

# Annual report 2005

## Preparing for climate change



RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT  
**CLIMATE CENTRE**

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Netherlands  **Red Cross**

# Annual report 2005

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# Acronyms

DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness for European Commission Humanitarian Office
DP	Disaster Preparedness
ETC	Educational Training Consultants Advisory Group
EU-ACP	European Union – Asia, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGD	Gemeentelijke Gezondheidsdienst (Dutch health services at community level)
HVCA	Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KNMI	Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute)
NCAP	Netherlands Climate Assistance Program
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OFDA	Office of US Foreign Disasters Assistance
PMI	Palang Merah Indonesia: Indonesian Red Cross Society
SBST	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to the UNFCCC
SLF	Sustainable Living Foundation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
COP	Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
VARG	Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
VROM	Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer (Netherlands Ministry Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment)
VU-IVM	Vrije Universiteit-Institute for Environmental Studies
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

# I Preface

The year 2005 was an intense reminder of the devastation that natural hazards can bring upon the world. While the impact of the Tsunami of Christmas 2004 was still unfolding, the hurricanes Stan, Katrina and Wilma brought the loss of ten thousands of lives, incurring heavy damage and misery to those who survived. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported that 2005 broke dozens of weather records all over the world, from drought in Brazil, to cold spells in Pakistan and hurricanes in the Atlantic. The economic costs of disasters in 2005 were 159 billion USD<sup>1</sup> and it was the costliest year ever for property insurers<sup>2</sup>.

New research and articles in international scientific magazines like Nature and Science in 2005 suggest that the influence of climate change on extreme weather events is already taking place. Research on the recent Atlantic hurricanes and the European heat wave of 2003 has particularly fueled this discussion.

Within the international community the concerns about the negative impacts of climate change are increasing. In July 2005 the British Prime Minister Tony Blair put the British subject high on the agenda of the G8-meeting. He has said climate change is 'probably, long-term the single most important issue we face as a global community'.

International civil society organisations have started to develop programs and strategies addressing climate change related risks. In a number of countries, civil society organisations have set up national platforms to discuss and address the risks of climate change and National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies are involved in several of these platforms.

Within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement climate change is increasingly acknowledged as an underlying risk for the development of societies and the well being of people.

In 2005 the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre entered its third year of operations. Like with any new initiative, the first years were very exciting and a bit unpredictable. We have been dealing with questions like: Do we have a good understanding of the risks of climate change for vulnerable people and the evolving insights of scientists on this subject? Do we develop the right vision and approach to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in better understanding and addressing the risks of cli-

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<sup>1</sup> CRED 2006 (The main re-insurance companies, Swiss Re and Munich Re report a loss of respectively 230 and 210 billion USD).

<sup>2</sup> Press release Swiss Re, 24 February 2005.

mate change? How do we prioritise partnerships outside the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to shape a global response to climate change related risks? What are the immediate programs we need to develop and how will we fund them?

After three years our confidence in the chosen approach, a combination of awareness raising, action (programs with Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies) and advocacy has increased. In addition the permanent dialogue with scientific institutions and knowledge centres, policy makers and other civil society actors is paying off. Networks are growing stronger and exchanges of knowledge and experiences are getting better by the year. The general awareness about the risks of climate change has increased significantly and the Climate Centre has been approached many times for advice and presentations.

While progress can be noted, the urgency of the issue we are addressing has increased as well. Therefore the Climate Centre was very pleased with the funding opportunity by the Netherlands Government that will allow us in 2006 and 2007 to reach out to 30-40 Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in Latin-America, Southern Africa and South-East Asia to assist them in better understanding and addressing the risks of climate change.

The Hague, 30 June 2006



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MHofstra', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc Hofstra  
*On behalf of the Board of Governors*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Madeleen Helmer  
*Head*

## II Introduction

### **Mission**

The aim of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre is to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and other interested parties with projects and activities aiming at reducing the vulnerability of people hit by the negative impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

### **Context**

Climate change ranks amongst the greatest global problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agree that our planet is warming up at an unprecedented rate, and that this global warming is largely due to the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

The scientific community predicts a number of global developments:

- An increase in both frequency and intensity of extreme weather events causing more floods, landslides, heat waves and droughts;
- A decrease in crop yields in some areas due to extreme droughts or extreme downpours;
- The spreading of insect-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever to places where people are less immune to them;
- A global sea level rise by an average 9-88 cm in this century. The rise of global sea level will have nothing but adverse effects on the inhabitants of coastal areas, water supplies, tourism, fishery etc. and will force tens of millions of people to move inland;
- Floods, caused by tidal waves, could affect an average of approximately 50 million people a year. Only 50 cm rise of the sea level may double the number and this figure excludes the population growth predicted by population scientists.

Even though climate change is a global issue with impacts all over the world, it will severely affect the most vulnerable who already have less resources to adapt to a changing environment. Moreover, they are also those who contribute the least to the emission of greenhouse gases. Developing countries, and in particular its poorest inhabitants, do not have the means to fend off floods and other natural disasters. To make matters worse, their economies tend to be based on climate/weather-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and fishery, which makes them all the more vulnerable.

## Impact on society

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, with National Societies in 185 countries, can expect to be confronted with the impacts of climate change wherever it is present. In fact there is already a steep increase in weather-related disasters to which the organisation has to respond. In the past 2-3 years climate scientists have confirmed that more and more extreme weather events fit the trend that can be expected because of climate change.

Although there has been significant progress in the commitment of the international community to address the causes of the problem – the emission of greenhouse gasses – it is widely understood that the Kyoto-protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is only a first step towards more drastic cuts that will be needed to stabilise climate change at the maximum acceptable rate (+2°C). However, a +2°C target will include a further increase of extreme weather events, also a number of small island states and coastal areas are likely to become uninhabitable and there are more negative changes that cannot be avoided and that will hit the most vulnerable.

Carbon dioxide will remain in the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas for 50-100 years. In other words, the climate will change further in the decades, and probably centuries, to come.

## Role of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement

The International Federation was one of the first larger non-environmental organisations to acknowledge the serious threat of climate change to vulnerable people. This was first raised in articles in the World Disasters Report of 1999. The International Conference of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in 1999 called for a study on the subject.

The Netherlands Red Cross, building on this recognition, was interested to set further steps leading to the establishment of the Climate Centre in 2002. In 2003 an agreement was signed with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and this has led to the official establishment of the foundation 'Stichting Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness' in 2004.

**The Climate Centre** is based in the Netherlands but serves the whole Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, in particular in developing countries. Its role is to act as a bridge between climate change and disaster risk reduction. The Climate Centre brings together scientific data on climate change and operational knowledge from the field. The Centre aims to improve disaster risk reduction for people in disaster-prone areas and to reduce the number of people affected by the impacts of climate change.

# III The Approach

Climate change is taking place in a global context. The Centre has developed a general approach to its activities, emphasising on the interaction between *Awareness*, *Action*, and *Advocacy*. A fourth 'A' has been introduced in 2006: *Analysis*.

## **Awareness: Raise awareness of the risks of climate change**

- Raising awareness of the impact of climate change and extreme weather events and of the options to decrease these impacts is of paramount importance. It is vital that both the general public and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement become increasingly aware of the new risks. Awareness is the first and probably most important incentive for action and advocacy.

Specific aims for 2005-2007

- To increase general awareness within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement on the risks of climate change, demonstrated by frequent mentioning of these risks in (web) articles and policy papers. Awareness is particularly raised in countries participating in the climate change and disaster risk reduction programs as well as in countries that are hit by extreme weather events.
- To increase awareness on the risks of climate change at branch level of the Netherlands Red Cross, and at local branches participating in programs in developing countries.
- To ensure that external actors, in particular policy makers, media, scientists and development organisations are aware of the Red Cross/Red Crescents' concerns about climate change and the role the Red Cross/Red Crescent can play in developing programs and approaches to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people.

## **Action: Concrete programs to reduce the risks of climate change**

- Awareness needs to be put into practise in concrete programs to decrease the risks of climate change for vulnerable people. Within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement these programs build upon the existing practises of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Specific aims for 2005-2007

- To develop and implement programs in 2-4 countries in Central America, in 2-5 countries in South-East Asia, in Mozambique, Africa and in the Pacific region.
- To assure sustainability of these programs for at least three years.
- To establish a working relationship with 2-5 Red Cross National Societies in industrialised countries. These sister-organisations participate in the above-mentioned programs and/or in the integration of climate risks and climate funding mechanisms in their ongoing disaster risk reduction programs with National Societies in developing countries.
- To inform a majority of local branches and districts of the Netherlands Red Cross about climate change risks resulting in 10-50 of them having developed local projects to address climate change risks, in particular heat waves.

## **Advocacy: Shape the global response to climate change**

- It is important to communicate the Red Cross/Red Crescent approach to climate risk reduction to policy makers, other international civil society organisations and scientists. Moreover the Red Cross/Red Crescent has a responsibility to highlight the impact of climate change on vulnerable people and to advocate for policies, measures and funds that will reduce these impacts.

Specific aims 2005-2007

- To share the Red Cross/Red Crescent's vision on disaster risk reduction at the international level. The vision is mirrored in policies and measures developed to support developing countries to adapt to climate change, in particular within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), the European Union and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- To present the Red Cross/Red Crescent's views on climate risk reduction at national, regional and international level, invited by researchers, policy makers and civil society organisations.

## **Analysis: Analyse the approaches and lessons learned**

- The integration of climate change risks in ongoing disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction programs, and in particular in community-based programs, is a new area of work. It is important to analyse the approach and practical experiences and communicate the lessons learned from the first pilot programs.

## IV Activities in 2005

The year 2005 was important and challenging for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre with the Second International Work Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in June as a highlight. At the same time the Climate Centre continued to support other initiatives through presentations and media, but also through the implementation of programs in disaster-prone areas. All activities are described below in relation to the ‘awareness, action and advocacy’ approach.

### **Awareness: Raise awareness of the risks of climate change**

The Second International Work Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction was the most important activity of the Climate Centre in 2005. The Conference brought together existing knowledge and experience from different actors working in the area of climate risk management, recognising the gap between climate change and disaster risk reduction. The event has been supported by the ProVention Consortium, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, OXFAM Great Britain, Both ENDS, Disaster Studies Wageningen, Educational Training Consultants Advisory Group (ETC), Vrije Universiteit-Institute Environmental Studies (VU-IVM) and Sustainable Living Foundation (SLF) Suisse.

### **The second International Work Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 21-24 June 2005**

Around 150 people from more than 35 countries, representing a wide variety of civil society organisations, scientific institutes, private sector and policy makers in the area of climate change and disaster risk reduction, met during the day for intensive workshops at the Royal Theatre in The Hague, while at night, discussions continued at the Bora Bora beach pavilion in Scheveningen – taking full advantage of the beautiful weather and the long evenings around the midsummer night.

In several ways, the conference marked a transition. Over the past few years, the strong linkages between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development have received a lot more recognition, mainly at the policy level. Negotiators in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the recent World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, but also development agencies and international organisations all recognise the need for bottom-up planning to reduce the risks of climate change, starting with current vulnerability to natural hazards. The increasing attention now needs to be translated into concrete programs and better integration of climate risk reduction in development plans and programs.

For the Climate Centre the conference marked the transition from a phase of developing and testing approaches, building alliances, and advocacy, to a phase with more focus on implementation and scaling-up of activities to address climate risks. In partnership with many Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies all around the world, as well as national and international organisations working on climate change, disaster risk reduction and development, the Centre hopes to scale up its efforts to reduce the risks that vulnerable communities are facing in the changing climate. While doing so, the Centre will continue to exchange ideas, approaches and lessons learned with many of those partners, and with the global community of experts and policy makers working in this area.

The four workshops at the Second Work Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction provided a great place for stocktaking, as well as for exploring new partnerships and planning new activities. The full workshop reports (see [www.climatecentre.org](http://www.climatecentre.org)) give an indication of the main discussions and of the steps forward. Short summaries are provided below.

### **Workshop 1: Climate risk reduction at community level**

The first workshop discussed lessons learned from community-based climate adaptation/disaster risk reduction programs. Emerging messages included: (i) climate change risks should be part of participatory vulnerability assessments, (ii) raise awareness about climate change risks at the community level, (iv) take concrete actions to address climate change risks and (iv) adopt an integrated approach. Lessons from the Climate Centre's early pilot projects should be disseminated among the development and disaster risk reduction communities to enable testing, refining and replicating of these early experiences.

New financing opportunities for community-based climate risk reduction, through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change funds and the UN Development Programme / Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme, as well as from bilateral sources, should stimulate the development of additional programs. Such support mechanisms will need to be fine-tuned for communities, and information properly disseminated. Plugging these unique practical experiences into policy and funding discussions will enable approaches that reflect the realities of people coping with climate change, and concrete interventions that effectively reduce vulnerabilities to climate change.

### **Workshop 2: Methods and tools to assess climate risks and plan for climate risk reduction**

The second workshop particularly focused on applications at the community level and concluded that there are a lot of opportunities for exchanging methods and information from the disaster risk reduction and climate change communities, but that most disaster risk reduction tools would need some adjustment to be applicable to climate change adaptation, particularly additional attention to trends in risks. Specific attention was paid to the difficulties in bridging the gaps between assessments and information at local, regional, national and international levels. Several concrete next steps were agreed to continue to exploring this issue. One of these was a paper prepared by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) Secretariat, ProVention Consortium and Climate Centre and was presented at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – Conference of Parties (UNFCCC-COP) in Montreal, in December 2005.

### **Workshop 3: Financing weather and climate-related risks**

The third workshop explored the role for financial services in disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation, based on lessons learned and good practices observed locally. The workshop discussed attitudes and incentives for risk reduction, the role of legal and regulatory frameworks, the role of partnerships between various actors, and the need to keep financial products simple and easy to administrate, especially for the local level in developing countries.

Next steps suggested by the workshop included the following:

- A survey of local-level financial service customers, to gauge perception of benefits and costs of schemes for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation;
- Exploring the development of financial products, with proposal for risk swaps between regions (flooding and drought), and simple products for farmers (water scarcity or abundance) with global applicability;
- Deepening and expanding a recent World Bank overview of risk financing strategies;
- Exploring risk pool and layer schemes among partners from local to global levels that was presented at the thematic session on climate insurance at the UNFCCC-COP in December 2005;
- Conducting a comparative cost benefit analysis over five years with a community that used a disaster risk finance scheme and another community;
- Working with the Disaster Risk Finance Group to facilitate partnerships, documentation, dialogue and pilot projects in disaster risk finance;
- Organising a follow-up workshop at the Munich Re Foundation International Symposium (16-17 November 2005).

### **Workshop 4: From global to local and back again**

The fourth workshop discussed the linkages between scales. Global concerns like climate change can only be addressed effectively through international cooperation, but also require specific localised solutions. The workshop highlighted the tensions between the needs and approaches at various scales, but also various opportunities for improvement of coordination between various actors at different levels.

### **Other Key Activities**

In 2005 the Climate Centre organised and supported activities to reach the general public through campaigns, presentations and media. Next to the role that the Climate Centre is playing within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to raise awareness and assist in the disaster risk reduction of National Societies, it also aims to inform the general public, civil society organisations and other partners.

### **Presentations in 2005**

The Climate Centre has given presentations to Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, other civil society organisations and at international conferences. With these presentations the Climate Centre not only contributed to the growing awareness of the risks of climate change but also strengthened the cooperation on this subject with sister-organisations and the international civil society community.

### **Presentations in 2005: an overview**

10 February	Presentation at a workshop on community-based climate adaptation in Dhaka, Bangladesh
16 February	British Red Cross: Presentation to the national and international departments
16 March	OXFAM Great Britain: Presentation to the humanitarian department and a lunch presentation to interested staff
19 May	UNFCCC-SBSTA (side event in Bonn): Presentation: 'Disaster Management in the context of climate change', together with the World Bank and UN-ISDR
20 May	Presentation with the German NGO German Watch on the role of humanitarian and development organisations in climate change issues.
27 May	Presentation at the International Conference on Flood Defence, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
1-2 June	Two presentations during the Green Week in Brussels
29 August	Presentation at a meeting of OXFAM America, Boston

5-6 September	Colombia: Presentation at Red Cross seminar on climate change and at the Conference of the National Disaster Defence system
13 September	Presentation at the conference of the European Meteorologist Society on early warning systems and climate change
15 September	Presentation at ACP-EU Joint Assembly Committee for Environment and Social Affairs
17 October	Hong Kong: Presentation at Red Cross seminar on disaster risk reduction
17 November	Presentation at seminar Learning for Sustainable Development, the Netherlands
30 November	Presentation of a joined workshop with UN-ISDR at the UNFCCC-COP

### Media coverage in 2005

End of January	Several articles in Dutch national, daily newspapers around Kobe Conference
6 February	Participation in national TV program on climate change in the Netherlands
9 March	Hong Kong TV (broadcasted in November)
8 July	Interview: Radio Swiss-Romande
July	Range of Netherlands media thanks to the Climate Beach Campaign (De Telegraaf, largest daily newspaper in the Netherlands: background article; National Radio News, Regional news)
5-6 September	National TV, radio and newspapers in Colombia
16 September	'Twee vandaag', tv magazine in the Netherlands
25 September	'Met het oog op morgen', radio program in the Netherlands

### Netherlands Education Campaign for local branches

Since 2004 the Climate Centre, in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross and supported by the Netherlands National Committee for Sustainable Development, is implementing the program: *'The humanitarian consequences of a few degrees more'*. Aim of this program is to inform the 339 branches of the Netherlands Red Cross and their volunteers about the risks of climate change and to motivate them to assess and address climate change related risks.

A team of twenty volunteers was set up and trained to give presentations to the branches. In 2005 a total of 70 presentations to local branches and other interested organisations were given. Evaluation reports of the meetings showed that most of the branches appreciated the meetings. To the Climate Centre the experiences of the volunteers gave a wealth of information on how to translate scientific knowledge about climate change to a general informed audience.

Another welcome lesson from the first year of experiences with the local branches showed a general need to translate knowledge into action. The risks of heat waves in particular for the lonely and isolated elderly were identified as a relevant climate change related concern for the local branches and a pilot-project to address this issue was developed and implemented in 2005. The Netherlands Red Cross agreed to finance €10.000 for this heat wave project.



### **Climate Beach Campaign**

For the second time the Climate Centre's Netherlands program organised a beach campaign in the summer (23 July–7 August) to reach out to the general public.

Sixty volunteers, many of them new to the Red Cross, were mobilised to participate for a few days in the beach campaign. A number of education tools were developed for the campaign to approach the audience in various ways:

- A ‘towel’-quiz: volunteers approached beach visitors directly to question them about their knowledge on climate change with a little weather-related gadget as a price. A special questionnaire was developed for children.
- A mobile picture exhibition on the risks of climate change and adaptation-measures. The material of this exhibition became the basis of a ‘light weight’ mobile exhibition that was developed in 2006 for use by local Red Cross branches.
- The sinking islands youth game.

In 2004 the Climate Beach Campaign took place during extremely nice ‘beach’ weather; unfortunately in 2005 it was the reverse. This had a large impact on the success and on the impact of the campaign. The weather was so bad that the organisers had to find alternative places, like museums, to reach the public. The campaign reached 2000-3000 people, which was below expectations but clearly related to the weather. However, the media exposure of the campaign was larger than expected. National radio, daily national newspapers as well as local media (TV, radio and newspapers) dedicated time to the campaign.

The experiences of 2005 have led to the conclusion that the beach campaign is too dependent on weather conditions and will not be repeated in this form.

## **Action: Programs to reduce the risks of climate change**

2005 has been a very productive year in terms of program development and support to National Societies. The Climate Centre supported the development of new programs in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, Thailand, Mozambique, the Netherlands and Indonesia. Additionally it supported the implementation of ongoing ‘climate change and disaster preparedness’ programs in Nicaragua, Viet Nam and in the Pacific (Tuvalu and Samoa).

The Climate Centre’s approach to the risks of climate change is firming up. An increasing number of National Societies and regional delegations of the International Federation, both in industrialised countries and in developing countries, are contacting the Climate Centre for advice and support.

At the request and with the financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Environment (VROM), the Climate Centre evaluated existing disaster management tools and approaches that are relevant to climate change adaptation, leading to an article in a scientific journal.

The Royal Dutch Metrological Institute (KNMI) invited the Climate Centre to be part of a proposal to the European Union on the increased risk of extreme weather events.

## Program development

### Nicaragua

The pilot program in Nicaragua ended in 2005. The Netherlands Red Cross integrated climate change risk reduction in a new program funded by DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness for European Commission Humanitarian Office) and in a minor program with the American Office of Foreign Development Aid (OFDA). For 2006-2007 the program will be extended with funding from Dutch Postcode Lottery program.

### Nicaragua: 2003-2005

One of the first international pilot projects of the Climate Centre, in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross, was the 'climate change and disaster preparedness' program on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. With the local branches of the Red Cross in the Municipalities of Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields, vulnerable communities in Betania, Wawabom and El Bluff were reached. Moreover the Red Cross set up new alliances with universities and ministries on the issue of climate change related risks.

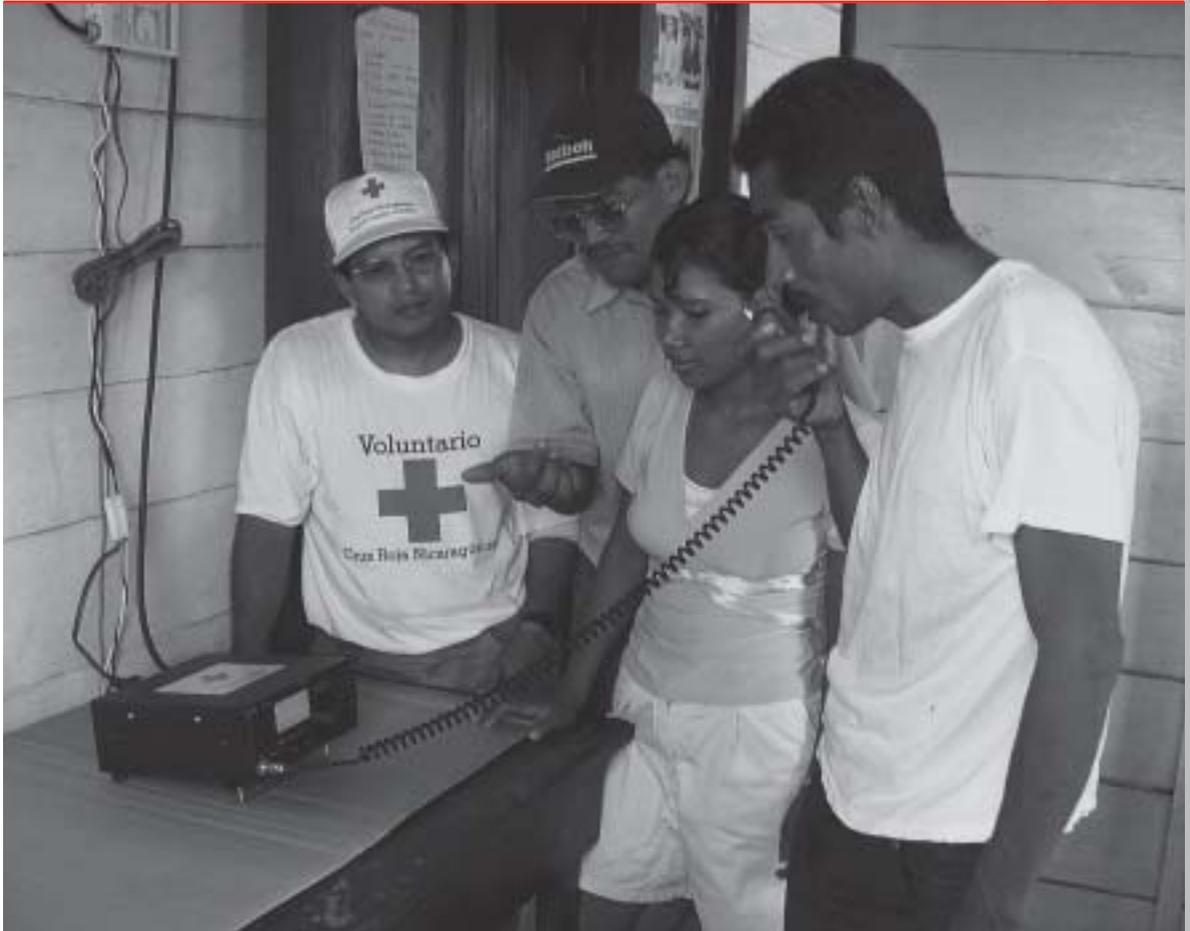
Raising awareness on climate change and disaster risks was the key objective of the project. Many activities were implemented from national to community level. Community meetings took place where Red Cross volunteers and students from the regional university educated local people on the risks of climate change. Local authorities met, bringing together civil defense and environmental departments, often for the first time.

At national level the Red Cross organised a national seminar on 'climate change and disaster preparedness', bringing together many policy makers from ministries of environment, civil defense, health, education, universities and knowledge centres, the meteorological office, representatives of the local authorities and involved communities and international organisations, like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

### Building the communities capacities

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) were organised during which the involved communities identified the potential risks of climate change in the context of their current situation and problems. They identified actions and activities that could be developed, some with support from the Red Cross, to reduce their vulnerability. A key improvement for the community was a process of self-organisation, and community members knowing what to do when crisis-situations like floods, bush fires or small accidents in the village occur. A number of micro-projects were identified, like a community shelter, a radio contact, a rain-gauge system etc.

Also clean-ups of waste were organised.



### **Supporting integration of climate change in the educational and scientific sector**

The educational sector is a key actor in raising awareness and therefore a range of cooperation programs were developed with the Ministry of Education and the BICU University on the Atlantic Coast. Curriculums were developed on climate change from both teachers and students and a number of students developed climate change related research proposals for their graduation

### **Strengthening the Red Cross capacity**

An important component of the project was the strengthening of capacities of the local branches and volunteers of the Red Cross in the program area. The volunteers of the Red Cross will maintain the continuity of the contact with the local communities and authorities. They are crucial for the sustainability of the developed program and actions.

## Viet Nam

In Viet Nam the Netherlands Red Cross completed the first stage of the 'climate change and disaster preparedness' program by the end of 2005 and prepared a second phase for the program with advice from the Climate Centre.

### Impact of the 'disaster preparedness/climate change program in Viet Nam 2003-2005' on the farmers of Ha Tinh Province

In the Ha Tinh province people and especially farmers of the Quang Phu commune suffered a lot from heavy rains and extreme droughts. A small dam was built to protect the fields from floods and droughts. However, the unstable dam was quickly destroyed after extreme rainfall causing floods. The bad construction couldn't prevent floods during the rainy season and droughts during the dry season. Every year local farmers had to be rebuilt the dam, to safe their harvest.

Pham The Phu is a farmer and she was involved in the Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) conducted by the Vietnamese Red Cross in her commune: 'Together with other villagers we decided that a dam was what everybody needed mostly. Most people in this village work as farmers so they really depend on water.' The money provided by the Red Cross was used to construct a new dam, which was finalised last year. The advantages are already noticeable: 'The dam has not yet collapsed so the fields have not been flooded. That means that we can have two crops a year instead of one. Also the amount we harvested last time was 30% higher than usual.'

Ti Lam, another farmer, is also very pleased with the dam: 'We can harvest more and during the dry season people don't have to go very far to get water. Although the dam was constructed just a few months ago it has been very effective because last year there was no rainfall, but the dam provided enough water for everybody.'

Besides the dam, the project taught the farmers also how to prepare themselves for disasters. Lam: 'We now have clear guidelines on what to do when we are threatened by a storm and we know how to respond afterwards.' Phu: 'When the loudspeakers announce the weather forecast and warn for a disaster we start preparing ourselves. We help each other to harvest the rice which otherwise will be destroyed. We preserve seeds, prepare food and water and wait inside our houses until the storm has passed on.'

## Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia

In the context of the Dutch Postcode Lottery project HIER (see below), a similar approach as in Nicaragua has been developed for Costa Rica, Guatemala and Colombia. A two-year program will be implemented in these countries in 2006 and 2007 in collaboration with Free Voice, a NGO based in the Netherlands that supports independent media and journalistic press freedom in developing countries.

### South East Asia: program development in Thailand and Indonesia

In South-East Asia the Climate Centre has worked with the regional delegation of the International Federation in Bangkok to develop a program for Thailand. The proposal will be submitted to UNDP/GEF in 2006. In Indonesia the Climate Centre supported the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) during the development phase of a Rabobank Netherlands funded community based risk reduction/climate change program. This program in four slum villages of Indonesia's capital Jakarta integrated micro-credits and climate risk reduction. The program activities will be implemented in 2006.



Photo 2005:  
Waterhouse.  
Safe place in  
Betania to host  
150 people  
from Wawabom  
during floods.

### Mozambique

The Netherlands Red Cross resumed discussions with the Mozambique Red Cross to adjust and implement a program proposal developed in 2003. An adviser to the Climate Centre visited Mozambique in August 2005 and the original program was revised with a clear implementation timeline in 2006. The Netherlands Red Cross will secure funding.

### **Pacific: program implementation is underway**

Since the development of the regional program proposal for the Pacific in the second half of 2003, it had been difficult to mobilise funding for the implementation of the program. In July 2005 an Australian ambassador joined the regional delegation of the International Federation in Fiji to carry out the program. She re-established contacts with the Climate Centre and revived the contacts in the region. The Red Cross has since then also hired a program manager to implement the program in Tuvalu and Samoa. The Climate Centre further supported program development in other countries in the Pacific region.

### **Campaigns and other initiatives**

#### **Heat wave risk reduction campaign in the Netherlands**

A fan with information and tips on the risks of heat wave was developed and became a very popular tool, despite the bad weather in the summer. Furthermore, an information kit was created, as well as a preliminary heat wave Plan of Action. Luckily no heat wave occurred in 2005; on the contrary, it was a very cold summer.

The Climate Centre together with the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute (KNMI), the Ministry of Health and the Dutch local health services (GGD) established contacts for a coordinated approach towards heat wave risks. The approach should be integrated in the social care service of the Netherlands Red Cross and should be part of the activities of interested local branches. The Netherlands Red Cross showed interest to invest in this program that will be implemented in 2006.

#### **Co-organising the preparations for the ‘HIER’ climate campaign of 45 NGOs in the Netherlands**

This was a very exciting and successful project of the Climate Centre in 2005. Not the least because it is in itself unique that 45 NGOs are interested to work together on a new theme: climate change. All participating NGOs recognised that both adaptation and mitigation are essential elements of a risk reduction strategy. The collaboration will consist of a number of projects by the different NGOs and a joint communication campaign. The opportunity was given through a special fund of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, one of the main financial donors of the Dutch NGO community, in which all involved NGOs participate. The fund is financing the program with a total budget of €16.3 million for 2006-2007. Implementation of the joint climate change program will start in 2006.

The Netherlands Red Cross, initially represented by the Climate Centre, participated in the steering committee that developed the program. Half October the board of the Lottery agreed to the program, which was announced officially to the Dutch public on 26 January 2006. The climate change projects of the Netherlands Red Cross in Central America will be funded in the context of the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

### **Developing partnerships and funding relationships with the private sector**

It turned out to be quite difficult and time-consuming to develop fruitful partnerships with the private sector. The main contacts in 2005 were with Rabobank Netherlands, Rabobank Foundation and Interpolis Re, all Dutch companies. They supported the development phase of a new program in Indonesia. It is expected that the successful program development will lead to further program support. Rabobank Netherlands further donated funds for a small climate change/carbon credit project in Viet Nam.

No long term partnerships were established with the private sector but grants were received from health insurance company Achmea and Royal Dutch Shell.

## **Advocacy: Shape the global response to climate change**

### **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

#### **Participation in the annual UNFCCC Conference and the SBSTA meetings in Bonn**

The Climate Centre participated in the technical meetings (SBSTA) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn in May and in the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) in Montreal in December.

During these meetings officials of the countries who signed the UN Framework Convention negotiate on issues related to the implementation of the Convention or related to the follow-up commitments to the Kyoto-protocol. These meetings are important network events, with a rich history of side events.

At both meetings the Climate Centre participated but did not make any official statements. In Bonn the Climate Centre was invited for a side-event organised by the World Bank on the report 'Disaster risk management in the context of climate change'. The report mentions the Red Cross/Red Crescent and is the result of a joint effort by the Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group (VARG) in which the Climate Centre takes part.

German Watch, a German NGO, organised a side-event with European NGOs in the field of development and disaster reduction related to climate change. The meeting aimed to start a related initiative in Germany. The Climate Centre was one of the speakers at this meeting.

## Participation in international initiatives

The Climate Centre participated in a number of international and Netherlands-based initiatives. The main objective of most of these initiatives is to share experiences and views on issues related to climate change risk reduction.

The Climate Centre was involved in the following:

- The International Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group (VARG): an informal group of donors and intergovernmental agencies that meets twice a year in the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The Netherlands informal group on climate change adaptation policies, a network of governmental representatives, research centres and NGOs.
- The Advisory Committee of the Netherlands Climate Assistance Program (NCAP).
- The Scientific Organizing Committee for the WMO Conference on Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks, Finland, July 2006.
- Steering Committee of an EU-coordinated study on Climate Change and Disaster Management.
- Steering Group of the Dutch Postcode Lottery Climate Change project.

# V Management

## Board

The Board of the Foundation 'Stichting Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness' met twice in 2005. The Climate Centre holds a special position both within the Netherlands Red Cross and the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. In April 2004 the Centre officially became a foundation. The board members are responsible for the management and the policy of the Climate Centre and were selected by the International Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross.

Board members in 2005:

- Mr Rein Welschen (chairman)
- Mr Ibrahim Osman (deputy secretary general, International Relations, IFRC)
- Mr Hisham Khogali (interim-head, Disaster Preparedness and Response Department, IFRC)
- Mr Marc Hofstra (director of the Netherlands Red Cross).

## Staff

In 2005 the activities of the Climate Centre were carried out by:

- Madeleen Helmer (head)
- Elike van Sluis (fundraising and communication officer. Left the Climate Centre for a 8 months consignment with the Indonesian Red Cross from May to December 2005)
- Fleur Engel (coordinator of the project in the Netherlands)
- Maarten van Aalst (climate change specialist, joined the Climate Centre on 1 September)
- Louise van Gemert (program assistant, joined the Climate Centre on 15 May)

Temporary staff:

- Solveig Olafsdottir (communication officer, based at the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent secretariat in Geneva. From June to December)
- Andrea Zierleyn (project coordinator of the Climate Beach Campaign in the Netherlands. From March to September)
- Gijs Termeer (project assistant of the International Work Conference, from June to July)

# Financial Report

# VI Annual accounts

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2005

(in EUR thousands)

After appropriation of the result

### Assets

Accounts receivable and prepayments (1)	73.750
Cash and cash equivalents (2)	624.183

### Liabilities

<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	
- going concern reserve (3)	46.696
<b>Restricted funds</b>	
- donor restricted funds (4)	—
<b>Total equity</b>	46.696
Provisions (5)	1.251
Short-term debts (6)	649.986

**697.933**

**697.933**

## Statement of income and expenditure for 2005

(in EUR thousands)

	Actual 2005	Budget 2005
Income from own fund-raising		
Gifts and donations (7)	<u>245.514</u>	<u>311.241</u>
	245.514	311.241
Costs for own fund-raising	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
Available from own fund-raising	245.514	311.241
Share in revenues from campaigns	–	–
Available from fund-raising	245.514	–
Government grants (8)	113.642	77.360
Investment revenues	350	–
Other income and expenditures	1.554	–
<b>Total available for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>361.060</b>	<b>388.601</b>
<b>Information and awareness</b>		
- own activities (9)	281.916	302.210
- general operating costs (10)	180.575	104.141
<b>Total expenditure for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>462.491</b>	<b>406.351</b>
<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>101.431-</b>	<b>17.750-</b>
<b>Appropriation of balance of the year</b>		
- donor restricted funds	78.355-	–
- going concern reserve	23.076-	17.750-
	<b>101.431-</b>	<b>17.750-</b>

## Notes

### General

The 2005 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles accepted in the Netherlands. The aim of these financial statements is to give an understanding of income and expenditure as well as of the financial position of the Stichting International Red Cross / Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness (Climate Centre).

The activities of the Climate Centre were part of the operation of the Netherlands Red Cross in 2004 and reported in the consolidated statements. Since 2005 the Climate Centre operates on its own. In 2005 the equity was endorsed from the Netherlands Red Cross to the 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 their nominal value. Balance sheet items in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates prevailing on the balance sheet date and the ensuing exchanges gains or losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure under the heading 'investment revenues'. Unless stated otherwise, all amounts are in thousands of euro.

### Accounts receivable and prepayments

Receivables are shown at nominal value, less a bad debt provision deemed necessary.

### Provisions

Provisions are stated at the nominal value of the commitments.

### Principles for determination of the result

Costs and revenues are allocated to the period to which they relate.

### Government grants

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

## Notes to the balance sheet as at 31 December 2005

(in EUR thousands)

### Accounts receivable and prepayments (1) 2005

Receivables re objectives	72.141
Accrued interest	174
Other accounts receivable and prepayments	1.435

**Total** **73.750**

### Cash and cash equivalents (2) 2005

Current accounts	624.183
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**Total** **624.183**

## Equity

In accordance with the Guidelines of Financial Reporting by Fund-Raising Institutions (Richtlijn Verslaggeving Fondsenwervende Instellingen) the Climate Centre's equity is broken down into restricted funds and unrestricted funds. As restricted funds is earmarked that part of equity to which a third party has dictated a specific use (with the result that the Climate Centre can only spend these funds on these specific purposes). The remaining portion of equity is earmarked as unrestricted funds.

### Going concern reserve (3) 2005

Balance at 1 January	–
Being endorsed by the Netherlands Red Cross	69.772
Appropriation of balance for the year	-23.076

**Balance at 31 December** **46.696**

<b>Restricted funds (4)</b>	<b>TMF-fund</b>	<b>NCDO-fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at 1 January	–	–	–
Beging endorsed by the Netherlands Red Cross	41.241	37.114	78.355
Appropriation of balance for the year	-41.241	-37.114	-78.355
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

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

The Climate Centre's policy is to spend the restricted funds within 3 years on the purposes for which the money has been received.

<b>Provisions (5)</b>	<b>Early retirement</b>
Balance at 1 January	–
Additions	1.251
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>1.251</b>

<b>Short-term debts (6)</b>	<b>2005</b>
Accounts payable	4.684
TMF-fund received in advance	350.000
Taxes and social security premiums	18.192
Netherlands Red Cross	239.298
Other accounts debt	37.812
<b>Total</b>	<b>649.986</b>

## Notes to the statement of income and expenditure for 2005

<b>Gifts and donations (7)</b>	<b>Actual 2005</b>	<b>Budget 2005</b>
Netherlands Red Cross	100.000	100.000
International Federation	80.000	–
Oxfambat	14.391	–
Local municipalities	11.000	7.450
Fonds 1818	15.000	15.000
VSB-fonds	10.000	10.000
Shell	12.500	12.500
Other	2.623	166.291

<b>Total</b>	<b>245.514</b>	<b>311.241</b>
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<b>Government grants (8)</b>	<b>Actual 2005</b>	<b>Budget 2005</b>
NCDO	16.192	47.360
SenterNovem	30.000	10.000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands	40.000	–
SMOM (Ministry of VROM of the Netherlands)	27.450	20.000

<b>Total</b>	<b>113.642</b>	<b>77.360</b>
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### **Information and awareness (9)**

<b>own activities</b>	<b>Actual 2005</b>	<b>Budget 2005</b>
Travel expenses	3.381	5.500
Advisory costs	111.794	90.450
Hiring of rooms	5.172	8.310
Campaign materials	40.316	64.750
Conference	116.845	127.900
Other direct costs	4.408	5.300

<b>Total</b>	<b>281.916</b>	<b>302.210</b>
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<b>Information and awareness (10)</b>	<b>Actual 2005</b>	<b>Budget 2005</b>
<b>General operating costs</b>		
<b>Personnel expenses</b>		
Salaries	90.602	78.800
Social security charges	9.491	–
Pension contributions	5.074	–
	<b>105.167</b>	<b>78.800</b>
Other personnel expenses	11.845	9.350
Consultants/volunteers	22.269	–
Office and housings costs	19.602	10.440
Other general costs	21.692	5.551
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.575</b>	<b>104.141</b>

In 2005, the members of the Board of Governors did not receive any reimbursements in respect of travelling and representations costs they incurred.

The Hague, 30 June 2006

## **Board of Governors**

Mr R.W. Welschen, *Chairman*

Mr M.L. Hofstra, *Treasurer*

Mrs E.M. von Oelreich, *Member of the board*

Mr I.M. Osman, *Member of the board*

## Other information

(in EUR thousands)

### Appropriation of the result

2005

Change in donor-restricted funds

78.355-

Operating result

23.076-

**Total**
**101.431-**

## Note

In 2005 the total expenditure of the Climate Centre exceeded the budgeted € 631.060. The shortage of € 101.431 was deducted from the restricted funds for € 78.355 and for € 23.076 from its continuity reserve.

## Auditor's report

### Instruction

We have audited the 2005 financial statements of the Stichting International Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness (Climate Centre) in the Hague as set out on pages 27 to 33. These financial statements are the responsibility of the foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

### Scope

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the Netherlands. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the association's management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the position of the foundation as of December 2005 and the result for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands.

The Hague, 30 June 2006

KPMG Accountants N.V.

J.A.A.M. Vermeeren RA

## **Colophon**

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