

## **Climate related stakeholders: A perfect opportunity for advocacy and alliances**

As you begin to assess climate risk in your country you might find it useful to create a list of contacts and collect information (from new and existing networks). Think about the regional and national resources that can be tapped into for information that can assist in activities such as development of a background document on climate change, humanitarian diplomacy, communications materials, VCA's and/or holding events. The Government's national climate change focal point (usually in the Environment Ministry) may be able to assist in identifying relevant stakeholders, which may open up new useful networks. Staying informed of changing climate risks in the National Society and Federation will require an ongoing dialogue with the following key partners:

### ***Scientific community***

National Societies and the Federation may benefit greatly from building new partnerships with climate-related scientific institutes, including national and regional meteorological offices and university departments, resulting in an exchange of knowledge about observed and projected trends, likely impacts of climate change, weather and climate predictions at different timescales (such as daily, weekly, seasonal and longer term forecasts), and development of educational materials.

At the global level, the Climate Centre has established a strong network with the world's key research institutes in the area of applied climate science, and further builds on the successful "partnership to save lives" between the IFRC and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), established in 2007. The IRI will support IFRC on interpretation and use of forecasts across timescales through the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI. (To send a question to the helpdesk, e-mail: [ifrc@iri.columbia.edu](mailto:ifrc@iri.columbia.edu))

### ***Government***

Partnerships with the Ministry of Environment and their Climate Change focal point are often new to National Societies. Other partnerships such as with Ministries of Health are not new, but it may be necessary to revisit them to ensure that the collaboration also covers diseases that may change with climate change. Experiences so far have demonstrated that through its auxiliary status with government's, the Red Cross/Red Crescent can play a very constructive role in bringing governmental actors together on the issue of climate change, even when they did not have regular contact in the past. In a number of countries National Societies have become engaged in national climate change adaptation strategies and programmes (including National Adaptation Programmes of Action's – NAPAs), playing an important role in contributing a risk reduction approach and bringing the humanitarian implications of climate change to the fore. Of course much of the work that National Societies does occur at the branch level: involving local government in understanding and acting on climate change is important too.

### ***Communities***

It is important to involve communities at risk in designing responses to their needs for climate risk management. Just like with usual communications materials, those containing messages about climate change should also be tested first before finalisation (see how to make a brochure at: <http://www.climatecentre.org/site/wbg-step4>). Stories of changes in climate from people experiencing the changes can be much more powerful than scientific figures and graphs. These stories can be cross-checked with meteorological records or through

asking in country experts and could then be included in documents or communications materials.

### ***National Society/Federation network***

It could be useful to link up with the growing network of people within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement who are interested in understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change. This network might be made up of people within your region/zone and beyond. The Climate Centre can help put you in touch with these people.

### ***Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)***

There is considerable experience within some NGOs on the technical knowledge of climate change as well as methods to communicate it. It may be worth establishing working relationships to compare approaches and share useful resource materials. Keep in mind that many NGOs focus primarily on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions rather than adaptation to a changing climate, so you may need to clarify the RC/RC's adaptation concerns in relation to climate change to keep roles and messages clear. Organisations such as Oxfam, CARE and Save the Children have significant resources online.

### ***International agencies***

Many UN agencies such as the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have growing roles in relation to climate change and climate risk management. Not only do they have useful online resources but their country and regional representatives will be worth getting in touch with. For example UNDP have a small grants programme available for climate change adaptation and the FAO has drought and climate change resources available online. Likewise intergovernmental bodies (such as regional organizations and river basin authorities) also liaise with governments on the issue of climate change and can be useful contacts.

### ***Private sector***

Could be considered through activities identified by National Societies based on existing and new collaborations.