


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster Law Programme Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**G00253, P50033, P60001,
P423036**

31/8/2012

**This report covers the
period 01/01/2012 to
30/06/2012.**

*Kenya Red Cross Secretary-General
Abbas Gullet addressed a regional IDRL
workshop for the Horn of Africa convened
by the IFRC and OCHA in April.
David Fisher/IFRC*



Overview

In the first half of 2012, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Law Programme (DLP) continued its work promoting legal preparedness for disasters, focused on the following main goals:

- (1) Improve legislation and normative instruments on disaster management
- (2) Establish expanded and permanent capacity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster law
- (3) Grow the international knowledge base on key disaster law issues
- (4) Achieve appropriate visibility for disaster law issues.

Top achievements of the DLP during the reporting period include:

- (1) Offering technical assistance projects and/or comments on draft laws in 25 countries.
- (2) Organising four major training workshops at the country level and two at the regional level.
- (3) Providing input into 10 major international resolutions, guidance notes and outcomes at the global and regional level.
- (4) Advancing with the piloting and further consultations on the Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Assistance" (Model Act) and beginning research for the development of a "model decree".
- (5) Commencing a major research project on law and disaster risk reduction, together with the IFRC's Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction (CPRR) Department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- (6) Advancing research on regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter together with the IFRC's Shelter Department.

Working in partnership

In each of the countries where the DLP engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked through or closely with the National Society concerned as well as the relevant authorities. The DLP also cooperated with several other departments of the IFRC in research and advocacy projects, including the IFRC's CPRR and Shelter Departments and its Humanitarian Diplomacy Division.

Externally, the DLP continued to cooperate closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and developed stronger links with UNDP, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Brookings Institution, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR). It also solidified working relationships with a large range of regional organizations, including the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CAPRADE), the African Union (AU), and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others.

Progress towards outcomes

The IFRC's DLP contributes to Business Lines 1, 3 and 4 of the Secretariat (raise humanitarian standards; strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development; heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work). To do this, it is pursuing four main goals for the period of 2012-13:

- Goal 1: Improve legislation and normative instruments on disaster management
- Goal 2: Establish expanded and permanent capacity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster law
- Goal 3: Grow the international knowledge base on key disaster law issues
- Goal 4: Achieve appropriate visibility for disaster law issues

The following chart sets out specific objectives related to the overall goals and quantitative targets, as appropriate. Note that the targets are expressed for the entire two-year period of 2012-13.

Measurement			
Objectives	Indicators	Target for 2012-13	YTD Actual
Outcome 1: Disaster law support by the IFRC and NSs results in new domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures	<i># of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines)</i>	10	1
	<i># of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures including disaster law suggestions from IFRC/NSs (in addition to IDRL)</i>	7	1

Output 1.1: Country-level technical assistance projects	<i># of projects completed (at least through the production of a substantial report and recommendations)</i>	12	4
Output 1.2: Country-level workshops	<i># of workshops undertaken at the country level (outside the scope of the above projects)</i>	15	4
Output 1.3: Ad hoc advice provided on draft legislation	<i># of laws commented on (beyond the scope of the technical assistance projects)</i>	11	13
Output 1.4: Model IDRL act, decree and regulations	<i>Final model act, decree and regulations prepared and disseminated</i>	See below	See below
Output 1.5: Checklist for legislators on DRR	<i>Checklist developed</i>	See below	See below
Output 1.6: Global tools for short term property rights	<i>Global tools developed</i>	See below	See below
Output 1.7: DLP participates in appropriate UN Missions	<i># of UNDAC preparedness missions</i>	See below	0
Outcome 2: Disaster law promotion by the IFRC and NSs positively influences relevant international/regional instruments and organizations	<i># of any new/amended regional disaster instruments (treaties, guidelines, etc) that address IDRL issues</i>	3	2
	<i># of any new/amended global/regional instruments taking into account DL suggestions by IFRC/NSs (other than IDRL)</i>	3	0
	<i># of global IGOs engaged with DL issues</i>	4	2
	<i># of regional organizations engaged with DL issues</i>	7	7
Output 2.1: DL presentations to international and regional organizations	<i># of presentations provided</i>	28	6
Output 2.2: Dedicated DLP workshops/seminars organized for the members of int'l and regional orgs	<i># of workshops seminars organized (may overlap with the workshops described in Output 3.2)</i>	12	1
Output 2.3: DL messages proposed for resolutions, agreements and other instruments	<i># of resolutions/instruments for which suggestions are provided</i>	10	10
Outcome 3: National Societies and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law	<i># of NS whose staff/volunteers have increased their skills in legislative advocacy</i>	35	33
	<i># of NS that have participated in legislative advocacy in disaster law</i>	13	14
	<i># of partner organizations taking part in trainings</i>	20	12
	<i># of persons fully completing disaster law e-learning modules</i>	2000	861 (271 in this semester)
Output 3.1: Guidance Note finalized and rolled out	<i>Guidance note published</i>	See below	
	<i># of country/regional workshops or meetings where Guidance Note is discussed</i>	10	-

Output 3.2: Dedicated regional and country training workshops	<i># of regional training workshops (may overlap with the workshops described in Output 2.2)</i>	9	2
	<i># of country-level training workshops (may overlap with the workshops described in Output 1.2)</i>	11	2
Output 3.3 : Additional training and dissemination materials developed	<i>Enhanced dissemination kit developed on DLP issues</i>	See below	See below
Output 3.4: Sample TORs and guidance for IDRL projects	<i>Kit for NSs interested in running their own technical assistance projects developed</i>	See below	See below
Output 3.5: Disaster law short course	<i>Short course held annually</i>	See below	See below
Output 3.6: Disaster law material integrated into other IFRC and partner trainings	<i>DL module created and managed for Tata DM course</i>	See below	See below
	<i>DL material contributed to humanitarian diplomacy course DL modules updated for FACT, ERU, IMPACT, RDRT trainings</i>	See below	See below
Output 3.7: Disaster law focal points/advisors appointed in NSs	<i>Designation of at least one person with significant understanding of DL as focal point</i>	8	9
Output 3.8: NS peer groups created around DL	<i>Regional peer groups created and interacting regularly</i>	3	1
Outcome 4: The role and capacity of the IFRC in the area of disaster law is strengthened	<i>The advice of the IFRC and of interested National Societies is increasingly sought out in relevant policy discussions concerning disaster law</i>	See below	See below
	<i>The DLP has increased its integration and cooperation with other relevant departments at Geneva and Zone levels.</i>	See below	See below
	<i>The IFRC has strengthened its relationships with key partners</i>	See below	See below
Output 4.1: DLP delegates provided targeted training on new areas of disaster law	<i>Training session provided at annual delegates meeting</i>	See below	See below
	<i># of relevant training opportunities undertaken individually by delegates</i>	See below	See below
Output 4.2 IFRC country and DM delegates provided basic information on disaster law	<i># of IFRC staff completing online DL trainings</i>	50	10
	<i># of DLP briefings for IFRC staff</i>	10	6
Outcome 5: New research on disaster law broaden the general knowledge-base and facilitate change	<i>See outputs below</i>		
Output 5.1: Country case study research on DRR legislation	<i># of national desk law surveys completed</i>	30	0
	<i># of in-depth country case studies completed</i>	5	0

Output 5.2: Synthesis study on DRR legislation	<i>Study completed</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 5.3: Country case study research on regulatory barriers to shelter	<i># of regional desk studies of country laws completed</i>	2	<i>See below</i>
	<i># of in-depth case studies completed</i>	4	
Output 5.4: Synthesis study on regulatory barriers	<i>Study completed</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 5.5: Additional legal research and advice to other IFRC departments and programmes	<i># of research projects for other departments</i>	1	<i>See below</i>
Output 5.6: Comprehensive and well used disaster law database	<i>Database format updated</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
	<i># of records in the database</i>	2000	900
	<i># of users of the database</i>	500	n/a
Outcome 6: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, including in humanitarian and academic fora	<i># of RC/RC & NGO meetings addressing disaster law issues</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
	<i># of masters/diploma courses include regular modules on IDRL and other key DL issues</i>	10	1
	<i>Disaster law is addressed in relevant IFRC courses and trainings</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 6.1: Key RC/RC and other humanitarian partner meetings address disaster law issues	<i># of global and regional RC conferences and meetings addressing disaster law</i>	2	7
	<i># of humanitarian partner meetings where disaster law is discussed</i>	4	5
Output 6.2: Effective DLP websites and mailing lists	<i>DLP websites in all languages are effective and up-to-date</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
	<i># DL newsletter list subscribers</i>	3,500	4'100
	<i># of DL news service subscribers</i>	500	370
Output 6.3: Bi-monthly newsletter published electronically in English and Spanish	<i>Newsletters published and circulated within bi-monthly deadline</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>Published in 02, 04, 06.</i>
Output 6.4: Sample syllabus, modules and materials for disaster law courses	<i>Sample syllabus and materials prepared</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 6.5: Academic workshops on disaster law	<i>At least 1 academic conference per year is organized in conjunction with a university on disaster law issues</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 6.6: Student disaster law competition	<i>National competitions held by interested NSs</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
	<i>Global competition held in Geneva</i>	<i>See below</i>	<i>See below</i>
Output 6.7: Disaster Law Working Paper series	<i># of working papers published</i>	6	1
Output 6.8: Articles published in external journals	<i># of articles published</i>	4	0
Output 6.9: Articles placed in external media	<i># of external media articles/broadcasts per year have featured IFRC or NS disaster law work</i>	10	3

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1: Disaster law support by the IFRC and National Societies results in new domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures

Outputs:

- 1.1. A major area of activity of the DLP is supporting National Societies to carry out technical assistance projects for their governments with regard legal preparedness for international disaster relief and the Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (also known as the [IDRL Guidelines](#)). During the reporting period, two such projects were completed in the Americas ([Haiti](#) and [Colombia](#)), one in Africa ([Mozambique](#)) and one in Asia-Pacific ([Nepal](#)). This represents one-third of our total target for completed projects by 2013. A number of other similar projects were still underway (or finalizing reports from otherwise completed activities) including in Argentina, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, [Namibia](#), [Peru](#) and Tajikistan. In addition, discussions began in Indonesia on a study on impact of previously adopted regulations and consultations for a follow-up project began in Haiti. Agreements were reached for the launch of new projects in Jamaica, Afghanistan and the Philippines.
- 1.2. In addition to the projects noted above, four country-level disaster law workshops were organized in [Botswana](#), [Indonesia](#), the Philippines, and [Tajikistan](#), representing approximately a quarter of the total target for 2012-13.
- 1.3. In conjunction with the relevant National Societies, the DLP offered ad hoc advice on legal preparedness for international disaster assistance to 13 draft disaster bills, including 5 in Africa (Seychelles, Rwanda, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa), 2 in the Americas (Chile and Mexico), 5 in Asia Pacific (Bangladesh, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Vietnam), and 1 in Europe (Kyrgyzstan). The DLP was surprised and pleased to have been sought out for advice on many more bills than expected – it has now already exceeded its target in this category for the entire 2012-13 period. This is an extremely positive sign that these issues are being accorded greater attention by law-makers in many countries.
- 1.4. Last year, the IFRC together with UN OCHA and the IPU released a pilot version of a “[Model Act on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#),” designed to assist lawmakers interested in implementing the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines into their national law. During the reporting period, the pilot version was further proofed and edited, and was actively employed as a tool in the technical assistance projects and the ad-hoc advice mentioned above. Additional stakeholder consultations have also been organized, including a regional workshop for the Americas co-convened by the IFRC with UN OCHA and the Government of Mexico in Panama City on 26 June. More workshops are planned later in 2012. A final version of the model act is foreseen by the end of 2012. Based on ideas arising from past consultations on the model act, the IFRC is also planning to develop a model emergency decree related to the recommendations in the IDRL Guidelines. Background research commenced during the reporting period to gather decrees of this nature issued in a range of countries.
- 1.5. Following on the recommendations of the 31st International Conference, the IFRC is reaching out to partners to work on a “Disaster Risk Reduction Checklist for lawmakers.” During the reporting period, a project plan was developed and negotiations were held with UNDP and UNISDR concerning their participation in the project. An inception workshop of experts to help guide the project will be held later in 2012.
- 1.6. During the reporting period, the IFRC Shelter Department informally gathered information from partner agencies concerning their approaches to regulatory barriers issues.
- 1.7. Pursuant to its 2011 [MOU with UN OCHA](#), the IFRC has made clear that it is ready to continue

providing legal expertise to [UNDAC](#) preparedness missions. However, no such missions were organized during the reporting period.

Impact:

- In several countries (Kazakhstan, Peru, the Philippines, and -- this year -- [Colombia](#)), new disaster management legislation has already been adopted taking into account, to some extent, recommendations from the various projects mentioned above. In each case, however, details have been left to subsequent regulations and the respective National Societies are following-up with authorities. In Indonesia, such detailed regulations have been passed and the National Society is now setting out to measure their impact. Many other new bills are still pending.

Outcome 2: Disaster law promotion by the IFRC and National Societies positively influences relevant international/regional instruments and organizations

Outputs:

- 2.1 The DLP provided 6 formal presentations to inter-governmental fora at the regional and international levels during the reporting period, including 2 in Africa (AU Disaster Management Policy meeting in Yaoundé in February, a [side event on disaster risk reduction at the IPU](#) in Kampala in March), 2 in Asia Pacific (ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management in March, ASEAN Regional Forum in April), and 1 in the Middle-East and Northern Africa (MENA) region ([AU workshop for Northern Africa on the Kampala Convention](#) in Tunis in April),
- 2.2 One dedicated seminar was organised by the DLP for the members of international and regional organisations during the reporting period. An [Asia Pacific regional seminar on the role of customs in natural disaster relief](#) was convened jointly by the IFRC, WCO and UN OCHA in May 2012. The seminar gathered 90 participants from customs authorities, disaster management agencies, 23 National Societies and other humanitarian partners in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2.3 Disaster law related points were proposed (and generally accepted) in several resolutions and other international documents, including:
 - [ECOSOC Resolution E/2012/L.11](#) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (Global)
 - [IFRC-Inter-Governmental Authority on Development \(IGAD\) MOU](#) (Africa)
 - Draft AU Humanitarian Policy Framework and Disaster Management Policy (Africa)
 - [Organisation of American States Resolution AG/RES.2750\(XLII-O/12\)](#) which endorses the “Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance”. The plan calls on states to work for “the promotion of the DLP of the IFRC” and also emphasizes some of the IDRL Guidelines (Americas)
 - Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross Declaration and Framework for Action (Americas)
 - Plan of Action of the [5th Regional Seminar on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships](#) (Americas)
 - Draft UN OCHA Guides for Governments on Disaster Management (Americas and Asia Pacific)
 - Draft revisions to the CAPRADE Regional Manual on Foreign Ministry Procedures in Disasters (Americas)
 - Draft revisions to CDEMA’s model disaster management law (Americas)
 - Outcomes of the Pacific Islands Forum Security Council (Asia Pacific)

Impact:

- The interest of global and regional inter-governmental organizations in IDRL continues to grow. As discussed above, two new resolutions (at ECOSOC and the OAS) were adopted with references to the IDRL Guidelines. Two global IGOs (ECOSOC and WCO) and seven regional organizations (ASEAN, AU, OAS, CAPRADE, CDEMA, and PIF) were actively engaged on IDRL issues. Among these, several have moved beyond the initial phase of political dialogue to technical training (e.g. WCO) and development of tools (e.g. ASEAN, CAPRADE and CDEMA).

Outcome 3: National Societies and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law

Outputs:

- 3.1 Work on revisions to the “Humanitarian Diplomacy Guidance Note on Legislative issues in Disaster Management and Epidemic Response” was undertaken to be completed later in the year.
- 3.2 During this reporting period, each of the four country workshops reported above in output 1.2 and the customs workshop reported in output 2.2 (which included 20 National Societies) also included a training component. In addition, the IFRC collaborated with UN OCHA to convene a [regional training workshop](#) on IDRL for governments and 9 National Societies from the Horn of Africa in Mombasa in April. In all, 36 National Societies’ representatives received training at one of these events.
- 3.3 A dissemination kit on the outcomes of the International Conference was available to National Societies on Fednet. Initial discussions were conducted with the IFRC’s National Society and Knowledge Development Division on integrating disaster law materials in a new course on disaster management. An IDRL briefing paper was also prepared and disseminated to NSs in the Pacific in anticipation of the Pacific Islands Forum conference.
- 3.4 Drafting commenced on a kit for National Societies interested in managing their own IDRL technical assistance projects.
- 3.5 The second annual disaster law short course is being organised in collaboration with the Brookings Institute, UN OCHA and UNHCR and is planned to be held in San Remo, Italy in December 2012.
- 3.6 With regard to integration of DLP work with other IFRC departments, the DLP actively collaborated with the CPRR and Shelter Departments on the research projects described below. DLP materials were also used in a Humanitarian Diplomacy Department workshop in South Asia in June and in Kenya Red Cross’ “Humanitarian Emergencies in Large Populations” course, in Nairobi in March.
- 3.7 In Africa, focal points were designated in 8 National Red Cross Societies (Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Botswana, and the Seychelles). In Asia Pacific, a new focal point was designated in the Cooks Islands Red Cross.
- 3.8 An Advocacy Network on Disaster Law was created by representatives of 22 National Societies of the Americas at a meeting organized by the DLP in June. The DLP also contributed to the discussions of the European Legal Support Group and the African National Societies Legal Network.

Impact:

- The staff and volunteers of 33 National Societies increased their skills in advocacy related to disaster law in four country-level workshops and in two regional workshops. Fourteen National Societies were directly engaged in legislative advocacy on disaster law during the reporting period, either through their own or by soliciting/submitting input on draft legislation from the IFRC. Over 270 persons also completed the free online learning module on IDRL. The innovation of the Americas Advocacy Network has the potential to turn this growing base of knowledge to sustained action and mutual support in that region.

Outcome 4: The role and capacity of the IFRC in the area of disaster law is strengthened**Outputs:**

- 4.1 The annual DLP team meeting will take place during the second half of the year. It will include briefings from other departments as well as external agencies involved in legislative advocacy.
- 4.2 The number of IFRC staff completing the online IDRL training is lower than hoped, and more promotion will be needed in the second semester. However, 6 briefings for IFRC staff were undertaken: at the Global IFRC Managers meeting in Geneva in February, to the disaster risk reduction global group meeting, during the Asia Pacific technical meetings, at the South Asia Humanitarian Diplomacy workshop, at the Asia Pacific at RDMC meeting and at the Humanitarian Diplomacy delegation in the AU office.

Impact:

- Establishing knowledge and capacity across the IFRC's secretariat staff on key aspects of disaster law continued to be a challenge, in light of the many other tasks and priorities that face them. However, the DLP team, currently based in six countries, is available to provide expert support.

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

- 5.1 The major research project on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and legislation is well underway, a partnership with UNDP has been agreed, as well as detailed terms of reference for comparative research of national laws in over 20 countries and a jointly produced synthesis report to be completed in 2013. Recruitment for volunteers and pro bono assistance also started and work began on four of the envisaged desk surveys.
- 5.2 In addition to the country research above, research on relevant international instruments and secondary literature continued during this period.
- 5.3 A regional desk study on regulatory barriers to shelter in Asia Pacific was largely completed during the reporting period, focusing on 6 countries (Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Pakistan). A workshop to validate conclusions and decide on next steps was planned for July. In the Americas, dialogue was initiated for similar research with the American, Canadian and Colombian Red Cross Societies.
- 5.4 The synthesis study on regulatory barriers is currently in the research phase, as noted above.
- 5.5 Additionally, at the request of the IFRC Humanitarian Diplomacy Division, the DLP undertook preliminary research concerning law and food security, as preparation for a potential long-term advocacy project in conjunction with the IFRC CPRR Department.
- 5.6 The disaster law database has been updated to a new format and existing records are being corrected and updated in order to ensure full working capacity. The revised version of the database was not yet accessible to the public during this period. The database already has more than 900 uploaded documents.

Impact:

- Progress is being made on establishing a more solid evidence base for the IFRC's work on disaster risk reduction legislation and regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter. The real impact of this work

will not be felt until the research is complete and used to develop concrete tools, as planned for 2013. In the meantime, however, the growing partnerships with UNDP and UNISDR are already a valuable by-product of this process.

Outcome 6: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, including in humanitarian and academic fora

Outputs:

6.1 Disaster law was addressed at several Red Cross and Red Crescent conferences and meetings, including:

- Inter-American Red Cross Conference in Montrouis, Haiti, in March.
- Indonesia Red Cross Disaster Management Committee Meeting in Bandung in March
- Pacific Secretary General's Forum in Suva in April
- IFRC Asia Pacific Zone technical meetings in Kuala Lumpur in April,
- the RDMC Meeting in Singapore in June,
- the South Asia Humanitarian Diplomacy meeting in New Delhi in June
- the "RC-Net" meeting in Nairobi in March
- Italian Red Cross-IFRC, Training in Disaster and Crisis Management, in Milan in June
- Tripartite meeting of the Swiss Red Cross, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and IFRC in Bern in June

DLP issues and presentations were also integrated into a number of partners' meetings and conferences, including:

- Good Humanitarian Donorship Meeting in Geneva in February,
- UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee regional meeting for Asia Pacific, in Bangkok in January
- First and Second UNISDR Leadership Development Forums for Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development, in Incheon in February and May
- UN Pacific Gender and Humanitarian Conference, in Suva in March

6.2 The quality of the website has been improved and it is regularly kept up-to-date. The electronic newsletter had 4'100 subscribers during the reporting period and the news service 370.

6.3 The newsletter was regularly published every two months ([February](#), [April](#), [June](#)).

6.4 Work had not yet started on the sample syllabus, modules and materials for disaster law courses.

6.5 Though no dedicated conference was co-sponsored with an academic partner during the period, lectures and training were provided to a number of academic institutions, including:

- [Hague Academy of International Law Seminar on "Responding to the Challenges of Natural and Industrial Catastrophes: New Directions for International Law,"](#) in the Hague in January
- Students from Australian National University in Geneva in February
- Centre for International Humanitarian Cooperation (CIHC), Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Course in Bogis in March
- Students from Tilburg University in Geneva in April
- Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian action (CERAH) Course on Humanitarian Action, in Geneva in April
- Institute for International Humanitarian Law, Course on the Law of Internal Displacement in San Remo in June

6.6 The concept of the disaster law competition was further developed.

6.7 The Disaster Law Working Paper Series published one [paper](#) by Luca Corredig, "Effectiveness and Accountability of Disaster Risk Reduction Practice – An Analysis Through the Lens of Informal International Lawmaking."

6.8 No articles were published in external journals during the reporting period.

6.9 External media covered the DRR side event at the IPU Assembly in March, the Philippines IDRL workshop in June, and the Botswana country workshop in June.

Impact:

- Disaster law issues – and the contribution that the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its partners can make – are definitely gaining wider attention. Not only are National Societies continuing to take them very seriously and to accord them a prominent place at their various meetings, but new and influential external partners – like The Hague Academy of International Law are starting to integrate them into their work.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

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

Representatives of National Societies and governments have joined other partners at our training events, such as the seminar on the role of customs in disaster management in Bangkok and the workshop on IDRL in the Horn of Africa in Mombasa. In participant evaluations, these events received consistently high ratings.

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

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
A major risk in legislative advocacy is that political considerations separate from those in the substance will slow progress. This has often led to delays in the launch and finalization of the DLP’s projects.	M	We have tried to adapt the structure of projects to accord with political realities in each country. However, we remain committed to using them to engage key stakeholders and this often takes time.
The development of new and untested areas of disaster law expertise could lead errors and or conflicts with other concerned stakeholders.	M	Ensure adequate time for the building of an evidence base. Create partnerships with key actors to avoid duplications and conflict.

Lessons learned and looking ahead (200 words/2 paragraphs)

As in the past, obtaining clear results over the short term is extremely challenging in the legal field. As interest in disaster law appears to be rising, the DLP has received no shortage of invitations to speak, present and provide training. While building up the knowledge and engagement of key stakeholders will clearly be important over the long term, measuring the real effectiveness of this work in the short and medium term can be difficult. Even more difficult is determining how much time and resources to devote to each legislative project, given that legislative bills can sometimes languish for years for reasons unrelated to their content. To date, the DLP has emphasized the depth of in-country research on existing law to ensure that its advice is made on the basis of a thorough understanding of the country's current situation. The raft of unsolicited requests for comments on draft bills, however, will require some adjustment of this approach so as not to lose opportunities.

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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In Geneva**
 - David Fisher, Global Disaster Law Programme Coordinator
Email: david.fisher—at—ifrc.org; phone: 141 22 730 4360
- **In Kuala Lumpur**
 - Tessa Kelly, Asia-Pacific Disaster Law Programme Coordinator
Email: tessa.kelly—at—ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 9207 5764
- **In Suva**
 - Finau Linaloa, Humanitarian Diplomacy Delegate for the Pacific
Email: finau.linaloa—at—ifrc.org; phone: +679 331 1855

- **In Addis Ababa**

- Sanne Boswijk, Africa Disaster Law Programme Coordinator
Email: [sanne.boswijk—at—ifrc.org](mailto:sanne.boswijk@ifrc.org); phone: +251 11 551 4571

- **In Panama City**

- Isabelle Granger, Americas Disaster Law Programme Coordinator
Email: [isabelle.granger—at—ifrc.org](mailto:isabelle.granger@ifrc.org); phone: +507 317 3050