



IFRC GLOBAL PROGRAMME

SCALING UP LOCALLY-LED CLIMATE-SMART DRR AND ADAPTATION

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CONTENTS

The challenge	5
IFRC's approach	6
Proposed solution	7
Example projects	12
Strengthening the enabling environment for scaling up climate-smart DRR and adaptation	14
Regional spotlight	19
Africa	20
Americas	22
Asia Pacific	24
Europe	26
Middle East and North Africa	28
Technical support and coordination	30
Annex 1: Summary by region	31
Annex 2: Indicators of our reach (illustrative)	32

Targets by 2025¹

250 million people

are reached with activities to address rising climate risks.

100 National Societies

have formulated explicit ambitions to address the rising climate and environmental risks in their operational plans

80 National Societies

are engaged in anticipatory action

50 coastal cities

are supported to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change

250 million people

are better protected from heat

25% of DREF

is allocated to anticipatory action

100 National Societies

implement nature-based solutions focused on reducing disaster risks and adapting to and mitigating climate change

100 National Societies

implement environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change

Ambition by 2027

100

countries
around the world

500

million people
to be reached

at least

1

billion CHF
over 5 years

¹ As set out in IFRC's Plan and Budget 2021-2025, targets taken following signature of the Climate and Environment Charter and IFRC's Operational Framework for Scaling up Anticipatory Action.

THE CHALLENGE

The humanitarian consequences of climate change are already affecting millions of people around the world, most severely the world's most marginalized and vulnerable communities. Floods, landslides, storms, droughts, heatwaves and cold spells are becoming more unpredictable, frequent and intense and severely impacting lives and livelihoods. The cascading social, environmental and economic impacts of climate change are also leading to risks of food, water and livelihoods insecurity, driving displacement, exacerbating climate-sensitive health risks and leading to the breakdown of critical services and infrastructure networks.

Climate change also exacerbates existing patterns of inequality while disproportionately impacting social groups that are more vulnerable to crisis due to a number of socio-economic and demographic factors that affect people's access to services – specifically indigenous populations, women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

While resilience to climate shocks is often lowest in highly vulnerable countries, funding flows indicate that sufficient investment in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) is not going to the countries and people that need it most. The 2020 IFRC World Disasters Report, focusing on the climate crisis, indicates that none of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change and climate- and weather-related disasters were among the 20 highest recipients of climate change adaptation funding on a per capita basis (IFRC, 2020). The countries with the highest climate vulnerability received less than \$1 per person in climate adaptation funding (IFRC, 2020). Furthermore, only a small proportion of resources are channeled to the local level, and even less goes to locally designed and locally-led initiatives. There is a clear disconnect between where climate risk is greatest and where climate adaptation funding goes.

Over the past decade, 83 per cent of all disasters² were caused by climate-related events – floods, storms, and heatwaves (IFRC, 2020). These disasters killed more than 410,000 people and affected a staggering 1.7 billion people (IFRC, 2020). Further, it is estimated that, **by 2050, if ambitious action is not taken to address climate change, approximately 200 million people per year will need international humanitarian assistance** as a direct result of climate-related disasters and the socio-economic impacts of climate change – double the number in 2018 (IFRC, 2019).

The humanitarian system will soon be overwhelmed by a crisis of this magnitude and complexity. It is clear that more stringent greenhouse gas emission reductions are needed to prevent the planet from further warming, and that more ambitious adaptation will be required to reduce the negative consequences of global warming, particularly on the most vulnerable. Evidence is also emerging on the limits to adaptation where no amount of action will be able to prevent losses and damages incurred by climate-related events. This includes, for example, some small island states becoming uninhabitable due to rising sea levels combined with increased aridity and decreased freshwater availability.

At this critical juncture, the magnitude and complexity of the climate crisis requires a holistic, multi-regional, multi-sectoral approach to working together with local communities to increase awareness while concurrently adopting and implementing climate resilience strategies. IFRC is adopting a proactive approach to address the complexities and uncertainties of the future by significantly scaling up its climate action and strengthening its climate-smart programming.

IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme leverages the network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies working nationally and internationally and IFRC reference centres and hubs to support communities to lead actions to adapt to climate change and reduce their climate-related risks, including in some of the least supported and most vulnerable and marginalized communities. The multi-year programme aims at scaling up inclusive, integrated and multi-sectoral approaches which can help build sustained climate resilience at the community level.

2 Recorded in EM-DAT, the global disaster database



Bangladesh 2021 Hundreds of people in southern Bangladesh volunteer to build dams to try to stop the rising seas and protect their communities. The people come together before and after climate-disasters to build and rebuild the dams. © Rafiqul Montu

IFRC'S APPROACH

Climate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) have been key focus areas for the IFRC over the past three decades and the IFRC is one of the biggest DRR actors in the world. The IFRC's approach to collectively reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate change is informed by its [Strategy 2030](#) which places climate change and environmental crises as one of the key challenges to be addressed in the coming decade. In recognition of the need to scale up action, the IFRC, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, has developed a set of [Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis](#), articulating how collectively the IFRC's 192 National Societies, 165,000 local branches and 14 million volunteers will make their work "climate-smart and increase climate change adaptation and DRR efforts, working with communities on the front lines of climate change." Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC also led the development of the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, which further enshrines the IFRC's ongoing commitment to adjust projects so that they can help people affected by crisis better adapt to climate and environmental crises and to maximize the environmental sustainability of programmes and operations. The first strategic priority of the [IFRC Secretariat's Plan and Budget for 2021-2025](#) also focuses on addressing the climate and environmental crises and seeks to generate systemic and transformational change. It aims to mobilize urgent action among the IFRC membership to reduce and adapt to rising risks as well as adopting environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation – and includes ambitious targets on reducing the impacts of extreme heat in cities, fostering adaptation in coastal cities, strengthening nature-based solutions and expanding public awareness campaigns.

According to the 2021 [IFRC Global Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability Survey](#), National Societies around the world are implementing, or planning to implement, climate action. Overall, National Societies are putting highest priority on scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, preparedness and anticipatory/early action as well as reducing the health impacts of climate change. The caveat is that National Societies feel they need increased knowledge and capacity to implement climate action and environmental sustainability, including at the local branch level, as well as increased access to funding to enable them to scale up action.



PROPOSED SOLUTION

Cognizant that the climate crisis requires mobilization of local efforts at an unprecedented scale, IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme aims to **foster an unprecedented scale-up of locally-led climate-smart DRR and adaptation actions to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience.**

The Global Programme outlines a holistic, **multi-year programmatic approach** that will support communities to adapt to climate change and reduce their climate-related risks, particularly in the least supported and most vulnerable and marginalized communities. It will be **rolled out in 100 of the most climate vulnerable countries** and be supported by the Global Climate Resilience Platform, which will catalyse accelerated investment and seek to raise at least CHF 1 billion in financing over the next five years. Initially, it covers work to be undertaken by National Societies in at least 81 countries around the world: in at least 23 countries in the Americas, at least 19 countries in Asia Pacific, at least 8 countries in Europe and at least 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. These countries represent 64% of the 100 most climate vulnerable countries in the world according to the ND-GAIN index.

The programme focuses on scaling up inclusive, integrated and multi-sectoral approaches which can help build sustained climate resilience at the community level. The global breadth of this programme will allow for enhancing coherence and consistency across all regions and to build on and create synergistic approaches. The benefits of longer-term programming also provide ambit for greater exchange of lessons learned, maximizing impact, increasing the evidence-base and ensuring the diffusion of innovative solutions. This Global Programme

National Societies for National Adaptation Plans (NS4NAPS) is a programmatic approach in Asia Pacific developed to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to engage with their governments in shaping inclusive climate change adaptation planning and implementation. This includes all National Society climate change adaptation related policy engagement endeavours, whether these relate to NAPs or adaptation components of Nationally Determined Contributions. Where applicable, this includes other adaptation-related plans and processes at the sub-national and national levels.

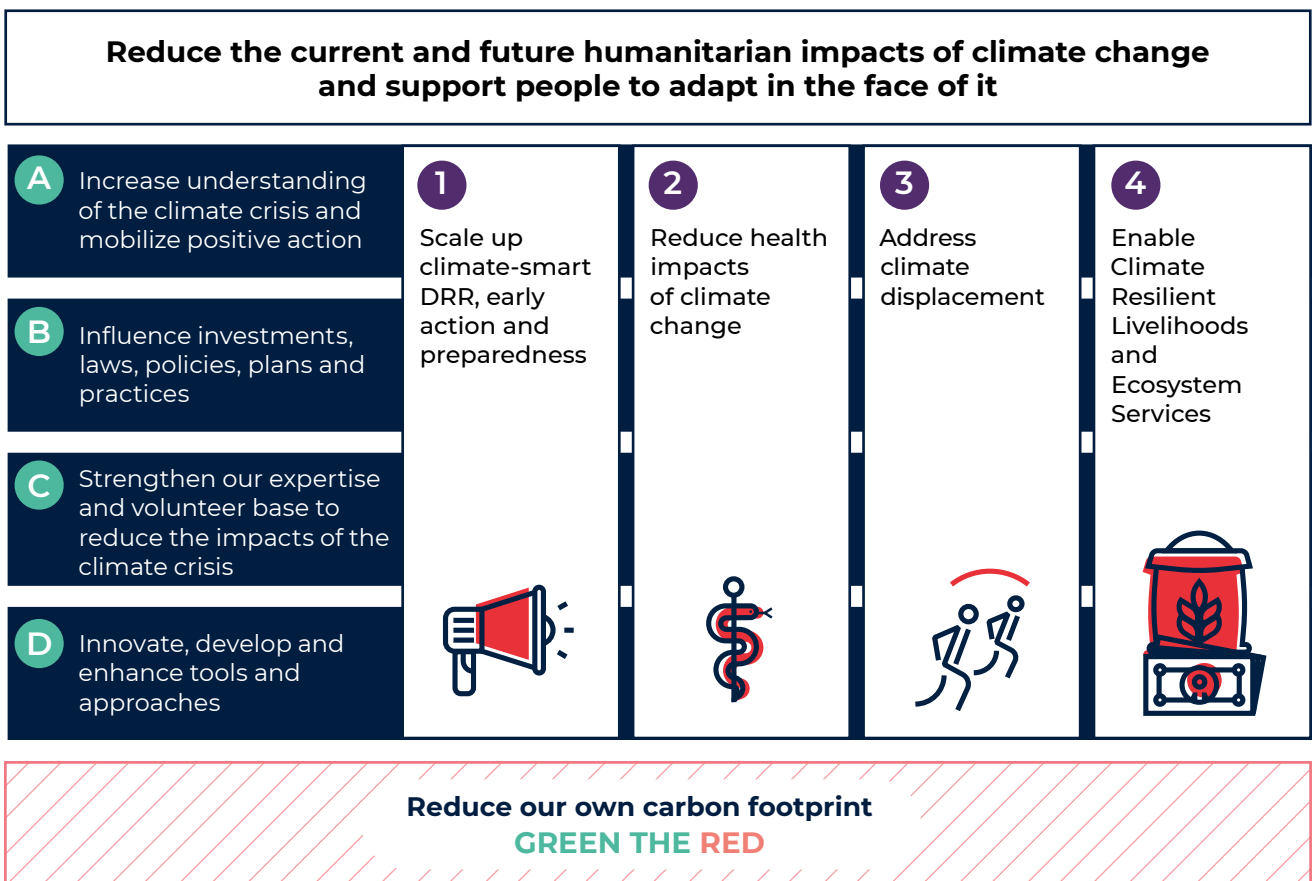
Bangladesh 2018 In camps for people displaced from Rakhine state, Myanmar, early warning equipment is distributed to trained Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) community volunteers at Burmapara camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. 480 people living in the camps will activate early warning upon receiving forecasts of severe weather and help others take anticipatory action to protect themselves. © Lynette Nyman / IFRC



takes into account the step change required to create transformational change amongst the most climate vulnerable countries and aims to provide the resources that will be required by National Societies to help meet IFRC's overarching Federation-wide ambitions as per climate-related targets set within the IFRC Secretariat's Plan and Budget 2021-2025 and the Climate and Environment Charter.

IFRC's decades of experience in disaster risk management and climate action, the cross-sectoral scope of National Societies' work and their local presence before, during and after crises will allow for integrated and comprehensive action bridging humanitarian, development, climate and environment efforts. The mandate, long-term presence and extensive network of local branches and volunteers of National Societies means that we are uniquely positioned to make a difference on the ground by investing in community-based solutions that foster local capacity to address immediate and long-term needs in a sustainable manner. Leveraging the climate science expertise of our Climate Centre, and National Societies' role as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies have a unique ability to support governments to take necessary action to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience.

The action is framed around the key pillars and underlining approach adopted by the IFRC through the Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis:



Adapted from the Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis

1

Scale up Climate-Smart DRR, Early Warning and Anticipatory Action and Preparedness

National Societies will work with communities to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to the impacts of climate change in both rural and urban settings by scaling up climate-smart DRR and climate change adaptation activities. Communities and National Societies will be better prepared to manage forecasted weather events and new climate extremes through effective end-to-end community early warning systems and anticipatory action, including by being able to access resources ahead of their impact. Nature-based solutions, in particular ecosystem-based DRR, will be implemented to increase the resilience of communities before, during and after disasters. In addition, social protection systems can be seen as a potentially effective mechanism in reducing the impacts of climate risks on vulnerable households and in contributing to building resilience beyond short-term coping strategies. **At least 79 National Societies will undertake activities under this pillar.**

2

Reduce Public Health Impacts of Climate Change

National Societies will systematically integrate climate risk management across health programmes and anticipate the health-related consequences of climate change, focusing on people experiencing increased exposure and vulnerability. Climate information will be used to anticipate, prepare for and reduce the impacts of climate-related health emergencies. Specific attention will also be directed towards reducing the public health impacts of extreme heat. **At least 70 National Societies will undertake activities under this pillar.**

3

Address Climate Displacement

National Societies will aim to reduce climate-induced displacement by better understanding and predicting climate-related population movements. Based on this enhanced knowledge and analysis, National Societies will better protect communities against the risks of climate-related displacement in the context of both sudden and slow onset hazards, including through targeted resilience building and DRR initiatives. National Societies will also invest in greater community preparedness systems, including anticipatory action, to help ensure that any displacement that does occur is safer and more dignified. **At least 52 National Societies will undertake activities under this pillar.**

4

Enable Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services

National Societies will work with communities to strengthen the resilience of their livelihoods by helping them adopt climate-smart practices combining traditional and scientific knowledge and technologies while maximizing the use of weather and climate information and diversify their livelihoods activities. Ensuring that essential services are resilient to hazards, including ecosystem services on which livelihoods depend. This will include implementing nature-based solutions with communities as part of climate change adaptation and enhancing livelihoods, food and water security. **At least 72 National Societies will undertake activities under this pillar.**

Activities implemented across the four pillars will focus on climate change adaptation and risk reduction in order to reduce the impacts of climate-related shocks and hazards to support the longer-term resilience of communities. Response activities to address the humanitarian impacts of climate change will continue to be funded through emergency appeals and IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

As a cross-cutting ambition, IFRC will reduce its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Achieving these ambitions will be dependent on enhancing the capacity of National Societies as strong local actors and as auxiliaries to their government.

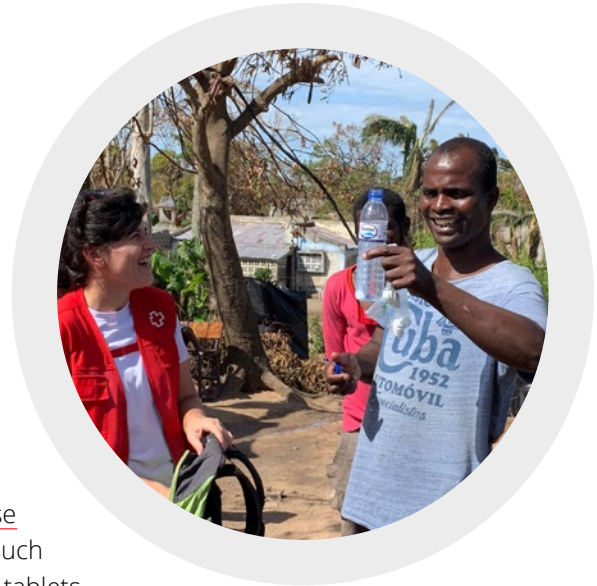


EXAMPLE PROJECTS

Pillar 1

Reducing disaster impacts through forecast-based anticipatory action:

In March 2019, the Mozambique Red Cross (CVM for short) submitted an Early Action Protocol related to cyclones which set out an agreed threshold for pre-emptive action along with which anticipatory actions should be implemented, once that threshold was met, to protect people ahead of a forecasted cyclone. IFRC allocated funding from its Forecast-based Action by the Disaster Response Emergency Fund for CVM to procure and preposition stocks such as shelter strengthening material as well as water purification tablets to reduce the risk of waterborne disease outbreak. CVM also undertook readiness activities such as first aid training for volunteers and capacity building for local builders to ensure that it would be ready to act quickly when the trigger for action was met. In December 2020, CVM received the forecast that tropical storm Chalane had formed and was bearing down on Sofala. In the lead time of 48 hours, CVM assisted 7,500 people with early warning messages, distributed prepositioned stocks and demonstrated how to strengthen homes to protect against high winds, while directly strengthening homes for the most vulnerable including elderly and people with disabilities.



Pillar 2

Reducing health impacts and enhancing community resilience to heatwaves:

In 2017, the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) introduced a five-year strategic plan to enhance community resilience, including related to heat which was identified as an emerging risk due to climate change. Having identified children and older people as highly vulnerable during heatwaves, in 2018 the HKRC started a training programme for schoolchildren. This programme involved a new Disaster Preparedness Integrated Training Package, covering topics including climate change and heatwaves and how to reduce their impacts. Seventy-seven staff and volunteers were trained as trainers and began conducting courses in March 2019. In 2019, over 2,600 students from 13 schools were trained. In parallel, the HKRC started a home-assessment programme for older people, evaluating their access to electricity and cooling equipment. Homes in need were provided with electric fans, especially those divided into flats or small units within larger apartment buildings. The school training programme was also extended into the community to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change, while improving people's responsiveness during disasters.





Pillar 3

Including refugees and displaced people in national early warning systems: To ensure that refugees and displaced people in Cox's Bazaar are included in national early warning, preparedness and anticipatory action efforts, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) - in partnership with Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, local authorities and other stakeholders assisting camp settlement management – led the extension of the national cyclone early warning system, the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), into the camp settlement. Since 2018, BDRCS has engaged, trained, equipped and mentored almost 3,400 volunteers currently living in the camps through a joint initiative with the American Red Cross and IFRC. Through the CPP, BDRCS has been able to establish a macro-level disaster management structure with refugees and displaced people at the forefront which continues to be functional and further strengthened during every cyclone season. Through the expansion of the CPP to the 34 camps, refugees and displaced people have been included as temporary CPP volunteers and received training on community risk assessments, recognition of hazards, first aid and search and rescue.

Pillar 4

Reducing climate and disaster risk using nature and ecosystem services: The Honduras Red Cross has been collaborating with the Swiss Red Cross, local communities, as well as Community and Municipal Emergency Committees in the Department of Olancho on bioengineering such as fascines since around 2016. Fascines are a combination of vegetation and local materials to build terraces and natural drains to remove excess water and thereby protect slopes and embankments from erosion, landslides and tropical storms, which have increased in the region due to climate change. The sites were chosen based on comprehensive risk assessments. The fascines have provided protection to both local communities and infrastructure from landslides and extreme events. In addition, the fascines have protected land, which has been used for sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, thereby providing for local livelihoods. The Red Cross role included technical assistance, material support, awareness raising and capacity building. For more info see here (p. 85).



STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SCALING UP CLIMATE-SMART DRR AND ADAPTATION

The following underpins IFRC's approach to create an enabling environment to ensure impact, scale and sustainability of action:

- IFRC's **people-centred and demand driven** approach ensures communities are meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes, adopt inclusive approaches to programming and ensure solutions are tailored and context specific.
- IFRC will harness and build the power of its **volunteer network**, including youth, to call for and implement change, recognizing the potential of volunteers as agents of change within their communities.
- IFRC's **risk-informed approach** aims to ensure climate risks are considered and managed in all programmes and operations.
- IFRC espouses a **holistic multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and integrated systems approach**. This is achieved through IFRC's community resilience approach, which provides National Societies a step-by-step process to strengthen communities' resilience to hazards in a successful and sustainable way.
- IFRC will seek to further strengthen and develop **partnerships** with governments, academic institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector and civil society to foster and promote effective collaboration and knowledge sharing, drive meaningful and sustainable climate action and ultimately reach the desired scale-up and technical excellence.
- IFRC will continue to harness and diffuse **innovation** and new technologies with the aim of identifying scalable, transformative solutions to local challenges and better protect at-risk communities.
- IFRC will continue to foster **National Societies' institutional capacity** to scale up climate action, including through peer-to-peer exchange of lessons learned and knowledge produced.
- IFRC will continue to **support governments in strengthening their legal and policy frameworks** to reduce climate-related risks and ensure vulnerable, excluded and at-risk people are prioritized and resources are channelled to the local level.

Forecast-based Financing (FbF) is a programmatic approach introduced by the IFRC network in 2013 to enable anticipatory action. National Societies are supported to develop Early Action Protocols (EAPs) that set out agreed forecast-based triggers for action, early actions to be implemented and modalities for action. In the precious window of time between a forecast and a potential disaster, IFRC automatically releases resources from its Forecast-based Action by the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (FbA by the DREF) to National Societies with pre-approved EAPs in order to reduce the impact of disasters and human suffering. As of January 2022, 15 National Societies around the world had approved EAPs for floods, heatwaves, cyclones/typhoons and cold waves and 21 others were developing their EAPs.



Jamaica 2021 The Resilient Islands project team in Jamaica planted mangroves in Old Harbour Bay as part of its efforts to protect communities against the impacts of climate change by promoting the use of coastal habitats to reduce risks. © Jamaica Red Cross / The Nature Conservancy

The Resilient Islands project has been implemented by National Societies in the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Jamaica, in partnership with the IFRC Secretariat, The Nature Conservancy and German Government, to enhance climate change adaptation through the implementation of nature-based solutions (NbS). The use of rapid ecological assessments alongside IFRC's Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) methodology to assess and plan for NbS is now being used as an inspiration by other National Societies for NbS work.

As a member of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, a partnership with Zurich Insurance and a combination of non-governmental and research organizations formed to reduce the impact of floods, IFRC is implementing multi-year community flood resilience programmes in nine countries. These programmes are helping communities to plan, prepare for and manage increasingly frequent and severe floods.

Uganda 2018 *The Integrated Climate Change Adaptation programme was designed to help communities build climate resilience through a number of activities including using drama to enhance public awareness about climate change and how to reduce risks, elevating houses to reduce risks from heavy rainfall and the diversification of agricultural production. © Denis Onyodi/URCS-DRK-Climate Centre*





Bangladesh 2018 Volunteers participate in a disaster simulation drill in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The drill helps prepare residents of Kutupalong—a camp and temporary home for displaced families from Rakhine state—on how to stay safe during monsoon season. © Brad Zerivitz / American Red Cross

Building on the expertise of global IFRC reference centres and hubs to implement action at the local level

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre harnesses its climate science expertise to inform policy and advance practical solutions to better manage climate-related risks. It provides guidance and technical support to National Societies and their partners, and fosters the exchange of experience, training and technical back-up for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In the international arena, it seeks to inform the development of climate policy with humanitarian concerns, especially the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the annual UN climate talks.

The Anticipation Hub is a knowledge and exchange platform focused on enabling more anticipatory action on the ground. It compiles and shares good practices, learning, guidance and advocacy around anticipatory action. Hosted by the German Red Cross, in cooperation with IFRC Secretariat and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the Anticipation Hub brings together partners across the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, universities, research institutes, (i)NGOs, UN agencies, governments, donors, and network initiatives.

The Global Disaster Preparedness Center aims to enhance disaster preparedness capacities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in order to protect people from future disasters. Hosted by the American Red Cross, in partnership with IFRC Secretariat, it promotes innovation and effective approaches to disaster preparedness.



Mongolia 2021 In early 2021, the Mongolia Red Cross received forecasts of a severe coldwave. Thanks to anticipatory action planning including pre-agreed forecast-based triggers for action and appropriate early actions, the Red Cross was able to provide assistance to thousands of herders before the coldwave hit to protect vulnerable households and their livelihoods. © Mongolian Red Cross

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT



Situational Analysis

Countries on the African continent have continued to witness changes in precipitation patterns, increasing temperatures, rising sea levels and extreme weather and climate events which will have devastating impacts on food and water security, human health and safety, livelihoods and socio-economic development. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, significant shifts in precipitation levels in recent years have resulted in an increased number of flood- and landslide-related emergencies, such as the terrible landslides in Sierra Leone in 2017 that affected more than 11,800 people ([IFRC GO, 2017](#)), and a trend of increasing flood-related displacement. It is expected that the Indian Ocean and Southern Africa will continue to face an increase in the frequency of intense tropical cyclones – cyclone Idai in 2019 affected the lives of nearly 3 million people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe; and Mozambique was severely impacted by two category 4 Tropical Cyclones (Idai and Kenneth) in just two months ([IFRC GO, 2019](#)). Between 2011 and 2020, the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Southern Africa experienced severe droughts impacting the water and agricultural sectors and resulting in a food and water crisis in the region. In 2020, the World Food Programme estimated that 45 million people in Southern Africa were food insecure because of these droughts. In 2022, the Horn of Africa is at risk of experiencing an unprecedented fourth consecutive season of drought ([FEWS-NET, 2022](#)). According to the “2020 State of the Climate in Africa,” food insecurity on the continent increases by 5 to 20 per cent with each flood or drought. Moreover, floods, storms and droughts have had a direct impact on displacement on the continent – with estimates that 12 per cent of new population displacements worldwide have taken place in the East and Horn of Africa regions ([IOM, 2021](#)). In addition, it is estimated that, by 2030, up to 118 million people – living on less than USD 1.90 a day – will be exposed to droughts, floods and extreme heat in Africa, if investments in climate adaptation and early warning systems are not made.

Proposed Activities

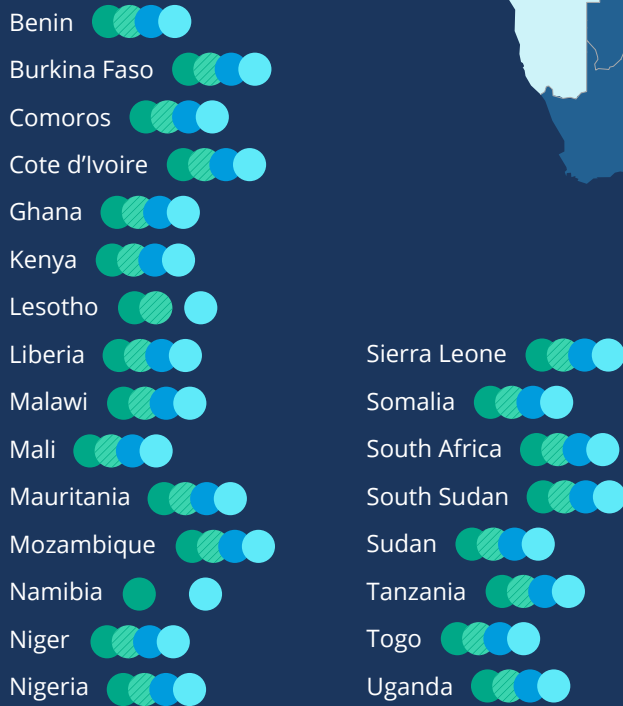
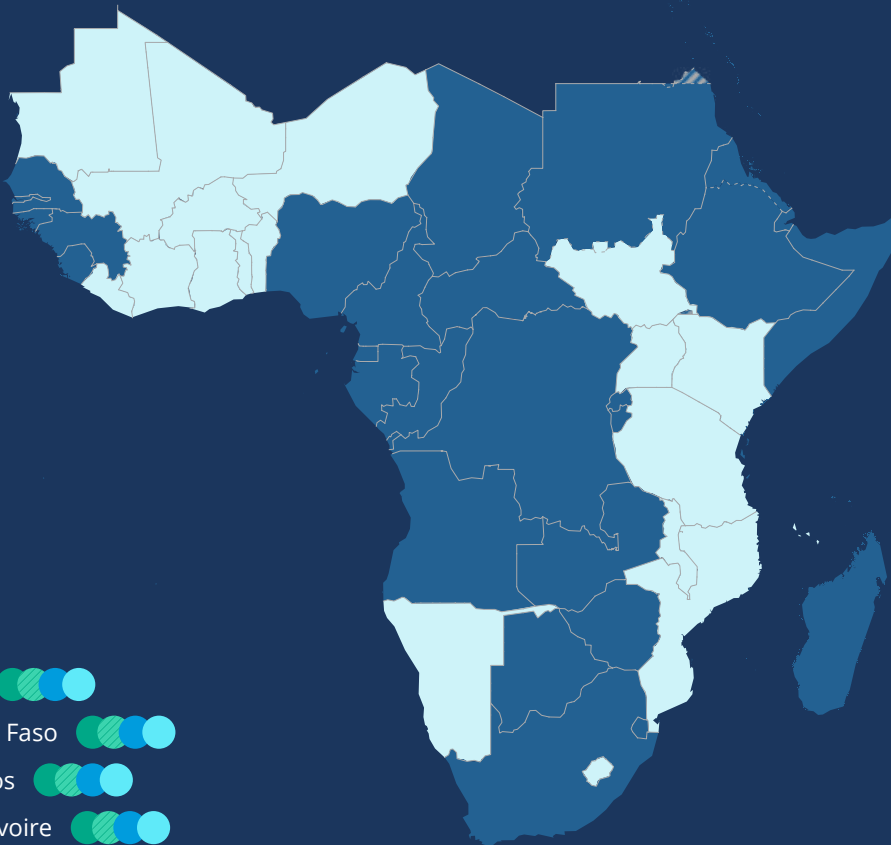
At least 23 National Societies in the Africa region will scale up existing community based DRR initiatives and enhance knowledge and skills of local communities on risks related to disasters and climate change. Focus will be given to strengthen existing early warning systems, integrate climate risk management across all health and hygiene activities and increase action to reduce current and future climate-induced displacement by improving interventions to address local drivers. Ensuring sustainability of food production through enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and services will also be a priority.

Scale Up Climate-Smart DRR,
Anticipatory Action and
Preparedness

Reduce Public Health
Impacts of Climate Change

Address Climate
Displacement

Enable Climate
Resilient Livelihoods
and Ecosystem Services



At least
23
National
Societies
supported

Situational Analysis

The Americas region is experiencing an increase in extreme climate events, including heatwaves, heavy rainfall, droughts, more frequent and intense hurricanes, ocean acidification and sea level rise. The region is the second most disaster-prone in the world. In 2020, the compounded effects of the pandemic, tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding contributed to a precipitous rise in acute food insecurity, affecting areas where households had already experienced prolonged droughts in preceding years.

In the northern countries of Central America, the direct and indirect consequences of storms, hurricanes, floods and landslides are major drivers of displacement. It is estimated that the Central American region experienced more than 1.5 million new displacements in 2020 because of disasters, including following Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020 which caused massive floods and landslides ([IFRC GO, 2020](#)).

The impact of climate extremes has affected the Southern Cone region in different ways. Between 1960 and 2020, the average annual temperature in the subregion increased from 0.5 to 2 degrees ([CEPAL, 2020](#)). Heat waves have increased considerably, and frosts have decreased significantly, especially in northern Argentina and southern Paraguay. Rainfall has increased in all countries of the subregion and these increases are expected to continue. At the opposite extreme, also because of the climate crisis, drought alerts have increased in all countries.

Due to their size and location, Caribbean Small Island Developing States are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Caribbean nations are increasingly affected by the ongoing rise in sea levels, changes in rain patterns and temperatures, and increasing intensity of natural hazards. Category 5 Hurricane Dorian, for example, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record (and the strongest hurricane to have ever hit the Bahamas), caused about USD 3.4 billion in damages - which is equal to one-quarter of the Bahamas' GDP ([IFRC GO, 2019](#)).

In the Andean region, climate change is mainly affecting water resources. In areas such as the Central Andes, where communities' main source of livelihoods is seasonal crops, the lack of rainfall associated with higher temperatures has impacted the production capacity of crops, which in turn affects food security.

Proposed Activities

At least 23 National Societies in the Americas region will focus on scaling up ecosystem DRR and nature-based solutions and supporting the integration of climate and environmental-related considerations across all thematics, including health projects. National Societies will scale up advocacy on the effects that climate change and environmental issues have towards vulnerable groups. The development of regional initiatives (e.g. South-South cooperation schemes) will support effective scaling up of climate-related adaptation and mitigation programming. National Societies in the region will also reinforce their overall capacity to integrate climate change and environmental sustainability considerations in their programmes and operations, including through environmental assessments.

Scale Up Climate-Smart DRR,
Anticipatory Action and
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Reduce Public Health
Impacts of Climate Change

Address Climate
Displacement

Enable Climate
Resilient Livelihoods
and Ecosystem Services

At least
23
National
Societies
supported

Andean

- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Peru

Caribbean

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- The Bahamas
- Trinidad and Tobago

Central America

- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama

Southern Cone

- Argentina
- Paraguay
- Uruguay

Situational Analysis

The Asia Pacific region is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts with serious concerns over the deepening of food and water insecurity, reduction and loss of incomes and livelihoods and increases in health problems and poverty - especially among poor and marginalized sections of society. Climate-induced displacement, re-location and migration is also projected to increase, impacting social cohesion and adaptive capacities.

While there are some sub-regional differences, the region is highly exposed to all the climate risks and impacts – faster glacial melting and decreasing snow cover; sea-level rise and ocean acidification above global levels; high levels of coral bleaching, reef degradation and loss of mangroves; more river, coastal and flash floods; more intense tropical cyclones; decreasing annual rainfall and seasonal changes in river flow leading to droughts; increasing frequency of intense thunderstorms and extreme rainfall events causing run-off and soil erosion; increasing dust storms, aridity and depletion of surface and ground water bodies; and less frequent cold spells but stronger and longer heatwaves.

Afghanistan, for example, is facing one of the worst droughts and food shortage crises in decades, affecting more than 80% of the country, crippling food production and forcing people from their land ([IFRC GO](#)). Most emergency operations are responding to floods, which mainly occur in Southeast Asia and South Asia, followed by cyclones which most often occur in South-east Asia, Pacific and South Asia. In December 2021, the Philippines was hit by Super Typhoon Rai which was the fifteenth storm to hit the Philippines in 2021, and the strongest, affecting more than 10 million people ([IFRC GO](#)).

Both direct and indirect climate-induced health impacts will worsen. Mortality and morbidity, especially among women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups will worsen with more frequent and intense heatwaves and higher incidence of climate-sensitive infectious diseases. Majority, around 80%, of the people in the region live off agriculture and allied activities, including livestock rearing, marine and inland fishing. Large losses of arable land in Asia's coastal deltaic rice producing areas are likely. Progressive increases in hunger are projected by 2050 and 2080 in all the different sub-regions of Asia. Under 'business-as-usual' climate scenario, by mid-21st century, South Asia is highly likely to house the world's largest number of food insecure people, affecting their health, ability to work and exacerbate poverty.

Proposed Activities

At least 19 National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region, several with long-term engagement in climate-change adaptation, will scale up community risk awareness, support community early warning systems connected to national early warning systems, implement anticipatory action and use nature-based solutions to protect soil, water and forest resources. They will integrate climate risk across health and hygiene programmes, build community awareness and capacities, develop heatwave early action plans and enable and support youth-led action on climate risk, health and hygiene. Local drivers of climate-related displacement will be addressed, based on mapping and predicting population movements. Climate-smart livelihoods will be promoted, community early warning systems will be increasingly used to safeguard local livelihoods and water bodies, and nature-based solutions will be used for soil and water management.

Scale Up Climate-Smart DRR,
Anticipatory Action and
Preparedness

Reduce Public Health
Impacts of Climate Change

Address Climate
Displacement

Enable Climate
Resilient Livelihoods
and Ecosystem Services



At least
19
National
Societies
supported

East Asia

- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea ●●●●
- Mongolia ●●●●

South Asia

- Bangladesh ●●●●●●
- India ●●●●●●
- Maldives ●●●●●●
- Nepal ●●●●●●
- Pakistan ●●●●●●
- Sri Lanka ●●●●●●

Southeast Asia

- Indonesia ●●●●●●
- Myanmar ●●●●●●
- Philippines ●●●●●●
- Timor-Leste ●●●●●●
- Viet Nam ●●●●●●

Pacific

- Cook Islands ●●●●●●
- Federated State of Micronesia ●●●●●●
- Republic of the Marshall Islands ●●●●●●
- Palau ●●●●●●
- Samoa ●●●●●●
- Tuvalu ●●●●●●

EUROPE

Situational Analysis

Europe is experiencing more frequent and severe heat waves, which in turn increase the prevalence of drought, wildfires (including the devastating wildfires caused by record-setting heat in southern Europe in 2021 ([IFRC, 2021](#))) and a variety of risks to health, livelihoods and wellbeing. Temperature in the Western Balkans is projected to increase 1.2 degrees Celsius in the near future (up to 2035) and between 1.7 and 4 degrees Celsius in the longer-term (up to 2100). This poses a risk of drought and crop failure which will impact food security. At the same time, the rising variability and intensity of rainfall means that river flooding, including flash floods, will become more common. River flooding is already a common natural disaster in the region which has impacted millions of people and led to severe economic losses over the past three decades. In 2014, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia experienced ‘unprecedented’ flooding due to extreme rainfall, which impacted over 600,000 people and caused dozens of deaths and an estimated USD \$1.4 billion in damage. In Central Asia, the temperature is expected to increase by at least 1.48 degrees Celsius and likely significantly more if current global warming levels continue, leading to both more precipitation and to increased drought conditions due to increased temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. These changes will severely impact regional agricultural production and food security and will likely be particularly pronounced given the heavy reliance on agriculture for many in the region. Access to water will also become a rising issue as much of Central Asia’s water sources are quickly melting glaciers and snow melt, which are predicted to become less available and in turn increase the risk for infectious disease outbreaks and other health challenges, crop loss due to reduced irrigation and in turn rising rates of malnutrition. Increased conflict due to resource scarcity, particularly in ethnically divided countries, is also projected. Although it will directly impact few of the countries in Europe, sea level rise is another key hazard that will have significant knock-on effects on water quality, habitable land and economic assets in many countries. These and other worrying trends highlight the urgent need for proactive adaptive measures in the Europe region’s less resourced countries.

Proposed Activities

At least eight National Societies in the Europe region will give strong emphasis on DRR initiatives, with a focus on DRR and climate change awareness-raising in communities, including for schools and teachers, and conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments for climate hazards. National Societies will also develop or scale up early warning systems connected to health, heatwaves and wildfires. Anticipatory action interventions to enhance food security will be implemented along with feasibility studies of new anticipatory actions to address heat waves and other hazards. An ongoing emphasis will be on promoting psychosocial wellbeing and health, including WASH, to reduce the public health impacts of climate change.

Scale Up Climate-Smart DRR,
Anticipatory Action and
Preparedness

Reduce Public Health
Impacts of Climate Change

Address Climate
Displacement

Enable Climate
Resilient Livelihoods
and Ecosystem Services



At least
8
National
Societies
supported

Western Balkans

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Serbia

Central Asia

- Tajikistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Situational Analysis

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The IPCC has identified the region as a 'climate change hotspot' and it is projected that climate change will increase the risk of floods, increase disease transmission, change precipitation patterns and reduce crop productivity. Climate scientists have indicated that, on its current trajectory, the MENA region is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world and that, by 2050, temperatures in the region will rise by 4 degrees Celsius ([Max Planck Institute](#)). This in turn will have direct impacts on and aggravate risks of water scarcity, energy shortage, drought, crop failure and desertification, heat-related deaths and health problems and potentially exacerbate causes of displacement. It is also projected that, if adaptation and mitigation policies remain as-is, coastal cities in the region (Algiers, Alexandria, Beirut and Benghazi) will witness devastating impacts from increase in sea levels. This will consequently risk disruption in coastal agriculture, telecommunications and transportation sectors. Climate change will likely act as a threat multiplier to existing regional conflicts, aggravating disputes over scarce resources and thwart long-term stability. For example, Iran has been suffering from a serious prolonged drought situation, affecting more than 800,000 people across most provinces ([IFRC GO, 2022](#)), with the most severely affected areas bordering Afghanistan and facing an influx of Afghan people.

The countries included in this programme are identified as the most vulnerable and least ready to cope with climate change, according to the ND-GAIN Country Index, and are also identified as fragile and/or in conflict situations. According to the 2022 World Bank list of fragile and conflict affected situation, Syria is listed as a high intensity conflict, Iraq and Libya as medium intensity conflict, and Lebanon is considered under institutional and social fragility. Communities in those countries are suffering from double exposure and vulnerability to institutional and social fragility or conflict and climate change.

Proposed Activities

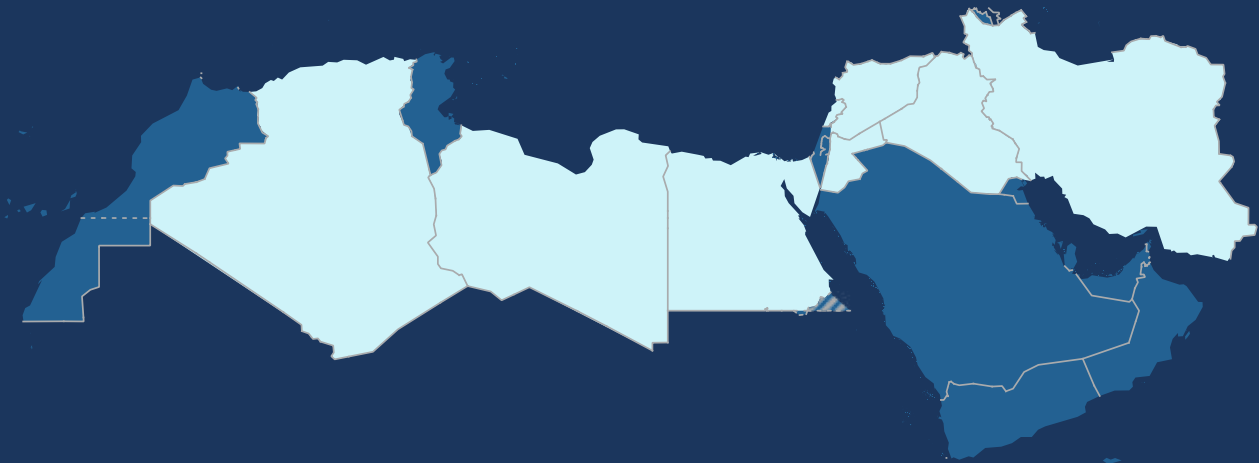
At least eight National Societies in the MENA region will support climate change adaptation of the most impacted communities and vulnerable groups. The National Societies have already developed DRR technical capacities and will scale up community-based DRR programmes and activities within the scope of this programme. There is also key interest in the region to scale up anticipatory action, given that National Societies are already key actors regarding national disaster management systems and humanitarian response. National Societies will be adopting an integrated approach by upscaling and mainstreaming climate-smart programming in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), strengthening and increasing community livelihoods using climate-smart practices and enhancing health programming. Equally there will be efforts to increase advocacy with governments to take more ambitious action.

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Displacement

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and Ecosystem Services



At least
8
National
Societies
supported

Algeria



Egypt



Iran



Iraq



Jordan



Lebanon



Libya



Syria



Bangladesh 2018 A team of volunteers demonstrate first aid skills at a disaster simulation in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
© Brad Zerivitz / American Red Cross



TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND COORDINATION

The implementation of this programme will be carried out by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in their countries, with the support of the IFRC Secretariat, of sister National Societies working internationally, and of IFRC reference centres and hubs. The objectives of technical support and coordination are:

- Increased awareness and understanding of climate change and environmental issues among IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers
- Increased capacity of staff and volunteers to implement community-based climate action and climate-smart programming
- Peer-to-peer learning and regular exchange of experiences among practitioners is supported, including South-South cooperation schemes
- Internal institutional capacities are developed and strengthened to a) help reduce impacts of current and future climate and environmental crises; b) to help reduce impacts of current and future climate and environmental risks on health plans and actions; c) to play a stronger humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy role in favour of climate change-induced migrants and displaced populations; d) to safeguard climate-smart local livelihoods
- Tools and approaches for the reduction of climate and environmental risks are innovated, developed and scaled up
- Coordination and partnership with key actors to ensure complementary approach and technical excellence

As part of IFRC's climate ambitions, a number of National Societies are launching large-scale climate initiatives to scale up action in their own countries and provide international support. These initiatives will contribute to the programme as they unfold, helping to reach the current 53.3 million people target, while adding also a large number of people reached domestically. The American Red Cross for example aims to raise USD 1 billion to reduce the impacts of climate displacement, focused primarily on its domestic context. Internationally, its climate efforts will focus on making cities resilient to heat and coastal risks, anticipatory action and youth action. Together with the expansion of the programme should resources allow, these initiatives will **contribute to IFRC's Climate and Environment Charter target to support 250 million people in addressing rising climate risks by 2025.**

SUMMARY BY REGION

AFRICA

CLIMATE-RELATED RISK	INVEST IN	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floods Cyclone Drought Food insecurity Epidemics and diseases (e.g. cholera and vector-borne diseases) Displacement 	<p>At least 23 countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Climate-smart community-based DRR People-centered early warning systems Climate-smart health and hygiene Analysis and prediction of climate-induced displacement Scaled-up nature-based solutions³ such as climate-smart and sustainable agriculture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced impacts of extreme weather events on lives and livelihoods Enhanced preparedness to extreme weather events Enhanced disease and epidemic prevention and management (i.e. cholera and vector-borne diseases) related to changes in temperature and heavy rainfall Reduced flood-related displacement Strengthened drought resilience of communities and livelihoods through enhanced food and water security

AMERICAS

CLIMATE-RELATED RISK	INVEST IN	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea-level rise Floods Storms and hurricanes Heatwaves and frosts Drought Displacement 	<p>At least 23 countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scaled-up nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration and protection of coastal ecosystems Climate and environment campaigns Climate-smart health interventions (especially in urban contexts) Reduction of climate-induced displacement Protection of water resources and livelihoods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened resilience of communities to climate extremes such as storms, hurricanes and coastal floods through NbS Enhanced education, risk awareness and integration of climate consideration across programs and operation Reduced impact of heatwaves and frost Reduced flood- and hurricane-related displacement Enhanced access to food and water during droughts and floods

³ Nature-based solutions are "Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges..., simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits" IUCN, 2016.

ASIA PACIFIC

CLIMATE-RELATED RISK	INVEST IN	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification • Coral reef degradation • Flash floods • Typhoons • Displacement 	<p>At least 17 countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scaled-up nature-based solutions such as sustainable land and forest management 2. People-centred early warning systems 3. Scaled-up community risk awareness 4. Planned relocation 5. Health and hygiene interventions against climate-sensitive infectious diseases 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protected soil, water and forest resources on which livelihoods depend, during coastal erosion and flash floods 2. Early action interventions to protect lives and livelihoods from extreme events 3. Youth-led climate education 4. Reduced climate-related disaster displacement and well-managed retreat 5. Improved management of climate-induced diseases and health issues (e.g. vector borne diseases)

EUROPE

CLIMATE-RELATED RISK	INVEST IN	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heatwaves • Wildfires • Crop failure • Water scarcity 	<p>At least 8 countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community and youth risk awareness campaigns 2. Scaled-up early warning systems 3. Increased mental health interventions during climate-related extreme events 4. Prevention of climate-induced health issues 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced climate-risk awareness in schools 2. Early action to avert, prevent and reduce impact of heatwaves and wildfire 3. Psychosocial wellbeing during extreme weather events 4. Reduced public health impacts of climate change

MENA

CLIMATE-RELATED RISK	INVEST IN	IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water scarcity • Crop failure • Desertification • Instability and conflict • Displacement 	<p>At least 8 countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate-smart WASH programming 2. People-centered early warning systems 3. Climate-smart health practices 4. Safe management of climate-induced displacement 5. Scaled-up nature-based solutions such as climate-smart and sustainable agriculture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe access to water and sanitation solutions / infrastructures 2. Early action to protect lives and livelihoods 3. Reduced heat-related deaths 4. Reduced displacement during drought 5. Strengthened drought resilience of communities and livelihoods through enhanced food and water security

ANNEX 2

10 INDICATORS OF OUR REACH (illustrative)



of people reached or supported through projects that address **climate-related risks**



of people engaged in or supported through **people-centred early warning and anticipatory action** in # countries



of people protected through **ecosystem management and restoration** projects in # countries (e.g. mangrove restoration, sustainable agriculture)



of people reached by projects focused on **reducing the health impacts of climate change** in # countries



of people reached by **climate-smart⁴ water and sanitation** infrastructure and services in # countries



of people reached by **heatwave risk reduction and preparedness**, in # cities and towns



of people reached by **climate-resilient livelihoods** in # countries



of people reached by actions designed to **reduce climate-related disaster displacement**



of people reached by **campaigns promoting and supporting behaviour change related to climate and the environment** in # countries



of youth reached by **educational projects on climate change** in # countries

⁴ Climate-smart programmes have made use of available climate and weather information (both short-term weather and seasonal forecasts and long-term climate projections) in designing and/or adjusting activities to ensure that they contribute to reducing long-term risks and vulnerabilities, including likely unprecedented extreme events. In doing so, climate-smart programmes ensure that, at a minimum, they do not place communities people at increased risk in the future considering likely new climate-related extreme weather-events and growing vulnerabilities, and if possible/appropriate, empower communities to anticipate, absorb and adapt to climate shocks and long-term changes.

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.