

## Policy Dialogue

8 March 2024

### **Coordinating for Impact: Lessons from Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi Red Cross, and IFRC on Enhancing Collaboration for the Humanitarian-Development-Climate Nexus**

The policy meeting in Zimbabwe will provide an opportunity to focus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> topic of the Netherlands Co-Chairmanship: **internal and external coordination** – but we will zoom into a specific part of this – internal and external coordination on the humanitarian-development-climate nexus.

#### **Context**

Throughout the field trip, the participating DAG members and observers will have seen the work of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in addressing humanitarian needs in Zimbabwe and tackling underlying causes. As DAG members and observers know, National Societies are present before, during and after crises and have a unique role to play in serving its communities in times of need, to prevent and alleviate suffering, and do so in a way that is compliant with the Red Cross and Red Crescent fundamental principles and key policies, and implement the auxiliary role in the country. However, National Societies do not operate in a vacuum; they coordinate and cooperate with many different actors.

During this policy dialogue, DAG members and observers will be able to speak with the leadership of the Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi National Societies about the way they engage, coordinate and cooperate with:

1. Public authorities and their role in delivering National Plans including alignment of their plans with government priorities
2. Regional Economic Communities such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
3. Red Cross and Red Crescent partners
4. External partners including UN, private sector, Africa CDC etc

To facilitate these discussions, we will zoom in on coordination around the humanitarian-development-climate nexus specifically on the Africa Hunger Crisis. During the policy dialogue, we will discuss best practices and key challenges, acknowledging the unique and critical role of National Societies.

Using the experiences of the Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia National Societies in responding to the food security crises, the panel discussion at the policy dialogue will go into the following:

- Discuss best practices and key challenges in coordination and cooperation, including possible solutions.
- Discuss what is needed to ensure that the voice of National Societies is represented in coordination and decision-making on the humanitarian-development-climate nexus.

For example, external partners, like the UN, often depend on National Societies to be ready and prepared when a large disaster or crisis happens, what are the opportunities and barriers for them to support.

- Understand the key function of the IFRC in providing strategic and operational coordination both within the IFRC network but also with external actors.
- Hear from the National Societies in what way they would like their capacities to be recognized by external partners such as the UN

### **Objective**

The overarching objective of this policy dialogue is to encourage the DAG and its individual members and observers to actively contribute to enhancing coordination and collaboration between National Societies and external partners.

### **Intended results:**

- Identify concrete roles and actions for the DAG members and observers to advocate for the inclusion of National Societies' perspectives in decision-making processes.
- Identify key actions that will augment the National Societies' capacities to engage effectively in coordination mechanisms.

Time	
8:00 -8:30	Registration and Coffee
8:30 -9:00	<p>Co-chairs reflect on the week and open the policy meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFRC USG Global Relations, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Digitalization (GRHDD), Nena Stoiljkovic</li> <li>• Co-Chair NL-MOFA Head of Humanitarian Aid, Marielle van Miltenburg</li> <li>• Co-Chair NLRC Head of International aid, Derk Segaar</li> </ul> <p><i>During this agenda item, the DAG co-chairs will reflect on internal and external coordination and cooperation and explain the agenda and objectives of the policy dialogue.</i></p>
9:00-10:30	<p>Panel discussion with representatives Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi RC, as well as IFRC on the best practices and challenges around coordination and cooperation for the humanitarian-development-climate nexus.</p> <p>Panelists: Elias Hwenga, Secretary General, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, Innocent Majiya, President Malawi Red Cross Society, and Ngosa Frackson, President, Zambia Red Cross Society</p>

	<p><i>Given the interest DAG members expressed around the Africa hunger crisis, and in alignment with the three themes of the co-chairmanship: the humanitarian-development-climate nexus, localization and National Society development and coordination, the three National Societies are invited to present on their experience, in which they discuss their lessons learnt, best practices, challenges and opportunities <b>around their National Societies' response to the hunger crisis.</b></i></p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee & tea break
10:45 -12:00	<p>Dialogue in 3 break-out groups with each group having a facilitator discussing what can the DAG and individual DAG members and observers do to support and enhance coordination between IFRC, National Societies and external stakeholders?</p> <p><i>Guiding questions :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Were there commonalities between the challenges presented by the National Societies? And if so, what strategies/solutions/initiatives could be implemented to address them?</i></li> <li>- <i>Are there any best practices or successful examples of coordination that could be replicated or globally scaled up?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can the understanding of IFRC's key function of strategic and operational coordination be further strengthened?</i></li> <li>- <i>What is needed to allow National Societies to effectively coordinate with internal and external partners around humanitarian-development-climate priorities?</i></li> <li>- <i>What role can DAG members play at the in-country national level and in capitals or Geneva?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can the DAG leverage its collective expertise and resources (in-country national level, capitals and/or at Geneva-level) to support coordination initiatives?</i></li> <li>- <i>How can we better position National Societies in front of external partners, given their unique ability and experience in working across the nexus?</i></li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:45	<p>Closing of the meeting</p> <p>Facilitators of each group will report back key points discussed and agreed in break-out groups.</p>
12:45 -13:30	Lunch