

THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE EXTREMES IN BULGARIA



THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE EXTREMES

Climate Change is real and its happening right now...Possible scenarios / consequences

- **An increase in air temperature in Bulgaria from 2 to 5°C by the end of the century**
 - ✓ Cold winters will occur less often in the 2020s and will probably disappear by 2080s.
 - ✓ More often hot summers and almost every summer is expected to be unusually hot in the 2080s.
 - ✓ Winter precipitation will increase by the end of this century but rainfall during the warm half of the year and especially during the summer is expected to decrease.
- **Water resources - annual river runoff is likely to decrease during this century.**
 - ✓ Increase in the frequency of the **hot air waves** combined with increased humidity and *urban air pollution*.
 - ✓ Further limitation of water resources, **more forest fires, landslides and floods**.
 - ✓ Possible **outbreak of infectious diseases** (including such as malaria, that are not typical for our latitudes).
- **Deforestation**
- **Change in arable land and crops**



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Climate Change is real and its happening right now... Impact of on human health and communities

Climate change is projected to double its adverse health effects by 2030. Climate change consequences will be more serious and more pronounced than currently observed. Climate change has a direct (fluctuating temperature, rainfall and extreme phenomena) and indirect (air pollution, quality and quantity of water and food and population migration) impact on human health.

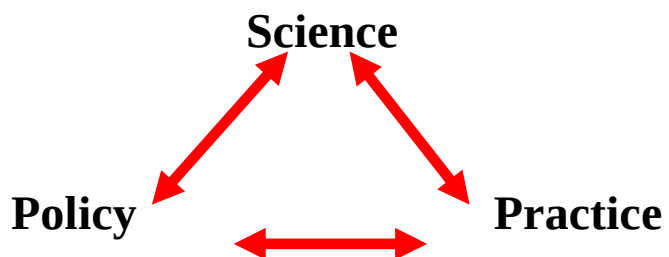
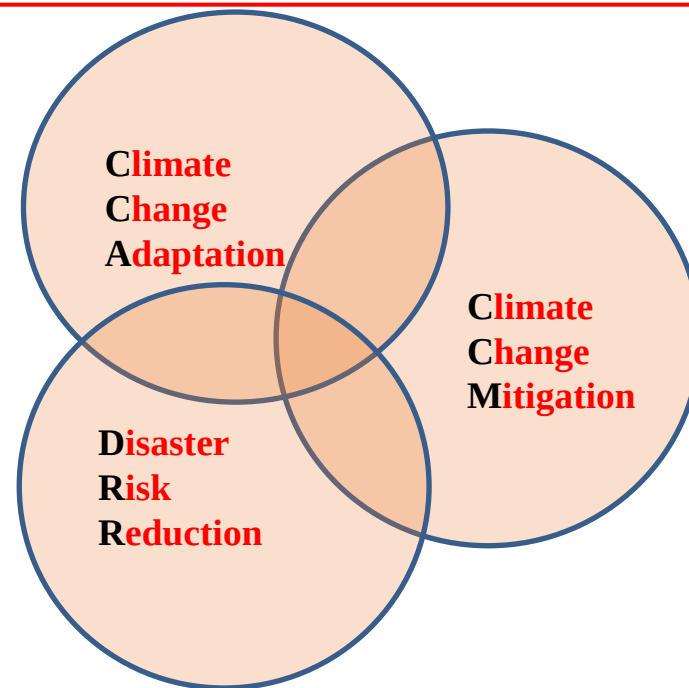
- ✓ The highest relative risk to human health in the future, including Bulgaria, will be floods;
- ✓ Increase in number of diseases caused by contaminated water after flood. Possible outbreaks of infectious diseases (including diseases such as malaria that are not typical of our latitudes).
- ✓ Dissemination of diseases in new areas, areas not typical before;
- ✓ Increased morbidity due to elevated temperatures, humidity or drought. Deaths increase by 2 - 5% for every degree Celsius, increasing the incidence of new diseases or exacerbating existing diseases.
- ✓ Possible injuries, respiratory, infectious, cardiovascular diseases, etc.



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Climate Change is real and its happening right now... Actions /results

- Strengthened political, legislative and institutional framework;
- Increased public awareness and education;
- Increased capacity of DRR systems, early warning ...;
- Increased capacity to provide humanitarian assistance;
- Increased health system capacity, medical assistance, monitoring of vector-transmitted diseases , etc;
- **Partnership!**



- ✓ Long-term adjustment to changing average climate conditions (incl. benefits)
- ✓ Risk management of geophysical (and industrial/man-made) hazards
- ✓ Climate risk management (including weather extremes)

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Strategies, policies at international level and Bulgarian legislative, political and institutional framework



**Bulgarian Red Cross is a part of the national legal and institutional basis,
supports building long-term resilience to climate risks**

- Disaster Protection Act (National Law for disaster and crisis situations);
- National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change Adaptation;
- The Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the National Disaster Protection Program and the Annual Plan for the implementation of the National Program;
- Other sectoral laws, strategies, action plans and programs for the implementation of the plans...
- Well-established civil protection, disaster response system within which there are defined roles and responsibilities under the Rescue System, good cooperation with the EU with regard to civil protection, training and integration with the Bulgarian Red Cross in response to disasters.

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Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) Act (1995). Role and responsibilities of the BRC.

- In situations of disasters and crises, the BRC is auxiliary and is a part of the National Program and the State National Plan for Protection of Population.
- The BRC is a member of National Consultative Council on Disaster Risk Reduction
- The BRC, as a part of the International RC Movement, cooperates and coordinates with International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), sister National Societies (NS) and with other external partners.
- Climate change is addressed at the BRC's Plans



- ✓ 18 463 volunteers
- ✓ 152 092 members

**Disaster Preparedness,
Response and Recovery**



Mountain Rescue



Water Life Saving



Central Warehouse



Training Centre



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Strategies, policies of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

Commitments on climate change at the **International RC Conference “Together for Humanity” 2007** :

- Raising awareness of climate change;
- Providing humanitarian assistance;
- Improving response capacity;
- Reducing the vulnerability of the hardest hit communities;
- Integrating climate risk management into policies and plans;
- Focus on the humanitarian aspects of climate change and strive to reduce vulnerability, mobilizing resources, giving priority to the most vulnerable

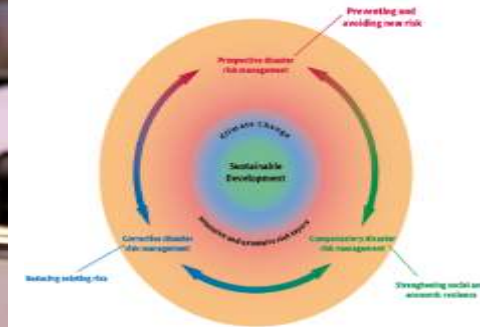


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Strategies, policies of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

IFRC's Strategy 2030

- ✓ Climate change is highlighted as one of the five global challenges faced by the Movement in the next decade.
- ✓ Climate action is first “Area of Focus”.
- ✓ IFRC ‘s Disaster Risk Management Policy highlights “climate-smart” disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ In 2018, the IFRC network reached nearly 52 million people - in all regions of the world - with climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects.
- ✓ Adaptation and the humanitarian impact of climate change, including impacts on health and migration, are one of the priority areas of activity of the Movement for the next 10 years.



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Strategies, policies of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

Climate change addressed in various outcomes and events at the 2019 Statutory Meetings



33-th International Red Cross Conference Resolution 7 on “Disaster Laws and Policies that “Leave No One Behind” identifying key aspects of domestic law and policy that can be strengthened. Disaster Preparedness and Response Checklist endorsed (DPR Checklist).



Joint pledges - NSs and government commit to work together to implement activities to address the climate crisis.



Side events - Spotlight session on “Addressing the Humanitarian Consequences of the Climate Crisis” , sharing experiences with States, exploring ways to cooperate further to jointly address the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis.

Practical session on climate-smart programming, and a session on predictable financing in a changing climate.



Communication! Promotion of climate action and sharing experiences via social media, on website and other means. the [#FacesOfClimateChange](#) campaign.

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Vision:

Make the most vulnerable communities more resilient to natural disasters and extreme weather events

Our activities and efforts:

- ✓ **Increased awareness and understanding** of the humanitarian impacts of CC. Help staff, volunteers and people learn more about humanitarian implications and risks. Assessment of the potential impact on the programs of the BRC.
- ✓ **Integrating CC into plans, projects and programs** with a focus on building resilience for the individual and the community, adapting to climate change, and work with local communities;
- ✓ **Scale up collaborative action between the BRC, government institutions, academia, weather services and NGOs, etc.** to implement mitigation and adaptation measures, address rising risks, reduce vulnerability and build resilience at local level. BRC supports community-based climate action and disaster risk reduction;
- ✓ Showcase the work already being done by BRC and components of the RC Movement, and collectively explore how we could work better together to reach and prioritize the most vulnerable people in adaptation efforts;
- ✓ **Advocacy and dialogue** - at local, national and international level, influence people and policies;
- ✓ **Dealing with consequences** - mainstreaming CC into current activities during crisis situations;
- ✓ Documenting and sharing experience and information.



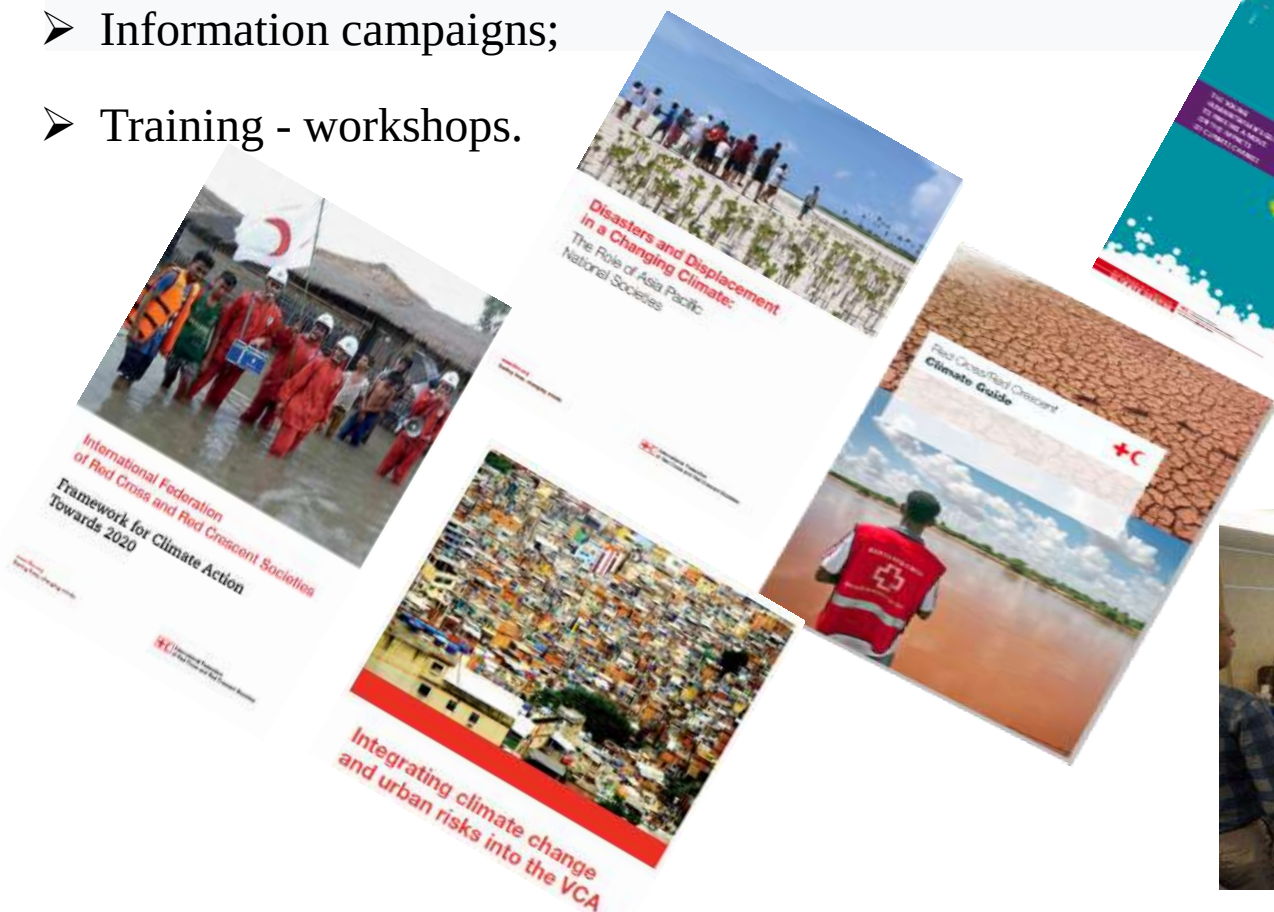
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Awareness raising activities, prevention, assistance and contribution to building community resilience

- Public awareness and public education;
- Publication and dissemination of climate related materials with a focus on local context;
- Measures to reduce the effect and adapting to climate change - explaining the causes of climate change, preparing and adapting to change;
- Information campaigns;
- Training - workshops.

RC Climate change Center in the Netherlands

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PUBLIC
EDUCATION
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:
A GUIDE + KEY MESSAGES



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Importance of partnerships - institutions, national and local authorities, media, etc.

- ✓ Ministry of Interior - GD Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of environment and water resources, National Emergency Call System 112, Ambulance svcs, etc.
- ✓ BRC is represented at the Expert Council - Ministry of Environment and Water
- ✓ Local communities, mayors, regional government
- ✓ Universities, Institutes, etc.
- ✓ Representations of IOs - WHO Office, NGOs etc.
- ✓ Conferences, events - Varna Red Cross Film Festival
- ✓ Round Table with various partners, hosted by the BRC



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Added value of projects to BRC's CC - related activities and contribution to building community resilience



BG -SWITZERLAND COOPERATION PROGRAM THEMATIC FUND “CIVIL SOCIETY REFORM FORM

Project **PreparedTogetherfor** disasters and crisis situations

- ✓ Identification of the specific needs of vulnerable groups in disaster situations;
- ✓ Analysis of assistance networks, expansion of existing ones;
- ✓ Training of volunteers to work with vulnerable groups in disaster situations
- ✓ Preparation of information and training materials for action, tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups;
- ✓ Disasters and crisis practical training (simulation) to test the work of volunteers with representatives of vulnerable groups.



THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE EXTREMES

Added value of projects to BRC 's CC related activities and contribution to building community resilience



Project **“Centers for Improving Population Preparedness for Flood Response”** launched in December 2017, financed by OP “Environment 2014-2020” with contracting authority of the Directorate-General of the Ministry of the Interior **in the part "Organization of events for the preparation of the population for response to floods and subsequent crises"**.

The BRC is a partner and carried out activities for over 100 000 BF - students 3th- 12th grade and various other target groups - elderly, volunteers, media representatives, NGOs, firms, etc .

Photos from the trainings for students from 3rd to 5th grade under the project of the Consortium "DIKON-BRC" from the Center of Fire Protection in Sofia



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Added value of projects to BRC's CC related activities and contribution to building community resilience

Aware & Resilient Project

EU project co-funded by the Civil Protection Financial Instrument. Carried out with Red Cross partners in Austria, Bulgaria, France, Latvia and Romania. The main results are:

- Adapting and translating awareness raising activity (“Introduction to Risk Reduction” -IRR) for the population. The [trainer's handbook](#) and the [leaflet “Self-protection plan for me and my family”](#) are available in Bulgarian, English, German, French, Latvian, Romanian and Russian.
- Translating and adapting a [training programme for trainers](#) to enable them to run the “Introduction to Risk Reduction” for the population. Available in Bulgarian, English, German, French, Latvian, Romanian and Russian.
- Augmenting and translating gaming tool ‘Worst Case Hero’ in all languages: The [game Worst Case Hero](#) is available in Bulgarian, German, English, French, Latvian, Romanian and Czech.
- Community-based emergency exercises [conducted](#) in each participating country. A [guide is available](#) in Bulgarian, English, German, French, Romanian and Latvian.



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Climate Change Mitigation



Safe Schools and Kindergartens Project:
Develop an online platform for safe and well-prepared schools



Partners: Bulgarian; Serbian; Austrian; Croatian Red Cross and Red Cross of N. Macedonia

- Improving the knowledge and competence of children in primary schools and kindergartens on disaster risk reduction;
- Capacity development and vocational training for primary and secondary school teachers in terms of disaster risk reduction;
- Increasing the social and environmental responsibility of educational institutions.

Results:

- ✓ Development of a resource catalog and a unified package of training materials;
- ✓ An online platform for disaster risk reduction and first aid for primary schools and kindergartens;
- ✓ On-line training in disaster risk reduction;
- ✓ Training of Red Cross teachers and volunteers as project ambassadors;
- ✓ Advocacy document with general key recommendations and versions for countries with key recommendations.



First Aid Training

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Climate Change Mitigation

Recycling, reusing, energy saving, environment protection, afforestation, planting trees, social media campaigns

✓ BRCYouth is a partner of the bTV Media Group's campaign **Let's Clean Bulgaria Together**, which aims to build public sensitivity on environmental issues and make Bulgaria cleaner and more beautiful in the long run.



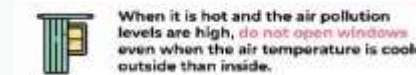
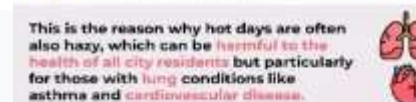
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Climate Change Adaptation - extreme weather events heatwaves, fires

- ✓ **In contact with local authorities** to provide support to those in need;
- ✓ **Station Points** - to inform the population of the risks associated with high temperatures. Protection guidelines are given, bottled water is provided, blood pressure is measured, first aid is rendered, home visits to isolated and elderly;
- ✓ Mainstreaming CCA into **Accompanying measures – Advice/Info about extreme weather under the EU FEAD - Food assistance program for 300 000 BF.**
- ✓ **Media information campaigns. Social media** - advice on the BRC website: what to do in the heat to reduce the risk to health;
- ✓ **Handbook on Disaster, Emergency and Crisis.**



Contributing factors:



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Climate Change Adaptation - extreme weather events, extreme cold

- ✓ **Provides food and other necessary items to homeless people and maintains crisis centers** for homeless in some of the regional branches. The first crisis center was created on the idea of the BRC Rousse is the village of Buzan on the road Rousse-Varna. There are three more centers in Slivo pole, Pirgovo and Byala.
- ✓ Provides food, drinks and necessary items to those stranded on the roads and highways;
- ✓ **Media information campaigns** - leaflets, etc. Social media - advice for general public and tourists in mountains on the BRC website how to avoid risks, how to recognize signs of treats to health and to provide first aid in specific situations.
- ✓ Mountain Rescue holds lectures presenting topics related to safe behavior in the mountain in winter conditions.



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Climate Change Adaptation - training for disaster and crisis response - flash floods, fires, etc.

Training, exercises, simulations at national and international level.

- ✓ National Team + National teams for water accidents + Mountain Rescue Team with Rescue dogs/volunteers
- ✓ 28 regional teams/volunteers
- ✓ Youth Rescue teams/volunteers
- ✓ 100 psychologists



Providing humanitarian assistance to affected people in flash floods and other disaster situations

- Response to floods in (Tzar Kaloyan, Asparuhovo, Mizia, Biser, Kameno). Relief items distribution, cash vouchers, wash programs, reconstruction.
- Public campaigns ensuring transparency. Public councils at the BRC for distribution of donated funds.



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Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Education

➤ Emergency Family Kit

- ✓ The contents of the kit cover the necessary items to increase the chances of survival in a disaster.
- ✓ It also contains materials that can be used in case of daily accidents.

➤ Emergency Family Plan




Какво да правим при сигнал за тревога?

Сигнал за тревога: 

• Провери безопасното място

• Слушай националното радио

• Използвай телефон

• Не отивай в опасни места

• Провери, че всички в семейството имат указанията

Натисни бутона за сигнал за тревога, провери какво трябва да правим от този момент

Запиши своите лични данни

Име: _____

Фамилия: _____

Адрес: _____

Град: _____ Пощ. код: _____

Телефон: _____

Личен лекар: _____

Алергии: _____

Спешни номера

Бърза помощ: 112

Пожарна: 002

Полиция: 101

Най-близкият роднина:

Име: _____

Телефон: _____

Научи се да оказваш първа помощ

Действие: Не излизай навън от къщи

Обади се на спешните служби: 112 или местните спешни номера

Общи указания: Провери, че децата са в безопасност

Важно: Поставай пострадали в безопасност

Индикатор: Провери студентите

Риско: Не излизай навън

Процедури: Обществените служби

Нека всички да разберат, че спешните служби ще се отзоват веднага. Запови се и спешно да се отзоват до момента, до който не са в безопасност.

Какво да правя при опасност?

Има ли опасност?

Мога ли да се справя? Провери опасността

Има ли изходен път? Провери да се изходи

Събуди се и отиди до спешните служби



Самозащита
Какво да правим

Как да подготвим
семейството си за
рисковете

Материал, изготвен от
Български Червен кръст



www.redcross.bg



"If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail"