



**Global (G00344)**  
**Asia-Pacific (P50033)**  
**Africa (P60013)**  
**Americas (P42068)**

**This report covers the period:**  
**01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017**



Workshop on 'Setting the Resilience Agenda: Showing Leadership in Disaster and Climate Policy', Council of Delegates, Turkey, November 2017

## Overview

During the 12 month 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 the mandates assigned to the IFRC at the [28<sup>th</sup>](#), [30<sup>th</sup>](#), [31<sup>st</sup>](#) and [32<sup>nd</sup>](#) International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the programme focused on supporting National Societies (NSs) to meet the following main goals:

1. National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law
2. Technical advice support and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies and/or procedures
3. Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships
4. IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy

\*This report also covers disaster law expenditures from codes P46069 in the Americas.

## Top outcomes from the Disaster Law Programme's efforts during the reporting period included:

- Adoption of new legal instruments drawing on recommendations of the National Societies and IFRC in **6** countries, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal and Nicaragua, a regional agreement in Central America and a regional instrument by the ANDEAN Community.
- Involvement in **15** legal drafting procedures including in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, South Sudan, Uganda, Vanuatu, adoption of which is expected to occur in 2018.
- Over 1,150 people were trained in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy in **27** countries.

## Major activities included:

- **33** National Societies engaged in legislative advocacy activities with the support of the DLP.
- Support for National Society technical assistance projects on disaster law in **21** countries including on IDRL and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Finalization and publication of **36** research projects including a global research on the [Regulation and Management of International Emergency Medical Teams](#); a global study on [Effective law and policy on gender equality and protection from sexual and gender-based violence in disasters](#), and three country case studies in [Ecuador](#), [Nepal](#) and [Zimbabwe](#), 18 country case studies on law and disaster preparedness and response completed with the support of law firm and academic partners; disaster law studies including in [Cambodia](#), [Indonesia](#), [Grenada](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Madagascar](#), [10 ASEAN member states](#) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam); as well as a mapping of Housing Land and Property (HLP) issues in 7 Asia Pacific countries (Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga, Indonesia and Mongolia).
- Development of new training and dissemination material on advocacy, auxiliary role and disaster law. This includes an [online module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#), a Disaster Law Dissemination Modules "[Know your 3Rs - Rights, Roles and Responsibilities](#)", and a new legislative advocacy training package which provides a step by step guide on how to initiate discussions on advocacy, develop and implement a National Society owned advocacy strategy. New tools have also been produced in the context of the 10 year anniversary of the adoption of the IDRL Guidelines at the International Conference in 2007. This includes an [IDRL Checklist](#), an [IDRL Model Decree](#), and an [IDRL advocacy brochure](#) with the case studies on Ecuador, South Sudan and Vanuatu.
- The first [Asia Pacific Disaster Law Field School](#) was held in Australia which included participation from Asia Pacific National Societies, governments and regional disaster management organisations, including from outside Asia Pacific, to foster regional peer-to-peer support.
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes with **11** regional organizations.
- Support for disaster law discussions in over **two dozen** humanitarian and academic conferences.
- Support to disaster response operations in the [Caribbean](#), Ecuador and [Bangladesh](#).

## Financial situation

DLP/ location	Budget (2016)	Coverage (% of budget)	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme)	650,000	353,387	291,495 (45%)*
Africa region	502,000	451,366***	302,628 (78%)
Americas region	173,558	297,135***	167,136 (96%)**
Asia Pacific region	577,005	1,145,916***	613,398 (105%)
Total Project Sum (CHF)	2,490,000		

\*In addition, 55,000 was used in G00342 to support global research on law and SGBV.

\*\*In addition, 20,000 was used in P46069 to support disaster law activities in South America.

\*\*\* Including multi-year funding.

Major donors to the IFRC's disaster law work in 2017 were the European Union and the Governments and National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. This support is gratefully acknowledged. We are also extremely grateful to Allens law firm which has provided 1,138 hours of pro bono work to the DLP through its partnership with the Australian Red Cross, and to White & Case law firms which have provided more than 1,000 hours of pro bono work to the DLP. We also sincerely thank all the support and pro bono work provided by our academic partners (full list on the next page).

## Working in partnership

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NS) are the DLP's first and foremost audience for advocacy and capacity building and play a key role as implementing partners. Many NS have already developed strong capacities and networks through which disaster law activities are undertaken. Domestically, as auxiliaries to their national authorities in the humanitarian sphere, they are the primary organisations that should be advocating and providing technical support for the strengthening of legal preparedness at the national level. At the regional level, they co-lead advocacy efforts with the IFRC, including through the several Disaster Law peer groups that exist at the regional level. In each of the countries where the DLP has engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society concerned, as well as with the relevant national authorities. The DLP also cooperated with other departments of the IFRC in research and advocacy projects, at the global, regional and country levels. Our partnerships have been notably strengthened with the IFRC gender and diversity teams, particularly through the undertaking of new research at the global and regional levels.

While NS are the primary actors in disaster law and legislative advocacy at the national level, IFRC has continued to develop partnerships with several global humanitarian actors and intergovernmental platforms. 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 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the World Food Programme (WFP). Cooperation with new agencies was strengthened, such as UN Women, including through the development of proposals at the global, regional and country levels as part of the 'Gender Inequality of Risk' (GIR) project, an initiative that was developed by UN Women, UNISDR and IFRC.

The DLP strengthened its cooperation with a range of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the Union of South America Countries (UNASUR), the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

The DLP also continued to strengthen its cooperation with academic partners, conducting joint initiatives with the American Society of International Law, Stanford University, Dhaka University (Bangladesh), Institute for Crisis Management Studies (Nepal), Canterbury University (New Zealand), Nottingham University (Malaysia campus), Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador), the University of New South Wales (Australia), Roma Tre University, Uninettuno, University of Bologna, the University of Pisa Sant'Anna (all 4 in Italy), Santa María La Antigua University (Panama), Academia de Guerra (Chile). Cooperation with new academic partners was also strengthened, including with the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University College of Cork (Ireland), and the University of Reading (UK).

The Asia Pacific DLP has continued its strong partnership with Australian Red Cross, who provided technical support to disaster law activities across the Asia Pacific region and, through its partnership with Allens law firm, supported the House Land and Property Rights mapping of 7 Asia Pacific countries. White & Case, an international law firm with offices in 37 countries, also provided support to DLP Geneva-based activities and completed 7 country case studies on law and disaster preparedness and response.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Outcome 1: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law



Representatives of the Costa Rica RC [meet to discuss and reflect](#) on their mandate and auxiliary function, and develop a new plan of action and strategy for the promotion of stronger disaster laws and peer-to-peer learning in this area.



Asia Pacific Disaster Law [Field School](#) bringing together priority Asia Pacific National Societies, governments and regional disaster management organisations.

#### Africa

In June 2017, the Disaster Law Programme contributed to the facilitation of the **African Union (AU) 1<sup>st</sup> Training Session of African Humanitarian Law and Policy Training Initiative** in Zambia. Within the AU Humanitarian Framework Policy, there is a significant IDRL reference in the Disaster Management Strategy, adopted in 2017.

Training workshops also took place at national level in Uganda, [South Sudan](#) and Sudan as described in Outcome 2 below.

In addition, over the reporting period two peer-to-peer disaster law learning opportunities have taken place in Africa. A representative of the Kenya Red Cross attended an IFRC training on community resilience (including disaster law) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and a representative of the South Sudan Red Cross attended a national disaster law training in Uganda.

#### Americas

Over the reporting period, the DLP conducted **two regional workshops** on Strengthening the Auxiliary Role and the Legislative Advocacy capacities of the National Societies. The first one took place in the **Caribbean**, in Trinidad in February 2017, and the second one took place in **Central America**, in Panama in August 2017. The workshops aimed at (i) providing advocacy training, with a strong communication component, to enable National Societies to advocate for better laws, regulations and policies for disaster risk management and priority areas of focus; (ii) presenting tools and material on advocacy, auxiliary role and disaster law, communication for humanitarian diplomacy, and reflexion of the current status of the auxiliary role and the relationship with key stakeholders; and (iii) providing support for the development of a legislative comprehensive advocacy strategy tailored to the national and regional contexts. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the development of terms of reference for the institutionalization of an [Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Committee](#) within the National Society.



Capacity building workshops on Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy were provided to the Red Cross Societies of **Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua**. A key achievement of these trainings was the development of a country road map for the establishment of an advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy committee. Up to date, the National Societies of Nicaragua and Costa Rica have institutionalized this committee in their respective organization.

The Disaster Law thematic was also included in various external workshops such as: the ICRC Miguel Grau International Humanitarian Law Workshop, the Disaster Coordination Seminar organized by the Inter-American Defence Council, the Workshop for the Peace Missions in Ecuador, the World Bank Seminar on Planned relocation in the context of climate change, the training on Humanitarian Diplomacy provided at the Regional Tuberculosis and HIV Advocacy Seminar, and the Emergency Medical Teams Regional Conference; in addition to the Annual meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL).

### **Asia Pacific**

Over the reporting period two peer-to-peer disaster law learning opportunities have been supported in Asia Pacific. This included a peer exchange between the National Societies of **Nepal and Bangladesh** on legal preparedness for international disaster assistance. In August, a regional delegation from the Pacific comprising representatives from Pacific Governments, National Societies, the Private Sector and the [Pacific Island Forum, undertook an exchange with ASEAN](#) to explore regional governance arrangements for Disaster Risk Management.

A law does no good sitting on a shelf. In order to have real impact it must be known, understood and implemented. All people should know their rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster risk management, but often we see that this is not the case. For this reason, disaster law dissemination Training of Trainers have been developed and piloted in three Asia Pacific countries, **Cambodia, Philippines and Vietnam** over the reporting period. Through interactive modules, contextualised for the country context, the dissemination packages aim to equip participants with an increased understanding of the legal framework for DRM and dissemination techniques and materials including walk-through scenarios, games, quizzes, posters and brochures, to integrate into existing community programmes in order to strengthen community-level understanding of Rights, Roles and Responsibilities in disasters. Participants have included National Societies – both national and branches, local DM authorities, women's and disability unions. In [Cambodia](#) a disaster law dissemination [module](#), was developed and rolled out in the first half of 2017 to raise awareness of the rights, roles and responsibilities of the 2015 DM Law in Cambodia. This included a [national Trainer of Trainers](#) and [three disseminations](#) covering all Cambodia Red Cross branches. In the [Philippines](#) a Training of Trainers on disaster law and know your 3Rs in disaster was held for administrators and technical staff from 20 PRC Chapters in September 2017. A further dissemination was held in November in Leyte Province for 12 Haiyan affected chapters, including local government and other partners.

Know your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities in Disaster (3Rs) Training of Trainers was held in [Vietnam](#), for Red Cross Chapter representatives from 12 disaster prone provinces, including a representative from the Women's Union. This followed a disaster law workshop for government and branch leaders from 30 chapters. Over the next two months 3 more ToTs were held on know your 3Rs, covering all chapters in [Vietnam](#), resulting in action plans on how they will integrate 3Rs activities and key messages into their existing programmes for 2018. Cambodia Red Cross has also been active in disaster law dissemination roll out with the third provincial level disaster law dissemination, Know your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities in Disasters held end of July/ early August 2017, see article [here](#).

In partnership with ASEAN, IFRC has commenced an initiative across all 10 ASEAN countries to test the level of implementation of AADMER (the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response). As part of this, a [consultation](#) was held with the 10 ASEAN Members, both states and National Societies, in Bangkok in September. The consultation invited feedback into the results and an opportunity for ASEAN member states and National Societies to verify the data. The feedback from the consultation has further strengthened the research and it is envisaged both the research reports and an online platform will be launched in early 2018.

The first [Asia Pacific Disaster Law Field School](#) was held in Sydney, Australia in partnership with Australia Red Cross in April 2017. The Field School brought together representatives from 12 priority Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, governments, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre, as well as UN agencies including UNOCHA and UNDP. The Field School also promoted cross-regional collaboration, by bringing together regional organisations such as the Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Secretariat for Pacific Community (SPC), and the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC). The participants explored legal issues across the whole disaster risk management spectrum, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender, protection and displacement. Identifying the main challenges in facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance was a key take away for many participants, as was the need to apply and integrate the Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) framework (as outlined in the Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming) into relevant legal and policy frameworks.

A pilot 3 day legislative advocacy training was held with Nepal Red Cross leadership and technical managers in November in Nepal. The training used the Nepal Red Cross law as the working example, and sought to support Nepal Red Cross approach legal and policy advocacy in a more confident and systematic way working through a 13 step advocacy roadmap approach. An advocacy strategy for the Red Cross law in Nepal is now under development and feedback from the pilot training will inform the revision of the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit, which will be ready for roll out in 2018.

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*H.E Khun Sokha,  
Consultant and  
Director of  
Preparedness and  
Training Department  
of NCDM*

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“Disaster law is a tool to implement more effective disaster management in Cambodia. Disaster can happen anytime, anywhere, it is crucial to have the preparedness plan in place. Red Cross is the key stakeholder in disaster management together with NCDM. This is because when disaster strikes, Red Cross is there to support.”

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### **Global level**

The DLP co-facilitated the annual San Remo [disaster law training course](#) co-organized by the Italian ‘Disaster Law Project’, which is a group of Italian universities working to promote and research disaster law issues. The training was held in June 2017 at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy. A week long annual disaster law training was also held at the IIHL in September 2017, convened by IFRC and UNDP. The September training brought together National Societies, government officials and UNDP representatives from 20 countries to strengthen their knowledge on disaster law and develop country action plans.

Several engagements also took place with academic partners, where the DLP presented on disaster law at a variety of trainings and seminars, including at an International Disaster Law workshop organized by the University College Cork of Ireland and the Irish Red Cross (May), a DRR and Law Seminar at the University of Reading, UK (June) and as part of the University of Copenhagen's Master of Disaster Management Course (September) and on an expert panel discussing 'the future of international disaster law' at the 10-year anniversary of that same Masters course (December 2017).



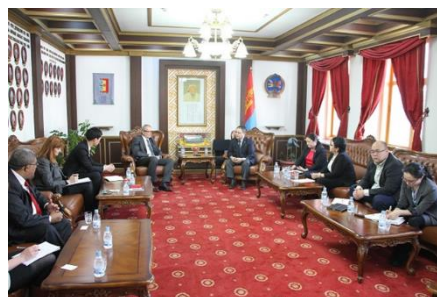
In November in Turkey, at the 2017 Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory Meetings, representatives of National Societies from every region gathered with the IFRC and ICRC to design a common vision on how to strengthen resilience. The focus of their [discussion](#) was on the role that effective laws and policies for disaster management, climate change, first aid and sexual and gender-based violence can play in the resilience building process. Within the main conclusions of the workshop, National

Societies recognized that at national level, they must increase their expertise in disaster law and its tools in order to become an essential government partner in policy promotion and development. Moreover, the creation of multi-disciplinary committees on legislative advocacy was identified as a crucial next step to strengthening national capacities to advocate for policy change and a better understanding of the National Society mandate.

## Outcome 2: Technical advice support and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies and/or procedures



*Kyrgyzstan, which suffered from severe landslides in 2017, adopted a new law based on the IDRL Model Act and CIS Model Law.*



*Representatives from the IFRC and the Mongolian Red Cross Society met with Dorlijav Dambii, Mongolian Minister of Justice*

### Adopted laws or regulations

During the reporting period, advice by National Societies and the IFRC on disaster law was reflected in new laws regulations or procedures adopted by **6** countries, including **Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua Kyrgyzstan** and two regional instruments in **Central America** and in the **Andean countries**. During the reporting period, the DLP was also informed of a new Disaster Risk Management Act adopted in [Nauru](#) at the end of 2016.

This brought the [total number of countries that have adopted domestic laws or rules](#) drawing on the "Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance" (IDRL Guidelines) and/or the "Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction" (DRR and Law Checklist) to **30** by the end of the reporting period. Bills or draft regulations were pending in a further **17** countries.



The DLP and the seven Central American National Societies continued providing support to the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (*in Spanish: Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres en América Central*) **CEPRENAC** -which member countries are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama- in the revision and strengthening of the Regional Mechanism for Mutual Assistance in Disasters (MecReg) and the Customs Procedures for Relief Goods. Following the adoption in April 2016 of the [Central American Protocol for the Shipment, Transit and Reception of Humanitarian Assistance](#), Central American Integration System (SICA)/Council of Ministers for Economic Integration (COMIECO) adopted the new "[Central American Regulation for the facilitation of custom transit of humanitarian relief items shipped by land](#)" for the expedited facilitation of relief items across all seven Central American States. The Protocol and the Regulation seek to increase operational coordination in disaster situations, provide more effective humanitarian and technical assistance in the Central American region, as well as standardize procedures for the modalities of Assisted State, Assisting State and Transit State. They also enhance the regional customs legislation, known as the Central American Uniform Customs Code (CAUCA) which sets forth the general framework for the dispatch of humanitarian relief items and provides for a simplified custom clearance procedure.

The **Andean Community** adopted in 2017 its Disaster Risk Management Strategy. This instrument as well as its plan of action, promotes the implementation of the existing regional legal framework for international disaster response and refers to the IDRL Guidelines as model.

In the framework of the revision of the "CATAI" (the Manual of Chancellery that regulates the international humanitarian assistance in case of large scale disaster), **Costa Rica** adopted a new Manual for the Shipment, Transit and Receipt of International Humanitarian Assistance, providing specific institutional procedures for each representative of the CATAI.

In **Nicaragua**, the National System for Preparedness, Mitigation and Disaster Response (SINAPREC), adopted a National Protocol which set out the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions in disaster management, highlighting the role of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

In **Ecuador**, the work of the DLP contributed to advance the agenda on housing, land and property to better address rights to housing of vulnerable populations affected by the April 2016 earthquake. The advocacy efforts of the National Society and the IFRC greatly contributed to the adoption of **3 ordinances** in favour of the affected population (i.e. the General Regulation for the application of the law on rural land and ancestral territories, the reform to the Regulation for the Housing Recovery of affected population from the earthquake, the ordinance that regulates informal settlements in Pedernales) which have entered into force in 2017.

In February 2017, the Disaster Protection Law for [Mongolia](#) was adopted by their State Assembly. This is the culmination of over four years of Red Cross technical support and assistance. IFRC assessment tools such as IDRL Guidelines and DRR and Law Checklist were used in the development of this new law, which contains dedicated chapter on rights, roles and responsibilities of community actors, establishes a multi stakeholder platform for DRM Governance in Mongolia, a mandated role for Mongolia Red Cross in disaster management coordination mechanisms and a separate chapter on international assistance. Over 2017/2016, Red Cross will continue to support the development of 24 rules and regulation to support the operationalisation of the new law.

The long-awaited disaster management law was approved by Parliament of **Nepal** in early October 2017. Red Cross has advocated for this framework and undertaken various research projects on the law over the past decade.

Key highlights of the new law include creation of a new entity in Nepal to oversee disaster risk management, higher priority placed on DRR and Preparedness, a more multi stakeholder governance approach to DRM as well as confirmation of Nepal Red Cross' membership of the Disaster Management Executive Committee. The framework law also provides for legislation to be developed on DRM at the municipal level, as well as for development of an international assistance directive. Red Cross will continue to support the authorities across both processes.

**Kyrgyzstan**, a country which does not often make headlines but nonetheless suffers from a range of disasters, including landslides in 2017, [adopted a new law](#) based on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Model Law on IDRL. The [model law was adopted in 2014](#), and Kyrgyzstan's new law largely reflects this model, as well as the IFRC's Model Act on IDRL. Kyrgyzstan is one of the few countries in the world that has an entire law dedicated to IDRL, and this law was developed with technical assistance from Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, IFRC and UNOCHA.

### Technical support at the country level

#### Africa



*The MHADM, SSRC and IFRC co-organised and co-facilitated a workshop on IDRL in March 2017*



Followed the completion and publication of an IDRL Study in [Madagascar](#) in 2017, the Malagasy Red Cross continues to engage its authorities in legal preparedness for disasters through a project aimed at strengthening the role of the National Society's role as first responder. The project is presently being supported by ECHO and through it the National Society has been working on strengthening IDRL through development of a legal instrument and simulation exercise on Facilitation Guichet Unique (FGU). Drawing from the study recommendations, the National Society is in the process of strengthening IDRL in country by technically assisting in the implementation phase. In this regard, the National

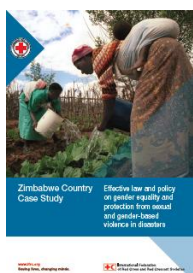
Society has drafted in 2017 a DRM Manual which has been presented to Le Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (the National Bureau of Disaster Risk Management), (BNGRC). The National Society has been also involved in supporting redrafting the DRR Law into a decree.

In 2016, the **Malawi** Red Cross and IFRC received a request from the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for support in the drafting of the Malawi draft DRM Bill and the Operational Guidelines for Disaster Risk Management, and developing Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for response operations. In this respect, in 2017, Malawi Red Cross and the DLP have started the law drafting process, seeking to ensure the incorporation of key recommendations from the IDRL in each of the DRM instruments.

In **Uganda**, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) co-hosted and co-facilitated a training on IDRL with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the IFRC. The training, targeted officials from the Department for Disaster Preparedness and Management, OPM; as well as the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA). Following this training, the Federation partnered with URCS on a Disaster Law project to run from December 2017 to support the development of a draft DRM Bill as well as revise the current Red Cross Act.

In 2017, the **South Sudan Red Cross** (SSRC) continued to support the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) in the finalisation of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy. In conjunction with IFRC, the MHADM and the SSRC organized a workshop in early 2017 targeting other National Ministries involved in DM in South Sudan as well as relevant parliamentary committees and members of the Media to present the Disaster Law thematic and tools. The National Society was also able to recruit a DL coordinator to support and coordinate the DL related activities with not only the Federation but also the MHADM. SSRC has also worked with the MHADM to organise state level workshops to build awareness on Disaster law within the country. It is expected that through these workshops the MHADM and SSRC will build the capacity on Disaster Law to finalize and adopt the NDRM Policy in 2018.

In **Sudan**, the National Red Crescent Society held four state level workshops (Darfur State, North Kurodfan State, White Nile State and Red Sea State). This is part of a larger Disaster Law project with the Sudan Red Crescent Society aimed at promoting and strengthening of policy and legal structures for disaster risk management (DRM). Through this project, the Sudan Red Crescent Society has set up a taskforce comprising of relevant stakeholders involved in DRM in Sudan to carry out a mapping of all DRM related laws in Sudan. The report of this committee is set to be validated in a workshop in early 2018.



In 2017, **Zimbabwe** Red Cross completed the report on “Effective law and policy for addressing gender in disaster risk management and sexual and gender-based violence in disasters”. This case study was undertaken by the National Society and a consultant and consisted of a desk review of national laws, policies and secondary resources, followed by interviews with key informants in Harare and focus group discussions with women in rural communities in the Muzarabani district of Zimbabwe. The purpose of this work was to address the issues around implementation during recent floods and drought emergencies in the country. The case study looks at both gender equality and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in times of disaster and provides recommendations to enhance the national framework to overcome the legal gaps identified, as well as to strengthen implementation and coordination in this area.

The Disaster Law Programme has been collaborating with the **ECOWAS** commission on legal preparedness since 2012. In 2017, The Disaster Law Programme has been in dialogue with ECOWAS to continue its support in enhancing the disaster management regional framework, in the development in 2018 of a regional Handbook on Disaster Risk Management as part of the Plan of Action of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy. Furthermore, the Disaster Law Programme has initiated dialogue to technically support in the dissemination and in-country implementation of the Handbook in two-member states.

## Americas



*Disaster Law expert group from Central American National Societies, meet in Panama City, for the Regional Workshop on Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Diplomacy, August 2017.*

In **Colombia**, the National Society, in collaboration with the national authority responsible for disaster risk management (UNGRD), continued an evaluation of national laws relating to disaster risk reduction and their implementation, using the Checklist for DRR Law as a reference. The report is currently in its final round of assessment and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

In **Costa Rica**, the results of a 2016 workshop on [IDRL](#) that had been organized by the National Society for government representatives (including members of the Coordination Task Force responsible to prepare protocols and mechanisms for the management of international disaster assistance (CATAI)), informed the new 2017 Manual for the Shipment, Transit and Receipt of International Humanitarian Assistance, which replaces the Chancellery Manual/CATAI. In the framework of the revision of the implementing decree of the Law on Emergencies and Disaster Prevention, the National Society and the IFRC provided technical support and proposed IDRL provisions relating to the CATAI, the shipping, the receipt and transit of the international humanitarian assistance. The Costa Rican National Society prepared a draft decree “MARTIR” for the recognition of the auxiliary role of the Red Cross to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Finally, the Costa Rican Red Cross formally adopted in its organigramme the Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Committee as promoted during the August 2017 Central American Workshop on Auxiliary Role and Legislative Advocacy.

In **Ecuador**, following the adoption by the Secretariat for Risk Management of an Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 IDRL report, the DLP continued advocating to institutionalize a permanent IDRL Commission through the adoption of an Inter-Ministerial Agreement, systematize the standards adopted after the April 2016 earthquake, and further implement IDRL research recommendations alongside the lessons learned from the earthquake – including in a new draft law on Disaster Risk Management.

As reported above, the IDRL work paved the way to advance the agenda on housing, land and property (HLP) and advocate for the protection of HLP rights during the reconstruction phase: 3 ordinances in favour of the affected population (i.e. the General Regulation for the application of the law on rural land and ancestral territories, the reform to the Regulation for the Housing Recovery of affected population from the earthquake, the ordinance that



regulates informal settlements in Pedernales) have been adopted in 2016 to include non-formal tenants in assistance provisions, entering into force in January 2017. The National Society developed four informative and comprehensive Legal Handbooks, respectively on property rights, acquisitive prescription, purchase contract, and successions, to inform and sensitize the affected communities in Manabí on the legal aspects related to these four themes.

As importantly, the Ecuador Red Cross with the support of the DLP, has supported communities fulfilling the administrative and legal processes necessary to achieve security of housing, land and property for people affected by disasters. In fact, on the 6th of April 2017, the ERC delivered the first deed to a family affected by the earthquake.



The DLP also worked together with the Ecuador Red Cross, a team of consultants and the IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion team to produce a study on “Effective law and policy for addressing gender inequality and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in disasters” published in fall 2017. The report analyses the relevant laws and policies related to DRM and SGBV in the context of the 2016 Ecuador Earthquake Response Operation and is part of a series of reports on this topic, alongside the case studies from Zimbabwe and Nepal. The outcomes and recommendations of the report have been presented at the first SGBV workshop in Central America. Furthermore, a report on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response was finalized.

In **Guatemala**, building on the 2016 policy review of DRR related laws and regulations, using the “Checklist on Law and DRR” and its accompanying Handbook as reference benchmarking tools, the DLP reviewed and provided inputs in November 2017 to a new draft law on the creation of the “National Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction” (PRONAR), proposed by the national disaster management agency (CONRED). Suggested key provisions included: (i) the adoption of clear procedures and protocols for the management of international humanitarian assistance in case of large scale disaster; (ii) the granting of specific legal facilities to eligible humanitarian actors; (iii) the adoption of clear mechanisms of coordination with the national actors; (iv) the inclusion of the Guatemalan Red Cross in the High-Level Committee of the PRONAR.

In **Honduras**, building on the IDRL work carried out over 2015-2016, an IDRL study to assess the legal and institutional framework relating to the entry of international humanitarian assistance was carried out, involving the National Coordination Centre for International Humanitarian Assistance in Disasters (CCAHI) to which the Honduras Red Cross is part. Publication of the study is expected in the first semester of 2018.

In **North America**, the American Red Cross launched the [North American Humanitarian Response Summit Project](#) (the “[NAHRS Project](#)”) in September 2017 to improve the effectiveness of cross-border response to a potential catastrophic disaster in North America. The Project engages the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Mexican Red Cross in a series of preparatory meetings with their respective governments to increase efficiencies, better align operational procedures in cross-border disaster response and improve relevant policy and diplomatic relations. An inception phase carried in early 2017 allowed to frame the Project and carry out the [Multinational Legal and Policy Preparedness Scan](#), which analyses –with reference to the [IDRL Guidelines](#)– the current relevant legal and policy frameworks for domestic facilitation of cross-border disaster assistance and intergovernmental agreements and arrangements, and opportunities for further growth in legal and policy preparedness area amongst the three National Societies and their respective governments. Consolidated findings and recommendations of the Project will be presented at the Summit in Washington in March 2018.



*Mr. Andrew Slaten,  
Deputy Director,  
International Affairs  
Division of the United  
States Federal  
Emergency  
Management  
Agency, NAHRS Initial  
convening meeting,  
American Red Cross  
Headquarters,  
Washington D.C.,  
September 2017.*

"How is the government going to answer to a catastrophic event? We are going to need our friends across the border, we are going to need our friends from around the world. Do we have the systems in place, do our laws align with that kind of requirement?"

In **Panama**, following the creation in 2016 of an [IDRL taskforce](#) to develop an IDRL law with the technical support of IFRC, using as a reference tool the IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act on International Disaster Assistance, a draft was finalized and is expected to be presented to the Congress in the first quarter of 2018.

Based on the road map and recommendations of the 2016 legal review of the trans-border pre-hospital care and emergency services situation between **Panama and Costa Rica** regarding the trans-border legal issues faced by the National Societies when providing direct support to each other, a formal authorization allowing the Costa Rican Red Cross to operate on the Panamanian territory was concluded between the two National Societies. The homologation of the authorization by the Panamanian Chancellery is expected in the first quarter of 2018.

The DLP also continued supporting the Panamanian authorities regarding the **humanitarian hub**, officially created by Law No. 572. Along with the IDRL draft law, the humanitarian hub is expected to contribute strengthening cooperation in the region and clarifying what legal facilities are needed in Panama to facilitate the transit of international humanitarian assistance through the hub in Panama.



In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Grenada**, IDRL legislative reviews were finalized with the support of the respective National Societies, identifying the key gaps and recommendations to improve their legislation to better facilitate international humanitarian assistance in disasters. The key findings and recommendations of both reports have been presented and discussed during an IDRL session at the 10<sup>th</sup> CDEMA Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management that took place in December 2017 in Bahamas.



In addition, a legal mapping covering the six countries of **Central America** (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama) has been initiated to identify across relevant national legislations (including laws establishing the National Society and key sectorial laws, i.e. disaster management, health, etc.) specific legal facilities and faculties granted to the National Society, materializing its auxiliary role. In 2018-2019, this legal mapping will be extended to the countries of South America and the Caribbean. A final regional report will be produced including the findings and recommendations to strengthen the auxiliary role in pertinent laws and policy plans.

During the 2017 hurricanes season that severely impacted the **Caribbean**, the DLP informed the National Societies, the Red Cross Movement and their partners on the CARICOM institutional and legal framework for regional humanitarian response in case of disaster, which was implemented by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in response to Category 5 Hurricane IRMA and Category 4 Hurricane MARIA. The [Fact Sheet](#) prepared contributed to ensure a proper coordination of the operations among all the actors involved, including the National Societies, the IFRC, CDEMA and the national authorities. The Fact Sheet (i) described the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) and (ii) highlighted the 2008 “Agreement establishing CDEMA” salient provisions on the facilities that should be provided to Assisting CDEMA Participating States’ humanitarian personnel and equipment in case of appeal for humanitarian assistance from an Affected CDEMA Participating State.

## Asia-Pacific



*In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the disaster management law in April 2017, PMI and AMPU conducted a reflection on disaster management in Indonesia and how to strengthen the national disaster management law.*



*A multi-stakeholder consultation convened in Dhaka on 16 April 2017 entitled “Strengthening Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance in Bangladesh”.*

Currently there are draft laws and policy processes in which IFRC and National Societies of **Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu** are actively engaged. In partnership with UNDP, ADB and Government of **Lao PDR**, IFRC supported the international and national partners consultation in Lao PDR on the Climate Change Law. The revised draft of the Climate Change law was presented to the Ministry of Justice at the end of 2017.

Technical input was provided on three international assistance mechanisms currently under development in **Mongolia, Indonesia and Nepal**. The National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) of Mongolia shared a zero draft of its international humanitarian assistance regulation with Red Cross for input in early November. Red Cross also worked with UNOCHA to provide feedback on the international assistance chapter under proposed National Disaster Response Framework for Indonesia. Consultations on the international assistance directive continue in Nepal.

In **Bangladesh**, a submission was made by Bangladesh Red Crescent on revision on standing orders on disaster (SOD) in Bangladesh. The DLP has also prepared an ‘International Disaster Response Law Factsheet’ to assist Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners to better understand Bangladesh’s legal requirements and identifying and explaining relevant legal provisions for international assistance providers.

In **Philippines**, Red Cross has been providing technical and drafting support in the revision of the DM Law (sunset review). Technical support continues in the drafting of the new DM Law in Vanuatu.

ARC has also undertaken an IDRL mapping for its 14 priority countries, the outputs of which are 14 fact sheets to quickly share information with possible international responders, including Movement and external partners, on the level of legal preparedness for international assistance and to ensure international response is coordinated effectively by the responding state. The fact sheets are currently under review.

Finally, the National Societies of **Bangladesh** and **Nepal** ran consultations with their authorities to advocate and consult on IDRL Processes ongoing in both countries. This has included several inter- ministerial consultations on the international assistance directive in Nepal and also discussions on legal preparedness for international disaster assistance in [Bangladesh](#) to feed into the IDRL research project.

*Mr. Dickinson  
Tevi,  
Organizational  
Development  
Coordinator of  
Vanuatu Red  
Cross.*

“Working together on Disaster Law has really helped to strengthen our relationship with the government, particularly their understanding of the work we do as Red Cross. This has certainly helped to cement our role as auxiliary to the government in Disaster Risk Management through the institutionalization of the role of Vanuatu Red on the National Disaster Management Committee.”

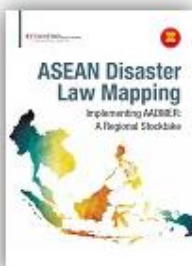
Over the reporting period, in close partnership with Australian Red Cross, Allens law firm and RCRC Shelter and Settlements colleagues, the Asia Pacific House Land and Property Rights mapping project has seen research memos and factsheets for shelter practitioners finalised for 7 Asia Pacific countries (**Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga, Indonesia and Mongolia**). Once complete, research will have been undertaken in 11 Asia Pacific countries (the remaining are Fiji, Timor Leste, Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh). The country level mapping of Housing, Land and Property law (both statutory and customary) will contribute to an increased understanding of the context specific tenure landscape which will support stronger and more equitable responses. The research was done in close coordination with respective National Society, that are now able, with research memos and fact sheets in hand, to support their public authorities in the preparedness phase to identify groups lacking security of tenure and plan the address of these vulnerabilities in an emergency response. Plans are underway to ensure that the research memos are widely disseminated and incorporated into relevant trainings in 2018, having already been sensitized through various fora including the Asia Pacific Housing Forum in Hong Kong in September 2017 and through various IFRC Shelter Cluster meetings.



The IFRC in partnership with UNDP, worked with the Government of the Kingdom of **Cambodia** to research and make recommendations on how to best implement the Law on Disaster Management through the development of subsidiary Legislation. This report, includes an analysis of the provisions and overall priorities of the DM law, as well as Cambodia's commitments to regional and international cooperation and disaster risk reduction. Such commitments include the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR). The research process included key informant interviews, focus group

discussions in addition to making an assessment of the law and proposed decrees using key disaster law tools such as the [IDRL Guidelines](#) and the [Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

In **Nepal**, the DLP worked with Nepal Red Cross and the IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion team on a study on “Effective law and policy for addressing gender inequalities and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in disasters” This report aims to help fill a gap in knowledge on the effectiveness of laws, policies and institutional frameworks in supporting gender equality in disaster risk management (DRM) and in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in disasters.



The IFRC partnered with **ASEAN** to explore the level of implementation of disaster preparedness and response commitments in AADMER against domestic disaster risk management laws and policies. This resulting research report, “ASEAN Disaster Law Mapping – Implementing AADMER: A Regional Stocktake” was circulated around ASEAN member states, national societies and ASEAN Secretariat in late August 2017.

The DLP also published a case study which describes the IFRC's work on disaster law development in Southeast Asia ‘A Case Study: Supporting National Societies to Contribute to Disaster Law Development’. It also discusses an inclusion of gender and diversity issue in the country's disaster law draft and the way forward to implement the work in region.



### Europe and Central Asia



In January 2017, the IFRC, together with the **Centre for Emergency Services and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)** in Central Asia, convened a [two-day disaster law consultation meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan](#). High level representatives from the National Societies and national authorities of four Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) came together to discuss disaster law developments and future plans. The consultation also involved representatives from key partners including ECHO, UNOCHA and UNDP. The participants adopted the ‘Almaty Declaration on Disaster Law’ and signed an MOU on strengthening preparedness and response in the region. In the months following the workshop, Kyrgyzstan adopted a landmark law on IDRL, which had been developed over the past few years with support from the National Society, IFRC and UN OCHA.

The DLP also continued to coordinate with European National Societies and the Red Cross Office in Brussels and supported various disaster-law related engagements in Ireland, Denmark, and Italy.

### **Global tools**



2017 marked the [10-year anniversary of the IDRL Guidelines](#), and several new publications and tools were launched in December 2017, including a new [IDRL Checklist](#), [Advocacy Report](#), [Model Decree](#) and a [re-print of the IDRL Guidelines](#) with a new foreword by the IFRC Secretary General, Elhadj As Sy. High-level events were held in Geneva and New York to celebrate the anniversary and launch the new tools.



A new online [learning module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) was also launched in December 2017, which will be followed by a Spanish version in 2018. The learning module is free and available for public use, by logging into the IFRC's online learning platform.

A new legislative advocacy toolkit was also developed by the DLP, based on their past experience in delivery advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy trainings (particularly in the Americas and Asia Pacific) and the increasing demand for support in this area. As explained later on in this report, the advocacy toolkit was developed by an international consultation in collaboration with the DLP team, and was piloted at an advocacy training in Nepal in November 2017. The legislative advocacy toolkit will be finalized and launched in 2018.

### **Outcome 3: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships**

#### **Intergovernmental advocacy**

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – continue to gain attention in intergovernmental, humanitarian and academic fora. The disaster law programme organized or participated in more than two dozen events at the global and regional levels.

At global level, this included [two high-level panels in New York and Geneva](#) respectively (in December), to celebrate the 10 years anniversary of the adoption of the IDRL Guidelines at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007.

The Disaster Law team successfully organized a [high-level panel](#) in Brussels (in November) jointly with the Red Cross EU Office, the European Parliament, and hosted by the Swedish Permanent Representative to the EU, on 'Closing the gap: Strengthening gender equality and protection from SGBV in disasters through law and policy'.

Also, the important role of law and regulation in reducing risks and saving lives was a recurrent theme throughout the Global Platform on DRR (May), and IFRC participated in a [session](#) run by the Senate of the Republic of Mexico and the Chamber of Deputies, with support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The session highlighted approaches that governments have developed to strengthen their legal frameworks for DRR, together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the IFRC.

In October, the Commonwealth Law Ministers at their meeting in the Bahamas in October encouraged the Commonwealth Secretariat to continue work on disaster risk management law and highlighted the importance of effective legal frameworks. Ministers requested the Commonwealth Secretariat to continue to cooperate with other international organisations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the British Red Cross in order to support countries in the review and strengthening of legislation, upon request.

In July, at the request of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the DLP took part in a working group consultation on the role of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in the oversight of natural disaster response, together with Canadian Red Cross. The consultation was held at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, and resulted in the addition of a new section on legal preparedness for disasters in the CPA working group's report. It is expected that the report will be finalized and launched at the CPA Assembly in 2018.



A new partnership was established with the World Trade Organization, where the DLP and IFRC Under-Secretary General for Partnerships took part in the global [‘Aid for Trade’ conference](#), also in July. The IFRC Under-Secretary General was part of a high-level panel discussion on ‘trade facilitation in action’, and spoke about the links between IDRL and trade issues in emergencies. This new relationship has created visibility for the DLP work with a new audience, demonstrating the cross-cutting nature of IDRL issues and the relevance of working with new partners beyond the humanitarian field, such as the trade sector.

## **Africa**

The Disaster Law Programme has had a longstanding engagement with the African Union (AU) resulting in the adoption of the AU Humanitarian Framework Policy, which highlights IDRL as a key component of the Disaster Management Strategy. In this regard, in 2017 the Programme was requested to assist in the development of an IDRL Model Act for the AU member states.

In June 2017, a Disaster Law session was facilitated at the AU 1<sup>st</sup> Training Session of African Humanitarian Law and Policy Initiative in Zambia.

## **Americas**

The DLP actively participated to the **10<sup>th</sup> CDEMA Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management: The Road to Resilience – Checkpoint 2017** “Building Resilience through Partnerships” that took place in December 2017, in Nassau, Bahamas, through an IDRL session with the OAS. While the Conference provided an opportunity to present and discuss the first findings on lessons learned from the national and regional experiences in responding to hurricanes Irma and Maria, the IDRL session provided an opportunity to launch the IDRL studies on Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and present the recommendations to enhance the legal and institutional frameworks related to international humanitarian assistance of the two respective countries. The IDRL session also allowed to refer to some of the recommendations stemming from the April 2016 Barbados CDEMA Technical Advisory Committee [Consultative Meeting](#) on Options to Accelerate Progress in Resolving Regulatory Problems in International Disaster Response Operations.

In 2017, the IFRC signed two important [Memorandums of Understanding \(MoUs\)](#), to promote the reduction of the effects of disasters caused by natural or human events and to strengthen disaster risk management systems in the region. The first one was signed in November 2017 with the **Andean Community (CAN)**, which member countries are Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. The second one was signed in December 2017 with **CEPREDENAC**. These MoUs offer the framework through which the aforementioned organizations will focus their actions on strengthening the Disaster Risk Management System of Central and South America. An important component of the MoUs relates to legal frameworks for disaster and climate risk management. As such, disaster laws and policies will be reinforced together with the support of Red Cross National Societies, in their capacity as auxiliary role to the public authorities, by the promotion and implementation of tools such as the *IDRL Guidelines* and the *DRR Checklist*.

The Disaster Law Programme highly contributed to the IFRC representation at the Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Montreal in March 2017. In this regard, in preparation to the Global Platform, the Disaster Law Programme drafted IFRC’s position in a resolution, which encouraged American States to work with their National Societies in enforcing their DRR Legislation using for this purpose the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction.

## Asia Pacific

The DLP in Asia Pacific promoted disaster law messages in several regional inter-governmental fora, influencing the discussions and the outcome documents in the process. These included the launch of the report entitled “[The Regulation and Management of International Emergency Medical Teams](#)” at the WHO EMT Western Pacific Regional Meeting Canberra, Australia, ISDR Asia Pacific Partnership Meeting (March and December 2017), the International Medical Corps (IMC) workshop on Humanitarian Principles and the Inaugural Pacific IHL roundtable. [JH1] Similarly, there were disaster law contributions made to positioning and advocacy messages for various ASEAN and PIF forums.

A [two day exchange](#) was facilitated by IFRC between the **Pacific Island Forum** and **ASEAN** on development and operationalisation of regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation. The 8 members strong delegation from the Pacific, comprising representatives from Red Cross and Government from North Pacific, Melanesia and Polynesia and IFRC met with representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre. The report on the exchange and its outcomes will be tabled at the upcoming Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting in Apia, Samoa and will inform future thinking and roll out of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

The IFRC partnered with ASEAN to explore the level of implementation of disaster preparedness and response commitments in AADMER against domestic disaster risk management laws and policies. The resulting research report, “ASEAN Disaster Law Mapping – Implementing AADMER: A Regional Stocktake” was circulated around ASEAN member states, national societies and ASEAN Secretariat in late August. The research provided the basis for a [regional consultation](#) in September in Bangkok, with the analysis and information to be used for the online portal of information on disaster law in Southeast Asia. The report also maps country level provisions against the corresponding AADMER commitment and establishes a platform for ongoing learning between disaster management practitioners and policy makers within ASEAN.

The IFRC was requested to attend as an observer and present on disaster law technical support provided to countries in the Pacific, as well as existing resources and tools to guide legislative drafters at the 2017 Meeting of the Pacific Legislative Drafters’ Technical Forum, facilitated by Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and hosted by Tonga Attorney-General’s Office. The ongoing close collaboration with PIFS has included planning for joint trainings on legislative drafting for disaster risk management law, sharing of technical expertise and exploring modalities for regional response coordination under the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* together with other members of the *Pacific Resilience Partnership* set to operationalise the Framework.

*Nola Fa’asau,  
Legislative Drafter,  
Pacific Island  
Forum Secretariat  
(PIFS) at the Asia  
Pacific Disaster  
Law Field School.*

“Ultimately it is about the people, who we collectively work to protect. PIFS is accountable to leaders, who in turn are accountable to the people of their countries. Unfortunately, during times of disasters everyone’s rights are affected, the only way to ensure that all rights are protected is to have those rights protected in laws. Without laws in place the disaster becomes two-fold; the impact of the disaster and then the legality issues of so many things. If we don’t have laws in place, we are so much more vulnerable to the human impact of a disaster.”

## **Central Asia**

The National Societies and Governments of four of the Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) adopted the '[Almaty Declaration](#)' at the 'consultative conference on legal aspects of disaster risk reduction', held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in January. The declaration outlines their commitment to strengthening disaster law. A Memorandum of Understanding on disaster preparedness and response was also signed by the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the IFRC and the CESDRR, cementing their commitment to strengthen this area of work.

### **Legal advocacy with humanitarian partners**

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

- Facilitation of an IDRL session at the African Union (AU) 1<sup>st</sup> Training Session of African Humanitarian Law and Policy Initiative in Zambia.
- Presentation on the Ecuadorian Red Cross Shelter Experience in the aftermath of the earthquake at the World Bank workshop on "Planned relocation in the context of climate change" in Washington DC.
- IDRL presentation at the Seminar on International Disaster Coordination, organized by the Inter-American Defence Council in Washington DC.
- Disaster Law Presentation at the ICRC Miguel Grau IHL course in Lima, Peru.
- Disaster Law intervention in CEPREDENAC's Consultative Forum on the Central American Policy for Disaster Risk Management, held in Panama City.
- IDRL presentation at the Emergency Medical Team's workshop in the Americas, held in November in Ecuador.
- Presentations at the Humanitarian Partnerships and Network Week (HPNW) in Geneva (at a session on Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBDs), and a session on the regulation and management of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs).
- Presentation at the International Medical Corps (IMC) workshop on Humanitarian Principles.
- Disaster Law session as part of the National Security College – Civil-Military Relations Master's Course at Australian National University (Canberra, Australia).
- Disaster Law session as part of the Australian Women, Peace and Security Workshop, hosted by the Australian Civil-Military Centre.
- Presentation on disaster law at the Asian Institute of Management (Manila, Philippines).
- Presentation at the Nottingham University (Malaysia Campus) as part of the International Relations Masters programme.
- Session on Protection and Disaster Law to UNFPA/DFAT.

### **Media coverage and Publications**

New publications and web-stories were regularly uploaded to the DLP website ([www.ifrc.org/dl](http://www.ifrc.org/dl)), and can also be found on the jointly-branded IFRC-UNDP site on risk reduction and legislation ([www.drr-law.org](http://www.drr-law.org)). The programme's newsletter was published quarterly and reached a wide audience. In addition, the DLP's dedicated Facebook group and Twitter continue to be active.

In the Americas, the Red Cross participated in an institutional video of CEPREDENAC showing the process of adopting the new regional instruments. The assistance provided by the Red Cross to enhance cooperation and coordination mechanisms through legal instruments was highlighted in the video.

The local news in Panama interviewed the DLP, Panamanian Red Cross and Costa Rica Red Cross regarding the need for integrated customs and migration procedures provided by both National Societies to their bordering communities. A national television channel in Nicaragua interviewed the DLP and Nicaraguan Red Cross regarding the auxiliary role function of the National Society. The work of the DLP was also featured in radio and television interviews in Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador. A video of the December 2016 disaster law workshop for Central America and a [video interview](#) of Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA in the Caribbean were also finalized and published online.

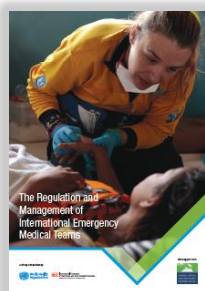
To commemorate the 10th year anniversary of the IDRL Guidelines, the Disaster Law Programme jointly with the American Red Cross, dedicated a radio programme to discuss achievements and good practices from the region in the implementation of this instrument. More than 2,500 persons from all over the continent joined the programme, making it one of the most successful emissions in 2017.

The high-level advocacy event on 'Closing the gap: Strengthening gender equality and protection from SGBV in disasters through law and policy' was featured in an [online article published by the Swedish Foreign Policy News](#), highlighting the importance of this new research and the support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

In Asia-Pacific, the regional newsletter is distributed quarterly to 540 subscribers. [A Case Study: Supporting National Societies to Contribute to Disaster Law Development](#) describes IFRC's works on disaster law development in South-East Asia, with the highlight focused in the progress in Indonesia and Lao PDR. It also discusses an inclusion of gender and diversity issue in the country's disaster law draft and the way forward to implement the work in region.

## Outcome 4: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy

2017 was busy year for the development of new research at the global level. A series of new studies on addressing gender inequality and sexual and gender-based violence were conducted by the DLP jointly with the IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion team. The research included case studies in [Nepal, Ecuador and Zimbabwe](#), and a [global synthesis report](#), as outline in previous sections above, looking at national laws and the experiences of disaster-affected communities, at their effectiveness in protecting against SGBV and ensuring gender equality in humanitarian response.



A research report [examining the regulation and management of emergency medical teams](#), conducted by the IFRC DLP and the World Health Organization was also launched in June. The report provides an overview of the issues in regulating and managing international emergency medical teams (also known as 'EMTs') in a range of large and small-scale sudden onset disasters.

Research also continued in preparation for the development of a new Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response, with pro bono country case studies undertaken by academic partners and law firms. 18 country case studies on law and disaster preparedness and response have been completed with the support of law firm and academic partners and will be published in 2018. The research and development of the new Checklist will continue in 2018.

Also, fifteen country disaster law research projects to inform legislative advocacy were completed by National Societies with the support of the PDU as detailed in Outcome 2 above.



## Results against indicators<sup>1</sup>

Disaster law goal/outcome	INDICATOR	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Mena	Global / Europe/ Central Asia	
<b>A: Strengthen National Society advocacy for disaster law and the auxiliary role</b>	# of NS engaged in peer to peer support through IFRC network	3	2	6	3	1	<b>Africa:</b> South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda <b>Americas:</b> Costa Rica-Nicaragua, Costa Rica- Central American Region. <b>AP:</b> Bangladesh- Nepal IDRL Exchange (March) <b>PIFS/ ASEAN Exchange</b> (included 4 NS) <b>Global, EU, CA:</b> Italian RC engaged in San Remo and IDRL events
	# of people trained by IFRC in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy	77	510	500	-	80	<b>Americas:</b> Central American Regional workshop on DL and Legislative Advocacy, Caribbean Regional Workshop on DL and Legislative Advocacy, National Workshops on Legislative Advocacy and DL in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Disaster Law workshop organized by the Jamaican Red Cross, MIC training in Nicaragua and in South America, CDEMA 10 <sup>TH</sup> Conference, Course on Disaster Management for NSs Directors Generals. <b>Africa:</b> DL session at the AU Humanitarian Law and Policy Framework, national workshops in Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan. <b>AP:</b> AP DL Field School (April), Cambodia DL dissemination (January , March and June); Bangladesh workshop (April); IDRL and Civ Mil Presentations, Bangkok and Australia; HD / legislative advocacy training as part of AP Health and Migration Workshop (June), Vietnam DL – Know your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities (4-7 September, Oct), Philippines Red Cross Chapter Training on DL(20-22 September and 26 – 29 Nov), Mongolia International Assistance Simex (Sept); ASEAN DL Consultation (Sept); Cambodia Disaster Law RoadMap (November); <b>EU, CA:</b> DL San Remo courses (June and Sept); Copenhagen Masters (Sept), Workshop in Central Asia (Jan)
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities	5	15	8	2	3	<b>Americas:</b> Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, United States, Canada, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina. <b>Africa:</b> Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Malawi and Madagascar <b>AP:</b> Lao, Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Vanuatu, Cambodia <b>EU, CA:</b> Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Ireland

<sup>1</sup> Indicators can be found in the DLP Global Operation Plan 2017 page 8.

\*This report also covers disaster law expenditures from codes P46069 in the Americas.

	# of NS that have developed a legislative advocacy strategy	-	2	11	-	-	<b>Americas:</b> Costa Rican Red Cross, Nicaraguan Red Cross. <b>AP:</b> Initial advocacy strategies developed as part of Field School
	# of new materials and methodologies on DL and legislative advocacy developed for NS	-	2	2	-	1	<b>Americas:</b> Terms of Reference for the Constitution of Legislative Advocacy Committee, Manual for Communities on HLP developed for Ecuador. <b>AP:</b> Piloting of Legislative Advocacy Toolkit (Nepal -Nov); Know Your 3 R methodology developed in AP (Q1 – Q2) <b>Global:</b> New legislative advocacy toolkit developed
	# of NS that have delivered education or training on DL and legislative advocacy (eg. ToT)	3	5	6	1	2	<b>Africa:</b> Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan. <b>Americas:</b> Ecuador, Jamaica; Guatemala, Costa Rica, Argentina <b>AP:</b> Indonesia (ACE Training); Australia (to Aus Govt and Partners); Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam (Know your 3Rs) <b>EU:</b> Italian RC (San Remo), Irish RC (2 DL workshops in Ireland)
<b>B: Legal and policy advice from the IFRC and NSs supports the development and implementation of national law and policies to reduce human vulnerability to disasters and improves humanitarian assistance</b>	# of relevant national and international laws and policy documents that include provisions influenced by NS with support from the IFRC Network	-	7	2	-	1	<b>Americas:</b> Ecuador published in the official registry the General Regulation for the application of the law on rural land and ancestral territories, Ecuador published the reform to the Regulation for the Housing Recovery of affected population from the April 2016 earthquake, Ecuador adopts the ordinance to regulate informal settlements in Pedernales Costa Rica adopts its Manual for the Receipt, transit and shipment of international humanitarian assistance; Nicaragua adopts the SINAPREC Protocol Manual, SIECA approves the Special procedures for the Shipment of Relief Goods, The Andean Community approves the Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management; <b>AP:</b> Adopted DRM Laws in Nepal and Mongolia <b>CA:</b> Kyrgyzstan
	# of draft national law and policy documents which include provisions influenced by NS with support from the IFRC	4	2	10	1	-	<b>Africa:</b> South Sudan DRM draft Policy, DRM Manual in Madagascar, Draft DRM Decree in Madagascar and DRM Bill process in Madagascar. <b>Americas:</b> IDRL Project Law in Panama, DRR law study completed in Ecuador <b>AP:</b> Lao, Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Samoa, Tonga <b>CA:</b> Kyrgyzstan
	# of countries supported to improve the implementation of their law and policies	5	10	4	-	2	<b>Africa:</b> Madagascar, Sudan, South Sudan, Malawi, Uganda <b>Americas:</b> Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, United States, Canada, Nicaragua, Jamaica. <b>AP:</b> Know your 3Rs (Vietnam, Philippines, and Cambodia) and Nepal (DRM decentralisation checklist, discussions and checklist drafted) <b>EU, CA:</b> Kyrgyzstan, Ireland

	# of operations where disaster law advice improves coordination and humanitarian assistance	As required	1	As required	As required	As required	<b>Americas:</b> Ecuador and the Caribbean
	# of operations where disaster law advice is provided	As required	2	1	As required	As required	<b>Americas:</b> Ecuador and the Caribbean <b>AP:</b> Bangladesh Population Movement (IDRL snapshot prepared for Bangladesh and TOR for deployment drafted)
	# of NS with better defined auxiliary roles in draft or new national law and policies	-	3	9	1	1	<b>Americas:</b> Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua. <b>AP:</b> Lao, Mongolia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga <b>CA:</b> Kyrgyzstan
<b>C: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships</b>	# of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora actively engaged on IFRC legislative advocacy issues	1	8	9	-	12	<b>Africa:</b> African Union <b>Americas:</b> CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, CAN, UNASUR, OAS/Inter-American Defence Council, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNISDR, Chile War Academy. <b>AP:</b> ASEAN Sec, AHA Centre, Pacific Island Forum, SPC, Dhaka University, Canterbury Uni, Institute for Crisis Management Studies, Aus Civ Mil Centre. <b>Global, EU:</b> University Reading, University College Cork, Copenhagen University, Roma Tre, San Remo, GPDRR, CPA, EU, Commonwealth Secretariat, WTO, IDRL anniversary events in NY and GVA (2)
	# of new/amended regional outcome documents and instruments IFRC and NS have influenced	-	4	0	-	3	<b>Americas:</b> SIECA's Special procedures for the Shipment of Relief Goods, the Andean Community Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, MoU with CEPREDENAC, MoU with ANDEAN Community, MoU with White Helmets MoFA of Argentina and ARC. <b>Global, CA:</b> Ministers of Commonwealth Secretariat, Almaty Declaration and Central Asia regional cooperation MoU
	# Legislative advocacy activities for inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora	2	14	9	-	-	<b>Africa:</b> DL presentation at the AU Humanitarian Law and Policy training, negotiations started to support ECOWAS in the drafting of a DRL Policy <b>Americas:</b> Santa María La Antigua University IDRL Class, University of San Francisco de Quito complete the Checklist on Law and DRR for Ecuador, Disaster Management Master Programme at the War Academy in Chile includes a DL Module, negotiations conducted for the signature of MoU's with White Helmets in Argentina, CAN and CEPREDENAC; CDEMA 10 <sup>TH</sup> Conference, CEPREDENAC's Consultative Forum on the Central American Policy for Disaster Risk Management, support at the UN Regional Platform on DRR, Side Event at the UN Global Platform on DRR. Collaboration, World Bank workshop on "Planned relocation in the context of climate change", Annual

							Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), OAS Seminar on International Disaster Coordination, organized by the Inter-American Defense Council; Medical emergency team meeting. <b>AP:</b> ASEAN (AHA Centre, Exchange); PIFS (PHT, Exchange); Presentations: Nottingham Uni Preso (Dec), ISDR Asia Pacific Partnership meeting (March and Dec) 2 EMT Launch (Canberra, Australia), Asian Institute of Management (Manila), Oct; International Medical Corps (IMC) workshop on Humanitarian Principles, (Nov, Islamic NGOs in SEA); UNFPA/DFAT - protection and disaster law (Nov)
	# External media articles/broadcasts that have featured IFRC or NS legislative advocacy work	-	2	3	2	1	<b>Americas:</b> NTN 24 for Latin American <b>AP:</b> Domestically for Vietnam, Cambodia and Mongolia <b>EU:</b> Swedish Foreign Policy press on Brussels SGBV event
<b>D: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy</b>	# of legislative advocacy research projects completed	2	7	7	-	20	<b>Africa:</b> Madagascar IDRL Report, SGBV Report for Zimbabwe <b>Americas:</b> SGBV Report for Ecuador, Grenada IDRL Study, St. Vincent and the Grenadines IDRL Study, Systematization of the IDRL processes in Ecuador and Honduras, Mapping on Auxiliary Role legislation in Central American National Societies, Checklist on Law in Disaster Preparedness and Response in Ecuador, Manuals on Housing, Land and Property Rights. <b>AP:</b> (Gender and GBV and Disaster Law – Nepal; DRR and Law: Cambodia; Housing Land and Property – PNG, Tonga and Solomon Islands; Mongolia ASEAN Disaster Law Mapping (10 countries). Research projects waiting finalisation: IDRL (Bangladesh, Myanmar and China); DRR and Law (China) and Housing Land and Property Research (Bangladesh, Nepal, Fiji); ASEAN SGBV Research, DL component (Philippines) <b>Global:</b> SGBV, EMT, 18 case studies on law and disaster preparedness and response.

## Stakeholder participation and feedback

One of the main areas of work of the DLP is building the capacity of National Societies and providing technical assistance to governments in matters related to disaster law and the auxiliary role of National Societies. By its nature, this work requires the direct participation, 'buy-in' and feedback of key stakeholders. The importance of disaster law was strongly endorsed by the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015, as we as in previous resolutions before that – not only of the RCRC Conference but also the UN General Assembly. Since then, the programme continues to receive a consistent, often increasing, number of requests for technical assistance from states, National Societies, regional organizations and key international partners such as the UN. In order to continue improving the delivery of the programme, various modalities are employed in order to receive stakeholder feedback, particularly at training and advocacy events. These include the distribution and collection of feedback forms, verbal feedback activities (e.g. at disaster law trainings) and continuous monitoring and reporting through regular IFRC and donor reporting processes.

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
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, let the National Society 'take the lead' and provide backup technical support
Lack of funding to meet the demands for support on disaster law from governments and NS	High	Research of new sources of funding for the DLP



## Lessons learned and looking ahead

Overall, 2017 has been another successful year for the disaster law programme globally. As shown in the tables attached below, the disaster law programme has met most of its results indicators for 2017 through the hard work of a strong global team and dedication from National Societies across the globe.

The majority of projects and activities have been implemented through or in close coordination with the National Societies. As the number of countries asking for support on disaster law keeps increasing, more focus will be given to strengthening the capacity of National Societies in the future, so that they can truly take the lead and run their own projects and initiatives. Through this sustainable approach, we believe the disaster law programme will be in a better position to positively answer to increasing demands, and build longevity and sustainability of the work amongst NS and key partners.

In 2017, the disaster law team continued to support National Societies in developing their advocacy skills, confidence and capacity more intensively. The programme has used and adapted existing methodologies developed among the IFRC including methodology used by the Road Safety Program. National Societies have continued to be trained on this methodology and have started preparing and implementing advocacy strategies with the support of the disaster law programme since 2016. 2017 saw the development of a 'legislative advocacy toolkit' which built upon the increasing demand on the DLP for advocacy training and skill-building. An international consultant was recruited to undertake this work in 2017 in collaboration with the global DLP team, building upon their experience and approach thus far. As mentioned in the report above, the toolkit was piloted at a training in Nepal in November 2017, and will be finalized in 2018.

The disaster law team has continued to receive demands to support National Societies in understanding and promoting their auxiliary role to public authorities. Sessions regarding the auxiliary role of National Societies have been included in disaster law trainings and workshops, and integrated into the new toolkit mentioned above.

Funding constraints saw the delay of some research projects at the global level, including the development of the checklist on disaster preparedness and response, and the DRM law index. Nevertheless, some pro bono research was conducted to support the development of the new checklist, and this will be a priority in 2018 together with the DRM law index.

## 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

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