



Workshop: Towards Climate Smart Policy Frameworks that leave no one behind

14 – 15 November 2019

Abuja, Nigeria



Introduction

The rising frequency and intensity of disasters is well documented as climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and brings greater risks to those already exposed to disaster risk, urbanization and poverty. To address this, a well-functioning disaster risk management (DRM) system requires a strong legal basis at the domestic level to ensure clarity in responsibilities, prioritization of activities, assignment of resources and coordination. This is critical not only in the midst of an emergency, but also for longer-term projects aimed at disaster risk reduction and resilience building, climate change adaptation, preparedness and recovery.

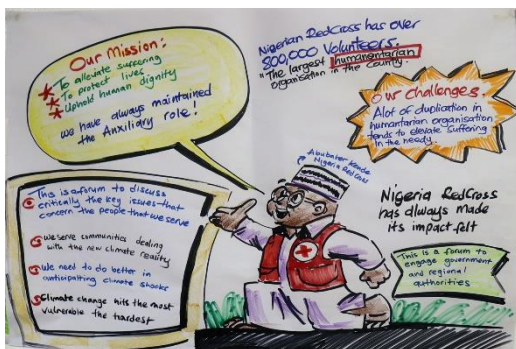
With the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for DRR in 2015, and in view of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in 2020, the IFRC's Disaster Law Programme has received an increasing number of requests from States to provide recommendations to facilitate integration between wider governance arrangements in legal frameworks while achieving the sustainable development goals, e.g. the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes of the Paris Agreement and the risk reduction strategy process of the Sendai Framework (Target E).

The Disaster Law Programme therefore organized a regional workshop to bring together National Societies and their Governments from across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss ways to strengthen domestic legislation and policy to ensure an effective climate smart approach to disasters. This included discussions around integrating protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups into relevant disaster laws and policies in order to ensure that no one is left behind in disaster risk management activities.

DAY 1- November 14th, 2019.

Opening Ceremony

Master of Ceremony: Stella Ngugi, Disaster Law Officer, Africa Regional Office, Disaster & Crisis, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



Abubakar Kende, Secretary General, Nigeria Red Cross

Mr. Kende welcomed guests and appreciated the IFRC for hosting the timely workshop in Nigeria. Noting that Nigeria is quite disaster prone, he highlighted that over the past few years, the impact of these disasters has been highly exacerbated by climate change. He further highlighted that the duplication of functions of both national and international humanitarian organisations has a seen in some cases the exacerbation of the suffering of affected communities. He noted that the Nigeria Red Cross looks forward to the information

practical best practices and useful tools to be shared during the workshop to effectively serve the communities



they are beholden to. He further noted that there is need to do better in anticipating climate shocks as the most vulnerable communities are often the hardest hit. Mr. Kende wished the participants active engagements particularly with their governments in the room, to support policy coherence efforts in their countries that assure protection for all.

Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, Director of Humanitarian Affairs, ECOWAS.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Ugbe noted ECOWAS's engagement in enhancing environmental policies across Africa over the past years. Highlighting the importance of a strong policy related to disaster risk reduction, she noted how important climate smart policies are for the African region, and recognized that everything ECOWAS does at the regional or national level, is aimed at changing the way the disasters and climate change affect us all. She noted that before, during and after the disaster happens, the community is always there, and are the most impacted. In this respect Dr. Ugbe highlighted the continued engagement with IFRC and National Societies in engaging communities in developing policies that enhance resilience at community level. She encouraged all the participants to continue being involved in these policy development processes in their respective agencies, as well as utilize what they will learn over the course of the workshop to help improve on policy development for the good of the region

Ruben Cano, IFRC African Cluster Coordinator

Mr Cano in his welcoming remarks noted the rise in disasters over the past decades. To address this, he highlighted that a well-functioning disaster risk management system founded on a strong legal foundation is necessary in order to ensure clarity on responsibilities, prioritization of activities, assignment of resources and coordination. He noted that this is critical not only in an emergency, but also for longer-term initiatives aimed at disaster risk reduction, resilience building, climate change adaptation, preparedness and recovery. Mr. Cano noted that the IFRC has received an increasing number of requests from States to provide recommendations to facilitate integration between wider governance arrangements in legal frameworks while achieving the sustainable development goals. In this respect, and in line with the African Union Humanitarian Policy Framework and the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and Plan of Action, the IFRC jointly with ECOWAS is bringing together the participants expertise and knowledge to discuss how to achieve policy coherence. He emphasized that it is crucial to strengthen domestic legislation that includes effective climate smart approaches to disasters that leave no one behind. He noted that through this platform IFRC looks forward to hearing from the participants on the good practices that have been put in place, potential solutions as well as challenges in policy integration of key international commitments in disaster risk management.





Introduction to the Disaster Law Programme and the Auxiliary Role of National Societies;

Showcase of DL in Americas & DL in Africa

Sophie Teyssier, Disaster Law Coordinator for the Americas

Maria Martinez, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa.

Ms. Teyssier discussed the Disaster Law Programme, highlighting its history and development over the years. She emphasized on how the Programme supports governments through their National Societies to develop legal frameworks aimed at regulating and facilitating the entry of International Disaster Relief, creating an enabling environment for DRR, responding to legal and institutional challenges related to DPR, and addressing regulatory issues in post-disaster shelter.

Additionally, while discussing the DL thematic areas she also noted the various International Conference Resolutions that the have helped the programme and highlighted the new resolution being proposed by the programme at the 2019 International Conference; *Climate smart laws that leave no one behind*. She also showcased the global progress that the programme has had since its inception and detailed some case studies

from the Americas region. She highlighted the successes of the NSs in the region in promoting DL in the region while noting the ongoing work involving both NSs and regional organisations.

To complement this discussion, Ms. Martinez highlighted the progress so far in Africa and the ongoing engagements with NSs, RECs and other Regional organisations aimed at pushing the DL agenda forward in the region. Highlight



Introduction to the Red Cross and Red crescent International Conference

Ruben Cano, IFRC West Africa Cluster Head of Office

Mr. Cano discussed the International Conference, to be held in December 2019, and emphasised to the National Societies members the importance of taking part in this event. He noted that it was an opportunity for NSs to develop a better, stronger relation with their national authorities. He detailed the different actors that are involved in the IC, the different sessions conducted of the course of the Conference as well as the opportunities available for NSs to showcase their successes and continued need to enhance their auxiliary role. He also mentioned the resolutions that will be presented for adoption highlighting the DL resolution on Climate Smart Laws that Leave No One behind. He noted that resolution touched on a lot of the issues that would be discussed over the course of the workshop and called on NSs and Governments present to support the resolution at the IC.



To respond to this request, Ms. Ngugi noted that the IFRC DLP recently published the Multi-Country Synthesis report that Ms. Martinez had discussed earlier on. She noted that to ensure ease reference of the information on the report, the programme had developed that had ten questions on the ten themes in the report. This checklist offers a good reference for National Societies, Public Authorities and legislators to evaluate their DM legal frameworks and analyse if they have sufficiently addressed the highlighted issues in domestic preparedness and response. She briefly detailed what each question in the checklist is attempting to tackle.

Group Work: Consultation on the Draft Checklist on Domestic Preparedness and Response.



DAY 2- November 15, 2019

Policies on Climate Change Adaptation

Shaban Mawanda, Policy and Resilience Adviser, Climate Centre.

During his presentation, Mr. Mawanda sought to introduce the participants to the work of the Climate Centre, the global climate change landscape, the global CCA frameworks as well as the key issues to keep in mind as regards the cost of doing nothing with respect to tackling climate change. Mr. Mawanda begun his presentation by noting that climate changes and unusual weather patterns are visible on the African Continent. He highlighted that the



IPCC was presently the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Reports generated by the IPCC have become the scientific bases for international negotiations about climate change and are used for national policy making on climate in many countries. Additionally, he also noted that the Paris Agreement building

on the current work of the IPCC seeks to limit long term global warming to below 2°C as well as changing the finance flows with respect to climate change adaptation programmes and activities.



During his presentation, Mr. Mawanda gave an insight to the shock waves experienced as result of climate change and how countries can manage the impacts of climate change on poverty. In this respect he also highlighted the IFRC frameworks that have committed the Red Cross to supporting countries in their efforts in climate change adaptation. This

included the IFRC Strategy 2020 as well as the commitments to Climate Resilience for the urban poor. He also highlighted the African Union Climate Change Strategy, the Africa regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Programme of Action for the Development of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa as useful tools that can support National Societies and governments in the region in developing climate smart policy frameworks.

Mr. Mawanda discussed the cost of doing nothing and the implications this would have on society. In this respect, he noted that the persons in need of humanitarian assistance will continue to increase as well as the cost of response. To address this, he noted that countries need to reduce long term vulnerability and exposure, adopt integrated risk management approaches, improve anticipation capacity as well as rebuild and repair with the next emergency in mind. Ultimately, he noted that it was better to build better from the start as well as develop effective partnerships to support successful adaptation and mitigations activities.



Climate Change Advocacy Game

Shaban Mawanda, Policy and Resilience Adviser, Climate Centre.

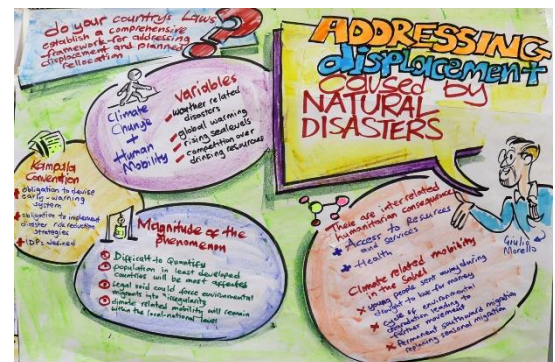


Addressing Displacement caused by Disasters

Giulio Morello, Sahel Migration Programme Coordinator

During his presentation, Mr. Morello sought to conceptualise human mobility in the context of climate change, provide an overview of the existing policy initiatives in this respect as well as how the issue of human mobility has been addressed in the IFRC Synthesis Report on Domestic Preparedness and Response. He noted that the mega trends affecting human mobility presently are climate change, urbanisation, demographic changes as well as technical innovation. With respect to climate change he highlighted that the main variables causing movement are weather related disasters, global warming and competition over shrinking resources. He further noted that climate change and other climate stressors act as threat multipliers and thereby exacerbating other vulnerabilities that affect human mobility. He highlighted the case of the Sahel where he noted that climate related mobility is mostly linked to slow on set crises, which is often difficult to deal with.

In highlighting the growing recognition of the climate – displacement link, Mr. Morello noted the 2010 Cancun Adaptation framework, the Paris Agreement, the Nansen Initiative, the Global





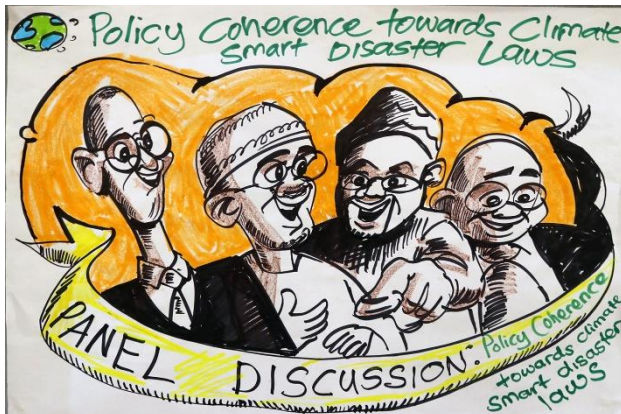
compact on Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees as well as the UNFCCC taskforce on displacement as global policy developments in this respect. He also noted that with respect to the African region, he noted various ECOWAS treaties as well as the Kampala Convention. While noting the various RCRC initiatives and tools on climate action and human mobility, he highlighted how the IFRC DL programme is supporting these discussions through the recently published multi country synthesis report as well as the Checklist on Domestic Preparedness and Response.

ECOWAS policies on disaster risk reduction and climate change

Mohamed Ibrahim, Head of ECOWAS Humanitarian & DRR Division

During the presentation, Mr. Ibrahim sought to discuss the ECOWAS policies on DRR and Climate change. He discussed the DRR Policy framework and Capacity Building in West Africa, noting the Commission has developed a plan of action in line with the Sendai Framework. He also highlighted the central role National institutions play in the implementation and harmonization of regional policies and action plans at national level. He also discussed the regional initiatives in support of DRR policies, plans and strategies, highlighting the relevance, added value and cost-benefit of a coordinated and consistent approach to disaster risk reduction at the national level. Mr. Ibrahim also provided an assessment of the achievements, challenges and opportunities on the national and regional DRR policies, plans & strategies as well as the role played by ECOWAS in addressing the noted challenges and harnessing the identified opportunities.

Panel Discussion: Policy Coherence Towards climate smart disaster laws:



Moderator: *Shaban Mawanda, Policy and Resilience Adviser, Climate Centre.*

Panellists:

Mohammed Ibrahim, Head of ECOWAS Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Nibaruta Anicet, Deputy Director General of Civil Protection and Executive Secretary of the National Platform for DRR in Burundi

Boubacar Sidikou, Secretary General, Ministry for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, Niger

Adrian Alexander, Director of Marketing and Brand Development, Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross

Mr. Ibrahim:

Noted that implementation is a challenge at all levels, especially when it comes to harmonizing policies in light of these instruments. Nonetheless he noted that involving all genders and particularly affected communities is key with the process of policy coherence. He further added that financial resources are needed to achieve full integration and implementation. Mr. Ibrahim emphasized that Governments have the responsibility to reduce and mitigate disasters and need to strengthen their research, data and information gathering capacities.

Mr. Anicet:

Highlighted the adoption of the Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement as key milestones. The SDG 3 and 13 regarding climate action, is an entry point to achieve policy coherence and integration. The main challenge in his



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

view is: lack of knowledge and understanding of the 3 international commitments. He noted that there are 17 SDGs, 7 targets of Sendai, but the Paris Agreement does not have indicators. He added that there is a lack of political will as well as a coordination framework to facilitate the coherence. He noted that there should be a global mechanism for coordination and governments should develop a national strategy for disaster risk reduction and collaborate with partners to disseminate all the actions and procedures.

He further highlighted that Burundi has a 10-year National plan for Sustainable Development that integrates CCA and DRR. Additionally, Burundi is also organizing for beginning of 2020 a national workshop on policy coherence and IFRC and the Burundi RC be involved.

Mr. Anicet noted that there is a continued opportunity for engagement with the National Society on the development of CCA strategies as well as communication campaigns on CCA

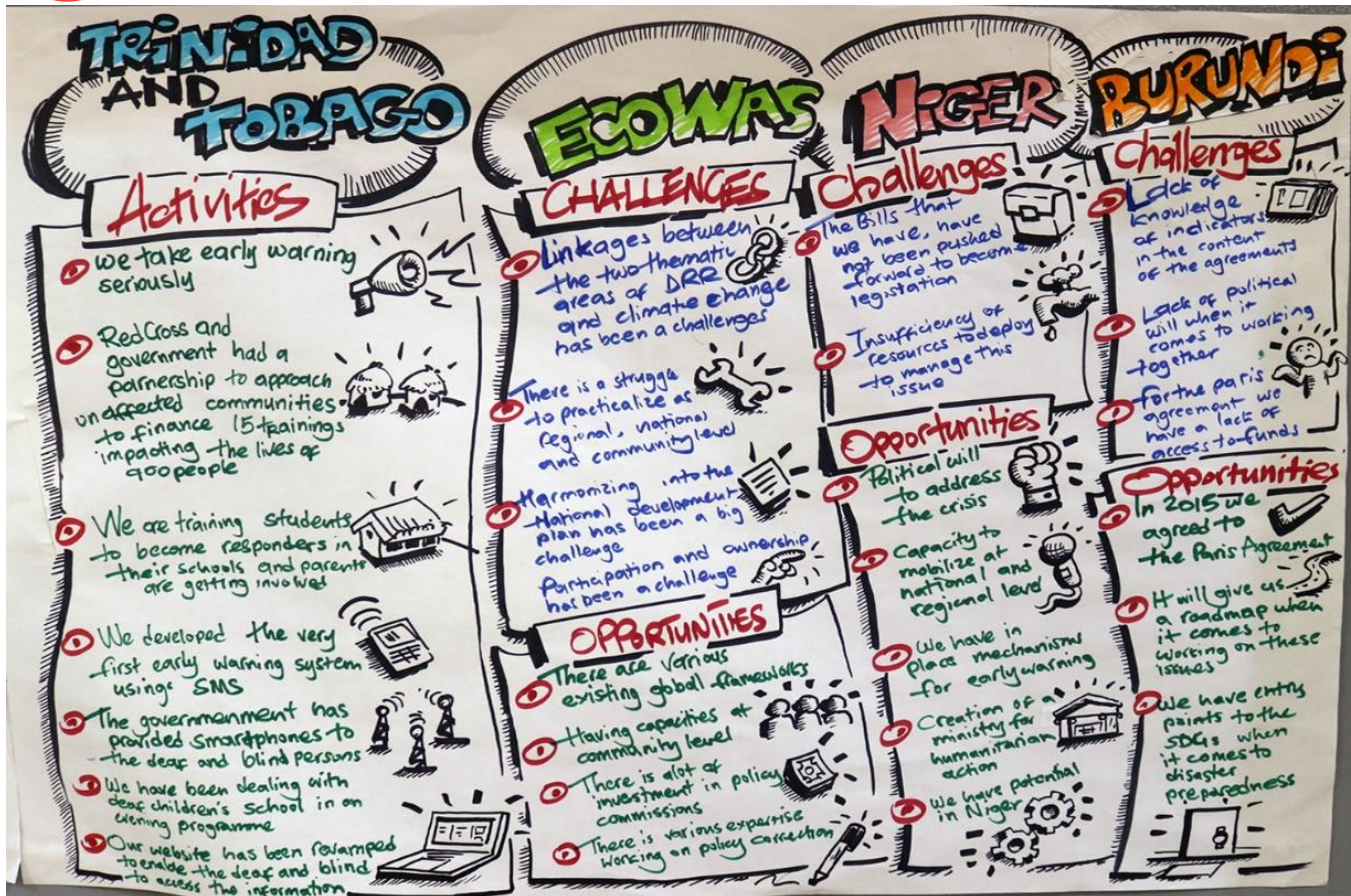
Mr. Sidikou:

Noted that even though the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Niger is very young, the country has a contingency plan that intends to integrate CCA and DRR. The major challenges being faced relate to reactive management and existing laws not yet being incorporated into national mechanisms. There is also a need to put in place strategic plans that integrate DRR and CCA, which also take into consideration the ancient knowledge. He also noted a lack of financial and political will as a further challenge.

Mr. Alexander:

The impact of the rains in October 2018, forced Trinidad to look at the effects of climate change. Following this a training was organised discussing mitigation measures for the population. Additionally, trainings on disaster preparedness for the youth, with inclusion of parents and guardians, have been organised. He noted a Flood Early Warning System, the first of its kind has now been developed. This system is bringing in private sector, as well as creating communication modalities that have consideration of the needs of persons living with disabilities. He noted that ODPM jointly with the RC and other agencies will be conducting a mapping on people with disabilities. Additionally, there are plans to have an annual fundraiser at Carnival to support this inclusionary process.

As final recap to the discussions, the panellists noted that challenges in policy coherence as lack of implementation of already existing frameworks, non-consideration of gender issues as well as funding constraints. They also noted that there is a continued opportunity for NSs to support their governments on these issues as working with the NS is better guarantee for policy integration and dissemination. The panellists recommended that governments and all concerned actors move from means to actions by joining forces to create awareness on existing instruments as well as make concerted efforts toward policy harmonisation. Beneficiaries should also be given a seat at the table and request organisations such as the IFRC DLP to support with capacity building exercises.



Group Work:

What do you think we should do at the regional and country level to achieve policy coherence?

Group:

1. Need for policies, strategies and guidelines, as well as a focal institution to reduce the gaps. There is also a need for a sustainable source of funding for the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines, DRR, Preparedness and response. Response should not be sectorial. Should be a mapping of laws, and connected laws policies and strategies.
2. AU should take the lead. Advice that IFRC take a seat on the AU. Mechanism should be put in place, to make binding the resolutions. Sometimes resolutions are made but are not binding.
3. There should be a coherence of laws. Actors should work together. Existing laws should be mapped and included in the revision and coherence processes. Authorities should source for expert support if certain capacities are absent in country.
4. Affected persons should be included and assistance should be localised. There should be concerted efforts to develop capacity of actors, raise funds for activities as well as continued awareness campaigns. Policies developed need to be harmonised, applied and communicated to those they will affect.
5. At the regional level, member states should be supported to domesticate the regional and international instruments. At the national level mechanisms to draw lessons from existing actions should be initiated.



Existing instruments should be harmonised. Put in place the mechanism of coordination, implementation and adherence to all the instruments into the national instrument.

How can National Societies support in these efforts?

- Coordinated centre with key tools and resources for NS
- Technical support from the movement specially through the DLP
- Advocacy is key: need to ensure support for the communities NSs serve
- Research to provide fact and figures when advocating and carry out research on policy coherence
- Advocate for the harmonization process at national level with the NS technical support
- Mobilizing partners and national actors

Thank you all for your time and presence & see you soon!

