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Disaster Law Programme Annual Report 2019

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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

This report covers the period:
01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019



Illustration of the key elements of the Disaster Law Resolution adopted at the International Conference, November 2019

Overview

During the 2019 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

Notably the DLP engaged actively in the preparation and events of the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Programme sought to enhance understanding on the law and its role in the climate change discourse and country adaptation plans.

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

- Adoption of a resolution on **Disaster Laws that leave No One Behind** at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- Adoption of **new policy instruments** drawing on recommendations of the National Societies and IFRC in **4 countries** (Nepal, Lao, Fiji and Guatemala).
- Involvement in **15 legal drafting procedures** (Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Seychelles, Lao, Philippines, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Indonesia, Palau, Vanuatu and Honduras) adoption of which is expected to occur in 2020-2021.
- **5 National Societies** with **better defined auxiliary roles** in draft or new national laws and policies (Uganda, Palau, Kiribati, Solomon Islands & Lao).

Major activities included:

- **21 National Societies** engaged in **legislative advocacy activities** with the support of the DLP, including on IDRL and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Over **1300 people** were trained in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy in **25** countries.
- Over **5 inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora** actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence. This includes **1** inter-regional workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria.
- The team has also finalized the Multi-Country Synthesis report on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response and the **Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response**.
- The Disaster Law Programme also co-facilitated the annual San Remo disaster law training course co-organized with the Roma Tre University Jean Monnet Module "International and European Disaster Law" 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** on 'Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030'.
- The team also completed **2** country case studies (Uganda, Bangladesh) and Auxiliary role mapping in **19** countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, Gambia, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia.).
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes with **6** regional organizations.
- Support for disaster law discussions in over **22** humanitarian and academic conferences.

- Support to disaster response operations in the Mozambique, Burundi, South Sudan Bangladesh.

Financial situation

DLP/ location	Budget (2019)	Coverage (% of budget)	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme)	415,997	415,997 (100%)	392,503 (94%)
Africa region	328,979	449,335 (137%)	383,720 (116%)
Americas region	217,511	217,511 (100%)	212,511 (98%)
Asia Pacific region	733,219	1,122,459	625,460 (85%)
Central Asia	98,000	113,960	113,960 (116%)
Total Project Sum (CHF)	1,793,706	2,319,262	1,728,154 (96%)

Major donors to the IFRC's disaster law work in 2019 were the European Union, the Government of Germany, the Government of Australia, as well as the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain. This support is gratefully acknowledged. We are also extremely grateful to Zurich Insurance and their support to the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance as well as the Allens and White & Case law firms 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) and volunteers of the DLP.

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), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the Andean Community (CAN), Central Asian Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, 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), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador), Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Roma Tre University, Uninettuno, University of Bologna, the University of Pisa Sant'Anna (all 4 in Italy), University of College Cork (Ireland), Santa María La Antigua University (Panama), University College of Cork (Ireland) and the University of West Indies (Jamaica). Foundation Renova (Brazil) also provided *pro bono* research support to the IFRC in one research project concerning Brazil.

The DLP has continued its strong partnership with Australian Red Cross, who provided technical support to disaster law activities across the Asia Pacific region. Partnerships were established with Roma Tre University for the development of the Yearbook on International Disaster Law and with University College of Cork in the research fellowship described below.

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



Participants engaging in a group exercise on developing advocacy messages on different Disaster Law themes, November 2019



Malawi Red Cross President, Levison Changole, makes an intervention during the Regional Disaster Law & Legislative Advocacy Workshop, November 2019

Africa

The DLP organised and facilitated two **Inter-Regional workshops on Disaster Law & Legislative Advocacy** which brought together participants from 18 National Societies¹ in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The 1st Workshop, [Disaster Law & Legislative Advocacy](#), provided intensive training to the participants on the key disaster law thematic areas, tools and resources developed by IFRC to strengthen national legal framework for effective disaster risk management. Through piloting the “Advocacy Toolkit” it also provided advocacy training to the participants to enable National Societies advocate for better laws, regulations, and policies for disaster risk management.

The 2nd Workshop, [“Towards Climate Smart Policy Frameworks”](#), brought together the participants from the 18 National Societies and some National government representatives² to discuss ways to strengthen domestic legislation and policy to ensure an effective climate smart approach to disasters. The workshop followed increased requests by the programme to provide recommendations to states on how to facilitate integration between wider governance arrangements in legal frameworks while achieving the sustainable development goals, e.g. the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes of the Paris Agreement and the risk reduction strategy process of the Sendai Framework (Target E). The workshop provided an opportunity for national government representatives to be trained on the key disaster law thematic areas, as well as participate in discussions around policy coherence, and integrating protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups into relevant disaster laws and policies in order to ensure that no one is left behind in disaster risk management activities. It also served as preparation to the [International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent](#) as participants were able to assess the elements of the [Disaster Law Resolution](#), adopted in December 2019.

The DLP also participated in the facilitation of regional and sub-regional trainings and workshops which included:

¹ Uganda, Niger, Gambia, Burundi, South Sudan, Malawi, Botswana, Senegal, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago

² Uganda, Niger, Gambia, Burundi, South Sudan, Botswana, Senegal, Eswatini, Sierra Leone, Nigeria

- 5th Session of the AU Policy Training co-facilitated with the AU,
- 13th Annual Regional Consultation for Disaster Management in West Africa co-facilitated with ECOWAS & OCHA,
- Commonwealth Global Conference on International Humanitarian Law co-facilitated with ICRC,
- MIC Training co-facilitated with the PSK Department and ICRC, and the
- SURGE Training co-facilitated with the Logistics Department.

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, Uganda, [Gambia](#) and [Sierra Leone](#)** during the reporting period. Resultantly, each of these national societies in these countries were able to position themselves as technical experts to support their government agencies on disaster law themes. Additionally, following the workshops in the Gambia and Sierra Leone, the National Societies and Disaster Management Agencies were able to develop a legislative advocacy strategy to guide the next steps on the development of national legislation on DRM.

Americas

In **Cuba**, the DLP facilitated a session at the 9th Edition of the Annual Summer Course in International Law at the “Cuban National Bar” (Sociedad Cubana de Derecho Internacional de la Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba). During the session, the DLP highlighted the IFRC Policy Advocacy Brochure which showcased the positive experience with IDRL during the 2016 Earthquake Response in Ecuador. The DLP also facilitated a session during the Legal Symposium on “International Disaster Response Law: Exploring the Legal and Regulatory Issues in Managing Disaster Relief Operations” that took place at the University of the West Indies (UWI). It allowed the DLP to showcase DLP resources as well as the initiative on the creation of an academic course in Disaster Law at the UWI.

The DLP also participated in the [Regional Simulation Exercise](#) organized by Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (**CEPRENAC**). The IDRL inject proposed by DLP allowed sensitizing CEPREDENAC and the Nicaraguan authorities to key IDRL recommendations as well as testing the 2018 Central American legal procedures for the effective management of disasters and mutual support in disaster management across the Central American region.

In **Guatemala**, the DLP supported the Guatemalan Government with strengthening the DRM governance through support provided in the creation of four regional platforms and 340 Special Municipal Units responsible for DRM and DRR. Additionally, the DLP partnered with the Guatemalan Red Cross and CONRED to carry out [4 regional workshops](#) to sensitize local authorities and Guatemalan Red Cross branch staff on Disaster Law. The workshops provided training to over 300 participants on the key elements of the IDRL Guidelines, IDRL Checklist

and DRR Checklist, and how they can use these tools to support their legislative review and advocacy activities.

Also, the Americas DLP strengthened partnerships with the academic and engaged discussions with the **University of the West Indies** (Mona Campus, Jamaica) and submitted a proposal to partner with the university to develop pioneering research and academic programmes in International Disaster Law (introduction of a 30-Hour Short Course on IDL prior to the development of a Masters Level/PhD Programme on IDL). This dialogue and the development of the course will continue in 2020.

Asia Pacific

During the reporting period, a [disaster law peer-exchange](#) between **Lao PDR and Vietnam** (Government and Red Cross Societies) was facilitated by IFRC. It was designed to share learnings between Lao and Vietnam on effective regulations for disasters, specifically looking at challenges, opportunities and good practice in establishment of emergency funds.

With support from the DLP, **Mongolia Red Cross Society** (MRCS) partnered with the Government of Mongolia to disseminate the 2017 Disaster Protection Law at national and local levels. Representatives from Local Government Disaster Management (LEMA) and Mongolian Red Cross Society from Mongolia's 21 Provinces and 9 Districts participated in the development of a "Know Your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities (Know Your 3Rs) in Disasters" training module. During the module rollout, 3Rs key messages, materials and activities intended to be rolled-out at community-level (including "who should be involved in DRM Lego game", brochure and educational video) [were presented and tested](#). Participants identified how these messages would be integrated into community-level DRM activities, including Be Ready activities, disaster risk assessments and drills. A further 100 persons from Local Emergency Management Authority and Mongolia Red Cross branches nationwide were also taken through this 3Rs training. To support awareness campaigns with communities and local authorities on the new disaster risk management arrangements Mongolia Red Cross, in partnership with the Government, have produced a [video](#) on [disaster protection law in Mongolia](#).

The DLP supported a Legislative Advocacy training for **Samoa Red Cross Society** (SRCS) with the participants consisting of youth volunteers, senior volunteers, SRCS board members and staff. The training provided a systematic approach and framework on advocacy and following the training an Advocacy Champions Group was formed.

Legislative Advocacy trainings were held for **Palau Red Cross Society** and the Palau Youth Council. Subsequently, it was decided an inter-ministerial kick off workshop on the DRM Law in Palau be held during Q1 of 2020. A concept note for the workshop and also rationale for a standalone law has also been provided to the Government of Palau and Palau Red Cross.

Central Asia

A **Regional Consultative Meeting on new Disaster Preparedness and Response Checklist** was held in Bishkek, with representatives from National Red Crescent Societies of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Emergency Situations authorities, Central Asian Regional DRR Centre,



Participants of the Bishkek Regional Meeting on the new Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response, October 2019

Kyrgyzstan National DRR Platform Secretariat, United Nations (UNDP, Disaster Response Coordination Unit, WHO), Embassy of Germany, Academia (Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University), ICRC and IFRC.

Participants discussed the status of the disaster preparedness and response legal frameworks in their respective countries and the regional cooperation and coordination in disaster preparedness and response. In reviewing the contents of the new checklist, participants had an opportunity to discuss the current priorities for their countries and came up with indicative work plans on how to

advance in the disaster law areas. Comparable to the Workshop Towards Climate Smart Policy Frameworks, participants also had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Disaster Law resolution proposed and adopted at the 33rd International Conference.

Europe and Global level

The DLP organized a [two-day workshop](#) to review and discuss Disaster Law and prepare for the 33rd International Conference, was organized in Brussels. National Societies from the participating States to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) discussed disaster law themes as well as how to better address legislative barriers on disaster preparedness and response in Europe. This included how to work with their government and how to have a coherent coordinated approach with the UCPM (through the capacity assessments required under the Decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Host Nation Support Guidelines. On the second day, National Societies representatives and officials from EU DG ECHO and their government discussed the content of the new Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response and ways to best make use of it.

Further to this, the DLP co-organized and provided facilitation support for the [Global Annual International Disaster Law Course](#) held at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy. The course is jointly organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in collaboration with the [International Disaster Law Project](#), the [Italian Red Cross](#) and the EU Jean Monnet Project “Disseminating Disaster Law for Europe” Roma Tre University. The training participants comprised officials from national disaster management agencies, different sectoral ministries and departments, as well as representatives of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from across the globe. The training aims at improving the understanding of and capacity in disaster law of participants to allow them further utilize policy development and advocacy processes learned, in their respective countries. It offers a comprehensive overview of the main practical, diplomatic and military issues related to the legal aspects of disaster prevention and management activities.

The DLP also facilitated training sessions on disaster law at the following events:

- The San Remo 19th Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law (in GVA)
- The UN/CEFACT project 'Readiness for importation of emergency relief (in GVA)
- At the biannual meeting of the Global Logistics Cluster in Dubai
- In the World Café Session of the IFRC CCA/DRR event (in GVA)
- The IFRC European Disaster Management Working Group (in Brussels via Skype)

The IFRC European Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (in the Hague via Skype)

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

Adopted laws or regulations

During the reporting period, advice by National Societies and the IFRC on disaster law was reflected in new laws regulations or procedures adopted by 4 countries, including **Lao, Nepal, Guatemala** and **Fiji**.

In **Lao PDR** the Disaster Management (DM) Law was presented and endorsed by Parliament in June 2019 and is currently awaiting final endorsement by the President before the translation can be finalised and circulated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW). The law formally establishes the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC) and the Disaster Management Fund. It also incorporates recommendations specifically on gender sensitive language, strengthened climate smart DRR provisions, and a chapter on international assistance.

On 6 May 2019, the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Rules which support implementation of the **Nepal** Disaster Reduction Management Act 2017 were adopted. The rules provide further elaboration of the roles of authority (at federal level) and for district disaster management committees (DDMC). Guidelines developed by the Ministry of Federal Affairs provides for Nepal Red Cross (NRCS) membership in local level DRM Committees. The rules also state that Provinces and Municipalities can develop and enact their own regulatory frameworks. The governance assessment tool, currently under development by Nepal Red Cross Society, the Government of Nepal and IFRC aims to support development of effective climate smart DRR governance at the local level.

In **Fiji**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy was adopted in December 2019. The adoption of the National DRR provides a strong basis for DRR mainstreaming in Fiji and will assist with integration of DRR into both the National Disaster Risk Management Law and Plan as well as the climate change bill.

In **Guatemala**, some IDRL recommendations, including tax exemptions on the importation of relief goods, were included in the newly adopted Law of CONRED.

Technical support on Law and Policy development

Africa

Participants from National Societies, national disaster management agencies, ECOWAS, and international humanitarian agencies attending the Inter-Regional Workshop 'Toward Climate Smart Policy Frameworks', November 2019

Building on the progress made in the amendment to the Red Cross Act³, "The **Uganda** Red Cross Society and Emblem Use & Protection bill, 2018," the Uganda Red Cross as part of its advocacy strategy, organized a workshop with parliamentarians to inform them on the need for the revision and to champion for its expedient approval in parliament in order to support the ongoing work of the National Society. The URC further supported the Office of the Prime Minister in progressing the development of the Disaster Risk Management Bill through co-facilitation of a workshop with Parliamentarians and District Officials. The workshop gathered contributions from participants to inform the content of the bill. The National Society will continue to support the drafting process in 2020.

Additionally, the URC was supported in the drafting and finalization of a country case study on ["Effective law policy for addressing child protection in disaster risk management."](#) The study provides an assessment of the effectiveness of Uganda's current systems of law, policy and legal frameworks in providing child protection during disaster and in disaster risk management. The study also documented the advocacy gaps and opportunities for effective participation of children and/or their guardians and care-givers during policy formulation including the current discussions on the Climate Change Bill, revision of the Red Cross Act, Wetlands Bill, and the National Disaster Management and Preparedness Bill.

*Child Respondent
participating in a
Focus Group
Discussion for the
Uganda Case Study
on Effective Law and
Policy for addressing
child protection in
disaster risk
management, 2019.*

"The biggest challenge for us as children is that we're kept like kids to be cared for. No one asks us what we want or what we can do even for our fellow kids."

³ The Disaster Law Programme, [Annual Report 2017](#), 11; The Disaster Law Programme, [Annual Report 2018](#), 11

The programme also supported the **Seychelles, Mauritius, Djibouti, Madagascar, and Comoros** National Societies during the Indian Ocean Islands and Djibouti Cluster Planning workshop. The DLP facilitated two sessions on Disaster Law and the International Conference to allow the National Societies to align their plans and activities for the year and better prepare to showcase their successes at the International Conference. The programme was able to engage with the national societies on disaster law as well as create awareness on the then proposed IC Resolution 'Climate Smart Laws that leave No One behind' presented (and passed) at the 33rd IC in December.



On request by the Department of Risk and Disaster Management, the DLP along with the **Seychelles** RC provided technical review to the Seychelles Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (DMRR) Bill. In addition, the DLP supported the Seychelles RC in hosting a [National DL workshop](#), to share the proposed amendments to the DMRR bill with government stakeholders and Parliamentarians. The workshop sought to enhance the auxiliary role the National Society in provision of technical support on Disaster Law themes and legislative drafting processes.

In **Malawi**, the DRM Bill and supporting guidelines were presented and approved by Cabinet in March 2019, after which it would be tabled before Parliament. Following drafting support provided in 2018⁴, in the reporting period the Malawi Red Cross (MRC) as next steps organised a meeting with Parliamentarians to orient them on three aspects that encompass disaster risk management (DRM) in Malawi. As Parliamentarians had recently been elected, the meeting provided an overview of DRM in the country including the DRM structure and existing key instruments guiding DRM. It highlighted key components of the DRM Bill to equip the parliamentary committee members to champion for the passing of the Bill. The Bill is set for gazettment for debate in Parliament in 2020.

Prisca Chisala,
Director of
Programmes,
Malawi Red Cross,
August 2019

"This is a major turning point in enhancing the legal framework in Malawi to deal effectively with international assistance in major disasters. In the event of a disaster, the country will be ready to face it with a proper legal framework for international assistance, the clearance of goods, etc."

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 Reduction Strategy. The strategy, aligned to the Sendai Framework, highlights institutional framework for disaster risk reduction within the Ministry as well as the core functions of the different actors under the different sectors of DRM. With the support of the programme, the SSRC has also spearheaded advocacy efforts for the finalization and approval of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy by the Cabinet as well as the development of the National DRM bill. Additionally, the programme alongside the SSRC supported the MHADM in facilitation of a training on Domestic Regulations for the delivery of international humanitarian assistance

⁴ The Disaster Law Programme, [Annual Report 2018](#), 10-11

targeting Customs authorities. The support was aimed at increasing awareness on IDRL and how the same can be incorporated into existing customs frameworks.

The DLP has also supported national societies in the development of research and legal framework evaluation reports to help guide national dialogue on disaster law themes. During the reporting period, the **Sudan** Red Crescent (SRC) Society finalized and published an [IDRL report](#) evaluating the institutional and legal framework for international disaster relief assistance in Sudan. The report was developed through cooperative engagement with the Disaster Law Committee, as well as the relevant authorities at the decentralized State level and other partners. The report is aimed at developing a broader understanding of legislation related to DRM/DRR within the country. The report also provides key recommendations to be on a possible way forward for the improvement of the national DM legal and institutional framework.



During the Cyclone Idai emergency operation in **Mozambique**, the programme provided support to logistics and operations in the coordination and facilitation of the international humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the cyclone. Expedited entry of IFRC personnel, goods and equipment, in addition to priority of landing was confirmed through the Disaster Law advocacy and support. The programme is working in coordination with the Southern Africa Cluster Office and the Mozambique country office to support the Mozambican Red Cross and Mozambican authorities with the institutionalization of the best practices and ad hoc measures that were put in place during the emergency operation.

In **Zimbabwe**, the DLP supported the Zimbabwe Red Cross (ZRC) 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. In 2019, the programme supported the ZRC in launching the report with the relevant stakeholders within the country. The National Society took the opportunity of the event to call upon relevant agencies responsible for disaster management within the country to take cognizance of the recommendations of the report. The ZRC also extended its support to these agencies in actualizing the recommendations to improve the national DM legislative frameworks.

During the reporting period, the programme initiated bilateral discussions with the **South African Development Community (SADC)** regarding disaster law advocacy support to Southern African States. Resultantly the DLP will be providing support to six countries⁵ in the SADC region aimed at supporting in review and development of national disaster risk management legislative frameworks. The DLP has been able to enhance the capacity of the National Societies in Madagascar, Malawi, Botswana, Eswatini & Zimbabwe with respect to disaster law themes. The programme will continue to support the national societies and government agencies in this process in 2020.

⁵ Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Eswatini, Zimbabwe

Americas



Illustration of key points of the Panel Discussion with National Societies from Africa and the Americas at the Inter-Regional Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy, November

In **Guatemala**, the advocacy efforts resulted in the inclusion of the IFRC DRR Law Checklist in the newly adopted CONRED Guidelines for the creation of special units responsible of integrated DRM at the municipal and executive levels. It also allowed including some IDRL recommendations, including tax exemptions on the importation of relief goods, in the newly adopted Law of CONRED.

In **Honduras**, the IFRC Legislative Advocacy Toolkit led to the development of an Action Plan and Policy advocacy strategy to implement the recommendations in the 2019 IDRL study and promote a stand-alone legal instrument based on the IFRC IDRL Model Law. A draft [IDRL law](#) has been developed and approved for debate in January 2020 at the National Congress of Honduras.

Asia-Pacific



The DLP along with international development partners, UNDP and ADB, provided technical and financial support to the Disaster Management (DM) Law development process in **Lao PDR** since 2013. Red Cross provided technical comments on the draft law and made recommendations specifically on gender sensitive language, strengthened climate smart DRR provisions, an international assistance chapter and formalisation of Lao Red Cross that includes membership in the national and local Disaster Management Communities. The DM Law was presented and endorsed at the Parliament Meeting on 24 June 2019. The law is now awaiting final endorsement by the President before the translation can be finalised and circulated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW). It establishes a DM Fund and the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC) under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister and with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as its Secretariat.

Additionally, during the reporting period the DLP was requested by Lao PDR to support with implementing rules and regulations, under the new DM law, particularly on the establishment

of the national and subnational DM funds through DM Fund Decree. A technical consultation across government ministries on the decree was held in June 2019, and in August, the DLP and Lao Red Cross also participated in the UNDRR/Lao Government hosted National DRR Strategy Workshop. Technical support was also provided in drafting of the English version of the DM Fund Decree with the expectation that the new decree will be in force in the coming months. Lao Red Cross also requested DLP support on the Lao RC Disaster Fund with Ministry of Finance and help them implement their auxiliary mandate as member of National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC).

Consultations on the municipal disaster risk governance assessment tool, developed by the **Nepal** Red Cross and the Government of Nepal were held. The tool will support mainstreaming DRRM within the development plans in the new federalized system in Nepal, particularly at the level of the 753 Municipalities. It will also allow local policymakers and practitioners to assess the overall DRM Governance architecture of their Municipality in line with the DRRM Act 2017, the NDRR Policy 2018, the DRR National Plan of Action 2018 – 2030 and the LG Operation Act 2018 and therefore, initiate necessary reform process as required. The tool will be piloted in selected municipalities in 2020.

In **Fiji**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy was adopted on 18 December 2019. The policy has been a key area of advocacy for Red Cross and provides a strong basis for DRR mainstreaming. Further, there has been continued consultation on the revision of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan. The IFRC continues its technical oversight role in this government led process that has seen submission of the working group's technical options paper to the National Disaster Risk Management Council as well as consultative workshops and legislative drafting sessions. The draft National DM Plan and Bill is expected to be submitted through formal government processes in 2020.

The DLP and the **Kiribati** Red Cross Society provided joint comments on the Kiribati Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Bill in July 2019. The DLP also provided drafting support to Kiribati Red Cross Society and the Kiribati Attorney General's Office on the Kiribati Red Cross Bill 2019. Awareness and advocacy on this Bill were taken forward during a Red Cross hosted Kiribati Parliamentarians event on 26 August 2019. Although the Red Cross Bill was listed for its first reading by parliament in December 2019, it has now been deferred until 2020. DLP will continue to support Kiribati Red Cross through the parliamentary process related to the Red Cross law in 2020 and ensure continued technical support on the integrated DRM/CCA Law process.

The DLP was requested by its UN partners to provide review and input into the **Papua New Guinea** Disaster Management Draft Bill. The input was integrated into the synthesis of recommendations provided by UNOCHA and IOM, UNICEF and UNDP country offices and shared with the Government of PNG by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

Samoa is soon to commence a review of their disaster laws, and Samoa Red Cross has requested the support of the DLP to work with the Government in the review. The review of the Samoa Red Cross legal base will also run in parallel to this review, and the DLP will support on both legislative reviews. The DLP will continue discussions with the Attorney General's

Office, the Disaster Management Office and the Samoa Red Cross Society on progressing the Review.

Tuvalu National Disaster Management Office has verbally requested the DLP to provide assistance in the drafting of amendments to the Tuvalu National Disaster Management Act 2008. The DLP is now awaiting a formal request from the Tuvalu NDMO.

The DLP was requested by **Palau** Red Cross Society and the National Emergency Management Office to support the drafting of a standalone DRM Act for Palau. An initial scoping mission related to the legislative support was carried out from 4 – 11 October 2019. Meetings were held with members of the Palau National Emergency Committee, the Palau Attorney General and the Director of Customs. The focus of the meeting was Disaster Law and Red Cross Auxiliary role. Furthermore, Palau Red Cross senior leadership expressed interest to revise their own legal base. The draft Palau Red Cross Bill was presented to the Executive Director of Palau Red Cross on 11 October 2019. Further legislative advocacy support will be provided to Palau Red Cross on their legal base in 2020.

The **Vanuatu** Disaster Risk Management Bill (whose development and drafting was supported by IFRC 2016 – 2017) was listed for a Vanuatu Parliament's second ordinary session in November. Red Cross continues to monitor and advocate for its passage.

The DLP provided technical and legislative advocacy assistance to the National Society in the **Solomon Islands** in support of the review of the Solomon Island Red Cross Act 1983. It also held meetings with the Solomon Island Attorney Generals Chambers in this respect. The legal basis revision has been included in the strategic plan for the National Society for 2020. The Solomon Islands Director of the NDMO has also approached the programme to support drafting of the new Disaster Management Law in 2020.

Ongoing technical support and regular follow up continues on legislative review processes in **Tokelau** (DRR and Emergency Rules) and **Tonga** (IDRL Regulations).

The development of the **Philippine** Red Cross (PRC) HLP strategy⁶ has been multifaceted; including field work to a planned resettlement site in Southern Philippines to test the due diligence and rapid tenure assessment components of the strategy. A draft of the strategy has been circulated for technical comments from Movement partners. It is anticipated that the strategy, the first of its kind in the Movement, will be adopted in 2020. Alongside the DLP, the PRC provided technical comments to House Bill 6705, on the creation of a new Department of Disaster Resilience and other amendments to the existing DRRM Act. Resultantly, PRC also requested the DLP to draft an amendatory bill which is one of the priority legislative agenda of the President of the Philippines. Additionally, the [child protection and disaster law case study](#) in the Philippines was finalized and launched.

In **Vietnam**, the DLP drafted a position paper, building on recommendations from previous country level disaster law research undertaken, to frame discussions for Vietnam Red Cross' Disaster Law Consultation Workshop, co-chaired by the Vietnam Disaster Management

⁶ The Disaster Law Programme, [Annual Report 2018](#), 16

Authority (VNDMA) on May 22, 2019. The workshop and position paper fed into the ongoing Disaster Management Law Review currently in process in Vietnam. The position paper was revised based on the consultations and was submitted to the National DM Authority for their consideration.

The DLP provided comments, focussed on localization of humanitarian aid complemented by IDRL and civilian leadership in emergency management complemented by civil military coordination, to the **Indonesia** DRM Bill. The Bill is on the Parliamentary shortlist for 2020. Further, the Indonesian Humanitarian Country Team has requested the programme support development of an expanded government guideline on foreign international assistance. Discussions with PMI and partners have also begun regarding a child protection and disaster law case study also planned for first half of 2020 (with confirmed financial support from Australia Red Cross).

The programme also held meetings with **Myanmar** Red Cross, government, and key partners on next steps on the disaster law revision. Following a government request, the recruitment of a DL advisor to provide the Myanmar RC with technical support on the DM Law, is ongoing. Additionally, a DL and Legislative Advocacy Training for Myanmar Red Cross Society and movement partners was held.

In **Bangladesh**, DLP continues to be involved in the finalization on the national IDRL mapping report. The study looks specifically at the challenges experienced in respect to receipt and coordination of international aid, particularly in light of the Population Movement Operation; and provides recommendations on the same. The programme also supported the Bangladesh Embankment Collapse DREF Operations in a displacement [assessment](#) of communities affected by the largescale river erosion in Shariapur District.

The DLP supported the 1st Symposium on Policy, Regulation and Standard of Emergency Management of Countries along the Belt and Road (17 – 18 October 2019). This included the delivery of a keynote address and technical presentation on IDRL across the belt and road initiative. Symposium participants included government officials from China and across belt and road countries who have a responsibility for disaster risk management. In the margins of the Symposium, follow up meetings with UNDP, Government of **China** and China Red Cross Society were held to discuss next steps in support of disaster law initiatives with the Ministry of Emergency Management in China. Further work is planned in 2020.

The IFRC, UNDRR and PIFS co-hosted a workshop on [Legislating and Policy Making for Climate Smart DRR in the Pacific](#). The workshop was attended by the Pacific Islands Sendai Monitor focal points (NMDOS), Climate Change Divisions, Attorney Generals Offices and National Societies from 8 Pacific Countries: Republic of Fiji; Republic of Kiribati; Republic of Marshall Islands; Republic of Palau; Samoa; Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. As a key outcome, participants committed to partner on evidence base line for risk governance in the Pacific. DLP also committed to support NSs and Governments to undertake legislative reviews in at least 5 countries and provide recommendations on integration of risk reduction in relevant governance systems. Notably, this workshop was preceded by a [Youth Workshop](#) to mobilize and engage Pacific youth on climate and disaster policy making in the region.

Subsequently, the first **Technical Working Group Meeting on Risk Governance** was held, co-chaired by PIFS and IFRC under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. The Working Group (WG) is composed of representatives from member states as well as development partners. The WG will focus on risk governance as well as climate smart DRM law with the priority output for 2020 being planned integrated risk governance mapping in 5 Pacific countries, followed by an IDRL mapping and a peer exchange. The broadened scope of the WG is expected attract new partners and better promote an integrated approach to sustainable risk governance. IFRC and PIFS made a joint presentation to the Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce Meeting in November on the progress of this TWG, during which an overview was provided on the workgroup, its membership and proposed workplan.

Central Asia

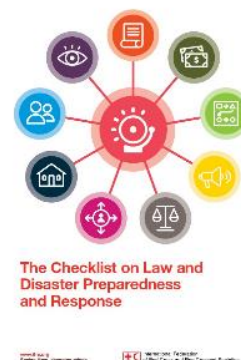


Bilateral consultations continued with Red Crescent Societies and stakeholders in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan intending to define the short-term and mid-term priorities and directions for the DLP in those countries.

Global tools



The DLP produced “**Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response Multi Country Synthesis Report**” as well as the “**Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response**”. It provides a recommended list of ten key questions for consideration in ensuring that national laws provide the best support for DPR. The Checklist covers not only dedicated DRM laws but also other sectoral laws and regulations that are critical for managing essential functions such as institutional arrangements across different levels of government, finance and resource management, legal facilities and protection. The Synthesis Report is available in [English](#) while the Checklist is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) & [Arabic](#).



A Disaster Preparedness and Response Law Checklist [Factsheet](#) as well as [one on the Synthesis Report](#) are also available in English. Additionally, fact sheets on ‘[Climate & Disaster Displacement: The Importance of Disaster Law and Policy](#)’ and ‘[Protection and Inclusion: The Importance of Disaster Law and Policy](#)’ have also been developed and is based on the DPR Checklist and Synthesis Report.

In addition to this, the DLP produces dissemination material to support NS’s efforts on law and disaster preparedness and response. This includes a Facilitator Guide for the global DLP team to support the facilitation of regional workshops on the new Checklist, a Briefing Paper both in [English](#) & [French](#), to provide information to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies introduce DPR Checklist to national government and other stakeholders and 2 draft Op-Ed for use by NS.

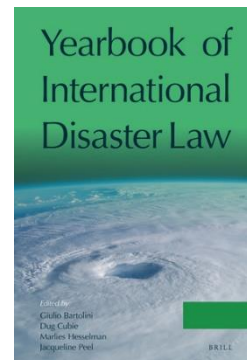


Ahead of the 33rd International Conference the programme published the [Fourth Progress Report on the Implementation of the IDRL Guidelines](#). The report is intended to update the State parties to the Geneva Conventions, the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and their partners on global progress in the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines. It follows on similar updates prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2009, 2011 and 2015.

As part of the IRC-MSCA CAROLINE Research Project in “Leave No One Behind Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030”, the research fellow, Dr. Tommaso Natoli finalised a [Literature Review on Aligning Climate Change Adaptation \(CCA\) and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#). This literature review offers a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of existing knowledge on alignment between climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and looks into an array of potential avenues for solutions from the literature that could be relevant for law and policy at the national and sub-national, as reported in the literature.

The Checklist on Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL Checklist) has also been translated into [Spanish](#), and [Russian](#). Additionally, the Model Emergency Decree for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance is also available in [Russian](#) and the IDRL Model Act and its Commentary is also now available in Russian.

The first edition of the new *Yearbook of International Disaster Law* (YIDL) was published. This publication aims to represent a hub for critical debate in this emerging area of research and policy and to foster the interest of academics, practitioners, stakeholders and policymakers on legal and institutional issues relevant to all forms of natural, technological and human-made hazards. Though the YIDL is an independent academic project published by Brill, but the IFRC has provided some financial support for the review and edition of the book before publication and to ensure that the ‘International Disaster Law in Practice’ section can be made available for free as an [open-access source](#).



The DLP has also started work on new projects. This included:

- A Disaster Law Simulation Exercise (DL-SIMEX) which is expected to support testing of actual legal and policy arrangements of the country in which it is conducted. The DL-SIMEX is designed to be conducted at country level with national government representatives from a number of key sectors with responsibilities for disaster risk management, the National RCRC Society as well as other relevant national and international disaster stakeholders present in country.
- With the pro bono support of law firm White & Case and academic partners, IFRC undertook the development of a global DRM law and policy Index. The Index will provide an overview of domestic disaster management laws from around the world and the extent to which they address key disaster law thematic areas. The Index will be available on IFRC DLP website in 2020.

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

Intergovernmental advocacy

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

At **global level**, the programme proposed a resolution adopted at the 33rd International Conference on Climate Smart [Disaster Laws and Policies that Leave No One behind](#). The Resolution was informed by the recognition that well-functioning disaster risk management systems (DRM) are key to promoting effective response and enhancing resilience in the wake of disasters increasingly intensified by climate change. This strong DRM system requires a strong legal basis at the domestic level to ensure clarity in responsibilities, prioritization of activities, assignment of resources, coordination and the protection of the most vulnerable faced with crisis. This is critical not only during an emergency, but also for longer-term projects aimed at disaster risk reduction and resilience building, climate change adaptation, preparedness and recovery. The resolution was passed unanimously at the culmination of the International Conference.



A [background document](#) was developed ahead of the conference to help guide national societies in discussions with their governments to better inform them on the content of the resolution. Additionally, the DPR Checklist, which was launched at the International conference, serves as an annex to the resolution. In this respect, the programme prepared a briefing paper, both in [English](#) & [French](#), to provide background information to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies introduce DPR Checklist to national government and other stakeholders.

Progress in the area of disaster law in Honduras and Central America was featured at two Spotlight Sessions of the International Conference, on '[Trust in Humanitarian Action: Creating a conducive environment for principled humanitarian action](#)' and on '[Shifting vulnerabilities: Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis](#)' respectively.

In the context of the International, the DLP organized a [High-Level Breakfast Meeting on the Future of Disaster Law](#). The purpose of the meeting was to gather perspectives on visions for the future of the IFRC's work on disaster law and to 2. Inform the strategic and programmatic direction of the DLP in the future. The Meeting was attended by 24 participants from 14 National Societies.

The importance of integrating climate change and adaptation and disaster risk management in legal frameworks for effective disaster risk governance was included in the '[Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis](#)', the '[Risk-Informed Early Action Partnerships](#)' and the '[Global Commission on Adaptation Action Track on Preventing Disasters](#)'.

Africa

As part of the continued work with the **African Union (AU)**⁷, the DLP supported the AU in the development of a draft Model IDRL Act that can be adopted by member states according to their disaster management needs. The DLP supported the AU in carrying out a [consultation on the draft model act](#). The consultation offered an opportunity to local non-governmental organizations, national societies and disaster management agencies to offer critical feedback on the draft model act and help the AU improve on the draft act ahead of its presentation before the AU General Assembly. The AU was also profiled the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA), demonstrating how nationalisation of the model act would allow operationalisation of AfHA in member states during emergencies. Further, during the Independents' Experts Consultation on AfHA's feasibility, DLP influenced the inclusion of a session on "Regional Response Mechanism for the facilitation and coordination of international humanitarian assistance", linking the IDRL Model Act initiative with the AfHA legal framework. Resultantly, the IDRL Guidelines were recognized as a guiding framework to facilitate partnerships and strengthen legal frameworks for the management of international assistance across the continent, to complement the Agency. The DLP also supported the AU in the development of the [Regional Common Position for the Global Platform on DRR](#) through influencing the first commitment of the regional position, calling States to enhance their legal framework for DRR along with key sectoral legislation. The DLP also offered co-facilitation support during the 5th AU Humanitarian Law and Policy training sessions.

Additionally, 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 was able to support the National Societies attendance at the **Global DRR Platform** in May 2019. During this platform, National Societies were able to profile their work and engage with their national government authorities in the development of legislative frameworks as well as get an opportunity to participate in the global discourse on policy and ways of working in DRR as profiled by the international humanitarian network.

During the reporting period, DLP provided cofacilitation support to **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** and the Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa at the 13th Annual Regional Consultation for Disaster Management in West Africa. ECOWAS and the DLP showcased the DRM Handbook and its added value to the existing regional response mechanisms. The DLP also highlighted the success in piloting the handbook in two countries in the region: Gambia and Sierra Leone; and its relevance as a guidance for national governments in developing national DRM legislative frameworks. As final outcomes to the Consultation, participants recommended that IFRC continue to support their countries in efforts to carry out an inclusionary review of their DRM legislative frameworks with a view of further developing them to enhance DRM in-country.

Americas

The DLP influenced inclusion of the IDRL Guidelines recommendations in the *CAPRADE Guidelines for Mutual Assistance* for the **Andean Community** and the [Buenos Aires Declaration of the 2019 Regional Forum on International Mechanisms to facilitate International](#)

⁷ The Disaster Law Programme, [Annual Report 2018](#), 19

[Humanitarian Aid and Assistance](#) (*“Mecanismos Internacionales para la facilitacion de la ayuda humanitaria internacional”*, “MIAH”) which makes an explicit reference to the IDRL Guidelines for improving Regional Coordination among disaster response actors.

Asia Pacific

Effective legislative frameworks for climate smart disaster risk management has been identified as a key focus of the Pacific Resilience Partnership under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. The Inaugural **Pacific Resilience Meeting** (1 – 3 May 2019) brought together more than 300 participants, Government, Non-government Organisations, Regional Organisations, International Organisations, Pacific Red Cross-National Societies, Academia, Civil Society Organisations, Development partners and donors. During this meeting the DLP facilitated a panel discussion on “Legislative Frameworks and Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery”. The DLP also provided recommendations to the final text of the PRM Outcomes Statement, which was based on the records of the panel discussions. Of importance to note is paragraph 7: *“Emphasise the need for legal frameworks and institutional support mechanisms for disaster risk management to be strengthened in order to clarify roles and responsibilities and provide certainty and authority in times of disaster.”* A side session was also hosted by the DLP to introduce the Synthesis Report and Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) and the Legal and Policy Mapping of Disaster Response Arrangements (DRA) in the Pacific. Side discussions were also held with National Disaster Management Office heads on the DRA in the Pacific to brief them on the Mapping. A technical working group, under the Pacific Resilience Partnership on the climate smart disaster risk management legislation will be established to consult on ongoing disaster law initiatives in the region, including the regional response arrangements discussions. IFRC has developed a draft ToR for this technical working group which has now been circulated to partners for comment.

Regional delegations from South Asia and the Pacific were supported to prepare joint positions on the disaster law resolution and initiatives during the **33rd International Conference**, including joint pledges and statements. A breakfast meeting on the future of disaster law was held which included National Society representatives from the following Asia Pacific countries: Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, India and Mongolia.

The **Asia Pacific Local Action and Advocacy Guide: Supporting Local Risk Governance** provides regulatory guidance to support more effective risk governance at the local level. This project is led by the DLP in partnership with UNDP and United Cities Local Government, Asia Pacific. During the Asia Pacific Urban Forum, two consultations on the Guide, with Movement Partners and Local Governments, were held. Feedback from the consultations will be incorporated into the revised guide and a further piloting will be carried out in New Zealand and Philippines. Additionally, during the Asia Pacific Shelter Cluster Week, the DLP led a session on Housing, Land & Property (HLP) rights.

The [Pacific Regional Response Mapping Consultation](#) was held in Nadi, Fiji on 25 November 2019 as part of the wider Pacific workshop. The Consultation invited feedback from Pacific Governments and National Societies on the first draft of the regional response mapping which has been undertaken. The mapping looks at domestic arrangements for the receipt and

coordination of international / regional response in Pacific island countries. The mapping will support regional initiatives to strengthen response mechanisms as outlined under the FRDP and Boe Declaration processes. The mapping will be finalized and ready to share in early 2020.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and IFRC co-hosted a [workshop on Management of International Assistance](#) (20 – 21 November 2019, Jakarta) within Southeast Asia, including how to better formalise arrangements for regional response. This also included an advocacy and awareness session on the Disaster Law Resolution for the 33rd International Conference. The workshop comprised representatives from the 10 ASEAN member states (NDMOs and MOFA) and Southeast Asian national societies and partners. Outcomes from the discussion will form part of the joint AHA/IFRC workplan for 2020.

The DLP supported the Red Cross Red Crescent segment of the **ASEAN Centre for Excellence (ACE) Training** which was held in Palu, Indonesia in September 2019. An interactive module looking at application of laws and policies (particularly IDRL) in times of disaster was run for emerging ASEAN Disaster Management leaders.

The [South Asia Forum on Preparedness for Regional Disaster Response](#) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 4 – 6 November 2019. The [Forum](#) was the first partnership between SAARC and IFRC and included representatives from the 8 SAARC member states, South Asian RCRC National Societies and regional partners such as UNOCHA, WFP and ADPC. During the Forum participants discussed how to work together in the implementation of the South Asia Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters including how to strengthen domestic legal preparedness for cross border assistance in South Asia. The forum also included an advocacy and awareness session on the Disaster Law Resolution for the 33rd International Conference. The outcome document, which will be presented to South Asian Ministers includes a commitment for National Societies and IFRC to support governments to undertake a review of national law/ policy against the Regional South Asia Treaty and the IDRL Checklist in 2020.

The **South Asia National Societies Auxiliary Role Roundtable**, held in Kathmandu, provided a platform for National Societies to discuss opportunities and challenges in strengthening the auxiliary role in contemporary South Asia. A specific focus of the discussions was strengthening the legal base for the auxiliary role, both through RCRC laws and key sectorial laws. National Societies identified the legal basis for their auxiliary role as a key area that they would like support in 2020. They also appreciated the opportunity for peer exchange and learning with other South Asian National Societies.

Central Asia

DLP in Central Asia has produced and distributed 450 wall calendars to sensitize further and enhance the visibility of both IFRC and its DLP in Central Asia. Main documents such as IFRC checklists, IDRL guidelines and Model Act, and Legislative Advocacy toolkit have been translated into Russian and disseminated among stakeholders.

Other Conferences/ Presentations

- The Africa DLP Officer facilitated sessions on Disaster Law and the International Conference at the **Indian Ocean Islands & Djibouti Cluster Planning Workshop**.
- The Disaster Law Coordinator facilitated a session on IDRL at the **Africa Logistics Conference**
- During the **Peer-learning exchange on policy coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development** hosted by UNDRR, the Disaster Law Coordinator made a presentation on Disaster Law and the programmes support to countries in the Africa region in developing relevant DRM frameworks with an aim of achieving policy coherence on DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development.
- During the Africa Region Localisation Workshop, the DLP Officer facilitated a breakout session on Disaster Law in the region and the support provided to national societies in respect to enhancing their capacity to support in and advocate for the development of national DRM frameworks. During the session the programme was able to profile the steps made by Sierra Leone RC and Gambia RC in the promotion of the Localisation Agenda in country.
- The DLP Coordinator facilitated a session on Disaster Law introducing participants to the key elements of the Climate Smart Law Resolution presented at the International Conference at the Commonwealth Global Conference on International Humanitarian Law, hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- The DL Coordinator delivered a keynote presentation on behalf of the IFRC at the AU meeting to develop the Regional Common Position for the Global Platform on DRR. The programme was able to influence the first commitment of the position calling on States to enhance their legal framework for DRR along with key sectoral legislation.
- The Pacific Disaster Law Advisor attended the **2nd Pacific Islands Roundtable on IHL** held on 14 – 15 May 2019 in Apia, Samoa and facilitated a session on *Conflict, climate and the environment: a habitat of legal and humanitarian concerns*. In facilitating the session it was realised that despite the Pacific being a region affected mainly by Climate Change and Natural Disasters the history of nuclear testing, conflict (in Solomon Islands, PNG and Fiji) as well as the previous world war battles waged in the Pacific warrants that the issue of IHL and Climate Changed be further researched.
- The DLP facilitated the **2019 Pacific-focused Health and Humanitarian Action in Emergencies (HHAEE) course** at James Cook University's Cairns Campus, QLD, Australia from 3 – 14 June 2019, run by the Centre for excellence from Hawaii. The DLP worked with DM in the preparation of a presentation for Disaster Law and the work undertaken by the DLP. There was strong interest from the course participants in Disaster Law. The Course Coordinators are considering inclusion of Disaster Law as a permanent fixture in the course. A recommendation was also made to the Centre of Excellence to consider holding the course in Fiji at the University of the South Pacific to allow for more participants from around the region.
- The regional disaster law coordinator participated in the UNDRR hosted **consultative workshop on local DRR strategy development** in Incheon, Korea, 1 – 2 October 2019 together with national society representatives from Mongolia and Indonesia. The workshop focused on how to accelerate progress on local strategy development and

implementation in Asia Pacific (target E of Sendai) as well as how to ensure more integrated (DRR/CCA approaches) in strategy development. There were strong linkages with disaster law areas and partners recognized IFRC expertise / leadership in linking regulatory framework and local strategy implementation. Legal frameworks will be a key component of the “acceleration” plan going forward to support governments and partners meet Target E commitments in Sendai, with Red Cross Red Crescent position to take on leadership roles related to law and advocacy.

- The regional disaster law coordinator was part of the team representing IFRC at the **Asia Pacific Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction (APP DRR) Forum** in Brisbane, Australia from 12 – 13 November 2019 in the lead up to the 2020 APMCDRR. The Forum was an opportunity to feed into the content proposed under the 3 pillars and cross cutting areas, to learn more about the logistics around the Ministerial Conference and to discuss RCRC engagement and positioning with Australian Red Cross for the Conference. The IFRC technical working group for the APMCDRR will now consolidate written feedback on the proposed concept to share with UNDRR and further refine the engagement strategy, with the view of sharing with Asia Pacific national societies for input in January 2020.
- A presentation on effective legal frameworks for DRR was presented as part of the **Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)** for 22 Asia Pacific Governments and NGOs in Kuala Lumpur on 22 August 2019.
- The DLP presented at a session of the Indonesia MOFA hosted workshop **on Regional Humanitarian Assistance** (8 August 2019, Jakarta). The session explored the connections between national / local governance frameworks and enabling humanitarian actions between international / local communities. The Asia Pacific localisation forum (Indonesia, 26 – 28 November 2019) will also include a breakout session on governance and localisation, with participation from the DLP.
- **International Disaster Law Experts Meeting of the North American Humanitarian Response Initiative** (NAHRI) Teams and Personnel Working Group organized by the Millersville University, USA, February 2019;
- Meetings with the **German Government** in Berlin (February 2019) and the **World Food Programme** in Rome in September 2019;
- The **Annual Legal Advisors Meeting** in June in Chavanne-des-Bougies near Geneva in July 2019;
- **Consultation workshop on the International Disaster Response Bill** in Turkmenistan for National Society and governments representatives in July 2019;
- Two regional workshops for National Societies and government representatives to disseminate and develop action plans to implement the new Checklist on law and Disaster Preparedness and Response in Brussels and in Kyrgyzstan in October 2019;
- The **Third meeting of Civil Protection Directors-General of the Partner Countries of the Union for the Mediterranean** to facilitate the identification of priorities for an action plan for efficient mutual assistance in the Mediterranean area in Brussels in November 2019.

Media coverage and Publications

The DLP work within the regions was disseminated across various platforms to ensure a wide audience coverage. Case studies, discussed in detail above, on [Child Protection in Disasters](#) and work in [Uganda](#), as well as [Malawi](#) alongside were published on the DLP website (www.ifrc.org/dl). Further, workshops held in Gambia and Sierra Leone were featured in the national broadcasting stations, with the disaster law workshop in the Seychelles being featured in a local daily newspaper, [Today in Seychelles](#). Additionally, The Uganda Red Cross Disaster Law Program Manager wrote an [OpEd](#) in a local daily newspaper, Daily Monitor, calling for the government to expedite the DRM bill process and reiterating the support of the Uganda Red Cross in improving the national DRM framework.

The [Disaster Law Animation Video](#) (short version [here](#)) was finalised and will be officially launched in multiple languages in 2020. The animation underscores the necessity of taking an inclusive, multi- stakeholder approach to climate smart disaster laws and provides information across all thematic areas of the programme. The DLP's dedicated Facebook group and Twitter continue to be a real time update of progress of the programme's activities globally.

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

At **national level**, the team also completed **2** country case studies including the Child Protection Study in Uganda, DRR baseline Survey for 13 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, an IDRL Study in Bangladesh as well as Auxiliary role mapping in 19 countries in Africa, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.

The DLP carried out mappings in 19 countries⁸ in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific on the degree to which each [National Society's auxiliary role](#) is codified in sectoral laws and agreements related to disaster risk management, health, and migration among others in order to create a comparable global index chart and to have good practice examples that can be shared. In Asia Pacific, a regional analysis of mappings already undertaken will be made early 2020 to inform a potential auxiliary /advocacy consultation with National Societies later in the year. Additionally, in Africa, a further mapping of an additional 10 countries, with focus on French-speaking countries, is expected to be undertaken in 2020. The global index chart and synthesis analysis will be completed and shared in 2020

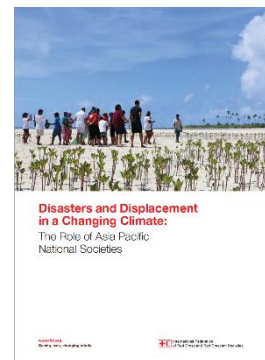
The **Pacific Regional Response Legal and Policy Mapping** which is a desktop mapping of the legal and policy arrangements for regional disaster response across all Pacific Island Forum Member Countries was undertaken. The mapping examines national arrangements and as practicable provide a regional analysis of strengths and gaps in the institutional architecture for the coordination and facilitation of regional disaster response in the Pacific. The mapping uses the IDRL Checklist and the draft Pacific regional response guidelines (2015) as the assessment tools. The mapping has been finalised at the technical level and

⁸ Australia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, Gambia, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia.

shared with key regional partners for initial feedback before it undergoes final validation with member states in 2020.

Further to the Child protection case studies in Uganda and the Philippines carried, the DLP also finalised a global study on this theme titled [We Need to Do Better: Policy Brief for Enhancing Laws and Regulations to Protect Children in Disasters](#). The study was commissioned to support national societies advocacy efforts for the inclusion of gender responsive approaches in the development of policies and legislation for disaster management.

The [Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: The Role of Asia Pacific National Societies report](#) is designed to enhance the collective understanding of Asia Pacific National Societies, governments across the region and other key stakeholders, including the UN system, NGOs and civil society organisations, on the trends, dynamics and humanitarian needs of people on the move in the context of disasters and climate change. The report builds upon the latest understanding and expertise on human mobility linked to disasters and climate change. The report also builds on relevant International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement policies, guidance and commitments related to climate change, disaster risk management, disaster law, resilience, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), migration and displacement. The report contains examples of best practices and initiatives by Asia Pacific National Societies, demonstrating the diversity and strength of Red Cross Red Crescent action to address this emerging and critical challenge.



The revised version of the **Local Action and Advocacy Guide** to support more inclusive and coherent risk governance at the local level has been received. The revised guide draws on recommendations from consultations with key partners and local actors and identifies 10 enabling environments for strengthened risk governance. It is proposed to partner with two local authorities (in Asia Pacific) in Q1 of 2020 to pilot the guide.

At a **global level**, IFRC, jointly with the School of Law of University College Cork of Ireland, launched a [new research project](#) on 'Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030'. This Project is investigating links, coherence and potential overlaps between two key international frameworks adopted in 2015, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change, assessed through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will chart the application of those frameworks in national/sub-national legislation and policy decisions in three different regional contexts; provide scientific outputs on informal law-making dynamics; develop research-based analysis and advocacy and guidance tools to promote Agenda 2030's objective of leaving no one behind.



This research activity is supporting legal and policy reforms for local and national authorities by providing evidence-based guidance and tools aimed at establishing comprehensive, cross-sectoral and inclusive measures. It will focus on the need to promote concrete advocacy actions and capacity-building activities aimed at supporting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) efforts in providing concrete guidance to national and local institutions in the adoption and implementation of innovative climate-smart DRM laws that protect the most vulnerable. This will stimulate integration and synergies between wider governance arrangements, e.g. the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes and the risk reduction strategy processes (Sendai Framework, Target E). A [Literature Review on Aligning Climate Change Adaptation \(CCA\) and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#) was developed as research baseline and presented during the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Additionally, the DLP has undertaken a new research project on law and recovery. The literature review was commissioned in November 2019 and will be finalized in 2020. This project will lead the development of a new set of recommendations for law and policy makers on law and recovery. This literature review provides the preparatory analysis, research and evidence base currently under development to support and inform the drafting of a 'Checklist on Law and Disaster Recovery', to fill a gap in the existing set of tools. The DLP also commissioned the development of a simulation exercise focused on disaster law to test the level of readiness of states to face the most common legal issues in disaster risk management. The module will be finalized in 2020.

Finally, the DLP initiated dialogue with Roma Tre University to partner in updating the [DLP Database](#) of DRM Instruments. At the date of this report, a partnership agreement was signed with Roma Tre and work on revamping the database will start in the summer of 2020.

Results against indicators⁹

Disaster law goal/outcome	INDICATOR	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Central Asia	Global / Europe	
A: Strengthen National Society advocacy for disaster law and the auxiliary role	# of NS engaged in peer to peer support through IFRC network	14	8	11	-		Africa: Uganda, Niger, Gambia, Burundi, South Sudan, Malawi, Botswana, Senegal, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Nigeria Americas: Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica Perú, Trinidad & Tobago. Asia Pacific: Lao and Vietnam exchange/ Auxiliary role all South Asia NS (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan
	# of people trained by IFRC in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy	520	508	311	32		Africa: Regional Workshop (59), SURGE Training (40), MIC Training (30), Localisation Workshop (50), Model Act Consultation (20), Gambia Localisation Workshop (30), Sierra Leone Localization workshop (30), Seychelles Training (30), Uganda training (20), Zimbabwe Training (30), Malawi Training (71), AU Humanitarian Law & Policy Training (70), Indian Ocean Island meeting (20), Southern Africa Meeting (20) Americas: International Disaster Law experts meeting at the Millersville University in Pennsylvania (30), National Workshop organized by the CONRED in Guatemala on the implementation of the Regional Protocol to facilitate the shipment, transit and receipt of humanitarian aid within the SICA Guatemalan Government/ CONRED workshop (400), the Legislative Advocacy workshop in Honduras (16), 1st Humanitarian assistance Regional Simulation held in Nicaragua (30), RIT training/ Rapid Response Unit training held in Panama (30), Disaster Law Capacity Building Workshop for National Societies from the english-speaking Caribbean (12). AP: Legislative Advocacy training for Palau Red Cross Society (10); Legislating Advocacy training for Samoa Red Cross (31); "Know Your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities (3Rs) in Disasters" ToT in Mongolia (120); Legislating and Policy Making for Climate-Smart DRR in the Pacific-Fiji (40); Youth Workshop (30); AHA Centre/IFRC Management of International Assistance Workshop (30);

⁹ Indicators can be found in the DLP Global Operation Plan 2017 page 8.

							<p>ASEAN-ACE (ASEAN Centre for Excellence) Training (30); SAARC Disaster Law Workshop (20).</p> <p>Central Asia: Central Asian Regional Consultative Meeting and Workshop on the Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at national level	8	5	11	1		<p>Africa: South Sudan, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Seychelles, Mauritius, Gambia, Sierra Leone</p> <p>Americas: Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Perú, Venezuela</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Lao PDR; Philippines; Indonesia; Myanmar; Nepal; Bangladesh; Mongolia; Fiji; New Zealand; Samoa; Kiribati</p> <p>Central Asia: Kazakhstan</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at local level	1	2	4	-	-	<p>Africa: Uganda</p> <p>Americas: Guatemala, Honduras</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Mongolia; New Zealand (Flood Resilience Alliance) and Nepal (Flood Resilience Alliance); Philippines DL Chapter training</p>

	# of NS that have developed a legislative advocacy strategy	2	2	11	-	-	Africa: Gambia & Sierra Leone Americas: Guatemala, Honduras Asia Pacific: Lao PDR; Philippines; Indonesia; Myanmar; Nepal; Bangladesh; Mongolia; Fiji; New Zealand; Samoa; Kiribati
	# of NS that have delivered education or training on DL and legislative advocacy (e.g. ToT)	4	2	4	-	-	Africa: Uganda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone & The Gambia. Americas: Costa Rica, Honduras Asia Pacific: New Zealand; Mongolia; Nepal; Australia
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	1	8	3	-	-	Africa: South Sudan DRM National Strategy Americas: Law of CONRED (Guatemala), MIAH Buenos Aires Declaration (Argentina), Road Map with Ministry of Health in Venezuela for the supply of medicines and other medical items in Venezuela including a clear reference to the IDRL Guidelines to improve operational coordination, Adopted Guidelines and "Tools Box" on the creation of Special Units responsible for DRM in Municipalities and some Ministries in Guatemala, Adopted Regulation applying the Framework Law on Climate Change Adaptation in Peru, Draft DRM Bill in Dominica, Draft DRM Bill in the Dominican Rep., CAPRADE Guidelines for Mutual Assistance in the Andean Community Asia Pacific: Lao (DRM Law); Nepal (DRR Management Rules); Fiji (National DRR Policy)
	# of draft national disaster related legal and policy instruments in progress	4	8	10	1	-	Africa: South Sudan Policy, Malawi DRM Bill, Uganda DRM Bill, Seychelles DRR/M Bill Americas: Law of CONRED (Guatemala), MIAH Buenos Aires Declaration (Argentina), Road Map with Ministry of Health in Venezuela for the supply of medicines and other medical items in Venezuela including a clear reference to the IDRL Guidelines to improve operational coordination, Adopted Guidelines

	# of countries supported to improve the implementation of their law and policies	5	2	2	1	1	<p>and "Tools Box" on the creation of Special Units responsible for DRM in Municipalities and some Ministries in Guatemala, Adopted Regulation applying the Framework Law on Climate Change Adaptation in Peru, Draft DRM Bill in Dominica, Draft DRM Bill in the Dominican Rep., CAPRADE Guidelines for Mutual Assistance in the Andean Community</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Lao PDR; Philippines; Fiji; Kiribati; PNG; Tokelau; Tuvalu; Indonesia (DRM & Climate Change Bill; Red Cross Bill); Palau (Red Cross Bill); Vanuatu (DRM Bill)</p> <p>Central Asia: Turkmenistan</p> <p>Africa: Zimbabwe, Seychelles, South Sudan, Malawi, Uganda</p> <p>Americas: Guatemala, Honduras</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Mongolia and Philippines</p> <p>Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>EU: Ireland</p>
	# of operations where disaster law advice supports coordination and humanitarian assistance	3	1	1	-	Support provided from DLP Geneva to regions	<p>Africa: Mozambique, Burundi, South Sudan</p> <p>Americas: Venezuela</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Bangladesh Embankment Collapse DREF Operation</p>
	# of NS with better defined auxiliary roles in draft or new national law and policies	1	2	4	1	-	<p>Africa: Uganda</p> <p>Americas: Guatemala and Honduras</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Palau (draft); Kiribati (draft); Solomon Islands (draft); Lao (draft decrees)</p> <p>Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan (legal review on enhancing the implementation of the RC law)</p>

C: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships	# of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence	4	3	4	-	3	Africa: African Union, ECOWAS, ICRC, IGAD Americas: ANDEAN Community, CEPREDENAC, University of West Indies Asia Pacific: 1 st Symposium on Policy, Regulation and Standard of Emergency Management of Countries along the Belt and Road (China); Legislating and Policy Making Smart DRR in the Pacific (Fiji); South Asia Forum on Preparedness for Regional Disaster Response (Nepal); Pacific Resilience Meeting; ASEAN AHA Event on International Assistance (Jakarta) Global, EU: Roma Tre University, University of College Cork, Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)
	# of new/amended international instruments IFRC and NS have influenced	2	1		-	1	Africa: AU Common Africa Position on DRR, ECOWAS GECEAO Resolution Americas: MIAH Buenos Aires Declaration Global: DL resolution at the 33 rd International Conference

	# External media articles/broadcasts that have featured IFRC or NS legislative advocacy work	4	1	2	-		Africa: Gambia, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Uganda Americas: Droit des Catastrophes at the IFRC youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWDM5721Df0 Asia Pacific: Mongolia government website; ASEAN event (AHA Website)
D: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy	# of legislative advocacy research projects completed	3	3	9	-	5	Africa: Child Protection Study in Uganda, Auxiliary Role Mapping in 10 Countries and DRR Baseline survey completed in 13 countries Americas: Child Protection Study in Brazil, IDRL Guatemala, IDRL Honduras Asia Pacific: Bangladesh IDRL Research; 3 Preparedness and Response Law Fact Sheets; Auxiliary Role Mapping (5 countries) Global: Global Study on Child Protection in Disasters, Literature Review CCA DRR, Synthesis of Disaster Preparedness and Response, Checklist on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Yearbook of International Disaster Law

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 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019, as we as in previous resolutions before that – not only of the RCRC Conference but also the UN General Assembly. 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.

In this regard, in a process of assessing the impact of DLP work over the years, an evaluation of the programme was commissioned in 2019. [The Evaluation](#) aimed to understand the perceptions of stakeholders regarding the DLP's past performance; assess the relevance of the DLP's work; and provide recommendations to improve the future impact of the DLP. It serves as a follow-up to a 2013 evaluation; however, some findings encompass the DLP's inception in 2001 to the present. The evaluation's main findings showed that there is strong evidence of DLP contribution to disaster law frameworks, the visibility and reputation of the IFRC, the auxiliary role of National Societies and the development of disaster law as a distinct discipline. Additionally, Disaster Law processes, procedures, capacities and tools have shown strong sustainability, and are being applied to other disaster-related issues.

*National Society
representative
interviewed on how
the DLP
complements
engagement with
stakeholders during
the Evaluation of the
programme, 2019*

“They are sharing existing tools, they are identifying opportunities, they are bringing different actors, they are fostering integration, ownership, dialogue and analysis, none of which we could have achieved alone”

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, 2019 has been another successful year for the DLP globally. As shown in the table above, the DLP has met most of its results indicators for 2019 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 DLP 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 2019, the DLP continued to support National Societies in developing their advocacy skills, and technical capacity more intensively using the legislative advocacy toolkit. National Societies have been trained on this methodology and have continued preparing and implementing advocacy strategies with the support of the DLP.

The DLP has continued to receive requests 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 DLP will develop new guidance and tools to support the National Societies in this area in upcoming years.

Following the adoption of the disaster law resolution at the 33rd International Conference and the new Checklist on Preparedness and Response, in 2020, the programme plans to engage more with National Societies and their governments as well as other international organisations such as UNDRR. This will be aimed at not only promoting development of climate smart disaster management frameworks in line with the resolution but also supporting states in the achievement of target E of the Sendai Framework.

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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