

**STATEMENT BY President Francesco Rocca  
ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

**DIHAD**

**March 13-15 | Dubai**

Esteemed Excellencies,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), it is a pleasure to be with you today at DIHAD. I thank the organizers for putting on this event, which provides an opportunity to ensure the importance of addressing energy and the impact on Humanitarian Aid.

In a world facing protracted crisis, economic deterioration, poverty, food insecurity, increasing displacement and LACKOF access to essential services including Health, CLEAN WATER and education, the adverse effects of climate change and its severe IMPACT on MANY countries and especially in countries in Middle East, Africa and Asia, AND ISLAND NATIONS. MANY ARE SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY NEW AND RECURRING EVENTS THEY ARE ILL PREPARED FOR.

Humanitarian Aid is facing a huge challenge to cover the PRIORITY needs to ensure supporting COMMUNITIES AT RISK. THE IFRC NETWORK IN 192 COUNTRIES HAS TRUSTED ACCESS TO PEPOLE AND HONES, OUR VOLUNTEERS OFFER ASSISTANCE EVERYDAY AND ALMOST EVERYWHERE.

WE ARE THE EYES AND EARS ON THE GROUND IN THE MOST REMOTE LOCATIONS. AND

OUR EFFORTS ARE CHALLENGED DUE TO LACKING affordable energy to support the survival of people especially within PRE existing VULNERABILITIES in MANY countries is a key, AND Especially to support displaced people in different shelters and camps.

Our latest AND CURRENT LIVE example, Syria and Turkey earthquake, that affected millions of people, losing their HOMES AND LIVELIHOODS in minutes, increasing displacement and vulnerability affecting millions of women, children, and men. In Syria, at the very first moments of earthquake, one of the main challenges to reach and support populations was the energy, electricity, and fuel. Enduring winter conditions without adequate shelter or access to

food, drinking water, electricity, or heating fuel. The lack of fuel STOPPED AMBULANCES, SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS, AND AID CONVOYS, IT ALSO MEANT THAT HOSPITAL GENERATORS AND OTHER VITAL INFRASTRUCTURES COULD NOT FUNCTION. that even ambulances to bring patients to hospital will be hard. ENERGY SHOULD NOT BE WEAPONIZED AGAINST HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

According to the IFRC's World Disasters Report 2020, 83% of all disasters are caused by climate- and weather-related events, rising by almost 35% over the last three decades and affecting 1.7 billion people.

As example, Conservative estimates indicate that there have been 1.5 million new disaster displacements in the MENA region during the last decade, with a tendency to increase, with climate change being a major crisis intensifier. WE HAVE SEEN THE UKRAINE CRISIS DISPLACE OVER 6 M PEOPLE, and THE AFRICA HUNGER CRISES AFFECT XX MILLIONS AS I SPEAK TO YOU TODAY.

AND OUR DAILY WORK IS OFTEN NOT IN THE NEWS, WHAT WE SOMETIMES CALL 'SILENT DISASTERS' IN THE FORM OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED EVENTS THAT ALSO NEED IMMEDIATE SUPPORT AND LIFE SAVING INTERVENTIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL THERE RESPONDING.

With increasing displacement and movement may be to remote locations, lack of affordable energy will have severe effects on access to basic services to women, children and men including health, nutrition, education, and others.

THEREFORE, With the growing energy insecurity and the dire need for humanitarian assistance, thereby increasing the potential for the AN EXPLOSION IN HUMANITARIAN AID FOR individuals, AND COMMUNITIES INCLUDING IN development contexts.

OUR FEDERATION 192 MEMBER RED CROSS AND CRESCENT SOCIETIES, ARE WORKING DAILY IN SUPPORT ROLES TO THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IT IS ALWAYS A BALANCE AND WE NEED RENEWED AND PRINCIPLED PARTNERSHIPS.

IFRC ASKS :

Prioritize and increase support for the most AT RISK countries, communities, and people such as fragile, protracted-crisis, and conflict affected countries and communities, poor communities including those in urban slums, as example

those affected by the current food insecurity crisis in various parts of Africa, and those who have been displaced from their homes by climate-driven events.

We do not need to wait until more people are displaced. We can and must act now. This includes identifying communities at high risk from displacement, building resilience, disaster risk reduction, strengthening smart adaptation, and in some cases supporting people to move out of harm's way such as through planned relocation (as a last resort).

We need to integrated approaches to adaptation and disaster risk reduction are needed, bringing together various stakeholders across sectors through whole-of-society approaches.

TO LEARN MORE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT OUR BOOTH IN THE EXHIBIT HALL, OR AT IFRC.ORG

We need to scale up locally led risk reduction and preparedness, provide early warning, early AND ANTICIPATORY action; ensuring no one is left behind. Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, who are present in communities before, during, after emergencies and in the long-term. local communities are rarely leading the design and implementation of urgent climate action needed to increase climate resilience. But when they are put in charge the results can be transformative.

Partnerships are needed to break silos across sectors, scales and funding sources Collective mobilization and Innovative practices are needed now than ever.

IFRC has developed innovative climate programming in many vulnerable communities, and we want to see these replicated and taken to scale. The Global Climate Resilience Platform will aim to support at least 100 National Societies in developing, testing, and implementing climate resilient strategies, plans and programmes, ensuring resources, knowledge and skills are available to “last mile” communities.

Through the presence of our branches, staff, youth, and volunteers in local communities, we work with communities to design and implement early warning systems that connect to community based early action plans that save lives, livelihoods, homes and more.

The multi-year, multi-regional, Global Route Based Migration Programme is the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

response. It aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along land and sea-based migration routes in Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, taking advantage of the IFRC network's unique and collective strengths and experience include supporting millions of people displaced and migrated due to energy crisis.

The Inter'l federation for Red Cross Red Crescent and 192 national societies are committed to support the discussion and contribute to sustained solutions at local and global levels.

We, IFRC are fully committed to work and advocate to increase the urgency and action needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent worse humanitarian impacts and prioritize the most vulnerable people and communities through co-implementation of solutions with communities, adopt and implement principles for locally led action.

WE, reaffirm to work on collective actions with all partners and communities.

Thank you