

Statement of Intent: *Responding to Climate Change*

New Zealand Red Cross acknowledges that climate change is a major risk facing humanity. We affirm that climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security, and wellbeing of Pacific people.ⁱ

The impact of climate change is leading to more frequent, intense and unpredictable natural disasters and extreme weather events like floods, droughts, fire and extreme heat. As a result, we are being called on more often to support communities facing crisis, and our role to meet the needs of those who are and will become vulnerable to the impacts of climate change is increasingly important.

Without urgent action on climate change, there will be significant increases in humanitarian needs arising from climate-related displacement, as well as declining livelihoods, food sovereignty, and health consequence for communities.

Our role of influencing on behalf of vulnerable people in relation to the impact of climate change is increasingly important, and complements the work we do to respond to humanitarian crises.

One of our focuses over the coming decade will be to reduce the humanitarian impacts associated with climate change in our work in Aotearoa, New Zealand and internationally.

We will respond to climate change by continuing our work to enhance community resilience by working with communities and stakeholders to reduce risks, and to prepare for and respond to the humanitarian impacts of climate change.

We commit to advocating the importance of action to address climate change and will develop advocacy strategies for better implementation of law and policy that can protect vulnerable people at local, national, and regional levels.

Within New Zealand Red Cross we will limit our own contributions to climate change by measurably reducing our own carbon emissions, waste, and water consumption across all our operations, as we foster a culture of sustainability.

ⁱ Pacific Red Cross Leadership Forum statement of affirmation, 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, December 2019.