integration of RC/RC community actions.
- NS technical capacity to undertake DRR, climate change adaptation and food security programmes.
- Documentation and measuring of RC/RC actions to show the evidence and share them with key stakeholders.
- A common RC/RC communication campaign and strategy are missing

### **General Recommendations for RC/RC action**

- We are all responsible for the protection of the environment: the RC/RC Movement has to consider its own carbon footprint which includes waste handling, transport and other negative environmental aspects of humanitarian work. Every Movement component should determine and implement an environmental policy for the institution. One simple RC/RC action repeated by several NSs is planting trees.
- Involve our volunteers and youth as change agents at community level.
- Develop indicators on how to measure the success of our collective efforts.
- Engage at national level in the adaptation planning for climate change and ensure humanitarian impact are adequately addressed and the RC/RC has a key role to play.
- The RC/RC Movement commits to increase its support to help communities at risk from disasters to prepare themselves and reduce loss of life and livelihood.
- Improve, expand and adapt the RC/RC disaster preparedness to cope with the increasing scale of disasters.
- Support NS capacity building at national and local community levels to adapt to climate change.
- Improve our VCA and understanding of local vulnerability and risks in order to strengthen community based adaptation.
- Creation of a RC/RC Trust Fund to enable strengthening of community safety through predictable longer-term funding.
- We should improve and strengthen capacities by sharing best practices, lessons learnt and successful tools/strategies.