Climate and Society Publication Launch:
A Better Climate for Disaster Risk Management

American Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, DC
3:00- 4:30 p.m. Reception to follow
June 21, 2011

MOTIVATION

Humanitarian actors continue to shift from a response paradigm towards policies and strategies that emphasize preparedness and prevention. More recently, climate information providers are reorganizing around the concept of climate services, which aims to inform development, adaptation and disaster risk management through improved use of climate information. Humanitarian and climate actors share a common objective of protecting lives and livelihoods, which can best be realized by collaboration.

“A Better Climate for Disaster Risk Management”, the 3rd issue of the IRI Climate and Society Publication, and a product of collaboration between the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), demonstrates how climate and humanitarian partnerships have resulted in improved humanitarian outcomes in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Partnerships are put forward as essential to ensuring that climate information needs are identified, met and communicated effectively to result in better informed action.

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome
David Meltzer, Senior Vice President, International Services, American Red Cross

Connecting Climate Services and Disaster Risk Management Agendas
Jan Egeland, Co-chair, High-Level Taskforce for the Global Framework for Climate Services

Key Findings of the 3rd Climate and Society Publication: A Better Climate for Disaster Risk Management
Molly Hellmuth, Associate Director, Science Policy Outreach, IRI

Panel Discussion: Realizing the Potential of Climate-Informed Disaster Risk Management

Chair and moderator: Jan Egeland

Panelists:
Madeleen Helmer, Director Policies and Communication, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of the Policy Development and Studies Branch, OCHA
Allan Jury, Director, U.S. Relations Office, WFP
Stephen Zebiak, Director General, IRI

Q&A and Discussion

Closing Remarks
David Meltzer