

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Programme

MAA00004

31 May 2011

This report covers the period 1 January to 31
December 2010



Participants at a Colombia Red Cross workshop on IDRL in Bogota.

In brief

Programme purpose: The IFRC's International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) programme seeks to reduce human vulnerability by promoting legal preparedness for disasters, in particular with regard to international assistance.

Consistent with Resolution 4 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of November 2007, the programme's primary focus is the follow-up and implementation of the ["Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance"](#) (the "IDRL Guidelines").

Programme summary: During the reporting period, the IDRL programme worked in three main areas: (1) collaborating with national societies to provide technical assistance to interested governments on the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines; (2) building the capacity of national societies, IFRC staff and humanitarian partners to promote and use the IDRL Guidelines and related instruments; and (3) disseminating and promoting the IDRL Guidelines and related instruments and fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management.

Financial situation: The 2010 budget was revised to account for additional projects in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (some of which continued their execution into 2011) and the lack of funding for projects originally planned in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The total revised budget was CHF 2,466,333, of which CHF 2,006,630 (81 percent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,329,533 (54 percent of the budget). This underspend was due, in part, to the fact that some funds were provided with respect to the two-year workplan (2010-11), with an expectation of

continued expenditure in 2011. However, there were also delays in the commencement of country technical assistance projects in Asia and staff turnover in Africa. Nevertheless, the IDRL programme substantially met the stated goals set out for 2010 in its [2010-11 plan](#).

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: See chart on page 11.

Our partners: The IDRL programme is very grateful for the support of its donors for the 2010-2011 plans. This includes substantial contributions from ECHO and the Governments and Red Cross Societies of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom. The programme also expresses its appreciation to the Norwegian Law Students Humanitarian Organization (Humak) for its grassroots fundraising efforts aimed at IDRL work in Africa.

The IDRL programme has also worked with a number of programmatic partners, including a number of national societies as described below, and external partners such as UNOCHA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) and the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference. For its model act project, it also received pro-bono legal assistance from the law firms of Allen and Overy, Baker and Mackenzie (working also with lawyers from Microsoft), and CMS Cameron Mckenna.

Context

A decade of research and broad and extensive consultations have revealed that regulatory problems – including both excessive bureaucracy in some areas and insufficient monitoring in others – substantially impair the timeliness, effectiveness and quality of assistance that affected individuals and communities receive following major disasters. It has also showed that better legal preparedness at the domestic level can go a long way to preventing these kinds of problems.

In November 2007, the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted the [IDRL Guidelines](#). The IDRL Guidelines, drawn from existing laws and norms at the international and regional levels, provide a set of recommendations to governments on how to prepare their disaster laws and plans to overcome the common regulatory problems in international disaster relief. The Conference encouraged states to make use of the IDRL Guidelines both to develop their own national legal frameworks and as a basis for bilateral and regional agreements. It also called on IFRC and national societies to support governments in doing so.

In many ways, the development of the IDRL Guidelines was influenced by the [regulatory challenges that arose out of the response Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004](#). The kinds of problems that were encountered – both by affected states and by international assistance providers – were not unique to that disaster, but the scale of the devastation and of the international response both contributed to making them particularly visible. The massive earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 provoked a similarly crushing human toll and also [a number of similar regulatory issues](#), magnified by the literally hundreds of relief organizations that responded. Later in 2010, floods in Pakistan affected a staggering 20 million people and sparked another massive and complex international operation.

These experiences are prompting a number of countries – including those without a long history of receiving outside disaster assistance – to think afresh about their legal preparedness. The IDRL Guidelines can be an important part of that reflection.

Progress towards outcomes

Outcomes and Achievements

Programme component 1: Technical assistance to governments

Outcome: Policy-makers understand and make use of the IDRL Guidelines to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for disaster response.



IDRL project working group in Lima, Peru IFRC



IDRL workshop in Kampala, Uganda IFRC



IDRL forum in Honiara, Solomon Islands IFRC

1.1 Provide advice and undertake technical support projects for governments on the use of the IDRL Guidelines

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Working in conjunction with national societies, complete ongoing technical support projects and initiate at least 10 new technical support projects in 5 regions.

Progress as of end 2010:

Africa

The **Uganda** country project, which was launched in December 2009 by signature of an MoU with the Office of the Prime Minister, was completed and the [report](#) published. The project was led by a task force headed by the Office of the Prime Minister and with participation by the Uganda Red Cross Society and technical support from the IFRC. A workshop including a government delegation led by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees was held in Kampala in July. At the date of this report, Uganda was on the cusp of adopting a new disaster policy, to which, it is hoped, this project's findings will contribute.

During the project period, initial steps were also taken for the development of technical assistance projects in **Mozambique** and **Namibia**, which were launched in 2011.

Americas

In **Colombia**, following the successful introductory workshop in December 2009, the Colombian Red Cross [signed an MOU](#) with the Directorate for Risk Management for Disaster Prevention and Relief of the Ministry of the Colombian Interior and Justice concerning cooperation on an IDRL technical assistance project, with support from IFRC. Legal research and consultations began and the project also contributed to discussions on regulatory issues at a government-sponsored [international earthquake operation exercise](#) in November. The final report is expected in the first half of 2011.

Building on the recommendations of the 2009 UNDAC preparedness mission to **Peru** in April 2010, a concept paper was agreed with the Peruvian civil defence office (INDECI) for a technical assistance project on IDRL with support from the IFRC and the Peruvian Red Cross. An MoU was signed between INDECI and IFRC on 16 July 2010 for the technical assistance project. At the end of the reporting period, the first draft of the report was being finalized.

A project in **Haiti** was launched in conjunction with the Haiti Red Cross in September 2010. Research and consultations continued through the reporting period with completion scheduled in the first half of 2011.

Asia/Pacific

In **Nepal**, the Nepal Red Cross undertook a study on existing laws and institutions in Nepal related to IDRL. Following completion of a first draft of the report in November, a consultative, high-level national [workshop](#) was organised together with the Government to discuss the findings. The report will be finalized in 2011.

In **Pakistan**, a [project was launched](#) at the end of 2010, following an agreement with the National Disaster Management Authority to assist in the development of National Disaster Response Guidelines. Background research included mapping existing legal instruments and policies as well as collecting experiences from recent disaster operations. A national workshop is planned in mid 2011 to discuss preliminary results.

In **Cambodia**, as follow-up to its [2009 technical assistance project](#) in collaboration with the Cambodian Red Cross, the IFRC supported a consultant to assist the Cambodia National Committee for Disaster Management in drafting new legislation in 2010. An initial draft has been completed and is currently being refined

In **Mongolia**, preliminary research was undertaken to identify relevant laws and potential gaps between Mongolian law and the IDRL Guidelines. This exercise formed the basis of a workshop in October, hosted by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and facilitated by the IFRC and the National Society, to introduce IDRL to senior civil servants and discuss the need for legislative reform.

A [project](#) in **Vanuatu** was carried out from August 2010 to January 2011, supported by the National Society with management and technical oversight by IFRC and in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office. The final report, containing concrete recommendations to the Vanuatu Government, will be published in the second quarter of 2011.

In the Pacific more generally, the IDRL programme provided technical input to SOPAC's ongoing support to government disaster risk management review processes (currently embarking on **Tuvalu, Kiribati** and **Papua New Guinea**).

Central Asia

In September 2010, the IFRC and the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society launched an IDRL project in **Kazakhstan** as a follow-up of the Central Asia regional training on "Applying international norms to disaster response in Central Asia" which was conducted in Almaty in October 2009. A project task force chaired by the Ministry of Emergencies was formed and guided the research and consultations of the project, which included a training/consultation workshop held in December. Peer support with the legal research was provided to the project by the Norwegian Red Cross. As of December, the project report had been completed in Russian. A translated English version is currently being finalized. Also, in early 2011, the Ministry of Emergencies incorporated some of the recommendations coming from the Kazakhstan study into a new draft civil defence legislation, which is currently under consultation.

Potential new projects

In addition, the IFRC is developing a number of new projects to provide technical assistance with its members. As of the end of 2010, advanced planning had taken place for projects in **Kiribati** the and the **Philippines**. Initial discussions had also taken place concerning potential projects in **EI**

Salvador, Maldives, Mongolia and Tajikistan and specific requests were received for technical assistance in **Argentina, Bhutan, the Dominican Republic and Timor Leste**.

1.2 Complete an EU regional study

Goal for the two-year period 2009-2010: Complete the project launched in 2009 to study law in the EU, both at the national and trans-national levels, in light of the IDRL Guidelines.

Progress as of end 2010:

In 2010, the IFRC and the National Red Cross Societies of Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom completed a two-year study on IDRL in the European Union. Drawing on the IDRL Guidelines, the study examined legal and institutional frameworks for the receipt of international assistance at the EU level and in the six states of the involved national societies. Each of the case studies was developed through legal research, consultations and a national workshop. The project produced a [substantial analytical report on relevant EU law, reports on each of the six states](#) prepared by the National Societies, as well as a [synthesis report](#), drawing conclusions from the foregoing and proposing recommendations.

The preliminary findings of these studies were discussed at various conferences during the second half of the reporting period, including an EU workshop for civil protection authorities in September, a workshop organized by the project partners for governmental and Red Cross representatives from EU states held in October in Brussels, as well as a meeting in October with the directors-general of civil protection. On 15 December 2010, the IFRC [launched the synthesis report](#) at a “policy dialogue” panel hosted by the European Policy Centre in Brussels. At that meeting, the Belgian Presidency announced that it had successfully encouraged the European Council to adopt new “Council Conclusions on Host Nation Support,” drawing in part on the work of this project.

1.3 Develop a model act

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Develop a model act to assist states to implement the IDRL Guidelines.

Progress as of end 2010: In order to assist governments to integrate the IDRL Guidelines into their domestic laws and systems, the IFRC is cooperating with OCHA and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to develop model legislative elements as well as additional guidance. This model will draw from the experiences in the technical assistance projects the IFRC has undertaken thus far as well as additional research about how various states handle common problem areas.

In 2010, several major private law offices and companies (Allen and Overy, Baker and Mackenzie and Microsoft Corporation, and CMS Cameron McKenna) donated substantial pro bono time to the project to undertake preliminary comparative research on how existing legislation in over 50 jurisdictions in Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Americas address the issues raised in the IDRL Guidelines. This research informed the drafting of the model and served as a first step for selecting examples of best practice to be discussed in a commentary to the model.

In February, initial discussions about the project were held with a group of parliamentarians from 20 countries at a dedicated side-session of the [IPU's General Assembly in Bangkok](#). In May, an advisory committee of experts from the UN, NGOs, regional organizations and national societies and other experts was formed and met for the first time to assess the project plan and initial research findings.

Drafting commenced in mid-2010, with continued support from the law offices and companies listed above as well as the World Customs Organization. Work is continuing and a further experts meeting to review the first draft is planned for May 2011. The IFRC intends to present the product to the 31st International Conference in November 2011.

1.4 Develop a disaster law course for policy-makers

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Work with interested national societies and other partners to design an annual short course on disaster law for government officials.

Progress as of end 2010: During the reporting period, the programme advanced planning for a three-day short course, which was [successfully held](#) in Köge, Denmark in January 2011. The course gathered representatives from 13 governments, seven National Societies and various international and regional organizations to learn about international norms and key legal issues related to disaster risk reduction, domestic and international response and recovery. The course was organised by IFRC, the Danish Red Cross Society and the Danish Emergency Management Agency.

1.5 Participate in UNDAC preparedness missions

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: IDRL programme staff will continue to make themselves available to lend legal support to “preparedness missions” undertaken by the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) programme.

Progress as of end 2010: During the reporting period, the IFRC continued its cooperation with OCHA in providing support to governments on IDRL through UNDAC preparedness missions. IDRL programme staff participated in missions to [Comoros](#) in March and [El Salvador](#) in April. The reports of both missions included substantial recommendations relating to the legal frameworks for disaster management, including rules related to international assistance.

As a result, the government of El Salvador has shown interest in a technical assistance project as mentioned above. In the Comoros, President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi welcomed the team’s recommendations and pledged that his government would do what was in its power to put them into practice. UNDP is currently sponsoring a follow-up project to assist the government to draft new disaster management legislation, taking into account the recommendations of the UNDAC mission.

Programme Component 2: Training and capacity building

Outcome: Interested National Societies and other partners are empowered to advocate for strengthened legal frameworks for disaster response.



IDRL workshop in Vienna, Austria IFRC



IDRL workshop in Bangkok, Thailand IFRC



IDRL session for the OAS, Washington, USA IFRC

2.1 Organise training workshops

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: The programme will continue to offer training workshops for National Societies, humanitarian partners, and, as appropriate, government officials. At least three regional or sub-regional workshops will be organised each year in 2010 and 2011.

Progress as of end 2010:

Regional workshops

A [training workshop](#) on “Law and Legal Issues in International Disaster Response” was held in **Bangkok** in April, organized by the IFRC. It was attended by 30 participants from UN agencies, National Red Cross Societies from the region and NGOs.

A regional [workshop](#) for European national societies was held in Vienna in May organized by the IFRC and hosted by the Austrian Red Cross. The workshop provided training on the IDRL Guidelines and related norms and also included consultations on the draft “**Manual for national societies on Legislative Advocacy concerning Disaster Management and Health Emergencies,**” which will be completed in 2011. Twenty-six representatives from 18 national societies in Europe attended, as well as representatives from the Danish Emergency Management Agency.

In December, the IFRC was invited to co-organize a [two-day special session](#) for members of the **Organization of American States**’ (OAS) inter-governmental “Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response” in Washington. The workshop examined common regulatory problems in international disaster relief as well as regulatory tools in the Americas.

Other workshops and training

During 2010, the IFRC collaborated with National Societies and national authorities to develop dedicated national-level workshops on IDRL in:

- Poland (April)
- Solomon Islands (June)
- Uganda (July)
- Lima (October)
- Cook Islands (November)
- China (December)
- Kazakhstan (December)

In addition, the IFRC provided specialized briefings in the context of other trainings including:

- IFRC, Americas Disaster Risk Reduction Directors Meeting, Panama (January)
- OCHA, International law training for the UN’s pool of potential humanitarian coordinators in Geneva (February)
- ICRC, Regional ICRC lawyers meeting in Kuala Lumpur (May)
- IFRC, Southeast Asia Regional Disaster Management Committee meeting, Jogjakarta (May)
- Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, European Community Civil Protection Mechanism Training – briefing on IDRL by Norwegian Red Cross (May)
- UN Disaster Management Team, Briefing on IDRL by the Colombian Red Cross, Bogota (June)
- Government of South Korea, Disaster management workshop, Seoul (June)
- OCHA, Training on protection and natural disasters, Lima (June)
- IFRC, Meeting of Pacific National Societies health and disaster officers (June)
- IFRC, Regional Intervention Team training, Panama (October)

2.2 Develop additional training materials

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Develop dedicated training materials for use outside of its own workshops, to develop internal and partner capacities on legal issues in disasters and health emergencies.

Progress as of end 2010:

During the reporting period, the IDRL programme launched an **online introductory training module** on IDRL, which has had over 500 users as of the date of this report. The training is publicly available through the [IFRC learning platform](#). French and Spanish versions of the module were also launched in early 2011, and additional language versions will be made available (subject to funding).

The IDRL programme is also collaborating with the Malaysian Red Crescent and the International Islamic University of Malaysia to develop a module as part of an “Executive Diploma in Humanitarian Affairs. As of the date of this report, discussions for the development of a syllabus and the conclusion of a MoU among the University, Malaysian Red Crescent and IFRC were ongoing. Likewise, a dialogue was initiated with the University of Ottawa in 2010 regarding areas of potential collaboration, with the aim of developing a disaster law course focusing on IDRL.

Programme Component 3: Dissemination, advocacy and research

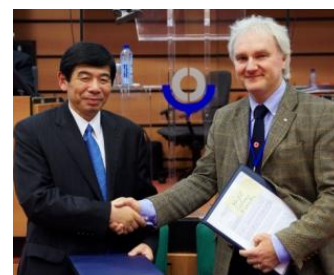
Outcome: The IDRL Guidelines are well known, partnerships are developed and the knowledge base of the Movement on legal issues in disaster response is deepened.



IDRL and Haiti panel at the UN in New York IFRC



Humanitarian conference in Buenos Aires IFRC



Signing of a new MOU with the WCO IFRC

3.1 Disseminate the Guidelines to RC/RC, governments, UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and academic institutions; and advocate for legal preparedness at the global and regional levels

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Continue to disseminate the Guidelines and accompanying information and assist IFRC staff and national societies to do the same. Raise the profile of IDRL in global and regional fora.

Progress as of end 2010:

Global

- As in past years, the IFRC successfully advocated for the annual resolutions on “strengthening humanitarian coordination” from the **Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC Res. 2010/1) and the **UN General Assembly** (GA Res. 65/133) to include positive references to the IDRL Guidelines.
- In May, the IFRC was invited to give a [joint presentation](#) with OCHA to the World Customs Organization’s (**WCO**) Permanent Technical Committee in Brussels on the problems and best practices of customs clearance in disaster settings. At that meeting, WCO members affirmed their desire to make this issue a priority area of its work for the next year, potentially including the development of guidance documents, compilation of best practices, and the creation of a mutual support mechanism for support with clearance issues in disaster settings. In June, the IFRC and WCO [signed an MoU](#) to cooperate in developing information-sharing events and materials on customs-related issues in disasters. In

October, the WCO convened a new [Ad Hoc Working Group on Natural Disaster Relief](#), to which the IFRC, represented by the Red Cross/European Union Office, contributed.

- In October, the IFRC presented [papers on law and climate change and IDRL](#) at the meetings of “Senior Officials of **Commonwealth** Law Ministries” and the “Law Ministers of Small Commonwealth Jurisdictions” in London. This was the first time that a focus on strengthening disaster laws had been included in the agenda of those meetings.
- In December, the IFRC organized [a panel](#) hosted by the Governments of Haiti and Australia at **UN headquarters** in New York to discuss preliminary findings of its IDRL study in Haiti.

Americas

- In April, the IFRC delivered a presentation on the IDRL Guidelines at the Organization of American States (**OAS**) “[Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response](#)” in Washington. In May, it presented on IDRL at an OAS regional workshop on emergency laws in the Caribbean in Saint-Lucia and in June as part of a panel organized by the OAS at the Global Risk Forum in Davos. In December, the IFRC was invited to develop a dedicated two-day session for Working Group in Washington, as mentioned under Programme Component 2, above.
- In June, the IFRC attended the “Third Regional Meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnership” in Buenos Aires, a meeting of two **dozen Latin American and Caribbean governments** and humanitarian partners. Following the “[Buenos Aires Declaration](#),” that resulted from that event, the IFRC was invited to collaborate in the development of a formal questionnaire to all states in the Americas to develop a [regional compendium](#) of national laws and procedures related to international disaster assistance. This tool was finalised in December 2010 during the meeting of the working group that brought together the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, as well as representative from OCHA and IFRC.
- Also in June, the IFRC presented on IDRL at the [15th meeting of the Andean Committee for the Disaster Response and Prevention \(CAPRADE\)](#) in Lima.
- In December, the IFRC was invited by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (**CDEMA**) to present on IDRL at the 5th annual Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management.

Asia

- In March, the IFRC participated and presented on IDRL at the UNISDR’s regional partnership meeting in Bangkok.
- In October, IDRL was presented at **the Red Cross Red Crescent Asia-Pacific Conference** in Amman, Jordan. On that occasion, the IFRC also launched an [advocacy report](#) and [video](#) entitled “[Disasters in Asia: The Case for Legal Preparedness](#),” which received a positive response from media and delegates.
- Presentations on IDRL were given in various platforms in Asia (Humanitarian Development Foundation: ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security (June), ALNAP Conference, Kuala Lumpur (November).

Pacific

- The Pacific regional office continued its membership in the **Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network**, led by SOPAC. The IDRL focal point took part in and

contributed to the fifth annual meeting of the network, including by giving opening remarks. The IDRL programme also contributed to early preparations for the sixth annual meeting, which is scheduled to be held in second half of 2011.

- A memorandum of understanding with **SOPAC** is currently under discussion, and SOPAC has expressed the intention of drawing the attention of its members to the IDRL Guidelines and IFRC's offer of support.
- The Pacific regional office collaborated with the **Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference** (PIDC) to produce a policy document entitled *Disaster response and the role of immigration*.
- The IFRC also provided IDRL contributions to a series of events organized by **OCHA**, including its 3rd annual regional workshop for humanitarian assistance and national-level contingency planning workshop in the Cook Islands in June and in Tonga in September. It also participated in the Pacific DRM Partnership Network in several meetings.

3.2 Undertake new research on law in disaster risk reduction

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Begin an 18-month research project, to examine the key legal issues in disaster risk reduction, with a particular focus on how law can best foster community-level activity to reduce risk to disasters and health emergencies.

Progress as of end 2010:

- The IDRL programme commenced desk research on the legal aspects of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The project seeks to consolidate existing research and best practice in legislation in DRR, in particular with regard to how law can support DRR at the community level. In this context, upon the request of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the IDRL programme submitted a [desk review](#) on the topic of "trends in the promotion of community-based disaster risk reduction through legislation" as part of the development process for the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) 2011.
- A series of country case studies related to this project was undertaken. At the end of the reporting period, the [DRR study in Nepal](#) had been completed, and studies were being planned for Albania, the Dominican Republic and Brazil.

3.3 Collaborate with other IFRC secretariat departments on applied research

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Collaborate with other departments of the IFRC on applied research regarding the use of legal tools to meet disaster management goals. This will include work with the Shelter Department, looking at issues raised both with regard to its work with National Societies and as the Global Emergency Shelter Cluster convener in natural disasters.

Progress as of end 2010: Initial legal research was commenced for a joint project with the IFRC's shelter department to raise awareness of the key regulatory barriers to providing emergency and transitional shelter after disasters. Case study research is currently ongoing in support of a dedicated discussion of this issue which has been proposed for the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2011.

3.4 Other dissemination

Goal for the two-year period 2010-2011: Foster academic and public attention to IDRL.

Progress as of end 2010:

- In March, the IDRL programme published a study on the Australian law applicable to relief entitled "[Legal preparedness for international disaster response in Australia- laws, policies, planning and practices](#)".
- The IFRC cooperated with the secretariat of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) to develop a [policy brief on 'Disaster Response and the Role of Immigration'](#) for the 23 PIDC member countries and territories.
- During the reporting period, background material on the IDRL Guidelines was translated into Greek and Portuguese. The IDRL Guidelines are now available in 15 languages on the [IDRL programme's public website](#).
- The IDRL [bi-monthly e-newsletter and weekly news service](#) continue to reach a wide audience by email, twitter and facebook.
- The IDRL programme's work was featured in the [2009 International Aid and Trade Review](#), the web-site of the [Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and in the June 2010 edition of the [World Customs Organization News](#). It was also featured on the [RCRC Magazine](#) and the ISDR Informa Magazine. Updates from the Pacific IDRL programme appeared throughout the year in the *Pacific Monthly* e-mail newsletter produced by the Pacific regional office together with the inputs of ICRC and National Societies.

Progress towards quantitative goals

Goal for two-year period 2010-11	Level achieved in 2010
Ten (10) governments benefiting from new country-level pilot technical assistance projects.	8 projects were underway, negotiations near completion for projects to commence in an additional 8 countries.
Six (6) governments benefiting from case studies in EU (and all EU states benefiting from the overall regional study).	EU regional study, country studies and synthesis report all published. Positive response from the European Council.
Twenty (20) government representatives benefiting from a five-day course.	Course held in January 2011 with 23 participants (including 13 government representatives).
Five (5) disaster risk reduction country case studies.	First DRR case study completed, others planned for early 2011
Organized at least three (3) regional or sub-regional workshops each year in 2010 and 2011.	Regional workshops held in Bangkok, Vienna and Washington.
At least 10 trainings/briefings of substantial length.	17 trainings/briefings provided to various audiences (as discussed in the text above).
Seek to co-sponsor two to three conferences per year with regional organizations.	Potential workshops under discussion for 2011 with ECOWAS and SADC.

Constraints or Challenges

Donors provided generous support to the IDRL programme in 2010, allowing a large number of activities to be carried out. However, substantial portions of the funding received was earmarked only for Asia, where delays were experienced in commencing some country projects. There was also significant turnover in the IDRL Africa post, which limited spending and progress over the course of the year.

The IDRL programme continues to believe that strong government engagement is critical if recommendations are to be implemented and the projects are to have meaningful impact. However, the time inherent in obtaining government participation in the country projects has been a continuing challenge.

Working in partnership

Our key partners are national societies – often involving a combination of leadership, disaster managers and legal advisors. Major goal of the programme is to help them support their own authorities on the development of effective disaster laws.

The programme also continued its partnership with several external actors this year, including UNOCHA (through the UNDAC programme, collaboration in trainings, and joint approaches to governments), as well as the IPU and WCO. At the regional level, the programme deepened its cooperation with several regional organizations during the reporting period, including CAPRADE, OAS, PIDC, and SOPAC. It also forged its first private sector partnerships with the law firms involved in the model legislation project discussed above, and with individual government departments, including the Danish Emergency Management Agency, which co-organized the Disaster Law Short Course.

Contributing to longer-term impact

IFRC remains convinced that the best way to overcome regulatory issues in international assistance is to prepare legal frameworks *in advance* of the onset of a disaster. The IDRL programme continues to work globally to promote implementation of the IDRL Guidelines, raise awareness of legal issues in disaster management, and to support states and international and regional organizations in their efforts to enhance legal preparedness for disaster response.

Looking ahead

An important milestone is approaching with the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to be convened in November 2011. At that time, states and national societies will be invited to report on their progress in implementing Resolution 4 of the 30th International Conference, adopting the IDRL Guidelines. The IDRL programme continues to support National Societies and governments to help ensure that they have positive and substantive progress to report. This includes direct assistance through technical support projects, as well as the development of tools such as the legislative advocacy manual, model legislation, an online training module and numerous studies and reports.

In 2010, in collaboration with other IFRC Secretariat departments, the programme also expanded its research base in emerging areas of disaster law, namely disaster risk reduction and emergency shelter. Initial research findings and consultations indicate a surprising lack of detailed research and analysis in these areas and that the Red Cross/Red Crescent, with its operational experience and disaster law expertise, may be well-placed to undertake this work. The IFRC intends to present reports on both of these topics to the 31st International Conference.

As of the end of 2010, the programme had dedicated field staff in place to support national societies and IFRC on disaster law issues in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific (including the Asia-Pacific Zone office and the Regional Representation for the Pacific). By maintaining a minimal staff presence in Geneva and concentrating resources in the field, the programme aims to take best advantage of IFRC's decentralised management structure and ensure that its programming is relevant to specific regional needs.

How we work

All Federation 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 is committed to 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 non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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