**Role-playing game for introducing multi-level community resilience coalitions**

***Lesson plan for the facilitator***

1. **General description of the exercise:**
   1. **Duration**: 60-90 minutes

[Note: This activity can also serve as an ice-breaker to help participants meet each other.]

* 1. **Purpose**:

This role-playing game aims to introduce diverse audiences to the concept of coalition-building, specifically to support enhanced community resilience. It aims to encourage participants to consider the perspective of different stakeholders of resilience coalitions, to understand the motivations and interests of different groups.

As this game is designed to be led by the participants, there are no specific expected messages to be communicated to the players. Rather, it is designed to share perspectives on the benefits and limitations of coalitions focused on community-based plans of action, as well as the different real-life experiences from the participants.

* 1. **Audience**:

As the game is led by participants, the richness of the discussion will be highly dependent on the different perspectives of the participants. Therefore, the more diverse the participation, the richer the discussions will be.

In particular, it is expected that the audience for the game will include at least three of the following seven groups:

Community:

1. Community representatives and / or volunteers and / or staff supporting community-centered activities;

City:

1. Red Cross / Red Crescent branch-level representatives;
2. Local government representation and / or local civil society representation (non-profit; foundation; private sector);

National:

1. Red Cross / Red Crescent national-level representatives;
2. National government representation and / or national civil society representation (non-profit; foundation; private sector);

Regional:

1. Red Cross / Red Crescent regional staff (IFRC; PNS);
2. Representation from regional bodies and / or regional representation of international organizations.
3. **Preparing the exercise:**
   1. **Stationary:**

* Flip chart sheets (5);
* Markers (5 blue, 5 red, 5 black);
* Identification badges (to indicate both names of participants and role being played).
  1. **Documents to be printed-out:**

The facilitator will need to print out the following content ahead of the exercise:

* **“Introduction to Coalitions 1BC – PARTICIPANT ROLES”:** These PowerPoint slides should be printed on one sheet each, preferably on a thicker paper. These sheets will be handed out to participants.
  1. **Organizing participants in groups:**

As finding the right balance of participants is critical to the success of the exercise, it is important to determine who will participate in which group ahead of time. Participants will be divided into 5 groups, each group having between 6 and 8 participants (i.e. there should be no fewer than 30 participants and no more than 40 participants taking part in this exercise).

The five groups will be:

* **Group 1: Neighborhood 8.**
  + The roles in the most local group will be composed of local actors such as volunteers from local religious groups or scouts; local football club members; local member of an early warning team; president of the neighborhood water committee; school teacher; etc.
* **Group 2: “Resilience committee of Southside district”:**
  + The roles at district level will include: local authority; local business owner; district representatives; Red Cross representative; journalist from district news channel; etc.
* **Group 3: “Our resilient city” municipal platform:**
  + The roles at district level will include: mayor; Red Cross branch president; Ministry of the Environment representative; local NGO; dean from the local university; head of the local adult training institute; etc.
* **Group 4: “National resilience platform”:**
  + The roles at district level will include: National Director of the Civil Protection system; Secretary General of the National Red Cross Society; JICA representative (Japanese Government Aid); representative of the Chamber of Commerce; representative of corresponding ministries; representative of INGO active in the country; etc.
* **Group 5: “One Billion Coalition global steering committee”:**
  + The roles at district level will include: Sec. General of the IFRC; Executive Director of the Rockefeller Foundation; Director General of UNISDR; CEO of Coca-Cola; Head of Avaaz.org; etc.

For each of the groups it is recommended to assign the participants to roles significantly different from their current functions. For instance:

* A local volunteer might be asked to play a role on the 1BC Global Steering Committee or on the national platform group;
* The president of a Red Cross branch might be asked to join the neighborhood group;
* Technical personnel from a National Society headquarters might be asked to join the neighborhood group.

The list of participants and the group they are assigned to should be finalized before the exercise starts. **It is not necessary to assign actual roles to individuals, only divide the participants according to the five groups.**

1. **Running the exercise:**
   1. **General introduction:**

The facilitator will provide a general overview of the momentum in recent months around coalition building globally, as well as the particular actions taken by the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement around the [One Billion Coalition](http://www.ifrc.org/one-billion-coalition).

* 1. **Organizing the groups:**

The facilitator should indicate the names of the five groups on flip-chart sheets in different spaces of the meeting room, in a way that each group can discuss their topic without overhearing the neighboring group (**see section 2.2. above for the name of the groups**).

The facilitator should then indicate under each group name the corresponding list of participants.

Once the groups are formed, the facilitator should hand out the roles to match the number of participants in that group (if a group has 6 participants, the first 6 roles for that group – numbered 1 through 6 – should be handed out randomly to the participants).

* 1. **First group discussion**

As each group receives their roles:

1. Introductions: Participants will present themselves in their new role to their fellow group members (according to the information in their role sheet).
2. Rapporteur: Once all members have presented themselves, the group should identify a Note-Taker / Rapporteur who will present back to the other groups;
3. Top priorities: Each group will then identify its proposed Plan of Action presenting its **top five priorities** and **corresponding actions**;
4. Change / Influence / Accept (CIA) model[[1]](#footnote-1): For each action, each group will then determine their proposed way forward:

* **Change**: The group determines that it is a priority action that the members can accomplish on their own [short-term];
* **Influence**: The group determines that the priority action requires support or additional information from outside partners [mid-term];
* **Accept:** The group identifies which of their priority actions are probably outside of their reach, requiring legal changes, agreements or decrees (e.g. agreement of different stakeholders to relocate a vulnerable population) [long-term]

**Each group should aim to have at least one priority each identified for “Change”, one for “Influence” and one for “Accept”.**

* 1. **Plenary session:**

The facilitator will ask all groups to assemble and will explain the next step in the exercise.

Once the facilitator has explained the process, groups will present back, in the following order:

* Group 1 (neighborhood);
* Group 2 (district);
* Group 3 (city);
* Group 4 (national);
* Group 5 (global).

Each group will present back to the other four groups, indicating briefly:

* Who the members of the group are (as described on their role sheets);
* Their 5 or 6 Priority Actions and their categorization in the CIA Model.
* Their possible contributions to the presentations of the other groups.
  1. **General thoughts and closing remarks:**

Once all groups are finished presenting, a space will be open for comments from the participants about their thoughts on the exercise in general and coalition building in particular.

The facilitator will guide the discussion and write down on a flip chart paper these initial conclusions from the participants on linking levels and working across very different partners to address community needs.

The facilitator will close the exercise summarizing the points from the participants and thanking them for their contributions.

1. *“Some aspects of a situation you will be able to change because you have the power to do so, others you will be able to exert some influence over. The rest you will have to acknowledge and accept that you cannot change. Apply this tool to see where to put your energy.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)