

National Adaptation Planning:

Why should the Red Cross and Red Crescent engage?

Key messages to promote in NAPs

- **Ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed**

Active engagement of National Societies in the NAP process is needed to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people are well addressed in the national adaptation priorities. Humanitarian issues and local priorities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) need to be at the centre of this planning process, and should be addressed sufficiently at all levels, from national to local.
- **Increase attention for resilience and climate-smart disaster risk reduction**

Ensuring countries – and vulnerable people – can adapt to the changes and risks posed by climate change remains a priority for the decades to come. Building resilience is key to reduce climate risks and is an approach to promote coherence between DRR (under the Sendai Framework) and development planning (Sustainable Development Goals).
- **NAPs have to align with Red Cross Red Crescent priorities**

In the Red Cross Red Crescent we have good experience with community-based, climate-smart programming. For the NAP planning process, it is key to provide best-practice examples to ensure the NAP incorporates our approaches and principles related to local climate-smart and gender-sensitive action. For instance, our early warning early action approach can strengthen national and local sectorial planning in the NAP.
- **Localization of funding and decentralization of planning**

Most funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation, from both multilateral and bilateral donors, will increasingly be channelled through national governments and guided by the priorities in the NAP. Therefore, the NAP will determine where and what types of adaptation activities will take place and how adaptation finances will flow. We need to ensure that access to funding for local action is available through further decentralized planning.

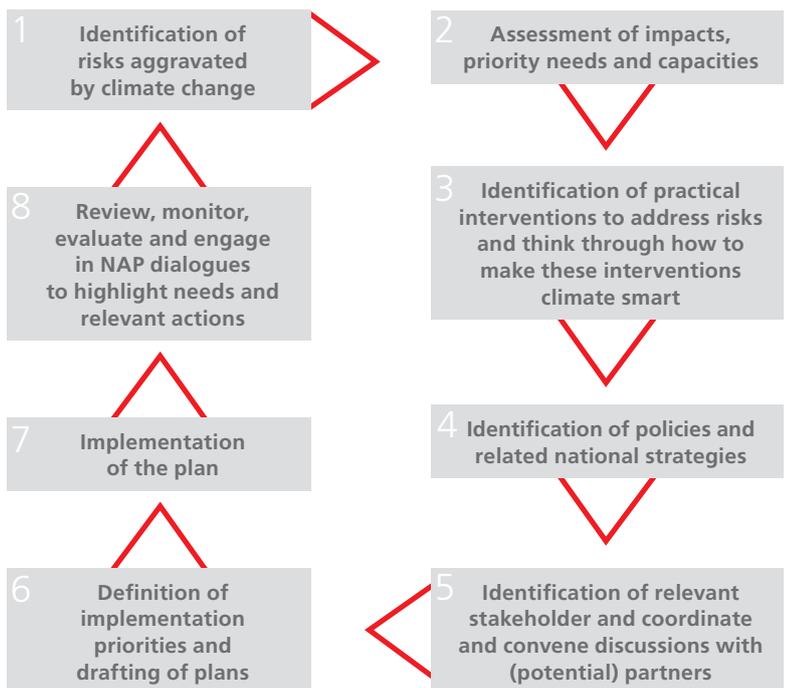
What is a 'NAP' and an 'NDC'?

A **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** outlines a government's medium and long-term plan to adapt to climate change. It integrates climate risks into broader development planning, which is geared towards meeting Sustainable Development Goals. Developing a NAP is a continuous, progressive and iterative process which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach. Wide stakeholder involvement is key.

A **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** is a country's international communication on the steps it will take to address climate change domestically post-2020 as its commitment under the Paris Agreement. It includes both a country's ambition for reducing emissions and its plans for adapting to climate change impacts. An NDC is updated every five years.

All countries have an NDC; NAPs come in different forms.

The NAP process



How to engage with governments in the national adaptation planning process

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
<p>Understanding key impacts of climate change affecting your country</p> <p>Understanding climate change and its impacts in your country</p> <p>Understanding your government's commitments to the Paris Agreement, as formulated in the (I)NDC or in the NAP</p> <p>Knowing relevant public documents on adaptation policies in your country</p> <p>Getting in touch with your government focal point</p>	<p>Use evidence and local experiences to highlight what is needed</p> <p>Building on Red Cross Red Crescent daily work</p> <p>Using well-known tools such as the VCA</p> <p>Getting everyone involved</p> <p>Reaching out to different sectorial entry points</p>	<p>Networking and advocacy: think of coalitions</p> <p>Approaching your government</p> <p>Knowing your niche role</p> <p>Teaming up with like-minded stakeholders (NGOs, etc.)</p>	<p>Influence the NAP process to ensure local priorities are addressed</p> <p>Initiating and launching of the NAP process</p> <p>Preparation and drafting of the NAP</p> <p>Implementation strategy</p> <p>Reporting, monitoring and review</p>



Loida, 51, knows well what it's like to be affected by floods. She lives in Panghulo Barangay on the outskirts of Manila. (Photo: Madeline Wilson/IFRC)

What good practice looks like:

- The Armenia Red Cross is active in the National Climate Forum of stakeholders working on climate-related issues; the National Society was invited by government to comment on its first NDC before submission to UN in 2015.
- The Kenyan Red Cross has been able to ensure that results of their vulnerability and capacity assessments were used in adaptation planning; their ongoing engagement in NAP planning has also enabled them access to climate funding through their government.
- The Malawi Red Cross created a platform for vulnerable groups to engage with decision-makers and opinion-leaders through dialogue.
- The Nepal Red Cross serves as a bridge between government bodies and climate-related stakeholders and is a member of one of the government NAP working groups on climate-related disasters which promotes the adaptation needs of vulnerable people.

Engage in both NAPs and NDCs

NDCs and NAPs are complementary and can reinforce each other. Both can be the starting points for dialogues for National Societies.

The NDC is a country's formal commitment under the Paris Agreement and, therefore, the most authoritative. NDCs largely define the 'what' while the NAPs are more specific on the 'how'. An NDC will be updated every five years, whereas a NAP will be revised as governments and stakeholders see the need. All countries have an NDC; the NAPs come in many different forms (and titles).

For National Societies it is therefore relevant to identify entry points:

- Was adaptation included in the country's NDC, and does it reference to a NAP?
- Is a NAP process currently underway in the country? Does it sufficiently address vulnerability and resilience building?

Where to get more information?

- › [Training module on NAP/ NDC engagement](#)
- › [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide and the Climate Training Kit](#)
- › [IFRC framework on climate action towards 2020.](#)