

# Annual Report 2017

## Another Year of Extremes



Climate  
Centre

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## Another Year of Extremes

F&F OPERATION BY MONGOLIAN RED  
CROSS FOR EXTREME-WINTER CONDITIONS  
2017-18: ANIMAL WELFARE KITS



Climate  
Centre

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# Acronyms<sup>1</sup>

AR6	IPCC 6th Assessment Report
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Extremes and Disasters
D&C Days	Development and Climate Days (at COP meetings)
DFID	(UK) Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FbF	Forecast-based financing
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
PfR	Partners for Resilience
TEM-A	Technical expert meeting on adaptation
WWA	World Weather Attribution

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<sup>1</sup> For brevity here acronyms for individual Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are only given in the text.

# Preface

IN SITTING DOWN to compile our annual report this year we struggled to compartmentalize 2017 and 2018, for one country and one hazard directly connect the two. The area around the Bangladesh port city of Cox's Bazar [gets some of the most intense rainfall](#) in the South Asian monsoon. Getting on for a million people in the camps there are in grave danger, even just from the usual seasonal extreme-weather that may be getting more volatile in a changing climate.

Globally, too, unusually intense rainfall was among the most dangerous climate impacts of the year, reflecting the fact that 2017 was [one of the three warmest on record](#) (and the warmest ever without El Niño), helping to make 2013–17 the warmest five-year period since records began.

Our colleagues at the World Meteorological Organization couldn't have been clearer about the rising risks seen in 2017, with, they said, “extreme weather claiming lives and destroying livelihoods. The Arctic experienced unusually high temperatures, whilst densely populated areas in the northern hemisphere were gripped by bitter cold and damaging winter storms. Australia and Argentina suffered extreme heatwaves, whilst drought continued in Kenya and Somalia, and the South African city of Cape Town struggled with acute water shortages.”

Lethal Atlantic Hurricanes [Harvey, Irma and Maria](#) also confronted us with massive economic losses of US\$ 95 billion, US\$ 80.7 billion, and US\$ 69.7 billion respectively, with some vulnerable islands in the Caribbean almost entirely flattened and the poorest people suffering most.

Rising sea-levels contribute to rising risks, but in the case of Harvey our World Weather Attribution [analysis](#) also demonstrated that the likelihood of extreme rainfall, responsible for the devastating floods in Houston, had tripled due to climate change.

And so 2017 offers another reminder, were one necessary, of the aptness and timeliness of our work linking science, policy and practice.

At the end of the year, outgoing IFRC President Tadateru Konoe, whose successor was elected at the organization's General Assembly in Antalya, Turkey, where climate was high on the agenda, [said](#) he was leaving at “a time of unparalleled humanitarian need and complexity”, with “high-profile mass movements of people fleeing conflicts, disasters [many of them clearly climate-related], and violence.”

IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy now [describes](#) climate change as “a key driver of risk” in the modern world, saying the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent in helping the most vulnerable people affected by climate impacts will become still more pivotal.

We fully agree, and so it was gratifying for us to be able to assist with writing, and at COP 23 in Bonn launching, the IFRC’s new [Framework for Climate Action Toward 2020](#). A key component, forecast-based financing (FbF), expanded rapidly in 2017, enabling systematic early-action ahead of the more volatile climate extremes.

On top of this, we saw more clearly than ever last year the additional factor of *conflict* bearing on the already-intricate nexus driving climate-related vulnerability. In July ICRC Director of Operations Dominik Stillhart [told US senators](#) there had been no major progress on the causes of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, known as the four famines: Somalia, South Sudan, Northern Nigeria and Yemen: “People in each country,” he said, “remain the victims of an extreme ‘double vulnerability’ to the simultaneous effects of armed conflict and climate.”

On cue, our collaboration with the ICRC expanded in 2017.

Here then is our road map for the next couple of years: moving the agenda from knowledge to action – from the ongoing global effort to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement to safeguarding people in the camps around Cox’s Bazar, and in similar vulnerable contexts all around the world.



Ed Nijpels  
*Chairman*



Maarten van Aalst  
*Director*



IFRC stand, COP 23, Bonn, November 2017

# Humanitarian diplomacy

THE YEAR 2017 saw growing momentum to deliver on the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, with states, mayors and private corporations all expressing their commitment to work together towards achieving the Paris goals.

The IFRC and its Climate Centre, too, articulated our own commitment in the *IFRC Framework for Climate Action towards 2020*, developed with input from nearly 50 National Societies and launched at COP 23.

Our external engagements sought to ensure balanced attention to adaptation and mitigation, a continued focus on the most vulnerable people affected by climate impacts, and greater linkages with the international agenda.

This was achieved both through engagement with the UN process and high-level representation at major international events, including the General Assembly where IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy emphasized building the resilience of communities, supporting local actors, and promoting a more flexible humanitarian system through, for example, forecast-based financing (FbF).

All this was reinforced at the Red Cross and Red Crescent Statutory Meetings in Antalya, Turkey, where National Societies flagged climate change as a priority in the lead-up to *Strategy 2030* and the next International Conference, pledging to take the lead on climate resilience in engagement with governments.

The IFRC delegation at COP 23 was led by Climate Centre Director Maarten van Aalst and the talks were visited by the IFRC Secretary General, who spoke on community resilience – a key theme for the first time at a COP meeting – at several round tables jointly organized by the IFRC.

*This framework document sets out how we intend to keep pace with the changing operational, scientific and policy landscapes on climate, defining a stronger role for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement both through programmes in the field and advocacy in the corridors of power*

– Elhadj As Sy,  
IFRC  
Secretary  
General,  
*Framework  
for Climate  
Action  
Towards 2020*

An acknowledged Red Cross Red Crescent highlight in Bonn was the presence of the Kiribati Red Cross volunteer, Esther Nabuti, who was introduced by Mr Sy at one of the high-level sessions which she closed by reading her poem *My Beloved Island* (*photo, below*).

Our lead role in the organization of Development and Climate Days (D&C Days) ensured a dynamic and well-attended event that brought together at least 450 participants for the middle weekend of the two-week COP. D&C Days has now become a recognized part of the COP process that links development, humanitarian and climate spheres to ask big questions, seek big answers, and work collectively on fair solutions.



Kiribati Red Cross volunteer Esther Nabuti reading *My Beloved Island* at D&C Days, November 2017

# The IPCC

AS PART OF its continuing engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the build-up to its next assessment of the global climate – its sixth, known as ‘AR6’ – the Climate Centre initiated a major conference in Nairobi on climate risk management and invited the IPCC to jointly host it.

This [International Conference on Climate Risk Management](#) was hosted by the Kenya Red Cross (KRC) and focused especially on “the most vulnerable human and natural systems”, according to the invitation sent out together with the IPCC.

The conference gathered scientists from at least 35 countries, including both co-chairs of the IPCC’s Working Group II on impacts and adaptation: Dr Debra Roberts of South Africa (*at left in photo below*) and Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner of Germany, and generated recommendations for AR6 covering risk, timelines and priorities. The Climate Centre supported travel and accommodation for participants from developing countries.

Dr Roberts said the conference represented “an important contribution to improving our understanding of risk and vulnerability across scales, contexts and sectors, and of how that knowledge could inform the identification of resilient and sustainable responses”.

Alongside the conference, at the KRC’s Boma Centre, a high-level event at the University of Nairobi unpacked adaptation issues for AR6 of particular importance to developing countries.



International conference on climate risk management, Nairobi, April 2017  
(Dr Debra Roberts, IPCC, and University of Nairobi students)

The following month a further [scoping meeting](#) in Addis Ababa of some 200 experts from 60 countries, also attended by Dr Van Aalst, drafted an actual outline for AR6 and was described as “a decisive step to advance the work plan of the IPCC” by its chair, Hoesung Lee.

*African countries participate less in the authorship of reports in the IPCC and hence it’s important that essential and credible data [from them] is presented to the IPCC secretariat*

– Dr Samwel Marigi, Senior Assistant Director, Kenya Meteorological Department and Kenyan IPCC focal point

# Programmes

## Partners for Resilience

PfR is linking international policy dialogues with national and local policy and practice in the ten countries where we work. In addition PfR seeks to empower civil society organizations and vulnerable groups to lobby and advocate for their needs.

PfR influenced various global resilience agendas where we prioritized the Paris Agreement through engagement at COP 23, expert meetings on adaptation (TEM-A), the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, and D&C Days.

PfR training for fishermen, Jakarta, May 2017



We work to bring local voices and coherence to dialogues on implementing the Sendai, Sustainable Development Goals, and urban agendas through, last year for example, the [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (DRR) in Cancun and the regional platform for the Americas in Montreal.

Among other global-level highlights was our collaboration with the resilience group in the run up to COP 23 with whom we designed three high-level round tables.

In Indonesia, among country highlights, [training workshops](#) were conducted for fishermen (*photo above*) to build their skills in accessing and interpreting weather forecasts and information about waves and fishing grounds using smartphones. The Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics and the US-supported APIK programme are now adopting the approach.

The Kenya Red Cross, with PfR encouragement, is now recognized by its government as a key partner in deploying climate finance to support vulnerable communities.

In Ethiopia, PfR is supporting the National Meteorological Agency with the organization of up to three [seasonal conferences](#) a year, with a variety of government departments, enabling in-depth discussions of climate advisories, warnings, and early action to help people prepare for seasonal changes.

*While reaching communities is often seen as the last mile in early-warning terms, for us it is so clearly the first mile for effective disaster risk reduction and preparedness*

– John Lobar,  
Secretary  
General, South  
Sudan Red  
Cross



Joyce Kimutai, KMD Senior Meteorologist, presents at a high-level climate-policy breakfast meeting, Nairobi, March 2017

In Haiti, the Climate Centre supported the Haitian Red Cross (HRC) with the [roll-out of pilot projects](#) of the Y-Adapt programme for engagement by young people in action on climate change. In October a training of trainers took place in the northern city of Cap-Haïtien, and plans are in hand to pilot Y-Adapt across HRC branches.

Haiti's Ministry of Education and PfR country team are exploring how to use Y-Adapt as a tool to help incorporate information on integrated risk management, and Haiti's own national adaptation plan, into the national curriculum.

In several PfR countries Red Cross youth volunteers were trained to convey complex messages in a simple way by, for example, using flash mobs as an advocacy tool to explain how to stay safe during [heatwaves in India](#), where temperatures can reach 50 degrees Celsius in June, or on [flood preparedness in Uganda](#).

And in Uganda substantial progress was made with PfR contributing to the climate change bill and [national adaptation planning](#) (see below), while the government also committed itself to setting up a fund for early warning early action.



PfR camel caravan, Ewaso Ngiro basin communities, Kenya, September 2017

## Forecast-based financing

After more than four years of FbF pilot projects that generated many lessons, 2017 marked a new way of working to allow early action from ‘impact-based forecasts’. This was at the forefront of development and research, together with a strong focus on evidence-based early action.

By the end of the year, the first nationwide FbF activation was underway in [Mongolia](#), where an impact-based government forecast for extreme-winter conditions was used by the Mongolian Red Cross Society, supported by the British Red Cross, to reach 2,000 families with cash transfers and animal kits to help them preserve their animals.

Earlier in the year, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, with support from the German Red Cross, [activated](#) their FbF system for monsoon floods, reaching more than 1,000 families. An impact analysis demonstrated that investing in cash-transfer programmes in this way can help families to cope with the impacts of flood, and reduce the need to take out high-interest loans or sell valuable household items. Meanwhile the Togo Red Cross [activated](#) their own FbF system for floods twice.

At the global level, the Climate Centre continued supporting the engagement of new partners in advocacy and technical support for FbF, including the Belgian, Danish, Finnish and French Red Cross.

The Malawi, Philippines and Solomon Islands Red Cross led dialogues at national level with their governments for the design of FbF systems for droughts, floods and storms.

The German government continued to be at the fore of advocacy for investment in FbF, especially at the first FbF [dialogue platform](#) in Asia hosted by the Vietnam Red Cross in June, and in October in Berlin, when Germany also announced support for the first FbF window under the IFRC’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. [Rolled out in May 2018](#), this window focuses on funding of early actions that are elaborated in a protocol submitted by a National Society, including positioning of relief stocks.

*The implementation of forecast-based financing... will be scaled up to reduce risks, enhance preparedness and response, and make disaster risk management overall more effective*

– IFRC Plan and Budget 2016–2020



FbF cash distribution, Cyclone Mora, Bangladesh, May 2017

In the academic arena, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) funded two projects – 'Towards Forecast-based Preparedness Action' and 'Forecasts for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action' – generating case studies on FbF in Mozambique and Uganda, and Kenya's system for drought warning.



First FbF dialogue platform in Asia, Hanoi, June 2017



Edge of Government Award, February 2017 (Nelson Akibode, Togo DRR platform, Pablo Suarez, Climate Centre Associate Director for Research and Innovation)

## Attribution

The Climate Centre's work to understand and communicate how climate change is (or isn't) affecting risks associated with extreme-weather events hit its stride in 2017 with eight studies of extreme heat, cold, rainfall and drought.

One of the highlights of the year's work on attribution came when climate scientists – after a three-day conference in Nairobi – issued a [detailed study](#) of the Kenyan drought. Covered widely in local media, it said there was a detectable climate signal in the atmospheric temperatures behind the drought but no strong influence of climate change on rainfall.

The conference brought together scientists, policy-makers and practitioners who have been working on extreme-event attribution in India, Ethiopia and Kenya. The conference highlighted the importance of communication, even when no climate change signal is detected, and also emphasizing the role that vulnerability and exposure plays in determining the impact of an extreme event.

Drought in Kenya, Isiolo county, April 2017



*The humanitarian logic of the attribution effort is that the better [climate-related disaster] can be understood, the better it can be planned for*

– Maarten van Aalst, Climate Centre Director (Kenya drought study)

Following one of the most destructive hurricane seasons in the past ten years, the World Weather Attribution (WWA) partnership [also found](#) that rainfall associated with Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas was made roughly three times more likely due to climate change. The partnership highlighted how population growth, urban growth, and ageing water-management infrastructure exacerbated the impacts of this storm. The resulting paper was selected as a highlight of 2017 by the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

A study of [drought in Somalia](#) did not show that climate change influenced the probability of the event, but La Niña increased the likelihood of reduced rainfall and explained about a third of the rainfall deficits.

Maarten van Aalst commented: “While we cannot blame climate change for this drought, the study points out that the high natural variability of rainfall in Somalia could mask underlying trends.

“This underscores the key humanitarian message, that we must keep up the pressure to act earlier, be more agile, and advocate for more flexible funding in fragile, conflict-affected countries.”



Haiti Red Cross volunteers,  
Hurricane Irma, September 2017

## Building Resilience to Climate Extremes and Disasters

At the BRACED [annual learning event](#) in Entebbe, Uganda we heard a multitude of inspiring stories of building resilience on the ground in Africa and Asia. Partners from 13 programme countries shared their successes and challenges through a learning marketplace, a film festival and a range of interactive sessions. Their experiences show that it is possible to help the most vulnerable people stand up to the growing pressures they face, but that these changes take time.

Twenty-six webinars and discussion forums were offered to BRACED partners and the public, reaching more than 1,200 people. We explored topics such as sharing climate information on mobile phones and reflected on the drought in Africa. We assessed the climate-related drivers of the drought, which included La Niña, and the Indian Ocean Dipole, and drew lessons from forecasts and actions taken.

Humanitarian and development actors, donors and forecasters indicated that lessons from previous droughts had resulted in improved and earlier coordination for response, and more flexible financing to respond to immediate needs.

BRACED piloted a collaboration grant with seed funding to encourage learning across different partner organizations, supporting three initiatives that link seven NGO consortiums, including the production of a documentary for national television in Mali.

BRACED family, [Harina Devi Khatri and husband Bishnu](#), Hirapur Doti district, Nepal, September 2017



*Resilience is the capacity of an individual household, a community, a country, or a system to cope with shocks through tools that are efficient and sustainable*

– Catherine Simonet, Overseas Development Institute (2017 BRACED learning event)

## Social protection

For a significant number of people in developing countries, their assets, livelihoods, and their very lives are intrinsically linked to weather and climate. The Climate Centre's work on social protection aims to help them manage risk in the short term and reduce poverty, especially by making better use of climate information.

In the Sahel last year, in collaboration with the World Bank, we supported the Mali and Niger Red Cross and other stakeholders in exploring ways to link social protection to early action.

In Malawi, we supported the government's efforts to make social protection sensitive to shocks by supporting an [analysis](#) of the country's social protection system, now a national priority reflected in strategies covering development, resilience and emergencies.

We supported policy-makers' understanding of links between social protection and climate risk management, including forecast-based action, as part of our BRACED engagement.

In collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) we created a game on bringing a resilience lens to social protection and humanitarian aid. We expanded our networks and collaborated with National Societies and other partners, including risk financing and insurance concerns.



Red Cross protective assistance to children, Mafateng district, Lesotho, January 2018

*The concept of shock-sensitive social protection has become a national priority in Malawi*

– Harry Mwamlima, Director, Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division; James Chiusiwa, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction, Department of Disaster Management Affairs

## National adaptation planning

The [Danish Red Cross-supported NAP project](#) ended with a final evaluation highlighting successes with the Armenian, Georgian, Kenyan, Malawian and Nepalese Red Cross in strengthening their capacity to conduct humanitarian diplomacy on climate.

The project's steering committee produced communications materials on adaptation planning and ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable are included in national priorities, while our NAP training module has also been updated and posted online.

The experience of the NAP project has been incorporated into other programmes such as PfR, especially in Uganda and South Sudan, and it's also helped guide research on cities in Southern Africa.

The Climate Centre also presented in a regional 'NAP Expo' alongside the CBA11 conference in Kampala on the role of civil society partners, and a similarly themed workshop hosted by PfR in Uganda which attracted nearly 60 people, including ministers and senior officials.

*The ministry's climate change department is open to all civil society partners to engage in the [NAP] process*

– Sam Cheptoris, Ugandan Minister of Water and Environment (PfR-supported adaptation workshop)

PfR-supported adaptation workshop for Uganda, Kampala, May 2017



# Innovation & hydropower

THE YEAR 2017 offered valuable opportunities for the Climate Centre's work linking science, policy and practice, including consolidation of recent innovations such as our collaboration with the hydropower sector.

In May 2017, the Climate Centre convened a two-day workshop on managing flood risk at the [World Hydropower Congress](#) in Addis Ababa, being held for the first time in Africa.

We consolidated other work on climate risks with hydropower, and with support from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) laid foundations for scaling up FbF downstream from dams worldwide.

With the German Red Cross and other partners, the Climate Centre contributed to the development of FUNES, a self-learning algorithm for forecasting floods that links early warnings with financing; it was tested during the 2016 floods downstream from Togo's Nangbeto dam.

In February the Togo project received a [Global Innovation Award](#) at the World Government Summit in the UAE (*photo, P14*).

Last year, we believe, our input helped streamline Togolese Red Cross [community preparedness](#) triggered in September, with dam operators communicating frequently with humanitarian and government colleagues.

With George Washington University, GFDRR and other partners we have set up online mapping tools to identify structures likely to be flooded by dam discharges.

*'We would like to join the collective effort to design and implement dam-safety measures and policies, as well as explore scientific approaches to flood-risk management*

– Frehiwot Worku,  
Secretary General,  
Ethiopian Red Cross Society

Our virtual reality experiences, meanwhile, continue to be featured at global events and are used by partners including the German Red Cross and the World Bank, as well as in an article in the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* describing VR on FbF in Togo and Arctic sea ice.

In collaboration with young Red Cross volunteers from the Pacific and artists, we created a VR experience blending words and satellite imagery that was presented at the [Statutory Meetings](#) in Antalya, Turkey, as well as at COP 23.

At the cutting edge of technology, we explored [augmented reality](#) for visualizing climate-risk data, developed in collaboration with the design team at VISYON.

*A Year Without Your Seasons* is a promising new dialogue about changing climate risks: an interactive format that begins with personal stories of how, for example, milder winters are leading to the loss of cultural identity in some places.

Our contributions on geoengineering included a [journal article](#) and a new game shared at the Climate Engineering Conference in Berlin.

We are collaborating with University College London to assess the opportunities and challenges of machine learning for climate risks, and supporting the IFRC innovation team on [humanitarian finance](#).



FbF distribution of relief goods, Lower Mono, downstream from Nangbeto hydropower dam, Togo, August 2017

# Games & interaction

THE GREAT NEWCOMER last year was the use of flash mobs to draw attention to important humanitarian issues. As temperatures hit 43 degrees Celsius in Delhi, a [unique five-day training experience](#) showed young Red Cross volunteers and staff how to stage flash mobs for heatwave awareness – much more effective than traditional leaflets, was the verdict afterwards (*photo below*).

The Climate Centre’s work on games continues to grow and our resources are now easily available on our updated [games page](#). We have created new games, infused learning and dialogue processes with existing games, and spent time reviewing the effectiveness of these methods.

Examples include Master that Disaster, developed for FAO, that lets players experience how climate-sensitive social protection works; A Buzz about Dengue was developed to create awareness about the causes and consequences of dengue fever; Piloting the Perils was developed for NASA to highlight the role of earth observations in assessing disaster risk.

Flash mobs, games and other tools supported learning and dialogue around the world. Research for the project ‘Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions’ has included our approaches; French Red Cross [regional training](#) in the Indian Ocean includes games; and interactive sessions including poetry contributed to promoting key messages at D&C Days.

*By appealing to all the senses – including the cognitive engagement that interactivity entails – the [games] experience will create a more powerful and lasting memory and so be more effective in inspiring action in the future*

– Ed Daly,  
Managing Director,  
seeper



Delhi heatwave flash mobs, June 2017

The year also saw a marked increase in youth engagement. Together with the Philippines Red Cross, Plan International and the Engagement Lab, we have completed the participatory design of [Y-Adapt](#) – a games-based curriculum for young people now underway in Haiti, Indonesia and the Philippines.

We continued with our Taste the Change programme, including a session on the future of protein at the Council of Delegates in Antalya, Turkey, while an evaluation of the effectiveness of the 2016 Handwashing with Ananse exercise in Ghana showed positive impacts.

Y-Adapt, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, August 2017



# Communications

ONE OF THE most exciting developments in a productive year in Climate Centre communications was a field trip to the [PfR project areas in Kenya](#) to use drone filming to highlight the severity of the drought there. The Climate Centre crew later flew down to Malindi to visit and film an [irrigation project](#) supported by the Austrian and Finnish Red Cross.

Our social-media audience grew apace in 2017 and continues to grow, and we now (mid-2018) have nearly 4,000 followers on [Twitter](#).

The Climate Centre generated nearly three [web stories](#) a week (132 in total) on average in 2017 – original material about our programmes, cross-postings of IFRC stories, and reports on non-Movement activity.

In his media engagement, Director Maarten van Aalst continued to be a very effective [spokesperson](#) for the Climate Centre, and in some contexts, like COP 23 and the Nairobi risk conference, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as a whole.

*'The goal of this ambitious [attribution] effort is to use peer-reviewed science to provide decision-makers, the public, and the media with early, science-based answers...'*

– Dr Friederike Otto, Oxford Environmental Change Institute



(At right: Filipe Nainoca, Director-General of the Fiji Red Cross Society, and Dr Maarten van Aalst, Climate Centre Director, at COP 23)

His direct media engagement included several interviews with *The Economist* as well as The Conversation news site, Associated Press, Thomson Reuters Foundation, *OneWorld* magazine, *Scientific American*, and Netherlands media outlets.

He also spoke at Leiden University at an event to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Prinses Margriet, one of the founders of the Climate Centre.

IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy speaks to UN TV, COP 23, Bonn, November 2017



# Developing areas

## Working with the ICRC

Operations Director Dominik Stillhart who told US senators there had been “no major progress” on humanitarian crises in Somalia, South Sudan, Northern Nigeria and Yemen: “People in each country,” he said, “remain the victims of an extreme ‘double vulnerability’ to the simultaneous effects of armed conflict and climate.”

As part of our newly increased, and arguably timely, collaboration with the ICRC, the International Committee will now join our board as an observer, and planned roundtables on climate and conflict will focus on ordinary people’s lived experience and how best to deploy climate finance.

The ICRC joined the 2017 D&C Days for a session on climate and conflict; and a session on the theme was also held at CBA11 in Kampala where an ICRC colleague shared personal experiences from Somalia. Climate Centre staff provided technical inputs at ICRC workshops in Nairobi.

Collaboration with the ICRC’s Economic Security Unit will also now grow, with Climate Centre participation in its annual workshop and joint development of a case study highlighting the ICRC’s approach to climate risk management.



ICRC assistance reaches Taiz, Yemen, March 2017

## The urban landscape

The Climate Centre has prioritized urban resilience as an emerging theme with a special focus on Asia and Africa, where the most urban growth is expected. Our aim is to promote inclusive, climate-sensitive urban planning, connecting cities to global processes and strengthening National Societies' urban portfolio.

Through the Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands programme we continue to facilitate dialogue between scientists and urban actors using learning labs: last year Lusaka and Windhoek held their second lab, while Lusaka hosted a high-level breakfast for policy-makers.

In other developments: a specialist task force for FbF in urban settings was launched at the dialogue platform in Berlin bringing together Movement and other actors; we are partnering with city officials, disaster managers, public health experts and meteorologists on a guide to heatwaves in cities; and we worked on the annual meeting in Oslo of the IFRC's Urban Collaboration Platform.



PIR-supported urban farming in Jakarta

# Finance and administration

## Our donors

In 2017, most of the Climate Centre's income came from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UK Department for International Development and the German and Norwegian Red Cross and their governments. We were also supported by:

- British Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- New Zealand Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross

Other contributors were the World Meteorological Organization, IFAD, CDKN, FAO, UTC, the Natural Environment Research Council, the World Bank and the European Commission.

## Organization

The Climate Centre is an independent foundation under Dutch law and has three board members responsible for management. One of the board members is nominated by the NLRC, one by the IFRC, and the third sits as an independent chair selected jointly by the NLRC and IFRC (*see full list below*).

The Climate Centre remains grateful to its hosts, the Netherlands Red Cross in The Hague. Each year the centre receives support from many different departments of the NLRC and benefits from the expertise of its human resources, legal and financial departments.

## Governing board

Name, function and position in 2017:

- E.H.T.M. Nijpels, Crown Member, Netherlands Social and Economic Council, and Chair of the Netherlands Energy Agreement Assurance Committee, former Netherlands Minister of the Environment
- Garry Conille, Under Secretary General, IFRC Garry Conille was replaced by Jagan Chapagain, IRFC Under Secretary general programmes and operations in June 2017
- Gijs de Vries (Treasurer), Director General, NLRC.

We are very grateful for the support of Garry Conille and thank him for all his contributions to the Climate Centre board up to June 2017.

The board met in May and December 2017.

## Management and team

The Climate Centre's head office is located in The Hague. Many of its team members are based around the world, facilitating regional or in-country support to IFRC offices, National Societies and partners. We have a strong network of counterparts in a range of IFRC offices, National Societies, and partner institutions, as well as several expert consultants.

The Climate Centre's director is Dr Maarten van Aalst, who combines a background in atmospheric science with extensive experience in the management of climate risk in policy and practice; he is also an IPCC Lead Author and holds adjoint positions at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society and the UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy.

The management team of the Climate Centre comprises:

- Maarten van Aalst, Director
- Pablo Suarez, Associate Director for Research and Innovation
- Fleur Monasso, Manager, Capacity Strengthening and Partnerships
- Carina Bachofen, Manager, Policy and Partnerships
- Erin Coughlan de Perez, Manager, Climate Science
- Julie Arrighi, Urban Manager and ICRC Partnership Lead.

# Annual accounts 2017

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 (in euro)

After appropriation of the result					
Assets	12/31/17	12/31/16	Liabilities	12/31/17	12/31/16
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets (1)	19,118	13,079	Unrestricted reserves		
Current assets			– going concern reserve (4)	627,178	582,245
Accounts receivable			Restricted funds		
and prepayments (2)	1,077,003	738,535	– donor restricted funds (5)	-	22,566
Cash and cash			– mission reserve (6)	24,539	9,200
equivalents (3)	83,501	939,696	Total equity	651,717	614,011
			Short-term liabilities (7)	527,905	1,077,299
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,179,622</b>	<b>1,691,310</b>		<b>1,179,622</b>	<b>1,691,310</b>

## Statement of income and expenditure for 2017 (in euro)

Income	Actual 2017	Budget 2017	Actual 2016
<b>Income from own fund-raising</b>			
Gifts and donations (8)	1,298,960	945,632	710,167
Government grants (9)	2,501,598	2,564,299	1,815,382
Other income and expenditures	1,790	-	18,683
<b>Total available for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>3,802,348</b>	<b>3,509,931</b>	<b>2,544,232</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Climate Centre operations</b>			
- own activities (10)	3,793,869	3,075,790	2,568,450
- general operating costs (11)	29,227	434,141	63,318
<b>Total expenditure for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>3,764,642</b>	<b>3,509,931</b>	<b>2,505,132</b>
<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>37,706</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,100</b>
<b>Appropriation of balance for the year</b>			
- donor restricted funds	22,566	-	-
- mission reserve	15,339	-	9,200
- going concern reserve	44,933	-	29,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,706</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,100</b>

<b>Brief summary</b>	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>
<b>Donor restricted funds</b>			
– Addition to Mission reserve	22,566-	-	-
	<u>22,566-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Mission reserve</b>			
– Addition from Donor restricted funds	22,566		
– Income	1,990	-	9,200
– Expenditure	9,217-	-	-
	<u>15,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,200</u>
<b>Going concern reserve</b>			
– Income	3,800,358	3,509,931	2,535,032
– Expenditure	3,755,425	3,509,931	2,505,132
	<u>44,933</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,900</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,706</b>		<b>39,100</b>

## Notes

The 2017 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Guideline for annual reporting C1 “small not-for-profit organizations” (*Richtlijn voor de Jaarverslaggeving Kleine Organisaties-zonder-winststreven*) edition 2016. They aim to give an understanding of income and expenditure and the overall financial position of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

## Principles of valuation and presentation

### General

The financial statements have been drawn up on the historic costs. Unless stated otherwise, the assets and liabilities are posted at nominal value. Balance-sheet items in foreign currencies are converted at the rate on the date of the balance sheet, and the ensuing gains or losses in exchange are recorded in the statement of income and expenditure under the heading “investment revenues”. Unless stated otherwise, all amounts are given in euros.

The Climate Centre is statutory based in The Hague, The Netherlands and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 27267681.

## **Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments of the entity include receivables, cash items and also trade creditors and other payables. Financial instruments are initially stated at fair value, including discount of premium and directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition financial instruments are valued in the manner as described below.

## **Tangible fixed assets**

These are stated at acquisition cost less cumulative depreciation. Depreciation is calculated as a percentage of the acquisition cost, according to the straight-line method on the basis of useful life.

## **Accounts receivable**

Receivables are carried at amortised costs using the effective interest method (for the entity equalling the nominal value) less any bad debt provision deemed necessary.

## **Trade creditors and other payables**

Trade creditors and other payables are carried at amortised costs using the effective interest method (for the entity equalling the nominal value).

## **Principles for determination of the result**

Costs and revenues are allocated to the period to which they relate. The entities's pension plan is a defined contribution pension plan. Obligations for the contribution to this plan are recognised as an expense in the statement of income and expense as incurred.

## **Government grants**

Grants that the provider has made dependent upon the costs of a project are included in the statement of income and expenditure for the year in which the subsidized expenditure was incurred.

## **Salaries**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre follows the Dutch Red Cross collective agreement (CAO).

The Dutch Red Cross has its own collective agreement (CAO) that is concluded with trade union FNV Abvakabo since 2006.

Regarding the remuneration of employees the following is set: The starting point for determining the salary scale function is the function. To this end, all the functions arranged into a number of groups, called functional groups. Each function contains a number of features that are approximately equivalent. The severity of a function is determined by a job description. For each function there is a certain salary scale with a minimum and maximum salary. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre scales have been developed with the Dutch Red Cross and have been approved by the board.

## Notes to the balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 (in euro)

<b>Tangible fixed assets (1)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Book value at 1 January	13,079	7,368
Investments (computers)	14,035	10,112
Disinvestments	-	-
Depreciation charged for year (33.33%)	7,996-	4,401-
<b>Book value at 31 December</b>	<b>19,118</b>	<b>13,079</b>
<b>Accounts receivable and prepayments (2)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Receivables activities	1,010,525	584,767
Receivables from related parties	-	50,000
Accrued interest and other receivables	66,478	103,768
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,077,003</b>	<b>738,535</b>
Almost all receivables have a remaining term of less than 1 year.		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents (3)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Current accounts	83,501	939,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,501</b>	<b>939,696</b>

The cash and cash equivalents are at the Climate Centre's free disposal.

## Equity

In accordance with the aforementioned guidelines, the Climate Centre's equity is broken down into restricted funds and unrestricted reserves. Restricted, earmarked funds are that part of equity to which a third party has dictated a specific use, and the Climate Centre can only use these funds for that purpose. The remaining equity is reported as unrestricted. The going-concern reserve will be allocated as unrestricted funding to carry out activities according to the mandate of the Climate Centre, as described in the articles of association.

<b>Going concern reserve (4)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Balance at 1 January	582,245	552,346	
Appropriation of balance for the year	44,932	29,900	
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>627,177</b>	<b>582,245</b>	
<b>Restricted funds (5)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Donor-restricted funds			
Balance at 1 January	22,566	22,566	
Appropriation of balance for the year	22,566-	-	
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>22,566</b>	
	<b>Balance 1 Jan 2017</b>	<b>Addition to Mission reserve</b>	<b>Balance 31 Dec 2017</b>
IASC	18,452	18,452-	-
Audiovisuals	4,114	4,114-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>22,566-</b>	<b>-</b>

The donor-restricted funds include the portion of equity that may be used only for certain purposes, either because a third-party (donor) has stipulated the restriction or because the money was collected for a specific purpose. Allocations to the donor-restricted funds are determined according to the specific purposes for which gifts and donations are given.

The Climate Centre's policy is to spend the restricted funds within three years of the stipulation being made.

The transfer to the mission reserve in 2017 is permitted because the conditions of the mission reserve terms matches with the purposes of the donor.

<b>Restricted reserve (6)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Mission reserve		
Balance at 1 January	9,200	-
Appropriation of balance for the year	15,339	9,200
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>24,539</b>	<b>9,200</b>

The mission reserve is a reserve for the mission of the Climate Centre, particularly focused on policy, innovation, and analysis. The funds placed in this reserve will be used for unfunded activities that further the mission of the Climate Centre, and it is our aim that funds invested in this reserve should be spent within 5 years of being invested in the reserve.

The board has stipulated the restriction of the mission reserve.

<b>Short-term debts (7)</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Accounts payable	155,656	88,375
Taxes and social security premiums	30,427	21,925
Pension	20,784	38,900
Other creditors	242,202	304,072
Project related funds	78,836	624,026
<b>Total</b>	<b>527,905</b>	<b>1,077,299</b>

Project related Funds	Balance	Received	Expenditure	Balance
	1 Jan 2017			31 Dec 2017
PFR II	478,337	1,112,103	1,590,440-	-
Plan Games	307	-	-	307
Norwegian Red Cross (Policy and Science)	4,169	146,914	151,083-	-
IFAD	24,573	14,247	13,003-	25,817
PLACARD	21,691	8,157	29,849-	-
Ireland Resilience	1,802	2,481-	679	-
Fractal II	30,903	58,982	89,885-	-
Chronic Crisis	41,974	117,283	121,838-	37,418
Danish Red Cross National Allocation Plan project	13,416	35,470	43,678-	5,207
FAO SP Games	4,730	21,952	26,682-	-
WB Challenge Fund Dar Es Salaam	2,124	5,349	7,473-	-
FBFII Mongolia	-	28,117	18,030-	10,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>624,026</b>	<b>1,546,093</b>	<b>2,091,282-</b>	<b>78,836</b>

## Assets and liabilities not recognised in balance sheet

Liabilities not recognised:

At the time of issuing the financial statements an (internal) investigation is ongoing if the Foundation is an entrepreneur for the VAT.

The outcome of this investigation is still pending.

## Notes to the statement of income and expenditure for 2017 (in euro)

<b>Gifts and donations (8)</b>	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>
PNSs: Netherlands Red Cross	25,000	25,000	25,000
German Red Cross	30,099	34,000	47,855
Danish Red Cross	43,678	25,000	51,961
American Red Cross	-	-	5,377
Swiss Red Cross	13,914	10,000	13,637
British Red Cross	39,185	16,231	32,674
Norwegian Red Cross	151,083	140,000	135,290
Other	751	-	-
	<b>303,710</b>	<b>250,231</b>	<b>311,793</b>
Norwegian University of Live Sciences	-	-	25,937
IDAMS (European Commission)	-	-	26,099
World Bank	51,310	9,726	12,285
IFAD	13,003	12,800	17,705
Global Framework for Climate Services (WMO/IFRC)	-	-	20,024
Unicef	-	-	37,373
ASSAR	22,757	24,870	9,815
PLACARD	29,849	37,500	6,630
Proud of my Purok NPL	14,147	20,000	8,386
RPII	117,644	94,118	21,752
Fractal II	89,885	57,698	52,925
Attribution	330,113	171,776	147,416
ASP Sahel Adaptive Protection Program	131,419	176,558	5,527
Malawi Social Protection	40,054	40,355	5,279
FOA SP Games	26,682	-	1,222
FBF II German Private sector	73,912	-	-
Y Adapt Iran (IFRC)	10,060	-	-
Fathum	37,394	50,000	-
Fathum Shear CCT	1,027	-	-
Fathum Shear KB	5,994	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,298,960</b>	<b>945,632</b>	<b>710,167</b>

<b>Government grants (9)</b>	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>
Partners for Resilience (Dutch Government)	1,590,426	1,824,170	791,663
Forecast Based Financing (German Government)	182,125	194,389	538,740
Forecast Based Financing II (German Government)	211,256	-	-
Strengthening community resilience Ethiopia (Dutch Government; Chronic Crisis)	121,838	66,000	54,577
BRACED (UK Government)	353,877	461,740	397,447
El Nino research (UK Government)	831	-	32,954
Other Government grants	41,245	18,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,501,598</b>	<b>2,564,299</b>	<b>1,815,382</b>

#### **Climate Centre operations (10)**

<b>Own activities</b>	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>
Salaries attributed to projects	2,130,340	1,848,174	1,615,579
Other employment expenses	414,249	545,609	370,023
Consultants/volunteers	876,309	170,200	445,259
Office and housings costs	349,329	480,507	120,203
Campaign materials	23,642	31,300	17,186
Other direct costs	-	-	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,793,869</b>	<b>3,075,790</b>	<b>2,568,450</b>

**Climate Centre Operations (11)**

General operating costs	Actual 2017	Budget 2017	Actual 2016
<b>Employment expenses</b>			
Salaries	454,650	483,452	319,645
Salaries foreign staff	1,307,772	1,390,621	910,890
Social security charges	57,880	61,546	45,611
Pension contributions	58,827	62,554	43,746
Attributed to projects	2,130,340-	1,848,174-	1,615,579-
	<b>251,211-</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>295,686-</b>
Other employment expenses	75,880	30,000	73,465
Consultants/volunteers	78,910	141,896	113,448
Office and housings costs	59,669	107,245	41,646
Other general costs	7,526	5,000	3,810
	<b>221,984</b>	<b>284,141</b>	<b>232,368-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,227-</b>	<b>434,141</b>	<b>63,318-</b>

During the financial year, the average number of FTE excluding long term consultants amounts to 6 (2016: 5.2).

No board member has received a salary, loans or guarantees.

The Hague, 28 August 2018

Board of Governors

Mr E.H.T.M. Nijpels

*Chairman*

Mr P.G. De Vries

*Treasurer*

Mr Jagan Chapagain

*Member of the board*

# Other information

## Independent auditor's report

To the board of governors of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre:

### A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2017 included in the annual report

#### Our opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements 2017 of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre at The Hague.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre as at 31 December 2017 and of its result for 2017 in according with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 “small not-for-profit organizations”.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2017
2. the statement of income and expenditure for 2017, and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ‘Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements’ section of our report.

We are independent of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in accordance with the *Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten* (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the *Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants* (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **B. Report on the other information included in the annual report**

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists the board report.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements. We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The board is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the board report in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 "small not-for-profit organizations.

## **C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements**

### **Responsibilities of the board for the financial statements**

The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 "small not-for-profit organizations". Furthermore, the board is responsible for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

## **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included among others:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board;
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the boards use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;

- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Because we are ultimately responsible for the opinion, we are also responsible for directing, supervising and performing the group audit. In this respect we have determined the nature and extent of the audit procedures to be carried out for group entities. Decisive were the size and/or the risk profile of the group entities or operations. On this basis, we selected group entities for which an audit or review had to be carried out on the complete set of financial information or specific items.

We communicate with the board, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The Hague, 28 August 2018

MDM accountants B.V.

W.S.

R. Munnikhof AA

## **Colophon**

### **Published in 2018, by**

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