



MODEL PRE-DISASTER AGREEMENT

Responding to disasters during the pandemic has further highlighted the need for continued Red Cross Red Crescent awareness and advocacy on the auxiliary role, sustained humanitarian access and reduction of regulatory bottlenecks that may hamper our work in emergency preparedness and response.



What is the Model Pre-Disaster Agreement?

IFRC has developed a [Model Pre-Disaster Agreement](#) – to be entered into by a National Society, its government and the IFRC.

The aim of the Agreement is to establish modalities and areas for cooperation between the three parties and to clarify roles and responsibilities in disaster preparedness and response, including for public health emergencies. The Agreement also facilitates the role of the broader IFRC Network in providing support to the National Society. It can be modified depending on the country's needs and context.

The Agreement builds on recommendations provided in the [Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance](#).



Why do we need this Agreement?

Crucial lessons have been learned in recent response operations, where the role of the National Society and the wider IFRC Network has not been well understood by the relevant authorities. This has at times led to access barriers, restrictions on mobility and challenges in the scaling up of IFRC Network support requested by the National Society. This ultimately results in affected populations not getting the assistance they need, at the right time.

The advocacy and engagement process leading to the signature of the Agreement will support the National Society to further raise awareness and understanding of its auxiliary role with its public authorities. Often the auxiliary role of the National Society may not be readily understood outside its line ministry. It is important that frontline agencies for health, disaster management, customs and internal affairs are aware of and facilitate the humanitarian activities of the National Society, as well as the role of the IFRC Network in supporting the National Society.



What does the Agreement cover?

Establishes modalities and areas for cooperation between the government, National Society and the IFRC, as well as clarify roles and responsibilities in disaster preparedness and response, including public health emergencies.

Reinforces and safeguards the [Fundamental Principles](#) and the auxiliary role of the National Society in a formal instrument that applies to different operational sectors of government.

Emphasises that the National Society is in the driver's seat for disaster preparedness and response, in line with the [Grand Bargain's Localization Agenda](#) 'as local as possible, as international as necessary'. Further, it reinforces the role of IFRC in providing support to the National Society and in coordinating assistance from the IFRC Network.

Sets out a comprehensive range of legal facilities for the National Society and IFRC, which promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of their disaster preparedness and response activities.

Facilitates the implementation of IFRC response mechanisms, in the absence of an international appeal placed by the disaster affected government.



Who are the Parties to the Agreement?

The Agreement should be signed by the National Society, the IFRC and the government.

It can be tailored to be entered into with a specific government agency or with multiple government agencies, such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), Ministry of Finance, Customs, etc.

For the IFRC, the Agreement should only be entered into where a pre-existing Legal Status Agreement is in place.



How to engage governments?

Engaging with relevant authorities to discuss and advocate for the signing of the Agreement is almost as important as the Agreement itself.

Through the engagement process for the signature of the agreement, government authorities will gain a better understanding of our *Fundamental Principles*, the National Society's auxiliary role, the *Principles and Rules* for RCRC Humanitarian Assistance and other relevant Statutory meetings commitments and they will better understand how we work.

IFRC Disaster Law is ready to support National Societies to plan for and implement an engagement strategy with the relevant authorities.

Further information

For further information on the initiative please contact disaster.law@ifrc.org