



Disaster Law Programme in 2017

Key goals

40 National Societies

strengthen their disaster law and advocacy capacities

4 new laws, policies or regulations

at minimum, are strengthened

12 draft laws, policies or regulations

at minimum, are strengthened

500 advocates and officials

at minimum, are trained



This relief flight landed in Port-au-Prince two days earlier than initially planned after Hurricane Matthew, thanks to new customs rules (10/2016)



Governmental and Red Crescent officials from Central Asia adopted the "Almaty Declaration," pledging to strengthen disaster laws (1/2017)

What we do

The IFRC's Disaster Law Programme assists National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support their authorities in developing and applying state-of-the-art disaster-related legislation, policies and procedures. We do this in order to make communities safer, to ensure timely and effective humanitarian relief, and to improve the protection of the most vulnerable when faced with crisis.

We operate on an international mandate provided by all state parties to the Geneva Conventions, providing advice based on over a dozen years of global research and consultations. By harnessing their unique auxiliary role, National Societies working with our programme have successfully strengthened new disaster laws and policies in 24 countries since 2007. Our major themes include:

- Procedures for international disaster relief that put domestic authorities in the driver's seat, reduce barriers, costs and quality problems, and uphold humanitarian principles
- Modern and integrated legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and response
- Inclusion of gender and protection issues in key disaster laws and policies
- Contextual, well planned approaches to regulatory issues in post-disaster shelter
- Further anchoring of the Red Cross and Red Crescent auxiliary role in laws and policies

How we will work in 2017



A. Building disaster law capacity

In 2017, we will provide targeted legal advocacy training and mentoring to enable National Societies to provide the best advice to their authorities on disaster law. This will include:

- developing updated training materials on advocacy, auxiliary role and disaster law, including an online introduction to law and disaster risk reduction
- organizing 2 global, 4 regional and 12 country-level training workshops
- supporting each trained National Society to develop a legislative advocacy strategy tailored to its context
- Facilitating peer-to-peer learning and exchanges



B. Strengthening domestic law and policy

We will support National Societies and their partners to assist and advise their governments in the **priority countries**, chosen on the basis National Society and government demand, risk profile, and political opportunity, but we will also continue to provide ad hoc support in other countries.

DLP priority countries 2016-20

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Africa | Liberia, Malawi, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda |
| Americas | Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay |
| Asia-Pacific | Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Philippines |
| MENA | Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan |

Depending on local priorities, projects will focus on the regulation of international relief, legislation for disaster risk reduction, protection in disaster response, first aid legislation, and/or how law and policy can be used as a tool to address gender considerations and sexual and gender-based violence in disasters. We will also work with NS in developing dissemination packages to support communities understand rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster risk management at local level.



C. Fostering partnerships and advocacy at the regional and global levels

We will support **12 regional organizations** in developing tools, guidance and mechanisms to promote disaster cooperation, disaster risk reduction, and to integrate legal issues within disaster simulation exercises. The IFRC will also continue to support the dialogue at the global level on ways to accelerate progress in strengthening legal frameworks for the reception of international disaster assistance, and work with partners, such as UNDP, to promote greater impact and outreach.



D. Pursuing high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy

To provide a broader base of **evidence-based** recommendations, we will collaborate with key partners to develop a checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response, through a process of case study research and stakeholder consultations. We will also produce the first global index of disaster risk management laws, and oversee a multi-country research process on law and policy related to gender and sexual and gender based violence in disaster settings.