

Second Phase of the Preparedness for Climate Change Programme up and running

In response to continued demand from Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies for capacity building on managing changing climate risks, the Climate Centre rolled out Phase 2 of its Preparedness for Climate Change Programme (PfCC2) in December 2009. Phase 2 of the programme is being conducted in close collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and with funding support of the Netherlands government. Continuation of the programme is helping 27 more National Societies in developing countries to assess changing climate risks in their respective countries and to prepare action plans to address those risks and the potential implications for their programs. Phase 1 was implemented between 2006 and 2009 and involved 39 National Societies.

[Building on lessons learned](#) of Phase 1 and integrated more fully into IFRC structures and processes, PfCC2 aims to build capacity within National Societies and zones at-large, to assess and address the humanitarian consequences of climate change. Currently, most National Societies are in the process of preparing an assessment containing information on country-specific climate-related risks and the role their national society can play in addressing those risks. The [summary report](#) of these national assessments written during phase 1 of the programme show how National Societies perceive the negative impacts of climate change and the urgent need they have to address them.

Summary of programme proceedings per region

In **South Asia** (Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and India) PfCC2 is being implemented in line with a framework that has been set up to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), making climate risks an integral component of the ongoing Disaster Management/DRR programmes in the region. A regional PfCC focal point has been appointed, and an advocacy skills training on disaster risk reduction incorporating climate change occurred in June. Senior management re-emphasized their commitment to CCA at the 21st South Asia Secretaries Generals (SG) Forum, held in Nepal this past February. The SG Forum identified a number of CCA interventions National Societies could take in areas of early warning systems, prevention, mitigation, adaptation, health programmes, humanitarian diplomacy, and integrated programming that builds community safety and resilience. At country level, many consultation meetings have already been organized on these focus areas and key stakeholders have been approached.

In **South East Asia** (Myanmar and Timor Leste) two sub-regional trainings on climate change adaptation are planned for August 2010 in coordination with the regional DRR project funded by DIPECHO. In Myanmar the National Society has acknowledged the risk of stronger storms in a changing climate and developed communication materials to promote a colour coding system to trigger preparedness measures in case of an approaching storm/cyclone. The materials have been distributed to all coastal areas and neighbouring areas. In Timor Leste the National Societies participated in a national post-Copenhagen climate change adaptation meeting and a consultative meeting with the national DRR group. Both of these meetings were convened by the National Adaptation Programme of Action on Climate Change (NAPA). In East Asia (Mongolia) a climate session was held within the regional partnership meeting in March. In Mongolia the Red Cross Society established communication and dialogues with the Mongolia national climate office focal point, the Meteorological Department and the Ministries of Health and Emergency Management Office. The Mongolia Red Cross is also planning a workshop to integrate climate risks into community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs), and to develop project proposals for DRR and CCA.

In the **Pacific** (Fiji and Papua New Guinea) a regional community resilience forum has been held in June 2010. It brought together participants from disaster management, health, and volunteers from 14 National Societies in the Pacific. Forum topics include: climate variability and change, vulnerabilities and capacities, and brainstorm sessions on possible activities. At a regional level, the IFRC has been developing modules covering community based work, including information on climate change, climate variability, adaptation and advocacy. Two regional trainers will prepare tailor-made trainings out of these modules for the National Societies. Furthermore, a number of climate country level workshops and trainings have been held, including a section on climate change within the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Disaster Management forum. In Micronesia, some of the outer islands have been facing

drought conditions due to an El Nino event. This provoked the development of a 3 day training focused on climate variability and drought. The training involved The Red Cross in Micronesia is also working towards a memorandum of understanding with the weather service on the provision of early warnings including monthly meetings and tailor made email notices relating to current conditions, impacts upon communities and recommended actions by organisations and communities. The meteorological service will also be a part of planned community based assessment trainings.

In **Southern Africa** (Namibia and Angola) the PfCC2 programme is integrated fully into ongoing activities of the Zambesi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI). The changing climate, coupled with environmental degradation, have exacerbated the annual flooding seen along some stretches of the Zambesi river. These floods affect hundreds of thousands of people each year. Once the water recedes or levels-off, impoverished communities often face outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and increased rates of vector-borne diseases like malaria. At both the regional and country levels, meetings have been held with relevant partners (like FAO, UNDP and OCHA) and communication materials have been developed, on the potential impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities along the river banks. DM officers will also be trained in July to educate volunteers, and locally established community disaster committees, on changing climate risks.

In **East Africa** (Sudan and Rwanda) the IFRC Regional Office hosted a technical advisor on climate risk from International Research Institute/Columbia University from January to March 2010. During that period the team carried out a number of activities at country and regional levels to enhance knowledge, within the RC/RC and other humanitarian actors, on the use of climate forecasts for early warning and early action. The IFRC, together with UNOCHA also organised a regional workshop on 'Humanitarian Climate Risk Management,' during which expert climate scientists provided training on climate change and its potential impacts on East Africa. The workshop report highlighted gaps between climate forecasts and humanitarian action, and recommended improvements to forecasting products and better linkages between scientists and humanitarian agencies. In Sudan, activities will build on an earlier project to raise community awareness of flood risk and to develop early warning/early action systems in high risk areas. However, work on the programme is challenging due to political tensions and violence that started during the elections. In Rwanda the NS is planning to hold a training of volunteers and community members on local climate change impacts and adaptation measures and to develop communication materials for dissemination to communities. As part of their ongoing support to food security programming in the region, the Rwanda RC is also developing tools to assist branch level staff and volunteers to bring key messages to communities on climate change impacts and simple adaptation measures. The NS also adapted and tested new materials for VCAs which incorporate components on climate change.

In **Europe and Central Asia** (Armenia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) the National Societies started writing a climate risk assessment and the Armenia Red Cross has been collaborating with various stakeholders including the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Service, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Nature Protection. While undertaking PfCC2, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent has also established contacts with different stakeholders including several ministries, the National Hydrometeorology Committee, local governments, the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, the National Institute of State Statistics and Information and the state owned energy engineering organization «Tebigy Kuvvat». As a result of their discussions with the government, the Turkmenistan RC will be involved in the elaboration of the 2nd national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and have already made preliminary preparations for a round table on "The role of the governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in tackling the consequences of climate change in Turkmenistan". The Tajikistan Red Crescent has conducted a round table on climate change with 20 different stakeholders, and as a result, the NS has become a member of the Tajik Climate Network. In all three countries, internal workshops on climate change issues have been organized and communication materials on climate risks and possible ways of addressing them have been disseminated.

In **West and Central Africa** (Cameroon, Cape Verde and Mali) progress has been reported in Cameroon, despite the sad loss of their officer in charge of PfCC2. Through a training the NS has prepared volunteers to sensitize Yaounde city dwellers on the impacts of climate change and promoted behavioural changes, like for example the cleaning of gutters to reduce related risks. The NS has also reached out to representatives of various government ministries and other NGOs involved

in climate change programmes, and collaborated with the Cameroon ministries of Transport (weather service) and of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (division of civil protection). Internally, the Cameroon RC plans to assign and train a number of climate change focal points within the organization nation-wide. Furthermore Cameroon's risk map will be updated in close collaboration with government authorities, to serve as a reference document for further development of climate change preparedness strategies.

In the **Middle East** (Morocco, Syria and Yemen) they have collected scientific background information on climate change for the countries in the programme and one additional country: Egypt. The IFRC Zone Office has been in contact with regional academic experts at the American University in Beirut and prepared questionnaires for all National Societies in the region. At country level they have been planning for various activities in the coming months. In Morocco they will organize a workshop to present a three year strategy on DRR and CCA with all the branches involved. Together with their Ministries of Environment and Land Management they will also prepare a climate change advocacy and awareness kit and promotional materials to be used in schools. In Syria they will organize a workshop for volunteers and staff on capacity building and CCA, develop an Action Plan on climate change and on promotion materials. In Yemen they will organize a one-day consultation meeting for decision makers on climate change, a two-day workshop with their local council on CCA and develop promotion materials. They are already seeking to implement micro projects in two coastal areas this year as well. Although not part of the programme the Tunis Red Crescent held a two-day workshop on climate change adaptation for staff and volunteers and in Egypt they have been developing a programme proposal to minimize the impacts of climate change hazards amongst the most vulnerable populations in Egypt. A regional workshop is scheduled from 1 to 5 August 2010.

In **Latin-America and the Caribbean** a regional Preparedness for Climate Change Meeting was organized this May. The Climate Centre participated in a workshop to support national societies in Suriname, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Chile, who are participating in phase two of the Preparedness for Climate Change Programme (PfCC2). With efforts in the region largely focused on post-earthquake relief in Haiti and Chile, space was created for climate change focal points to discuss, brainstorm and plan for their PfCC activities. Focal points received logistical support from the zone and the Climate Centre, while sharing ideas, challenges, advice and inspiration. We look forward to seeing the workshops, climate risk assessments, communication materials and action plans to come for managing new and changing climate risks. Their further progress report will soon be shared with us.