International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southeast Asia Climate Change Master Training

Group Exercise of Module 5C: Minimum Standards for Local Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction / SEARD Bangkok / 2014

# Group Exercise of Module 5C: Minimum Standards for Local Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction

**Introduction:** A set of "*Minimum Standards for local climate-smart Disaster Risk Reduction*" have been developed as a practical checklist to help local community leaders and DRR practitioners ensure their risk reduction efforts are "climate-smart" and contribute to climate change adaptation. The full *Minimum Standards* document is available under Relevant Reading in this Module; it features two tables:

**Annex 1** below outlines Minimum Standards for implementation of climate-smart DRR activities at the ***community*** level.

Minimum Standards for ***civil society organizations*** (including RC/RC national Societies) or government agencies to support communities implement climate-smart DRR activities, exists, however it is not included in this training kit.

This exercise is focusing on the **community** level elements included in Table 1. The other exercise in this module – *Six entry points for climate-smart National Societies* – is addressing the roles of the National Society and how it supports the community programmes. It is an ideal exercise to apply towards the end of a longer training workshop – maybe in conjunction with the *Six entry points* exercise mentioned above. Note that the exercise can also be used in a community setting, for instance with a group of Red Cross or Red Crescent volunteers.

**Description:** Participants discuss the practical implications of each of the defined *Minimum Standards for local climate-smart DRR* – for the community.

**Facilitator tips** To save time you may choose to let participants read the MS (Minimum Standard) document as "homework" prior to the exercise and move straight to Part B of this exercise (and save the introductory Part A).

The MS document remains a living document, so download the latest version before each training event – on the CTK site or http://www.climatecentre.org/site/minimumstandards.

**Remember**:

* To print the six pages of A3 sized sheets (pages at the bottom of this file).
* To let participants take home their work for follow-up – make sure to photograph and share the contributions.

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| **Timing** | **Purpose/ Objective** | **Methodology** | **Material/Facilitator** |
| *\*From when to when*  *(min)* | *What the activity aims at* | *How the activity is conducted, including the methods to be used (e.g. brain storming, group discussion, role play, etc.), questions, time duration, expected information, what the participants should do, etc.*  *If case study or role play will be used, explanation or information should be provided as well.* | *What materials, facilities, equipment are required to conduct this activity (e.g. flip charts, marker pens, colour cards, etc.)* |
| 90 minutes | Identify the basic steps a community should take to be aware of and prepared for a more uncertain future in a changing climate. | **The group exercise:**  **Part A: Introducing and explaining the Minimums Standards**   1. Print each Minimum Standards on large (A3) sheet (see Annex 1 below) 2. Tape them side by side on the wall in the workshop room while you go through the following introductory steps – discussing the Minimum Standards (MS) backwards from 1.6 to 1.1. 3. Starting with the last Minimum Standard (1.6): 4. First read it aloud and point out that 1.6 is the "ultimate goal". Ask what this means, and hear some inputs from participants. 5. Sum up and/or explain that it means the community is capable of effectively articulating its own needs and demands and gain support to adjusting to a changing future. 6. Explain that to know what to advocate for, the community itself needs to monitor evaluate and learn from its own disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts. 7. Then move to Minimum Standard 1.5: 8. Read it aloud – as confirmation of what was just deduced under 1.6. 9. Show how it relates to using both traditional and scientific information such as forecasts from the weather agencies, and that MS 1.5. gives the knowledge and experience needed for MS 1.6 just discussed. 10. Then ask: How would we know community vulnerabilities and relevant climate risks? – and let participants suggest "VCA" or other participatory methods etc. 11. This brings you to MS 1.4: 12. Read it aloud – and discuss how the VCA information is to be put into practical use in developing local action plans (refer to the lessons learned from CTK module 2d *Community climate risks*). 13. Then ask: "The community cannot prepare all the time for all the possible risks. So how can the community access forecast information to be able to prepare, make appropriate planting decisions, etc.? 14. Get people's reactions and move to MS 1.3: 15. Read out the MS 1.3 loud and discuss the importance of making use of locally available weather forecasts and seeking more advice on possible seasonal forecasts (if relevant, refer to issues learned during the CTK module 2b *Using* *forecast information* and the Early warning – Early Action exercise). 16. Then ask: "What if the community doesn’t understand the forecasts and warning information, or people don't understand what action they need to take – for example, what should each household do based on a particular forecast?" 17. Get people's reactions and move to MS 1.2: 18. Read it aloud – and discuss how awareness raising is needed for people to make better use of existing forecasts, and how the local contingency plans should be 19. designed to be triggered by different levels of forecasts (= early warnings) on short (hours to weeks) and medium (months) time scales. 20. Then ask: "What do communities need to know to be motivated to seek, understand and act on climate information?" 21. Gather some feedback form the audience and move to MS 1.1: 22. Underscore that the past no longer informs the future, and global climate change can have local effects, which people should be aware of – the insight is the basis for taking the actions just summarized in all the points above. 23. **Part Team work – brainstorming actions to meet each of the Minimum Standard** 24. Divide the participants in 4 teams (if there are participants, there can be more groups). 25. Let each team take one of the sheets with the Minimum Standards posted on the wall and distribute the teams in the workshop hall. 26. Give the teams 10-15 min to discuss their specific MS and to write in the white space on the poster or on additional Sticky Notes: specific "actions" the team members (as NS staff or community volunteers, depending on the audience) could take to help the communities they work with achieve the Minimum Standard. 27. When time is up, let teams rotate group-wise and spend 3 minutes at each of the 5 other MS posters. 28. Request participants to read through the "actions" already defined on the posters. 29. Ask them to add sticky notes with supplementary "actions" they could suggest. 30. Once they have made the rounds of all 4 MS stations, let teams return to their 'home' station. 31. Instruct the teams to synthesize all notes into 2-3 key "actions"; they can choose the 2 or 3 existing "actions" they think most pertinent, or they can write their own syntheses. 32. Choose a spokesperson from each team to share their key insights – and write them clearly on the poster or Sticky Notes. 33. The facilitator leads a final debriefing on how the National Society can help implement the "actions" now defined. 34. Photograph all MS posters with the key synthesis "actions" and ensure sharing with all participants to take home.   **Facilitator tips:** To save time you may choose to let participants read the MS document as "homework" prior to the exercise and move straight to Part B of this exercise (and save the introductory Part A).  The MS document remains a living document, so download the latest version before each training event – on the CTK site or http://www.climatecentre.org/site/minimumstandards. | Discussion  Group work  Open floor  Flip charts  Printed versions (A3 size) of each of the six community level the Minimum Standards (see  bottom of this file)  Tape for wall mounting  Pens/Markers  Sticky notes ("Post-its") – preferably in 6 different colours. |

ANNEX 1. Print these 6 pages in large A3 paper for posting on the wall

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| Minimum  Standard 1.1 | | Actions |
| **Community is**  **aware of changes**  **in weather patterns**, and  recognizes that some weather related risks in the  future are likely to  be different from the past | |  |
| Minimum  Standard 1.2 | | Actions |
| **Community**  **receives and**  **understands**  **locally available**  ***weather***  **information**, and  **households know**  **appropriate**  **actions to take**  when inclement  weather is  approaching | |  |
| Minimum  Standard 1.3 | | Actions |
| In places where  credible seasonal  forecasts are  available the  **community has a**  **reliable**  **relationship with**  **an organisation**  **that can help**  **access and make**  **use of the forecast** | |  |
| **Minimum**  **Standard 1.4** | | **Actions** |
| **Community carries**  **out 'vulnerability**  **and risk**  **assessments'** that  note observed  changes in  weather,  seasonality and  hazard patterns  **and uses the**  **information to**  **develop local**  **action plans** | |  |
| Minimum  Standard 1.5 | Actions | |
| **Community**  **monitors and**  **evaluates**  **approaches to**  **disaster risk**  **reduction and**  **learns** from  experience in  order to adjust  plans to adapt to  climate variability  and change |  | |
| Minimum  Standard 1.6 | Actions | |
| **Community**  **advocates for its**  **adaptation needs**  towards  appropriate  climate‐related  authorities and  stakeholders |  | |