



Climate
Centre



Strategy 2030

Mission

→ The mission of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre – a **Global Reference Centre** of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – is to support the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme-weather events on people in vulnerable conditions.



Cover: A young boy cools off in a heatwave in Nepal, where the risk of extreme heat is growing. The Climate Centre's new five-year strategy reinforces the pledge in its predecessor to support the IFRC in ensuring that 250 million people are covered by effective plans for action on heat in 150 cities and towns globally. To coincide with Heat Action Day 2025 on 2 June, we published a **comprehensive heat action plan** for the Nepalese city of Dhangadhi that suffers relentless heat because of its low elevation aggravated by rapid urbanization. The Climate Centre did research for the plan, which was also supported by the British Red Cross and is the latest of several involving the Nepal Red Cross. Our new strategy promises practical research-led solutions that increase resilience. (Photo: American Red Cross in Nepal)

Challenges and opportunities at a time of upheaval

→ Greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere continue to rise, putting us on a pathway that is highly likely to breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit set by the Paris Agreement. This is accompanied by the increasing frequency, intensity and spread of extreme weather and climate impacts that destroy the natural world while disproportionately affecting people in vulnerable conditions – particularly those suffering multiple different types of marginalization. Concurrently, people across the world are experiencing rising inequality and political turmoil – exacerbating risk and limiting their capacity to adapt. Meeting these challenges requires greater resolve and resources than ever before.

We also are witnessing key institutions scaling down their commitments to supporting climate action on the scale and with the urgency needed. And while a new climate finance target was agreed at COP 29, this failed to meet the expectations of countries worst affected by the climate crisis. We are also seeing shifts in the priorities of the humanitarian sector as well as calls to reform the system at large.

→ Finally, there is growing misinformation and a lack of public trust in science, increasing the difficulty of maintaining public awareness and pressure for climate action.

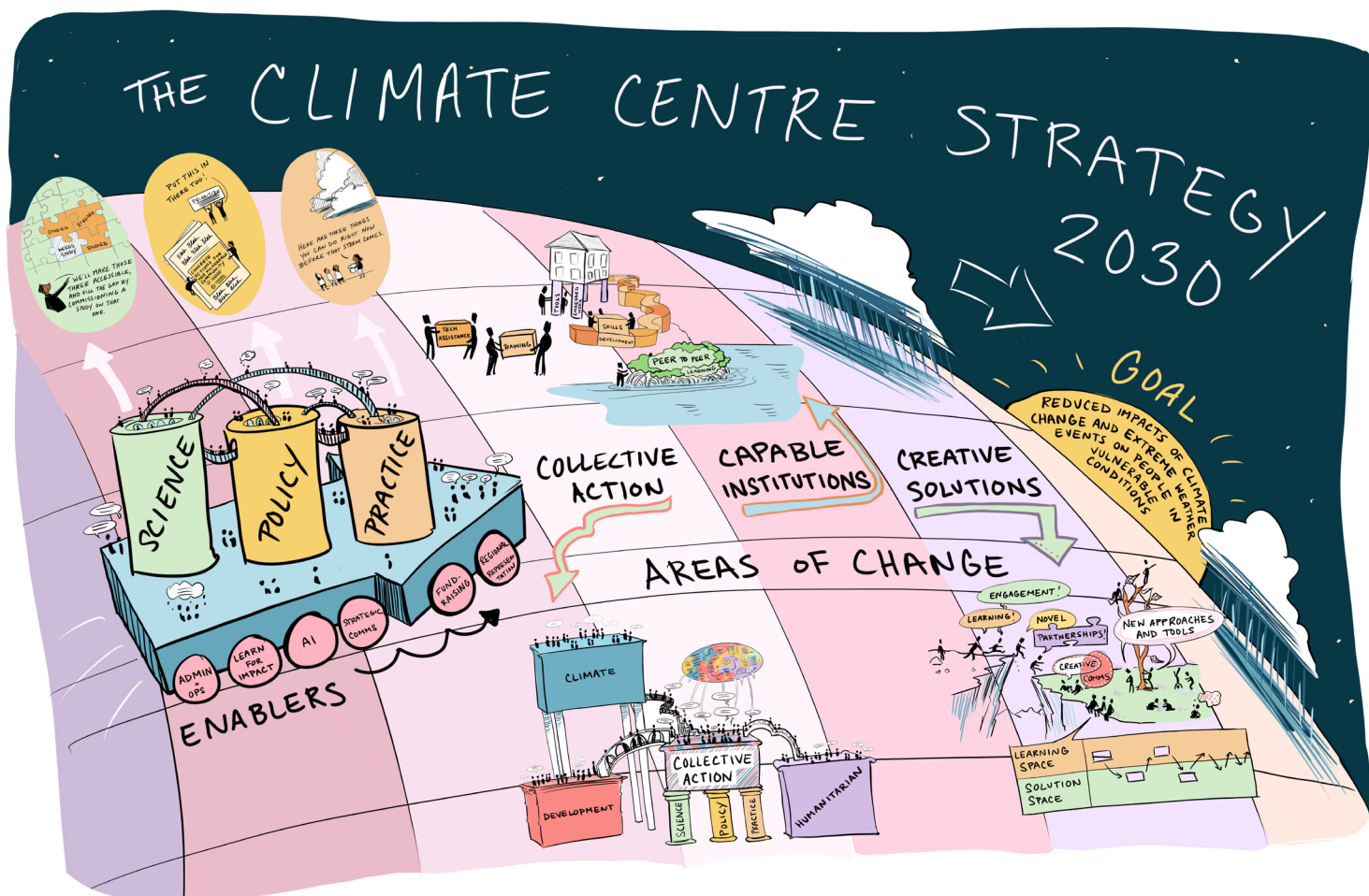
→ This is also a time of possibility, however. Firstly, our Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre Strategy 2030 ('the strategy') is being launched just as recognition of the humanitarian threats posed by climate change and its origins in human activity are greater than ever. Secondly, applications that rely on artificial intelligence are now readily accessible, opening opportunities to develop new tools and improve productivity. Thirdly, philanthropic and private sector finance is expanding.

→ And finally, the next five years will open new windows as major policies such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Action, and Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans will be renewed.

→ This strategy fully recognizes the headwinds we face while priming our organization to take advantage of the important opportunities that the next half decade will present.

→ In comparison with its predecessors, this strategy reformulates our key areas of change to ensure that our organization achieves our mission effectively.





Click on individual areas of the graphic to enlarge them, and again to close.

Institutional context

→ A key element of the value we seek to add in the sector, especially to National Societies and both IFRC and ICRC delegations, is to help with the management of climate risks by bringing *climate-smart programming* to life.

We will continue to align with IFRC's 'new way of working' through our own commitment to localization. We will prioritize strengthening National Societies and offer support, in line with the [Fundamental Principles](#), to strengthen climate programming throughout the Movement.

A step up for climate action within the Movement has come with the [Climate and Environment Charter](#), the development of which was led by the IFRC and ICRC, which has now been signed by at least 480 entities, including at least 140 National Societies; almost all National Societies and IFRC reference centres now have initiatives in place to address the climate crisis.

Notably, the IFRC's [Strategy 2030](#) acknowledges the climate and environmental crisis as the first of four primary challenges facing its network; its 2024 Global Plan recognizes climate change as one of the most significant threats to humanity's future; and the Global Climate Resilience Platform expands the community-based climate action of National Societies around the world. The IFRC secretariat now has a team dedicated to climate action with National Societies – allowing the Climate Centre to contribute to this work through actionable, evidence-based know-how on tackling risk.

The [Institutional Strategy 2024–2027](#) identifies addressing climate and conflict as a key cross-cutting approach essential for effective and responsible humanitarian action. Work to integrate climate and environmental risks into ICRC operations is complemented by ongoing policy engagement and greening efforts.

This strategy assimilates these developments and supports climate action across Movement components through insights, evidence, and technical solutions.

The Climate Centre's vision for change

→ This strategy is sharply focused on ensuring that all actions of the Climate Centre help reduce the impacts of climate and extreme weather events on people in vulnerable conditions, at the local level.

Our work will be underpinned by our specialist added value: namely an unceasing commitment to cutting-edge research, and evidence-led policy and solutions that enable effective climate action.



4.1

Reduced impacts of climate change and extreme weather on people in vulnerable conditions

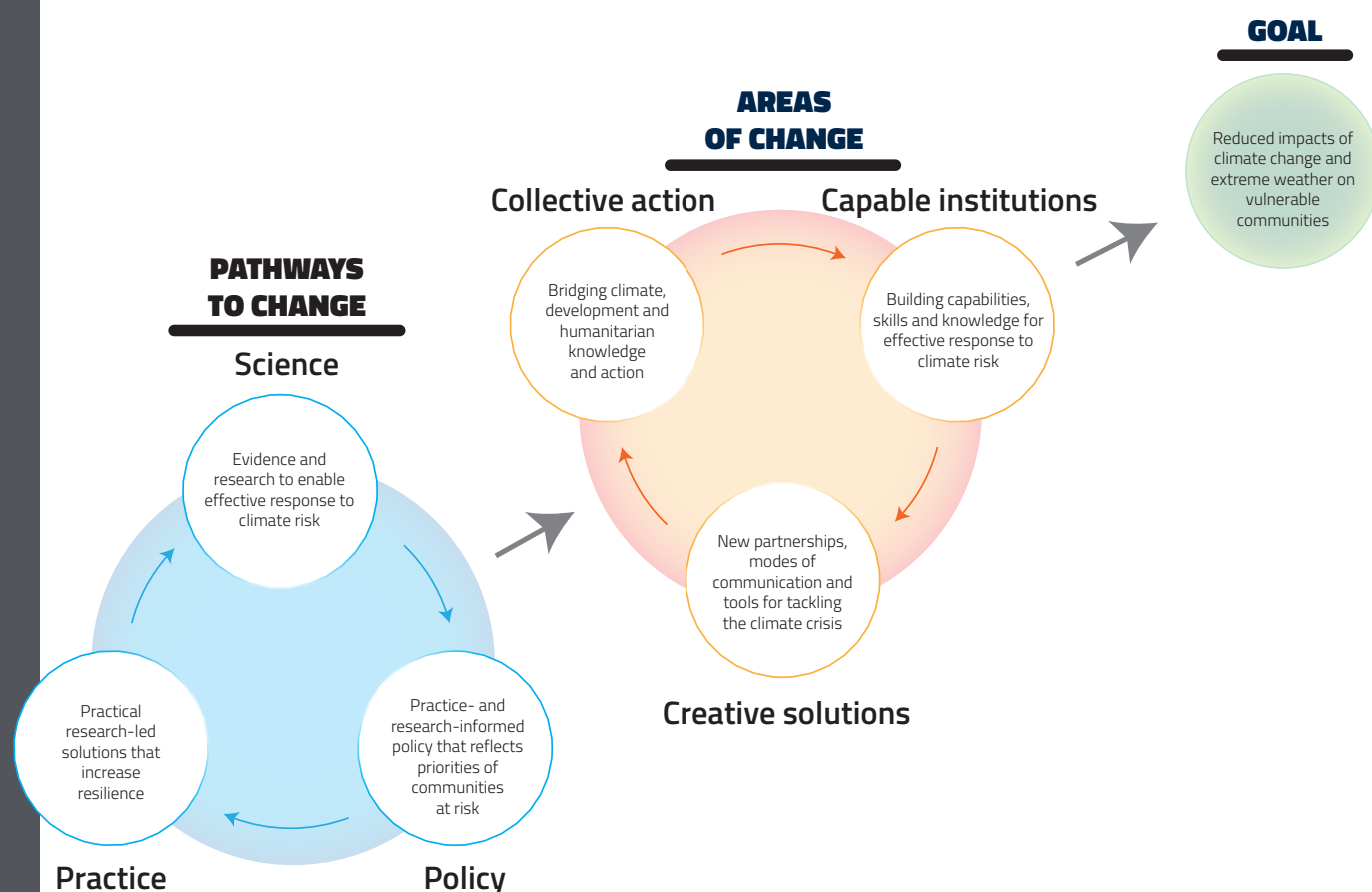
The needs of vulnerable people, often the *most* vulnerable people, lie at the heart of all our activity and inspire our mission. The Climate Centre is fully committed to ensuring that communities gain increased resilience to climate-induced shocks and stresses, particularly those at the intersection of different vulnerabilities. At the same time, we continue to emphasize the necessity for urgent global action on reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

We understand resilience to be ‘the ability of individuals, communities, organizations or countries exposed to disasters, crises and underlying vulnerabilities to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses without compromising their long-term prospects,’ as the IFRC Road Map to Community Resilience puts it.

Enhancing resilience is only possible in close partnership with National Societies that are leading on *implementation*. They are the primary institutions that we exist to serve, in close coordination with the IFRC, through the provision of insights, advice and technical support. Our initiatives are informed by their needs – to ensure that our work supports deep and meaningful change at scale while being rooted locally.



THE CLIMATE CENTRE STRATEGY 2030



4.2

Key areas of change: Creative solutions, collective action and capable institutions

→ The Climate Centre commits to key areas of change that are aligned with our core values of being trustworthy, creative, cutting-edge and collaborative, alongside the Fundamental Principles.



An ICRC-supported borehole in the desert town of Kidal in Mali, a nation for which the Climate Centre has developed an index that fuses satellite data with local information about conflict and vulnerability, and [removes much of the guesswork on where to drill for water](#). Our 2025–30 Strategy supports *climate action* across the Movement through insights, evidence, and technical solutions, including ICRC operations in countries like Mali where conflict and climate impacts exacerbate each other. (Photo: Aboubacar Ag Assikabar/ICRC)



Creative solutions

→ The Climate Centre is inspired by the creative potential of people and institutions to address the climate crisis, through innovation and new partnerships and tools that expand what is possible.

Under this we will...

→ **Develop new approaches and tools:**

Alongside generating, packaging and promoting knowledge on existing, effective solutions, the Climate Centre will boldly catalyse systemic change, unearthing new approaches that expand what is possible to overcome complex problems and interconnected risks. This will happen through a culture of experimentation, engaging with complex and compound risks and constant scanning of the horizon for potential new programmatic themes for meeting the emerging needs of at-risk communities.

→ **Foster creative communication:**

We will continue to spearhead novel modes of communication to lead key constituencies toward bold solutions. This will include hosting engaging events that inspire candid collaboration, for example, using art to communicate scientific information, and storytelling, visualizations, acrobatics and more. We will complement our focus on science with an understanding of how at-risk communities themselves perceive risk and resilience.

→ **Engage new stakeholders:**

Over the next five years, the Climate Centre will forge the relationships necessary to support effective climate action, ranging from supporting climate readiness of small and medium enterprises – in close collaboration with National Societies – to engaging partners in emerging technology and other creative professionals.



A young resident of a coastal village in Senegal shows off her new long-lasting insecticidal net – one of four case-study countries featured in our 2025 [report on climate services for health](#) and how their potential for mitigating heatwaves and vector-borne diseases like malaria might be maximized. It was one of our most-read publications of 2025, while health is one area of many where the Climate Centre will bring know-how, expertise and insights to deliver holistic solutions across sectoral boundaries over the next five years under our new strategy. (Photo: Maggie Hallahan/Olyset via IFRC)

What does SUCCESS look like?

The Climate Centre opens up new possibilities by encouraging fresh ideas, new partnerships, and creative tools that lead to better ways of tackling the climate crisis.



Collective action

→ Addressing the climate crisis requires a whole-society approach and the Climate Centre will bring together the climate, environment, development and humanitarian sectors through science, policy and practice. We will build bridges between individual actors, institutions and networks on all scales and across all geographies to enable a comprehensive response to the climate crisis.

Under this we will...

→ **Build and strengthen coalitions:**

The Climate Centre will strengthen alliances between institutions working on its areas of focus and incubate new networks where needed. We will seek out civil society, research, government, youth-led and private-sector organizations with similar aims, expanding the 'communities of practice' convened by the IFRC worldwide.

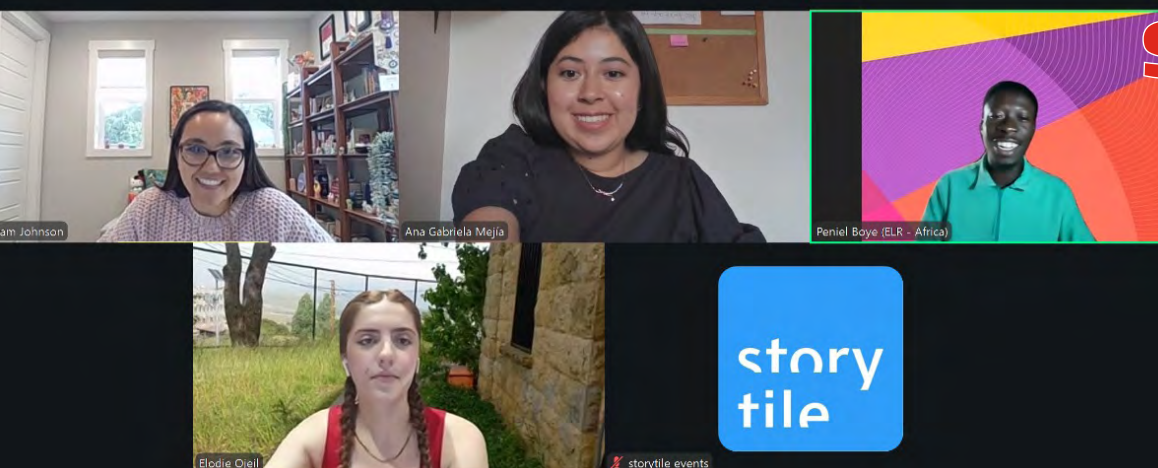
→ **Connect actors, institutions and systems:**

The Climate Centre bridges the gaps between different domains and will actively help align the work of Movement and other partners to reduce duplication and expand synergies. Streamlining actions is more important than ever given current constraints in financial flows. Apart from providing advice and technical support to enable effective coordination between Red Cross Red Crescent components, we will strengthen connections between Movement institutions, particularly National Societies and their governments, centres of scientific and academic excellence, and private sector entities.

→ **Deliver comprehensive solutions that span sectoral boundaries:**

The Climate Centre will bring know-how, expertise and insights from across the climate, humanitarian, environment (including biodiversity) and development sectors to deliver holistic solutions, determining the relationship between climate risk and sectors centred on health, social protection, fragility, displacement, localization, anticipatory action, urban development, and others as they emerge.

The 2025 [youth climate summit](#) was organized online (pictured) by the Climate Centre and the American Red Cross, supported by the IFRC secretariat, in partnership with the Global Youth Mobilization network. Under its 2025–30 Strategy, Climate Centre now plans to help expand *communities of practice* convened by the IFRC worldwide, including youth organizations and other civil society components. (Image: Climate Centre)



↓ ↓ ↓
**What does
success
look like?**

The Climate Centre demonstrates the value of bringing together people and organizations from the climate, development, and humanitarian fields to work as one.

Capable institutions

→ The Climate Centre will help develop the capabilities of people and institutions (from within and external to the Movement) to respond to the climate crisis. This will be done through the development of skills, enhancing knowledge, the provision of tools, and institutional enhancements. This is to ensure that people and institutions have the agency, resources, know-how and incentives to take action to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Under this we will...

→ Generate insights and embed knowledge:

The Climate Centre's capacity building for National Societies and their volunteers, governments and external partners will continue to be rooted in evidence of the most effective pathways to resilience. Our approach to training and capability development is aimed at nurturing ownership, ensuring that new knowledge is embedded within institutions and enables effective action.

→ Embedded technical assistance:

With partners address needs or challenges through engaged technical assistance, even in difficult contexts. We will work alongside our partners to co-create institutional solutions for integrating an understanding of climate risk across mandates and programmes – a key goal of the IFRC's Strategy 2030.

→ Facilitate peer-to-peer learning, not one-way communication:

The Climate Centre is recognized globally for enabling structured learning, spanning participatory after-action reviews and collaborative evaluation. As part of this, we will expand peer-to-peer learning between National Societies to ensure greater coherence, collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Red Crescent assists people displaced in Iraq's Anbar governorate by unprecedented heavy rain last March across much of the country. Our new guide to [anticipatory action for displaced people](#) centred on the Middle East and North Africa, and the Climate Centre's new strategy commits us to embedding in contexts that are on the front lines of climate risk, like parts of the MENA region, where temperatures are rising at twice the global average, while *regional representation* is one of seven key enablers of the strategy. (Photo: IRC via IFRC)

**What does
SUCCESS
look like?**

The Climate Centre helps people and partner institutions gain the skills, knowledge, and tools they need to respond effectively to climate risks and impacts.



4.3

Pathways to change: science, policy, practice

→ Change will be enabled for Movement and non-Movement partners through three pathways.

→ Science

Cutting-edge research that speaks to the needs of those at risk from the impacts of climate change as well as humanitarian and development decision-makers. We will capture learning and evidence on effective climate action from the experience and expertise of Movement and external partners. We will also harness indigenous and local knowledge and new scientific evidence on weather extremes, climate change, and vulnerability of people and their livelihoods, and embed this in programming.

→ Policy

Delivering practice and evidence-led support to policy in collaboration with Movement and external partners to highlight the priorities of at-risk groups. We will work with the IFRC, National Societies, the ICRC and external partners to inform policies governing climate resilience within the Movement, the UNFCCC within and beyond climate negotiations, and related institutions. We will do this as technical experts from local to global levels, working across sectors and themes, to ensure that the voices of those on the front lines of risk are heard.

→ Practice

Enabling research- and evidence-based solutions for vulnerable people and other actors. We will support practical, sustainable and just solutions to manage rising risks through work with the Movement and local communities as well as humanitarian, development and climate partners, developing outputs such as toolkits, decision-making frameworks, training, and practical publications, to name a few.

In an interview with the Finnish Red Cross during his 2025 visit to Helsinki (pictured), Climate Centre Director Aditya Bahadur stressed the most urgent actions to slow climate change and mitigate its impacts. The backdrop for both that visit and the Climate Centre's 2025–30 Strategy is a planet edging ever closer to a definitive breach of threshold of the 1.5°C Paris Agreement. (Photo: (Leena Koskela/Finnish Red Cross))



4.4

Key enablers

→ Regional representation

The Climate Centre is committed to being embedded in contexts that are on the front lines of climate risk. We will coordinate closely with the IFRC, ICRC, National Societies and all relevant external institutions across vulnerable regions through our network of regional leads – Climate Centre envoys who enable us to function globally while being locally rooted.

→ Administrative and operational functions

Achieving the goal of this strategy is contingent on strong operational functions spanning finance, human resources management, contracts and compliance. We will continue to strengthen fiduciary management, team performance and well-being, processing contracts swiftly and compliantly. We will also maintain a dynamic register of institutional risks and actions to mitigate them.

→ Artificial intelligence

The Climate Centre will engage with generative AI judiciously and cautiously to deliver more precise and comprehensive research and tools. We will use AI to improve efficiency by enhancing workflows, time management, and quality assurance, accompanied by clear guidelines and a code of conduct. We will also reduce AI's environmental footprint through initiatives such as carbon offsetting as part of a broader effort to manage the Climate Centre's own footprint.

→ Strategic communications

The Climate Centre will work with National Societies and the IFRC secretariat as well as the ICRC to help them engage with the media on climate. Our communications programme will also directly engage the global audience via selected social media platforms and the Climate Centre's own website. We will ensure that research undertaken by our team and partners is packaged in a variety of accessible formats for maximum uptake, and that it supports humanitarian diplomacy.

→ Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Evidence-based decision-making and practice are integral to our organization. We will track our geographic, thematic and financial footprints and we will annually assess the most significant improvements in each area of change. We will trace whether and how we have contributed to real-world impact and be accountable to at-risk people and our donors and partners.

→ Resource mobilization and fundraising

The Climate Centre will execute its fundraising strategy that balances a focus on projects, with pooled, strategic funding and raising un-earmarked funding for climate action, delivering innovative solutions and institutional enhancements, and responding to requests from partners (especially National Societies). Given the turbulence in the funding landscape, we are acutely aware of the risks we face, and while we will continue to access funding from traditional sources, we will strengthen our relationship with philanthropic donors and the private sector.

→ Sustainability

The Climate Centre will maximize the sustainability of its work and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, as stipulated in the Climate and Environment Charter and our sustainability strategy. This includes a prudent approach to travel, a focus on online engagement, carbon offsetting and recycling. The Climate Centre commits to halve its travel emissions by 2030 compared to 2019.



Conclusion

→ This strategy has been developed with an immense amount of consultation with the staff and partners of the Climate Centre and reflects our collective vision. As such, there is a degree of continuity with the last strategic period – especially in its overall goal and our continued bridging of science, policy and practice.

However, this strategy does reflect changes in our operational environment. Firstly, it includes the development of three fresh cross-cutting areas of change encapsulated in section 4.2. These are the ways in which the Climate Centre intends to add value to the Movement. Also, the [Principles for Locally Led Adaptation](#) have been endorsed by the IFRC network and the Climate Centre; a commitment to operationalize them now underlies our vision.

Finally, the climate crisis is now represented in all major policies and plans of the IFRC, the ICRC, most National Societies and most partner institutions. This means that the Climate Centre can shift from advocating for the greater recognition of climate risk to focus on supporting the operationalization of climate action at scale through the provision of actionable, evidence-based insights on tackling risk.

In conclusion, this strategy orients the Climate Centre to collaboratively achieve success in a complex and dynamic world beset by multiple, interconnected crises, ensuring that we are able to do our utmost to support at-risk communities not only to function but also to flourish in this time of change.





Climate Centre team members at the 2025 [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#): (from left) Irene Amuron, anticipatory action lead; Tesse de Boer, technical adviser, climate and conflict; Gantsetseg Gantulga, former IFRC anticipatory action coordinator; Catalina Jaime, our former climate and conflict lead and now head of the IFRC-hosted Risk-informed Early Action Partnership. Over the next five years, Climate Centre experts will maintain its contribution to global collective action – one of our new strategy’s three ‘areas of change’ – by providing experts (including Catalina) to the IPCC’s 7th assessment of the global climate. (Photo: UNDRR)