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Disaster Law Programme Mid-Year Report - 2015

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Global (G00253)
Asia-Pacific (P50033*)
Africa (P60013)
Americas (P42068*)
MENA (P80017)

24 August 2015

**This report covers the
period:
01/01/2015 to 30/06/2015**

*National Societies from Costa Rica
and Panama meet authorities to
discuss legal barriers to ambulance
services at the border. (Apr. 2015)*



Overview

During the reporting period, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Law Programme (DLP) continued its work promoting legal preparedness for disasters. Pursuant to mandates assigned to the IFRC at the [28th](#), [30th](#), and [31st](#) International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the programme focused on supporting National Societies to meet the following main goals:

- (1) Improve legislation and normative instruments on disaster risk management
- (2) Strengthen regional and global systems for disaster risk management
- (3) Improve the management of IDRL issues in disaster operations
- (4) Establish expanded and permanent capacity of the RC/RC in disaster law
- (5) Grow the international knowledge base and toolkit on key disaster law issues
- (6) Achieve appropriate visibility for disaster law issues, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora.

Top outcomes from the DLP's efforts during the reporting period include:

- Adoption of new regulations drawing in part on recommendations of the National Red Cross Societies and IFRC in Colombia, Paraguay and Ecuador.
- Launch of the pilot version of the "Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction," prepared jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Inclusion of key language related to legislation in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and positive influence on a number of other regional-level outcomes and declarations related to humanitarian issues.

* This report also covers disaster law expenditures from codes PHT090, P42095 and PDO032 in the Americas and code P51006 in Asia-Pacific.

Major activities included:

- Support for ongoing National Society technical assistance projects on disaster law in 33 countries as well as pilot projects related to the Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction
- Finalization and publication of 4 disaster law studies (on the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Malawi, Tonga) and ongoing work on a number of others.
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes in 17 regional organizations.
- Organization of 8 regional consultations and several research studies preparatory to the 32nd International Conference.
- Support for disaster law discussions in over a dozen humanitarian and academic conferences.

Financial situation

The following chart summarizes the financial situation of the DLP at the global level and in each of the four Regions where a specific budget has been developed for DLP activities. Note that these figures will also be separately reported by the Regions in their overall reporting on activities in their regions. Figures are listed in Swiss Francs.

DLP (level)	2015 budget	Coverage	Expenditure
Geneva (global)	1,027,701	881,458 (86%)	394,310 (38%)
Africa Region	644,390	399,695 (62%)	252,149 (39%)
Americas Region	634,256	635,498 (100%)	305,469 (48%)
Asia-Pacific Region	804,579	651,710 (81%)	323,710 (40%)
MENA Region	198,858	180,650 (91%)	34,177 (17%)
Totals	3,063,423	2,749,011 (90%)	1,309,805 (43%)

In several of the regions, spending was slightly lower than half of the annual budget in light of projects planned for the second half of the year. In Geneva, a number of products will be produced at the end of the year in connection with the 32nd International Conference, generating costs only then. In MENA, however, the significantly lower amount of spending was due to delay in the recruitment of the new regional disaster law coordinator set back the launch of several country-level projects that have since begun.

Programme donors for the reporting period included the Governments and National Societies of Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as the European Commission.

Working in partnership

In each of the countries where the DLP engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society concerned as well as with the relevant authorities. The DLP also cooperated with other departments of the IFRC in research and advocacy projects, at the global, regional and country levels. Externally, the DLP continued to cooperate closely with key global agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),

the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the World Bank (WB), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

It built its cooperation with a large range of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the East Africa Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Central America Integration System (SICA), Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the Union of South America Countries (UNASUR), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1: Technical advice support and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies and/or procedures

Adopted laws or regulations



First meeting of Colombia's new "IDRL Commission", May 2015.

During the reporting period, **Paraguay** and **Colombia** adopted new regulatory provisions related to international disaster response with the support of their National Societies and the IFRC. In addition, the IFRC first learned of a regulation that was adopted in December in **Ecuador** drawing on Red Cross recommendations (and which is therefore being reported for the first time in this report).

Paraguay enacted a Red Cross law which includes rules for the facilitation of international relief as well as a mandate to the National Society to disseminate information about international disaster response law (IDRL). In Colombia, the National Disaster Risk Management Authority established, through Resolution No. 35-2015, an "IDRL Commission" as a permanent advisory body made up of representatives of relevant ministries, the

Colombian Red Cross, and others to strengthen procedures and plans for managing international relief and ensure smooth operations. In Ecuador, aviation authorities announced at a conference in April that they had earlier amended their “Regulation on Operating Permissions for the Delivery of Aviation Transport Services” to include specific provisions related to relief flights, in light of the findings of an IDRL study produced by the Ecuador Red Cross in 2013.

This brought the [total number of countries that had adopted laws or rules](#) drawing on the “Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance” (IDRL Guidelines) to 21 by the end of the reporting period. Bills or draft regulations were pending in a further 17 countries.

Technical support at the country level

Africa



Disaster law workshop in Dakar, February, 2015



IDRL project taskforce meeting in Antananarivo, February 2015

In **Malawi**, the Malawi Red Cross and IFRC published a [report](#) on the country’s legal preparedness for managing international disaster response in March. A new national disaster management bill is currently pending there and officials have pledged to take the report’s recommendations into account. The IFRC is continuing to support the Malawi Red Cross with the dissemination of the IDRL report and further awareness-raising workshops in the second half of 2015.

In **Senegal**, the National Society organized a [workshop](#) in February to discuss the recommendations of its 2014 report on ‘Legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and management in Senegal’. The discussions led to suggestions to improve the current legal framework, for example, by using national dialects for the communities’ better knowledge of DRR and furthering capacity-building of relevant actors. The workshop also served to launch the Senegal Red Cross’ IDRL project, and included an awareness-raising session on the principles of IDRL, followed by practical exercises. Following on from the 2014 report on disaster risk reduction in Senegal, the IFRC is supporting the National Society with a study on urban disaster risk reduction in the city of Dakar.

In **Rwanda**, the Senate [adopted a new disaster management bill](#) in February, including extensive provisions on the management of international relief drawing from the IDRL Guidelines. The bill is now pending Cabinet approval before becoming law.

In **Gambia**, the National Society continued its work on a study related to IDRL, including through consultations with parliamentarians and disaster management officials. An advance draft was prepared and was still circulating for comments as of the end of the reporting period. The IFRC and National Society began preparations for the dissemination of the report, as well as further awareness-raising with policy- and decision-makers.

In **Madagascar**, the National Society continued to work with authorities to integrate recommendations on risk reduction and on IDRL into a new draft disaster management act. Following IDRL project task force meetings in February and April 2015, a new study on IDRL is currently being finalized and recommendations from a prior study on risk reduction legislation are being used for suggestions on a bill reportedly intended to be completed by the end of this year.

In **Kenya**, the National Society continued work on finalizing its study on IDRL, expected to be published and disseminated in the third quarter.

In **Ivory Coast**, plans were prepared for a project related to law and urban risk, while in **Nigeria** and **Mauritius**, plans were advanced for workshops on law and risk reduction and on IDRL to take place in Abuja in July, and Mauritius in October. During the reporting period, the IFRC together with National Societies also advanced discussions on projects for the promotion of disaster law in **Liberia**, **Mauritania** and **Sudan**.

Malagasy IDRL
Project Task Force --
Minutes of the first
meeting

“Madagascar has not yet lived through a major disaster on a par with the Haiti earthquake. This makes it difficult to convince some people about the relevance of international disaster response law. Our study will need to clearly set out the consequences of such a major catastrophe on the basis of realistic scenarios.”

Americas



IDRL conference in Quito, April 2015



Disaster law meeting in Asuncion, June 2015

In the **Dominican Republic**, the National Society and the IFRC published a [report](#) in March analysing existing regulations on international assistance in the event of disasters in the light of the country's experience, global experience, the IDRL guidelines and other international and regional standards.

In **Haiti**, a [country case study](#) on the 'Impact of regulatory barriers to providing emergency and transitional shelter after disasters' was published in March. The report examines the effectiveness of national legal and regulatory frameworks with regard to emergency and transitional shelter following natural disasters in Haiti. It identifies potential regulatory barriers, as well as a range of positive developments and initiatives that can enhance the effectiveness of shelter activities. In addition, work was nearly completed on a study on Haitian laws for disaster risk reduction.

In **Ecuador**, following up on the recommendation of a [study](#) published by the Ecuadorian Red Cross in 2013, a [Conference](#) for the implementation of rules for facilitating international humanitarian assistance operations in Ecuador' was organized with the support of the Ecuadorian Red Cross in April. During the Conference, authorities announced that specific provisions related to disasters have been added to the 'Regulation on Operating Permissions for the Delivery of Aviation Transport Services'. The National Society and the University of San Francisco also continued their work on a study of potential legal issues in post-disaster shelter in Ecuador, with a particular focus on the disabled. A national workshop on this matter took place in February 2015.

In **Costa Rica** and **Panama**, the respective National Societies together with the IFRC organized a [mission](#) to the to the North Atlantic border. The purpose of the visit was to look into current operational mechanisms and challenges for border-area pre-hospital care, as well as gathering information through interviews with various authorities about their views of work of the Red Cross. In Costa Rica, recommendations were also provided to the government on the amendment of the Trans-border Agreement with Panama with a view to including National Red Cross Societies among the health entities regulated by the agreement. In April 2015, the National Societies organized a workshop with the Binational

Committee of Costa Rica and Panama to disseminate the trans-border protocol they had helped to develop and discuss the proposed amendment to the Trans-border Agreement.

During the reporting period, the IFRC together with National Societies also advanced work on projects for the promotion of disaster law in **El Salvador** and **Paraguay**. Furthermore, discussions were underway for the initiation of projects on IDRL in **Ecuador** and DRR in **Bolivia** (though through those talks, stakeholders determined that the timing is not right for such a project in the latter country). Work continued on finalizing studies on regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter in **Honduras** and **El Salvador**.

In **Peru**, the National Society and IFRC provided comments on the draft of a new law on international disaster response, developed in response to previous Red Cross work in the country.

Andrés Echeverría,
IFRC Coordinator for
Costa Rica and
Panama

"We are hoping that the Panamanian and Costa Rican National Societies will be recognized as public sector health entities so that they can legally provide services across the border and contribute to institutional capacities on both sides."

Asia-Pacific



Disaster law "roadmap" discussions in Jakarta, April 2015



IDRL Event in Tonga, June 2015

In **Tonga**, the National Red Cross Society and the IFRC published a [study](#) in June analysing the country's legal and policy framework regulating international assistance in the event of disasters. The study was presented during a [handover event](#) hosted by the Tonga Red Cross and attended by the Chairlady of Tonga Red Cross, the Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga, several ministers and other senior officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps and civil society, as well as the Secretary General of Tonga Red Cross, board members and staff. The report recommends the development of a single document of comprehensive regulations on the management of international disaster assistance, the establishment of a focal point agency to serve as a main liaison between the government and assisting

international actors, and the development of a “Single Window International Facilitation Team.”

In **Indonesia**, the National Society and IFRC continued to support authorities in implementing the recommendations of a workshop organized last November with regard to a “disaster law roadmap”. New amendments to the disaster management law are being developed and another major workshop is planned for the autumn.

In **Laos**, work continued on a project to support national authorities in the development of a new disaster risk management act, with recommendations related to DRR and IDRL. A national workshop to consolidate viewpoints was planned for July.

In **Mongolia**, the National Society and the IFRC continued to provide support to national authorities to strengthen risk reduction approaches in their domestic framework, as well as draft international assistance provisions to be included in the amended Disaster Protection Law that is due to come before parliament in the autumn session. A parliamentary presentation was held in February, which drew links to the Red Cross Law amendments and the disaster protection law.

In **Malaysia**, in the wake of recent flooding, the IFRC, ASEAN, UNDP and OCHA organized a high-level meeting with national authorities in April to discuss the strengthening of the disaster risk management system, including the potential development of a new disaster management law.

The DRR and Law checklist pilot is underway in the **Cook Islands** and terms of reference for similar pilot projects have been completed for projects in **China, Indonesia** and **Myanmar**.

The DLP and National Red Cross Societies have also submitted comments on a disaster management law in **Timor Leste** and supported the development of IDRL Standing Operating Procedures in **Vanuatu**.

Hon. Siaso Sovaleni,
Deputy Prime
Minister of Tonga

“This report represents a milestone in the government’s efforts to respond to disasters in a timely and effective manner.”

Europe and Central Asia



Expert consultation in Bishkek, May 2015



Discussion of DRR law in Yerevan, February 2015

In **Kyrgyzstan**, representatives from government, parliament, the Red Crescent, UN agencies and NGOs met to discuss a new draft law on “International Humanitarian Aid in Emergency Situations”. The current draft text is quite comprehensive in its coverage of key issues, drawing in large part from the [‘Model Act on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance’](#). Once approved, Kyrgyzstan’s new law could well become a reference for neighbouring countries in Central Asia.

In **Armenia**, the National Red Cross Society and the IFRC released the first draft of a report on law and disaster risk reduction in Yerevan. A workshop was held in February with relevant national and municipal authorities and civil society actors to validate the findings and discuss recommendations. The report has since been updated to reflect the views of the participants as well as the members of the National Platform for DRR.

H.E. Niyazalieva
Damira, Vice Prime
Minister of
Kyrgyzstan

"The new disaster law will provide a clear answer to unsolicited donations that have been a big problem in the past. "

Middle East and North Africa



*Disaster law session in Hammamet
Tunis, May 2015*



*Disaster law session in Hammamet
Tunis, May 2015*

In **Tunisia**, the National Society and the IFRC began work on a project to provide support to authorities in analysing existing law related to disaster risk reduction and to the management of international disaster relief. A consultant is being recruited to research the currently applicable framework, to culminate in a report and a roadmap for future strengthening. The project will be supported by a government taskforce and a 3-day training for all relevant stakeholders in Tunisia is planned for the second half of 2015.

Discussions on a similar project were undertaken in **Egypt**, culminating in an agreement for a research project in the field of DRR and Law. This research will be executed in the second half of 2015 and is considered to only be the first step in a longer term legal advocacy project.

Dr. Hilal Al Sayer,
President, Kuwait
Red Crescent
Society

"Without a legal or policy framework that facilitates international assistance in case of need, humanitarian response may be hindered to such an extent that it may become much more costly and much less efficient than is required in an emergency."

Global tools



Red Cross participants spoke up on disaster law at Sendai, March 2015



NGOs assess model emergency decree, March 2015

A pilot version of the IFRC-UNDP "[Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction](#)" was launched in March at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Sendai. The checklist is designed to assist interested officials and civil society in assessing existing law related to disaster risk reduction. Work also began on a handbook on how to use the checklist, to be completed by the end of this year.

As part of the "piloting" process for the new checklist, preparations began for country-level projects in Colombia, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Mongolia and Tunisia. Additional projects or workshops are also foreseen later in the year in Mauritania, Mauritius, and Nigeria. In

addition, consultations continued on the text, including with the IASC member agencies in Geneva in May, the UNECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Geneva in June and in dedicated regional forums for the Middle East and North Africa held in Kuwait and for Sub-Saharan Africa held in Addis Ababa, both also in June.

In March, Oxfam hosted a consultation in Oxford on behalf of the IFRC with several representatives of British NGOs on the "[Draft Model Emergency Decree for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#)" which is being developed jointly by IFRC and OCHA. The model is designed for countries that have not had the opportunity to develop clear rules for international assistance before a disaster strikes. In the wake of a disaster, the model would serve as a reference for making use of special powers to provide specific mechanisms for facilitating and managing international assistance. Suggestions will be consolidated with further feedback received from regional consultations and reflected in a final version of the model decree and commentary later this year. Likewise, drafting commenced on a "model regulation" on international disaster relief.

Helen Clark, UNDP
Administrator

"Disaster risk reduction needs big partnerships... Since 2012, we have been collaborating with IFRC on how to improve domestic legislation around disaster risk reduction. A series of global and regional consultations since then have informed the development of a Checklist on Law and DRR for lawmakers and practitioners, which we are in the process of finalizing together by the end of the year."

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 1: Technical advice support and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies and/or procedures			
# of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines	9	3	Colombia, Paraguay, Ecuador
# of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures including DLP suggestions from IFRC/NSs on DM issues other than IDRL	4	0	
# of countries that have improved the implementation of their disaster laws, rules or procedures thanks to support from IFRC/NSs	13	1	Vanuatu
Output 1.1: Country-level technical assistance projects on disaster law			
# of countries in which projects are undertaken	21	14	Bolivia, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar,

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
			Mongolia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Senegal, Tunisia
<i># of research/ consultation reports</i>	21	4	Published: Dominican Republic (IDRL), Haiti (temporary shelter), Malawi (IDRL), Tonga (IDRL)
<i># of workshops to develop/discuss recommendations</i>	16	12	Armenia, China, Costa Rica/Panama, Ecuador (2), Lao, Mongolia, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Timor Leste, Tonga
<i># of draft laws/rules/policies (etc) commented on or drafted</i>	10	5	Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Timor Leste, Vanuatu
<i># of dissemination/awareness raising materials or initiatives</i>	10	6	Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Indonesia, Paraguay, Senegal,
Output 1.2: Model regulations on IDRL			
<i>Model regulations developed</i>	1	0	Oxford meeting held
Output 1.3: Checklist for lawmakers on DRR			
<i># of consultations held</i>	5	6	Ethiopia, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Kuwait, IASC weekly meeting, UNECE Group of Experts on Risk Management
<i># Checklist developed</i>	1	1	Pilot DRR checklist launched
<i>Dissemination kit (manual, explanations) developed</i>	1	0	Outline of handbook completed
Output 1.4: Checklist for lawmakers on disaster response and preparedness			
<i># of consultations held</i>	4	1	IASC weekly meeting group
<i># Checklist developed</i>	0	0	
<i>Dissemination kit (manual, explanations) developed</i>	0	0	

Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences intergovernmental processes at the regional and global levels



Regional consultation in Bogota, January 2015



IFRC/ECCAS workshop in Libreville, February 2015



Missions briefing in Geneva, June 2015

The IFRC and National Societies succeeded in positively influencing several global and regional instruments with regard to disaster law during the reporting period.

The [Sendai Framework on Disaster Reduction](#) adopted in March included provisions [jointly proposed](#) by the IFRC, UNDP and World Bank in relation to disaster law. Among the top four global priorities for action articulated by the Sendai Framework was 'strengthening disaster risk governance to manage risk', in particular with regard to legal and institutional frameworks. Additional specific suggestions with regard to mandates for community engagement, improving implementation and compliance with key laws, and development of procedures based on the IDRL Guidelines were also taken up.

In Central America, IFRC continued to promote and provide input into [several draft regulatory instruments](#) being developed under the mantle of the **Central American Integration System (SICA)** and **Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA)**, including a draft "Central American Protocol for the Shipment, Transit and Reception of International Humanitarian Assistance", "Central American Regulation for the Facilitation of Customs Clearance Procedures for Humanitarian Goods" and a "Humanitarian Module" for the "Platform for the International Transit of Goods (TIM)." The Protocol has been "validated" at a technical level by member state experts at a February meeting co-organized by the IFRC in Panama in February and all instruments currently await final approval by heads of state and government.

In Asia, the IFRC provided input into the [East Asia Summit Toolkit for Rapid Response](#). Developed over a three-year period with the leadership of the Governments of Australia and Indonesia, the toolkit includes a number of elements, including guidance with regard to facilitating and managing international disaster assistance.

Responding to National Societies' suggestions, the reports of the **World Humanitarian Summit** regional consultations in [Budapest](#) in February, in [Jordan](#) in March and in Panama in May included recommendations with regard to the development of stronger national laws and procedures on international disaster response, as did the thematic civil military consultation held as part of the WHS in Singapore. Likewise, the [Declaration](#) of the Third

Consultative Forum on the Central American Policy of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR) held in San Salvador in June identified as a priority the strengthening of disaster risk management legislation and the enforcement and consolidation of the Regional Mechanism of Mutual Aid in the Event of Disasters. This Declaration was welcomed by the Central America Heads of States and Government through the Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala in June 2015.

In the Americas, the Permanent Working Group of the Inter-governmental Body of Latin America and the Caribbean (consisting of the OAS, CAN-CAPRADE, SICA-CEPRENAC, CARICOM-CDEMA, CELAC, MERCOSUR-REHU, UNASUR, ACS, SELA and the Iberoamerican Association of Governmental Civil Defence and Civil Protection Bodies) prioritized the promotion of the culmination of the "Regional Legal Compendium for International Humanitarian Assistance in Cases of Emergency" as one of its main activities at its Third Meeting in March in Guatemala.

In preparation for the **32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** to be held in Geneva in December of this year, the IFRC organized consultations on how to accelerate progress in the development of regulatory frameworks for international assistance, including the possibility of further strengthening regional and international law. They included:

- [Regional workshop for the Americas](#), together with the Colombian Government and the Colombian Red Cross Society in Bogota in February,
- [Expert meeting in Geneva](#), together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in March,
- Sessions at the [Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross](#) in Houston in March,
- [Regional workshop for Central Africa](#), along with ECCAS, in Gabon in June,
- [Briefing for Permanent Missions](#) in Geneva in June,
- [Regional workshop for Southeast Asia](#) in Bangkok in June,
- [Regional workshop for the Middle East and North Africa](#), together with the Government of Kuwait and Kuwait Red Crescent, in Kuwait in June,
- [Regional consultative meeting for Africa](#), together with the African Union, in Addis Ababa in June.

A first draft of [elements of a resolution](#) on disaster law for the International Conference was circulated in April and continue to be discussed with stakeholders. Along similar lines, the IFRC participated in a dedicated forum on the **International Law Commission's** "Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters" organized by Roma Tre University in Rome.

The IFRC also provided a large number of presentations on the topic of disaster law at inter-governmental events, including:

- The Regional Forum for the Exchange of Experiences for International Humanitarian Assistance in Colombia in January,

- The Central American workshop for the revision and validation of instruments that facilitate International Humanitarian Assistance in Panama in February,
- ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre of Excellence Training in Jakarta in April,
- WHS Civil Military Consultations held in Singapore in April,
- ASEAN Regional Forum – Disaster Relief Exercises (ARF DiREx 2015) held in Kedah, Malaysia in May, 2015,
- A virtual presentation on IDRL at a the Joint Task Force, Pacific Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Symposium in British Columbia in May,
- 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Adequate Housing in Mexico in May,
- Technical Advisory National Commission for the administration of International Cooperation in Disaster Management in Colombia in May,
- SADC post-season review workshop in Johannesburg, in May,
- DRR Leadership Trainings organised by ISDR for IGAD in Djibouti in May and the EAC in Nairobi in June,
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Training held by the Joint Training Centre, Butterworth Air Force Base in Penang in June,
- Third Consultation Forum for the PCGIR in El Salvador in June,
- Fourth Council of the Representatives of CEPREDENAC in El Salvador in June.

Support was provided at the regional level to CEPREDENAC, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the ASEAN through its Secretariat, the AU, IGAD, EAC and ECOWAS.

U Maung Maung
Khin, Director of
Disaster
Management,
Myanmar Red Cross

"During this Forum, parliamentary members, government ministries, ASEAN officials and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society staff were able to participate actively and openly, and discuss disaster law on all levels. This made it a very effective and fruitful forum for our region."

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences intergovernmental processes at the regional and global levels			
<i># of new/amended instruments (resolutions, guidelines, protocols, outcomes etc) that address IDRL issues</i>	8	6	Outcome of the WHS Europe, Middle East and Americas Consultation, Declaration of the III PCGIR Consultative Forum, Declaration of the 2 nd Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Adequate Housing in Mexico, amendments to the Istanbul Convention,
<i># of new/amended global/regional instruments taking into account other</i>	7	2	Sendai Framework, "technical validation" of instruments related

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences intergovernmental processes at the regional and global levels			
<i>DL suggestions by IFRC/NSs</i>			to the Central American Regional Mechanism for Mutual Assistance
<i># of IGOs engaged with DL issues</i>	16	21	ACS, AU, CAPRADE, CDEMA, CELAC, CEPREDENAC, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, Iberoamerican association, IGAD, OAS, OCHA, REHU, SADC, SELA, SIECA, UNASUR, UNISDR, UNDP, WCO
Output 2.1: DLP fosters discussion on potential new treaty on IDRL			
<i># of dedicated consultations with relevant stakeholders</i>	6	3	SEA disaster law forum, Geneva consultations, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa
Output 2.2: DLP supports a successful resolution on DL at the 32nd International Conference of the RC/RC			
<i># of pre-conference consultations</i>	6	5	Inter-American Conference, SEA disaster law forum, Kuwait, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa, Permanent Missions briefing in Geneva
<i>Resolution adopted</i>	1		
Output 2.3: DL presentations and events provided for inter-governmental fora			
<i># of presentations provided</i>	20	17	ECCAS workshop Gabon, SICA PCGIR Forum, Council of Representatives of CEPREDENAC, ASEAN Direx, ACE Training, WHS Civil Military Consultations, HDAR training, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa, SADC post-season review workshop, IGAD Leadership training, EAC Leadership training, GECEAO, IASC, Group of Experts on Risk Management, HADR Symposium (B-C), Forum on Adequate Housing in Mexico, Colombia Advisory Commission on DM.
<i># of DL events organized</i>	7	4	ECCAS workshop Gabon, Regional Forum Bogotá, Central America workshop in Panama, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa
Output 2.4: DL messages proposed for key global and regional resolutions, agreements and outcomes			
<i># of resolutions/instruments/outcomes for which suggestions are provided</i>	11	9	Sendai Framework, WHS Europe, Central American Protocol on international assistance, Central American Regulation on customs clearance, IAC's Houston Declaration, Resolution Presidents of NSs of Central

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences intergovernmental processes at the regional and global levels			
			America, East Asia Summit toolkit for rapid response, WHS processes, Pacific Consultations on Civil Military disaster law forum
Output 2.5: DLP supports interested global and regional organizations in strengthening cooperation on disaster law			
<i># of global and regional organizations supported</i>	19	17	ASEAN, AU, CEPREDENAC-SICA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, Global protection cluster task team, IGAD, IPU, OCHA, SIECA, UNDP, UNECE, WCO, WTO, WFP, WB

Outcome 3: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora, and partnerships are built



Stanford conference on international environmental law and DRR, May 2015



Conference on the ILC at Roma Tre University, June 2015



Central American National Societies' presidents meeting, June 2015

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – are continuing to gain attention in both humanitarian and academic fora.

During the reporting period, the IFRC provided disaster law presentations at several external humanitarian meetings, including:

- An ICRC Regional Conference on Strengthening International Humanitarian Law in Kuala Lumpur in March,
- a REDLAC (Grupo de Trabajo de Riesgo, Emergencias y Desastres de América Latina y el Caribe) meeting in Panama in April,
- a workshop organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Panama April,
- PADRU pre-hurricane meeting in Panama in May,

- Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and MERCY Malaysia Emergency Disaster Response Recovery Training conducted in Kuala Lumpur in May,
- OCHA Civil Military Training in the Asia Pacific in Kuala Lumpur in March and the United Nations VI International course on Civil-Military Coordination and Humanitarian Assistance in Ecuador in June,
- a disaster law briefing for the Nepal Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Kathmandu in June,
- a forum on the International Law Commission's "Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters" hosted by Roma Tre University in Rome in June,
- Online World Humanitarian Summit South Asia and Central Asia discussion on disaster law moderated by the IFRC from 18th June – 10th July.

Likewise, at their June meeting in San Salvador, the presidents of the Central America National Societies engaged through a resolution to promote the DRR checklist and identify a focal point on disaster law. They also engaged to offer the technical support in the revision and improvement of legislation and processes on IDRL. The participation of NS in the disaster response task force at the national level (CCAH/CATAI) was also suggested at the Third Consultative Forum on the Central American Policy of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR). It is to note that Costa Rica RC has integrated the CATAI in June 2015.

IFRC was also part of an Advisory Committee set up by the Norwegian Refugee Council, in producing an analysis of the legal framework on internal displacement in Kenya.

The IFRC continued its collaboration with the American Society of International Law (ASIL). With a view to further promoting disaster law among students, the first edition of an annual [International and Comparative Disaster Law Competition](#) was completed in April. The contest was co-sponsored by ASIL, IFRC and the International Disaster Law Project of the Universities of Bologna, Roma Tre, Uninettuno and Pisa Sant'Anna, drawing entries from twelve countries. Final judges included Dean Davon Caron, Dean of the Dickson Poon College of Law, Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission, and David Fisher, Coordinator of the DLP. The winning essay, entitled "[Climate change related disasters and human displacement: towards an effective management system](#)" was published as a Working Paper of the DLP.

In addition, together with ASIL, UNEP and Stanford University, the IFRC co-sponsored an academic conference hosted by Stanford Law School in May entitled "[How Can International Environmental Law Reduce Disaster Risk?](#)" The event brought together some of the top academics in the environmental and disaster law fields to discuss this little considered subject. A monograph of papers delivered at the conference will be published by Brill, to be co-edited by DLP and Stanford Law School personnel.

The IFRC was also invited to deliver a number of additional academic lectures and trainings related to disaster law, including to students from the Lipscom University, as part of the

Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian action (CERAH) Certificate Course on in Disaster Management in Geneva in April and for the International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) in February.

Collaboration was also ongoing with the University of San Francisco of Quito. Disaster law topics were integrated in courses there on international law, human rights law, international cooperation and in the legal clinic. The latter, in particular, was involved in the drafting of the report on regulatory barriers to shelter. The IFRC and the Ecuador Red Cross also participated in the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) Model, a simulation of UNASUR activities for students, jointly organized by UNASUR and the University of Quito, during which IDRL and law and DRR were presented.

The DLP website (www.ifrc.org/dl) was kept regularly up-to-date, along with the jointly-branded IFRC-UNDP site on risk reduction and legislation (www.drr-law.org). The programme's two regular communications tools – its weekly news service and bi-monthly newsletter – were published regularly and reached a wide audience. New subscription rates during the reporting period were 20 for the news service and 100 for the newsletter, bringing total subscribers to 342 and 3,915 respectively. In addition, the DLP's dedicated Facebook group had 298 members and its dedicated LinkedIn Group has 245 members.

A [newspaper article](#) was published on the segment on disaster law during the IHL Regional Conference in Kuala Lumpur, April 2015. Articles were also published by the [Bangkok post](#) on the South East Asia Regional Forum, by a Kuwait News Agency on the MENA consultation and in El Pais on the 5th anniversary of the Haiti earthquake. The AU website published a [press release](#) on the IDRL Consultative Meeting in Ethiopia. Representatives of National Societies participated in a radio interviews on IDRL in May in Ecuador and in June in Paraguay.

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 3: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora, and partnerships are built			
<i># of humanitarian/academic meetings (including RC/RC, NGO, UN, academic seminars) addressing disaster law issues</i>	12	13	Mercy Malaysia, SEA training, Nepal DL briefing for HCT, WHS South Asia and Central Asia discussion on disaster law, Disaster law half day session at ACE training, IFRC research symposium, WHS Europe consultation meeting, Afghanistan Week in Norway, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa, SADC Meeting, IGAD leadership training, EAC leadership training, GECEO meeting, Tehran seminar
<i># of new masters/diploma courses include regular modules on IDRL and other key DL issues</i>	6	3	CERAH Geneva, Sanremo IIHL, University San Francisco of Quito.

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Output 3.1: Partnerships built with humanitarian, academic and other institutions			
<i># of active partnerships on disaster law</i>	12	7	University of San Francisco of Quito, IDHA, IHL, ISDR, OCHA, UNDP, UNASUR
Output 3.2: DL presentations and events organized for relevant fora			
<i># of presentations</i>	12	20	FMT/PAHO workshop, REDLAC, IFRC Staff in Panama, ECHO, OCHA, UNDP, ICRC Regional IHL Conference, IDHA, Research Symposium, Afghanistan week presentation, SADC, IGAD leadership training, EAC leadership training, GECEAO, Lipscom University, CERAH, IASC, Group of experts on risk management, Tehran seminar, Pre-hurricane meeting.
<i># of DL-specific events organized</i>	9	1	IDRL Consultative Meetings in Addis Ababa
Output 3.3: Output 3.3: Textbooks for teachers			
<i>Textbook developed for law schools</i>	1	0	
<i>Textbook developed for DM students</i>	1	0	
<i>Training provided for law /DM professors</i>	1	0	
Output 3.4: DL essay contest			
<i># of students participating in the contest</i>	70	22	
Output 3.5: DL messages reflected in external media			
<i># of external media articles/broadcasts per year have featured IFRC or NS disaster law work</i>	11	6	Newspaper article on DL segment at the IHL conference in Kuala Lumpur, SEA Regional forum article, Article on Kuwait Consultation, article El Pais, AU website press release, Radio Interviews Ecuador and Paraguay.
Output 3.6: Effective and widely used DLP websites, newsletter and news service			
<i>DLP websites are effective and up-to-date</i>	0	2	
<i># new DL newsletter list subscribers</i>	200	100	
<i># of new DL news service subscribers</i>	35	20	
<i># of weekly news service reports</i>	40	20	
<i># of newsletters published</i>	6	2	

Outcome 4: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law



International Disaster Law Course, Sanremo, April 2015



Legal issues in response simulation, Dili, February 2015



Disaster law training in San José, April 2015

In April, the IFRC and the International Disaster Law Project of the Universities of Bologna, Roma Tre, Uninettuno and Pisa Sant’Anna organized their second joint “[International Disaster Law Course](#)” at the International Institute of International Humanitarian Law (IIHL in Sanremo, Italy). The course brought together 22 participants from around the world to learn about key issues and developments in international disaster law. A similar course organized by IFRC and UNDP and focused exclusively on policymakers, National Societies and UNDP personnel from selected countries is also being planned for October.

In Costa Rica, an “Introductory Workshop on International Disaster Response Law” was also organized in April with the aim of building the understanding of Costa Rica Red Cross personnel about the various tools the IFRC has made available to states and National Societies. The workshop provided a broad overview of laws and legal issues related to IDRL, domestic risk reduction, regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter, and how to support the national government in the revision of existing laws. In June, the legal team of the El Salvador Red Cross participated to a workshop on IDRL (tools and methodology) with a view to initiate an IDRL project in the country.

Simulations of emergency situations which have also included trainings or discussion on regulatory aspects were carried out in Malaysia and Timor Leste. Exercises of this type provide an important platform to test all existing arrangements, share ideas and better understand roles and responsibilities amongst all disaster responders.

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 4: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law			
# of NS staff/volunteers who have increased their skills in legislative advocacy	85	50	Senegal, ECCAS workshop, Costa Rica, El Salvador, IDRL Consultative Meeting in Addis, GECEAO meeting
# of NS that have participated in	22	32	Armenia, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cambodia,

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
legislative advocacy in disaster law			Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lao, Liberia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Timor Leste
# of partner organizations taking part in trainings	12	11	ASEAN, AU, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, ICRC, IGAD, OCHA, Save the Children, UNDP, UNISDR
# of persons taking the DL e-module(s)	225	684	
Output 4.1: Training at global, regional and country levels			
# of DL-specific training workshops	11	10	ECCAS (Gabon workshop), Senegal IDRL workshop, Costa Rica Red Cross, El Salvador, Timor Leste, SEA Disaster Law Forum, MENA consultation Kuwait, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa, Sanremo
# of segments/presentations at other training workshops	16	8	Pre-hurricane meeting in the Americas, ICRC Regional IHL Conference in Asia Pacific, OCHA Malaysia DRM workshop, Mercy Malaysia event, SADC meeting, IGAD leadership training, EAC leadership training, GECEAO meeting
# of persons attending workshops	470	320	Timor Leste, Webinar in east Asia, ICRC Regional IHL Conference, OCHA civil/mil meeting, IDRL Consultative Meeting Addis Ababa, SADC meeting, IGAD Leadership training, EAC Leadership training, GECEAO meeting
Output 4.2: Legislative advocacy guidance notes			
# legislative guidance notes developed	2		
Output 4.3: Disaster law focal points and peer groups supported			
# of NSs designating a focal point with substantial expertise in disaster law	25	7	Ecuador, Kuwait, Madagascar, Paraguay, Qatar, Senegal, Tunisia
# of persons active in NS disaster law peer groups	39	10	ECCAS workshop participants, Gambia RC

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
# of NS disaster law advisor positions supported	5	4	Ecuador, Madagascar, Kuwait, Paraguay
Output 4.4: Internal assessment methodologies on law and disaster			
Methodology for IDRL updated	1		
Methodology for DRR updated	1	1	Methodology for pilot project
Methodology for domestic preparedness developed and updated	1		
Methodology for recovery developed and updated	1		
Methodology for DRM Acts developed and updated	1		

Outcome 5: New research on disaster law broadens the general knowledge-base and facilitates change

During the first half of 2015, work was ongoing on several research projects, including:

- Commissioned (pro bono) report from CMS Cameron McKenna on first aid legislation in 37 countries,
- Finalization of a report on regulatory experiences of foreign medical teams (together with WHO),
- Development of an edited volume on “Research Handbook on International Disaster Law” together with the International Disaster Law Project,
- Edited volume on “How International Environmental Law can Contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction,”
- Updating of the 2007 IFRC desk study on [‘Law and legal issues in international disaster response.’](#)
- Chapter for the 2015 World Disaster Report, and
- Two chapters authored for an OCHA-organized “Guide for Governments” for the Americas on the international humanitarian system.

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 5: New research on disaster law broadens the general knowledge-base and facilitates change			
<i>High quality studies well received by relevant disaster management and legal stakeholders</i>	0	0	
Output 5.1: Research on law and disaster preparedness/response			
<i># of stakeholders surveyed on key issues</i>	200	77	
<i>Report produced</i>	1	0	
Output 5.2: Revised edition of 2007 desk study on IDRL			
Study revised and published	1	0	Work underway
Output 5.3: Research on nuclear accident preparedness law			

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Study completed	1	0	Work underway
Output 5.4: Articles/chapters written on disaster law issues			
<i># of articles/chapters written</i>	7	2	2 chapters for the guide for government, World Disaster report contribution
Output 5.5: Research on law and recovery from disasters			
<i>Study completed</i>	0	0	
Output 5.6: Research on law, policy and SGBV in disasters			
<i>Case studies completed</i>	4	0	Work underway
<i>Synthesis report for IC completed</i>	1	0	Work underway
Output 5.7: Disaster law database			
<i># of records supplied for the database</i>	260	10	Currently at 1264 records
Output 5.8: Legal impact research			
<i>Case studies completed</i>	3	0	For 2016
Output 5.9: Climate change law research			
<i>Literature review completed</i>	0	0	For 2016
<i>Case studies completed</i>	0	0	For 2016

Outcome 6: Disaster law support and advocacy by IFRC and NS during international response operations results in better outcomes

During the reporting period, disaster law experts were deployed to provide support in the midst of relief operations in Vanuatu and Nepal.

The expert in Vanuatu worked on drafting procedures for international assistance where gaps were identified. By way of example, a letter outlining guidelines for unsolicited goods, customs and medical procedures for international responders was drafted. Advice was also provided to the Logistics and Shelter Cluster, and the Government of Vanuatu is planning to incorporate guidance received into its domestic legislative arrangements.

A disaster law expert was also deployed to Nepal in late June to provide advice and support to the Red Cross and wider humanitarian community on IDRL related issues in the ongoing earthquake response operations, particularly related to customs procedures. Following on from this deployment, it is expected that a meeting will be convened later in 2015 to discuss draft guidelines for international disaster response, drawing on lessons learned from the earthquake response.

Indicators from the 2015 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
Outcome 6: Disaster law support and advocacy by IFRC and NS during international response operations results in better outcomes			
# of operations where disaster law advice is taken up	0	2	Nepal, Vanuatu
Output 6.1: Development of legal situation report methodology for disasters			
<i>Methodology developed and updated</i>	2		
Output 6.2: Disaster law expert deployments in relief operations			
<i># of disaster law experts deployed</i>	4	2	Nepal, Vanuatu
Output 6.3: Disaster law expert deployment roster			
# of disaster law experts trained and included on roster	12	0	For later in the year

Stakeholder participation and feedback

One of the main areas of work of the DLP is building the capacity of National Societies and technically assisting governments in matters relevant to disaster law. By its nature, this work requires stakeholders' direct participation. The importance of the IFRC's work on disaster law was strongly endorsed by the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011. Since then, we have been pleasantly surprised by the increasing number of requests for technical assistance by both National Societies and states.

Representatives of National Societies and governments have joined other partners at our training events, such as at the consultations jointly organised with the African Union in Addis Ababa. In participant evaluations, these events received consistently high ratings.

Our research projects this year are all collaborative efforts, involving several departments of the IFRC and colleagues from across different specializations, as well as key external partners, such as UNDP.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Political factors extraneous to the content of new disaster legislation and rules often blocks or slows acceptance	High	Continue to follow a multi-stakeholder approach
Investments in capacity building and training often do not produce direct results for a long period of time	High	Continue to take a long-term view of the development disaster law

National Societies sometimes feel discomfort taking on technical “legal” issues	High	Build local capacity where it is desired and provide backup technical support
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Lessons learned and looking ahead

In the first half of 2015 the DLP continued to find a strong appetite for its work, both among National Societies and external partners, in particular governments but also increasingly from the academic world. National Societies continue to take on stronger roles in joint projects with the DLP, fulfilling an important goal of the programme. At the same time, donors and partners continue to press for rapid results, a challenging expectation to fulfil in the world of legislation.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\)](#) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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