

# Plan 2008-2009



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Disaster Risk Reduction

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### Context

The number of natural disasters is increasing, especially weather-related disasters such as floods, storms, cyclones, drought and extreme temperatures. Whilst these increasing disasters have resulted in fewer deaths, the resultant economic losses are growing.

Extreme weather related disasters are increasing in frequency, affecting over a third of the world's population and causing horrendous damage over the last decade. In addition, environmental degradation is contributing significantly to an increase in disaster risk, while some disaster impacts can lead to deterioration in environmental conditions.

Climatic anomalies also present unusual operational challenges. A climatic anomaly means that people are experiencing an event either for the first time, or for the first time in many years. They have not built up traditional coping strategies or mitigation experience, which are seen in those communities more frequently exposed to hazards. In these circumstances, there is increased psychological stress, a poorer health context leading to a faster spread of disease, poorer security behaviour and reduced self-help capacity.

At the same time, the world's population is moving to urban centres, with the largest cities in developing countries. These mega-cities and other urban environments are often poorly planned and develop and grow in areas where there is a heightened risk of earthquakes, floods, landslides and other natural and technological hazards. This heightened risk is exacerbated by an often violent and insecure environment. Migrants are increasingly at the heart of such vulnerability.

Access to basic health services, clean water and proper sanitation are still non-existent for the majority of the world's population. Preventable diseases are still killing millions of children in poor countries and in wealthier countries the ageing of population, social isolation and long-term unemployment are creating new challenges. Underlying this, AIDS continues to attack the socio-economic fabric of society in the worst affected countries, increasing vulnerability to disasters. A combination of these social factors with the risk of epidemics, pandemics or the impact of a disaster makes the health needs of vulnerable populations in disasters a key focus of disaster management.

While, these changes in risk and disaster patterns clearly result, on occasions, in large-scale emergencies that require the mobilisation of international disaster assistance, Red Cross and Red Crescent response statistics indicate that it is primarily the number of small-scale weather-related events, affecting under 25,000 people, which have risen. The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, under their humanitarian mandate, respond to the effects of these disasters on a daily basis, in countries where the public infrastructures are weak or non-existent.

**Disaster Mitigation, Disaster Response and Recovery** are all undergoing substantial strengthening. **Health and Care** and **Water and Sanitation** are a key component of Disaster Management to create greater community resilience, respond to needs and support recovery efforts. The vital support components of **Advocacy, Human Resource Management, Information Technology and Telecommunications** and **Security** also all combine to provide the enabling context for the primary activities in Disaster Management.

It is the **integration** of all these components that provide the International Federation with a formidable, yet flexible disaster management capability. This coupled with the largest and most powerful global disaster management network obliges the Federation to do more and even better for all those vulnerable to disasters.

## Programme Purpose and Outcomes

The overall purpose of the Global Alliance (see section below for areas of work) for DRR and therefore the focus for the International Federation is to scale up efforts to reduce disaster risks among the most vulnerable communities where national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies operate. This will be done through mobilizing the Red Cross Red Crescent family's global, regional, national and local capacities and mechanisms, especially those already established to deliver effective disaster preparedness and response, to progress four programmatic and enabling objectives.

The programme in 2008 will focus on the development of comprehensive implementation arrangements building upon a global mapping exercise to identify the breadth and scope of disaster risk reduction work in the International Federation together with a strategic framework and a plan to raise awareness and promote advocacy. From these foundations will emerge the country level assessment and analysis and the final implementation plan and budget incorporating the areas of zone and Secretariat support. Full implementation of the programme will begin in January 2009. The combined objectives, outputs and indicators for the programme are as follows:

### Disaster Risk Reduction Promotion

**Objective 1:** To increase community orientation in global and national disaster risk reduction policies and to strengthen national and local institutions for disaster risk reduction

#### Outputs:

- Consistent and effective National Society participation in National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote community centred approaches through planning, sharing good practice and lessons learnt, and advocacy for community action.
- Consistent and effective Secretariat participation in the global ISDR system including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote community centred approaches through sharing good practice and lessons learnt, strengthened results management, and advocacy for community action.
- Disaster risk reduction issues are regularly featured in our annual flagship publication, the World Disasters Report.

#### Performance Indicators:

- Number of National Societies participating fully as members of their respective National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Expenditure (CHF) and % of national disaster risk reduction spending that goes on community centred actions at country level as determined from ISDR and World Bank data sources.
- WDR seen as authoritative forum for promoting community aspects of disaster risk reduction

**National Outcome:** Advancing HFA Strategic Goal 1: integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.

### **Scaling Community Based Programming**

**Objective 2:** To encourage and support expanded community-based programming to identify and tackle disaster risks

#### **Outputs:**

- Consistent application of the Federation Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment methodology to identify and monitor current and future disaster risks in targeted communities linked to design of locally-specific disaster risk reduction solutions
- Expanding public awareness and education and understanding of locally prevalent hazards and promoting a practical culture of safety and resilience.
- Undertaking practical measures to protect or render safer critical community infrastructure (e.g. roads, drainage, schools, health centres) in relation to locally prevalent hazards.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- Number of National Societies using VCA routinely in developing action plans and programmes at branch and community level. Future risks, like those associated with climate change, are included.
- Proportion of population of targeted communities correctly aware of relevant risks and means of reduction, and taking practical action at household and community level.
- Number (%) of vulnerable small scale critical community infrastructure in targeted communities that has been made safer through practical action.

**National Outcome:** Advancing HFA Strategic Goal 2: development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.

### **Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Objective 3:** To integrate enhanced community-centered disaster risk reduction measures as part of comprehensive disaster response management wherever this is applied

#### **Outputs:**

- Community based early warning systems linking them to national/regional early warning systems so as to enable communities to take timely action to protect their lives and assets where feasible.
- Strengthening community preparedness for disaster response (including logistics and pre-positioning for relief, training of first responders, rescue, shelter, health, first aid, watsan measures) by mobilizing resources and capacities at all levels within the Movement, so as to reduce the immediate and secondary impacts of disasters when they strike.
- “Building back safer” by incorporating risk reduction measures in post disaster recovery programmes.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- Number of well-functioning early warning systems in targeted communities
- Number of communities with well-functioning disaster preparedness arrangements
- Number (%) of recovery programmes that include explicit objectives and activities and better planning for future risk reduction.

**National Outcome:** Advancing HFA Strategic Goal 3: systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

## National Society Capacity Building

**Objective 4:** To strengthen national society capacities to deliver and sustain scaled up programmes in disaster risk reduction.

### Outputs:

- Improving governance, accountability and leadership of National Societies for discharging planned disaster risk reduction commitments.
- Improving volunteer and staff support and management to enable delivery of risk reduction programming.
- Strengthening disaster risk reduction programme cycle management. with a focus on improving the link between national and community based early warning systems
- Widening partnerships and expanding resource mobilization to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacity to ensure effective and timely programming.

### Performance Indicators:

- Number of National Societies including disaster risk reduction in their plans and strategies
- Numbers of volunteers, trainees and participants in disaster risk reduction programming
- Number (%) of National Societies that regularly report on implementation as per standard guidelines.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes Appeals coverage (CHF and %).

**National Outcome:** Advancing HFA Strategic Goal 2: development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.

## Target Groups

The International Federation's Disaster Management appeal facilitates and supports Disaster Management initiatives within and between National Societies.

The focus of programming is on the most vulnerable communities and groups exposed to and affected by natural disasters, including those particularly vulnerable owing to gender, age, or social status.

Advocacy initiatives are targeted primarily at governmental and non-governmental partners at the global and national levels. The aim is to raise awareness of the scale of the challenge the International Federation faces, resulting from climate change, urbanisation and increasing epidemic and pandemic threats.

## Partnerships

The Global Alliance will seek partnerships both internally and externally. Internally the programme will seek to maximise the knowledge, experience and comparative advantage of all Red Cross Red Crescent stakeholders and seek to promote through partnership common goals and objectives. Externally, the programme will seek to maximise the involvement of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the ISDR system and further development strong working relationships with key disaster risk reduction actors such as the World Bank as well as with active NGOs and international organisations. At the national level, the programme will offer encouragement to national societies to maximise their auxiliary role with government and develop linkages with all key stakeholders working at community level.

## Quality, Accountability and Learning

Our actions are guided, at all times, by our fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Our Code of Conduct was developed and agreed upon by eight of the world's largest disaster response agencies in 1994 and represents a huge leap forward in setting standards for disaster response. It is being used by the International Federation to monitor its own standards of relief delivery and to encourage other agencies to set similar standards.

The disaster relief standard, "Sphere", adopted by the International Federation, is based upon two core beliefs; first that all possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of calamity and second, that those affected by disaster have a right to life with dignity and therefore a right to assistance. This initiative was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian NGOs and the Red Cross Red Crescent movement who framed a Humanitarian Charter and identified Minimum Standards to be attained in disaster assistance, in each of the five key sectors of water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and health services.

The International Federation's Disaster Management Team initiative has four clear, specific objectives by which it measures its success:

- Ability to adopt analysis, integration and prioritization to plan activities
- Clear definition of services, target levels and responsibilities
- Ability to deliver services and measure impact
- National Societies value, use and are prepared to fund activities.

In pursuit of rapid, high quality response we are establishing regional disaster management units. These will provide National Societies with timely, effective and coordinated disaster management services and resource centres to help share resources and knowledge within our network.

The Federation Secretariat is working to provide a learning platform through the Fednet Disaster Management Resource framework that documents disaster management policy, guidance and practical experience of implementing Disaster Management programmes.

The Federation Secretariat is also committed to reviewing and evaluating its performance to ensure that the lessons learnt are fed into human resource capacity development, enabling continuously improved programme quality.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Through Monitoring and Evaluation the International Federation aims at attaining accountability, improving programme quality, improving performance and promoting learning. The Federation is committed to pursue results-based monitoring and evaluation which focuses on defining realistic expected results, monitoring progress towards the expected results, utilising results for management decisions and reporting on performance.

The Monitoring function at the Federation focuses both on the Process (use of resources, progress of activities and the way these are carried out), and on Results (progress towards set objectives, impact of policy, project or programme in relation to the objectives). The Evaluation function enables the Federation to measure impact of its programmes and operations, learn from experience, take informed decisions, and account for its actions.

The objectives of the monitoring and evaluation functions are to:

- provide an objective basis for assessing impact;
- improve policies, programmes, projects and processes by identifying and disseminating the lessons learned from experience and implementing recommendations drawn from monitoring data and evaluation findings;
- help providing shared accountability for the achievement of the Federation's objectives.

## Promoting Gender Equity and Diversity

The rationale for integrating a gender perspective in the activities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies lies in the Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian mandate - to prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination. The Federation's focus is on *gender*, rather than specifically on women. Gender equality ensures that there is no sex-based discrimination in the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services. The goal of the Federation is to ensure that all Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes benefit men and women equally, according to their different needs and with the input and equal participation of men and women at all levels within the National Societies and the Federation's Secretariat.

## Programme Resources and Expenses

2008 budget in CHF		2009 budget in CHF		Total budget in CHF	
Total Budget	Needs	Total Budget	Needs	Total Budget	Needs
1,018, 000	1,018, 000	2,036,000	2,036,000	3,054,000	3,054,000

**For further information on this programme, contact:** Mohammed Omer Mukhier, Head, Disaster Preparedness and Policy Department; email: [mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org](mailto:mohammedomer.mukhier@ifrc.org); phone: +41 22 730 4430; and fax: +41 22 733 0395.