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REPORT

ON

LOCALIZATION OF AID FOR AN EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE GAMBIA WORKSHOP

22ND TO 23RD APRIL, 2019

SENEGAMBIA BEACH HOTEL – THE GAMBIA

Organised by The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

With the support of the European Union.

BACKGROUND

Over the last twenty years, the number of disasters has significantly increased worldwide due to the effects of climate change. Droughts, storms and floods of greater intensity have occurred in new areas and affected more communities. Most countries do not have special laws in place for facilitating and regulating international relief, and even if they do, they are not always implemented. The result is a common set of problems, including unnecessary taxation or delays at customs, and restrictions in the operation concerning the use of communication equipment and a lack of overview over the quality of the assistance delivered to the affected communities.

Other issues arise out of the growing numbers and greater variety of international humanitarian actors, which make it much more difficult for the affected State to coordinate the assistance and to monitor the type and quality of the relief offered to its population. It is widely accepted that the poor and marginalized will bear the brunt of these developments if actions are not taken, both to reduce disaster risks and to be better prepared for responding to disasters when they strike. As affirmed in the Hyogo Framework for Action, law is a critical tool for empowering such action and adapting to a changing world.

Every government has the possibility to think ahead by preparing its legal framework so as to facilitate the import, export and transit of humanitarian aid, as well as to monitor and coordinate the performance of humanitarian actors. This workshop organized by The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) intended to give an overview of the problems experienced in this matter in The Gambia and to propose to contributions to the legislative process of a Disaster Management Law to avoid these issues in future.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES:

- Equip authorities with knowledge of ECOWAS and IFRC tools (DM Handbook, 2018-2022 Plan of Action, ECOWAS Assessment Tool, IDRL Guidelines, Model Act and to consult on the new the Checklist for Domestic Preparedness and Response to be adopted at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- Consultation on the elements of the Handbook towards its finalization
- Share progress in the field of Disaster Law at regional and national level over the past 10 years

- Simulate discussion on the localization of aid through legal facilitation of international response and empowerment of local capacities
- Develop ideas and priority areas for future work on disaster law in the Gambia

OPENING SESSION:

The opening ceremony was chaired by *Mr. Abdoulie Fye* – the Program Manager of The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS). The dignitaries to this ceremony were:

- Mr. Alasan Senghore – Secretary General (GRCS)
- Mr. Sanna Dahaba – Executive Director (NDMA)
- Serign Modou Joof – Deputy Executive Director (NDMA)
- Maria Martinez – Coordinator for Africa, IFRC Disaster Law Programme
- Saikou Kawsu Gassama – Permanent Secretary 1 (Office of the President)

Mr. Abdoulie Fye – Program Manager of The Gambia Red Cross started by giving a brief rundown on the purpose of the workshop. He explained that this two-day workshop aims at equipping stakeholders with knowledge on domesticating local aid for effective Disaster Management. He mentioned that by the end of the workshop, a roadmap would be developed by the participants which would serve as a guide to “next steps” and future actions. He added that GRCS is confident that from this training, The Gambia will soon legislate a disaster law for effective and efficient coordination. He thanked everyone for answering to this call and mentioned that GRCS hopes to continue training partners and stakeholders in the humanitarian field on the localization of legal aid.

Mr. Sanna Dahaba – Executive Director of NDMA thanked GRCS for the partnership and assures their continuous commitment in the humanitarian field. He mentioned that this training will give stakeholders the opportunity to be exposed to some ECOWAS instruments and protocols and other handbooks on Disaster Management. He added that participants should make best use of this opportunity to share knowledge and experience on Disaster Management. This can thus encourage prompt assistance in effectively responding to disasters with simultaneous coordination. He also said that the NDMA and partners are building a proactive attitude towards risk reduction and he called on all actors to invest in risk reduction measures.

Mr. Alasan Senghore – Secretary General of GRCS acknowledged the presence of all dignitaries and thanked everyone for attending. He made reference to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey where it was realised and agreed that a lot still needs to be done in terms of development and humanitarian impact. Humanitarian focus should now be on building capacities and

strengthening local institutions. He mentioned that the obligation of the Red Cross is to serve as an auxiliary body and support the Government in humanitarian action. He added that as a country, we have the enabling environment and now need to domesticate disaster laws in order to be well guided in responding to disasters. He concluded by adding that we all have obligations to support the Government in ensuring that they adhere, respect and contribute to the implementation of policies and development of legal frameworks.

Maria Martinez – Coordinator for Africa, IFRC Disaster Law Programme said that she was very pleased to work in partnership with GRCS, the Gambia Government, and ECOWAS on the localization of Aid. She mentioned that IFRC will continue to provide the technical support needed for the localization of aid for effective Disaster Management through the IDRL tools developed by the IFRC. She wished all participants a very successful training.

Mr. Saikou Gassama – Deputy Permanent Secretary 1, Office of the President attended the session on behalf of the Secretary General. He said that the objective of this gathering would help put different government department and stakeholders at the same level regarding Disaster Risk Reduction. He mentioned that as a country, we are vulnerable to a lot of climate related factors thus; this workshop is timely and is in line with the SDGs. He added that this workshop should facilitate a continuous partnership among stakeholders. He finally declared the session open.

The workshop was covered by The Gambia Radio and Television Services - <https://www.grts.gm/featured/stakeholders-meet-for-an-effective-disaster-responce-anagement/>, Paradise TV, Gambian Talents Promotion Online TV, The Point Newspaper - <http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/stakeholders-convene-synergy-on-effective-disaster-management-aid-localisation> and The Standard Newspaper

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Introduction to the Auxiliary Role of the National Society and the Gambia Red Cross role in Disaster Management (By Mr. Alasan Senghore, GRCS Secretary General)

He started by giving a brief explanation on the founding of the Red Cross Movement and how the Red Cross Emblem came into being. He gave an account on Henry Dunant's ideas around the founding of this relief organization called the Red Cross Movement which started as an organization responsible for providing support to the wounded and sick soldiers which later developed to include other humanitarian and development areas. The Red Cross supports the Government in this role, as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The presentation also included an explanation of GRCS' Role in Disaster Management. Disaster Management is all about Policy and Administration being Operational.

2. Introduction to the National Disaster Management Legal Framework (By Serign Modou Joof, Deputy Executive Director of NDMA)

His presentation focused on the Gambia's Disaster Management Legal framework which explained the existing documents regarding Disaster Management in the country. It emphasized the importance of the National Disaster Management Act 2008 which was enacted to provide for an integrated and co-ordinate Disaster Management that focuses on prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery from disasters or emergency situations. However, he stressed the need of reviewing the national legal framework in light of the IDRL Guidelines to include legal facilities and special procedures to deal with international disaster assistance.

3. Introduction to ECOWAS Instruments and Tools (By Maria Martinez Coordinator for Africa, IFRC Disaster Law Programme)

This presentation dealt with the following documents that should be used as tools for Disaster Management. These were:

- ECOWAS 2018 – 2022 Plan of Action of the Humanitarian Policy
- Draft Disaster Management Handbook
- IDRL Self – Assessment tool

4. Localization of Aid: International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) (By Maria Martinez Coordinator for Africa, IFRC Disaster Law Programme)

This presentation gave the participants an overview of the content of the IDRL Guidelines, its use in international disaster response and how it should be domesticated to facilitate national coordination with international actors. The presentation made emphasis on the following key areas:

- Introduction to key legal issues and norms in international disaster response
- Main recommendations to assist governments in regulating legal facilities for international response operations
- Introduction to the IDRL Guidelines, IDRL Model Act and IDRL Checklist as tools

5. Law and Disaster Risk Reduction (By Maria Martinez Coordinator for Africa, IFRC Disaster Law Programme)

This presentation was on legal frameworks and Disaster Management. It introduced participants to the Law and DRR Checklist developed by IFRC which helps governments implement priority 2 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

6. The Draft Checklist on Domestic Preparedness and Response

This presentation focused on the new checklist that IFRC is developing on domestic preparedness and response that covers all the phases within the disaster management cycle. In this opportunity, participants were consulted on the draft checklist that will be discussed and adopted at the 33rd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent to be held in December 2019.

GROUP WORKS:

Group Work 1

The participants were divided into three groups to work on a fictional disaster scenario – ‘The Ark Earthquake of 2019’. The groups were equally given some time to go through the scenario and do a presentation on their findings. This was facilitated by *Maria Martinez*. The participants analysed the fictional disaster scenario and discussed the issues raised. The points are summarized as follows:

- **Key Issues that affect facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance:**
 - ✓ Entry Visas
 - ✓ The destruction of the communication system by the earthquake
 - ✓ Destruction of infrastructure
 - ✓ Lack of authorization of Radio Equipment in Ark including the processing fee and time
 - ✓ Government policy gaps regarding Disaster Management

- **Recommendation for Immigration and Customs authorities:**
 - ✓ Put in place flexible measures addressing stiff border restrictions, especially for humanitarian specialized equipment and personnel to facilitate rapid response during emergencies
 - ✓ Initiate one-stop-shop at border entry points to facilitate entry documentation requirement verification and clearance
 - ✓ A one-off process for duty-free clearance, especially for specialized equipment
 - ✓ Strong policy regulation and domestic laws dealing with international disaster response

Developing a Roadmap for strengthening the Gambia DRM Framework:

With this group work, participants were divided into four groups to share their proposals and recommendations on the “next steps” after this workshop as far as localization of aid is concerned. The points from the four groups are compiled in the below table.

Specific Objectives	Concrete Actions	Responsible Entity	Additional Support	Timeline
<p>Ensuring Appropriate Legal and Policy Frameworks for Preventing and Responding to Emergencies and Disasters</p> <p>Promote and codify core instruments and standards for the protection of civilians</p>	<p>Put in place an up-to-date DRR policy that stands the test of time</p> <p>Have in place robust social protection and nationally codified instruments that protects and safeguard the vulnerable within the context of crisis and emergencies (Children, Differently able, the elderly, and Women)</p> <p>Improve NDMA's coordination role</p>	<p>NDMA, National Disaster Council, Ministry of Justice, National Disaster Platform, Office of the Vice President, GRCS</p>	<p>IFRC Resident and Non-resident donor agencies, UN</p>	<p>2019 Quarter 4</p>
<p>To have the Disaster Management Act updated</p>	<p>Hire a consultant for the review of the Act</p> <p>Validation of the Reviewed Act</p>	<p>NDMA</p>	<p>Gambia Red Cross Humanitarian Organizations, Government stakeholders IFRC</p>	<p>2019 - 2020</p>
<p>Strengthen adequate DRR financing / resourcing for disaster management and effective utilization of resources</p>	<p>Prioritize the Adequate resource allocation for core disaster management financing.</p> <p>Establish a resource mobilization for DRR financing</p> <p>Building Community Resilience through sensitization, trainings and community involvement</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs National Assembly, NDMA</p>	<p>UN agencies, EU, GRCS, IFRC, Office of the Vice President, ECOWAS, UNISDR</p>	<p>June – December 2019</p>

	Strengthen Preparedness measures			
Incorporate DRR into the school curriculum	Work with the Ministry of Education to include DRR in the school curriculum	NDMA, GRCS, Ministry of Education	IFRC, EU, Office of the Vice President, UN	By May 2020
Strengthening Administrative, Management and Operational Capacity of NDMA	Conduct regular staff appraisal and mapping Routine capacity building & staffing NDMA's mobilization capacity needs to be strengthened by regularly reviewing its sources of revenues Mainstream DRR in national and sectoral development plans	National Assembly, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Vice President,	Gambia Red Cross IFRC	
Ensure availability of adequate resources for disaster preparedness and response	Develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy Implement the strategy	NDMA and its partners	Donor partners	2019 – 2020
Availability of a Harmonized Early Warning System	Mapping of Stakeholders Sensitization on Early Warning System Issuing of Early Warning systems Production of Early Warning bulletins	NDMA and partners	Funding Agencies	2019 – 2020
To have a well-structured and comprehensive Contingency Plan	Identification of hazards and hazard ranking	NDMA, partners	Gambia Red Cross Funding Agencies	2019 -2020

available at all levels accompanied by drills or simulation exercises	Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Matrixes Costing of these matrixes			
To have a duty-waver on relief goods that are based on the needs of people	To prepare a guiding document that would facilitate this process	NDMA, Gambia Immigration Department, Gambia Revenue Authority (Customs)	Office of the Vice President, Ministry of Interior	June – November 2019
Granting of Entry Visas to Humanitarian workers	Consultation with relevant stakeholders on the required process To create a provision in the Act that would allow humanitarian workers to be granted Visas upon arrival	NDMA, Gambia Immigration Department	Office of the Vice President, Ministry of Interior	By December 2019
Community Outreach for information sharing	Provide the public with basic information on disaster agency roles and functions (E.g. NDMA, Fire Service)	NDMA and partners	Humanitarian partners	Ongoing

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

During this important session, there were very interactive and interesting sessions where participants gave recommendations on how to collectively improve Disaster management framework in the country. These recommendations are as follows:

- Review the Disaster Management framework in the Gambia in light of the recommendations set in the IDRL tools, DRR checklist and other instruments developed by the IFRC.
- The GRCS and NDMA should put more efforts at National level in order to be part of the National Security Council as they are usually the first to provide humanitarian assistance during emergencies
- To follow up with the right authorities on the issue of erecting petrol stations inside the communities
- How is ECOWAS trying to ensure the implementation of the global commitments on the Localization of Aid
- There should be more collaboration between the GRCS and the Department of Water Resources
- DRR issues should really be captured in sectoral planning to make sure that issues of DRR are addressed at all levels
- The Gambia Fire and Rescue Service have paramedics who should go with ambulances to any fire outbreak that they are responding to. These paramedics should be responsible of taking care of any patients from the incident. However, this has not been happening in the country due to lack of resources and they would want the Red Cross to critically look into this issue and work on how best to collaborate on the area.

APPENDIX**ATTENDANCE LIS:**

NAME	INSTITUTION
Bakary Sanneh	GRCS (CRR)
Bubacarr Fofana	NDMA (CRR)
Ismaila Jarju	GRCS (Driver)
Lamin Touray	(Driver)
Pa Alieu Bojang	(Driver)
Lamin Jammeh	(Driver)
Saikou Trawally	(Driver)
Alhagie S. Jallow	(Driver)
Duwa Darboe	(Driver)
Ebou Njie	Audley
Fatou Jammeh Touray	Governor (LRR)
Ebrima K.S Dampha	Governor (NBR)
Musa B. Suso	Deputy Governor (WCR)
Amadou FM Njie	Gambia Fire and Rescue Services
Lamin Sambou	MOLRG
Nuha Nyassi	GRCS Board
Fatou B Gaye	GRCS
Sainabou Conteh	TANGO
Serign Modou Joof	NDMA
Njogou Jeng	WFP
Amath Tijan Jobe	MOFWR
Papa Secka	MOHERST
Binta Sey	NDMA
Binta Sillah	GRCS
Isatou Joof	GRCS
Modou Touray	GRCS
Kumba Jow	MOJ
Sanna Dahaba	NDMA
Saikou Kawsu Gassama	OP
Manding Saidykhan	Ministry of Interior
Abdoulie Fye	GRCS
Binta Jammeh	GRCS
Oumie Sissokho	NDMA
Binta Jabang	Office of the Vice President
Alieu Sanneh	Media
Yaya Manjang	Media
Omar Baldeh	Media
Kawsu Barry	Media
Karamba Keita	Ministry of Health
Binta Jallow	Media
Ibrahima Diabi	Media

AGENDA:

Localization of aid for an effective disaster management

Senegambia Beach Hotel, Banjul, 22nd to 23rd April, 2019

Master of Ceremony: Abdoulie Fye, Programme Manager, The Gambia Red Cross Society

DAY ONE

- 08:00** **Registration**
- 08:30** **Welcome and introductory remarks**
Sanna Dahaba, Executive Director of the National Disaster Management Agency
Alasan Senghore, Secretary General of the Gambia Red Cross
Saikou Kawsu Gassama, Permanent Secretary 1 Office of The President of The Gambia
- 09:00** **Round of introductions, followed by a Group Photo**
- 09:30** **Introduction to the Auxiliary role of the National Society and Gambia Red Cross role in Disaster Management**
Alasan Senghore, Secretary General of the Gambia Red Cross Society
Presentation and Q&A
- 10:00** ***Health break***
- 10:30** **Introduction to the National Disaster Management Legal Framework: Key features of the DRM Act, Policy and Operations Manual**
Mr. Serign Modou Joof, Deputy Executive Director, National Disaster Management Agency
Presentation and Q&A
- 11:30** **Introduction to ECOWAS Instruments and Tools**
 - 2018 – 2022 Plan of Action
 - DM Handbook
 - Self-Assessment toolFacilitator: María Martínez, IFRC Regional Disaster Law Coordinator on behalf of ECOWAS
Presentation and Q&A

- 12:30** *Lunch*
- 13:30** **Localization of Aid: International Disaster Response Law (IDRL)**
- *Introduction to key legal issues and norms in international disaster response*
- *Introduction to the IDRL Guidelines, IDRL Model Act and IDRL Checklist*
 Presentation and Q&A
Maria Martinez, IFRC Regional Disaster Law Coordinator
- 14:30** **IDRL exercise** (scenario-based exercise, followed by plenary discussion)
María Martínez, IFRC Regional Disaster Law Coordinator
- 15:30** *Health break*
- 16:00** **Plenary Discussion on the Exercise**
- 17:00** **End of Day One**

DAY TWO

- 08:30** **Welcome and recap**
- 09:00** **The impact of Law in Disaster Risk Reduction**
Facilitated by Maria Martínez, IFRC Regional Disaster Law Coordinator
- 10:30** *Health break*
- 11:00** **Introduction to the Checklist on Domestic Preparedness and Response**
Facilitated by: Maria Martínez, IFRC Regional Disaster Law Coordinator
- 12:00** **The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**
Facilitated by Mr. Alasan Senghore, Secretary General of the Gambia Red Cross
- 12:30** *Lunch*
- 13:30** **Group Exercise: Road Map for next steps**
Participants will split into groups and discuss how the country's legal framework for Disaster Management can continue to be strengthened having in mind the ECOWAS Handbook

Facilitated by: Mr. Oumie Sissokho, Director of Operations National Disaster Management Agency

15:00 **Plenary: Each group will present the road map**

15:30 *Health break*

16:00 **Evaluation of the Workshop**

16:30 **Presentation of certificates and closing remarks**

17:00 **End of Workshop**

PHOTOS:







