




Disaster Law Programme Annual Report 2018

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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

This report covers the period:
01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018



IFRC Delegation at the Africa-Arab DRR Platform, October 2018

Overview

During the 2018 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 [28th](#), [30th](#), [31st](#) and [32nd](#) 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

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

- Adoption of **new policy instruments** drawing on recommendations of the National Societies and IFRC in **5 countries** (Costa Rica, Honduras, Indonesia, Panama, Samoa).
- Involvement in **18 legal drafting procedures** (Bhutan, Costa Rica, Dominica, Fiji, Lao, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu and the Andean Community CAPRADE Guidelines) adoption of which is expected to occur in 2019-2020.
- **13 National Societies with better defined auxiliary roles** in draft or new national laws and policies (Argentina, Bhutan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Samoa, South Sudan, Tonga, Uganda, Vanuatu).

Major activities included:

- **20 National Societies engaged in legislative advocacy activities** with the support of the DLP, including on IDRL and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Over **1,850 people were trained** in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy in **25 countries**. In addition, **1,263 people** completed the new [online module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#).
- Over **25 inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora** actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence. This includes **2 regional conferences** held 'Legislating for Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management' in the Pacific and in Latin America respectively.
- **Development of new training and dissemination material** on advocacy, auxiliary role and disaster law. The Disaster Law Programme has produced a new Legislative Advocacy Training and Strategy Development Tool Kit. The package consists of a Facilitator's Guide, a Participant's Handbook as well as handouts, a "master" PowerPoint presentation and reference documents. The Disaster Law Programme has offered support to NS in using this toolkit and developing advocacy strategies on identified areas of priority by delivering advocacy trainings and workshops.
- The team has also finalized the Spanish translation of the [online module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and completed [the Commentary to the IDRL Model Decree](#). The Disaster Law Programme also co-facilitated the annual San Remo disaster law training course co-organized by the Italian 'Disaster Law Project' at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.
- IFRC, jointly with the School of Law of University College Cork of Ireland, launched a **new research project** 'Linking natural hazard vulnerabilities and poor sustainable development outcomes – a comprehensive analysis of disaster risk management frameworks and practices in Africa and their impact on the realisation of sustainable development'. **Research** also continued in preparation for the development of a new [Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response](#).
- The team also completed **10 country case studies** (Belize, Dominica, Honduras, El Salvador, Samoa, Sudan, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Legal Mapping on DRR and CCA in Central America and Disaster Displacement Research in Asia Pacific).
- 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 DRC, Niger, Guatemala, Indonesia and [Bangladesh](#).

Financial situation

DLP/ location	Budget (2018)	Coverage (% of budget)	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme) *	589,750	589,750	580,960 (98,5%)
Africa region	262,817	262,817	279,380 (106%)
Americas region	351,066	351,119***	248,790 (71%)
Asia Pacific region	733,219	1,122,459 ***	625,460 (85%)
Total Project Sum (CHF)	1,936,852	2,326,145	1,734,590 (90%)

*This includes 234,500 used in G00345 to support the DLP at global level

**This includes 39,385 used in P46069, 48,610 used in PDM007 and PCU020, and 42,472 used in P49091 to support the DLP in the Americas

***This includes financial contribution to be spent in 2019

Major donors to the IFRC's disaster law work in 2018 were the European Union and the Government of Germany, and National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Zurich. This support is gratefully acknowledged. We are also extremely grateful to Allens law firm which has provided pro bono work to the DLP through its partnership with the Australian Red Cross, to White & Case law firms and to Rocio Escariza which have provided pro bono work to the DLP. We also sincerely thank all the support and pro bono work provided by our academic partners (full list below).

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 (UNDRR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

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 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Coordination

Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPREDENAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the Andean Community (CAN), 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), 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), Pan African University (Cameroon), University of College Cork (Ireland), Santa María La Antigua University (Panama), Academia de Guerra (Chile), University College of Cork (Ireland), the University of West Indies (Jamaica), and the University of Gothenburg (Sweden). Foundation Renova (Brazil) also provided *pro bono* research support to the IFRC in one research project concerning Brazil.

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 11 Asia Pacific countries.

The DLP extended its long-lasting collaboration with the White & Case Law Firm which supported in 2018, on a *pro bono* basis, the Resilient Island Project conducted in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) through desk research and review on Law and DRR in Jamaica, Grenada and the Dominican Republic against the good practices of the Checklist on Law and DRR. White & Case, an international law firm with offices in 37 countries, also provided support to DLP Geneva-based activities on the development of a new global disaster risk management law index.

The DLP has also joined efforts with the [Partners for Resilience](#), and the [Zurich Flood Alliance](#) in projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, the Philippines, Uganda, and South Sudan.

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 Jubek State, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and South Sudan Red Cross engaged in a group exercise on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction, January 2018



Participants from Jubek State, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, South Sudan Red Cross and IFRC at the end of a two-day workshop on Strengthening Disaster Law in South Sudan, January 2018

Africa

During the reporting period, the DLP supported peer-to-peer learning opportunities with national societies within the region. Uganda Red Cross Society and Malawi Red Cross Society were involved in drafting processes supporting their national governments to develop draft disaster management bills. The programme offered an opportunity for the representatives of the two national societies to exchange ideas on how to best to leverage the auxiliary role of the national societies in engaging their governments in the drafting processes. Additionally, the programme was able to support the attendance of representatives from Nigeria Red Cross, Malawi Red Cross and South Sudan Red Cross to attend [the Afro-Arab DRR platform in October 2018](#). The platform offered an opportunity for these national societies to engage with other national societies from the rest of Africa and MENA region to share ideas on enhancing the DRR dialogue with their governments.

During the Afro-Arab DRR platform, in collaboration with the African Union, the DLP organized a Side event on the Impact of Law in Disaster Risk Reduction. The event noted the importance of law as a tool that provides an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction as exemplified by the Sendai Framework. During the subsequent panel discussion, the first two presenters – Dr. Banak Joshua, South Sudan Director General for Disaster Management and Mr. John Lopor, Secretary General of the South Sudanese Red Cross – elaborated on the processes and challenges leading to the development of the Disaster Risk Management Policy in South Sudan. The second presentation by Prisca Chisala, Director of Programmes for Malawi Red Cross offered a review of the country's legal frameworks for international disaster response using IDRL guidelines as a bench mark to improve the draft DRM Policy in Malawi and the technical support provided by the RC in the drafting process. The Caroline Fellowship Researcher, Dr Nicholas Orago, then made a presentation on the ongoing Research Project aimed at developing integrated frameworks on DRR, CCA and sustainable development for enhance hazard/climate resilience and the realisation of sustainable development in Africa.

The DLP also participated in the facilitation of seven regional trainings and workshops which included: 3rd and 4th Sessions of the AU Policy Training co-facilitated with the AU, Two Child Protection workshops co-facilitated with UNICEF, MIC Training co-facilitated with the PSK Department and ICRC, RDRT Training co-facilitated with the

Logistics Department, and the Regional Leadership meeting. During these trainings the programme was not only able to highlight the key elements of Disaster Law and the work of the programme but also able to emphasise the important role of humanitarian diplomacy in engaging on issues with Governments, regional and international organisations and development partners.

In-country workshops and trainings focusing on capacity building and legislative advocacy were also supported and facilitated in South Sudan, Malawi, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia, during the reporting period. Resultantly each of these countries were able to develop a legislative advocacy strategy to guide the next steps on the development of national legislation on DRM. The DLP also offered its expertise on disaster law in the ADMAG – Sahel and GECEAO sub-regional meetings.

Americas



NAHRS Concluding Summit in Washington D.C., March 2018

the Concluding Meeting (March, Washington D.C) where participants recognized the *IDRL Guidelines* to inform solutions to some of the issues addressed in the framework of the Initiative, identifying among the areas that may deserve attention and advocacy efforts: (i) the adoption of clear protocols for cross-border disaster support; (ii) the adoption of a pre-certification system of foreign humanitarian professionals; (iii) the development of new visa categories; (iv) the adoption of a specific humanitarian IDs/passport. As a result of the support provided during the process, the DLP is a member of the Steering Committee and a key partner of the three Project's Working Groups on "Underserved Populations", "Teams and Personnel" and "Supplies and Equipment".

In **South America**, in the framework of a DIPECHO Project, the DLP held a regional workshop on Disaster Law, Legislative Advocacy and Civil Military Relations (May, Lima) that gathered the Red Cross from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. The Workshop allowed strengthening their knowledge in IDRL and DRR and identify focal points on these topics within the National Societies. It also allowed to develop, with each National Society, a road map and a strategy to advance the national and regional agenda on Disaster Law by identifying supporting activities, a timeline for their implementation as well as national key actors. The Workshop finally allowed showcasing the Working Groups on Humanitarian Diplomacy successfully established in Honduras.



Disaster Law and Civil-Military Relations Workshop in Lima, May 2018



Cuba Workshop on IDRL in La Habana, September 2018

participation of government representatives, the academia, the Cuban Bar Association and RC volunteers, and allowed enhancing the understanding of the regional response system of the Red Cross and sensitizing to the *IDRL Guidelines* and the *Checklist on Law and DRR*. The Workshop allowed a peer to peer exchange by showcasing successful previous and ongoing IDRL and DRR projects in the Americas and their positive influence on disaster responses. The Workshop triggered the interest from the Cuban Red Cross and participants to carry out an IDRL and a DRR legal study in 2019.

The DLP also gave a presentation on IDRL at the annual summer course in International Humanitarian Law of the Cuban “Bar Association” (*Union Nacional de los Juristas de Cuba*) course that took place in June in the Havana and which gathered academia, representatives from ministries (defence, interior, foreign relations among other key governmental entities) and the ICRC.

The DLP contributed to the December “RIT” Workshop in Panama, delivering a full briefing session on IDRL including an interactive table exercise during which participants identified solutions based on the *IDRL Guidelines* to respond to the “moot case”.

In **Costa Rica**, technical support was provided by the DLP focal point for Central America to the Costa Rican Red Cross to advocate for the establishment of the Working Group on “Humanitarian Diplomacy” within the National Society structure. A workshop on “Humanitarian Diplomacy” was held by the Costa Rican Red Cross in August 2018 to develop a specific agenda and road map on Humanitarian Diplomacy and discuss the Terms of Reference of the Working Group which was officially institutionalized in March 2019.



Workshop on Humanitarian Diplomacy, Costa Rican Red Cross, August 2018, Costa Rica



In **Honduras**, in the framework of the “Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity in the Americas” (CREA Project – Canadian Red Cross), the DLP provided technical support to the Honduran Red Cross regarding the institutionalization, within the National Society structure, of a dedicated Working Group on “Humanitarian Diplomacy and Auxiliary Role”, responsible to prioritize Disaster Law in the National Society’s agenda, support the completion of the IDRL study in Honduras and develop an Action Plan for the implementation phase of the IDRL recommendations with COPECO. A three-day training in Legislative Advocacy using the DLP Legislative Advocacy Toolkit was held in December

2018 to strengthen the Honduran Red Cross capacities in developing policy advocacy strategy and messages to support the IDRL implementation phase of the Project. During the training, a road map was developed, and the strategy and Action Plan were refined.

In **Nicaragua**, in the framework of the CREA Project, at the request of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, a mission took place in November 2018 to assess the needs of the National Society in terms of policy advocacy support. The DLP focal point for Central America held a sensitization session to present the IFRC DLP tools on Humanitarian Diplomacy, including the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit used for the first time in the Americas in Honduras. The Nicaraguan Red Cross requested the DLP support in 2019 to hold a similar training in Nicaragua.



Session on Humanitarian Diplomacy and Legislative Advocacy with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, November 2018, Nicaragua.

Asia Pacific



The Fiji DRM Legislative Review Team (with membership of the Fiji National Disaster Management office, Attorney General's office and Red Cross) meet with the Head of the National Disaster Management Office of Vanuatu (left); the review team also meets with the Secretary General of Vanuatu Red Cross Society (right).

At the national level, a peer learning opportunity was undertaken between the **Governments and National Societies of Fiji and Vanuatu** in June 2018, to enable the former to learn from the Government of Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Red Cross on their experiences in the development of the disaster law process in Vanuatu. This opportunity is contributing towards the law review process in Fiji.

In the **Philippines**, a pilot training on the new IFRC Legislative Advocacy Toolkit was conducted for Philippine Red Cross national staff last 5-6 September 2018. The report from the [Legislative Advocacy Toolkit Pilot Training](#) has been internally finalized and work is now underway to adapt and plan for roll out of trainings in branches from early 2019.

The **Timor Leste** Red Cross was invited to present on its disaster law work at an inter-ministerial workshop on Disaster Risk Governance in Timor Leste on 27 – 28 September. It is anticipated that the workshop will kick start discussions on the disaster management law and DRR policy, both processes stalled in 2015.

In **Malaysia**, a disaster law presentation was made to the Humanitarian Country Team in, Putrajaya, Malaysia on 27 November. The presentation provided an overview of key considerations for the Government of Malaysia regarding development of a DRM legislative framework in 2019 (to replace Directive 20). UN Resident Coordinator and National DM Agency Malaysia has indicated that they are keen to partner with MRCS/IFRC on the review and discussing a possible kick off consultation workshop in early 2019.

Global level



Participants undertake a group exercise during the San Remo Disaster Law Training Course, June 2018.

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 2018 at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy. The training brought together National Societies, government officials, NGOs and representatives from the academic sector to strengthen their knowledge on disaster law and develop country action plans. The course was highly rated by participants with an average overall score at 8.47 out of 10.

The DLP also presented on housing, land and property issues at a seminar on ‘Climate Change, Displacement and the Law’ organized by the University College Cork of Ireland and the Irish Red Cross (February).

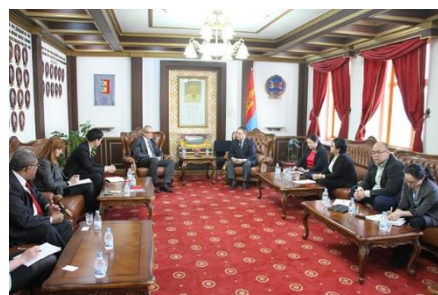
DLP contributed to discussion with Diplo Foundation for updating the curriculum of the IFRC/Diplo Humanitarian Diplomacy diploma course.

Finally, 1,263 people completed the new [online module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) on the IFRC Learning Platform.

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 8 countries, including **Indonesia, and Samoa**, as well as the **2 Central American countries (Costa Rica and Honduras)** which engaged in a revision process of their *CATAI/CAHA Guidelines* to incorporate the *Central American Protocol to facilitate the shipment, transit and receipt of humanitarian aid within the SICA* directly influenced by the IFRC DLP policy advocacy work between 2016 and 2018. In 2018, Costa Rica and Honduras approved their revised *CAHA/CATAI Guidelines*, informed partly by the *IDRL Guidelines*.

In **Costa Rica**, the government recognized to the Costa Rican Red Cross the extension of existing tax exoneration on the importation of disaster relief items in times of emergencies to situations of emergencies where a national state of emergency hasn't been declared.

In **Panama**, an agreement was concluded between the Panamanian Red Cross and the National Customs Authority to allow the exoneration of applicable taxes on the importation of items as well as an expedite treatment for pre-hospital care services at Customs during the World Youth Day.

In **Samoa**, the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) was endorsed in January 2018. The NDMP was strongly influenced by Samoa Red Cross and IFRC – this enabled the inclusion of strengthened provisions on the auxiliary role, international assistance provisions and ensured provisions on GBV and disasters.

The **National Disaster Response Framework for Indonesia** was approved by the Government of Indonesia in August. The National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF) is Indonesia's primary response document and aims to clarify roles, responsibilities, and the organisation of response to a disaster. It includes specific roles for PMI and IFRC as national / international partners to the government in several areas. Overall, it is a forward-looking framework, including provisions on GBV in disasters as well as displacement / protection issues and underscores importance of gender equality and a human rights-based approach. PMI and IFRC have been active in their contribution to the NDRF for the past couple of years and have positively influenced the framework.

Technical support at the country level

Africa



Members of Parliament, MHADM Officials, SSRC and IFRC representatives at the kick-off of a workshop with Parliamentarians to discuss the South Sudan NDRM Policy, April 2018

Following a request received from the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), the **Malawi** Red Cross (MRC) and the DLP supported in the drafting of the Malawi draft DRM Bill and the Operational Guidelines for Disaster Risk Management, as well as developing Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for response operations. Consultative meetings were held with stakeholders from various national government authorities such as the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Malawi Revenue Authority. The MRC provided recommendations to the Operational guidelines which were incorporated into the revised draft. The guidelines were presented to the Task Force for their consideration and contain provisions, derived from the 2013 IDRL Report Recommendations, on international disaster risk management assistance. The guidelines as well as the

draft bill are expected to be presented to Parliament for their consideration and debate. Additionally, with the support of the programme, the MRC provided technical assistance to DoDMA on the substantive content of the DRM Bill. Resultantly the bill was finalized and contains provisions on international assistance based on the IDRL Guidelines. The Bill has been presented to the Office of the Prime Minister for subsequent presentation to parliament.

In **Uganda**, the programme worked with the Uganda Red Cross (URC) Society advocating for a Disaster Preparedness and Management (DPM) Bill as well as an amendment to the existing Red Cross Act. The URC has supported the Office of the Prime Minister in setting the grounds for the drafting of the DPM bill itself through a series of national and decentralised Disaster Law training and consultations in preparation to the drafting process. The aim of the Bill is to institutionalize a legal framework for Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Management while offering an integrated and coordinated disaster risk management approach, focusing on prevention, risk reduction, as well as effective response.

During the reporting period, the URC also drafted an amendment to the Red Cross Act, “The Uganda Red Cross Society and Emblem Use & Protection bill, 2018.” The bill seeks to highlight the present role of the national society particularly as a primary actor in the country’s national disaster management governance structure. It was presented to parliament to as a private members bill in order to facilitate an expedited process. Leave to introduce the bill to parliament was granted in December 2018 and the bill is set to be gazetted in January 2019 ahead of its first reading in Parliament.

Honourable Winnie Kiiza, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum for DRR, October 2018

“I assure Uganda Red Cross Society the support from the members of the Parliament in pursuit on an enabling legal framework for disaster risk management, and pledged the total commitment of the parliamentary forum on DRR in regard to helping the National Society updating its mandate through the revision of the Red Cross Act”

The **South Sudan** Red Cross (SSRC) Society supported the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) in the finalization of the National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Policy. The policy sets up an institutional framework for humanitarian assistance and disaster risk management, including promotion of a culture of disaster risk reduction for community resilience and building the capacity for disaster risk management at all levels. With the support of the programme, the SSRC has spearheaded advocacy efforts for the policy by building the capacity on disaster law among state-level officials as well as parliamentarians.



Representatives of Juba State, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and South Sudan Red Cross engaged in a group exercise on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction, January 2018

These efforts were aimed at ensuring an increased awareness of the content of the policy as well as to gain their support once the draft is presented for approval at the legislative level. During the reporting period, the DLP team has been able to support the SSRC in conducting state level workshops as well as a national workshop targeting specialized committees of Parliamentarians. These workshops were aimed at building the capacity on disaster law

among state-level officials as well as parliamentarians, increasing their awareness of the content of the policy as well as to gain their support once the draft is presented for approval at the legislative level. Following a final stakeholders consultative forum held in August 2018, the NDRM Policy was finalized and presented to the Cabinet for their approval.

*Honourable Mr.
Hussein Mar Nyiuot,
Minister of
Humanitarian Affairs
and Disaster
Management, at the
opening of a national
disaster law
workshop in April
2018.*

"Disasters are disruptive and we need to be prepared to deal with them and reduce their impact on the population. We can only be truly prepared if we have the right laws in place."



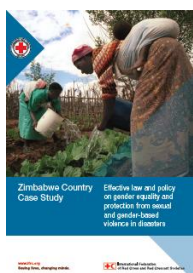
The Secretary General of Sudan Red Crescent makes opening remarks at the Workshop on the Sudan IDRL Report with Stakeholders, April 2018

The **Sudan** Red Crescent (SRC) Society had a cooperative engagement with the Disaster Law Committee, as well as the relevant authorities at the decentralized State level and other partners to develop a broader understanding of legislation related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The SRC carried out several state level trainings that created awareness on DRR therefore developing stronger awareness on risk reduction, information management and contingency planning, including for Climate Change Adaptation, at the decentralised level in Sudan. Additionally, the SRC carried out a workshop with Parliamentarians to introduce the

concept of disaster law to them as well as highlight the importance of developing comprehensive legislative framework for disaster management in Sudan.

The SRC also in working with the Disaster Law Committee developed an IDRL report evaluating the institutional and legal framework for international disaster relief assistance in Sudan. The report was presented to academic stakeholders', private sector actors, and government agencies such as the National Council on Civil Defence, which is one of the key government agencies tasked with Disaster Management in the country. During this forum, the SRC provided a platform for discussions on key recommendations to be incorporated to the IDRL report as well as the possible way forward for the improvement of the DM legal and institutional framework. The report is expected to be published in 2019.

Further, noting the programme's placement within the DCPRR team structure, the DLP was able to offer technical advice on disaster law to support the coordination of delivery of humanitarian assistance in two Ebola Operations in **Democratic Republic of Congo** and one Emergency Appeal in **Niger**.



In **Zimbabwe**, the DLP supported the Zimbabwe Red Cross in publication of a study on ["Effective law and policy on gender equality and protection from sexual and gender-based violence in disasters"](#) finalized in 2017. The report is expected to be launched with relevant stakeholders in the first quarter of 2019.

The programme also initiated a the 3-year partnership with the **University College Cork** for the development of a comprehensive analysis of the DRR framework in Sub-saharan Africa.

Following a baseline survey done in approximately 15 countries, the study will also feature data collected through key informant interviews as well as in-depth case studies on South Africa, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Mauritius.

Americas



Climate Smart Disaster Law Workshop in Costa Rica, November 2018

In **Costa Rica** and **Honduras**, technical support was provided to the Costa Rican Red Cross and Honduran Red Cross which engaged with their respective governments in the revision of the *CCAH/CATAI Guidelines* to incorporate the *SICA/CEPRENAC 2013 Protocol and 2017 Landmark Procedure on the facilitation of the shipment, transit and receipt by land of international disaster relief within the SICA region*, instruments that has been greatly informed by the IDRL recommendations. Technical support was also provided to both National Societies regarding the development of their concept notes to implement the Zurich Alliance against Floods 2.0. Project using as a key tool the *Checklist on Law and DRR*.

In **Dominica** and **Belize**, an IDRL Project was launched involving an IDRL study and a consultation process to discuss the findings and recommendations stemming from the desk research and review with all governmental authorities involved in disaster risk management. The process allowed informing the current development of the draft Disaster Risk Management Law that should be finalised in 2019.

In **Panama**, the DLP provided technical assistance to the Panamanian Red Cross to request custom priority treatment and tax exoneration for the entry of the Costa Rican ambulances in support of the World Youth Day in January 2019. This resulted in the conclusion of an agreement between the Panamanian Red Cross and the National Customs Authority allowing tax free and expedite treatment of the pre-hospital care services at Customs during the World Youth Day.



Sensitization IDRL workshop with INDECI in Lima, May 2018

actors.

In **Peru**, the DLP contributed to the development of an IDRL Law Proposal at the initiative of the National Defence Institution of Peru ("INDECI"). In this context, it held a sensitization workshop on IDRL and DRR (May, Lima) for 15 legal and disaster management officials of the INDECI. The Workshop, in which the Peruvian Red Cross also participated, allowed presenting and discussing the DLP's comments on the INDECI IDRL Law Proposal. A technical session was dedicated to review the Proposal and the process agenda, in view of defining a strategy to support the Law Proposal socialization among national key

The DLP and the Peruvian Red Cross also contributed to the drafting process of the Regulation that will implement the Framework Law on Climate Change adopted in April in Peru. In this context, it participated to the launch event of a consultative process for the development of the Regulation organised by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and met with rep. from this ministry to position in the draft the Peruvian Red Cross in the institutional arrangements and to ensure it have a seat at the National Commission on CC.

At the **regional level**, the DLP contributed to the regional agenda in Central America on DRR and CC through a Regional Workshop on “Joint Efforts for DRR and CCA in the Americas: Smart DRR and CCA Policy Frameworks” held in November in Costa Rica. The event was organized with the support of the Partners for Resilience (PfR) initiative and the Costa Rican Red Cross. Gathering 15 National Societies from Central America, the Caribbean and South America, as well as government rep. from the six Central American Civil Protection Systems, CEPREDENAC, the Andean Community and the OECS, the event provided an opportunity to discuss national and regional trends in policies related to DRR and CC, allowing peer to peer exchange of experiences and good practices in implementing international commitments such as the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. More specifically, it allowed to (i) promote the *Checklist on Law and DRR* and (ii) engage key stakeholders in the identification of key aspects that should be taken into consideration to develop a new benchmarking tool on CC. Finally, the Workshop provided a unique opportunity to launch the *Legislative Advocacy Toolkit*.



Live drawings, Regional Workshops on “Joint Efforts for DRR and CC in the Americas”, November 2018, Costa Rica

Asia-Pacific



Government of Lao PDR, Lao Red Cross, IFRC, UNDP and ADB meet to discuss collaboration on the DRM Law Review - March 2018

Pacific Region



Fiji DRM Legislative Review - The MoU between the Government of Fiji, Fiji Red Cross Society and IFRC on the Legislative Review of the DRM Act and National Disaster Management Plan was signed at an official ceremony with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management, and Meteorological Services of Fiji in March 2018, see media on the signing [here](#) and on the wider review [here](#). The Government of Fiji approached Red Cross about supporting the review

of its Act and Plan in 201, following their participation in the Asia Pacific Disaster Law Field School (Sydney, April 2017). A technical working group comprised of Government representatives, Fiji Red Cross and IFRC has been established and the review team will be undertaking a desk review, holding stakeholder consultations over 2018, including development of an options paper that will go out for wider public consultation before the drafting of the plan and bill, envisaged for 2019.

The Government of **Tokelau** has approached IFRC to provide technical input and drafting support to the first draft of its DRR and Emergency Rules. IFRC is preparing a submission which will be submitted by the end of August.

Discussions are also being carried out with **Tuvalu** Red Cross, Tuvalu Department of Climate Change & Disaster and Tuvalu AGO on the Asia Pacific Disaster Law Programme providing assistance for the revisions of their Disaster Law Bill. The Government of Tuvalu has requested assistance for the DLP on the review of their National Disaster Management Act. Remote assistance is being provide by DLP through the Pacific Disaster Law manager based in Suva.

Ongoing technical support and regular follow up continues legislative review processes in **Vanuatu** (DRM Act) and **Tonga** (IDRL regulation). **The Federated States of Micronesia** and the **Republic of Marshall Islands** have indicated their interest in engaging with the DLP on the review of their Disaster laws in 2019. DLP is initiating communication with the National Societies and Government Partners.

Southeast Asia

The Disaster Management Law roadmap and review methodology was agreed between development partners (IFRC, ADB, UNDP), **Lao** Red Cross and the Government of Lao PDR in March 2018. The DRM law review commenced in April 2018 and has included Red Cross support to several national and international consultations, as well as working closely with the Lao PDR DM Law committee to provide inputs on the draft law.

IFRC provided technical inputs on DL tools and best practices during the Partners' Meeting on the DM Law Development in Vientiane on June 25, and participation in pre-meetings with NDPCC on July 24. In the last quarter of 2018, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare conducted provincial consultations on the draft DM Law. IFRC through DLP submitted its position paper on the draft law in December 2018. It is anticipated that the Bill will be presented to the Lao PDR National Assembly in April 2019.

Mr. Vilayphong
Sisomvang, *Director
General of
Department of Social
Welfare, Ministry of
Labour and Social
Welfare (MLSW), Lao
PDR*

“Disaster Law is important for Lao PDR because disasters have already and will continue to negatively impact poverty reduction efforts and progress in development as well as in the achievement of the graduation from the Least Developed Country’s status by 2020. Therefore, it remains crucial for government to have a strong disaster law that establishes proper mechanisms and measures to cope with and reduce the impact of natural disasters and to manage before, during, and after disasters as well as build the resilience of vulnerable communities.”

A **concept note on a Movement Awareness workshop** with a focus on disaster risk governance was submitted to the National Disaster Management Council of **Brunei** for consideration. It is anticipated that further discussions and consultations will be held in 2019.

Indonesia Red Cross (PMI) organized a public discussion on the **implementation of the Disaster Management Law of Indonesia 10 years after its passage** (28 August, Jakarta). This was organized in partnership with other civil society organizations of the AMPU-PB, a sub-group of Indonesia’s National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The disaster law team worked with logistics and operational teams to provide IDRL advice and solutions to overcome regulatory issues and some government restrictions encountered in the **2018 Tsunami and Earthquake Operations**.

The **Myanmar** 2013 Disaster Management law is currently being revised and Red Cross has been identified as a key stakeholder to engage and provide feedback in this process. Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) co-facilitated interdepartmental government and stakeholder consultations and workshops together with the Department of Disaster Management of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Findings and recommendations of the IDRL research undertaken by MRCS and IFRC were presented in these consultations. In 2019, the IDRL research will be finalised in cooperation with the Department of Disaster Management to take into account most recent developments in the legal framework for disaster management.

In the **Philippines**, DLP continues to provide technical support on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) to the Philippine Red Cross. The Regional DL Officer and PRC shelter team undertook fieldwork in a planned relocation site in an ancestral domain southern Philippines on 27-28 June to **test the draft Philippine Red Cross HLP strategy** (due diligence and rapid tenure assessment). The second revised version of the Strategy has been circulated for technical comments to PRC, Movement partners, and IFRC Working Group on Displacement (durable solutions). The third revised version will be presented to PRC leadership early 2019. HLP was also integrated in the pilot PASSA Youth Training of Facilitators. DLP also supported the migration team in finalizing the “Health in Migration & Displacement” module (statelessness and local migration laws) and its pilot training on November for PRC Chapters in southern Philippines.



DLP prepared **technical comments to [House Bill 8165](#) and other bill versions proposing the creation of a new Department of Disaster Resilience** and other amendments to the existing DRRM Act. These were submitted to the PRC Chairman who has agreed to endorse DLP's draft technical comments to his Senate legal team for review. HB 8165 retained IDRL provisions proposed by DLP to the Philippine National DRRM Council in 2016-2017 and was approved by the House of Representatives on October 2018. The bill has been transmitted to the Senate for their concurrence.

On IDRL, technical inputs were provided to PRC regarding the **highlights and implications of the new “Enhanced Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Guidelines” (PIHA)**. Inputs regarding IDRL in the Philippines were also provided to the **IFRC supply chain ROI research team**.

- **South Asia**

Nepal Red Cross continues to support the development of and consultation on the **international assistance directive**, which will form part of the implementing rules and regulations under framework law adopted at the end of last year. Progress has also been made on the development of the **Municipal DRM Governance Checklist for Nepal** adapted from IFRC disaster law tools. The checklist seeks to support systematic and inclusive decentralisation of DRM decision making to the municipal level in the new Federal System, including advocating for recognition of the Nepal Red Cross auxiliary role at the municipal level. This checklist is being taken forward in partnership with the Nepal Red Cross, British Red Cross and the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Platform in Nepal. During the most recent consultation in June 2018, the Government of Nepal expressed their support for the initiative and want to more actively partner on this with Red Cross a view to using this as a nationally owned assessment tool. Substantial feedback was received from across government and non-government and will continue to be incorporated in revised versions. The assessment tool will be finalized in Q1 2019 and with piloting of the tool planned for Q2, 2019.

In May 2018, the zero draft of the trilateral pre-disaster agreement between the Royal Government of **Bhutan**, the Bhutan Red Cross and Movement partners was supported by the disaster law team. The draft sets out a framework for cooperation, roles and responsibilities of parties, and certain legal privileges for IFRC and ICRC in relation to humanitarian response efforts on the territory of Bhutan.

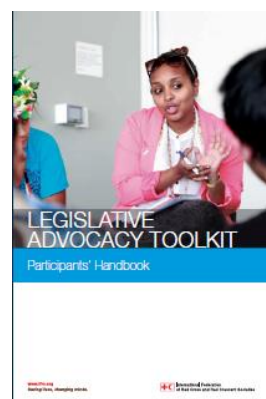
- **East Asia**

Mongolia – Ongoing technical support continues on the Humanitarian Assistance Resolution. Additionally, the draft IDRL research for China has been finalized in partnership with the Red Cross Society of China and Shandong University. A national consultation with key government and non-government on the research is scheduled for early 2019.

Global tools



The Disaster Law team produced an advocacy training and strategy development tool kit. The package consists of a Facilitator's Guide, a Participant's Handbook as well as handouts, a “master” PowerPoint presentation and reference documents. The new legislative advocacy toolkit was 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 highlighted above, the Disaster Law Programme has offered support to NS in using this toolkit and developing advocacy strategies on identified areas of priority by delivering advocacy trainings and workshops.



The team has also finalized the Spanish translation of the [online module on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and completed [the Commentary to the Model Decree for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#). The Model Decree is intended as a reference tool for voluntary use by states faced with a major disaster and the possibility of a large influx of aid providers. It can help states address some of the legal and regulatory issues that commonly arise concerning international assistance following disasters.

Finally, the DLP has undertaken the development of a new tool, the ‘Global Disaster Risk Management Law Index’ (the Index) with the pro bono support of White & Case. The Index will provide guidance as to the current DRM systems in each country, with a focus on the entire DRM spectrum – ranging from risk reduction, to preparedness, response and recovery. By using this tool, countries around the world will be able to identify specific areas that could be strengthened in their national DRM law and policy, according to the indicators developed for this project and in line with global best practice.

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

*Ambassador Frances
Lisson, Permanent
Representative of
Australia to the
World Trade
Organization, at the
Natural Disaster and
Trade Symposium,
April 2018, Geneva.*

"Strengthening regulation, policy and infrastructure before disasters can increase the resilience of countries."

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**, the IFRC's DLP has been following the International Law Commission' project on the 'Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters' from its beginning in 2006. The draft articles were submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2016 as a part of the ILC's report covering the work of that session (A/71/10, para. 48). In 2018, the DLP presented at the 'Interactive Panel on the ILC's Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters' hosted by the Colombian Mission in May in New York. Furthermore, the DLP attended the

discussions of the UNGA, agenda item entitled 'Protection of persons in the event of disasters' in its seventy-third session on 1st November 2018.

Furthermore, the role trade laws and policies on disaster resilience, disaster response and disaster recovery at the [World Trade Organization's Natural Disaster and Trade Symposium](#) that took place in April, as WTO is launching a research project to better understand the nexus between disaster relief and commercial trade, in collaboration with Australia, IFRC, and ISDR, among other partners.



Work has also started in preparation for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which will take place in 2019. A resolution on "Climate-Smart Disaster Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind" will be presented to states and RCRC components. The DLP participated in two briefings for missions for the upcoming International Conference and in the IFRC-ICRC 'file-holders meeting' that took place in 2018.



Finally, the DLP organized the participation of the Secretary General of the Malawi RC at the Climate and Humanitarian Dialogue which took place in Geneva in October. The dialogue event was co-organized by Switzerland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Fiji (COP23 Presidency), the IFRC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Climate Action Network. The Malawi RC presented on its experience in supporting its public authorities in developing and implementing climate-smart disaster risk management actions that protect the most vulnerable from climate and disaster risks.

Africa

The DLP is engaged with the **African Union** (AU) to develop a model IDRL Law that can be adopted by member states depending on their prevailing national circumstances. The development of this law is in line with the AU's objectives under the African Union Humanitarian Policy Framework and the Common Africa Position of Humanitarian Effectiveness (CAP). The programme has been able to foster confidence in its capacity to deliver on this mandate due to continuous technical support offered to member states at regional platforms, on Disaster Law themes.

Notably, the programme also offered co-facilitation support during the 3rd and 4th AU Humanitarian Law and Policy training sessions held in March 2018 and July 2018 respectively. This support has resulted in the inclusion of the Disaster Law thematic in the Humanitarian Law and Policy Training curriculum.



Prisca Chisala from Malawi Red Cross reading [IFRC statement](#) for Africa at the Afro-Arab DRR Platform in Tunis, October 2018

Furthermore, as part of the DLP commitment to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on the disaster risk reduction in a world negatively impacted by the effects of climate change, the programme successfully hosted a side event at the **Afro-Arab DRR platform** in October 2018. The side event “Law and DRR”, focused on the impact developing climate-smart DRR laws and policies can have on improving the preparedness and climate change adaptation capacity communities can have. During the platform the Disaster Law Programme Coordinator was selected as one of the 15 members of the Africa Region Drafting Committee for the Africa-Araba DRR Platform. In this respect IFRC was able to promote its key messages by influencing 6 clauses of the [“Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”](#) as well as the [“Joint Communiqué”](#). The DLP Coordinator was also a panellist in the Plenary Working Session 2: Stepping up efforts towards achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020. Furthermore, the DLP jointly with the African Union Commission organized a side event on the Impact of Law in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Additionally, the programme held discussions with the **Economic Community of West African States** (ECOWAS) regarding the development of a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) handbook and as well as training / capacity building exercises for member states. In this regard, DLP provided comments to the Plan of Action of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy (2018-2022), confirming IFRC's support in the development of the handbook and its implementation in four, member states. Disaster Law was placed in Strategic Objective # 1 of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and Plan of Action which focuses on “Strengthening the Legal Framework for Disaster Management.”

Additionally, detailed IDRL questions formed part of the first session of ECOWAS “Self-Assessment Tool” adopted in September 2018. A Plan of Action has also been developed between IFRC and ECOWAS to guide the implementation of the Disaster Law Activities for 2019. The programme has also initiated bilateral discussions with the **South African Development Community** (SADC) regarding disaster law advocacy support to Southern African States.

Americas

The IFRC and CEPREDENAC signed a MoU in Dec. 2017 identifying Disaster Law as one of the key thematic areas for cooperation. In 2018, the DLP led the development of an Action Plan to operationalize the MoU through identification of concrete actions and activities to be conducted jointly over the next three years.

In South America, based on a MoU signed in November 2017 between the IFRC and the Andean Community, the DLP was considered as a key partner to review the proposed revised version of the *Guide on the International Humanitarian Assistance of the Andean Community* (known as the *Manual CAPRADE para la Cooperación Humanitaria Internacional*), ensuring a heavy IDRL perspective.

The DLP Coordinator for the Americas participated as international evaluator to the April 2018 FAHUM disaster simulation exercise that took place in April in Guatemala to assess the activation of the Guatemalan CCAH/COE – the entity responsible for facilitating and managing the entry and distribution of humanitarian assistance and aid in Guatemala – through the identification of legal gaps in the Declaration of Public Calamity Decree and the CCAH Manual. Unfortunately, while the emergency response to the eruption of the Volcan “Fuego” took place just a few weeks after the FAHUM, some of the recommendations provided during the simulation were taken into consideration by the government. Based on the lessons learned from the response, the government expressed its



interest to take back IDRL recommendations in the framework of the review of the National Strategy on Integral Disaster Risk Management.

The Americas DLP participated with the Dominican Red Cross in the Concept Development Conference (CDC) (September 2018, Santo Domingo) to plan the FAHUM 2019 organized by USAID/US Army Southern Command. The participation in this conference allowed presenting the Dominican Red Cross response capacities as well as the RC Movement disaster response mechanism and capacities (funding mechanisms (DREF, EA, human resources capacities (ERU, FACTs, etc.)). The Conference also provided an opportunity to showcase the DRR Legal Study published in 2013 and the IDRL Study published in 2015 on the Dominican Republic.

The DLP contributed to the IFRC Declaration presented at the VI DRR Platform for the Americas (June, Cartagena) ensuring a DRR law perspective and encouraging stakeholders to make use of the *Checklist on Law and DRR*.

The DLP participated to the “Mitch +20” event organized by CEPREDENAC (Sept., Honduras) where the role of the Red Cross regarding the development of the MecReg and the CCAH/CATAI in Central America to facilitate the entry of the vital humanitarian aid in case of disaster was greatly acknowledged and praised.

As part of the Regional DLP strategy, discussions have taken place with CEPREDENAC, the Andean Community and the OECS Commission to promote the adoption at ministerial level of a resolution that would encourage

member countries to review and assess their policy frameworks in light of the *IDRL Guidelines* and the *Checklist on Law and DRR*.

The IFRC contributed to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Policy Forum 2018 (December, New York City) through the participation of the DLP for the Americas Coordinator as panellist to the OCHA Workshop on “Respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law in the delivery of humanitarian assistance: Examining good policy and practice”. While the objective of the Workshop was to examine good policy and practice by State and non-State parties to armed conflict, humanitarian organizations, and third States to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the DLP presentation of the *IDRL Guidelines* allowed reflection around similar recommendations that could be advocated for in situations of armed conflicts.



Intervention of Americas DLP Coordinator, United Nations Global Humanitarian Policy Forum, December 2018, UN Headquarters, New York City.

Asia Pacific



The AP Disaster Law team actively engaged in development and implementation of the advocacy and engagement plan for the **Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) (3 - 6 July 2018)**. This included facilitation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Stakeholder pre meeting and the negotiated [statement for action](#), which articulates the regional RCRC Commitments to deliver the Asia Regional Plan over the next two years. In addition, the DLP Coordinator represented the RCRC Stakeholder Group on the drafting committee in the negotiation of the two Conference Outcome Documents, the [Ulaanbaatar Declaration](#) and the [Asia Regional Action Plan 2018 - 2020](#). Both documents include priority Red Cross Red Crescent issues with actionable commitments that all governments and stakeholders have undertaken to deliver on by 2020. Used strategically, commitments contained in the outcome documents will assist Red Cross and Red Crescent to scale up

our work and reach in number of key areas with decision makers and partners in the region. The final Red Cross and Red Crescent **AMCDRR report and Commitment Poster** was finalised and shared with all Asia Pacific National Societies.

Following on from the AMCDRR 2018, the disaster law team was invited to collaborate in the **DRR Strategy Workshop** (Target E Workshop) hosted by UNISDR from 13 – 14 December 2018. During the workshop, IFRC presented on legislative frameworks for DRR and progress in Asia, as well as drew links between law, policy and strategy. The presentation was well received and IFRC identified as a key partner to achieving Target E of Sendai in the region by 2020.





Over the course of 2017, IFRC partnered with **ASEAN** to undertake research on national level implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (AADMER) across the 10 ASEAN member states. The research looked at domestic disaster preparedness and response laws and policies and created an online portal of easy to access information. The research and online platform were formally launched with ASEAN member states, the ASEAN Secretariat and National Societies in May 2018. Disaster law has been identified as a key component of partnership in the IFRC/ ASEAN MoU that will be signed later in 2018. The online platform can be accessed [here](#) and the web story about the launch [here](#).

For the **2018 ASEAN Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar**, the first phase of the peer review started with the shortlisting of abstracts through our 23 peer reviewers. Majority of peer reviewers were from academe and some were from IFRC, Climate Centre and ASEC. DLP developed the internal guidelines for the peer review, peer review questions, and coordinated with IFRC Bangkok and Thammasat University for logistical matters. The peer reviewers had shortlisted the abstracts and results were communicated to participants who then wrote the papers for the seminar that took place on September 24. IFRC also coordinated with non-academe institutional partners (ASEAN, AHA Centre, UNDP, RCRC Climate Centre) for their participation and/or presentation at the seminar. The Deputy Director General of Thailand DDPM opened the session, in addition to the Canadian Ambassador to Thailand. 24 academic papers were presented, while ASEC, IFRC and Climate Centre presented as practitioners. The proceeding of the [ASEAN Disaster Risk Governance Seminar](#) has been published and circulated to participants and partners, and will be formally launched in February 2019.



AP Disaster Law Coordinator and NRCS met with DM division of the **SAARC** Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal on 15 November to discuss areas of collaboration. The SAARC director of DM proposed that an MOU is developed between SAARC and IFRC to outline areas of cooperation, including DRM, Climate risk and disaster law. Internal discussions with IFRC and South Asia NS continue on potential areas of cooperation.



Participants at the Pacific workshop discuss who should be involved in Climate and Disaster Risk Management Decision Making

Regional capacity and knowledge on climate and disaster governance was further enhanced through a regional training on **Legislating for Climate Smart DRM in the Pacific** was held in partnership with the **Pacific Island Forum** Secretariat and Commonwealth Secretariat from 6-8 June 2018. The 3-day training was attended by 51 participants from across the region, representing National Disaster Management, Attorney General's office, private law firms and Red Cross Societies from 13 countries in the Pacific, as well as representation from regional bodies, UN agencies, academic and the private sector. Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat who opened the event remarked that the workshop was a practical step to support the translation for the Framework

for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and other international and regional commitments into national

and local level law, policy and action in the Pacific. A plan of action is now being developed between IFRC and PIFS to follow up on the outcomes of the workshop and to jointly follow up on several requests from Pacific States, generated from the training, to support on climate and disaster legislative reform. Information on the workshop can be found [here](#) and the full workshop report [here](#)

The Pacific Disaster Law Manager attended and presented on disaster law work at the **Pacific Island Legal Officers Network** annual meeting on 8 -12 November in Cook Islands. (<http://www.pilonsec.org/>). The outcomes report of the meeting stated that PILON members thanked IFRC for the update and welcomed the support that IFRC provides in policy and legislative development for disaster management and response.

The Pacific Disaster Law Manager attended the **Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Consultation** on the Boe Declaration from 26 – 27 November (Fiji). (<https://www.forumsec.org/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>) The Boe Declaration is a Pacific regional security declaration setting out the commitment of the Pacific Leaders to good governance, liberty of the individual under the law, upholding democratic processes and recognising the vulnerability of member countries to threats to their security. The expanded concept of security under the Boe declaration, recognises Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change as a security threat. One of the key initiatives arising out of the consultations was to carry out a law mapping in the Pacific. In the Disaster Risk Management space there was strong support for the DRM Laws to be mapped against the IDRL guidelines, through collaboration between PIFS, SPC and IFRC.

Other Conferences/ Presentations

- Provided a presentation on Disaster Law to **ANU College of Law from the Australian National University**, Canberra (January in Geneva).
- Presentation on legal issues for Emergency Medical Teams in international disaster response operations at the Importation and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT) Working Group, and on the new research project and Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response, at the **Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week** in Geneva in February.
- Presentation on “Integrating Child Protection in Disaster Laws” at the **UNICEF Workshop on Child Protection in Emergencies for West and Central Africa** held in Dakar from the 27th to the 30th of March.
- Presentation on the new Legislative Advocacy Toolkit at the **RCRC Movement Workshop on Policy Cooperation** in April in Geneva.
- Presentation on IDRL at the **Regional Disaster Scene and Mortuary Management Course** organized by ICRC from the 28th of May to the 1st of June in Pretoria.
- Presentation on ‘Children’s climate change litigation’ at the **Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation at the CMI Institute**, University of Bergen in August.
- Presentation on “Integrating Child Protection in Disaster Laws” at the **UNICEF Workshop on Child Protection in Emergencies for Eastern and Southern Africa** held in Nairobi from the 1st to the 5th of October.
- Participation in an international interdisciplinary conference at the University of Nairobi themed ‘**Africa in the Emerging World Order**’ and presentation made of a paper ‘The role of law in tackling Africa’s development challenges: the need for an integrated approach to natural hazard resilience, climate change adaptation and sustainable development’.
- Nepal Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and IFRC attended the **regional flood resilience advocacy workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal** (19 – 21 November) which provided training on developing the advocacy components for the FRA projects that Red Cross engaged with in Nepal and New Zealand,

both these projects focus on disaster law. Following the training, both countries have finalised concept notes for the disaster law / advocacy components and now completing the theory of change. Funding agreements between the IFRC and NS will be completed by end of 2019.

- On 7 November, Australia based Regional Disaster Law Adviser presented on Asia Pacific a panel on 'Disaster Displacement in Cities' at the **Urban Resilience Asia Pacific Forum in Sydney**. Speaking with panellists from United Nations Development Programme and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Presentation focused on Red Cross work re disaster displacement and links to disaster law, and policy.
- On 15 November, the Regional Disaster Law Adviser (Australia based) presented on 'Climate Change, Disasters and Displacement' at the **International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges Biennial Asia Pacific Conference**. Presentation centred on displacement considerations at the local level, work of Red Cross and links with disaster law. DLP was a panellist alongside the first, Minister for Pacific Peoples Hon Aupito William Sio; and Bruce Burson, a member of the New Zealand Immigration and Protection Tribunal and experienced international lawyer.
- The Disaster Law Programme briefed **New Zealand Red Cross** on regional disaster law work and priorities in Wellington on 14 November. A presentation was made to the NZRC Disaster Risk Management and International Programs teams which provided a snapshot of the Programme's work in the Asia Pacific, with a focus on the Pacific. The second presentation introduced disaster law and was attended by NZRC staff from a variety of different programs.
- Presentation on IFRC research project in Africa (integrating DRR, CCA and SDG in legal frameworks) in the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung/ **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance Regional Dialogue on Climate Change and Conflicts** in the Horn of Africa in November.
- A half day advocacy session was facilitated by the AP DLP coordinator as part of the **Regional Climate Resilience ToT** (23 November). The session supported NS in the region to develop advocacy strategies (based on the LA toolkit) related to climate / disaster policy advocacy and provided tools and resources for the future facilitators of the training.
- Presented on Law and Sexual and Gender Based Violence at the IFRC's '**First PSEA Writeshop**' in Finland in (December)

Media coverage and Publications

New publications and web-stories were regularly uploaded to the DLP website (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). 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 **Africa**, two workshops held in South Sudan were featured in the national broadcasting station South Sudan Broadcasting Station. Additionally, the disaster law workshop in Uganda was featured in two local daily newspapers where calls for the government to work with the national society in disaster management matters were noted as well as support for the amendment of the Red Cross Act by Members of Parliament in attendance.

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, an [op-ed on the role and impact of women's leadership in DRR](#) was featured ahead of the AMCDRR. Additionally, there was media coverage of the SGBV and Disaster Law workshop in Nepal. There was

also a [news article published about the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) between the Fijian National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) including the Fiji Red Cross Society, to review Fiji's disaster risk management legislation.

The **Americas DLP** broadcast a joint IFRC/AmCross radio program on "IDRL in North America and in the Caribbean" which gathered the participation of the Executive Director of CDEMA, the Regional Director of the American Red Cross, the Regional Director of the IFRC, and IDRL experts to discuss: (i) the NAHRS initiative; (ii) the CDEMA Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) and Model Legislation; (iii) IDRL insights from the Caribbean and the key findings of the three IDRL studies carried out on Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The event allowed a peer to peer exchange of experiences, providing IDRL insights from the Asia Pacific region.



Amcross/IFRC Radio Programme on "IDRL in North America and the Caribbean", Panama, Feb. 2018

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

At **national level**, the team also completed **10** country case studies (Belize, Dominica, Honduras, El Salvador, Samoa, Sudan, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Legal Mapping on DRR and CCA in Central America and Disaster Displacement Research in Asia Pacific).

Research in Nepal on **Law, Gender Equality, and Protection from SGBV in Disasters** was completed in 2017. It was launched by the Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizen Affairs in Nepal on 22 March 2018. During the launch, an official commitment was made by the government, to implement recommendations into relevant legal and policy frameworks. The report is part of a global research on Law, Gender Equality and SGBV in Disasters which is available [here](#), information on the launch can be found [here](#).

The ASEAN Research and online platform on implementation of AADMER (refer below) was also launched in May 2018. In addition to the online platform a regional synthesis report and country profiles for 10 ASEAN member states examine and comparing disaster preparedness and response provisions and how they correlate to obligations under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. The online platform is accessible [here](#).



The Australian Red Cross and the IFRC together with Allens, a private law firm, are conducting a country-level mapping of housing, land and property law in twelve countries across Asia Pacific. The work is intended to provide a better understanding of the tenure landscape in those countries prior to and in the event of emergencies, with a particular focus on informing shelter interventions in post-disaster situations. Country-specific factsheets provide details of key laws and actors, common types of tenure, issues pertaining to security of tenure for particularly vulnerable groups, and risks of eviction, expropriation and relocation in the event of an emergency. In 2018 research memos for Fiji, Philippines and Bangladesh and Timor Leste were finalised; Tonga research memo was revised to reflect new learnings and development following the Tropical Cyclone Gita response. With Nepal research memo nearly complete, the next phase of the mapping involves operationalizing and continuing to update the findings. The research memos completed so far are available on the shelter cluster website, [here](#).

The DLP published the IDRL Report on **Grenada**, assessing Grenada's current legal, institutional and policy frameworks for addressing the regulatory issues related to receiving international humanitarian assistance in case of mid to large-scale disaster, using as a benchmarking tool the IDRL Guidelines.

In the framework of the Canadian Red Cross CERA Project, the DLP finalised the IDRL study in **Honduras** to be published by beginning of 2019.

An IDRL report on **Dominica** was completed, including the inputs received during two national workshops held with government representatives to discuss the IDRL issues faced by the Red Cross during the response to the 2017 hurricanes. The IDRL process allowed informing the current development of a DRM Law Draft Bill. Individual meetings were also held with Dominica Red Cross, representatives of the Dominica ODM, the UNDP, IOM and other government offices which allowed getting clarity to the immigration, customs, taxation and other administrative and regulatory requirements involved in facilitating international relief.

At the **global level**, research also continued in preparation for the development of a **new Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response**. IFRC completed the global literature review and drafted 8 out of 10 chapters of the Global synthesis report on law and disaster preparedness and response. Two desk studies were also completed as part of this project, for Ecuador and Brazil, with the pro bono support of academic partners. The research and development of the new Checklist will continue in 2019. A resolution on "Climate-Smart Disaster Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind" will be presented at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019, and RCRC components and states will be asked to recognize the new "Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response" as a non-binding and useful tool.



Furthermore, in 2018, IFRC has undertaken a **global research project for an effective integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation**, laws and policies into a single coherent approach. The aim of this research will be to optimize the activities of national and local legislators and policy-makers regarding these different but interconnected issues and frameworks. The research's overarching goal will be to enhance coherence across laws, policies and actions by providing evidence-based findings and developing effective tools to

drive their joint implementation. As part of this project, an African study has been undertaken 'Linking natural hazard vulnerabilities and poor sustainable development outcomes – a comprehensive analysis of disaster risk management frameworks and practices in Africa and their impact on the realization of sustainable development'. The study objective is to determine the current legal and policy frameworks on disaster risk management and

climate change adaptation in Africa and their impact on the realization of sustainable development as per UN Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063.

Finally, the DLP jointly with the Protection, Inclusion and Engagement Unit of the IFRC, has undertaken research on addressing child protection in disaster risk management law and policy. Such knowledge will support National Societies in their dialogue with relevant authorities, including parliaments, relevant ministries and national disaster management authorities; and the IFRC in international forums. The ultimate goal of the research is to inform law and regulation on disaster risk management that produces better protection outcomes for children.

Results against indicators¹

Disaster law goal/outcome	INDICATOR	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Global / Europe/ Central Asia	
A: Strengthen National Society advocacy for disaster law and the auxiliary role	# of NS engaged in peer to peer support through IFRC network	5	19	2	4	<p>Africa: Uganda and Malawi; Nigeria, Malawi and South Sudan</p> <p>Americas: USA, Mexico, Canada (NAHRI), 6 NS of CA, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Rep., Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay (Lima and Costa Rica Workshops which both fostered peer to peer exchange and support)</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Vanuatu and Fiji re DRM Law engagement experiences</p> <p>Global, EU, CA: Italian RC engaged in San Remo and IDRL events, Irish RC engaged in DL seminars, British RC engaged in Climate-Smart DRM in the Pacific, French RC engages on legal frameworks for First Aid Trainings.</p>
	# of people trained by IFRC in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy	1000	450	570	1350	<p>Africa: 3 workshops in South Sudan (90); 3rd Session of the AU Policy Training (70); 4th Session of the AU Policy Training; Child Protection Workshop in Dakar (30); 2 DL Workshops in Sudan (50); MIC training (20); RDRT Training (20); Regional Leadership Meeting (20); Malawi working group meeting to finalize DRM Bill and Operational Guidelines (30); Last consultation session of the South Sudan DRM Policy (40); Presentation at the ADMAG Sahel on DL (Sahel NS) (25); GECEAO Meeting, (75); Child Protection Workshop in Addis co-facilitation (partnership with UNICEF) (35); Regional Platform on DRR: Side event on Law and DRR (70) and plenary session (300); DL Workshop in Zambia (25); DL and Legislative Advocacy Workshop in Uganda (30)</p> <p>Americas: Feb. 2018 Caribbean Hurricane Response and Planning Meeting (30); March 2018 NAHRS Summit (70); April 2018 Guatemala FAHUM Disaster Simulation Exercise (10); May 2018 Peru Sensitization Workshop on IDRL with INDECI (10); May 2018 Lima Regional Workshop on IDRL and Humanitarian Diplomacy (40); June 2018 Intervention at the Cuban Bar Association in the framework of the Cuba International Humanitarian Law Course (30); Sept. 2018 Cuba Workshops (30); August 2018 Costa Rica RC Humanitarian Diplomacy</p>

¹ Indicators can be found in the DLP Global Operation Plan 2017 page 8.

						<p>Workshop (20); Nov. 2018 Costa Rica Regional Workshop on DRR and CC (60); Nov. 2018 Honduras Advocacy Workshop (20); Oct. and Dec. 2018 Dominica IDRL Workshops (40); Dec. 2018 UN GHF (60); Dec. 2018 Panama RIT Training (30).</p> <p>AP: Lao and Fiji National Workshops and Stakeholder consultations (300); Pacific Climate Smart Disaster Legislation Workshop (55); ASEAN SGBV Consultations (with DL Component) (30); municipal DRM Governance consultation Nepal (30), CBDRM Platform (Nepal (40); CC ToT (20), UNISDR Target E workshop (40), HCT Malaysia (15), Timor Leste DR Governance (40)</p> <p>EU DL San Remo courses (June); DRR online training, PSEA Write shop</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at national level	4	6	12	2	<p>Africa: Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan and Malawi</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica and Honduras (DRR, Zurich Project, IDRL), Belize and Dominica (IDRL), Peru (CC), Panama (IDRL-in relation with WYD)</p> <p>AP: Lao, Fiji, Kiribati, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Bhutan, Myanmar, New Zealand</p> <p>EU, CA: Italy, Ireland</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at local level	2	2	3	-	<p>Africa: Sudan and South Sudan</p> <p>Americas: Honduras, Costa Rica</p> <p>AP: Nepal, Philippines, Australia</p>
	# of NS that have developed a	5		3	-	<p>Africa: Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Sudan and South Sudan</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica and Honduras (DRR, Zurich Project, IDRL), Panama (IDRL-in relation with WYD).</p> <p>AP: Nepal, Philippines, NZ in process</p>

	legislative advocacy strategy					
	# of NS that have delivered education or training on DL and legislative advocacy (e.g. ToT)	5	4	2	3	<p>Africa: Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Sudan and South Sudan.</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru, Cuba.</p> <p>AP: Nepal and Philippines</p> <p>EU: Italian RC (San Remo), Irish RC (1 DL workshops in Ireland), Finland (PSEA Write shop)</p>
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	# of adopted national disaster laws and policy documents	3	2	2	-	<p>Africa: finalized (pending official adoption) - DRM Policy in South Sudan; DRM Bill in Malawi; Operational Guidelines in Malawi</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica and Honduras revised their CATAI/CCAH Manuals to incorporate the CA Protocol to facilitate the shipment, transit and receipt of humanitarian aid within the SICA directly influenced by the IFRC DLP policy advocacy work between 2016 and 2018</p> <p>AP: Adopted – Samoa (NDMP), Indonesia (NDRF)</p>
	# of draft national law and policy documents in progress	4	4	10	-	<p>Africa: South Sudan Policy, Malawi DRM Bill, Uganda DRM Bill, Uganda RC Act</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica (Ley Nacional de Emergencias y Prevención del Riesgo), Peru (draft Regulation on CC and INDECI IDRL Law Proposal), Panama (REM IDRL Law Proposal), Dominica (draft DRM Law)</p> <p>AP: Fiji (DRM Law), Vanuatu (DRM Law), Tonga (IDRL regulation), Bhutan (trilateral pre disaster agreement), Nepal (IDRL regulation, and municipal assessment guide), Mongolia (humanitarian assistance resolution), Lao (DRM Law); Philippines (DRM Law), Tokelau (DRM Law), Tuvalu (DRM Law)</p>
	# of countries supported to improve the	5	6	2	1	<p>Africa: Zimbabwe, Sudan, South Sudan, Malawi, Uganda</p> <p>Americas: Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Panama, Dominica.</p> <p>AP: Nepal and Philippines</p>

	implementation of their law and policies					EU: Ireland
	# of operations where disaster law advice supports coordination and humanitarian assistance	3	1	2	Support provided from DLP Geneva to regions	Africa: (2) Ebola Operations and (1) Niger Americas: Guatemala AP: Indonesia (Sulawesi, Lombok – IDRL advice) Bangladesh Embankment Collapse - HLP/ displacement
	# of NS with better defined auxiliary roles in draft or new national law and policies	3	2	10	-	Africa: Malawi, South Sudan Uganda Americas: Argentina (new NS Law), Costa Rica (specific dispositions in relation to migration issues) AP: Samoa (NDMP) Fiji (DRM Law), Vanuatu (DRM Law), Tonga (IDRL regulation), Kiribati (Kiribati Red Cross Bill), Bhutan (trilateral pre disaster agreement), Nepal (IDRL regulation, and municipal assessment guide), Mongolia (humanitarian assistance resolution), Lao (DRM Law); Indonesia (NDRF)
C: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental , inter-agency and academic fora, and	# of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence	4	5	13	9	Africa: African Union, ECOWAS, CAROLYNE Fellowship, UN OCHA C-RED Project Americas: April 2018 Guatemala FAHUM Disaster Simulation Exercise; Oct. and Dec. 2018 Dominica IDRL Workshops; Nov. Mitch +20 event (CEPREDENAC); Dec. 2018 UN GHF. AP: ASEAN and AHA (AADMER Mapping); PIFS and SPC Pacific Legislative Drafters Forum; ASEAN – IFRC Academic Seminar, including universities; AMCDRR progress], Pacific Island Law Officers Network, SAARC Secretariat, IAP (Target E Workshop re DRR strategies) Global, EU: University College Cork, San Remo, Interactive Panel on the ILC's Draft Articles, Climate and Humanitarian Dialogue, WTO Symposium, Bergen Exchanges (Norway), RCRC Movement Workshop on Policy Cooperation, Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week, First PSEA Writeshop

builds greater visibility and partnerships	# of new/amended international instruments IFRC and NS have influenced	5	2	3	-	Africa: AU Humanitarian Law and Policy Training Curriculum; ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and Plan of Action; ECOWAS “Self-Assessment Tool” Africa-Arab DRR Platform Joint Communiqué; Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Americas: Draft Manual CAPRADE, draft DL Resolution in CA AP: AMCDRR Outcome Documents (UB Declaration and 2-year Action Plan); Pacific Resilience Partnership/ Meeting; Boe Declaration (Pacific Security declaration recognises Natural Disasters as a security risk and is in discussions on how IDRL guideline can be considered in review of security laws.)
	# External media articles/broadcasts that have featured IFRC or NS legislative advocacy work	5	2	3	-	Africa: South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (2); DL workshop in Uganda featured in 2 Newspapers (2); GECEAO Meeting broadcasted in National TV, Mali (1) Americas: Media during CEPREDENAC Mitch +20 event (recognition of the role of the RC to improve the MecReg and establish CATAI/CAH); Feb. IDRL Radio Programme. AP: women’s leadership in DRR (op ed in lead up to AMCDRR); SGBV and DL Nepal (media coverage of event), news article on the MoU signed to review Fiji’s disaster risk management legislation
D: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy	# of legislative advocacy research projects completed	2	5	6	5	Africa: Zimbabwe SGBV Study and Sudan IDRL Study Americas: IDRL reports in Dominica, Honduras, El Salvador, Legal Mapping on DRR and CC in CA, Checklist on Domestic Preparedness in Ecuador AP: ASEAN Disaster Law Mapping Launched; Vanuatu IDRL impact study; SGBV and Disaster Law research launched; Samoa SGBV and DL case study; Disaster Displacement Research AP; Timor Leste HLP mapping Global: 2 case studies on law and disaster preparedness and response, Online Module on DRR (Spanish), Model IDRL Decree and Commentary, Advocacy toolkit

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 32nd 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, 2018 has been another successful year for the disaster law programme globally. As shown in the table above, the disaster law programme has met most of its results indicators for 2018 through the hard work of a strong global team and dedication from National Societies across the globe.

Many 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 has been given to strengthening the capacity of National Societies, 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 2018, the disaster law team continued to support National Societies in developing their advocacy skills, confidence and capacity more intensively using the new 'legislative advocacy toolkit' mentioned above. National Societies have continued to be trained on this methodology and have continued preparing and implementing advocacy strategies with the support of the disaster law programme.

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. As demand is increasing, the disaster law programme will develop new guidance and tools to support the National Societies in this area in 2019 and upcoming years.

Funding constraints saw the delay of some research projects at the global and national level, mainly in Africa and in the Americas. Nevertheless, some pro bono support was provided by international law firms and academic partners which supported the implementation of disaster law activities in many countries.

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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