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# Disaster Law Programme Annual Report 2016

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Global (G00344)**  
**Asia-Pacific (P50033)**  
**Africa (P60013)**  
**Americas (P42068)**  
**MENA (P80017)\***

**This report covers the period:**  
**01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016**

*Ecuadorian Red Cross and DLP as leaders of the Housing Land and Property Rights group within the Protection Cluster provide technical assistance and housing solutions to the earthquake affected population. Credit: Ecuadorian Red Cross. Ecuador.*



## Overview

During the reporting period, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Law Programme (DLP) continued its work promoting legal preparedness for disasters. Pursuant to the mandates assigned to the IFRC at the [28<sup>th</sup>](#), [30<sup>th</sup>](#), [31<sup>st</sup>](#) and [32<sup>nd</sup>](#) International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the programme focused on supporting National Societies (NSs) to meet the following main goals:

1. Technical advice from the IFRC and NSs supports the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures
2. National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law
3. Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences inter-governmental processes at the regional and global levels
4. Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora, and partnerships are built
5. New research on disaster law and information tools broaden the general knowledge-base and facilitate change

\*This report also covers disaster law expenditures from codes P49056 in the Americas, G00035 in Geneva and code P51006 in Asia-Pacific.

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

- Adoption of new laws, regulations, policies or procedures drawing on recommendations of the National Societies and IFRC in Ecuador, Colombia, Thailand and Costa Rica.
- Involvement in **14** legal drafting procedures including in Ecuador, Guatemala, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, South Sudan, Vanuatu, Tonga, adoption of which is expected to occur in 2017.

## Major activities included:

- Strengthening of the legal advocacy skills of **25** National Societies.
- Support for ongoing National Society technical assistance projects on disaster law in **34** countries including IDRL and pilot projects related to the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Finalization and publication of **6** disaster law studies including in Armenia, Egypt, Indonesia, Madagascar, Samoa, The Gambia and ongoing work in a number of others (Cambodia, Myanmar, China, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Colombia), as well as a mapping of Housing Land and Property (HLP) issues in 14 Asia Pacific countries.
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes with **5** regional organizations, including CEPREDENAC, UNASUR, CDEMA, PIF, ASEAN.
- Commencement of a new global initiative looking at effective law and policy for addressing gender inequality and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in disasters, including a country case study in Zimbabwe.
- Support for disaster law discussions in approximately **25** humanitarian and academic conferences.
- Support to disaster operations in **2** countries, Haiti and Ecuador.

## Financial situation

DLP/ location	Budget (2016)	Coverage (% of budget)***	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme)*	461,283	403,766 (88%)	321,743 (70%)
Africa region	641,780	115,378 (18%)	112,067 (17%)
Americas region	475,144	525,638 (111%)	447,701 (94%)
Asia Pacific region**	633,696	1,053,088 (166%)	500,597 (79%)
MENA region	247,894	183,769 (74%)	178,113 (72%)
Total Project Sum (CHF)	2,459,796	2,281,639 (93%)	1,560,221 (63%)

\* In addition, 20,000 was used in G00035/M1603126 to pay for a disaster law training in Ecuador in December 2016.

\*\* In addition, 150,000 was used in P51006 to support disaster law activities in South-East Asia.

\*\*\*In the case of the Americas and Asia Pacific regions, the figures correspond to multiyear funding and the balance will be spent in 2017.

At the global level, the reorganization process at the Secretariat in 2016 generated some gaps and delays in the hiring of human resources. It explains the lower expenditure rate at global level. In Africa, the low expenditure rate is explained by the fact that the total budget received 18% coverage in 2016. Nevertheless, the funds available were implemented at 97%.

## Working in partnership

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies 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. 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 should have the co-lead with IFRC in advocacy efforts, 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 various joint initiatives in Asia Pacific, and through an ongoing joint research initiative at the global level.

While NS are the primary actors in disaster law and legislative advocacy at the national level, IFRC has continued to develop partnerships with several global humanitarian actors and intergovernmental platforms. The DLP continued to cooperate closely with key global agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the World Bank (WB), the World Customs Organization (WCO) 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 Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the East Africa Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the Union of South America Countries (UNASUR), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

The DLP also continued to strengthen its cooperation with academic partners, conducting joint projects with the American Society of International Law, Stanford University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, the University of New South Wales, Vanderbilt University, Roma Tre University, Uninettuno, University of Bologna, and the University of Pisa Sant'Anna, the Peace University in Costa Rica, Santa María La Antigua University in Panama, Academia de Guerra in Chile, Nacional University of Asuncion and University of Columbia in Paraguay.

## Progress towards outcomes

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

#### Adopted laws or regulations

During the reporting period, advice by National Societies and the IFRC on disaster law was reflected in new laws regulations or procedures adopted by approximately four countries, **Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Thailand**. At the date of this report, a new law was also adopted in **Mongolia**<sup>1</sup>.

This brought the [total number of countries that have adopted domestic laws or rules](#) drawing on the “Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance” (IDRL Guidelines) and/or the “Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction” (DRR and Law Checklist) to **26** by the end of the reporting period. Bills or draft regulations were pending in a further **17** countries.

**Colombia** adopted language based on the recommendations provided by the DLP in its new Custom Decree (1390/2016), and a Decree adopting the National Plan for disaster risk management (308/ 2016). They also included recommendations from the IDRL Guidelines into new Migration procedures (January 2016), in the procedures manual for national and international donations, and in the Guide for the entry and departure of USAR teams.

In **Costa Rica** the National Emergency Commission adopted the National Policy for Risk Management 2016-2030 which includes “the development of national instruments for disaster risk reduction” as one of the five thematic areas and key principles that must be addressed, in line with recommendations provided by Costa Rica Red Cross.

**Ecuador** implemented the recommendations contained in the study on [“Legal Preparedness for International Assistance in Disasters in Ecuador”](#) during in the April 2016 earthquake response. This included the adoption of an Emergency Resolution (17 April 2016) activating international cooperation protocols and asking for international support. The authorities also adopted a resolution to regulate the situation of NGOs without legal status in the country (R. 031, SETECI, Technical Cooperation Secretary), and a Resolution granting gratuities in telecommunication services in the area affected by the earthquake for national and international emergency teams (R. 0437 ARCOTEL, May 2016). In addition, a Regulation making informal tenants eligible to receive international assistance (MIDUVI Agreement 022-16 of 16 April 2016) was also adopted. Moreover, based on previous IDRL work undertaken in Ecuador, the government activated an International Humanitarian Assistance group which coordinated and facilitated the international aid during the response.

In late 2016, the Government of **Thailand** adopted a new guideline on the coordination of international assistance. This guideline has been under development for two years, and was discussed during [the 2014 IDRL workshop hosted by the Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Thai Red Cross and IFRC](#). It follows some recommendations made during the workshop, and is also in line with recommendations made at a large scale regional disaster response simulation exercise back in 2013, which called for stronger procedures to coordinate, facilitate and regulate international disaster assistance in Thailand in line with the IDRL Guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> Details from Mongolia will be included in the 2017 annual report.

## Technical support at the country level

### Africa



*The Gambia Red Cross Society supported multi-stakeholder consultations on IDRL, and the launch of a new IDRL report in February 2016.*

In **Kenya**, national authorities engaged in the review of the national DRM Bill and the development of a national DRM Policy throughout 2016. Kenya Red Cross (KRCS), who presented the government with an [IDRL report](#) and recommendations, was invited by the Parliament to a stakeholder's meeting where the draft DRM Bill was tabled for discussion. This led to a two-day "write shop" between KRCS, UNDP, UNISDR, UN Women, GROOTS Kenya, government representatives and members of the parliamentary caucus on DRR, to amend the draft Bill. KRCS remains engaged in the drafting process of both the Bill and the Policy, both of which are expected to be finalized in 2017.

**Malagasy** Red Cross has been engaging its authorities in [legal preparedness for disasters since 2014](#), through a project aimed at strengthening the role of the National Society's role as first responder. This project was originally funded by the German government and was continued with ECHO support. The IFRC has supported the National Society to undertake a legal mapping of IDRL related legislation as well as a specific [case study on strengthening community disaster risk reduction \(DRR\)](#) in the institutional setup, concluded in 2016. The engagement and advocacy undertaken by the National Society has resulted in the incorporation of their recommendations into a draft DRM Decree during 2016, as well as paving the way for the NS's role in the drafting of the national DRR Policy and a related law.

In 2016, the **Malawi** Red Cross and IFRC received a request from the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for support in the drafting of the Malawi draft DRM Bill and the Operational Guidelines for Disaster Risk Management, and developing Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs) for response operations. The DoDMA intends to incorporate findings and recommendations from an [IDRL research report](#) in the current draft of the DRM Bill and related instruments.

In March 2016, the ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of **South Sudan** embarked on the development of a National DRM policy. The South Sudan Red Cross and IFRC were invited to contribute to the drafting process. In collaboration with the National Society, the DLP submitted feedback on two phases of the process, once in April and once in December. The drafting process is still ongoing and IFRC and the NS will remain engaged in the drafting process until the policy is adopted in 2017.

Due to a staffing gap in Africa during 2016, disaster law activities were delayed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan.



In **The Gambia**, the National Red Cross Society hosted a launch of a [new report](#) on International Disaster Response Rules and Regulations in The Gambia in February 2016. The event drew approximately 85 [relevant stakeholders who came together to discuss the regulatory environment for international disaster cooperation in The Gambia](#). Discussions were also underway to actively disseminate the findings of the research with Parliamentarians and other key national authorities.

## Americas



*Disaster Law expert group from Central American National Societies, meet in Antigua, Guatemala for a training on Humanitarian Diplomacy and Advocacy techniques. Guatemala.*



*Disaster Law focal point from Costa Rican Red Cross co-facilitates an Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Advocacy workshop for Nicaraguan Red Cross.*

In **Colombia**, the National Society, in collaboration with the national authority responsible for disaster risk management (UNGRD), continued an evaluation of national laws relating to disaster risk reduction and their implementation, using the Checklist for DRR Law as a reference. The report is currently in its final round of assessment and is expected to be completed in 2017. It also conducted a national consultative workshop in the first quarter of the year with key stakeholders to develop recommendations and an action plan for implementation. Colombia Red Cross (CRC) and the IFRC also participated in a simulation exercise together with the UNGRD, OCHA and PAHO which included testing the readiness of the disaster management system for the receipt and facilitation of international disaster assistance. CRC and the UNGRD signed a bilateral agreement that includes action points for future collaboration on disaster law. CRC also participated in a peer to peer exchange with Ecuador on IDRL (March) and on HLP (December).

In **Costa Rica**, the NS has been actively engaged with their national authorities to develop a governmental bilateral agreement that would facilitate Red Cross support in pre-hospital care services at the border with Panama. A bi-national workshop with Costa Rican and Panamanian authorities took place in August to request special legal facilities to enable pre-hospital work of the NSs at the frontier. IFRC helped to facilitate the process between the Costa Rica RC, Panama RC and Panama government.

In addition, the Costa Rica RC, with the support of IFRC, hosted a national workshop on [IDRL](#) for government representatives including members of the Coordination Task Force responsible to prepare protocols and mechanisms for the management of international disaster assistance (CATAI). The National Emergency Commission in Costa Rica adopted the National Policy for Risk Management 2016-2030 which includes “the development of national instruments for disaster risk reduction” as one of the five thematic areas and key principles that must be addressed. Costa Rica RC also participated in a peer to peer exchange in Nicaragua (July) and helped to facilitate a training on the auxiliary role and advocacy.

In **Ecuador**, an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations from the 2013 IDRL report was developed and agreed with the Secretariat for Risk Management. National workshops on IDRL took place in February and April, with representatives from Colombia and Honduras also participated in the [workshop](#) in April. The Secretariat for Risk Management drafted a Ministerial Decree to institutionalize an IDRL Commission and has proposed an inter-ministerial agreement on IDRL, both of which are still pending adoption. Disaster Law was also included in the Ecuador Red Cross proposal to ECHO. Following the Earthquake in April 2016, and as reported above, Ecuador adopted several resolutions implementing the recommendations of the 2013 IDRL report.

A legal expert was hired with the support of the IFRC to support the 2016 earthquake operations, particularly on IDRL and HLP. This expert was assigned as coordinator of the Shelter and Protection Clusters' working group to advise on Housing, Land and Property matters. The HLP working group, headed by Ecuador Red Cross, has been active in the last few months in bringing support to communities and promoting positive changes to public policy and regulations. They have also been advocating for the protection of HLP rights in the response and reconstruction process. As a result, new procedures were effectively put in place by the government in 2016 to include non-formal tenants in assistance provisions, and corresponding regulations were formally adopted in January 2017. Comments were also provided by IFRC and the Ecuador Red Cross to the government of Ecuador in the review of the DRM law.

*Felipe Bazán,  
Deputy Minister of  
the Secretariat for  
Risk Management,  
Ecuador.*

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**"The reactivation of the IDRL commission is positive for the country because it helps to streamline the arrival of humanitarian aid, so that it reaches the people who need it the most".**

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In **Guatemala**, the NS received a request from the national disaster management agency (CONRED) to support the revision of an integrated risk management law in the country. The request was accepted and work commenced during the year. This included undertaking a national review of laws and regulations using the "Checklist on Law and DRR" developed by the IFRC as methodology for the investigation project, and the accompanying Handbook. One regional workshop on the "auxiliary role and advocacy strategies" was held in Guatemala and collaboration continued with the 'Partners for Resilience' initiative.

In **Haiti**, the DLP supported the operation in response to Hurricane Matthew. This included advocating for simplified legal facilities for the Red Cross, the establishment of a [Single Window International Facilitation Team "SWIFT"](#), highlighting the importance of signing the IFRC's legal status agreement, and advocating for the adoption of an IDRL emergency decree for the facilitation and coordination of international disaster assistance. An [information sheet](#) was also published based on the findings and recommendations of the [2011 study](#) on the legal framework for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster response.

In **Honduras**, an advisory group was formed and undertook a review of the legal framework for the entry of international assistance. Three national consultative workshops took place throughout the year and a report with recommendations was drafted. The Honduras Red Cross is part of the National Coordination Centre for International Humanitarian Assistance in Disasters (CCAHI). Its key role in this consultative group is to support the government in the revision of its IDRL laws through this project. A peer exchange was organized with the government of Colombia who participated at one of the workshops to share its experience on IDRL and the creation

of an IDRL Commission. A representative from Honduras also participated in an IDRL peer exchange in Ecuador in April. The NS also participated in the FAHUM simulation exercise in May.

In **Panama**, the government formed an [IDRL taskforce](#) to develop an IDRL law with the technical support of IFRC. The IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act on International Disaster Assistance were used as a reference. Monthly meetings have been taking place and the drafting process is well advanced.

A legal review of the trans-border situation between **Panama and Costa Rica** was completed and recommendations were provided to finally solve the trans-border legal problems that the National Societies face when providing direct support to each other. The dialogue on this issues continued with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Direction of Customs throughout the year. It was agreed that the [Direction of Customs will grant legal facilities](#) to the Red Cross Society of Costa Rica to facilitate trans-border pre-hospital care and emergency work.

The DLP also supported discussions with the Panamanian authorities regarding the creation of a humanitarian hub. A concept note was developed and recommendations proposed based on the IDRL Guidelines, with a view to strengthen cooperation in the region and clarify what legal facilities are needed in Panama to facilitate the transit of international humanitarian assistance through the hub in Panama. The concept note was shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) for discussion and follow-up.

Finally, the DLP provided advice during the migration crisis at the border with Costa Rica. They participated in two workshops organized by Shelter Cluster, and sessions about protection and human rights were included as part of the training. Advocacy in favour of migrants' needs at the border resulted in the MoFA asking for the support of the IFRC in advising about international standards for the protection of migrants.

In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Grenada**, IDRL legislative reviews were underway with the support of the respective National Societies, identifying the key gaps and recommendations to improve their legislation to better facilitate international humanitarian assistance in disasters. One national workshop was organized in each country with the key government stakeholders responsible for the coordination and entry of international disaster assistance. Reports were finalized for publication in early 2017. These workshops were also an opportunity to present Red Cross response mechanisms and how they connect to the national and regional response systems.

In **Paraguay**, a draft IDRL law was reviewed and finalized for presentation at the National Emergency Secretarial (SEN) in February. A lobbyist and formal parliamentarian was hired to advocate for the adoption of the IDRL law at the Congress. Two national workshops about the proposed bill were organized. Participants included the SEN, and more than 50 professionals in the field of law, as well as professors and students from the National University of Asuncion and at the University of Columbia in Paraguay. IDRL was also included as part of the international public law curriculum at each of these universities.



Asia-Pacific

*Consultation on the International Disaster Assistance Directive in Nepal, November 2016*



*High-level IDRL workshop in Myanmar, May 2016*

Currently there are draft laws and policy documents being influenced by the National Societies in **Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu**. Of notable mention is the intense drafting support provided to three countries in 2016 on their national DRM frameworks, including **Vanuatu, Philippines and Nepal**.

**Nepal** is progressing on its International Assistance Directive, which has been heavily influenced and advocated for by the Red Cross. Building on lessons learned from 2015 earthquake response, the Red Cross has encouraged and provided technical support to the Government to develop an international assistance directive. This has involved several consultations with the humanitarian community, as well as an inter-ministerial consultation with 20 line ministries. The Red Cross supported a [consultation](#) on the zero draft of the directive with humanitarian and international partners on 18 November 2016 in Kathmandu and Nepal Red Cross is now continuing to work with the Ministry of Home Affairs Nepal to consolidate feedback on the draft. It is anticipated that the final directive will be submitted to Parliament in 2017.

Work also continues in the **Philippines** on the revision of the DRM law and implementing regulations (the 'Sunset Review' of Republic Act 10121) and the development of the Philippines International Humanitarian Assistance Guideline ('the PIHAC'). Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC are partnering with the Office of the Civil Defence to provide technical drafting support on the revised law and regulations. Philippine Red Cross are also working closely with UN OCHA and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to provide inputs to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the drafting of the new 'PIHAC' operational guideline. These processes have enabled strong Red Cross positioning and influence both with government and other humanitarian actors. The revised DRM law is a cutting-edge piece of legislation and demonstrates the Philippines leadership on DRM throughout the Asia Pacific region.

In **Vanuatu**, the DLP and Vanuatu Red Cross have been working closely with the Government to prepare drafting instructions on the new DRM law. The drafting instructions have now been submitted to the State Law Office from which the DRM Bill will be drafted. It is hoped that Parliament will consider the bill in 2017. The drafting instructions included strong positioning for Vanuatu Red Cross, a strong legal mandate for DRR as well as provisions on international assistance.

Agreements were reached between Government Authorities, the National Society and IFRC to undertake research on disaster law themes in **Bangladesh, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) and China**. The research in China is being undertaken in partnership with Shandong University and looks at both IDRL and DRR

and Law, against the backdrop of the experiences after the Sichuan earthquake. The first draft of the research will be ready in early 2017. The research for DPRK is yet to commence. Over the past year, technical research projects were underway in **Myanmar** (legal preparedness for international disaster assistance, including the adoption of the 'Nay Pyi Taw Outcome Statement' at a national workshop in May 2016), **Indonesia** (DRR and Law, including [a consultation workshop in February 2016](#) and launch of [DRR and Law Checklist Assessment Report](#) in November 2016) and **Cambodia** (on implementing the 2015 Disaster Management Law). It is anticipated that technical research projects in Myanmar and Cambodia will be launched and handed over to Government in early 2017, whereas [the research report in Indonesia](#) was launched at an event in Jakarta in November 2016.

*Dr. Win Myat Aye,  
Minister for Social  
Welfare, Relief and  
Resettlement,  
Myanmar.*

"Disasters have severely affected Myanmar in recent years... we need to **increase collaboration** between the government, civil society and private organizations so that we can **effectively implement our disaster management law and rules**"

### Europe and Central Asia



In **Armenia**, Armenian Red Cross published their report "Law and regulation for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction in Yerevan" and Kyrgyzstan continued the development of a new law on the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, based on the [Commonwealth of Independent States \(CIS\) Model Act on International Disaster Assistance](#). The DLP also worked with IFRC representatives in the Central Asia region to prepare for a high-level disaster law consultation workshop planned for January 2017.

### Middle East and North Africa



*Dr. Ahmad Badawy, earthquake expert,  
speaks at the DRR and Law consultation  
in Cairo, December 2016*



*Drafting the Doha Declaration on  
Disaster Law in Qatar, December  
2016*

**Egypt** Red Crescent and the IFRC have been collaborating on a project aimed at implementing the Arab DRR Strategy and incorporating the recommendations of the Sendai Framework for DRR into the Egyptian DRM related

legislation and institutions. These discussions were instigated at a Disaster Law workshop in 2015 and have been continuing since then. A new [research study on "Egyptian Legislation for Disaster Risk Reduction"](#) was launched in March 2016. A taskforce was formed to support this initiative, consisting of Egypt Red Crescent members and stakeholders from the government, academia and media. This taskforce also seeks to synergize the efforts of the government with civil society, local NGOs and the Egyptian Red Crescent. The taskforce presented an implementation plan for the project at a workshop in Cairo in December 2016.

The IFRC provided technical support to UNDAC in the development of a set of Emergency Protocols to facilitate the response to a potential collapse of the **Mosul Dam in Iraq**, resulting in a document that reflected most recommendations contained in the IDRL Guidelines. The Emergency Protocols were developed in collaboration with the Federal Government of Iraq's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) and the Kurdistan Regional Government's Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC), and is currently awaiting Government approval.

The **Lebanese** Parliament has continued drafting a new Disaster Management Bill which complements the current Civil Protection mechanism. The Bill proposes a new body for Disaster Risk Management that addresses the entire DRM cycle, including disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), IFRC and the High Commission for Relief co-hosted a [one-day Disaster Law workshop](#) attended by 25 government representatives in February 2016. The LRC has engaged in an intensive legislative advocacy process consisting of a lobby in parliament and the preparation of detailed drafting support to the parliamentary commission preparing the Bill.

In **Palestine**, the national authorities and UNDP are in the process of reviewing the national DRM system, and considering changing from a traditional Civil Defence-led agency to a fully-fledged institutional setup that addresses all cycles of DRM. The Palestinian Red Crescent (PRCS) has been part of the working group leading this process, and IFRC and PRCS collaborated in providing technical support to the draft law that is set to underpin the new institutional setup.

*Major General Kheyr  
of the Lebanese  
Supreme Council of  
Defence*

**"We need to improve our laws to improve the lives of our people."**

## Global tools



Initial literature research was undertaken and a Terms of Reference (ToR) were drafted for a new 'Checklist on Law, Disaster Preparedness and Response'. Discussions were underway with Thomas Reuters 'Trust law' organization to provide pro bono support for country level research as part of the development of this new tool.

A new research initiative commenced on 'effective law and policy for addressing gender in disaster risk management and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in disasters'. This initiative will be undertaken by the DLP together with the IFRC Gender and Diversity team. It will include a global mapping as well as some select country case studies. The aim is to inform this new area of work and gather some initial analysis of the key issues

and how the IFRC and National Societies can work to address this. The first case study was undertaken in Zimbabwe, and it is expected to be followed by case studies in Asia Pacific and the Americas.

Advocacy and awareness raising efforts were undertaken at global, regional and national levels to share the new [Handbook and Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The Checklist was used to conduct a broad policy analysis on integrated risk management in West Africa and to inform a proposal and dialogue on resilience between the European Union, ECOWAS and various National Societies in Europe and West Africa.

Other ongoing research initiatives were underway, including for a report on the management of emergency medical teams (expected to be completed in 2017) and plans to disseminate the findings of pro bono research on nuclear preparedness for disasters, undertaken by the UK-based law firm Clifford Chance.

Indicators from 2016 Operational Plan	Target	Actual
<b>Outcome 1: Technical advice from the IFRC and NSs supports the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures</b>		
<i># of countries that have adopted new laws, rules, policies or procedures drawing on RC recommendations</i>	3	4
<i># of countries that have substantially advanced draft laws, rules policies of procedures including recommendations from the RC/RC</i>	12	14
<i># of countries that have improved the implementation of their disaster laws, rules or procedures thanks to support from IFRC/NSs (based on stakeholder survey)</i>	3	N/A
<i># of operations where disaster law advice is taken up</i>	2	2
<b>Output 1.1: Country-level technical assistance projects on disaster law</b>		
<i># of priority countries in which technical assistance activities are undertaken</i>	24	24
<i># of other countries in which technical assistance activities are undertaken</i>	17	10
<b>Output 1.2: Disaster law expert deployments in relief operations</b>		
<i># of disaster law experts deployed</i>	As needed	2

## Outcome 2: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law



*WCO led regional consultation on customs in Ebola Crisis, Sierra Leone, November 2016*



*Disaster law peer-to-peer exchange between Nepal and the Philippines, in collaboration with the National Societies, governments, IFRC and key partner UN OCHA*

### Africa

In October 2016, the DLP provided technical assistance and capacity building during an event to support customs authorities in the **West Africa Region** affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), including for **Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Senegal and Nigeria**, organised by the World Customs Organization and the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in Sierra Leone. Recommendations included that countries should strengthen coordinated border management and establish cross-sectorial 'One Stop Shops' in emergencies. The report from the event is [available online](#).

### Americas

Over the reporting period, eight national workshops on disaster law took place with government authorities and humanitarian partners, including in **Colombia** on DRR Law, in **Costa Rica** on DRR law and IDRL, and in **Ecuador** (two workshops on IDRL and two on Housing, Land and Property - one of which was provided to 250 justice operators in Manabi, an area affected by the earthquake). Workshops also took place in **Panama** on migration and protection, and in **Nicaragua** on the auxiliary role and humanitarian diplomacy.

In addition, a **regional** training workshop for **Central American** National Societies on legislative advocacy, the auxiliary role and humanitarian diplomacy was held in September 2016. A session on disaster law, the Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Advocacy was also integrated into the curriculum of the Americas' regional leadership training in **Panama**, and in a session on advocacy for the presidents and general directors of National Societies of the region at the regional Migration Summit in **Mexico**. One of the outcomes of this summit was the identification of a plan of action on migration advocacy strategy and an agreement by NS leadership to create a multi-disciplinary task force within their National Societies to support advocacy efforts.

Finally, the DLP facilitated a full module on disaster law at the [master degree on integrated risk management](#) at the Military Institute in **Chile** and included disaster law in International Law courses at the University San Francisco of **Quito** in Ecuador. Presentations were also provided at the Catholic University of Santa Maria in **Panama** and at the University La Paz in **Costa Rica**.



## Asia Pacific

Over the reporting period there have been six national peer-to-peer training and awareness raising events held in **DPRK, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Vanuatu and Vietnam**. All these events included participation from the respective governments, national and international humanitarian community, academia and of course National Society representatives, including volunteers and staff. These events have not only raised awareness and strengthened understanding about the importance of disaster law issues, but also provided an excellent platform to profile the Red Cross and Red Crescent with their authorities and key partners. All these events have resulted in a commitment to strengthen domestic frameworks and for the involvement of Red Cross and Red Crescent in the processes. There was also National Society training and awareness raising on disaster law issues held in **Philippines and Australia** over this reporting period.

South East Asian countries, including **Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam** have initiated and been engaged in discussions with their national authorities about working together to develop disaster law training and dissemination packages at the community level. These will also include a component on the auxiliary role of Red Cross in disaster preparedness and response. These community level dissemination packages will be rolled out in 2017.

Asia Pacific hosted the first **Regulatory Barriers to Shelter Training** in September 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This training was a collaboration between the shelter and disaster law teams and brought together multi-disciplinary stakeholders from across the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies. The regional training resulted in an action plan, including roll out of national level training (Philippines conducted a national level dialogue in November 2016), commitment to strengthen research (Australia Red Cross is taking the lead on this) as well as other key advocacy and awareness raising initiatives.

## Europe

In June 2016, the Red Cross EU Office (RC EU) and the IFRC organized an IDRL training workshop in Brussels, bringing together numerous EU Institutions and DG ECHO, NATO, the WHO, European National Societies and academia. The workshop resulted in recommendations on how to strengthen IDRL progress in Europe through the EU mechanisms (such as the Host Nation Support Guidelines, which were largely influenced by the IDRL Guidelines) and the work of National Societies.

The DLP co-facilitated the annual disaster law training course organized by the Italian 'Disaster Law Project', which is a group of Italian universities working to promote and research disaster law issues. The training was held in June 2016 at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy. A session on disaster law was also held for National Society legal advisers at the Annual Legal Advisers meeting held in Geneva in September.

The DLP also delivered a lecture on IDRL at the University of Roma Tre, as part of an event on 'the role of international law in managing and responding to disasters', organized by the university together with the Italian Red Cross in December 2016.

## Middle East and North Africa

In March, the **Iranian** Red Crescent and the IFRC co-hosted a 2-day training in Disaster Law for the benefit of approximately 30 participants representing the Iranian Red Crescent Society staff and Iranian government authorities. The participants were welcomed by the Director of the International Department of Iranian Red Crescent, Mr Mohammadi Araghi, Dr. Garry Cornil, USG of the IFRC and the ICRC Head of Mission in Iran. The training consisted of expert panels and table top exercises. Amongst other recommendation, it was determined that the government should strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Movement and other relevant bodies and develop a procedure for the facilitation and regulation of international humanitarian assistance.

Indicators from 2016 Operational Plan	Target	Actual
<b>Outcome 2: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law</b>		
# of NS that have participated in advocacy concerning disaster law	21	27
# of NS that have provided education or training on disaster law	7	10
# of NS that have strengthened their integration of protection in disaster risk management	8	4
<b>Output 2.1: Training at global, regional and country levels</b>		
# of DL-specific training workshops	23	29
# of segments/presentations at other training workshops	17	17
# of persons taking part in training workshops	405	685
# of NS staff/volunteers taking part in training workshops	194	233
# of NS represented at trainings	52	37
# of governments represented at trainings	52	35
# of partner organizations represented in trainings	34	54
# of online modules developed	2	0
# of persons taking the online modules	200	3864
<b>Output 2.2: Disaster law focal points and peer groups supported</b>		
# of NSs with a focal point with substantial expertise in disaster law	19	28
# of persons active in NS disaster law peer groups	25	29
# of persons "deployed" as part of speakers list/peer support	10	11
<b>Output 2.3: Internal assessment methodologies on law and disaster</b>		
Methodology for political mapping updated annually	1	0
Methodology for IDRL updated annually	1	0
Methodology for DRR updated annually	1	0
Methodology for domestic preparedness updated annually	1	0
Methodology for recovery updated annually	1	0
<b>Output 2.4: Checklists for lawmakers on international response, domestic response and recovery</b>		
# of consultations held	1	0
Checklist on domestic preparedness and response completed	1	0
Checklist on recovery completed	1	0

### Outcome 3: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences inter-governmental processes at the regional and global levels



The Red Cross delegation influenced the outcomes of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Gender and DRR



Multi-stakeholder Disaster Law workshop in Tehran, Iran, in March 2016.

#### Intergovernmental advocacy

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – are continuing to gain attention in intergovernmental, humanitarian and academic fora. IDRL was featured as a key advocacy message and commitment of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement’s positioning for the World Humanitarian Summit, as set out in the publication ‘[Istanbul and beyond](#)’. The IFRC also provided several presentations on the topic of disaster law at inter-governmental events across the regions, including as follows:

#### Africa

Regarding the **East African Community (EAC)**, the DLP provided technical drafting support to the regional EAC DRR and Management Act, which was adopted by the East African Legislative Assembly in March 2016. The Act is awaiting assent by the EAC Head of States Summit in the first quarter of 2017, after which implementation at the country level will follow.

#### Americas

The DLP and National Societies from the Caribbean held a [Consultative Meeting](#) on Options to Accelerate Progress in Resolving Regulatory Problems in International Disaster Response Operations’ during the **CDEMA** Technical Advisory Committee meeting in April. A [background paper](#) “Legal frameworks for international relief assistance in America” was finalized for this meeting.

The DLP, along with the six National Societies from Central America participated in two consultation workshops and assisted **CEPRENAC** in revising the Regional Mechanism for Mutual Assistance in Disasters (MecReg) and the Customs Procedures for Relief Goods, which will be adopted in the first quarter of 2017. These two regional instruments will include recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines and Checklist on Law and DRR respectively. Among others, the MecReg recommends that National Societies be a permanent member of the Coordination Task Force responsible to prepare protocols and mechanisms for the management of international disaster assistance. Also, IFRC provided technical advice to develop the new Special Customs Procedures for Relief Goods. Finally, IFRC participated at a regional simulation exercise to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms in Central America, and IDRL injects were tested at the event.

Support was provided to **UNASUR** at two events in July, and the DLP also participated at the **OAS** consultative meeting on "Mechanisms for Disaster Relief, Response and Management" in May. At the **Habitat 3** Conference in Quito, the DLP facilitated a side-event on Housing, Land and Property issues in October.

### **Asia Pacific**

The DLP in Asia Pacific promoted disaster law messages in several regional inter-governmental forums, influencing the discussions and the outcome documents in the process. [These included the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction](#), held in Hanoi, Vietnam and the **Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)** held in New Delhi, India. The IFRC Action Statement tabled at the AMCDRR articulates a clear road map and commitments undertaken by National Societies in the region to work alongside their authorities to strengthen more inclusive and effective disaster risk management frameworks, with attention to ensure that these frameworks are more gender responsive. Similarly, there were disaster law contributions made to positioning and advocacy messages for various ASEAN and PIF forums.

### **Middle East and North Africa**

The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** and the Qatar Red Crescent launched the GCC IDRL Manual at a Disaster Law Expert Meeting held in Doha in December 2016. This IDRL Manual, which has been in the making for several years, provides guidance on the facilitation and regulation of international humanitarian assistance to the member states of the GCC.

### **Media coverage and Publications**

New publications and web-stories were regularly uploaded to the DLP website ([www.ifrc.org/dl](http://www.ifrc.org/dl)), and can also be found on the jointly-branded IFRC-UNDP site on risk reduction and legislation ([www.drr-law.org](http://www.drr-law.org)). The programme's newsletter was published and reached a wide audience. In addition, the DLP's dedicated Facebook group continues to be active, with approximately 465 members at present. Disaster Law 'snapshots' were also developed for [Southeast Asia](#) and [Asia Pacific](#) and disseminated widely.

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

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

In Asia-Pacific, a number of radio interviews and editorials were conducted by the disaster law team throughout the year, including three radio stories on [New Zealand](#) and [Australian](#) national radio, as well as an [op-ed published for the one-year anniversary for Nepal](#), and an op-ed in the [Hindustan Times](#) on the Red Cross' disaster law work

in the lead up to the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR).<sup>2</sup> The first [regional newsletter](#) for Asia Pacific was also circulated, with distribution to 540 subscribers.

In the Middle East, several of the events described above received coverage in the Lebanese, Egyptian and Qatari press, as well as in respective NS media outlets.<sup>3</sup>

Indicators from 2016 Operational Plan	Target	Actual
<b>Outcome 3: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences inter-governmental processes at the regional and global levels</b>		
# of new/amended instruments (resolutions, guidelines, protocols, outcomes, etc.) that include IFRC or NS recommendations	8	6
# of IGOs engaged with DL issues	10	21
<b>Output 3.1: DLP supports successful consultations on acceleration of progress in IDRL</b>		
# consultation meetings	6	2
<b>Output 3.2: DL presentations, events and other support provided for inter-governmental fora</b>		
# of presentations provided	20	11
# of DL events organized	7	3
<b>Output 3.3: DL messages proposed for key global and regional resolutions, agreements and outcomes</b>		
# of resolutions/instruments/outcomes for which suggestions are provided	11	11

**Outcome 4: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora, and partnerships are built**



Disaster law workshop and peer exchange between Vietnam and DPRK, in Pyongyang, April 2016



The IFRC Secretary General took part in discussions at the MENA regional consultation, which established the regional disaster law advisory group

**Legal advocacy with humanitarian partners**

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

<sup>2</sup> For example: DLP Coordinator for the Asia Pacific Gabrielle Emery talks to [Radio New Zealand about disaster law](#). For links to other articles, kindly contact the DLP Asia Pacific team at [Padmini.nayagam@ifrc.org](mailto:Padmini.nayagam@ifrc.org)

<sup>3</sup> For example: <http://www.egyptianrc.org/Media-Center/News/NewsDetails/19341>, <https://www.facebook.com/QatarRedCrescent/posts/1079656378813501?pnref=story>.



### Americas

- Presentation at the regional workshop for the Partners for Resilience (PfR) initiative, in Panama in January.
- Presentation at the inception workshop of the Partners for Resilience (PfR), in Guatemala in February.
- Participation at a regional dialogue in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), in Panama in March.
- Presentation at a session organized by the Canadian Red Cross for students from Canada visiting Panama in March.
- Presentation at the Early Warning System Workshop, in Barbados in April.
- Presentation at a CARE regional workshop, in Panama in June.
- Two presentations at CEPREDENAC sub-regional workshops to update the Regional Mechanism for Mutual Cooperation in Disasters in April and September.
- Participation in the Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) in Colombia in September. Presentations were provided on IDRL and using USAR and EMTs in international operations.
- Presentation on auxiliary role and advocacy at the First Aid Regional Red Cross Workshop, in Panama in October.
- Presentation on auxiliary role and advocacy at the Health Continental meeting, in Panama in October.
- Facilitated a session on auxiliary role and advocacy at the Red Cross Migration Conference, in November in Mexico.
- Presentation on the regional response mechanisms at the CDEMA Regional Meeting in Barbados in November.

### Asia Pacific

- Presentation to Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Humanitarian Reference Group, in February.
- Presentation to students of Masters Course at the Institute for Crisis Management, in Nepal in February.
- Facilitation of climate induced displacement discussion at the Asia Pacific Migration Conference, in March 2016.
- Disaster Law session at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 'ACE' Training Programme, in Indonesia in May.
- Presentation on law and risk governance at the Regional Asia Pacific Gender and DRR Conference, in Vietnam in May.
- Key note presentation at "*Diasporas in Action: Working together for peace, development and humanitarian response*", in Australia in September.
- Presentation on disaster law and regional mechanisms presented to Pacific Leaders as part of the Pacific Island Forum, September 2016.
- Disaster Law module as part of the Nottingham University (Malaysia Campus) Masters Course, in Malaysia in October.
- Disaster law presentations at civil military simulation exercises in Australia, Nepal and Timor Leste.

### Europe

- On Law and Disaster Risk Reduction at the International Development Law Organization's (IDLO) event on "Connecting the Dots Across the SDGs: Environment, Justice and People", in the Netherlands in May.
- On the IFRC's work on IDRL at The International Law Commission's 52nd International Law Seminar, in Geneva in July.

- On IDRL at the University of Rome's event on 'The role of international law in managing and responding to disasters', in Rome in December.

## Building peer networks in Disaster Law

### Americas

The DLP facilitated several **peer exchanges** among National Societies during the reporting period. The National Societies of Colombia and Honduras participated at a peer exchange in Ecuador; Costa Rica Red Cross supported the Humanitarian Diplomacy and Auxiliary Role training in Nicaragua; Costa Rica Red Cross, Paraguay Red Cross, and Colombian Red Cross shared experience on IDRL and legal advocacy with Mexican Red Cross; National Societies of Peru and Colombia participated at the HLP training in Ecuador; and Ecuador Red Cross participated at a session of the IDRL Commission in Colombia. In addition, a peer exchange took place between Vanuatu Red Cross, national authorities and the National Societies of the Caribbean, and is explained further in the paragraphs below.

A peer to peer **network** was created including the National Societies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay and Ecuador. A DESAPRENDER Platform was also created to promote the exchange of experience and information on disaster law themes.

### Asia Pacific

The disaster law programme in Asia Pacific has also been strongly investing in and identifying opportunities to facilitate more peer to peer learning on disaster law issues. This has included **Vietnam Red Cross** and their involvement in the disaster law event in DPRK to [share experiences with DPRK on Vietnam's disaster law journey](#). There was also a **Caribbean / Pacific disaster law** exchange held over the reporting period between the government and Red Cross Society of Barbados with the Government and Red Cross Society of Vanuatu, to share experiences and lessons learned between small island states on development of regional and national mechanisms to guide effective disaster risk management, including management and coordination of international disaster assistance. A peer to peer exchange on disaster law between Government and National Societies of the Philippines and Nepal was held in Manila in August 2016, to share experiences and lessons learned on the coordination and facilitation of large scale disaster response operations, including how to strengthen legal preparedness.

### Middle East and North Africa

The IFRC and **Qatar** Red Crescent co-hosted a Regional Disaster Law Expert meeting in December 2016. The meeting was opened by a high-level panel consisting of Elhadj As Sy, SG of the IFRC, and well as the President of QRCS, the SG of ARCO and senior level representation from the ICRC and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The meeting resulted in the activation of a regional MENA Disaster Law Reference Group to ensure intra-regional support that is both sustainable and linguistically, culturally and strategically streamlined for a Movement approach in the MENA region. The National Societies also committed to foster a peer-to-peer disaster law reference group in the region, all of which was enshrined in the concluding ['Doha Declaration on Disaster Law'](#).

Indicators from 2016 Operational Plan	Target	Actual
<b>Outcome 4: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora, and partnerships are built</b>		
<i># of humanitarian/academic meetings (including RC/RC, NGO, UN, academic seminars) addressing disaster law issues</i>	14	25

# of new courses including regular modules on IDRL and other key DL issues	6	1
<b>Output 4.1: Partnerships built with humanitarian, academic and other institutions</b>		
# of active partnerships on disaster law	12	10
<b>Output 4.2: DL presentations and events organized for relevant fora</b>		
# of presentations	12	25
# of DL-specific events organized	9	11
<b>Output 4.3: Textbooks for teachers</b>		
Textbook for law schools completed	1	0
<b>Output 4.4: DL essay contest</b>		
# of students participating in the contest (by region)	22	0
<b>Output 4.5: DL messages reflected in external media</b>		
# of external media articles/broadcasts per year that have featured IFRC or NS disaster law work	11	16
<b>Output 4.6: DLP websites, newsletter and news service are widely used</b>		
# of visitors to DLP websites	105	TBC
# new DL newsletter list subscribers	0	N/A
# of new DL news service subscribers	50	N/A
# of weekly news service reports	40	0
# of newsletters published	4	1
<b>Output 4.7: Videos and animations on DL</b>		
# videos/animations developed	2	0
<b>Output 4.8: DLP informational material</b>		
Brochure updated annually	1	0

## Outcome 5: New research on disaster law and information tools broaden the general knowledge-base and facilitate change

During 2016, work was ongoing on several research projects, some of which have been mentioned above including:

- The management of emergency medical teams in disaster response
- Effective law and policy for gender in disaster risk management and SGBV in disasters
- Nuclear preparedness for disasters and the role of National Societies
- The development of an online training module on law and disaster risk reduction

Indicators from 2016 Operational Plan	Target	Actual
<b>Outcome 5: New research on disaster law and information tools broaden the general knowledge-base and facilitate change</b>		
<b>Output 5.1: Partnerships built with humanitarian, academic and other institutions</b>		
Classification of global national DM acts developed	1	0
<b>Output 5.2: Research on law and disaster preparedness/ response and recovery</b>		
Literature review and methodology developed	1	1
5 country case studies completed	5	0
<b>Output 5.3: Climate change adaptation law research</b>		
Literature review and methodology developed	1	0
5 country case studies completed (2017)	5	-
<b>Output 5.4: Disaster law database</b>		
# of records supplied for the database	170	0

## Stakeholder participation and feedback

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

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
Political factors extraneous to the content of new disaster legislation and rules often blocks or slows acceptance	High	Continue to follow a multi-stakeholder approach
Investments in capacity building and training often do not produce direct results for a long period of time	High	Continue to take a long-term view of the development disaster law
National Societies sometimes feel discomfort taking on technical "legal" issues	High	Build local capacity where it is desired, let the National Society 'take the lead' and provide backup technical support

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

Overall, 2016 has been another successful year for the disaster law programme globally. As shown in the tables attached below, the disaster law programme has met most of its results indicators for 2016.

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

In 2016, the disaster law team started to support National Societies in developing their advocacy skills more intensively. The programme has used and adapted existing methodologies developed among the IFRC including methodology used by the Road Safety Program. National Societies have been trained on this methodology and have started implementing advocacy strategies with the support of the disaster law programme in 2016. This approach will be built upon and will continue to be further strengthened in 2017.

The disaster law team has also received increasing demands to support National Societies in understanding and promoting their auxiliary role to public authorities. Sessions regarding the auxiliary role of National Societies were already included in various training sessions in 2016, including in Asia Pacific and the Americas.

The re-structuring process at the IFRC Secretariat in 2015/2016 posed some challenges for the team globally in terms of consistent staffing and technical support within the team. This included a reduction in the number of staff in Geneva and some gaps in the hiring process of new human resources in Africa and at the global level. As a consequence of this, some targets were not met. As examples, research projects were delayed, such as the research on law and disaster preparedness and response, and the research on law and climate change and adaptation. In addition, the disaster law newsletter was not published as often as in previous years, and no work was undertaken to develop internal assessment methodologies on law and disaster. However, by the end of 2016 / early 2017, all disaster law positions were filled and work resumed normally.

Because of the restructure process and the new “strategies for implementation” set out in the IFRC Plan and Budget, the disaster law team in the regions have been asked to support the “areas of focus” in advocacy and policy making. This collaboration is viewed as extremely positive by the disaster law team, although it has generated an increased workload for the team, which was challenged in terms of size and dynamics throughout 2016.



## How we work

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

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



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

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

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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