



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

Declaration of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Cartagena - 2018

America is, after Asia, the second region in the world most affected by disasters, both in terms of the number of events and the economic losses generated.

The Red Cross recognizes that inequality, poverty, lack of urban planning, rapid population growth, the effects of climate change, constant changes in the political and social context, lack of investment in sustainable models of development and the excessive exploitation of natural resources are determining factors that condemn people and their livelihoods to live and develop in high-risk areas.

We must recognize that States, through their national disaster risk management systems, and the humanitarian and development actors in this region, have made an enormous effort to reduce the number of people killed in disasters and increase their resilience. But, reducing the risk factors and the economic losses from disasters requires deeper, more comprehensive and local transformations and commitments.

While it is widely recognized that investing in resilience and recovery saves lives and saves money in response, there is still a significant lack of dedicated funding. In 2016, our World Disasters Report stated that only 40 cents of every 100 US dollars were spent on international aid on disaster risk reduction measures worldwide.

From the Red Cross we consider it is imperative to generate awareness and motivate a decisive change in the model. Investment is not just a question of funds, it is necessary to build partnerships and promote joint practical and scaled solutions that build resilience and recovery with a view to sustainable development. A model that generates initiatives to protect livelihoods that are respectful of the local ecosystem, that strengthens social cohesion, that recognizes diversity and motivates equity, especially among traditionally invisible or excluded groups, that promotes good health and psychosocial well-being, that encourages commitment to environmental actions and adaptation to climate change, that generates social commitment and active participation of all the elements that constitute the communities. This will allow communities and authorities to face and recover positively from eventual crises and adversities.

The National Red Cross Societies of the Americas, through the continental, national and local humanitarian network, remain strongly committed to continuing the work on disaster risk reduction, strengthening community and institutional resilience and reaffirming their commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 ("Sendai Framework").

As IFRC, we commit ourselves to work together with the 35 National Red Cross Societies in the region in the following actions:

- We will advocate for the enhancement and consolidation of a culture of safety and resilience that is action-oriented and respects local realities, cultures and ancestral practices that contribute to a better understanding of risks and thus contribute to the generation of actions to reduce vulnerability,
- We will prioritize actions based on the needs of people living at high risk or belonging to traditionally excluded groups, in particular those who live in geographically remote areas; in areas affected by insecurity and conflict, migrant populations, those affected by the impact of climate change, as well as those living in conditions of urban overpopulation.

- In their auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the National Red Cross Societies are committed to joining forces with local and national authorities to develop local risk management and promote an approach of community resilience and sustainability.
- Aligned with the Sendai Framework, we recognize the important role of legal and institutional frameworks in creating an enabling environment for DRR, preventing the emergence of new risks and making communities safer.
- We will contribute to raise awareness, analyze and have a better understanding of the impact of disasters, especially silent and slow progressing disasters, and local vulnerability, in order to raise awareness of risks and promote actions to reduce the negative impact and provide sustainable local solutions in a participatory and engaging manner.
- Aligned with the IFRC Framework for Building Community Resilience and the One Billion Coalition for Community Resilience, we will strengthen the collaboration and coordination with civil society organizations, and with their respective national and local governments.



The National Societies of the Americas and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies call upon the States of the Americas:

- To review their legislative, institutional and other frameworks (policies, plans, strategies) for DRR in the light of the Law and DRR Checklist' developed by the Federation in conjunction with UNDP, in order to align them with the Sendai Framework.
- To actively promote, support and recognize community-based volunteers in order to maximize the potential of these agents of change for their community.
- To make available to local authorities, who play a fundamental role in risk management, the technical, financial and political support necessary to develop their local plans with a sustainable development approach.
- To promote inclusive education and training at all levels and in all sectors through innovative learning tools, both face-to-face and virtual, to achieve universal access to risk reduction education.
- Promote local early warning systems, integrated into national systems, that describe the roles, functions and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including those at the end of the information chain, to ensure that they arrive in a timely manner and can save lives and livelihoods.
- To promote investments that enhance knowledge, innovation, access to information and the sustainability of processes, ensuring that the funds are used to complement and catalyze local investment and resources.

