

Climate Action



Climate
Centre

 PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

Examples from the Red Cross
Red Crescent and partners

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE 2020



MAARTEN VAN AALST, DIRECTOR OF THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE

NAVIGATION

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Foreword

The urgency of tackling climate change, reversing the degradation of ecosystems, and reducing disaster risks has never been greater.

Climate change and environmental degradation intensify the frequency and severity of disasters. The rising risks of storms and flash floods, heatwaves and droughts, floods and rising sea-levels have devastating humanitarian impacts and wipe out hard-won development gains.

Without bold climate action at least a 100 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty, trapped in a vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability that threatens basic human needs: safe water, food, health, basic public services, and healthy environments. As a result, the number of people dependent of humanitarian assistance could double by 2050.

Confronted by these daunting challenges, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies often ask for concrete examples of climate action. This report is the answer: a huge range of practical examples of adaptation to rising climate risks that already take place in the Red Cross Red Crescent (another publication will compile examples of how we are also reducing our own carbon footprint).

These examples testify to the hard work and imaginative actions that have already been undertaken to address the rising climate risks. They also show that climate action is not a completely new line of work – we are already doing it in so many places, as part of our portfolios on risk and resilience, health, water and sanitation, as well as humanitarian diplomacy. I'd like to thank all the people that have created this myriad of great examples. Let's celebrate and replicate all these inspiring and practical cases of climate action.





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Within the Red Cross Red Crescent, ambition and capacity to take climate action addressing the needs of the most vulnerable are rapidly growing. Climate change is now a key driver of risks, placing a huge burden upon lives, livelihoods, well-being and the humanitarian system itself. The Red Cross Red Crescent with its partners are all expanding their climate and disaster risk reduction portfolios. But what does this entail exactly?

This document showcases a wide range of concrete examples over a decade of climate action spurred by the global [Partners for Resilience](#) (PFR) alliance.

First a short note on terminology. The majority of international funds and initiatives are dedicated to climate change mitigation: reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG), especially CO₂. **MITIGATION** is an important item on the agenda for the Red Cross Red Crescent. With its expertise in reducing disaster risk and vulnerability, but it also seeks to address the humanitarian impacts of climate change, meaning first and foremost **ADAPTATION**.

Adaptation in the humanitarian sector involves four building blocks:

- 1) Anticipating risks;
- 2) Responding when disasters strike;
- 3) Adapting to changing risks and exploring livelihoods diversification options when needed;
- 4) Transforming by tackling root causes of risk to strengthen resilience.

The management and restoration of degraded ecosystems that jeopardize livelihoods and natural buffers to disasters is an essential component in this process.

PfR aims to strengthen community resilience by integrating climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration with disaster risk reduction (DRR), which we call Integrated Risk Management (IRM).

This approach was followed through the PFR's IRM (see [Box 1](#)) concept and it has spurred climate action in ten countries in four global regions. The Climate Centre has been integral to PFR alliance since 2011, facilitating engagement in policy dialogues and institutional capacity strengthening, resulting in scaling up of inclusive programming and investments. Stakeholder evaluations have shown how as a result vulnerable people are better equipped to deal with climate change after empowerment and policy dialogues.¹

Climate change, however, is almost never the only driver of risks and vulnerability; rather it aggravates existing risks and sometimes poses entirely new threats. Thus, establishing partnerships and taking a cross-sectoral, integrated approach is key. This document offers an overview with examples of what integrated climate action can look like in practice.

[Climate Training Kit](#) modules have been used by the PFR alliance to train civil society organizations (CSO) and Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers on climate change and IRM, in particular using the [module on community resilience \(2c\)](#).

BOX 1

KEY ASPECTS OF INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

- Putting people at centre stage, building on local and traditional resources and knowledge
- Linking humanitarian, development and environmental domains by focusing on livelihoods
- Addressing risk on the scale of landscapes
- Managing and restoring ecosystems
- Working on different timescales to ensure adaptive planning
- Linking local realities with global processes
- Inclusion
- Integrating disciplines and approaches to encompass different risks
- Partnering with communities, civil society, governments, knowledge centres, the private sector, the media.

¹ [PFR global evaluation](#).





FLOOD PLANNING AND
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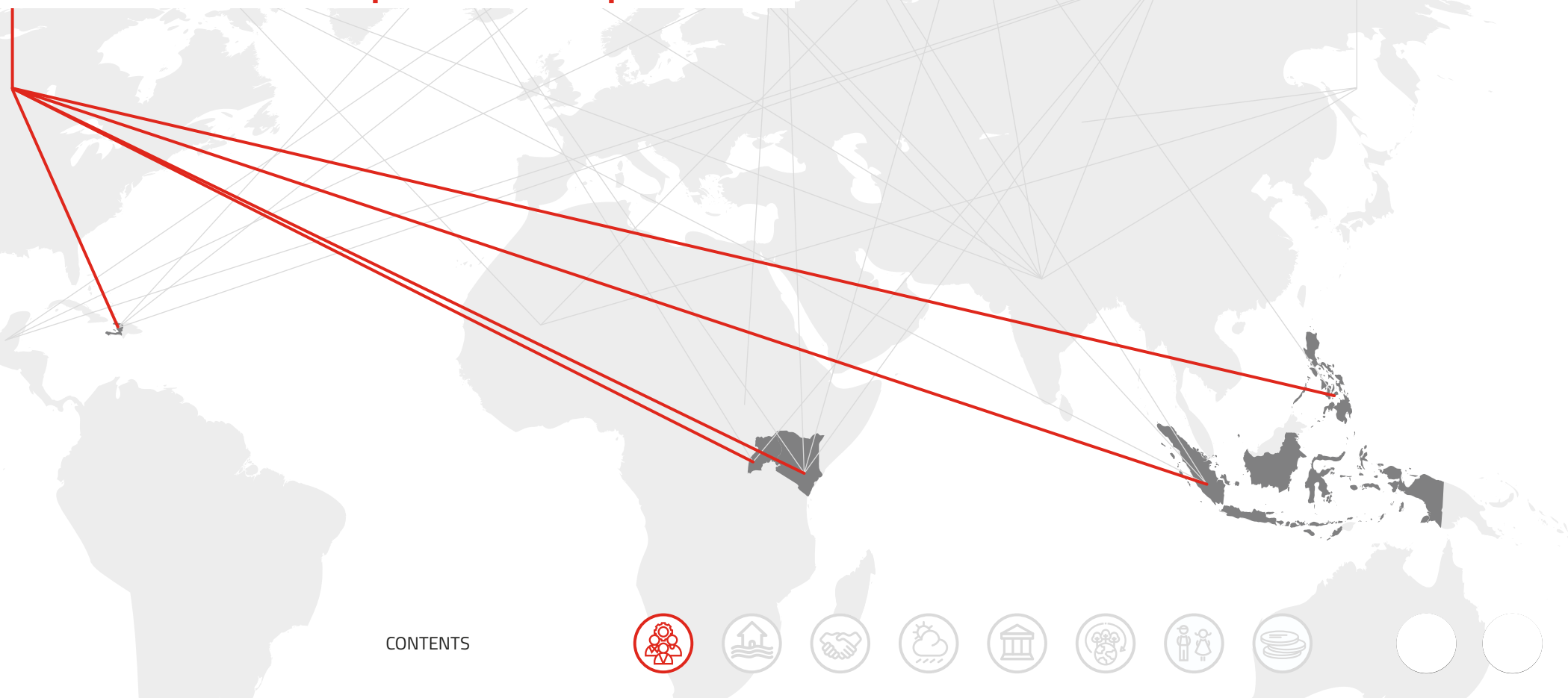


YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
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INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Engaging in national and local climate adaptation plans



Dialogues on the climate change bill

→ 2018 – 2020

CONTEXT

Over the past 30 years, Uganda has experienced increased risks of natural disasters. Extreme-weather events such as recurrent droughts and floods, landslides and weather-related disease outbreaks. Each year, an estimated average of 200,000 people in Uganda are affected by disasters.²

The national climate change policy of 2015 was developed to assist the country in dealing with climate change and achieving a green economy. The government, however, needed appropriate legal instruments to implement the policy and this was the basis for the development of the climate change bill in 2016. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) together with the Climate Centre and PfR engaged in activities to influence the bill, ensuring that it focused on supporting the most vulnerable to become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

ACTION

Working with other civil society organizations and the government, the URCS embarked on dialogue on the bill. This included conducting a gap analysis to ascertain how the proposed bill would take into consideration the issues of integrated risk management and the needs of the most vulnerable. This actually highlighted that the focus on the most vulnerable was *limited*, and the need for a climate change advisory committee that included non-state actors, increased financing for climate action, and recognition of indigenous knowledge in adaptation and mitigation.

Further consultation sessions were held to share evidence on the needs for IRM considerations in the proposed law. In addition to this, PfR briefed members of parliament from the [parliamentary forum on climate change](#) and facilitated field trips for policy-makers to the to understand first-hand how communities are impacted by climate change and the type of support they will need to become more resilient. The alliance further facilitated regional and district stakeholders to ensure a multi-stakeholder consultative approach to finalizing the content of the bill.

OUTCOMES

After further round-table discussions with consultants and the Ministry of Water and Environment, at least 40 per cent of the recommendations were considered in the draft bill. In May 2020, the climate change bill was agreed by the cabinet and presented to parliament for the first reading on 30 June 2020. Partners for Resilience then facilitated final consultation rounds and wider parliamentary dialogues, which resulted into a final draft of the climate change bill. It will be critical in providing for effective institutional arrangements for accelerating climate action in Uganda, leading to a reduction in the impact of disasters and increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities.

² [Climate knowledge portal.](#)



A VIRTUALLY EMPTY MANYATTA (SETTLEMENT) IN KOTIDO WHICH HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY PASTORALISTS DUE TO WATER SHORTAGES
© DENIS ONYODI/
URCS-CLIMATE CENTRE



Local adaptation planning and budgeting



2017 – 2019

CONTEXT

In the Philippines, the local government units are mandated by law to establish Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), including both adaptation and mitigation. These are intended to inform and be part of the two key local planning documents: the Comprehensive Development Plan and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Having an LCCAP also guides local government units in identifying projects that can be resourced from the People's Survival Fund – a local pot of money for climate action managed by the national government.

ACTION

A group of CSO led by ACCORD, CORDAID and the Xavier Science Foundation, including local chapters of the Philippine Red Cross, have been supporting various local government units to develop LCCAPs. Cordaid has also been working in Guian with local government and cross-sector stakeholders on a ten-year strategy for climate action that includes proactive plans for resource mobilization and implementation.

OUTCOMES

This ensures that the perspectives of the most vulnerable are considered and that they can be effectively addressed across different sectors. In the different LCCAPs, coherence between DRR and climate change has been possible, including links with local DRR plans.



DURING TYPHOONS, OUR INCOME USED TO STOP. OUR BOATS WERE NOT STURDY ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE WAVES. THROUGH THE TRAININGS WE RECEIVED, WE ARE NOW MORE PREPARED FOR THESE DISASTERS

© CARE/MAKMEDE MEDIA



Engaging on the national climate change action plan



2019 –



PASTORALISTS LIVING IN THE EWASO NGIRO RIVER BASIN IN KENYA DIGGING FOR WATER DURING TIMES OF DROUGHT © DENIS ONYODI/KRCS

CONTEXT

Every five years the National Climate Change Action Plan for Kenya is renewed. The plan is instrumental when it comes to setting clear goals for both mitigation and adaptation. In the plan for 2013–17 there was a lack of focus on adaptation. It is, however, very important to include a focus on inclusive adaptation measures, because they will help the most vulnerable communities deal with the increase of disaster risk due to climate change.

ACTION

Through engagement with the Kenya Climate Change Directorate, the National Thematic Working Group on Adaptation was formed, of which the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) was a key member. Other members included county administrations and government ministries, civil society, academia and private sector. The KRCS co-hosted a stakeholder meeting in collaboration with the climate change directorate under the environment ministry to start drafting the adaptation chapter of the National Climate Change Action Plan ([NCCAP 2018–2022](#)).

The KRCS was instrumental in ensuring climate-related disaster was captured as a priority area in the NCCAP, with recommended key actions including adaptive social protection, early warning systems and improved coordination and delivery of DRM. The KRCS also co-hosted two writeshops on the NCCAP and supported a validation session for stakeholders for their input into the document in preparation for its approval.

OUTCOMES

Government ministries recognized the need to have a strong focus on adaptation activities during the development of the NCCAP and in October 2018 the Ministry of Environment and Forestry adopted it.





PfR PARTNER THE INDONESIAN RED CROSS (PMI) HAVE SUPPORTED MANGROVE REFORESTATION AND ECOTOURISM AS WELL AS ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS LIKE CRAB AND CLAM HARVESTING IN DEMAK, CENTRAL JAVA
© FLEUR MONASSO/CLIMATE CENTRE

Collaboration in developing a National Adaptation Plan on climate change



2017 – 2019

CONTEXT

Indonesia produced a national plan for climate change adaptation (locally known as RAN API) in 2013 after several consultative meetings. For the PfR team in Indonesia, it became important to ensure this process was not top-down and that it would include IRM measures across sectors, thus stimulating collaboration.

ACTION

In April 2017, the government started consulting on the revision of the RAN API as well as developing a National Adaptation Plan within UNFCCC guidelines. PfR felt it was crucial to promote key elements of our IRM approach, including attention for the most vulnerable and the need for multi-stakeholder approaches. Up until November 2019 the Climate Centre and partners engaged in consultations for the revision of the existing national action plan on climate change and helped to develop an NAP.

In collaboration with other partners, PfR organized several focus group discussions on developing a resilience framework and the related indicators; the Climate Centre was then asked to become a resource for the government, especially on the coastal and fishery sectors, and through that route PfR has been able to provide feedback during development the NAP. While revision of the national action plan and development of adaptation actions for the mid-term development plan (2020–24) was completed in 2019, the development of the NAP for long-term reference is expected to continue in 2020 and beyond.

OUTCOMES

By engaging closely in the consultation process, the partners have been able to see their feedback being taken up by the Ministry of National Development Planning. The NAP is expected to be translated into sub-national plans (provinces, districts and cities) that will identify the most affected and vulnerable groups in their areas and develop local adaptation. Here National Society branches can be involved, especially in identifying suitable responses to all types of climate-related disasters.



Red Cross engagement in a National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions

→ 2017 – 2020



A MURAL PAINTED BY LOCAL UGANDAN CSOS TO ILLUSTRATE THE PEOPLE AND PROCESS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE BILL © PfR

CONTEXT

It is often challenging for civil society to have full access to policy dialogues, such as National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). CSOs often represent the groups most affected by the impacts of climate change and bring inside knowledge on the needs and vulnerabilities of people worst affected. They bring important contributions that can help ensure effective and equitable plans, budgeting and implementation of investments that can deliver sustainable results for vulnerable people.

ACTION

Through PfR the Uganda Red Cross Society has been supporting civil society to engage with the NAP and NDC process since 2017. Discussions kicked off with a workshop in 2017 entitled *Civil society engagement in Uganda's NAP process: Towards effective, equitable implementation of Uganda's NDC*, which attracted nearly 60 people, including ministers and senior officials. As part of the NAP process, PfR in Uganda is organizing dialogue in sectors such as water, the environment, health, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure and disaster management. Key PfR messages include a call for communities to be at the forefront of risk assessments and adaptation planning, financial resources for strengthening resilience at the local level, and participatory and integrated as opposed to sector-based adaptation planning.

The Climate Centre, as an associate member of the NDC Partnership (NDCP), is also contributing to discussions around accelerating ambition in NDC implementation, specifically on measuring resilience. A strategic consultation on measuring resilience was conducted and will be followed up with dedicated capacity strengthening on measuring resilience for both state and non-state actors at national and sub-national levels.

OUTCOMES

CSOs presented views from vulnerable communities to inform national adaptation planning, also tracking their contributions to Uganda's carbon management plan and enabling fast tracking of the process. The NAP and NDC are being developed in an inclusive manner, addressing the vulnerabilities of groups most affected by the impacts of climate change.





YOUNG INDIVIDUALS LIKE JACKY ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE RESPONSE TO THE FLOODS AND DISASTERS IMPACTING COMMUNITIES IN HAITI'S ARTIBONITE DISTRICT THROUGH PARTICIPATING IN OPENSTREETMAP AND MAPATHON TRAINING ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE © RED CROSS HAITI

Facilitating multi-risk, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder working groups with the Ministry of the Environment

→ 2017 – 2020

CONTEXT

The sheer scale of efforts required to strengthen resilience in the face of climate change in Haiti, one of the most environmentally degraded countries in the world, is enormous. The Haiti Red Cross Society became well equipped to take climate action, engaging the vulnerable population to reduce disaster risk and restore ecosystems through PFR's concept of integrated risk management.

ACTION

PfR initiated dialogues on IRM (investments, policies and practice) with the Ministry of the Environment's departments of adaptation, water resources, and the National Observatory of the Environment and Vulnerability. This positioned the Red Cross as a strong actor for involving communities in revitalizing the rural economy. Another dialogue with the ministry and the authorities for hydrometeorology (UHM) and hydropower focused on benefits in various sectors of an Artibonite river basin early warning system. Discussions on partnerships with the World Food Programme (WFP) on forecast-based financing (FbF) in collaboration with UHM and the civil protection agency aims to develop a national protocol for community-based early action.

OUTCOMES

The dialogues with the Haiti Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Environment led to a new collaboration agreement (an MoU). Multi-sector dialogue planted seeds for the development of river basin early-warning systems to inform climate-resilient development through DRR, hydropower and agriculture, and a partnership with the Netherlands 510 Global data programme generated a hackathon to develop vulnerability mapping in the Artibonite basin. One way in which community resilience programming currently is being implemented and expanded in multiple locations in Haiti, is through the Green Pearl programme, which is supported by the Netherlands Red Cross Princess Margriet Fund.





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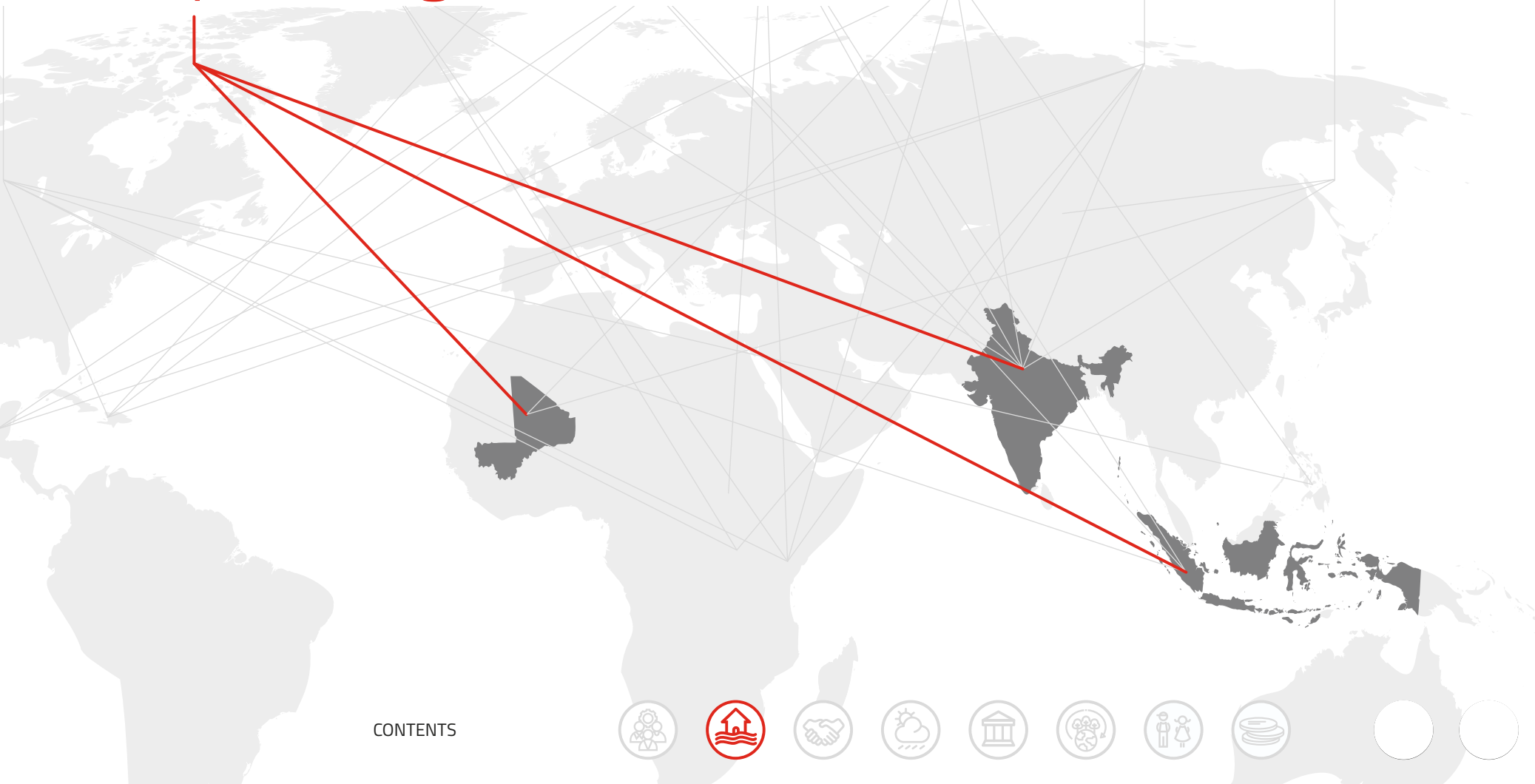


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INVESTMENTS
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Flood planning and resilience



Local contingency planning for floods



RAPID RESPONSE TO THE DAM BURST DURING THE 2019 RAINY SEASON, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DJENNE'S PFR IRM COALITION © IBRAHIMA FOFANA, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL, MALI.



DAM BURST DURING 2019 RAINY SEASON, WITH INCREASED RISK OF LOSS OF CROPS AND FLOODING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS © IBRAHIM TRAORÉ, HEAD DJENNE PFR IRM COALITION, MOPTI REGION, MALI

ACTION

In support of the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC), the national disaster management authority, the PFR partners in Mali initiated local contingency plans and extended them in the region of Mopti. Through interaction with communities PFR was able to help with the absorption at the heart of the plans of their needs and perceptions.

Their specific objectives aim to provide disaster management tools, pre-position stocks of food and non-food items, coordinate actions, help reduce loss of human life and livelihoods, and plan communications.

The plans are structured around possible scenarios (best, intermediate, worst), associated with trigger thresholds, defining ideal responses and mobilizing resources. Lastly, PFR partners also optimized the exchange of hydro-meteorological information through WhatsApp groups which facilitates the dissemination of alerts on risks during the rainy season.

OUTCOMES

Communities can now respond quicker to disasters thanks to the identification of the actions that are to be implemented. They also benefit from better coordination and clearer roles and responsibilities. Local actors, in partnership with technical services and beneficiary communities, are better equipped to deal with abnormal situations before, during and after floods.

The contingency plans also take the pressure off the DGPC, showing the importance of integrating the community point of view with the national plan for risk. The impacts of floods on different sectors (lives, properties, agriculture, health) have reinforced the need to adopt cross-sector approaches including IRM, and the Red Cross and its PFR partners have gained expertise, recognized by the DGPC, in setting up local plans.

CONTEXT

Every year **torrential rains** cause floods in Mali, with a significant impact on lives and livelihoods. It is estimated that over 3 million people have been severely affected by flooding in Mali over the past three decades. In particular the most vulnerable and most exposed populations suffer most. The government has set up structures and tools to invest in prevention and response and a national platform for DRR is in place which also engages at the local level. It has also developed a national multi-risk contingency plan that's updated yearly, but because of a lack of resources it only operates at national level.



A national road map on land subsidence

→ 2018 – 2019



PfR 'HYBRID ENGINEERING' TO PROTECT THE COAST TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS IN THE TALIBURA VILLAGE, INDONESIA. THIS PHOTO WAS EQUAL SECOND PLACE AT THE 2013 PFR PHOTO COMPETITION AT THE GLOBAL WORK CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE © PHOTO: EKO BUDI PRIYANTO/WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

CONTEXT

Coastal communities in Indonesia increasingly face erosion and floods due to land subsidence caused by water extraction from the ground. This lowers the land in some areas to below river level and even sea level, such as in Semarang and Pekalongan cities, Demak district, and Jakarta. These areas are prominent examples of locations regularly inundated by high tides. Sea-level rise due to climate change is exacerbating flood risks, albeit less than the extraction of ground water. Villagers have already been forced to leave their homes in Demak.

ACTION

From early 2018 onwards, Wetlands International Indonesia and the Climate Centre **joined hands** as PfR with ministries, other government agencies, the Bandung Institute of Technology and other CSOs to support the Ministry of Maritime Affairs in the development of the national **road map** on subsidence. The team used **their expertise** to ensure the road map would address the vulnerability of the most at-risk communities and result into coordinated action.

OUTCOMES

The land-subsidence road map was launched in September 2019 at an international conference. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs coordinated the working group in developing the work plan for the road map, and because of coronavirus coordination this has continued online. The road map consists of short- and medium-term strategies for adaptation and long-term mitigation. Developing infrastructure and nature-based solutions for coastal protection and increased access to clean water are among strategies that will directly reduce the vulnerability of communities affected by land-subsidence.



Management of community resources for risk reduction

→ 2019 & 2020



WOMEN LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH IN INDIA CLEAN A WATER SOURCE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES © PFR

CONTEXT

Communities in Chennai are often faced with extreme rainfall and many neighbourhoods cannot cope with the excess rainwater. In the Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh, communities face water scarcity, extreme temperatures, forest fires and heavier landslides.

In coastal Gujarat, rising sea-levels and recurrent monsoon floods have become a harsh reality. In the floodplains of Bihar and Assam, people cope with the repeated onslaught of flash floods and lost crops. Risks that will most likely only increase in the years to come due to climate change and threaten their livelihoods. Red Cross volunteers and CSOs have been working with communities to respond to extreme events, but climate change has been requiring additional action to prepare for worsening floods, water scarcity and forest fires.

ACTION

Integrated Risk Management (IRM) trainings were organized, which re-oriented *gram panchayats* or village self-governance bodies, CSO and Red Cross volunteers to plan and execute nature-based solutions to environmental degradation and disaster risk. Nurturing 'blue' and 'green' resources was highlighted as the central element for resilience. In Chennai and in the rest of Tamil Nadu state, Red Cross volunteers are helping communities clean up their water sources and undertake reforestation to reduce flood risk. In the Himalayas, communities have been cleaning up their water sources to better absorb excess rainwater.

In another case, a community is installing a rainwater harvesting tank in a forest area to prevent fires and landslides and increase soil moisture for cultivation. In Bihar, villagers decided to plant the banks of a local river to create a buffer zone for floods and prevent soil erosion. In Gujarat, the community agreed mangroves were more effective in protecting against sea surges than a mooted sea wall similar to one in a nearby village which had cracked in as little as three years. These actions are being taken by leveraging government programme funds.

OUTCOMES

The Indian Red Cross state branches like Tamil Nadu, now have a stronger focus on restoration of community water resources in their disaster management work. CSO partners and Red Cross branches in other PFR states have increased attention to climate change and risk reduction (in addition to disaster response operations) and have even put additional funds towards this. Some participatory IRM training modules and tools for vulnerability and capacity assessment are among those that disaster managers are using to train front-line volunteers, including when they act as resource people in presentations at other institutions.



Reduced flood risk in the Malian community of Simina

→ 2014



CONSTRUCTING DIKES TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK AND ALLOWED FOR WATER HARVESTING FOR CULTIVATION IN THE COMMUNITY OF SIMINA, MALI.
© NGOLO TRAORÉ, CARE MALI

CONTEXT

The *cercles* (administrative units) of Mopti and Youwarou are among the 166 most vulnerable communities in Mali. The hamlet of Simina has a population of 280 inhabitants whose livelihoods are closely tied to agriculture and animal husbandry. The multiple stresses that impact the livelihoods in these *cercles* are mostly caused by man-made hazards. Climate change, however, aggravates these existing risks. Simina is surrounded by three hills and the discharge of the water was increasingly affecting homes, especially during the rainy season when the village is cut off.

ACTION

A protective dike in Simina was developed by the local population with support from PfR, to help cope with recurrent floods due to climate change. Together with local NGOs and CARE Nederland communities sought to ease repetitive problems with waterlogging. The dike and small bridges were constructed 15km south-west of the rural commune of Konna in Mopti. Local engineers were mobilized by PfR to carry out the topographical surveys and map the dike.

OUTCOMES

The village is now protected from floodwaters and run-off and most water now misses it. Not only was the project able to direct the water somewhere else but also two small bridges were built. Water harvesting allowed additional activities, such as stockpiling for times of scarcity, a new brick factory and improved watering-systems for animals. The natural channel that runs through the village has remained intact because it is being used less.

A reservoir that formed naturally to the south of the village is now used for construction. PfR coupled this development with market gardening, soil conservation and a rain gauge for better planning of cultivation and income-generating activities for women. ([Read more.](#))



Affordable and user-friendly flood warning for communities — 2019



TRAINING PROVIDED ON
AFFORDABLE FLOOD ALARMS
BY CLIMATE CENTRE
© PMI, INA NISIRINA

CONTEXT

High-tech flood warnings are not yet available or affordable in most parts of Indonesia, especially not in remote villages. Vulnerable people in locations that are highly exposed to floods often have clear high-water level thresholds, which they consider to be a risk requiring an early warning. Early warning alarms in the market are often quite expensive for village governments and households.

ACTION

The Climate Centre has helped design affordable and easy-to-make community-based flood alarms, applicable by the volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) branches in North Jakarta and Bogor District. A training session on how to make the alarms was organised together with PMI and the American Red Cross. A manual in Bahasa was also produced for the volunteers. The alarm consists of a mechanical device with magnets and a doorbell, and it utilizes energy from the rising water surface to activate the alarm sensor.

The sound can carry far into the villages. The design has evolved over time and the alarm is considered to be a useful warning mechanism, especially at night in the rain, and as a sensor for checking water levels in rivers, streams or lakes.

OUTCOMES

PMI branches in North Jakarta and Bogor district branches are able to make the alarm and customize it based on the available materials in project areas. They have also trained volunteers and introduced the approach to local government and private sector representatives. Additionally, an insurance company provided financial support to Bogor branch so they could replicate the affordable flood alarms in several flood-prone locations in October 2019. In the previous month the PFR Indonesia *Catalogue of Best Practice* was produced in the Bahasa language, in which the guideline for the development of the affordable flood alarm is included and made accessible to public.





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Partnering with the private sector





COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATED RISKS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS IN MEHNANDI PANCHAYAT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
© INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

CONTEXT

In India, like in many other countries, collaboration with the private sector on community resilience is seen as key. Especially in the context of the Paris Agreement, non-state actors will be needed to achieve the necessary level of climate action to ensure we can prevent catastrophic levels of climate change. For the humanitarian sector, increased collaboration with the private sector can help scale up adaptation and resilience. The Indian Red Cross has collaborated well with the private sector on disaster response and wanted to expand collaboration on local resilience initiatives outside the context of disaster.

Inspiring the private sector to engage in Integrated Risk Management



ACTION

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) became an [official partner](#) with the [UN Global Compact for the 2019 Global Inclusive Disaster Management Conference](#) (GIDMC) in Delhi, supported by government and companies, which brought together the corporate, government and development sector. The IRCS became a resource for the conference, with their expertise on Integrated Risk Management and the fieldwork of Assam and Himachal Pradesh state branches. To date, their resilience approaches have generated a lot of interest and the National Society also shared its [experience with heatwave response at the 7th Asia Pacific Urban Forum](#).

OUTCOMES

The first three recommendations of the global conference are on community resilience to climate risk and IRM, enhancing global humanitarian assistance, and building the capacity on risk reduction and early warning early action. The GIDMC [outcome document](#) reached a wide global audience. IRCS has now partnered with Google to scale up Early Warning Early Action in the States of Assam and Bihar. A Climate Centre [working paper](#) on Red Cross Red Crescent collaboration with the private sector was published in 2019.





IN MAY 2020 COMMUNITIES AROUND UGANDA'S WESTERN RWENZORI MOUNTAINS FOUND THEMSELVES FACING A TWIN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY OF COVID-19 AND LARGE-SCALE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY FLASH FLOODS WHEN THE BANKS OF THE NYAMWAMBA AND MUBUK RIVERS BURST © CLIMATE CENTRE

Training for the media in the fight against climate change

→ 2018 – 2020

CONTEXT

The media play a big role not only in creating awareness of issues like climate change, disaster risk and resilience, but also media coverage plays a significant role in determining climate policy. Horn of Africa CSOs wanted to work together to optimize understanding and communication around the impacts of climate change.

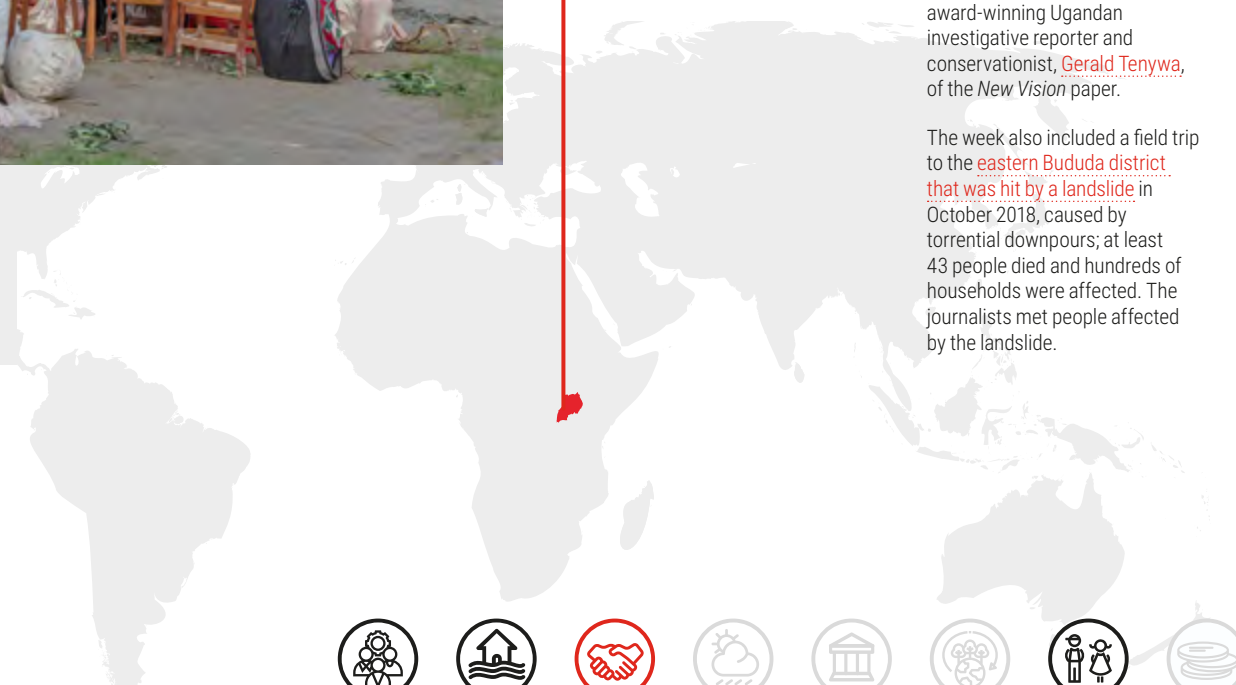
ACTION

At the start of 2019, the PfR alliance hosted a week-long seminar for nearly 40 journalists from Ethiopia and Uganda in the eastern Ugandan city of Mbale. It was intended to unpack the latest science on the impacts of climate change, and the perspectives in the humanitarian and development sectors about the relationship between climate change and disasters. It included specialist environment correspondents as well as the award-winning Ugandan investigative reporter and conservationist, [Gerald Tenywa](#), of the *New Vision* paper.

The week also included a field trip to the [eastern Bududa district that was hit by a landslide](#) in October 2018, caused by torrential downpours; at least 43 people died and hundreds of households were affected. The journalists met people affected by the landslide.

OUTCOMES

The quality of reports, especially in the East African print media, related to disaster and climate risks and management of wetlands in Uganda and East Africa has improved. Uganda's climate change bill now awaits parliamentary approval, and the media have contributed significantly to highlighting the need for it.



The power of the private sector to enhance resilience



RED CROSS FURROW IRRIGATION PROJECT IN LUKOLE, NEAR MALINDI, KENYA 2017 © ALEX WYNTER/ KRCS-CLIMATE CENTRE

CONTEXT

The private sector has been engaged in disaster response, and they are seen as donors through corporate social responsibility, but it has also become clear that increased disaster risks caused by climate change and environmental degradation also pose a more direct risk to business continuity. The notion of opening up more engagement by the private sector constitutes proactive management of risks, enabling better understanding of the root causes of risks, including underlying vulnerabilities. It can enhance risk-informed decisions and redirect investments to limit private sector losses from disaster, improving business continuity, and it can even provide new business opportunities.

This agenda goes hand in hand with the resilience agenda of the Red Cross Red Crescent. DRM by the private sector can have much wider socio-economic benefits, such as jobs, reduced uncertainty in economic forecasts and growth projections, and reduced risks to life and personal property.

ACTION

A collaboration agreement was signed by the Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) and the KRCS on disaster risk management in the country. What followed was that the KRCS co-hosted webinars with the private sector on enhancing business continuity in the face of climate-related risks and later also with Covid-19 pandemic. IRM more widely can enhance the sustainability of public and private investments. It requires funders and investors to adapt their strategies and policies with enhanced risk-information and anticipatory actions.

OUTCOMES

The agreement in Kenya led to increased collaboration between KRCS and KEPSA in fundraising for disasters. The webinars enhanced the awareness of private sector actors on the need to integrate preparedness and risk management into their strategies.





ENGAGING IN
NATIONAL AND LOCAL
PLANNING FOR
CLIMATE ADAPTATION



FLOOD PLANNING
AND RESILIENCE



PARTNERING WITH
THE PRIVATE SECTOR



GOVERNMENT
COLLABORATION AND
HUMANITARIAN
DIALOGUES



INCLUSIVE
AGRICULTURAL,
ECOSYSTEM AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION

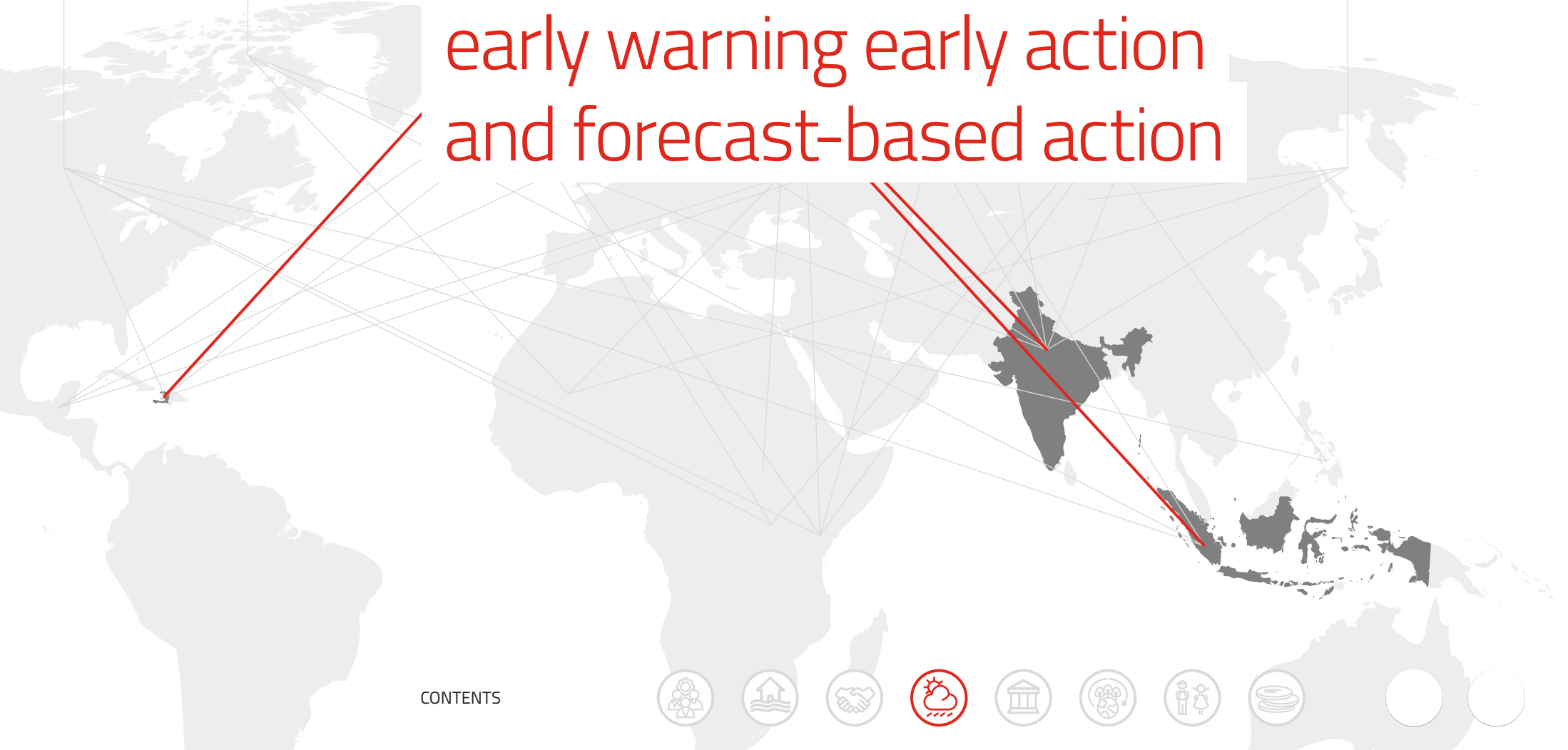


YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
AND MOBILIZATION



INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Forecasts: early warning early action and forecast-based action



Fishers better equipped with maritime weather forecasts



2017 – 2020



TRAINING PROVIDED FOR FISHERMEN TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF WEATHER INFORMATION, REDUCING THEIR EXPOSURE TO EXTREME WEATHER AND OPTIMIZING FISHERIES © PMI

CONTEXT

The weather in Indonesia can be highly unpredictable, with many of the country's islands being impacted by sudden monsoons and typhoons, especially coastal villages. Rainfall can vary extremely between the dry and wet seasons in Indonesia. Per year, rainfall in the low-lying regions ranges from 1,780–3,175mm and in mountainous areas average annual rainfall can be as high as 6,100mm. Climate change is continuing to make seasons more unpredictable and causing extreme weather to be both more frequent and more severe. It can leave fishermen at a loss to know when or, in marginal conditions, whether to set sail with their nets.

"In the past, the weather was predictable, but now the season conditions are unpredictable. The weather should be good in April, but the west-monsoon wind doesn't come out," said Yayan, a fisherman from Pelabuhan Ratu, West Java.

There are three patterns of monsoons known to fishermen, namely the west season, the east season, and the transitional season. Currently, it is difficult for fishermen to be able to predict precisely when one changes to another, confusing them about when to go to sea. Some get it wrong, and that generates risk.

The monsoons are also related to what types of fish are in abundance and their location, whether deep ocean or shallow waters. If the waves and strong winds suddenly come when the fishermen go to sea, it is usually difficult to set the net or fish. Fishermen can use up their fuel for only a small catch.

ACTION

The Indonesian Red Cross and its partners including the American Red Cross provided a dedicated training session for fishermen from Cilincing, north of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta. They familiarized themselves with online government information about weather and fishing grounds and were introduced to a government platform to access maritime weather and fish forecasts.

Learning from previous attempts, involving youth and the wives of the fishermen in the training would pay dividends. Youth, often more familiar with online tools, were invited to the training and encouraged to help with access the forecast information. Many traditional and older fishermen struggle with online platforms.

OUTCOMES

The Indonesian Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency, the US-supported APIK programme and several other CSO and local governments are now adopting the approach and applying the training modules. More fishermen are actively using maritime weather forecast before deciding if they will go fishing. Several WhatsApp groups of training alumni in various locations have been established to continue the learning process and share the incoming forecast and information on other weather-related topics (e.g. floods and tropical cyclones).



Using forecasts and climate services for early action



2019 & 2020



RIVER KOSI EARLY WARNING YELLOW FLOOD ALERT
MAHISHI BLOCK, SAHARSA DISTRICT, BIHAR © SEEDS

CONTEXT

India is one of the most vulnerable countries in the face of climate change. Intense heatwaves, floods and droughts, water stress, and reduced food production, will likely exacerbate vulnerabilities driven by poverty, and food and livelihood insecurity. Climate change has already increased disaster risk for millions of people, especially farmers, fisherfolk and those dependent on natural resources. The Indian Red Cross, especially in the wake of climate change, has been responding to worsening, more frequent and intense disasters. Over time, it became clear that response alone is not enough. Averting disasters where possible, or taking timely and effective action before a potential disaster strikes, is crucial.

ACTION

The India Red Cross Society has increased its use of weather forecasts and climate services. They also stepped up early action to respond to warnings by organizing trainings for branches, making use of modules from renewed Climate Training Kit, including its games. The use of forecasts from the Indian met department has become a regular practice for many IRCS branches. The warnings and alerts are combined with real-time information provided to Red Cross disaster managers at both HQ and state branches through a WhatsApp group called Weather Basics, which was formed by an independent group to enhance proactive analysis of weather, professional interaction and sharing of knowledge on weather, climate change and related environmental issues. It's a platform for collaboration by government, weather enthusiasts, disaster managers, the private sector and others. Volunteers and CSO partners have also helped farmers register on the national portal to receive advisories and marine forecasts for fisherfolk as part of the government's climate services.

OUTCOMES

Villagers in 40 districts of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu states are regularly receiving met office alerts and early warnings via Red Cross volunteers on WhatsApp groups. Villagers alerted for floods in the 2019 monsoons in Assam did not lose their animals compared to other areas where alerts had not reached as widely.

In Assam and in Gujarat, villagers have also been able to save their grain, cattle and personal property thanks to early warning early action, and branches have put this part of their core work on disaster management. This has led to better planned field visits, timely mobilization of volunteers, pre-positioning of stocks and the accessing of imminent Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) grants for cyclones and flood, for Cyclones Fani and Amphan, for example. Finally, these experiences have opened up additional opportunities to scale up forecast-based action in Bihar and Assam.



Indonesia

FORECASTS:
EARLY WARNING EARLY ACTION AND FORECAST-BASED ACTION

26



↑ PMI OPERATIONS IN 2019 © IFRC



← FORECAST BASED ACTION AND FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENT PRIOR TO POTENTIAL DISASTERS, TO MOBILIZE ACTION AND TACKLE DISASTER RISKS AHEAD OF A DISASTER © IFRC

Forecast-based action



CONTEXT

With the resources of the international humanitarian system already stretched, we need to be smarter in the way we prepare for, anticipate and respond to climate extremes, and we need to invest at a much larger scale ahead of crises. Good weather and climate forecasts can help us to anticipate climate-induced disasters. We have sufficient time to support communities to prepare for what is coming. However, forecasts alone do not allow either governments or humanitarian organizations to act early. It still requires finance and organizational capacity to take early action. Existing policies do not allow for, or have not yet regulated, the disbursement of money before the disaster event occurs. Furthermore, the organizational capacity and procedures to implement early action need to be put in place.

ACTION

The Indonesian Red-Cross (PMI) is among the pioneering National Societies adopting FbF/A in its disaster management strategy. FbA enables much earlier access to funding for early preparedness actions based on weather forecasts and risk analyses. This means funding is released and action taken before a potential disaster rather than waiting to respond to its impacts.

Many technical and partnership sessions were held, for instance, with the national met agency, to position PMI for successful implementation of FbA. A feasibility study was conducted on the forecast capacity of the agency, existing policy, and the operational capacity of the PMI.

OUTCOMES

Key partnerships were established to implement FbA. InaSafe, an Indonesian disaster management agency platform for contingency planning, became one partner. The platform is being updated to integrate weather forecasts and vulnerability indicators from another platform. This automatically measures the number of affected people, when the threshold of a hazard is reached.

Other key partnerships on FbA were established with the Australian and British Red Cross, who agreed to support PMI in 2019 – 2021 to develop FbA. The PMI's December 2019 national assembly included FbA in the 2019 – 2024 strategic plan. Finally, the PMI built a close partnership with the Indonesian national disaster management agency (BNPB) and meteorological service to optimize and succeed in the implementation of FbA for floods in Indonesia. ([Read more.](#))



Early warning early action systems advocacy in the Artibonite river basin



2018 – 2020



HAITI IS INCREASINGLY EXPERIENCING CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED EVENTS, INCLUDING RIVER, URBAN AND COASTAL FLOODS, AS WELL AS CYCLONES AND WILDFIRES. THROUGH THE OPEN MAPPING PROJECT, PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE WANTS TO CREATE A DETAILED MAPPING OF FLOODS IN THE ARTIBONITE RIVER BASIN. AWARE THAT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR BETTER RISK ASSESSMENTS © RED CROSS

CONTEXT

The Artibonite river is the longest and most important on the island of Hispaniola, and forms a part of the international border with the Dominican Republic. It contains the most arable land in Haiti, though it is also the most vulnerable to flooding. Some floods are managed to some extent by Haiti's only hydropower dam and the associated Artibonite irrigation scheme, but flooding in many parts of the river basin cannot presently be controlled.

ACTION

A workshop was organized in Port-au-Prince that focused on advocacy for establishing early warning early action systems in the basin, involving officials from the Ministry of Education and Civil Protection, the Red Cross, and various other stakeholders. There was a push to increase dialogue and collaboration between the hydropower and humanitarian sectors, and the Haitian Red Cross facilitated local Artibonite stakeholder visits and meetings with the operators of the Péligre dam.

The PfR alliance partnered with national and international specialists to create a database that contains geospatial data, and this has spurred risk mapping and research on flood risks to vulnerable people, communities and livelihoods in the basin. Training for participatory mapping included the leader and volunteers of the Artibonite Red Cross branch who are focused on disaster preparedness and response, complemented by advocacy training for other branches and youth leaders.

OUTCOMES

Increased dialogue between the hydropower and humanitarian sectors allows for a great improvement in flood-risk management. Through participatory dialogues and renewed stakeholder collaboration, the use of natural resources in communities downstream has improved. There has also been an overall increase in community awareness on the reality of flood risk and the need for strengthening local contingency planning with early warning early action.

Geospatial mapping training allowed 15 communities to gain improved knowledge and skills for early action and to enhance preparation efforts for flood risk along the basin. The Haitian Red Cross has become a stronger national stakeholder through advocacy on this and environmental questions. [Find out more.](#)





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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
AND MOBILIZATION



INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Government collaboration and humanitarian dialogues



Establishing strong partnerships with national meteorological agencies

→ 2019



VILLAGERS OF AGASTINUAGAON, GANJAM DISTRICT, ODISHA SHARING THEIR INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT LANDSCAPE AND OTHER VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS WITH PFR TEAM © ICRC

CONTEXT

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), with its 1,100 district and sub-district branches and about 300,000 community-based volunteers, has enormous potential to support government outreach with weather alerts to the "last mile" to village level. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) expressed a wish to work with community-based disaster management agencies, which could support meteorologists with translating atmospheric information into impact-based forecasts that were locally relevant and that could be disseminated in local languages.

ACTION

The IRCS streamlined the use of weather alerts and climate information in the work of their state branches and raised awareness about the trend of increasing disaster risk and climate change. Volunteers are in the front line of disasters and enhancing capacities to prepare for increased risks proved an important strategy. The secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the parent ministry for the IMD, invited the IRCS secretary general to a public function for a partnership to tackle the forthcoming heatwave in 2018. That led to the beginning of dialogue and the formalizing of the partnership with clear common areas of action.

OUTCOMES

A five-year MoU was signed in early 2019 between the IRCS and the IMD, such as joint work on:

- A. Capacity building for volunteers on using weather forecasts and climate services
- B. Multi-hazard early warning to build community awareness and resilience
- C. Making weather and forecast data more user-friendly and actionable
- D. Improving early warning systems, especially for agricultural livelihoods and health
- E. Post-cyclone assessment to improve impact-based forecast and warning
- F. Pilot studies in rural and urban areas on impact-based forecasts.

State Red Cross branches are regularly collaborating with their local met offices on early warning, capacity building and impact-based forecasts.



South Sudan

| 30 | GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION AND HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUES



PfR HAS TRAINED COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN SOUTH SUDAN ON THE PRODUCTION OF FUEL-EFFICIENT AND BRIQUETTE STOVES WHICH REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT © CORDAID

Participation in the technical working group for the Ministry of Environment

→ 2019

CONTEXT

The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) decided to become a member of the technical working groups in the environment ministry to lobby for the interests of vulnerable communities, arguing for IRM safeguards to be included in official strategies, plans and policies.

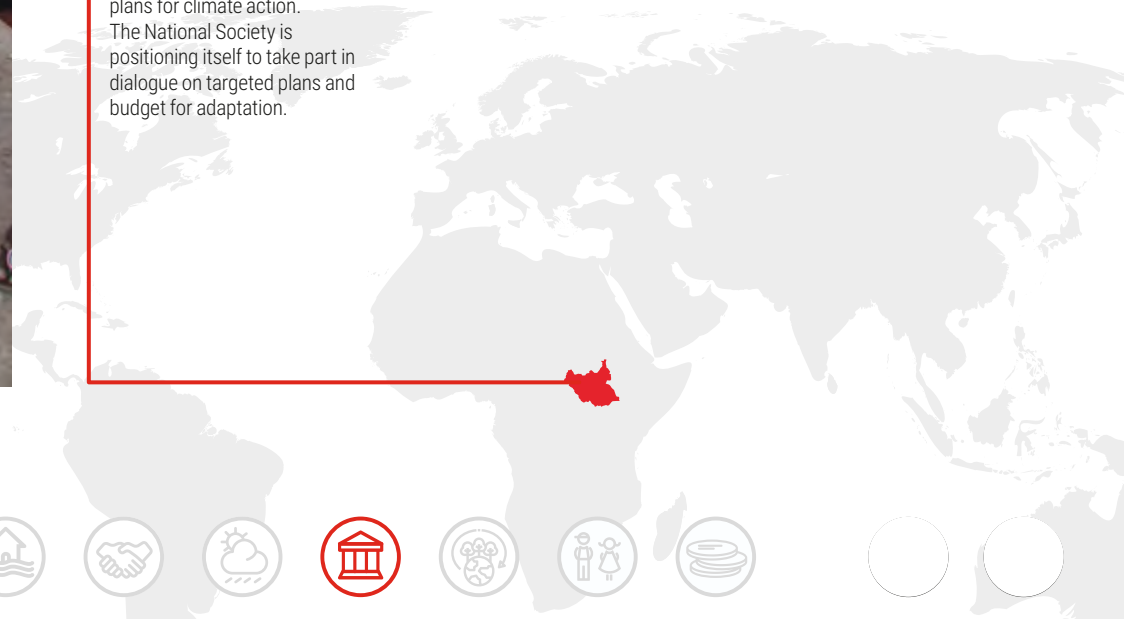
Influencing climate and disaster policies is an important part of National Society strategy on climate action. It is crucial to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable people will benefit from national government plans for climate action. The National Society is positioning itself to take part in dialogue on targeted plans and budget for adaptation.

ACTION

In response to climate risks the SSRC was formally accepted in the technical working group of the ministry in 2019, enabling the National Society to advocate with people at the core of planning processes. The SSRC held dialogues with the Ministry of the Environment and invited them to various PfR activities. Positions were drafted with PfR and presented by the SSRC secretary general at strategic points.

OUTCOMES

Through its membership of the technical working group, the SSRC has been able to assist and influence the environment ministry's technical planning processes on adaptation and the evolution of both medium- and longer-term adaptation priorities for the country.





AGNES LED A CAMEL ON A 240 KM JOURNEY TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF THE BASIN ECOSYSTEMS AND TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. COMMUNITIES AND OFFICIALS HEARD THE CALL FROM THE CARAVAN AND DISCUSSED THE POLICIES, THE REGULATION OF SAND EXTRACTION, AND THE NEED FOR A RIVER CONVENTION
© WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

CONTEXT

In 2018, Kilifi county in Kenya was listed among those most affected by drought and floods. And as recently as March 2020, the county was subjected to the worst floods in more than 20 years. [River Sabaki](#) broke its banks, cutting off the road network, destroying more than [3,000](#) crop farms, and displacing more than [18,000 people](#)⁴. The result of these hazards is that it leaves the communities within the county more vulnerable to disasters that happen next and with their basic needs at risk of not being met.

The [intensity and regularity](#)⁵ of these disasters has been increasing, in the wake of climate change, population growth, urbanization and environmental degradation. It has been proved by scientists that the country will be exposed to similar episodes of drought and floods [every year](#)⁶. This therefore creates the need to urgently review the current Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Act and adopt key changes to shift from a reactionary response to a [proactive approach](#)⁷ in managing disasters to reduce impact and build resilience and develop a DRM policy framework.

County government disaster risk management policy and law



2019 – ONWARDS

ACTION

While Kilifi county has been able to pass the [Kilifi County Disaster Act](#) of 2016, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and its partners identified that the act needed a number of amendments to enhance localization and mainstreaming of DRM within the county. And at the same time a policy needed to be drafted to accompany the act. KRCS decided they would support the county in this process. First, they held scoping visits in the county to explore ways in which KRCS could support in the development of laws and policies that will reduce the impact of disasters in the county. Secondly, KRCS together with Islamic Relief co-hosted a policy writeshop for law experts. This was followed by a second writeshop which brought on board a wide variety of stakeholders, from the Kenya meteorological agency, county steering group and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). These workshops were then followed by the set up of a technical working group, which developed a policy brief with the multiple recommendations for the revision of the DRM Act. Among these recommendations were:

- ★ The county government of Kilifi should build the capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful early warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.
- ★ The county government of Kilifi is advised to set up DRM committees as proposed in the draft policy at the sub-county, ward and village levels. This will aid in quick decision making at a delegated level. The committees' composition will include all the stakeholders in those particular jurisdictions.
- ★ The need to include the private sector to the county DRM council is crucial in ensuring that action plans are done in a more coordinated approach and avoiding duplication of roles. This will be achieved by engaging the Chamber of Commerce, Kenya Private Sector Alliance or any other private sector body that is present in Kilifi county.

OUTCOMES

The proposed recommended changes to the Kilifi Disaster Management Act 2016 of Kilifi county and draft DRM policy are major steps towards mainstreaming and integrating disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors in the county. With the adoption of these recommendations into the existing act and draft policy, the county government of Kilifi will be able to better address the disaster risks prevalent in the county in line with national and international standards for DRM and strengthen the existing frameworks in the county.

4 Nation (2018). [Military choppers deployed to rescue 3,000 Kilifi flood victims.](#)

5 Gari, A. (2019). [Disaster fears as mining bustle wreak havoc in Kilifi villages.](#)

6 Mateche, D. E. (2011). [The Cycle of Drought in Kenya a Looming Humanitarian Crisis.](#)

7 Izadkhah, Y. O., & Hosseini, M. (2008). [Using proactive means in reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.](#)



Building resilience through village development plans

→ 2019 & 2020



AVANI DRAWS A MAP OF HER COMMUNITIES UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS INCLUDING THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THEY USE AND THE RISK THOSE SYSTEMS FACE WITH A CHANGING CLIMATE © RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE

CONTEXT

India has a well-established three-tier system of government with the village-level local self-governance bodies, the *gram panchayats*, responsible for planning and implementing their own Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP). These are mandatory and are funded through government schemes. PFR communities wanted to join in the design of these plans to include needs of vulnerable people against increased disaster risk and ecosystem degradation. Inclusive planning can optimize the effectiveness of climate-smart and risk informed development investments in the GPDPs, which traditionally focus on physical infrastructure like roads and buildings.

ACTION

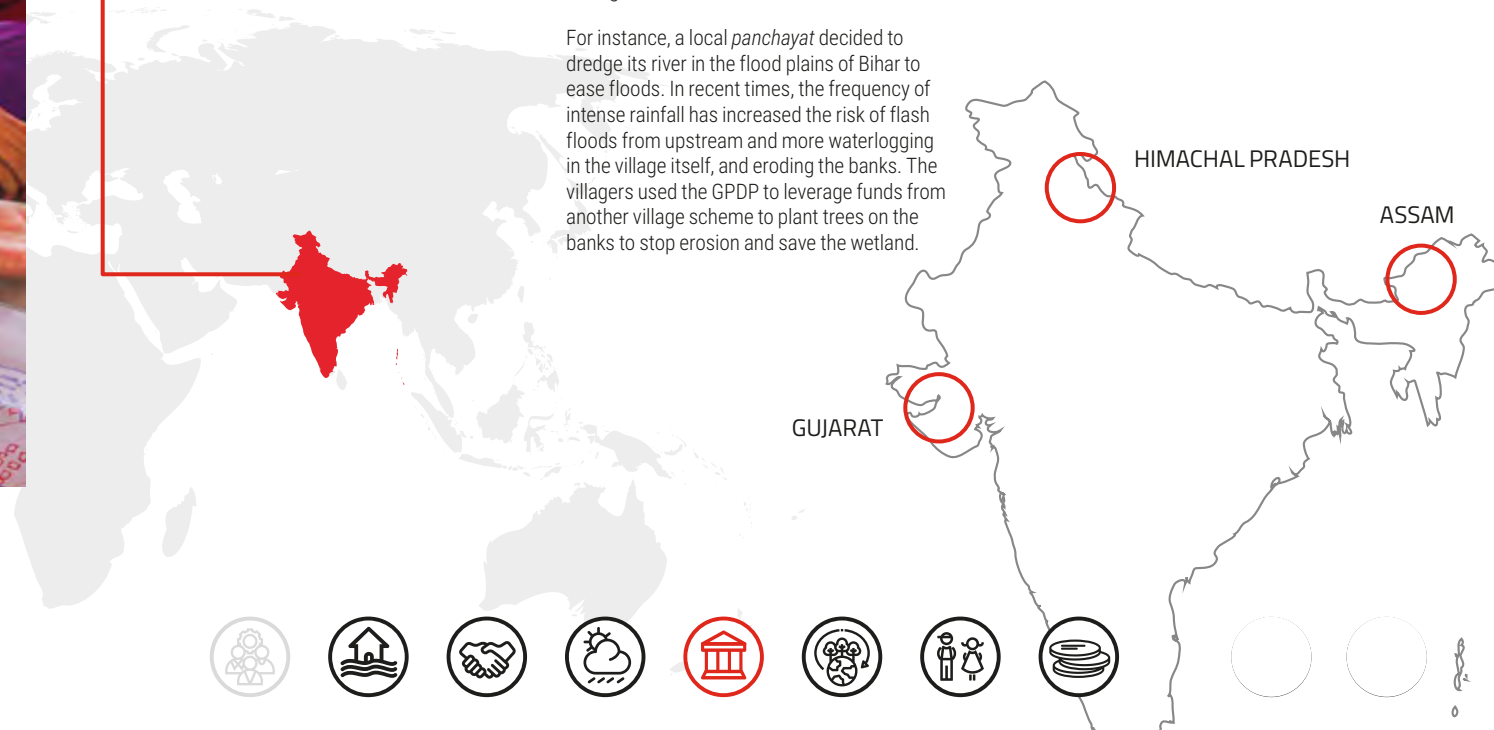
The GPDP engagement was the cornerstone of the PFR programme in India, with both the Red Cross and the CSO partners mobilizing villagers and *gram panchayat* members to discuss development plans, while applying cross-sector lenses to enhance resilience and risk reduction.

Gram panchayats used PFR's participatory training modules and developed local landscape maps of their natural infrastructure, visualizing climate risks. Through participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments, the villagers and *gram panchayats*, including some urban communities, identified cross-sector solutions to reduce disaster, climate and ecosystem risks and were able to use government programmes through the GPDP to fund these.

For instance, a local *panchayat* decided to dredge its river in the flood plains of Bihar to ease floods. In recent times, the frequency of intense rainfall has increased the risk of flash floods from upstream and more waterlogging in the village itself, and eroding the banks. The villagers used the GPDP to leverage funds from another village scheme to plant trees on the banks to stop erosion and save the wetland.

OUTCOMES

In 2019 alone, the Red Cross branches in Assam, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh states and seven village councils used the participatory IRM tools to identify risks and they are now using the GPDPs for risk reduction, especially to restore and protect both infrastructure and nature. District officials agreed that *gram panchayat* members will also be trained on IRM. GPDPs in Himachal Pradesh, for example, have now incorporated risk reduction measures.





PMI (INDONESIAN RED CROSS), IFRC AND CLIMATE CENTRE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY ON THE INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF DRR AND ADAPTATION INTO DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING. © PMI

Integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation into spatial planning and development → 2017 – 2018

CONTEXT

Both disaster risk management and climate change adaptation aim to reduce the impact of disasters. However, institutional coordination and integration of policies and programmes on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and environmental management is challenging. Disaster risk and climate vulnerability assessments are carried out by different agencies.

Integrating climate change, DRR and environmental management into policy dialogues about spatial planning has proven to be a strong example of where such alignment should occur, constituting a guide for development planning and vice versa. And while integrating climate change and DRR into spatial planning and development plans has been mandated in law, including those concerning disaster management, environmental management and spatial planning, it has yet to become a reality.

ACTION

The Climate Centre, the IFRC and the Indonesian Red Cross commissioned a study on the integration and coordination of DRR and adaptation into development and spatial planning. The study was carried out by the Bandung Institute of Technology and finished in early 2018. Findings and recommendations of the study were presented during the drafting process of the Indonesian government planning for DRR to 2045, and in sub-national spatial planning.

OUTCOMES

PfR through the Red Cross was invited to take part in a series of expert meetings for the development of DRR and sub-national spatial planning and its feedback and recommendations were included.





KENYA, COMMUNITY MEETING
© CARE/MAKMEDE MEDIA

National disaster risk management bill



CONTEXT

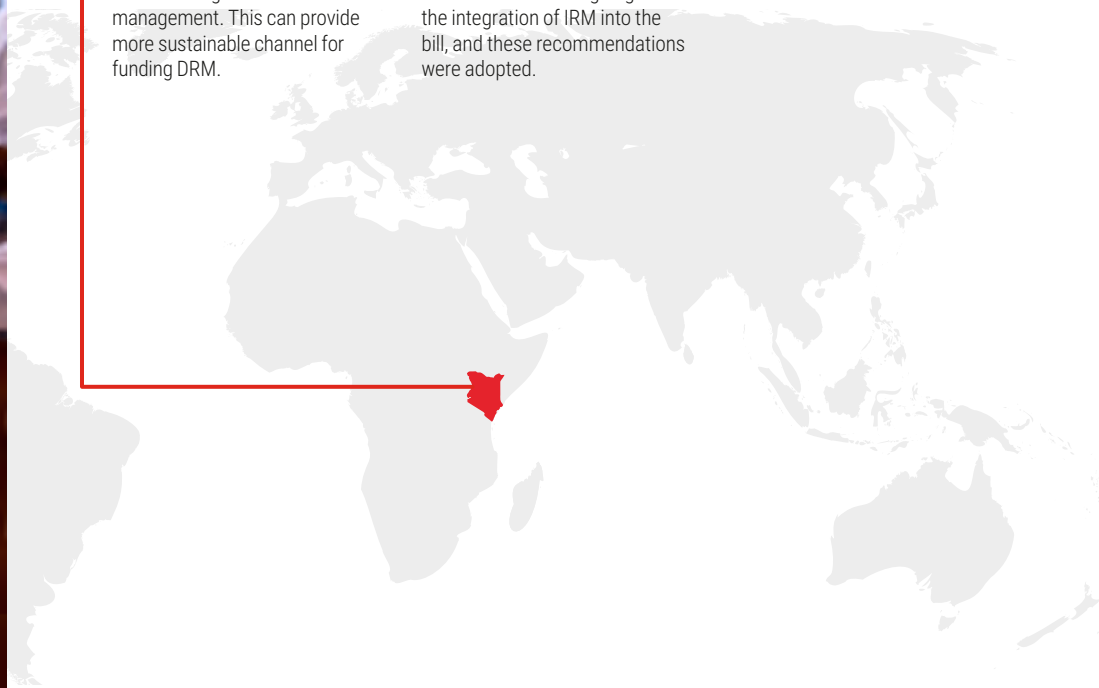
In Kenya there are four different agencies that have mandates related to disasters. There is no overarching authority, which makes coordination, coherence and funding a challenge. A national disaster risk management (DRM) law can put in place an overarching authority as well as a national budget for disaster risk management. This can provide more sustainable channel for funding DRM.

ACTION

The PFR alliance decided to support the drafting and reviewing of a new DRM bill. The alliance also advocated for the adoption of this legislation, which would improve the resilience of the vulnerable communities by creating structures for DRM in the country. The KRCS also presented a memo to a senate committee arguing for the integration of IRM into the bill, and these recommendations were adopted.

OUTCOME

In October 2018, the senate adopted the bill and it is now before the national assembly. The new law would create coordination, institutional and funding structures for DRM in the country.





PfR GUATEMALA TEAM GEARING UP AT THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS, LINKING THE NATIONAL LEVEL DIALOGUES IN THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGENDA WITH INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS © PfR

Intergovernmental collaboration on integrated risk management and resilience



CONTEXT

Vulnerability in many Guatemalan communities in the PfR project areas is very high. Many families have built their homes in unsafe places, such as on slopes without the necessary measures for safety. The houses and houses are made from wood and adobe, and are often swept away by flash floods. Poverty is widespread.

Both environmental degradation and climate change are aggravating the existing vulnerabilities in the communities. Forest cover is reducing because people cut down trees for fuel to cook with.

ACTION

PfR Guatemala has supported the framework for the "Strategic Inter-Institutional Agenda" (AEI) of various ministries to create resilient communities in Guatemala and to consolidate strategies and actions for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem restoration and management.

All actors committed to collaborate on the implementation of a model rooted in anticipating, responding, adapting and transforming – creating an integrated way of working that respects the lives and livelihoods of rural communities. At the same time, the collaboration will secure deeper cooperation to strengthen both dialogue and action to benefit vulnerable communities in five Guatemalan departments where PfR is operational: Quiché, Sololá, Zacapa, Chiquimula and Izabal – focusing on more than 14,000 families and an estimated population of more than 85,000 people.

- ★ Policy-making and strategic planning
- ★ Institutional capacity-building
- ★ Reducing social, economic, environmental, political and educational vulnerability.

It has produced a common understanding and language with which national problems, once addressed individually, can be tackled jointly.

OUTCOME

Overall ambition to address climate change and environmental degradations has increased in the collaborations under the AEI. The associated parties agreed to combine their efforts to expand programmes, influence networks and round tables, position AEI actions, together with deploying technical and financial support from PfR.

"I see this as a very positive development for coordination among these institutions and their teams," said Alejandro Maldonado, Director of National Coordination for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala (CONRED). "The management of risk requires the participation of a range of sectors, and people are looking for concrete actions and solutions. We firmly believe in the Strategic Inter-Institutional Agenda's objectives and sustainability, and CONRED is also ready to join the National Council on Climate Change. It's important to stress the importance of inter-institutional coordination for achieving goals."





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PARTNERING WITH
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FORECASTS:
EARLY WARNING EARLY
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GOVERNMENT
COLLABORATION AND
HUMANITARIAN
DIALOGUES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
AND MOBILIZATION



INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Inclusive agricultural, ecosystem and environmental restoration



Women and market gardening in Mali



2013-2014



WOMEN AND MARKET GARDENING NOGA VILLAGE IN MALI © IBRAHIMA FOFANA WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL MALI



CONTEXT

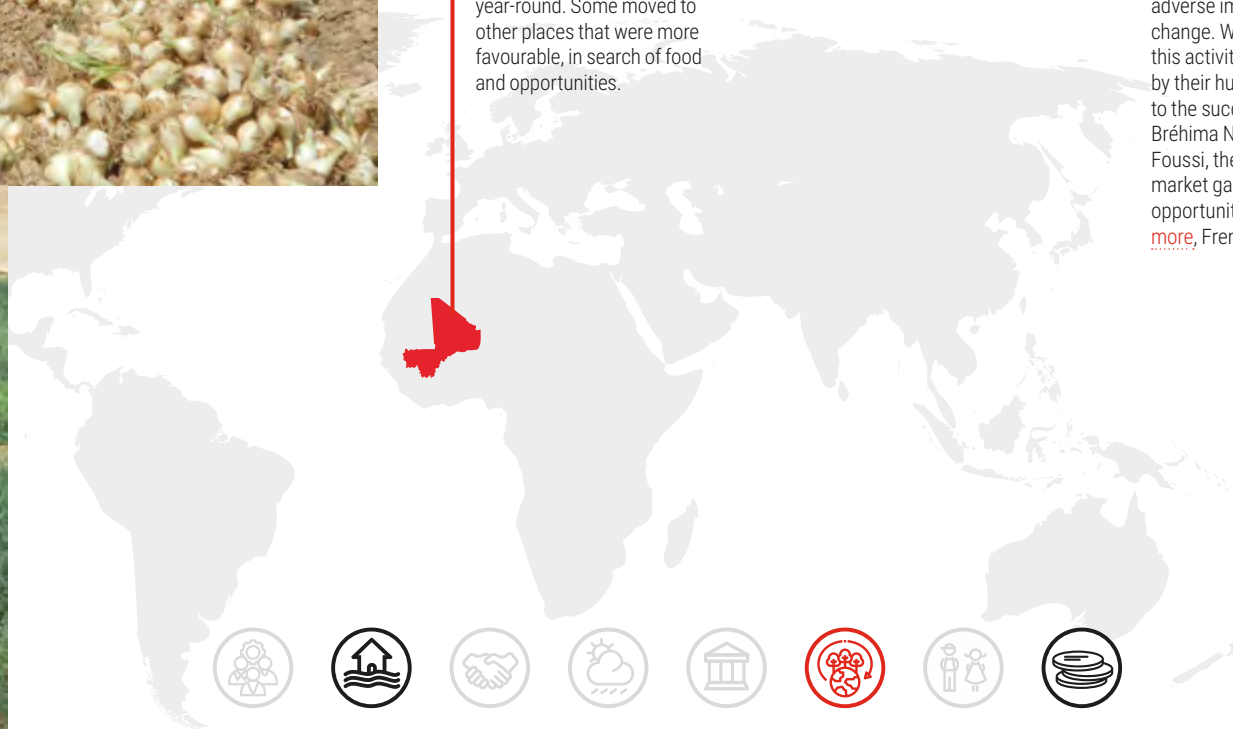
Following a survey conducted in the villages of Foussi, Kinani, Simina, Diamweli, Noga, Abdramani, Saba, Aouré, Banguita, Mbaradou and Sobé, it became clear that women's sources of income were limited to firewood, food gathering, small businesses and handicrafts. These activities did not allow them to provide for their needs or for sufficient nutrition. Often faced with drought and flooding, women suffered greatly. Insufficient water during the dry season did not allow vegetable gardens year-round. Some moved to other places that were more favourable, in search of food and opportunities.

ACTION

After identifying priority resilience needs, PfR decided to support 11 villages, in five municipalities in the Mopti and Youwarou *cercles*, with the development of market gardening as part of the cultivation of shallot, tomato, okra, chilli, eggplant and others. Cultivating these products became a way to adapt to the dry climate, because the market gardening is done with bigger and better wells.

OUTCOMES

Market gardening has since been included in the development plans of the municipalities concerned. It has been proven to increase women's income, contributing capital during the lean season. Crops can be harvested all year. It contributes to food security and strengthens the position of women in their households. It increases their status and helps to develop income-generating activities through market garden products. It strengthens the resilience of rural female communities and reduces the adverse impacts of climate change. Women are not alone in this activity; they are supported by their husbands, which is key to the success. According to Bréhima Nadio, a farmer in Foussi, the development of market garden areas is a real opportunity for women. ([Read more](#), French only.)



Grain banks with flood-resistant seeds

→ 2013



INDIAN WOMAN SORTING SEEDS IN RURAL BIHAR © DUSHYANT MOHIL

CONTEXT

The Mahanadi delta, which lies in the state of Odisha in eastern India, brings three major rivers together. The Mahanadi, Brahmani, and Baitarani rivers jointly discharge into the Bay of Bengal, and riverine floods are both frequent and extreme, putting 8 million people at risk two or three times a year, as well as the cyclone hazard. Vulnerability is exacerbated through the region's high dependence on agriculture.

ACTION

The PfR Alliance through Wetlands International worked with communities to improve their livelihoods and to optimize the natural-resource base in 184 communities. Through the engagement with village-level disaster committees, PfR sought to improve their ability to anticipate, respond and adapt to risks. Sustainable agricultural technologies in nearly 150 villages, with support from local technical institutions, reaching out to farmers for the adoption of flood-resistant seed varieties, water-efficient irrigation and grain banks.

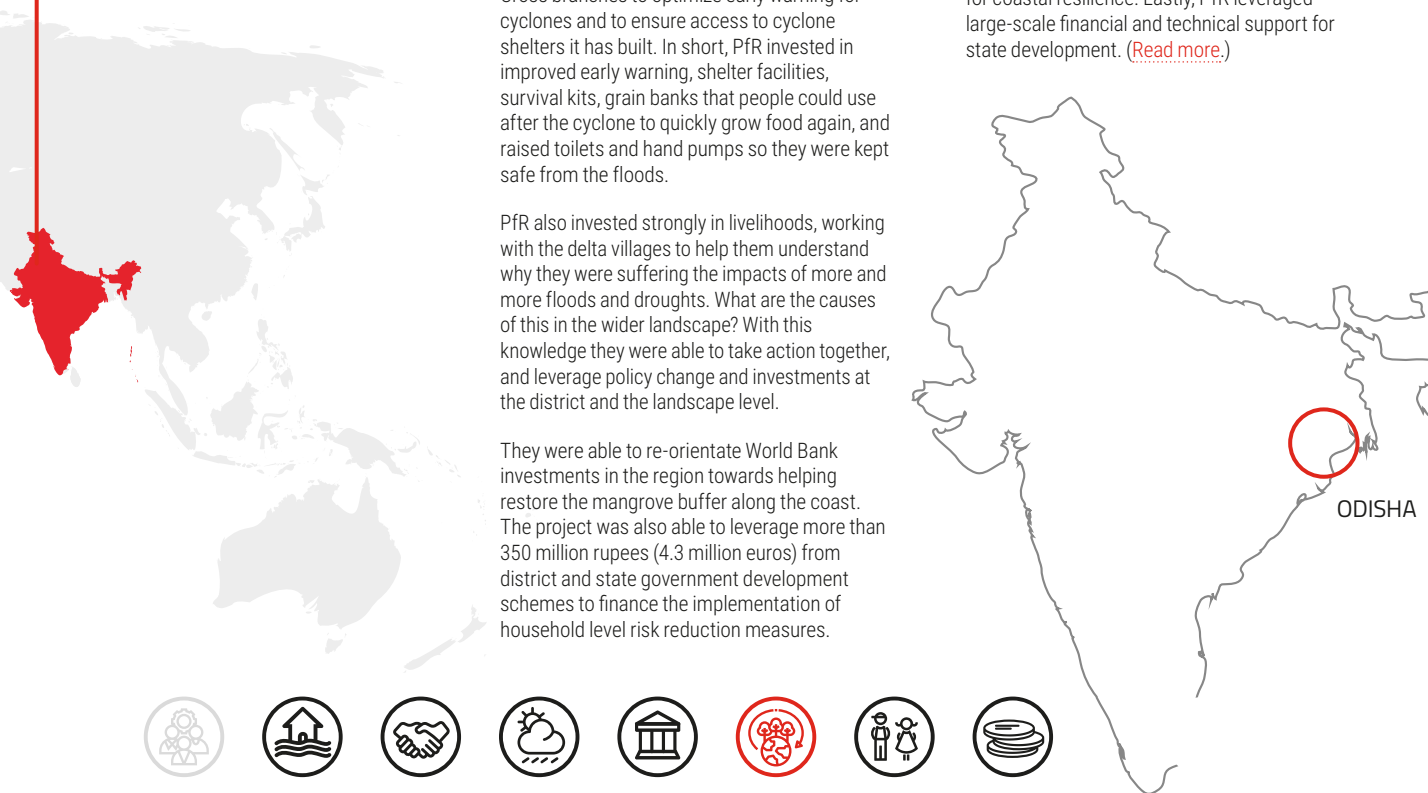
In Odisha, the partners also worked with the Red Cross branches to optimize early warning for cyclones and to ensure access to cyclone shelters it has built. In short, PfR invested in improved early warning, shelter facilities, survival kits, grain banks that people could use after the cyclone to quickly grow food again, and raised toilets and hand pumps so they were kept safe from the floods.

PfR also invested strongly in livelihoods, working with the delta villages to help them understand why they were suffering the impacts of more and more floods and droughts. What are the causes of this in the wider landscape? With this knowledge they were able to take action together, and leverage policy change and investments at the district and the landscape level.

They were able to re-orientate World Bank investments in the region towards helping restore the mangrove buffer along the coast. The project was also able to leverage more than 350 million rupees (4.3 million euros) from district and state government development schemes to finance the implementation of household level risk reduction measures.

OUTCOMES

Overall ambition to address climate change has been increased. In 1999 Cyclone Kalinga claimed more than 10,000 lives. In 2013 Cyclone Phalin tested the levels of preparedness and resilience in PfR villages in Odisha but resulted in only a few casualties. Early evaluations and community-based measures, including the availability of early warning and cyclone shelters, had a strong impact in reducing the impacts of the disasters. But despite the effectiveness of preparedness, Phalin highlighted that additional efforts in ecosystem management combined with the community efforts are key for coastal resilience. Lastly, PfR leveraged large-scale financial and technical support for state development. ([Read more.](#))



Sand encroachment at Sobé: fixing the dunes

→ 2013-2014



DESERTIFICATION:
FIXING THE DUNES IN
SOBE, MALI © IBRAHIMA
FOFANA WETLANDS
INTERNATIONAL MALI

CONTEXT

Sand encroachment is a phenomenon to which villages in Mali's Niger delta are exposed. Among them is Sobé, a village of more than 1,000 people in Mopti region. The sand dunes had encroached on the entire east side of the village and threatened to engulf houses, clog fields and block the river. Climate change also causes erratic rains and results in an even more unstable situation with sand.

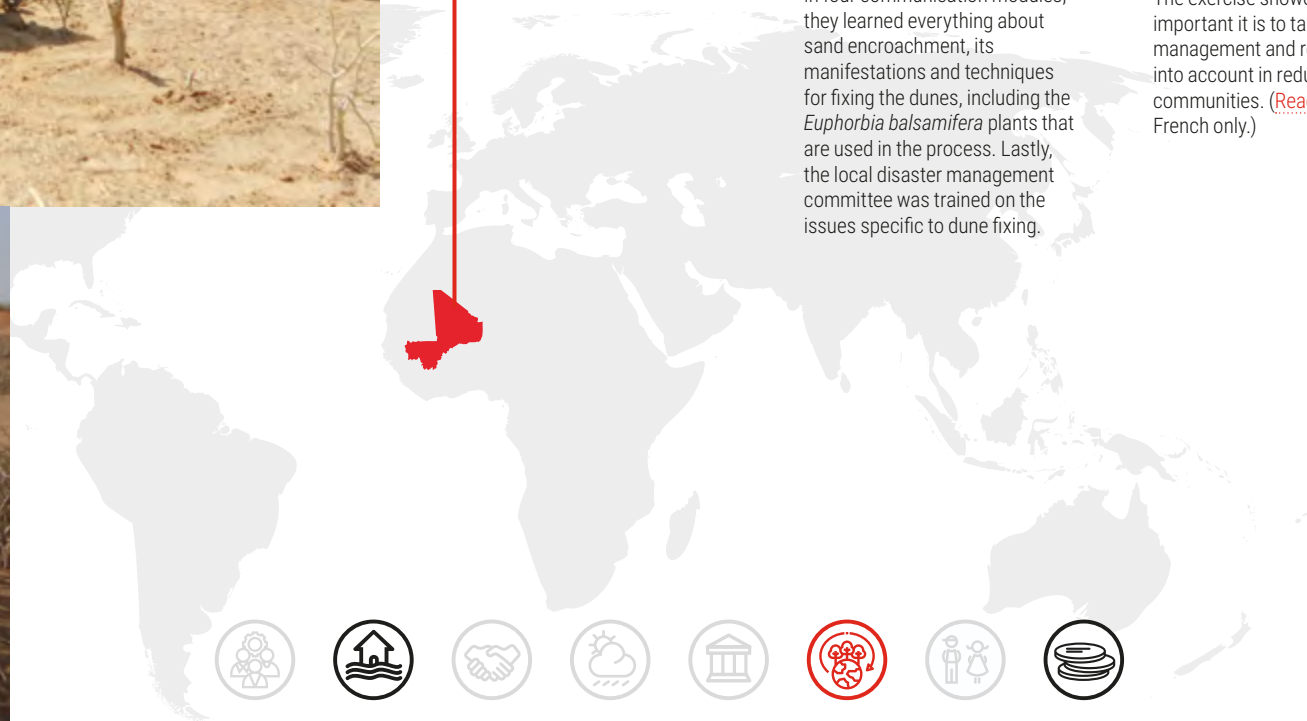
ACTION

In 2012 dune fixing has been the key activity to reduce risks in Sobé, initiated by Wetlands International, together with local NGOs and PFR. Dune fixing is a technique that consists of slowing down the movement of sand around the target area. Through the creation of a natural obstacle with local materials, it can decrease wind speed, and hence reduce the mobility of sand towards the town.

Aside from the dune fixing interventions, a training course for junior experts was developed. In four communication modules, they learned everything about sand encroachment, its manifestations and techniques for fixing the dunes, including the *Euphorbia balsamifera* plants that are used in the process. Lastly, the local disaster management committee was trained on the issues specific to dune fixing.

OUTCOMES

The village of Sobé was saved from major encroachment of sand: 2,300 square metres of land near the village was protected through dune fixing in more than two years' work. Thirty people per week managed to reduce or even stop the movement of sand over the village. One of them, Bamoye Sory Sounfountéra, says that "the fixation of the dunes was beneficial, and the movement of the sand was slowed down or even stopped. Suddenly there are several houses and dozens of residents who were saved". The exercise showed how important it is to take ecosystem management and restoration into account in reducing risk for communities. ([Read more](#), French only.)





THE NETHERLANDS AND KENYA RED CROSS, TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE KENYA AND THE IFRC, IN AUGUST 2013 ORGANIZED A WEEK-LONG FUNDRAISING CAMEL CARAVAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE EWASO NYIRO RIVER © CHARLOTTE FLOORS/NLRC

A Camel Caravan to campaign to address water challenges of the Ewaso Ng'iro basin



2013-2014

CONTEXT

Over the years, the situation of pastoralists in the north of Kenya has become more dire. Decreasing water levels in the wider Ewaso Ng'iro catchment area have been a source of conflict, displacement and loss of livelihoods. A multitude of stakeholders is making use of the resources from and around the Ewaso Ng'iro river basin and there is an increasing rate of investment along the river basin, which puts the ecosystem – and with that also the communities downstream – at great risk.

ACTION

Since 2013, Kenyan civil society organizations have organized a yearly camel caravan. Different pastoralist communities walk 200km in five days with their camels along the river to demand attention for decreased water availability downstream, ecosystem degradation and climate change risks. The caravan and the accompanying forum bring together different actors, including the private sector, on the importance of protecting the ecosystem for the lives and livelihoods of the communities dependent on it. It also enhance peaceful co-existence.

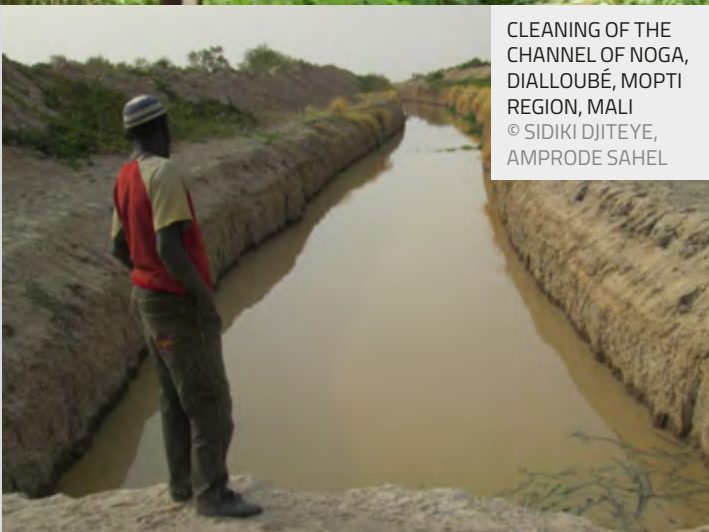
OUTCOMES

The camel caravan is one of the main strategies that have contributed to creating awareness among the communities that are relying on the government and other stakeholders in the Ewaso Ng'iro river to come together with the aim of addressing the pressing water challenges and conflict connected with it. They are now better equipped with information and practices to improve the management of their natural resources. The caravan has become a platform where communities can amplify their voices. In 2019 the communities were boldly addressing the government about how they want the river protected.





PROTECTING AND RESTORING GRASSLANDS: REHABILITATING THE ECOSYSTEMS WITH *BOURGOU* GRASS FORAGE IN NOGA VILLAGE, MALI
© PFR MALI



CLEANING OF THE CHANNEL OF NOGA, DIALLOUBÉ, MOPTI REGION, MALI
© SIDIKI DJITEYE, AMPRODE SAHEL

Protecting and restoring grasslands: rehabilitating the ecosystems by implementing *bourgou* culture



2013-2014

CONTEXT

At the peak of the wet season, the River Niger swells up and turns the area from Mopti to Tombouctou into a landscape of lakes. Once the waters start to recede, farmers move in to plant rice, millet and other crops in the fertile mud. Cattle herders bring their animals to feed on the rich grasses, known locally as *bourgou*.

By May, the lakes are dried up and their beds have turned into scrubby woodland, dry pasture and desert. Over the past decade, this area of flood surfaces has been reducing. This has already resulted in a reduction of the quantity of water in the flood areas, which in turn reduces the quality of the grasses.

ACTION

In this extremely harsh environment, together with local NGOs and Wetlands International, PFR improved the resilience of communities by protecting and rehabilitating the ecosystems on which they depend. Dedicated activities to ensure the rehabilitation of flooded forests and the *bourgou* grasses were undertaken. The grasses serve as both fish nurseries and livestock fodder. It became essential to reduce grazing pressure on trees and grasses, and to manage water in ways that can sustain those ecosystems and the livelihoods of the communities. The first activity was implemented by women using a bio-rights approach. This enabled them to earn cash through income-generating activities like fish retailing in exchange for use of restored grazing areas.

OUTCOMES

The grasslands of Gouraou Bozo village and the flood forest of Akkagoum have been restored. These are hugely important for the communities, because of their socioeconomic and ecological importance. In the process the Gouraou Bozo village cooperative joined the dialogues and, in the end, ensured maintenance and guarding of the restored 12 hectares of *Echinochloa stagnina*.

This has all been part of a dialogue that included the village council, the prevention committee and residents. This action has also enabled the communities to access micro-credit, improve their fish catch, and improve the quality of the herbs where their animals eat. (Find out more [here](#) and [here](#).)



Philippines

| 42 | AGRICULTURAL, ECOSYSTEM AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



PHILIPPINES WATER
HARVESTING © PFR

Nature-based solutions



CONTEXT

One of the largest river basins in the Philippines is located on the island of Mindanao: the **Agusan basin**. The island suffers from deforestation by farmers to increase agricultural production, and in the basin there is an increased risk of landslides and flooding affecting communities living downstream.

Fertile soil is plentiful, which makes the area a hotspot for corn, rice, and palm oil farming. To effectively address disaster risk, it is fundamental to understand how water behaves in the landscape, how factors such as infrastructure, vegetation, land use and climate change influence water flows, and to connect all water users and stakeholders. With Wetlands International, we have worked on **initiatives to transform landscapes** into safer and more prosperous environments.

ACTION

Through Wetlands International PFR has conducted a series of landscape risk assessments and capacity strengthening exercises. Subsequently, several nature-based solutions have been designed and piloted by farmers in Talacogon and Monkayo in early 2016. Native trees, fruit trees and grasses were planted at intervals on the slope to stabilize the river bank. Combined with the mapping of rainfall patterns, linking upstream activities to downstream impacts, and increasing awareness of the importance of this basin, these nature-based solutions are allowing for reforestation in the basin which, in turn, lessens the frequency and severity of landslides and flooding.

OUTCOMES

In recent years the trees planted have grown successfully and erosion has halted. In addition, the approaches tested in these localities now serve as models for transformative ecosystem restoration. This approach is now combined with investments from the payment for ecosystem services⁸ in Cagayan de Oro River Basin.

⁸ Payments for ecosystem services (PES), is a system where incentives are offered to farmers or landowners in exchange for managing their land to provide some sort of ecological service (Wikipedia).



Guatemala

| 43 | AGRICULTURAL, ECOSYSTEM AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



THE GUATEMALAN RED CROSS CELEBRATED THE 2016 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (IDDR) ON 13 OCTOBER WITH AN EVENT IN VILLA CANALES, JUST SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL GUATEMALA CITY, UNDER THE 'VIVIR PARA CONTARLO' ('LIVE TO TELL')

© ROLANDO DÉLEON/CLIMATE CENTRE

Protecting the coastlines



CONTEXT

Local beaches valued by fishers and tourists alike were being increasingly polluted on the Guatemala Pacific coastline. Also the mangroves that protect the country against sea surges were neglected. The women of El Chapetón village on Guatemala's Pacific coast decided enough was enough. They decided to take action.

ACTION

Tourism and fishing are two important local livelihoods. "We decided to start keeping the beaches clean and replant the mangroves because they are among our main sources of income, and it would affect us directly if we didn't," said the President of the Association for the Development of El Chapetón, a women's group. The local organization ASODECHAPE (its Spanish acronym) started to work with PfR through [Wetlands International](#), to design a plan for better use of land, incorporating [integrated risk management](#) for beaches and mangroves.

OUTCOMES

The local authorities in the municipality of Chiquimulilla approved the ASODECHAPE plan in November 2018, and the women applied for municipal funding to implement it. A by-product of this work was strengthened collaboration with other civil society groups in Chiquimulilla – another [PfR project location](#) in Guatemala. Through the ASODECHAPE plan, there is a continued effort to raise the awareness of local residents about the importance of preserving the beaches and the mangroves that both provide income and increase resilience.





ENGAGING IN
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PLANNING FOR
CLIMATE ADAPTATION



FLOOD PLANNING
AND RESILIENCE



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FORECASTS:
EARLY WARNING EARLY
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ACTION



GOVERNMENT
COLLABORATION AND
HUMANITARIAN
DIALOGUES



INCLUSIVE
AGRICULTURAL,
ECOSYSTEM AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION



INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Youth engagement and mobilization





A THREE-DAY 'TRAINING OF TRAINERS' WORKSHOP AT THE HAITIAN RED CROSS (HRC) TRAINING CENTRE IN PORT-AU-PRINCE WAS HELD IN JULY 2017 – GENERATING A NATIONAL GROUP OF 30 FACILITATORS FOR THE NEW Y-ADAPT PROGRAMME CENTRED ON YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION © BRIGITTE RUDRAM/CLIMATE CENTRE

Mobilizing the young on climate action and advocacy 2016 – 2020

CONTEXT

Young people, specifically young women and/or those from marginalized groups, are not usually given an adequate voice to actively participate in community activities. It is crucial that they more fully engage in IRM as well as specific gender and social inclusion activities. With climate change only getting worse, youth must be equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to anticipate and adapt so they can better prepare for its effects as well as fight against it.

ACTION

Linking education on climate change and ecosystems is an emerging adaptation priority. [Y-Adapt](#) was created to do just this. It offers a modular curriculum of games and engagement tools designed to develop youth knowledge on climate change and spark inspiration in developing youth-led strategies for adaptation and advocacy. A Y-Adapt (*J'adapte* in French) pilot programme launched in Haiti in 2017 is now available as a free online resource to the public. The Haitian Ministry of Education participated in the pilot to explore integrating elements of this programme into schools, and PfR facilitated an environmental education working group that stimulated cooperation among the environment and education ministries, UN agencies and NGOs.

OUTCOMES

The environment and education ministries prioritized mainstreaming environmental education to integrate DRR and adaptation into school curricula. In Port-Au-Prince, a university student association developed an action plan and set up a range of environmental protection activities. Red Cross youth were equipped with crucial social and gender inclusion knowledge and skills. Success in Haiti's *J'adapte* programme continues to inspire the Red Cross Red Crescent, governments and NGOs in other countries to explore Y-adapt programming; the National Societies of Iran, Kenya, the Philippines and Uganda are amongst the first to promote this programme, and there is wide demand across the Caribbean. ([Read more.](#))





UGANDA RED CROSS KATAKWI BRANCH VOLUNTEERS AND PEOPLE FROM MILIMIL VILLAGE TAKE PART IN A 2012 TRAINING EXERCISE FOR "PARTICIPATORY VIDEO", ORGANIZED BY THE CLIMATE CENTRE
© JUSTIN BENN/CLIMATE CENTRE

Youth engagement and mobilization on climate action



2019 – 2020

CONTEXT

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world with 77 per cent of its population being under 25 years of age and half below 15 years. The young people of today, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, will inherit an uncertain world, with catastrophic climate change looming over their future. Their voices are often not included or heard in national policy discussions on climate change.

ACTION

The Ugandan Red Cross Society (URCS), was the first National Society in Africa to roll out the **Y-Adapt** (youth) climate adaptation curriculum at a week-long training of trainers in Kampala in 2019. The Y-Adapt curriculum consists of seven sessions, amongst others on weather and climate, extreme-weather impacts, prevention of risk priorities and resources in specific communities, and creating action plans for climate change adaptation.

After the course, trainers are equipped with the skills to facilitate the approach with large groups of young people. The idea is to inspire youth-led interventions to tackle climate change and build resilience in their communities. For example, adaptation solutions such as slow-drip irrigation, awareness campaigns, digging roadside drainage trenches, and planting domestic vegetable gardens are brought forward by young people in disaster-prone areas.

OUTCOMES

Youth groups from Uganda Red Cross Branches **were trained** on the Y-Adapt curriculum by the facilitators. The young people from these groups learnt how to take both community and individual action to protect the vulnerable resources, such as forests and lakes, using simple creative solutions like irrigation and drought-resistant seed, and the students were eager to implement the new knowledge at home. Through the rollout of Y-Adapt, Uganda's youngsters have so far promoted: 1. kitchen gardening schools for additional nutrition especially during prolonged dry spells; 2. community gardening techniques; 3. malaria awareness; and 4. promotion of energy-saving techniques through use of charcoal briquettes. Such initiatives led to communities reducing the impacts of extreme-weather events and safeguarding the environment for future generations.



Hackathon – youth led action for local contexts



2019 – ONWARDS



PfR PARTNERS IN KENYA CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2017. © PfR

CONTEXT

Local contexts require local solutions. Tools for sustainable urban management and development such as waste disposal, city planning, land and housing regulations, public services and community organization often do not take account of the impact youth can have in driving this agenda. Amid a changing climate, population growth, rapid development and urbanization, an unprecedented threat to the environment and water supply in Kenya is more apparent than ever before.

ACTION

The Kenya Red Cross decided to organize a **hackathon** for young people to generate innovative solutions for improved community resilience. Youth could design ideas under each of the **following themes**: environmental conservation and water use, open and public spaces, and innovative business solutions for livelihoods and youth employment. The event was advertised via social media and over 50 different teams sent in applications, of which nine were offered the opportunity to come and pitch their idea for a chance to get funding to implement their idea.

OUTCOMES

At the end of the hackathon one innovative idea was chosen as **the winner** and received funding. This idea was: *hydroponic farming*, a technology for growing without soil. The approach has **helped** people affected by Covid-19 and floods. Beyond the actual winners, this hackathon approach raised awareness about urban challenges in a changing climate. It has spurred on thinking about a proactive drive on thinking about those challenges and designing innovative solutions.



Heatwave preparedness through flashmobs

→ 2019



INDIA FLASH MOB TO INFORM NEW DELHI CITIZENS ABOUT THE DANGER OF HEATWAVES AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
© IFRC INDIA

CONTEXT

India has been witnessing more frequent, intense and longer [heatwaves](#) in the past few years. Typically, intense heatwaves occur between March and June, affecting the entire country, but most prominently in the northern region. Heatwaves have been particularly harsh on farmers in the villages, street vendors, construction workers and even the traffic police in cities. Strengthening longer-term resilience against increased impacts of heat became a key concern for the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

ACTION

Through [dialogue](#) and engagement with the India Meteorological Department and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Red Cross highlighted the need to include long-term risk reduction measures to reduce the impact of heat. This included emphasis on reducing the heat-island effect in cities, addressing concerns of water availability, and accessing weather alerts and forecasts of peak temperatures.

Red Cross volunteers have been trained on heatwave risks and have designed and performed unique [flashmobs](#), raising awareness about the urgency of addressing heat risk. More information can be found in this [article](#).

OUTCOMES

The [revised national heatwave guidelines 2019 from the NDMA](#) include a strong focus on prevention, preparedness and mitigations. Heatwave preparedness became part of the IRCS [Strategy 2030](#) and its updated first aid training curriculum. The performance of flashmobs at Delhi airport led to the setting up of more shaded resting places, water points and electric transport for cargo handlers.



Environmental law moot courts

→ 2019



PfR WORKS IN THE SEMI-ARID AREAS OF KENYA © PfR

CONTEXT

While there is more and more attention for the urgent need for action to address the challenges of climate change and ecosystem degradation in Kenya, practical examples of how to do that are still lacking, especially in the academic context.

ACTION

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) is known for hosting moot courts or simulated hearings, normally centred on International Humanitarian Law. In 2019, the KRCS and its International Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA) decided to host an environmental law moot court competition. It was open to all universities in the country and allowed time to teach the students about ecosystem degradation and climate adaptation and mitigation.

The mornings were used to teach the students about the concepts and challenges that they would address in the moot courts in the afternoon. Courses on climate change, DRR and IRM were given, using the Integrated Risk Management Manual. Moot courts are a great way for students to put their skills into practice in lifelike settings. By making them aware of the challenges posed by climate change and ecosystem degradation, we might help to raise a new generation that can help find the solutions.

OUTCOMES

The law students were very much engaged on the content, showing increased awareness of the issues the country is facing, which could potentially be addressed and improved by legislators and the academic community.





SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA
HAVING LESSONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS © CARMEN WILSON

Bringing curricula that can empower the young to strengthen resilience



2014-2019

CONTEXT

At the start of the Partners for Resilience programme in Guatemala, the partners decided that children and youth required special attention and training, to improve their knowledge on environmental degradation, risk reduction and climate change. They were convinced that the best local practices always need to be complemented with younger generation's vision of human development.

ACTION

In the Santa Rosa department, Partners for Resilience through Wetlands International has trained more than 350 school teachers on how to use new **educational modules** covering integrated risk management and resilience, with technical guidance on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem management and restoration. The four modules were first developed in 2014 as part of an effort by the PFR programme to help boost community resilience, with assistance from the education and environment ministries and other government agencies overseeing disaster management and protected areas.

In addition, volunteers from the 15 branches of the Guatemala Red Cross (GRC) were trained through the **Y-Adapt** (*Yo me adapto*) curriculum. Climate and environmental issues have always been key themes in GRC youth work.

Angela Zacarias, a volunteer from the south-western department of San Marcos, said *Yo me adapto* was "a refreshing change from traditional workshop methodology. It's also adaptable for the context – as useful on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts as for me inland in the west."

"We need to get across that plastics in our community do a lot of damage and we have to reduce their use," said Elder Valenzuela, a volunteer from the GRC Puerto Barrios branch on the Caribbean coast.

OUTCOMES

The young students now say they're more conscious of the importance of environmental protection and the value of the mangroves around their coastal village of Las Lisas in Chiquimulilla municipality.

"The mangrove forests help reduce vulnerability to adverse weather such as storms, sea surges, hurricanes and other natural events that would be more extreme without them in these coastal areas," said Jorge Ruiz, Wetlands International Technical Coordinator in Guatemala.

"Conserving and restoring the mangrove ecosystem helps provide habitats for many species, improves biodiversity and also assists livelihoods."

In one school, the Instituto Nacional de Educación Básica de Telesecundaria in Las Lisas, near the Pacific coast, children have been playing their part to safeguard the environment by collecting bottles for recycling and making souvenirs from recycled material. They sell them at fairs and to tourists to help pay for the annual school trip, and their work also reduces the need to recycle refuse.

They have also joined the global struggle against single-use plastic carrier bags: "We now bring our own bags to the store when we do grocery shopping, and we use cloth napkins when we buy tortillas," says Ashley.

PfR Guatemala – Caritas Zacapa, the Guatemalan Red Cross, CARE, Wetlands International, and the Climate Centre – worked with over 250 schools at national level; in the south-east region of Guatemala, Wetlands International has worked with 156.





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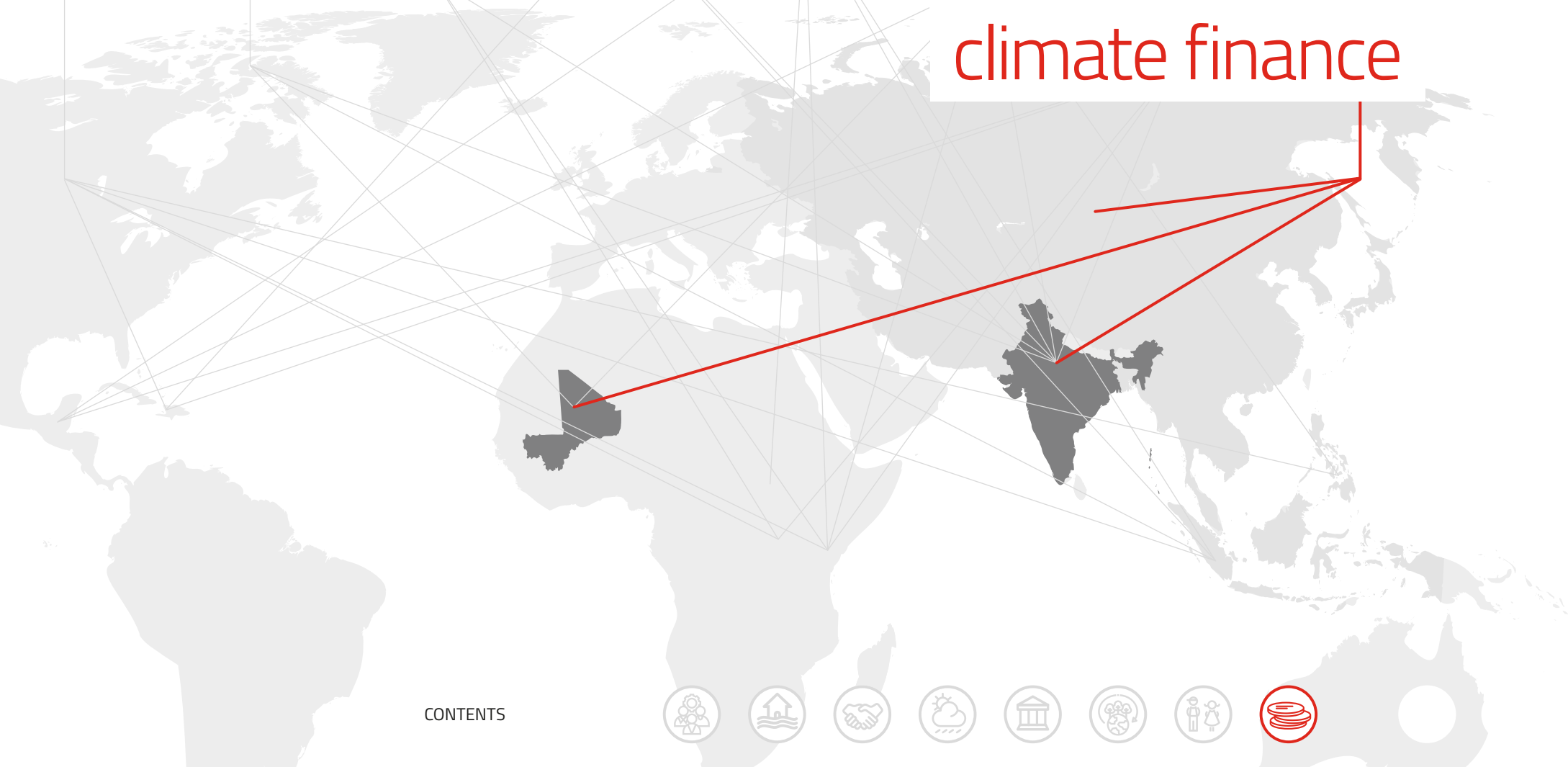
INCLUSIVE
AGRICULTURAL,
ECOSYSTEM AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
AND MOBILIZATION



Investments and climate finance



Engaging with partners on climate finance



PfR JOINS FORCES WITH IFRC AND OTHER PARTNERS TO PROMOTE IRM MESSAGES AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUMS SUCH AS THE ASIA PACIFIC URBAN FORUM WHERE ACTION ON HEATWAVES WAS PROMOTED THROUGH THE **HEAT WAVE GUIDE FOR RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT BRANCHES** © IFRC INDIA

CONTEXT

We are committed to advocating for scaled-up climate finance that addresses the needs of vulnerable communities and this includes strengthening capacities of National Societies to enable them to directly engage in climate finance discussions with their counterpart agencies from the government, including meteorological services, climate agencies, donors and other entities (like those linked with the Green Climate Fund).

By emphasizing the added value that National Societies bring to the table, especially their long years of work with communities, volunteers, and local and national governments, they are able to show that reaching the last mile first is achievable.

ACTION

Strategic and dedicated local to global dialogues with various entities at different levels became hugely important for National Societies, which opened discussions with key decision-makers and organizations. This process comprised engagements in technical discussions with the donor agencies and financing institutions to further explain the mechanism and their role. In parallel, sustained advocacy work in the international policy arena was done, focusing on relevant constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to directly link local realities and strategies to global negotiations.

OUTCOMES

Our humanitarian risk reduction approaches have contributed to the development of regional initiatives like the Community Resilience Partnership Programme of the Asian Development Bank that directly targets marginalized people. It also shapes efforts with disaster-risk financing using early warning early action and **forecast-based financing**. The Green Climate Fund is now advocating for the inclusion of FbF and other initiatives that strengthen anticipatory capacities in proposals on climate information and early warning in Africa and the Pacific.





COMMUNITY GATHERING WITH WATER AS LEVERAGE DESIGN TEAMS IN CHENNAI, INDIA © CYNTHIA VAN ELK/ WATER AS LEVERAGE

Water dialogues to design infrastructure investments in Chennai



2019 & 2020

CONTEXT

The Indian coastal city of Chennai, with 8.2 million people, has witnessed frequent floods over the last two decades. Decreased natural areas in and around the city, loss of water bodies, overflowing rivers and drainage systems, and uncontrolled urbanization are all important factors that contribute to increasing vulnerability and exposure to floods there. In 2015, exceptionally heavy rainfall had a major impact in the city and left more than 3 million people without basic services. The lives, homes and livelihoods of the city's poor people are often also heavily impacted during the monsoon.

ACTION

To address this challenge, the Netherlands government with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Dutch Development Bank commissioned specialist design teams to come up with solutions. The PfR alliance joined the initiative and brokered in-depth dialogues with local community groups and experts. The Indian Red Cross Society and their PfR partners supported local multi-stakeholder dialogue and contributed to the development of climate-smart investment designs, which also involved local partners like Rise Chennai & City of 1,000 Tanks (see *Outcomes at right*). The Red Cross carried out the participatory vulnerability capacity assessment and an analysis of the area served by the Mambalam storm drain; this highlighted specific local needs that were incorporated into proposed investment.

OUTCOMES

Innovative proposals reflect a good understanding of climate risks and bring solutions for Chennai's water-related problems, and are being developed further to acquire additional donor funding. For instance, one compelling proposal is called the City of 1,000 Tanks, which would develop a closed-loop water system across the city by collecting rainwater, treating wastewater and run-off pollution with nature-based solutions such as artificial wetlands, and recharging both to the underground aquifer. The system aims to prevent droughts through groundwater recharge; it will address pollution and mitigate flood risk.

With more than half the city currently using it to match its need, the groundwater recharge component of the design is critical, complemented by a governance model that can sustain and maintain the prototypes. ([Read more.](#))





MOTHER OF FOUR FANTA BOCUM FROM OUKENKORO, MALI LOST ACCESS TO HER LAND WHEN SHE BECAME A WIDOW BUT HAS MANAGED TO REGAIN IT THROUGH BECOMING INVOLVED IN A WOMEN'S UNION AND COMMUNITY COALITION SUPPORTED BY PFR AND ADVOCATING FOR FAIR LAND TENURE SYSTEMS. "I'M USING MY VOICE, AND IT'S WORKING" SHE SAID.

© CARE / MAKEMENDE MEDIA

Challenging socio-cultural norms to promote inclusion and equity in efforts to strengthen resilience



2013-2014

CONTEXT

In promoting gender equity, Mali has adopted legislative and regulatory texts at the national level and has ratified several regional and international conventions and resolutions. PFR wanted to increase the spheres of influence of women in its areas. In Bourgou, women faced a multitude of barriers that limited their socio-economic and political empowerment, especially with land and livelihoods. There was little participation of women in the spheres of community decision-making, and the traditional role of men as the heads of households further excluded women's voices at the table. While faced with degrading ecosystems and water supplies, the community-initiated dialogues on the need for regeneration.

ACTION

From the outset, PFR partners with Wetlands International facilitated community dialogues on ecosystem restoration and made sure women were part of an organizational model for IRM. Women's savings and credit networks were a good starting point, followed by concrete community assistance to projects that delivered immediate benefits for livelihoods, like vegetable gardens and planting of fruits trees. Women were trained on a variety of things, including negotiating and leadership. These women were also empowered to join in the process of setting up unions (organized groups of people who gather their strength and join their voices to plea for needs) by sector.

OUTCOMES

Women in the PFR project areas have their own union now and can promote and defend their interests across various levels of decision-making. Women negotiated a fifth union for themselves combining the existing four covering agriculture, livestock, fishing and logging. These unions then generated a new coalition with many women in strategic positions.

This experience was originally developed in Banakass and was exported to the other basins with similar results. In the end, it facilitated coalitions with municipal and national elected representatives. Thanks to this collaboration, the needs of the communities are now better taken into account in municipal planning for social, economic and cultural issues.





ENGAGING IN NATIONAL
AND LOCAL PLANNING
FOR CLIMATE
ADAPTATION



FLOOD PLANNING AND
RESILIENCE



PARTNERING WITH
THE PRIVATE SECTOR



FORECASTS:
EARLY WARNING
EARLY ACTION
AND FORECAST-BASED
ACTION



GOVERNMENT
COLLABORATION AND
HUMANITARIAN
DIALOGUES



INCLUSIVE
AGRICULTURAL,
ECOSYSTEM AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
AND MOBILIZATION



INVESTMENTS
AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Enabling conditions of successful climate action for the Red Cross and Red Crescent



→ Community resilience and Integrated Risk Management

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IN THIS SECTION, WE LIST THE ENABLERS FOR GOOD PRACTICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION.

"We have learned many things from PfR. We have learned the meaning of community resilience: it means that the community depends on itself and its own capacities. We have the capacity to feed ourselves and we do not need aid"

KORBESA RESIDENT, PfR KENYA PROJECT AREA

Integrated Risk Management (IRM) and strengthening community resilience are recognized as important to enabling communities to deal with ecosystem degradation and climate risks, including seasonal changes in rainfall and temperature and increased frequency and intensity of shocks and stresses.

Empowered communities and community-based organizations are best advocates for their needs and we need to ensure that they are allowed access at the table of decision-makers, especially when it concerns their safety.

Community risk reduction helps protect lives and livelihoods and safeguards development gains in the face of climate change and is a cross-cutting objective.

Multi-sector and multi-hazard approaches with long-term funding frameworks are needed for achieving this objective, such as the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership](#) that brings together multiple donors, governments and organizations committing to make a billion people safer from disasters by greatly expanding early action financing and improving early warning systems and the capacity to act. (The IFRC hosts its secretariat.)

Lastly, the links between the humanitarian, environment and development sectors are key: targeting climate change, ecosystem degradation, sustainable livelihoods and disaster and health systems in parallel is important to strengthening the resilience of local communities.



@khalidalbaih

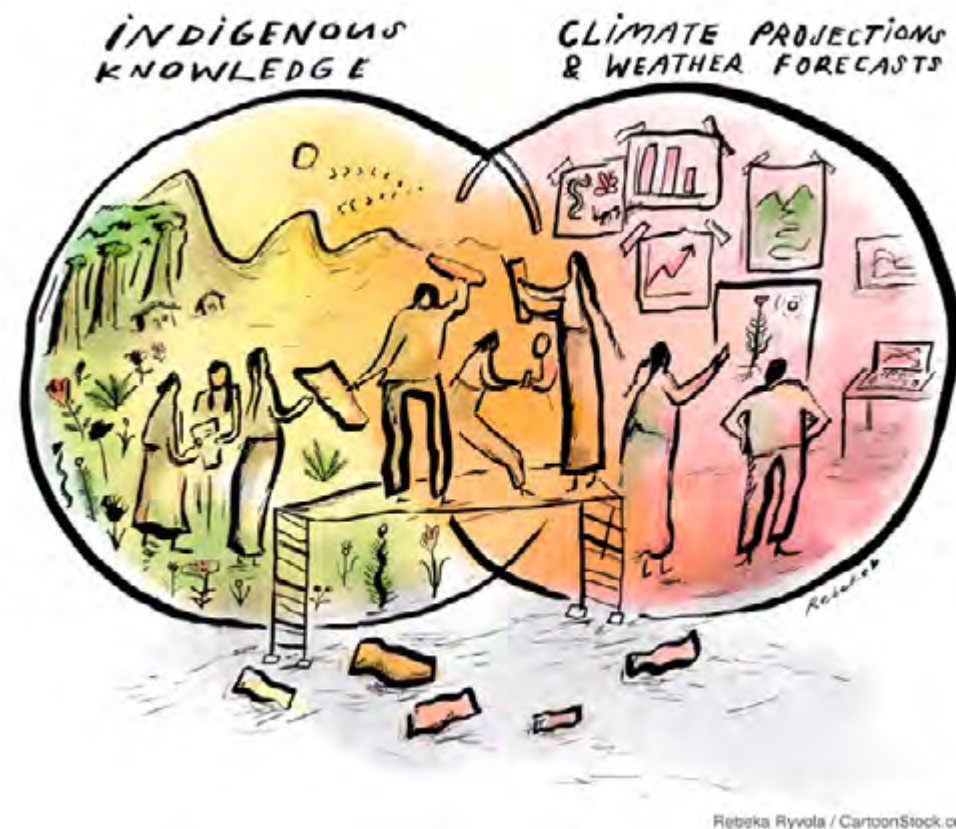


Inclusive programming

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Vulnerable people, such as women, youth or migrants are disproportionately affected by climate change, ecosystem degradation and disasters but are less likely to be able to access risk information or participate meaningfully in decision-making affecting their lives, according to the United Nations Environment Programme. And inequalities will deepen unless vulnerable people have better access to information to make risk-informed decisions on adapting to climate change, reducing disaster risk, and pursuing nature-based solutions.

Indigenous knowledge and engagement of local actors should be at the heart of any design, implementation or evaluation of adaptation interventions or investments to reduce risk. Local knowledge on risks, vulnerability and solutions coupled with scientific data and new technologies should be applied in adaptation planning. Complementing scientific or new risk-management practices with traditional and indigenous knowledge can empower local communities and expand buy-in for initiatives, investments and programmes.



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Partnerships

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"As a result of PfR I get forecasts by text from the Meteorological Institute that help me judge when to sow and what."

COMMUNITY MEMBER IN NUNSAEN, KUPANG

It is clear that no one sector, state or organization will be able to achieve the goals on adaptation. Citizens, the private sector, civil society and governments must join forces and find new ways to work together. We have found working in alliances and alongside governments to be effective.

In addition, in working with communities, we must also acknowledge that crises are rarely the result of a single factor and we can't just blame disasters entirely on climate change – they stem from a combination of hazards, exposure and vulnerability, and this is why we seek to work holistically on increasing resilience to increasing hazards through cross-sector partnerships.

Institutional, policy and financial barriers to integrated approaches are very often the main bottleneck to replicating and scaling up these successes. Interdisciplinary and multisector collaborations from global to regional to local (including at the landscape level), with strong community engagement and empowerment, appear to be key to scaling up adaptation and enabling integration as they facilitate the sharing and building of knowledge, the brokering of solutions and trade-offs, the building of partnerships, and identification of policy adjustments.

Investment in civil society, universities and local government capacity and knowledge is critical to allow climate-smart and risk-informed programmes and investments. Programme components that allow for capacity building of local communities, young volunteers, local organizations, businesses and local authorities are key.



Rebekka Ryyola / CartoonStock.com



Policy engagement: Red Cross Red Crescent engagement

in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions and other disaster-related policies

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With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals we need to look at coherent ways of institutionalizing and investing in the cross-cutting elements of these agreements. In addition, we will need to ensure that all of the global ambitions are achieving change and impact in the most vulnerable communities.

By aligning disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem restoration and management efforts in disaster-related policies, plans, laws and investment decisions, we can ensure more holistic, community-centred efforts. It can also be highly effective to work with actors in existing schemes such as social protection, and to look at opportunities to make these more shock-sensitive and climate smart.

National Societies are important stakeholders in the development of countries' commitments to the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) particularly, and will become key partners in the implementation of adaptation. It is critical that local actors and community voices are brought into planning and decision-making on NDC and NAPs, which is what the National Society can broker in this process.

The work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to reduce risks and vulnerability is essential to address climate risks and can support climate plans. NDCs and NAPs should include ways in which commitments and finance will span national and local levels and ensure progress with adaptation. This may include specific reference to the role of local governments and civil society in the implementation of the NDCs. Mobilizing the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to government is key.

Despite the fact that it can be difficult for National Societies to call for policy change, constructive dialogues on risk reduction and adaptation are almost always appreciated by policy-makers. We are experts in disasters, health crises and community-based action and it is only sensible that we engage across all policy levels and show we are strong implementing partners.



Finance for local actors

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FOR THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

Another major challenge is ensuring that resources empower local actors. As part of the international community, we need to channel support and resources to community-based organizations to address rising risks. Local authorities carry the main responsibility for supporting DRR and adaptation and promoting resilience. Yet currently, the international community's investments in this critical part of the global humanitarian workforce is extremely low – particularly from a climate finance and adaptation perspective. Investments in reducing risk must be far-reaching and build the capacity of local actors to be effective.



“If only we knew what happens around that last bend.”

CBA14 Conference

Pat Byrnes / CartoonCollections.com



Empowerment and mobilization of grass root organizations and community groups

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"Before we did not have the skills for proposal writing or financial management. Now we reach out to the county government and even take part in their meetings. So even when PfR ends, we can stay with the local community and with the county government. And they all know us."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER,
WASO RIVER EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM

If our dedicated resilience projects stop in one particular area we still want risk reduction and adaptation efforts and investments to continue. Therefore, it is key to empower community-based organizations, communities, women's groups, youth, universities, the media, the private sector and local governments to shape inclusive climate action. Sustainable action can be reached through sustained collaborations between these actors and can be carried forwards way beyond any project funded from outside.



Risk-informed public and private investments can enhance inclusive resilience

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National Societies can be a great resource in public and private investment dialogues. In public investments, we can broker community engagement dialogue, and bring in local expertise and indigenous knowledge often overlooked in large-scale investments. While climate investments may focus on major infrastructure and national investments, this must be complemented with investments and initiatives that enable the people most affected by the impacts of climate change to take their own actions and build ongoing resilience to rising climate risks.

In private sector engagements, we can find essential partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme-weather events on vulnerable people. Investments by both multinational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises are crucial for enhancing the resilience of marginalized and vulnerable communities across the world.



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Scaling up in cities

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"PfR made people aware of how they can do more with what they already know. After PfR, it became systematic. Malanday was always relying on relief – PfR made us learn to be on our own."

MALANDAY COMMUNITY MEMBER



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As engines of national and global growth, a strong focus on empowering cities as leaders in adaptation planning also assists in scaling up. Cities account for 80 per cent of global economic output. Posing new challenges and opportunities, cities emerge as regional and global actors, facing demographic change, ecosystem degradation and rapid growth. This leads to a growing urban divide and marginalization among different communities within urban areas.

Disasters have disproportionate impact in these areas and can lead to unrest and instability. Inadequate infrastructure, unsafe housing, and poor health services are turning natural hazards into disasters, while poor regulation of construction and inadequate provision of services is leading to disasters. Ecosystem

degradation is compounding these effects. Under-investment in protecting and managing nature, and poor integration of infrastructure with nature leads to worse damages from climate change, with impacts mostly borne by the most vulnerable, including those living in low-lying cities in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Scaling up of risk-informed investments in cities is key. Investments that contribute to the resilience of the most vulnerable people, while promoting partnerships with local businesses will offer sustainable local opportunities. Lastly, the "heat-island effect" in cities is a risk that needs to be taken more seriously, as heatwaves are increasing around the world and they are silent killers, with enormous impacts on our health and livelihoods. (A guide for Red Cross Red Crescent branches on how to address heatwaves in cities can be found [here](#).)



The role of nature-based solutions in disaster risk reduction and adaptation

ENABLING CONDITIONS OF SUCCESSFUL CLIMATE ACTION FOR THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

"The land is everything to us. Without it, we cannot live. I'm using my voice, and it's working."

FANTA BOCOUM IS A 41-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF FOUR CHILDREN IN MALI

To scale up risk-informed investments on adaptation, we need to consider nature-based solutions for risk reduction. Resilient ecosystems should be considered as a pre-condition for establishing resilient societies and economies. Ecosystem services are not only environmental co-benefits. We need more risk-informed investments that are ecosystem- and climate-sensitive, and that ensure strong community engagement throughout the project cycle and do not

lead to bad development and increased risks, in particular for vulnerable communities.

Putting local communities and CSOs at the centre of large-scale investment opportunities is key. Taking a landscape-level approach complements the climate-smart risk reduction agenda as it mitigates impacts of disasters to save lives and protect livelihoods. This incorporates the entire landscape in which risks manifest themselves, and facilitates an inclusive and participatory process,

starting with the communities at risk in the landscape, making for better solutions. Landscape approaches are key to adaptation.

Resilience and adaptation need a strong focus on livelihoods and cannot be built at the scale of an individual community; it depends on what happens at the landscape level. Flexible funding mechanisms are needed at national level to better deal with the increase in extreme events.



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Conflict affected areas are facing double vulnerability

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HUGO SLIM (SPEAKING) AT THE AMMAN ROUND TABLE WITH THE JORDANIAN RED CRESCENT AND THE UK OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE © IFRC

The ICRC report *When rain turns to dust*, highlights how conflict affected countries are also disproportionately impacted by climate change. This leads to a double threat, pushing people out of their homes, disrupting food production, cuts off supplies, amplifying diseases and weakening health-care services.

PfR experience has produced mixed results in advancing lobbying and advocacy efforts in communities and with governments in fragile contexts: Mali, South Sudan, Haiti, or those experiencing high levels of general lawlessness. Governments must manage security and invest in DRR.

There is a need to explore new strategies to support civil society actors in such countries. PfR works in highly vulnerable areas, but ones in which we have seen good results from leveraging local and national funds for communities, such as India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Funding for disaster prevention, in other words, often takes second place to pressing security and law-enforcement concerns.



Avoiding maladaptation

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"Considering that the destruction of the earth is caused by human beings, the solution is in our hands."

RAQUEL VÁSQUEZ IS THE LEADER OF THE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION *MADRE TIERRA*, OR MOTHER EARTH IN GUATEMALA.

"Maladaptation" means that the outcomes of an intervention will have adverse consequences that outweigh the benefits of adaptation; it is a risk for all humanitarian and development investments or programmes. It is crucial that we think about future climate trends that can reduce the sustainability of the intervention, and that we consider all possible side effects of an intervention may have upon the ecosystem, livelihoods and the wellbeing of communities. We advocate risk-informed investments or programmes, mindful of future climate trends. To ensure sustainable practices with positive outcomes.

We must mainstream ecosystem and climate risks across all adaptation, development, infrastructure, water management, land-use and urban strategies.



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COMMUNITIES PLAYING THE GAME READY! A PARTICIPATORY TOOL TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING. A TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP WAS ORGANISED IN BIHAR IN 2014 TO BUILD CAPACITY OF FIELD STAFF TO FACILITATE THE GAME WITH COMMUNITIES. © KNUD FALK/ CLIMATE CENTRE



More tools
to strengthen
capacities
to scale up
climate-smart
programming
can be found
in the
Climate Training Kit.

→ Acknowledgements

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FULL CLIMATE CENTRE
TEAM AT THEIR ANNUAL
TEAM RETREAT IN 2019
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