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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

The objective of this framework is to mainstream Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into existing and planned Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities at all levels – regional, national, and local. It is important that all DRR/CCA activities be “owned” by the local communities. The links between CCA and DRR are identified and recommended actions are suggested.

Changes . . .

The Earth’s climate is changing. The causes include the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, deforestation and other human activity.

Global temperatures and sea levels have increased, along with wider changes in the Earth’s system. Among these are increases in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and extreme events, changes in precipitation, and stress on natural and human systems (declining agricultural production, public health concerns due to water stress or changing patterns of disease vectors). These impacts are inevitable and must be adapted to.

Negotiations are underway aiming to have a robust agreement at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in 2009. This agreement will place CCA (dealing with the impacts of climate change) in a central role.

South Asian Context

The 8 countries in the South Asia (SA) Region are highly diverse, ranging from mountains to small islands. The climate is dominated by the SA monsoon, which brings rains to much of the region during the months of June, July, August and September. SA is highly susceptible to a range of climate risks and other disasters, including floods, droughts, and intense storms. Many of these events are small-scale and go unreported, but cumulatively have a large effect in the region.

Many other factors increase the vulnerability of people in SA – among them extended regional conflicts, environmental degradation due to rapid development, water stress, population growth, high poverty levels, and rapid urbanisation. These interrelated vulnerabilities will be exacerbated by climate change (CC) as disasters increase in frequency, agricultural production declines and water becomes scarcer.

The IPCC 4th Assessment Report details some of the expected impacts of CC on SA, summarised below:

- Warming above the global mean, with fewer cold days
- Increase in frequency of intense precipitation (leading to more floods, landslides, and mud flows)
- Decrease in number of rainy days
- Regional variation in precipitation trends (e.g. increasing in Bangladesh, decreasing in coastal Pakistan)
- Increasing frequency of tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events

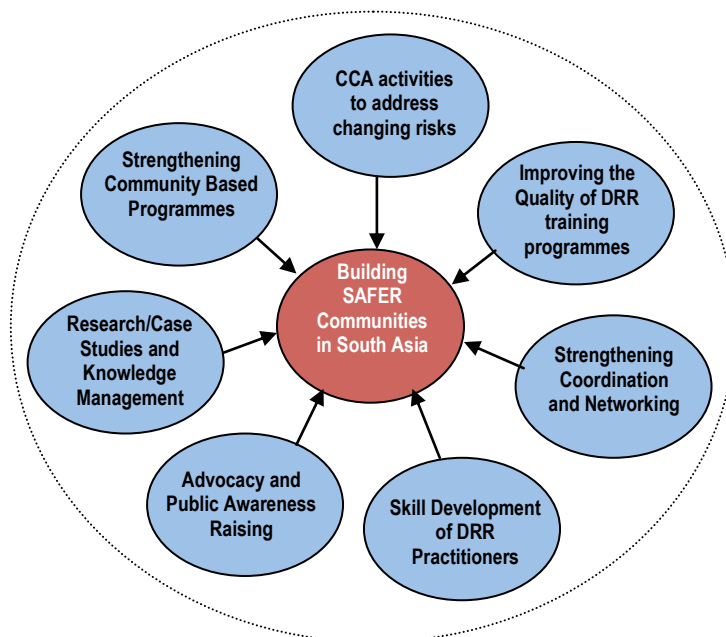
- Extended duration of heat-waves
- Increased water scarcity
- Melting mountain glaciers (affecting river flows, leading to more wet-season flooding and dry-season scarcity, affecting agricultural, energy and industrial sectors).

RC/RC in South Asia

The Federation’s Strategy 2010 identifies disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and care, and promotion of the fundamental principles as core areas. The IFRC SARD identifies “build[ing] safer communities through an integrated programming approach” as its key focus, with adaptation to CC mentioned as a specific goal.

To date, the progress on DRR (in particular, implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)) has varied across the region, and considerations of climate change have been taken into account in few countries. More details of ongoing CBDP/CBDM/ CPP/ CBFA practices in each country, as well as activities that are addressing climate change in some fashion, are given in section 3.

A recent regional effort (“Building Safer Communities”) has begun to standardise activities on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) which will see greater coordination among regional National Societies (NSs) in SA. Many of the DRR activities are susceptible to the impacts of climate change and there is danger for reversal of progress. It is strongly advised that these efforts include CCA, understanding of trends, and the notion of changing patterns of risk.



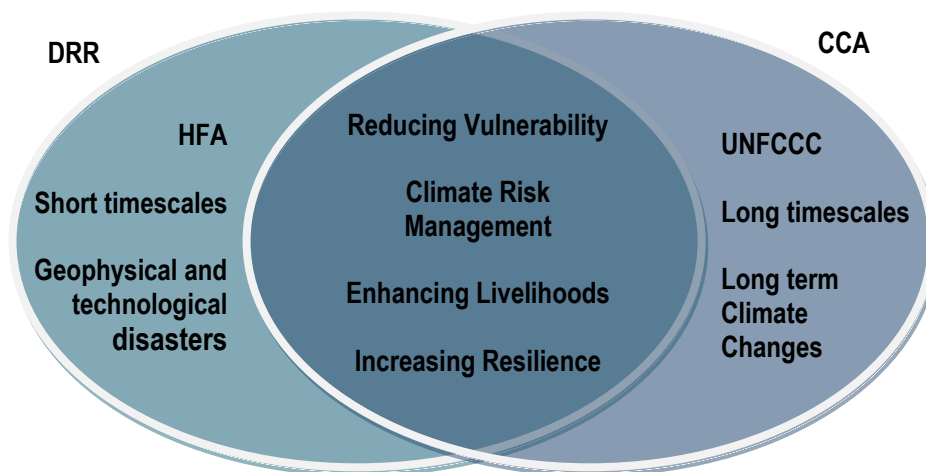
Climate Change Adaptation and Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation cannot be dealt with in isolation. They are cross-cutting issues relevant in all sectors, addressing underlying vulnerability to disasters and disruption to livelihoods. These are essential components in risk reduction strategies. CC will exacerbate the vulnerability of the most vulnerable (those hardest hit by disasters), and can potentially set back progress towards DRR; and so must be included in DRR activities at all levels and stages.

Climate change will not only introduce new risks and increase old ones, it will also increase vulnerability to those risks through its impacts on livelihoods at a community level. As such, CCA is of great importance when dealing with risk and vulnerability.

CCA covers a spectrum of activities – programmes that appear to be identical to traditional development; building response capacity and more effectively managing current risks; and adaptations to the specific impacts of CC (e.g. construction of flood defences)¹. Taking a multi-hazard approach to DRR – decreasing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity through enhancing livelihoods and capacity at community level – can lead to increased climate risk management and reduction in disaster risk.

DRR is guided by the HFA and CCA is currently being debated under the Bali Action Plan (BAP). Both mention CC and DRR as priorities. The relationship between CCA and DRR is strong, even though DRR considers some distinct hazards and different timescales. DRR is concerned with shorter-term while CCA is concerned with longer-term risk, trends and changing risk profiles. A robust and emerging method for CCA is to manage the risks associated with current variability in order to build resilience to long-term change. It is in this reduction of current risks that CCA and CBDRR find their strongest link. Addressing all risk in an integrated multi-hazard fashion means there is more in common between these two frameworks than there are differences.



The future belongs to those who are best prepared and organised. CBDRR activities will be under threat from the changing risks and trends in disasters attributed to CC unless those trends are explicitly included in all DRR activities from the planning stage. This involves using all available information to address current risk associated with climate and resilience in the face of those risks increasing. Without understanding or addressing changing risks and trends, there is a danger that communities will under- or mal-adapt to CC.

Stakeholders

¹ WRI “Weathering the Storm”, 2009

It is important to identify key partners in the implementation of CCA activities. These include National Meteorological Departments (who can provide assessments of trends and climate information products, like seasonal forecasts) and National Departments of Disaster Management. These can also connect National Societies with other relevant institutions. Many CC impacts are transboundary and it will be necessary to coordinate between National Societies accordingly. This is particularly important in the case when impacts identified at local level have a root cause beyond that level and policies at district level (or higher) are required.

Research institutes, INGOs (or DRR agencies working on CCA activities), and other advisory bodies should also be identified for partnerships. These can include ones with established connections to the IFRC (IRI, ADPC) or others yet to be identified. The emerging Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) community should also be engaged.

Communities should be involved at every stage of the planning process of CBDRR and CCA activities. For this reason, it is imperative that the VCA process include notions of observed changing risks and trends and inform these with secondary data on expected climate projections.

Methodology

The current framework and recommendations have been motivated by the IFRC's commitments under the HFA. It has been developed primarily through stakeholder meetings held among the SA nations and experts from within the RC/RC Movement, various NGOs and research institutes. Key issues, gaps and recommendations in CCA and DRR were identified in five areas:

1. Assessing and addressing community risks
2. Communications
3. Partnerships
4. Advocacy
5. Integrating CC into tools, trainings, plans and strategies

The framework builds on the work of numerous international processes – among others, the HFA and UNFCCC – and the research of many institutes and scholars. The recommendations appear at the end of this document.

1. INTRODUCTION: GLOBAL WARMING

The Earth's climate is changing. The causes include the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, deforestation and other human activity. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases (chiefly carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere which enhances the natural greenhouse effect and is responsible for warming the Earth. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is higher than at any time in the past 500,000 years, and the recent warming has occurred faster than any natural climate change in the past.

Global temperatures have increased by an average of 0.74°C in the last 100 years and, due to melting ice and heating of the ocean, sea levels rose by 1.8 mm per year from 1961 to 1993, and by 3.1 mm/yr from 1994 to 2003. While these values may seem

small, they are occurring in addition to wider changes in the Earth's system. Among these are observed increases in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and extreme events, changes in precipitation patterns, and additional stress on natural and human systems - like declining agricultural production in many areas, or public health concerns due to water stress, or changing patterns of disease vectors.

When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its 4th Assessment Report in 2007 (earning it the Nobel Peace Prize), it removed all doubt that human activity was the cause of the Climate Change. However, despite this consensus, efforts to combat climate change have so far been insufficient.

In 1992 the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created. The Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC set mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of industrialised countries to 5% below their 1990 levels. The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012 (though few countries have reached their targets), and negotiations for a follow up protocol are currently underway guided by the Bali Action Plan, with an aim to have a robust agreement at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen in 2009. The Kyoto protocol focused mainly on Mitigation (dealing with the causes of CC) but as evidence has shown the inevitability of CC, the successor protocol, still featuring mitigation as an essential component, will shift this focus towards Adaptation (dealing with the impacts of CC).

However, through the international negotiations, the magnitude and global scope of CC have obscured the fact that CC begins at an individual level. Simple changes in behaviour (like personally reducing/reusing/recycling waste, increasing household energy efficiency, or improving community level energy supplies) can have large impacts upon CC's root causes.

Even if all greenhouse gas emissions were halted, temperatures would continue to rise. As it is, the trends will continue and surely worsen. This means that adaptations to the impacts of CC are of vital importance. While many adaptations are autonomous and not guided by policy or science, there is an emerging focus on planned Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). What is exactly meant by CCA is considered in Section 4.

2. SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CONTEXT

The South Asian region is composed of 8 countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – and is highly geographically diverse, ranging from mountains to small islands. The regional climate is dominated by the South Asian monsoon system, which brings rains to much of South Asia during the months of June, July, August and September. South Asia is among the most susceptible places on the planet to a range of climate risks and other disasters – from floods and droughts, to glacial lake outbursts and sea level rise. There is recurrent exposure to floods, droughts, and intense storms - many of these events are of a small scale and are frequently not widely reported, but cumulatively have a large effect in the region.

Many other factors affect the vulnerability of people in South Asia, among them extended regional conflicts, environmental degradation due to rapid development, water stress, population growth, high poverty levels and rapid urbanisation. Many of

these interrelated vulnerabilities will be exacerbated by climate change as disasters increase in frequency, agricultural production declines and water becomes scarcer.

Future climate and likely changes in natural hazard risks²

As noted by the IPCC, South Asia will see warming during this century that is above the global mean – in particular with fewer very cold days. Summer precipitation across the region is expected to increase on average, although this is subject to regional variation (for example, the coastal plains of Pakistan are expected to receive less rainfall). The frequency of intense precipitation events is expected to increase along with changes in the monsoon system.

In particular there will be a general increase in intensity of heavy rainfall events in northern Pakistan and northwest India, and in northeast India and Bangladesh. A broader increase in precipitation intensity is predicted for much of central India too. Current projections also see a decrease in the number of rainy days along with the increase in event intensity.

Perhaps of greatest concern are the recent trends of increase in the frequency of tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events in the region – trends which are predicted to continue. In particular there has been an increase in intensity in the extreme events associated with El Nino. These increases in precipitation intensity will lead to more frequent extreme floods, landslides and mud flows. The duration of heat-waves is also expected to increase, with possibly devastating consequences for vulnerable populations.

With some of the greatest increases in temperature predicted over the Himalayas, rising temperatures will impact the snow and ice cover in those regions – vital sources of water for supplying many of the region's rivers (mountains are the source region for over 50% of the globe's rivers), which will lead to more wet season flooding and dry season scarcity. Changes in the mountainous regions, then, will have far-reaching effects on populated lowland regions downstream – affecting industry, agriculture, energy and health.

IPCC projections focus on large, continental scales. National Meteorological Departments, along with relevant partners, can provide more detailed analysis of recent trends in climate, placing the wider projections in context. In addition, local and community knowledge on changing trends can be important for informing policy at all levels. For this reason, integrating CCA into the VCA process is vital.

A detailed assessment is necessary to determine climate change impacts in each country on RC/RC programmes. These impacts can be in many sectors and affect many RC/RC programme areas. For example, there will be impacts upon agriculture, with implications for food security; human health, due to higher temperatures shifting disease vectors; water and sanitation; coastal livelihoods, tourism and many others. Many of these will adversely affect livelihoods, increase vulnerabilities and directly hinder certain RC/RC activities if not taken into account.

² Projections taken from IPCC AR4, 2007

3. RED CROSS / RED CRESCENT ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH ASIA

The Federation's Strategy 2010 identifies 4 core areas, in line with the Global Agenda goals: disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and care, and promotion of the fundamental principles. In the areas of disasters and health, the impacts of CC leading to increasing vulnerability and setting back RC/RC progress in these areas demand that National Societies take CC into consideration across all programmes.

The IFRC South Asian regional delegation, in its Strategic Framework 2007-2010, identifies the general focus of the regional National Societies as "build[ing] safer communities through an integrated programming approach," with adaptation to CC being mentioned as a specific goal. Aside from issues specific to climate change impacts, disaster preparedness and strengthening of early warning systems (and increasing use of climate information) will allow for effective management of current climate variability which will build resilience to climate change.

To date, the progress on DRR (in particular, implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)) has varied across the region, and considerations of climate change have been taken into account in few countries.

There are currently many ongoing DRR activities in SA. These include:

- In Afghanistan, training of 300 staff and volunteers in CBDP, an early warning pilot project, and training of disaster response units
- In Bangladesh, the BRCS Cyclone Preparedness Programme with 34,000 volunteers which led to reduced mortality in Cyclone Sidr, Earthquake preparedness and response and school safety programmes and many CBDM programmes that include disaster preparedness, shelter maintenance and empowerment of women
- In India, the IRCS's CBDM projects including flood and drought mitigation projects, the Orissa disaster mitigation project, the use of VCA, and risk awareness raising activities
- In Nepal, a CBDP programme with activities such as the school-based risk reduction programme, the Kathmandu Valley earthquake preparedness programme, community-based first aid, the community-based water and sanitation programme and the community-based development programme. DRR awareness activities include a radio show, street theatre, peer education and publication of DRR materials
- In Pakistan, an earthquake recovery programmes focuses on "building back better," with water and sanitation, CBFA, use of VCA, long-term approaches to livelihoods and the formation of a PRCS DMWG
- In the Maldives, relocation of tsunami-affected communities onto larger, higher and better resourced island homes, the development of an integrated approach to disaster management including first aid, drug awareness, dengue and chikungunya awareness, water safety, tree plantations and raised earth platforms
- In Sri Lanka, a tsunami recovery programmes emphasises "building back better," with long-term approaches to livelihoods, CBDM, water and sanitation, risk awareness raising and safety in schools.

Some of the activities of the NSs also have strong CCA links, for example:

- In Bangladesh, reforestation/tree-planting, cyclone shelter (mitigation), raising of tube wells, and cyclone early warning-CBDP programmes
- In Nepal, tree-planting, raised tube wells, and awareness campaigns
- In India, tree-planting, raised tube wells, raised flood shelters, and cyclone shelters
- In Pakistan, flood, erosion and landslide mitigation projects, and enhanced water management to improve livelihoods
- In the Maldives, tree-planting, resettlement to safe islands, and health awareness programmes

A recent regional effort has begun to standardise activities on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) which will see greater coordination among regional NSs in South Asia. The “Building Safer Communities in South Asia” initiative will soon begin full implementation and training of trainers will begin. It is strongly advised that these efforts include climate change adaptation and the notion of changing patterns of risk.

4. WHY CCA AND CBDRR?

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation cannot be dealt with in isolation. They are not sectors, but rather cross-cutting issues with impacts in all sectors. By addressing underlying vulnerability to disasters and disruption to livelihoods, the two must be considered as essential components in risk reduction strategies. In addition to this CC will exacerbate the vulnerability of the most vulnerable (those hardest hit by disasters), and can potentially set back progress towards DRR and so must be included in DRR activities at all levels and stages.

Climate change will not only introduce new risks and increase old ones, it will also increase vulnerability to those risks through its impacts on livelihoods at a community level. As such, CCA is of great importance when dealing with risk and vulnerability. CCA is defined in the IPCC as “an adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.”³

For building resilience at a community level, however, the main problem is that there is no climate data of sufficiently high resolution to indicate the exact impacts at each location. For this reason, outcomes of adaptation are often not clearly defined and the focus on the “process” of adaptation may be more beneficial.

In recent years there has been a shift in thinking of CCA as purely about managing the impacts of climate change, towards a more integrated process that also aims to remove the vulnerability to uncertain or unknown impacts, build response capacity and more effectively manage current risks⁴. CCA covers a spectrum of activities – from programmes that appear to be identical to traditional development through to adaptations to the specific impacts of CC (like the construction of flood defences). Taking a multi hazard approach to DRR - decreasing vulnerability, and increasing

³ IPCC WG2, 2007

⁴ WRI “Weathering the Storm”, 2009

adaptive capacity, through enhancing livelihoods and capacity at community level - can lead to increased climate risk management and reduction in disaster risk.

CBDRR is guided by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which includes CC as a risk to be address, and notes the effect of exacerbating risk. While guided by no rigorous framework, CCA is covered by the Bali Action Plan (BAP) which places Adaptation on equal footing with Mitigation and will lead to a robust agreement at COP15. The BAP similarly highlights DRR as overlapping with CCA⁵.

The relationship between CCA and DRR is clear, even though there is a slightly different hazard set associated with DRR. In addition, both CCA and DRR consider risk over different timescales – with DRR concerned with the short term, and CCA concerned with longer-term risk, trends and changing risk profiles. A robust emerging method for CCA is to manage the risks associated with current variability to build resilience to long-term change. It is in this reduction of current risks that CCA and CBDRR find their strongest link. Addressing all risk in an integrated multi-hazard fashion means there is more in common between the two frameworks than there are differences.

The future belongs to those who are best prepared and organised. CBDRR activities will be under threat from the changing risks and trends in disasters associated with CC unless those trends are explicitly included in all DRR activities from the planning stage. This involves using all available information to address current risk associated with climate and resilience in the face of those risks increasing. Without understanding or addressing changing risks and trends, there is a danger that communities will under- or mal-adapt to Climate Change.

5) REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

It is important to identify key partners in implementation of CCA activities. Primary among these are the National Meteorological Departments, who can perform analysis of trends at national and sub-national level and provide access to climate information for risk reduction activities – including hazard maps and seasonal forecasts. Other national actors should be identified based on areas of need.

Sister National Societies within the region should also be consulted in order to identify best practice. Many CC impacts are transboundary and it will be necessary to coordinate activities accordingly. This is particularly important in the case when impacts identified at local level have a root cause beyond that level and policies at district level (or higher) are required.

Research institutes, INGOs (or DRR agencies working on CCA activities), and other advisory bodies should also be identified for partnerships. These can include one with established connections to the IFRC (IRI, ADPC) or others yet to be identified.

Through the Building Safer Communities programme, there are many partners in SA already working towards the common goal of CBDRR. The emerging Community

⁵ Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

Based Adaptation (CBA) community should also be engaged.

6. METHODOLOGY

The current framework and recommendations have been motivated by the IFRC's commitments under the HFA. It has been developed primarily through stakeholder meetings held among the South Asian nations and experts from within the RC/RC Movement, various INGOs and research institutes. Key issues and gaps in CCA and DRR were identified in five areas, as detailed in the following section. The framework builds on the work of numerous international processes – among others, the HFA and UNFCCC – and the research of many institutes and scholars.

7. OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The objective is to mainstream CCA into existing and planned DRR activities at all levels – regional, national, and local. It is important that all CBDRR/CCA activities be “owned” by the local communities. The framework addresses actions in the following areas:

1. Assessing and addressing community risks
2. Communications
3. Partnerships
4. Advocacy
5. Integrating climate change into tools, trainings, plans and strategies

Along with specific actions in each area, the expected outcomes include:

- Addressing new risks associated with CC
- Managing current risks with more access to information
- Extend thinking of DRR into longer timeframes
- Enhancing knowledge on CC within and without the RC/RC Movement
- Accessing new avenues of funding through Adaptation Funds (to be strengthened in the COP15)

Framework for action

1. **Assessing and addressing community risks**
 - a. NSs should undertake a climate change assessment of their operations. Current programmes should be “climate-screened”⁶ and “climate-proofed”. This can be done under the guidance of the RC/RC Climate Centre's Preparedness for Climate Change programme, and should involve relevant national and international stakeholders and experts.
 - b. Education at all organisational levels and within all sectors of the RC/RC Movement should include CCA alongside all CBDRR activities.

⁶ Vulnerability to current climate variability (as well as to projected trends) is a key method of screening. Climate-proofing can then involve understanding the trends, but also building capacity to manage current variability more effectively.

- c. The VCA process should be altered to include the notion of changing risks or trends noticed by the community. This can be done with little preparation⁷. These can be evoked through various tools, including interviews, historical calendars or seasonal calendars. Observations can then be used to place community risks in a wider, global context. Secondary information on the projected evolution of the observed trends can then be used to inform activities to adapt.
- d. VCA results should be reported to a common standard to ensure that best practice in CCA and DRR can be shared between communities and to district, national and international levels.
- e. Partnerships should be created to arrive at secondary information on climate trends in an area. This is vital for VCA in the situation when new hazards will be faced. This information should be presented in a simple manner, and should lead to practical steps that each community member can take to reduce their own risk.
- f. Addressing current climate risk is essential for adaptation. All available climate information on different timescales should be evaluated and used to mitigate risk and allow for as much advance preparation as possible. This would include enhancing inclusive early warning systems.
- g. Particular attention should be paid to areas with high CC risk – for example coastal or mountainous/glacial regions. New and novel risks like sea level rise, salt intrusion, and glacial lake outburst flooding should be carefully introduced to the communities.
- h. Many activities (either planned or autonomous) already have the nature of CCA and these can be identified during VCA. They should be identified, supported and strengthened.
- i. Problems that have a root cause outside the community level may require district or national action to solve them. Establish a mechanism to share those issues at national or international level and inform policy makers of CC impacts at local levels. Enhancing support for documentation and building databases of various issues and practices is one method to address this.
- j. CCA is gaining in international importance and new revenue streams should become available. Activities funded will intersect with many RC/RC areas and they should be considered vital areas of potential funding.

2. Communications

- a. Information sharing among communities about climate change impacts and best practice should be encouraged, to strengthen autonomous adaptations. Forums for exchange of knowledge between communities should be established. These include, but are not limited to, participatory video projects, community meetings, radio broadcasts and other available mass media, an internet database, newsletters,

⁷ See RC/RC Climate Guide for practical steps to include CC in VCA, including measures to keep it simple (for example, saying strange weather, rather than climate change), [LINK](#)

posters, student/professional dramas and dissemination of educational materials from RC/RC or other sources. It is important that information be presented in a clear and easily understandable manner, relevant to communities.

- b. Using VCA results and working with other CCA stakeholders, the National Societies should aim to document and catalogue adaptation practices in a shared database. These can include examples of best practice, appropriate technology and instances of mal-adaptation.
- c. Increased integration among organisational levels of the RC/RC will allow for information from community level to travel more easily to national or regional level and vice versa. It is vital that results or practices reported in one community be accessible to others.
- d. Special efforts must be made to include marginalised groups (women, youth) in trainings and education about CC and its impacts. CC has differential impacts upon women in particular, due to their close associations with food and water management duties.
- e. Use established local institutions (volunteer networks, CBOs, religious leaders/groups) to promote awareness and communication of climate change and variability in an inclusive manner.

3. Partnerships

- a. National Meteorological Departments and their SAARC equivalent are key partners in providing national scale knowledge on CC. Most will also have other partnerships which can be of benefit for everything from CC impacts to early warning.
- b. RC/RC National Societies should fully engage with national and international processes on CC and Development, including but not limited to national governments, national policy frameworks, UNFCCC National Communications and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), and National Action Plans under the ISDR system. Many of these documents in SA identify both disasters and CC as key risks to development and the RC/RC role should be emphasised. Findings from VCA and local assessments should be used to inform policy at higher levels, and the RC/RC is uniquely capable of making efforts to this end.
- c. Private sector actors can be instrumental in CCA, for example in infrastructure construction. It is vital that all planned activities are in line with DRR, development and CCA measures.
- d. International institutions with specialist knowledge in climate risk, variability and change, should be identified and engaged with in order to enhance training and gain access to useful climate information.
- e. Climate information providers should be engaged by the RC/RC to enable effective climate risk reduction and management. This information (storm

warnings, seasonal forecasts, flood hazard maps etc) can aid decision making on various timescales⁸.

- f. The RC/RC Climate Centre is one vital resource for issues of DRR and CCA. In particular, their Climate Guide⁹ provides practical information on mainstreaming climate into all programme areas of the RC/RC.
- g. Close collaboration with IFRC SARD and other regional National Societies is essential to report, document, identify and share best practice in improving training materials and tools, and CCA practices.
- h. Climate, environment and development NGOs in the region should be identified as potential partners. In particular, those involved in the “Building Safer Communities” project should be considered. The CBA community should also be considered a vital partner, as many activities overlap.
- i. Communities themselves should participate in all steps of the CBDRR/CCA process and identify priorities for action. It is of vital importance that communities drive and sustain their own risk reduction and adaptation initiatives.

4. Advocacy

- a. The RC/RC movement is uniquely situated to advocate for the humanitarian consequences (conflict, disasters, migration/displacement etc.) of CC. This is a voice that has not been successfully heard in current climate negotiations. The RC/RC should develop a coherent position through training and education at all organisational levels in order to advocate at local, national and global levels.
- b. Advocate for greater recognition of DRR within the NAPA or national climate change policy processes. RC/RC priorities on CCA should attempt to reflect national priorities.
- c. Use Volunteer networks to raise awareness about CC impacts at a community level.
- d. RC/RC Youth Volunteers should be utilised to spread awareness of CC issues in schools and local communities. This will enhance youth engagement with an issue that is fundamentally about their future.
- e. Build a culture of safety and resilience by raising awareness within communities about climate risks in the present and changing risks under CC.
- f. Engage with national educational curricula to create or inform material on disaster management and preparedness, and CC for schools.
- g. Support NGOs/CBOs involved in CCA work in the region as being essential components of long-term DRR strategies.

⁸ See World Disaster Report 2009, p84 for examples.

⁹ RC/RC Climate Centre Climate Guide, [LINK](#)

- h. Advocate for humanitarian activities (like DRR) to be included as eligible for funding under the established (and soon to be strengthened) Adaptation Funds of the UNFCCC.
- i. Promote the concepts of DRR and CCA and proactive disaster management issues to the public at large through all available means. Due to the lack of measurable outcomes, donor and public goodwill is vital.
- j. Advocate for World Disaster Report to regularly include information on CC issues and CCA practices.

5. Integrating climate change into tools, trainings, plans and strategies

- a. IFRC should make efforts to include CC as a cross-cutting issue in all training materials, including CBDRR manuals, VCA training and Emergency Assessment guidelines. This can initially be achieved through supplemental documents on sectoral impacts¹⁰.
- b. Greater efforts should be made to establish indicators for measuring progress towards CCA and DRR.
- c. CC-integrated tools should be tested by experienced staff and feedback shared within the SA region.
- d. Efforts should be made to use climate information (like seasonal forecasts) in all programmes – e.g. food security, disaster management, health. These can aid preparedness and enhance decision making ability at all levels. Staff members could receive training in Climate Risk Management.
- e. NSs should conduct a climate change assessment in line with the preparedness for climate change programme of the RC/RC Climate Centre. Operations with a strong adaptation focus already should be strengthened accordingly. The CC impact on all sectors and operations should be evaluated.
- f. Programmes with a CC focus should look for funding from sources related to CC (e.g. the GEF Adaptation funds or carbon markets in the case of tree planting).
- g. NSs should adhere to the common standard for CBDRR established for the “Building Safer Communities” initiative when planning activities. These standard materials should be supplemented immediately with information on climate risk, variability and change. Eventually this supplementary information should be integrated within the curriculum.
- h. Introduce CC issues to all staff through volunteer workshops, training of trainers for CBDRR, capacity building of Project Implementation Officers, and other staff at all levels. This can be achieved through workshops and special training programmes on CC and Climate Risk Management.

¹⁰ RC/RC Climate Guide, [LINK](#)

- i. Use volunteer networks to reach informal community leaders about issues of DRR and CCA.
- j. Introduce the idea of changing risks and trends in all DRR activities. Build capacity to manage current risks, leading to increased resilience to long-term change.
- k. Ensure that CBDRR/CCA programmes are regularly assessed and followed-up. CCA has no clear outcomes, and so constant re-evaluation is necessary.
- l. Conduct or participate in joint training programmes with different organisations and communities identified as partners in CCA and DRR.