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# Disaster Law Programme Mid-Year Report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Global (G00253), Asia-Pacific (P50033), Africa (P60013), Americas (P42068, P42073, PHT065, PDO032, P46039)**

**13 August 2014**

**This report covers the period:  
01/01/2014 to 30/06/2014**

*Disaster law side event at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok. (June 2014)*



## 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 mandates assigned to the IFRC at the [28<sup>th</sup>](#), [30<sup>th</sup>](#), and [31<sup>st</sup>](#) International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the programme focused on the following main goals:

- (1) Improve legislation and normative instruments on disaster management
- (2) Strengthen regional and global systems for disaster management
- (3) Improve the management of IDRL issues in disaster operations
- (4) Establish expanded and permanent capacity of the RC/RC in disaster law
- (5) Grow the international knowledge base and toolkit on key disaster law issues
- (6) Achieve appropriate visibility for disaster law issues, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora.

The DLP had received pledges amounting to only 50% of its budget as of June and this had an impact on some of the planned activities as set out in the operational plan as a cautious approach was taken on expenditure. Nevertheless, there was significant progress in a number of countries and in both regional and global projects. Moreover, after the reporting period, significant new pledges were received; and this should allow for the acceleration of delayed activities.

Top outcomes from the DLP's efforts during the reporting period include:

- Adoption of new disaster management acts drawing in part on IFRC/National Red Cross Society recommendations in Burkina Faso and Mozambique.
- Finalization of the NATO model liability agreement for relief personnel, which was developed with DLP technical support.
- Adoption of several regional outcome documents reflecting DLP input.

Major activities included:

- Finalization of a two year project undertaken jointly with UNDP, which included the publication of 29 desk studies, 5 new country case studies, and a global synthesis report on legislation and disaster risk reduction, with major launch events organized in Bangkok, New York, Washington and Berlin.
- Publication of IDRL research reports for 6 countries and as well as a country case study on regulatory barriers to shelter.
- Support for ongoing National Society' technical assistance projects on IDRL in 20 countries and development of TORs for urban risk projects in 5 cities.
- Provision of ad hoc advice on draft legislation or rules in 10 countries, and participation in a "Disaster Response Dialogue Learning Review" mission in the Philippines.
- Organization of 15 workshops or information sessions at the country level, 8 at the regional level, and a global level expert course on international disaster law.
- Provision of input into 14 resolutions, agreements or outcome documents at the global and regional level.
- Launch of a new academic interest group on disaster law in the Americas.

## Financial situation

The following chart summarizes the financial situation of the DLP at the global level and in each of the four Zones where a specific budget has been developed for DLP activities. Note that these figures will also be separately reported by the Zones in their overall reporting on activities in their regions. Figures are listed in Swiss Francs. Additional information is [available on Fednet](#).

DLP (level)	2014 budget	Coverage	Expenditure
Geneva (global)	907,102	95,221	255,218
Africa Zone	816,056	221,582	114,253
Americas Zone	435,823	778,174*	201,627
Asia-Pacific Zone	553,558	277,976	231,822
Totals	2,712,539	1,372,953	802,920

Donor coverage of the budget in the first half of 2014 has been modest at 50%. In light of this, expenditure during the period has been kept conservative, at roughly 30% of the budget and 58% of funds received. This has led to delay in some of the planned activities as set out in the DLP's Operational Plan for 2014-15. However, in the first part of quarter 3 (after the period of this report), a substantial additional amount was pledged for activities in 2014 and it is expected that the level of expenditure will accelerate in the second half of the year.

Programme donors for the reporting period included the Governments and National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom, the American and Japanese Red Cross Societies and the European Union.

\* Note that this includes CHF 179,451 of funds with expected expenditure deferred to 2015. A budget adjustment is planned to account for the additional overage.

## Working in partnership

In each of the countries where the DLP engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society concerned as well as with the relevant authorities. The DLP also cooperated with other departments of the IFRC in research and advocacy projects, at the Zone, regional and country offices. Externally, the DLP continued to cooperate closely with key global agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). It built its cooperation with a large range of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the East Africa Community (EAC), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Union of South America Countries (UNASUR) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) among others.

## Progress towards outcomes

The DLP contributes to IFRC Secretariat Business Lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 (raise humanitarian standards; grow services for vulnerable people; strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development; heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work).

### **Outcome 1: Technical support by the IFRC and NSs results in new domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures**

A major area of activity of the DLP continues to be supporting National Societies to carry out technical assistance projects for governments interested in enhancing their legal preparedness for international disaster response (which we refer to as “international disaster response laws, rules and principles” or “IDRL”). At the country level, reviews are undertaken to identify strengths and weaknesses of the existing regulatory frameworks, using the recommendations of the *Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance* (also known as the [IDRL Guidelines](#)), which were unanimously adopted by the state parties to the Geneva Conventions at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007.

Projects typically include oversight by a government-chaired task force, desk research and stakeholder interviews, and one or more workshops to validate findings. Depending on the needs of the authorities, projects may involve the development of findings and recommendations or extend to drafting advice with regard to new rules, procedures or laws. In some countries, National Societies are now also providing their support to authorities charged with implementing new rules.

During the reporting period, both [Mozambique](#) and [Burkina Faso](#) adopted new national disaster management acts after taking advice from their National Red Cross Societies and the IFRC. In the case of Mozambique, this advice was in the form of a formal [technical assistance project](#) completed in 2012. In Burkina Faso, advice was provided directly on draft legislation. Both of the new acts

\* Note that this includes CHF 179,451 of funds with expected expenditure deferred to 2015. A budget adjustment is planned to account for the additional overage.

include sections on international disaster assistance, requiring the development of detailed regulations. The National Societies and IFRC will continue to support authorities with regard to the development of the detailed regulations foreseen by the acts. This brings the global total of [countries that have adopted new rules or laws drawing on the IDRL Guidelines](#) since 2007 to 17.

In **Guatemala** and **Peru**, the National Red Cross Societies and IFRC provided direct support to the authorities in drafting new rules during the reporting period. In the case of Guatemala, the support was related to a draft act on humanitarian assistance, with very detailed provisions on regulating international assistance. In Peru, the support was for a new decree on regulating international disaster assistance. Both are expected to be finalized and adopted soon.

**Indonesia** is the country that has made the most progress in implementing the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines, including through provisions in its disaster management law, regulations and national guidelines. In June, the Indonesian Red Cross and IFRC published a [study of the impact of these new rules](#) looking to the experience of the Padang earthquake in West Sumatera Province in 2009 (which occurred while some of the new rules were still being developed), and the Mount Merapi eruption in 2010. While the international response to these disasters was far more modest than that experienced after the 2004 tsunami, they offered a first test of the new systems. The study found that the advances had improved coordination and processing of international assistance, but that additional improvement could be made for the future, in particular in consolidating information and increasing dissemination about the new rules.

In **Sierra Leone**, the National Red Cross Society and IFRC published an [updated version of the IDRL research report](#) prepared several years ago in order to assist in current efforts to develop disaster management legislation. At the launch event in Freetown, Parliamentary Majority Leader, the Honorable Ibrahim Bundu, promised that “the Government of Sierra Leone will look at the problem areas that could impede international disaster response and promote new legislation to deal with issues of barriers to entry of goods, visas, coordination of stakeholders in order to ease future international disaster response.”

In **Afghanistan**, the National Red Crescent Society published its [study](#) of the national legal framework for managing international disaster response. The study found a number of strengths, including existing provisions in disaster management and sectoral legislation designed to facilitate incoming assistance efforts. However, there were also a number of gaps, in particular with regard to measures to ensure adequate coordination and quality oversight for future relief efforts.

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Sierra Leone IDRL report's launch, Freetown, 28 January 2014

In **Colombia**, the DLP worked in collaboration with the Disaster Risk Management Agency and Colombian Red Cross to develop “injects” and scenarios on IDRL that were used during a bi-national disaster simulation concerning Colombia and Ecuador. In addition, the Colombian government established a permanent *IDRL Committee* and a *Legal Advisory Commission* responsible to advice on the strengthening of the legal framework for international disaster operations in the country.



A workshop on IDRL issues in Ulaanbaatar, 17 March 2014

In Europe, six National Societies (Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Poland) have been engaged since 2013 in a project to evaluate progress at the national and regional level in implementation of the European Union’s “Host Nation Support (HNS) Guidelines”, with support from IFRC. The HNS Guidelines themselves were published in 2012, drawing on the IDRL Guidelines and the results of a similar set of studies undertaken in 2009-10 by the National Societies of Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. During the reporting period, the [Icelandic](#), [Irish](#) and [Polish](#) Red Cross Societies published final versions of their country studies. A common finding among these studies is that very few provisions have been made for receiving disaster assistance from non-EU governments or from non-governmental actors.

Similar IDRL research projects were starting or underway in **Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines** and **Tonga**. Country-level workshops on IDRL were organized in Dominican Republic, Gambia, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Panama, Peru and Sierra Leone.

In addition to projects focused on IDRL, the DLP supported National Societies in exploring other key issues of disaster law, as requested by the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference. In **Senegal**, the IFRC supported the National Society to undertake a rapid review of existing legislation for disaster risk reduction, drawing on methodology of its global research project (reported below). The IFRC, Chinese Red Cross and UNDP also organized a roundtable workshop in Beijing concerning DRR and law in **China**.

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In **Nepal**, the IFRC and the Nepal Red Cross [published an assessment](#) of the potential regulatory



Secretary General Emmanuel Hindovei Tommy of Sierra Leone Red Cross at the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Abuja



Participants discuss the Checklist for lawmakers on DRR at the at the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Abuja

barriers for providing emergency and transitional shelter in the event of a future disaster. The report was launched at a workshop hosted by the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction in Kathmandu in June.

The DLP also contributed to the terms of reference for pilot urban risk projects undertaken by National Societies with support from the IFRC and Iranian Red Crescent for the cities of Jakarta, La Paz, Nairobi, and Yerevan. Likewise, the DLP contributed to terms of reference for the implementation of disaster law activities as part of the Zurich Insurance-Mexican Red Cross-IFRC Flood Resilience Program in Mexico.

Following on the recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference (and drawing on the results of their global study reported below), the IFRC and UNDP are continuing work to develop a “Checklist for lawmakers on Disaster Risk Reduction” through a process of stakeholder consultations. During the reporting period, the DLP organized regional expert consultation meetings on the checklist in Abuja, Kuala Lumpur and Nairobi.

Working with the relevant National Societies, the DLP offered ad hoc advice on draft legislation in 10 countries during the reporting period, including 4 in Africa (Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kenya, Seychelles), 4 in the Americas (Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago), and 2 in Asia Pacific (Mongolia, Myanmar). In addition, comments were provided on the African Union Model Act for the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), a regional bill on disaster risk management for the East African Community, and on the mutual cooperation manual on disaster response of the UNASUR.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 1: Technical support by the IFRC and NSs results in new domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures</b>			

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Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
1a. # of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines	8	2	Mozambique, Burkina Faso
1b. # of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures including DLP suggestions from IFRC/NSs on DM issues other than IDRL	3	0	
<b>Output 1.1: Technical assistance projects on IDRL</b>			
1.1.a. # of research and recommendation papers	12	6	Afghanistan, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Poland, Sierra Leone
1.1.b. # of workshops	19	7	Dominican Republic, Gambia, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, Sierra Leone
1.1.c. # of training/informational sessions	12	5	Legislative advocacy and DL training session in Yangon, High-level advocacy workshop in Nay Pyi Taw, Session on IDRL and DRR for Senegal Civil Protection, DRD learning review (Philippines), Mexico National Civil Protection Convention
1.1.d. # of instruments drafted (no specific targets)	-	2	Guatemala and Peru
<b>Output 1.2: Technical assistance projects on DRR/DP</b>			
# of projects	2	1	Senegal
<b>Output 1.3: Legal components of urban risk projects</b>			
# of projects completed	8	0	Planning undertaken pending funding
<b>Output 1.4: Technical assistance projects on regulatory barriers to shelter</b>			
# of projects completed	2	1	Nepal
<b>Output 1.5: Ad hoc advice provided on draft legislation</b>			
# of draft laws and rules commented on	-	10	Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kenya, Seychelles, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Mongolia, Myanmar
<b>Output 1.6: Checklist for lawmakers on DRR</b>			
Checklist developed Dissemination kit (manual, explanations) developed	1	0	In progress
<b>Output 1.7: Model act, decree and regulations on IDRL</b>			
Model decree finalized, Model regulations developed	1	0	In progress
<b>Output 1.8: Sample TORs and guidance for technical assistance projects on IDRL</b>			
Kit for NSs interested in running their own technical assistance projects developed on IDRL	1	0	In progress
<b>Output 1.9: Internal checklist on law and disaster preparedness</b>			
Checklist developed	-	-	Planned for 2015

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## Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences relevant international and regional instruments, organizations and processes

The IFRC succeeded in influencing several regional outcome documents adopted during the reporting period to include important messages on disaster law.

One of these was the [Statement of Africa's Contribution to the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), which emerged as a product of the African Regional Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction in Abuja in May. The statement lists in the context of its first priority: "Policy and appropriate legislation, including regulatory frameworks, have played a significant role in addressing disaster risks in many African countries; these processes should be enhanced, including through parliamentary forums at regional and national levels, and backed by strengthened institutional capacity to enforce legislation." Likewise, the "Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific," developed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, commits to "[e]ncourage the development of and the enforcement of laws and regulation to reduce exposure to risk." The Declaration of Guayaquil on Disaster Risk Reduction resulting from a similar conference in America also adopted language on the importance of legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and disaster management of international operations.

Moreover, during the reporting period, NATO finalized a "Model Technical Arrangement for Liability of Relief Personnel", on which the IFRC played an advisory role. The model is intended to draw authorities' attention to potential liability concerns related to state-to-state assistance in the event of a disaster and to provide model contractual clauses to ensure clarity and extend appropriate protections.

The DLP cooperated with OCHA and the WCO to promote potential developments to the Istanbul Convention on Temporary Admission to modernize its provisions on customs in disaster situations and with the Central American System for Integration (SICA) on a future regional instrument on IDRL. The DLP also provided presentations to inter-governmental bodies on eleven occasions during the reporting period, including presentations to NATO, the Administrative Committee for the Istanbul Convention, the Human Rights Council, the ICRC, PIFS, Regional Platform for DRR in Africa, West Africa consultation for World Humanitarian Summit, Regional DRR Platform in Americas, IFRC side event at the World Urban Forum in America, IFRC Civil Military Relations Forum, and at the UNASUR high-level working group on DRR.

The IFRC also continued to strengthen its external partnerships to promote disaster law. On February 28, the IFRC signed a MOU with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to support work to strengthen national policy, institutional and legal frameworks to reduce the risk of disasters, mitigate



\* Disaster Response Dialogue at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 March 2014.



expected average. At the signing of the MOU between IFRC and PIF, 28 February 2014.



their effects when they occur and expedite the recovery of communities. At the signing ceremony, Andie Fong Toy, Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, observed that “natural disasters present particular challenges to the countries of our region, given our geography, small populations, constrained transport infrastructure and limited national resources for specialised disaster response services. As such, strengthening laws and partnerships for responding efficiently and effectively to disasters is a goal of fundamental importance.”

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences relevant international and regional instruments, organizations and processes</b>			
2a. # of new/amended instruments (resolutions, guidelines, etc) that address IDRL issues	5	1	NATO arrangement
2b. # of new/amended global/regional instruments taking into account DL suggestions by IFRC/NSs	4	2	AMCDRR, African Regional Platform for DRR
2c. # of IGOs engaged with DL issues	2	3	OCHA, UNDP, WCO
2d. # of regional organizations engaged with DL issues	10	8	AU, PIF, UNASUR, NATO, SICA, APEC, ECOWAS, EAC
<b>Output 2.1: DLP fosters discussion on potential new treaty on IDRL</b>			
# of consultations with relevant stakeholders	6	1	ASIL workshop
<b>Output 2.2: Dedicated DLP workshops organized at the global and regional levels</b>			
# of workshops organized (that are not covered under other outputs)	7	5	Details available on request
<b>Output 2.3: DL presentations to international and regional organizations</b>			
# of presentations provided	10	10	Details available on request
<b>Output 2.4: DL messages proposed for key global and regional resolutions, agreements and initiatives</b>			
# of resolutions/instruments/initiatives for which suggestions are provided	10	15	Details available on request
<b>Output 2.5: DLP supports interested regional organizations in strengthening cooperation on disaster law</b>			
# of regional processes supported	8	4	ASEAN, AU, SICA, UNASUR
# of regional process specifically on IDRL	5	3	AU, SICA, UNASUR

### Outcome 3: Disaster law support and advocacy by IFRC and NS during international response operations results in better outcomes

There were no deployments of DLP personnel during the reporting period. Planning started for a training process for the deployment roster, to be conducted in the second half of the year.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 3: Disaster law support and advocacy by IFRC and NS during international response operations results in better outcomes</b>			
# of operations where disaster law advice is taken up	-	1	DLP input on bunkhouses taken up in the Philippines from prior deployment.
<b>Output 3.1: Disaster law expert deployments in relief operations</b>			
# of disaster law experts deployed	3	0	
<b>Output 3.2: Disaster law expert deployment roster</b>			
# of disaster law experts trained and included on	9	0	

\* Note that this includes CHF 179,451 of funds with expected expenditure deferred to 2015. A budget adjustment is planned to account for the additional overage.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<i>roster</i>			
<b>Output 3.3: Web pages on disaster law for operations in selected countries</b>			
<i># of countries featured in web pages</i>	14	0	

#### Outcome 4: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law

In March, the DLP co-sponsored a [“Disaster Response Dialogue” training workshop](#) for permanent missions to the African Union in Addis Ababa, focused on the legal and institutional mechanisms for international disaster assistance. Participants focused in particular on the problem of inappropriate assistance.

In April, the DLP cooperated with the law faculties of the Universities of Bologna, Roma Tre, Uninettuno and Pisa, Sant’Anna (acting through their "International Disaster Law Project") to co-convene an **"International Disaster Law Course"** targeted to academics and humanitarian practitioners and hosted by the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy (where the DLP also separately sponsors its annual course targeted to governmental officials and National Societies – scheduled for later this year).

The DLP provided support to the staff and volunteers of 29 National Societies to increase their skills in advocacy related to disaster law. Sixteen National Societies were directly engaged in legislative advocacy on disaster law during the reporting period, either through their own efforts or by soliciting/submitting input on draft legislation from the IFRC.

The DLP also supported the integration of disaster law issues into a number of trainings, including the ASEAN AHA Centre ‘Excellence’ training programme, a UN Civil Military Coordination training, and IFRC “Regional Intervention Team” trainings in Ecuador and Guyana.

Eight partner organizations took part in trainings in disaster law and 555 individual completed the introductory online e-training module on IDRL, which is available on the IFRC’s learning platform.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 4: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law</b>			
<i>4a. # of NS whose staff/volunteers have increased their skills in legislative advocacy</i>	29	6	Sierra Leone, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Gambia, Kenya
<i>4b. # of NS that have participated in legislative advocacy in disaster law</i>	12	16	China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Gambia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Haiti, Panama, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica
<i>4c. # of partner organizations taking part in</i>	13	8	Details available on request

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Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<i>trainings</i>			
4d. # of persons taking the DL e-module(s)	110	555	
<b>Output 4.1: Training workshops at global and regional levels</b>			
4.1.a. # of global training workshops	2	1	IIHL workshop
4.1.b. # of regional training workshops	7	1	AU DRD workshop
4.1.c. # of persons attending workshops	225	115	
<b>Output 4.2: Country-level training workshops</b>			
# of country-level training workshops	9	-	See Output 1.1
<b>Output 4.3: Legislative advocacy guidance notes</b>			
# legislative guidance notes developed	6	0	Two notes are in development
<b>Output 4.4: Disaster law focal points and peer groups supported</b>			
4.4.a. # of NSs designating a focal point with substantial expertise in disaster law	16	8	Seychelles, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Gambia, Cuba
4.4.b. # of active NS disaster law peer groups	4	2	ALF, ELSG
4.4.c. Support for short term disaster law advisor positions	3	1	Plans were in place for two additional posts to begin in Q3.
<b>Output 4.5: Disaster law integrated into other IFRC and partner trainings</b>			
DL module provided through Tata DM course	1	1	
DL integrated into FACT, RDRT/RIT trainings and other meetings	17	4	Training session on IDRL provided to ASEAN AHA Centre 'Excellence' training programme for NDMOs, UN Civil Military Coordination training, 2 RIT trainings (Ecuador and Guyana)

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

In June 2014, the IFRC and UNDP launched the results of the largest comparative study of legislation for disaster risk reduction undertaken to date. The study, entitled [Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction](#), analysed the laws of 31 countries in various parts of the world to explore which elements were most successful, where there are major gaps, and how implementation of key rules has fared in a number of contexts. The study was undertaken jointly by IFRC and the UNDP over a two year period, with the collaboration of dozens of legal experts, volunteers, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the governments of the countries involved.

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*Lead author Mary Picard describes the IFRC-UNDP study at a the event hosted by the American Red Cross in Washington.*

The study found that many countries showed real progress in modernizing their legal frameworks to manage risk reduction, but there were also a number of common gaps. These included a widespread tendency to assign major responsibility for the implementation of key safety-related regulations (such as for land use and building codes) to local authorities, without ensuring corresponding funding and expertise. Many disaster risk management laws include only very general and vague provisions on the engagement of communities as well as of civil society organisations, women and marginalised groups. In addition, further work seems to be required to introduce effective early warning systems and risk mapping instruments and particularly to ensure workable mechanisms for accountability, monitoring and review for DRR responsibilities.

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As part of the study launch, the IFRC published five new case studies on disaster risk reduction (in Guatemala, Madagascar, New Zealand, Nicaragua and Vietnam) as well as the synthesis report. During the reporting period, four events in Bangkok, New York, Washington and Berlin were held to launch the study's findings. As mentioned above, the results of the study will inform efforts to develop a "Checklist for lawmakers on DRR" and are also being employed for pilot technical assistance projects in several countries.

The DLP also substantially advanced work on a study on the regulatory barriers to the provision of temporary shelter after the Haiti Earthquake of 2010 and desk studies on potential barriers in El Salvador and Honduras during the reporting period. It is expected that all three will be published in the third quarter. Moreover, the DLP also initiated research on new focus areas, including disaster preparedness, IDRL issues and costs in recent disasters, nuclear accident preparedness law, and first aid legislation.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 5: New research on disaster law broadens the general knowledge-base and facilitates change</b>			
<i>High quality studies well received by relevant disaster management and legal stakeholders</i>	-	6	DRR synthesis study and case studies on Guatemala, Madagascar, New Zealand, Nicaragua and Vietnam
<b>Output 5.1: DRR law research project</b>			
<i>Synthesis study published and disseminated</i>	1	1	See above
<b>Output 5.2: Research on regulatory barriers to shelter</b>			
<i>5.2.a. # regional desk studies of country laws completed</i>	1	0	
<i>5.2.b. # in-depth case studies completed</i>	2	1	Study published on Nepal.
<i>5.2.c. Synthesis report and recommendations completed</i>	-	-	
<b>Output 5.3: Research on law and disaster preparedness/response</b>			
<i>5.3.a. # of stakeholders surveyed on key issues</i>	182	0	Survey planned for Q3-4
<i>5.3.b. Report produced</i>	1	0	Report now planned for 2015
<b>Output 5.4: Research on IDRL issues and costs in recent disasters</b>			
<i># of research reports</i>	2	0	Consultancy was underway during the period
<b>Output 5.5: Revised edition of 2007 desk study on IDRL</b>			
<i>Study revised and published</i>	-	-	Work to commence in Q3
<b>Output 5.6: Research on nuclear accident preparedness law</b>			
<i>Study completed</i>	-	-	Pro bono support still to be secured
<b>Output 5.7: Research on first aid legislation</b>			
<i>Study completed</i>	1	0	Pro bono support still to be secured
<b>Output 5.8: Disaster law database</b>			
<i># of records supplied for the database</i>	200	60	Currently at 1,090 documents

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

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – are continuing to gain attention in both humanitarian and academic fora. During this period, fifteen RC/RC, NGO and academic meetings addressed disaster law issues, and seven new courses include modules on disaster law issues. The DLP's events and products also appeared in nearly a dozen media outlets, including [an editorial](#) developed for the Bangkok Post on the occasion of the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR.

The DLP was invited to deliver a number of academic lectures and training, including to students from Australian National University in Geneva in February, and as part of the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian action (CERAH) Certificate Course on in Disaster Management in Geneva in March.

The quality of the DLP website continues to improve and it is kept regularly up-to-date. A [new webpage](#) devoted to the joint IFRC-UNDP report on disaster risk reduction was also created.

The programme's two regular communications tools – the weekly news service and bi-monthly newsletter – were published regularly and reached a wide audience. Subscription rates during the reporting period were 347 for the news service and 3,439 for the newsletter.

Indicators from the 2014-15 Operational Plan	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual	Details
<b>Outcome 6: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, particularly in humanitarian and academic fora</b>			
6a. # of RC/RC, NGO & academic meetings addressing disaster law issues	12	15	Details available on request
6b. # of new masters/diploma courses include regular modules on IDRL and other key DL issues	-	7	George Washington University Law School, American University Law School, Université de Genève, University of Ottawa, Australian National University, University of Canterbury, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru
6c. Disaster law is addressed in relevant IFRC courses and trainings	-	2	IFRC-Tata DM course, IFRC-Diplo Foundation HD course
<b>Output 6.1: Support provided for attention to DL issues at key RC/RC meetings</b>			
# of RC conferences addressing DL	3	4	Details available on request
<b>Output 6.2: Disaster law issues raised in inter-agency meetings</b>			
# of meetings	-	11	Details available on request
<b>Output 6.3: Textbooks and training for teachers</b>			
6.3.a. Develop textbook for law schools	1	0	
6.3.b. Develop abbreviated version for DM students	-	-	
6.3.c. Provide training for law /DM professors	1	0	
<b>Output 6.4: DL essay contest</b>			
# of students participating in the contest	-	-	Potential partnership with ASIL under discussion
<b>Output 6.5: DL messages reflected in external media</b>			
# of external media articles/broadcasts per year have featured IFRC or NS disaster law work	12	19	Details available on request

\* Note that this includes CHF 179,451 of funds with expected expenditure deferred to 2015. A budget adjustment is planned to account for the additional overage.

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<b>Output 6.6: Effective and widely used DLP websites, newsletter and news service</b>			
6.6.a. <i>DLP websites in all languages are effective and up-to-date</i>	-	-	
6.6.b. <i># new DL newsletter list subscribers</i>	130	27	
6.6.c. <i># of new DL news service subscribers</i>	35	6	
6.6.d. <i># of weekly news service reports</i>	40	26	
6.6.e. <i># of newsletters</i>	6	2	

## 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 endorsed by the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011. Since then, 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 at the workshop jointly organised with CEPREDENAC and WFP in Panama earlier this year. 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.

## 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 to misunderstandings or tensions with other concerned stakeholders.	M	Ensure adequate time for the building of an evidence base. Create partnerships with key actors to avoid duplication and conflict.

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## Lessons learned and looking ahead

In the first half of 2014 the DLP continued to find a strong appetite for its work, both among National Societies and external partners, in particular governments but also increasingly from the academic world. National Societies continues to take on stronger roles in joint projects with the DLP, fulfilling an important goal of the programme. At the same time, donors and partners continue to press for rapid results, a challenging expectation to fulfil in the world of legislation.

The finalization of the IFRC-UNDP study on DRR and law is an important milestone. By providing strong comparative substance, the study will allow the development of new National Society and IFRC programming in this much wider area of disaster law. The DLP will now need to support National Societies to make best use of this information at the operational level. It will also need to continue to innovate, to open up and raise attention to the many ways that laws can support the protection and saving of lives threatened by disasters. Combining these efforts with the ongoing push to ensure world-wide implementation of the IDRL Guidelines, will be a central concern of the DLP in the second half of the year.

## 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)

## Contact information

For further information related to this report, please contact:

- **In Geneva**
  - David Fisher, Global Disaster Law Programme Coordinator  
Email: david.fisher—at—ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4222

\* Note that this includes CHF 179,451 of funds with expected expenditure deferred to 2015. A budget adjustment is planned to account for the additional overage.

- **In Addis Ababa**
  - Ida Marstein, Africa Disaster Law Programme Coordinator  
Email: ida.marstein—at—ifrc.org; phone: +251 11 551 4571
- **In Panama City**
  - Isabelle Granger, Americas Disaster Law Programme Coordinator  
Email: isabelle.granger—at—ifrc.org; phone: +507 317 3050
- **In Kuala Lumpur**
  - Tessa Kelly, Asia-Pacific Disaster Law Programme Coordinator  
Email: tessa.kelly—at—ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4208

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