



# “Youth on the move”

**Taking up the challenge of  
environmental change and migration  
from a youth perspective**





## Why children and young people?

*Ten years ago it was suggested that 175 million children would be affected by 'environmental change' and 'climate change' induced natural disasters....and as a result of this change be displaced.*



## Environmental change and migration

- Increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters
- Changing migration patterns – i.e. seasonal to longer term coping strategies
- Legal implications
- Competition for scarce resources
- Changing demographics – ‘Youth bulge’
- Youth – most mobile age group and increasing vulnerability
- Push-pull drivers (rural-to-urban and cross border)





## Risks young migrants face

IFRC addresses needs of the most vulnerable migrants including  
youth **regardless of their legal status.**

- Trafficking/ slavery/ sexual exploitation
- Smuggling
- Unaccompanied minors
- Health





## IFRC Humanitarian Action and Disaster Response

- (a) Humanitarian **emergency response** to natural disasters
- (b) Disaster risk **preparedness and reduction**
- (c) Building **community resilience** (VCA and Livelihoods)



National Societies may also have to engage increasingly in

- (d) Attenuation of resource-related conflicts



## Giving youth a voice!

Incorporating adolescents' perspectives and encouraging their participation in disaster risk reduction and environmental change strategies is not just a matter of principle – it is an imperative for the IFRC.

The magnitude of our current environmental challenges demands an intergenerational response, in which adolescents work alongside adults as integral partners in decision-making.





## IFRC Volunteer Youth Action

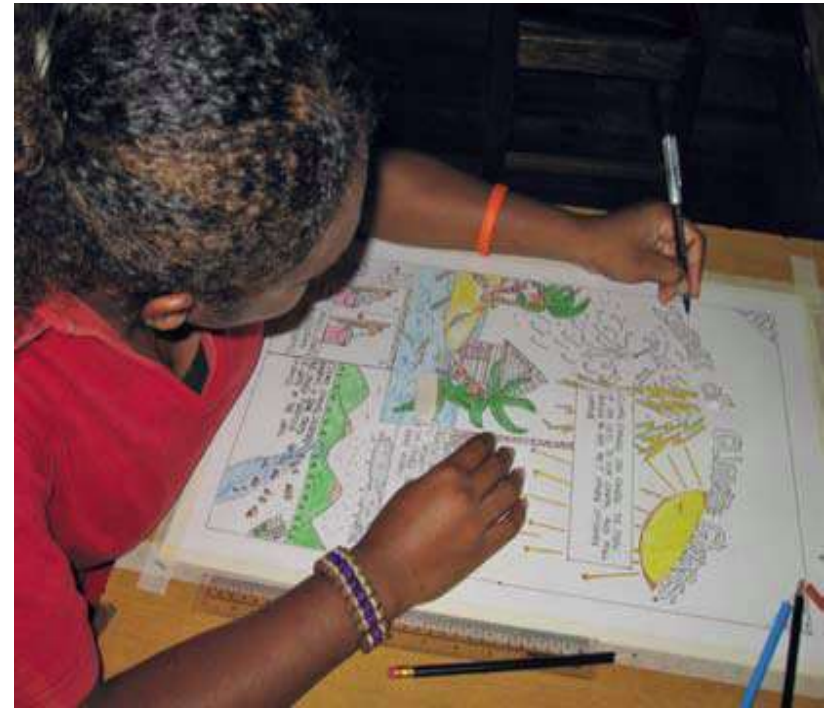
- Involvement in community resilience
- Peer education to influence communities
- Advocacy on climate change adaptation
- Advocate for access to clean and safe water
- IFRC Youth working with migrant communities





## IFRC Youth Initiatives

- IFRC is working with young migrants in volunteer programmes.
- Focus on ensuring youth have a strong voice in improving **awareness of the risks** migrants face and vulnerabilities within host societies ( North Africa and Central Asia).
- Environmental change and resultant labour or economic migration is part of the many faceted push-pull factors faced by youth.





## Solomon Islands Red Cross

### National Youth Forum on Climate Change

Youth participants commented that it is important that people know about and act on climate change and the forum was a good way of achieving that.

Youth leaders passionately stated:

“Climate change is a global issue and it requires a global effort. Youth can play a very important role in their communities, their country and their region. They will be the ones facing the impacts of climate change now and into the future so its important that they know the issue”.





## “Adapting to climate change and addressing catastrophes”

Kenya Red Cross (Kwale branch) programme on community resilience and drought recovery and Nakuru branch of the Kenya Red Cross both received an award for creating awareness among youth on climate change and environmental conservation.





## 31st International Conference 2011

State parties to the Geneva Conventions together with the components of the International RCRC Movement meet every four years at the International Conference of the RCRC.

The International Conference is the supreme deliberative body for the Movement. It is one of the most important international humanitarian forums.

The Movement wants to bring the issue of Migration to the Conference, to discuss with governments how to further strengthen strategies, action and partnerships.

In this context, work with migrants is a high priority for National Societies in many parts of the world. They need humanitarian access to migrants, regardless of their legal status.

This essential right was acknowledged in the declaration 'Together for Humanity', adopted by the 30th International Conference 2007.

# Thank you

