

Preparedness for climate change

**Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change
and Disaster Preparedness**

Climate change



- sea level rise
- heavier rainfall, more floods
- more droughts
- more heatwaves
- more intense hurricanes
- spread of diseases like malaria, dengue



more disasters

... and the poorest people are most affected

Climate change leads to new, or more urgent questions for the Red Cross/Red Crescent

- **How to deal with an increasing intensity and frequency of disasters?**
- **How to handle new and unknown risks?**
- **How to use knowledge about climate change to enhance our work?**

Climate risk reduction at community level

- Include climate change risks in participatory vulnerability assessments
- Raise awareness about climate change risks in the community
- Take concrete actions to address climate change risks
- Adopt an integrated approach

From local to global and back again (1)

Local communities

- need additional support from provincial and national level to understand climate change risks,
- need to be informed about upcoming extremes
- need support for larger scale risk reduction activities (like sewage systems, reforestation activities, shelters, etc.)

From local to global and back again (2)

Provincial and national level actors can

- scale up the experiences at local level to other communities and sectors,
- facilitate dialogue and cooperation between national players (climate change scientists, national institutes etc.) and local communities.
- Take local experiences to national policy development, and shape national policies that support local climate risk reduction
- Initiate and/or coordinate relevant action at national level (education, large-scale tree/mangrove planting, radiosystems, early warning etc.

From local to global and back again (3)

International level

- Inform relevant fora (UNFCCC-negotiations, Worldbank, European Commission, bilateral donors) about the experiences of local and national actions to reduce climate risk reduction
- Develop a vision on how local communities can be best supported by international policies and funding mechanisms and advocate this vision.
- Seek dialogue and partnerships in shaping the global response to climate change risks

First conclusions

- Climate risk reduction is the entry point for cooperation between the humanitarian, development and environmental actors
- This is necessary and possible at ALL levels (international, national, local and community level)
- Climate change related events could be the trigger for change.
- Climate risk reduction strategies and programmes have to be embedded in and beneficial to ongoing programmes.

Climate change actions:
*‘Avoid the unmanageable
Manage the unavoidable’*

Thank you