

Module 4:
Climate in
Programmes
Exercises



Planning for helping communities gain better access to climate information
photo: Climate Centre

Title Exercise on 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:

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

Table 2 outlines Minimum Standards for **civil society organizations** (including RC/RC national Societies) or government agencies to support communities implement climate-smart DRR activities.

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.

Learning objective: Identify the basic steps a community should take to be aware of and prepared for a more uncertain future in a changing climate.

Estimated time: 2 hours

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

- Resources needed:**
1. Printed versions (A3 size) of each of the six community level the Minimum Standards (see bottom of this file)
 2. Tape for wall mounting
 3. Pens
 4. Sticky notes ("Post-its") – preferably in 6 different colours.

The 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):
 - a. First read it aloud and point out that 1.6 is the "ultimate goal". Ask what this means, and hear some inputs from participants.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 4. Then move to Minimum Standard 1.5:
 - a. Read it aloud – as confirmation of what was just deduced under 1.6.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Then ask: How would we know community vulnerabilities and relevant climate risks? – and let participants suggest "VCA" or other participatory methods etc.
 5. This brings you to MS 1.4:
 - a. 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*).
 - b. 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.?"
 6. Get people's reactions and move to MS 1.3:
 - a. 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).
 - b. 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?"
 7. Get people's reactions and move to MS 1.2:
 - a. 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 designed to be triggered by different levels of forecasts (= early warnings) on short (hours to weeks) and medium (months) time scales.
 - b. Then ask: "What do communities need to know to be motivated to seek, understand and act on climate information?"
 8. Gather some feedback from the audience and move to MS 1.1:
 - a. 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.
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B: Part Team work – brainstorming actions to meet each of the Minimum Standard

9. Divide the participants in 6 teams
10. Let each team take one of the sheets with the Minimum Standards posted on the wall and distribute the teams in the workshop hall.
11. 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.**
12. When time is up, let teams rotate group-wise and spend 3 minutes at each of the 5 other MS posters.
 - a. Request participants to read through the "actions" already defined on the posters.
 - b. Ask them to add sticky notes with supplementary "actions" they could suggest.
13. Once they have made the rounds of all 6 MS stations, let teams returning to their 'home' station.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Choose a spokesperson from each team to share their key insights – and write them clearly on the poster or Sticky Notes.
14. The facilitator leads a final debriefing on how the National Society can help implement the "actions" now defined.
15. 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>.

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

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
<p>Community receives and understands locally available <i>weather</i> information, and households know appropriate actions to take when inclement weather is approaching</p>	

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	