

Climate Change Conference

COP16 Cancún |

29 November – 10 December 2010 |

advocacy toolkit



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Key recommendations for Red Cross Red Crescent engagement in climate change adaptation policies and programmes.

1. Disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and increased disaster response should be confirmed and embedded as key elements of national climate change adaptation strategies. The focus must remain firmly on a proactive, solution-based approach to address the unavoidable changes in climate-related risks that we will face.
2. We must strengthen disaster response systems at all levels (local, national and global) and enable systematic early humanitarian action to be triggered by early warning. This represents a paradigm shift in how we manage humanitarian operations, but is essential in order to meet the unprecedented challenges posed by climate change risks.
3. Climate change adaptation efforts must prioritize people and communities where vulnerabilities are highest. Adaptation must be fully integrated into longer-term disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies.
4. Local-level preparedness and risk reduction actions should be recognized as key elements in adapting to climate change. National adaptation strategies must address the issue, not only at national level, but also by engaging and empowering local people, local governments and local civil society.
5. Adaptation funding should cover increased costs of humanitarian action to respond to climate-related disasters. Transparent mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that local communities benefit from this funding.