

Annual Report 2020

Global (G00344)

Asia-Pacific (P50033)

Africa (P60013)

Americas (P42068)

Central Asia (P70010)

**This report covers the
period:**

**01/01/2020 to
31/12/2020**



Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) provides shelter and individual protection kits, in response to Tropical Cyclone “Chalane,” as anticipated actions in Búzi district, Sofala province. (December, 2020)

Overview

During the 2020 reporting period, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Disaster Law (IFRC Disaster Law) continued its work promoting legal preparedness for disasters. Pursuant to the mandates assigned to the IFRC at the 28th, 30th, 31st, 32nd and 33rd International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the programme focused on supporting National Societies (NSs) to meet the following main goals:

1. National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law;
2. Technical legal advice and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of climate-smart disaster risk management laws, policies and/or procedures;
3. Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships;
4. IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy.

Top outcomes from the Disaster Law Programme’s efforts during the reporting period included:

- Adoption of **new legal instruments** drawing on recommendations of the National Societies and IFRC in **6 countries** (Guatemala, Honduras, Lao, Nepal, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu).
- **6 National Societies** with **better defined auxiliary roles** in draft or new national laws and policies (Argentina, Guatemala, Honduras, Kiribati, Philippines and Uganda).
- Involvement in **18 legal drafting procedures** (Dominica, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kenya, Lao, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Philippines, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tokelau, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda and Vanuatu) adoption of which is expected to occur in 2020-2021.
- Following advocacy efforts by NS, **6 countries** adopted specific language recognizing the **auxiliary role of RC as first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic** (Bahamas, Jamaica, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago).
- Development of dissemination and advocacy material to support National Societies' efforts and requests to domestic authorities for unrestricted access to population in needs in response to the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Major activities included:

- **23 National Societies engaged in legislative advocacy activities** with the support of IFRC Disaster Law (Botswana, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao, Marshall Islands, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu)
- Over **612 people were trained** in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy in 20 countries.
- Over **12 inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora** actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence.
- The team also finalized the new [Guide on Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#) aimed at offering practical guidance to National Societies about how to strengthen their auxiliary role through domestic law, policies, plans and agreements.
- IFRC Disaster Law embarked on a new research project on [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response](#), and jointly with the School of Law of University College Cork of Ireland, continued the research project on ['Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030'](#).
- The team also completed **6 country case studies** (Bangladesh, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Uganda and Sudan) and Auxiliary role mapping in 19 countries (Angola, Botswana, Dominica, Eswatini, Fiji, Gabon, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Samoa, South Africa, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe).
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes with **3 regional organizations**.
- Support for disaster law discussions in over **13 humanitarian and academic conferences**.
- **Support to COVID-19 response** in Africa, Asia Pacific and the Americas regions.

Financial situation

IFRC Disaster Law location	Budget (2020)	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme) *	655,915	603,680 (92%)
Africa region	441,946	440,982 (100%)
Americas region	379,142	362, 142 (95,5%)
Asia Pacific region	584,176	523,030 (90%)
Central Asia	311,446	289,584 (93%)
Total Project Sum (CHF)	2,372,625	2,219,418 (94%)

*100k were allocated to Disaster Law in the COVID-19 Appeal G00421/MDR0005, of which 47,765 were implemented in 2020 and the balance will be implemented in 2021. 220k were also allocated to Disaster Law in G00345.

Major donors to IFRC Disaster Law work in 2020 were the Government of Australia, the Government of Germany, the European Union, as well as the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and United Kingdom. This support is gratefully acknowledged. We are also extremely grateful to the British Red Cross and Allens and White & Case law firms which have provided pro bono work. We also sincerely thank all the support and pro bono work provided by our academic partners (full list below) and volunteers of Disaster Law.

Working in partnership

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NS) are IFRC Disaster Law’s primary audience for advocacy and capacity building and play a key role as implementing partners. Many NS have already developed strong capacities and networks through which disaster law activities are undertaken. Domestically, as auxiliaries to their national authorities in the humanitarian sphere, they are the primary organisations that should be advocating and providing technical support for the strengthening of legal preparedness at the national level. At the regional level, they co-lead advocacy efforts with the IFRC, including through the several Disaster Law peer groups that exist. In each of the countries where Disaster Law has engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked with the NS concerned, as well as with the relevant national authorities.

While NS are the primary actors in disaster law and legislative advocacy at the national level, IFRC has continued to develop partnerships with several global humanitarian actors and intergovernmental platforms. Disaster Law continued to cooperate closely with key global agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

IFRC Disaster Law strengthened its cooperation with a range of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the European Union, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), Central Asian Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

IFRC Disaster Law also continued to strengthen its cooperation with academic partners, conducting joint initiatives with the American Society of International Law, Dhaka University (Bangladesh), Institute for Crisis Management Studies (Nepal), Canterbury University (New Zealand), Roma Tre University, Uninettuno (Italy), University College of Cork (Ireland) and the University of West Indies (Jamaica).

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law

[Africa](#)

IFRC Disaster Law initiated discussions with IGAD for the development of a DRR Regional Framework based on Disaster Law climate smart recommendations. In this respect, the Programme attended IGAD's Climate Outlook Forum and made an intervention at the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. This engagement resulted in the inclusion of Disaster Law as one of the topics for development under IGAD's 2020 agenda.

Disaster Law facilitated a French Webinar with the NSs from Central Africa as well as Niger on 'How To' use the COVID-19 Advocacy package developed to support the NS during in the COVID-19 response. The webinar also detailed the major findings of mappings carried out by IFRC Disaster Law detailing the level of involvement of the NS in the national COVID-19 responses. During this webinar, the participants shared their experiences in engaging with their governments during this response, highlighting best practices as well as challenges they continue to face.

IFRC Disaster Law also supported preparation and facilitation of the inaugural Africa Climate Fellowship Programme aimed at supporting African NSs - Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Climate Action Focal Points in strengthening their technical and coordination capacities to demonstrate leadership on climate action. During this 6-week training programme, IFRC Disaster Law hosted a session on advocacy for change that offered a guided discussion of how to harness their auxiliary role to support advocacy. The session was aimed at equipping the participants of the fellowship with basic tools on legislative advocacy to allow them advocate for climate action inclusion in their NS programming as well as in relevant national policies and laws.

In furtherance to a global MOU between UNICEF and IFRC, Disaster Law and UNICEF held consultative technical engagements on how to strengthen GBV integration in emergency preparedness and response in Eastern and Southern Africa. Following this, a regional learning series “Gender-Based Violence in Integration in emergency preparedness and response UNICEF and IFRC Eastern and Southern Africa” was developed and facilitated jointly by the IFRC and UNICEF. During this learning series, IFRC Disaster Law hosted a session which focused specifically on Integration of child protection and protection from sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in disaster management legislation. The session highlighted the different global studies on SGBV and child protection and disaster management laws with specific reference to case studies in Zimbabwe and Uganda respectively.

IFRC Disaster Law hosted a session in the Sahel migration webinar series which focused specifically on migration-related advocacy and introduced to participants, the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit as well as the guide [“Advocating to strengthen Disaster Laws and Policies to Protect Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: A Guide for National Societies”](#).

IFRC Disaster Law also organized a webinar on the “The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Changing Climate in Africa.” The webinar was held in commemoration of International Migrant’s Day; and also served as the launch of the newly developed guide “Advocating to strengthen Disaster Laws and Policies to Protect Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: A Guide for National Societies”. The Guide sets out questions that can be used to assess a country’s legal framework to determine whether it provides a comprehensive framework for addressing disaster and climate related internal displacement.

Americas



America’s HD regional workshop participants while visiting the Humanitarian Hub in Panama Pacifico, Panama. March 2020.



America’s HD regional workshop participants during the working group sessions, Le Meridien Hotel, Panama City. March 2020

In the Americas, the first Regional High-Level Humanitarian Diplomacy Workshop, “Towards an Integral and Effective Humanitarian Diplomacy at all levels of the NSs” was held in March 2020, bringing together 24 representatives from the leadership (President and Director Generals) from 15

Latin American NSs.¹ The workshop allowed sensitizing NS to the 2009 IFRC Policy on Humanitarian Diplomacy and introducing the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit to support the design of effective policy advocacy strategies for climate-smart disaster-related laws and policies, with a focus on migration. Participants committed to replicate the workshop for their respective NSs, with the support of the IFRC Disaster Law, to build the capacities of their respective staff and volunteers and foster a humanitarian diplomacy culture within NS.

In [Costa Rica](#), the Workshop on “Designing a Policy Advocacy Strategy on DRR” was conducted in November 2020, with Costa Rican Red Cross and key municipalities stakeholders. The Workshop allowed strengthening the legislative advocacy capacities of the Costa Rican Red Cross and designing an advocacy strategies to advocate for the adoption and implementation of the recommendations stemming from the Policy Review on DRR in Costa Rica, carried out against the benchmark of the IFRC DRR Law Checklist. It also allowed engaging further with the municipalities and work on a plan to disseminate good practices in Law and DRR and lessons learned.

A webinar to disseminate the *Principles and Rules of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* was conducted in August 2020 with participation of Central Americas NSs. The webinar involved disaster management technical leads and those responsible for the humanitarian diplomacy or advocacy portfolio. Further, a “Humanitarian diplomacy, access and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic” workshop was conducted in September 2020 with participation of Central and South America NSs. The workshop aimed at raising awareness on the *Principles and Rules of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* and the key messages developed by the IFRC to support NS’s humanitarian diplomacy efforts to request legal facilities to national authorities to be able to operate despite the COVID-19 restrictions. The workshop also allowed to introduce the Tripartite Pre-Disaster Agreement initiative.

In [Trinidad and Tobago](#), a policy review process to assess the DRM legal and institutional frameworks of the country was launched during the second semester of 2020, led by the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) and IFRC, in partnership with the ODPM of Trinidad and Tobago. In this context, peer to peer exchanges were organized with countries which undertook similar processes to share good practices and lessons learned. This included a peer-to-peer exchange with Honduras (Honduras Red Cross, Honduran Permanent Commission on Contingencies (COPECO) and President of the Permanent Contingency Commission of the National Congress). Stakeholders gained valuable insight that are helping to shape a new DRM Law Proposal in Trinidad and Tobago and designing an advocacy strategy.

To assess and monitor the impact of the emergency decrees and other extraordinary measures adopted by most governments of the Americas to curb the spread of COVID-19, and which related to borders’ closures and restrictions placed on freedoms of movement and assembly, the IFRC Disaster Law carried out legal mappings and real time evaluations that allowed NSs and the IFRC to have a better understanding of the COVID-19 regulatory environment and engage in humanitarian diplomacy efforts to request special exemptions and facilities to mitigate the impact of the

¹ Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Rep., Uruguay and Venezuela.

operations. Several webinars carried out between March and September 2020 allowed presenting the findings and recommendations of these legal mappings to NS Presidents and Director Generals of the Latin American, Spanish Caribbean, Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean through webinars. They also provided an opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer exchanges, showcase positive experiences, such as the one of The Bahamas Red Cross Society which successfully advocated to its national authorities for the granting of special exemptions to COVID-19 restrictions.

In preparation for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricanes Season, IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a session with the leadership of NS of the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean to discuss the *Principles and Rules for RCRC Humanitarian Assistance*. This provided an opportunity to present the initiative of the tri-partite pre-disaster agreement.

Through a collaboration between the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and Amazon Web Services (AWS), IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a webinar with CARICOM DRM representatives, Attorneys-General and Ministries of Legal Affairs officials to sensitize to the IDRL recommendations and seek support for their implementation during the pandemic. As a result, several National Disaster Offices such as the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) of St. Lucia and the Law Faculty of the University of Bahamas expressed keen interest to collaborate and be further trained in IDRL.

Central Asia

In Central Asia, IFRC Disaster Law has continued working with NSs and governments on developing and applying state-of-the-art disaster-related legislation, policies, and procedures, strengthening disaster risk governance through capacity building and the strengthening and implementation of domestic laws and policies. In Kazakhstan, IFRC Disaster Law initiated discussions for piloting localised Legislative Advocacy Toolkit with lessons learnt to be captured and shared. In doing so, it cooperated closely with regional institutions such as the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR). Similar efforts were undertaken in Kyrgyzstan with the view of conducting the Legislative Advocacy Training, which was postponed due to the limitations and restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Europe and Global level

At global level, IFRC Disaster Law developed two new online trainings on disaster law. The first training, entitled '[Introduction to International Disaster Response Law](#)', provides an overview of common legal problems faced during international disaster response operations and how they can be mitigated. The second training, entitled '[Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Response Law](#)', outlines the key elements of an effective legal and policy framework for disaster preparedness and response. Both courses provide an engaging and interactive introduction to the subject-matter for a diverse audience, both within and beyond the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The courses use fictional disaster scenarios to demonstrate the practical application of the key legal concepts. The courses are available on the [IFRC Learning Platform](#).

IFRC Disaster Law provided a training on IDRL to the Logistic Cluster Coordinators in Rome in February 2020.

Due to COVID-19 and the unusual situation resulting from the pandemic, the annual disaster law training which normally takes place in San Remo, Italy, was cancelled. If the situation allows, the training will take place in 2021.

Outcome 2: Technical advice support and tools from the IFRC and NSs support the development and implementation of domestic laws, policies and/or procedures

Adopted laws or regulations

During the reporting period, advice by NS and the IFRC on disaster law was reflected in new laws, regulations or procedures adopted by **6 countries** (Guatemala, Honduras, Lao, Nepal, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu). Following advocacy efforts by NS, **6 countries** adopted specific language recognizing the auxiliary role of RC as first responders to the pandemic (Bahamas, Jamaica², Trinidad and Tobago³, Panama⁴, Philippines, South Africa).

In the **Americas**, the [Argentinian RC act](#) was officially approved by the House of Representatives. The RC Act identifies four activities that the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) is authorized to carry out, including performs in its auxiliary role. For example, one of the four auxiliary activities is "risk reduction and community and institutional preparedness for emergencies and disasters, and the organization of relief for victims of such situations". This gives the Argentine Red Cross a strong legal mandate for DRM. In particular, the Argentinian RC Act stipulates that the Argentine Red Cross may also carry out other activities that are in line with its purpose, allowing it to adapt its activities to changing humanitarian needs.

In **Guatemala**, [an international humanitarian assistance request](#) was issued by the government to request support from the international community to respond to Hurricane "Eta", which devastated on 11 November 2020 portions of Central America. This request greatly based on the *IFRC Model Emergency Decree*, clearly outlining the modalities and diplomatic channels through which donors were able to offer humanitarian aid, and detailing the exact needs requested (types of items, quantities, including medication, etc.).

In **Honduras**, amid response to Hurricane "Eta", the National Congress of Honduras passed on 13 November 2020 [the Act on the Facilitation of International Humanitarian Disaster Assistance and Initial Recovery](#), through Decree 147-2020. The law, which is fully based on the *IFRC IDRL Model Law*, is the first IDRL Law ever adopted in the Americas. The law provides for special legal facilities to be granted to eligible humanitarian actors. The law expressly recognizes the auxiliary role of the Honduran Red Cross in DRM. The law provides for temporary provisions to support the response to



² The Disaster Risk Management Act (Enforcement measures (No. 3) (Amendment) (No 2) Order, 2020
³ Trinidad and Tobago- Legal Notice N°76 The Public Health (2019) Novel Coronavirus (2019) (No 11) Regulations, 2020
⁴ According to the Letter from the Panama Ministry of Health DMS-N-1819-2020 in response to the Panamanian Red Cross, dated March 27, 2020

Hurricanes “Eta” and “Iota”. The law also institutionalizes a National IDRL Working Group made up of key government representatives (from Migration, Foreign Affairs, Customs Ministries) as well as the Honduran Red Cross and IFRC.

In December 2020, the Prime Minister Decree on Disaster Management Fund in **Lao** was adopted, which establishes national, provincial and district funds in order to implement the 2019 DM Law. The IFRC Disaster Law team supported this process in 2019 and early 2020 together with UNDP and ADB.

In **Nepal**, IFRC Disaster law also learned of successful outcome of earlier Red Cross advocacy on IDRL, which included passage of a customs regulation on relief goods International assistance arrangements which details coordination, and triggers for international assistance has been included in the National Disaster Response Framework (2019). IFRC has now been requested to review these documents and support Government of Nepal with final review, and to consolidate into international assistance handbook.

In the **Philippines** the Congress passed a bill authorizing the President special powers to manage the pandemic. Senate Bill 1418 includes a strong recognition of the auxiliary role of NS, authorizing the President to “engage the services of the Philippine Red Cross, as the primary humanitarian agency that is auxiliary to the government in giving aid to the people, subject to reimbursement, in the distribution of goods and services in the fight against COVID-19” (Section 4, Paragraph 8).

Turkmenistan adopted the International Disaster Response Law which provide for the management and facilitation of international relief after disasters.

The **Vanuatu** Disaster Risk Management Law was adopted and came into force in 2020. Red Cross was heavily engaged in the development of the law, providing technical assistance, peer exchange opportunities and supporting consultations at national and local levels since 2015. Key highlights of the new law include formalisation of role of Vanuatu Red Cross on the National DM Council. International Components of Red Cross also recognised as a key international humanitarian / development partner. International Assistance provisions, and a greater emphasis on DRR, as well as integrated approach to DRR/ CCA taken at all levels.

Technical support on Law and Policy development

Africa



In the context of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, technical assistance was provided in the form of key messages and letter templates, developed to assist NS in advocating for exemptions to COVID-19 restrictions in emergency decrees. This advocacy package was shared with the NS across the regions and was also presented to the NS in regional webinars. The South Africa Red Cross was successful in obtaining exemptions to restrictions in emergency decrees through the use of the letter templates. The granting of legal facilities was the result of advocacy efforts that highlighted the important role that the NSs was playing during the response to COVID-19.

During the reporting period, the DLP launched the [‘Country Case Study for Uganda: Effective law and policy for addressing child protection in disaster risk management.’](#) The study which forms part of a global study on Child Protection and Disaster Law, documented the advocacy gaps and opportunities for effective participation of children and/or their guardians and care-givers during policy formulation including the current discussions on the Climate Change Bill, revision of the Red Cross Act, Wetlands Bill, and the National Disaster Management and Preparedness Bill. This case study has been beneficial in propagating in-country engagement with UNICEF.

IFRC Disaster Law also finalised and published an IDRL study in [Sudan ‘International Disaster Response Law in Sudan: A study on Sudan’s legal preparedness for facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance.’](#) The report evaluates the institutional and legal framework for international disaster relief assistance in Sudan. It was developed through cooperative engagement with the Disaster Law Committee, as well as the relevant authorities at the decentralized State level and other partners. It is aimed at developing a broader understanding of legislation related to DRM/ DRR within the country and provides key recommendations on improvement of the national DM legal and institutional framework.

In [Kenya](#), the Disaster Law team provided comments to the National Disaster Risk Management Bill, 2020. The Bill seeks to establish the National Disaster Risk Management Authority and County Disaster Risk Management Committees as well as provide a legal framework for the co-ordination of disaster risk management activities and for connected purposes. The comments were focussed on including into the bill, components of IDRL, disaster preparedness, protection vulnerable populations during disasters as well as integration of CCA in disaster management.

Further, IFRC Disaster Law conducted a research project on CCA – DRR coherence in Laws and Policies in Kenya. The research project, carried out by Kenya Red Cross, is a complementary output to the ongoing global study on policy coherence, [“Leave No One Behind Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030”](#).

As part of the ongoing mapping of IDRL and auxiliary role status of African National Societies, the IFRC Disaster Law completed an auxiliary role mapping of **Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe**, as well as a mapping of the international disaster response law (IDRL) frameworks in these countries. The purpose of the auxiliary role mapping exercise is to clearly articulate the auxiliary role of the NSs by identifying, analysing, and consolidating the different roles and responsibilities given to respective NSs through national legislation and policies as well as bilateral/multilateral agreements. The IDRL mapping aims to identify and analyse the legal and policy arrangements for international disaster response across these countries. These mappings provide an analysis to support NS advocacy efforts with respect to reviews for both their constituting laws and other laws reflecting the auxiliary status of the NS; as well as a review of national DRM laws to include key IDRL provisions.

Following the support provided by the [Botswana](#) Red Cross to their government in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Disaster Law team supported Botswana RC to advocate to its Government for a comprehensive review of its RC Act. This revision is expected to reflect the current auxiliary role status of as first responder in disaster and health related emergencies. The revision process is expected to begin in 2021 and this will be carried out alongside the revision of the DRM law in which the NS will be supporting.

[Americas](#)

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To support NSs in their humanitarian diplomacy efforts to request special facilities and exemptions to the **COVID-19** restrictions, IFRC Disaster Law provided technical assistance between March and September 2020 through the development of policy key messages and advocacy strategies as well as letter templates. This material was used by several NSs in the region, which successfully obtained the requested exemptions and legal facilities from their authorities (including the Jamaican Red Cross, The Bahamas Red Cross Society, the TTRCS, the Panamanian Red Cross, as well as the IFRC Delegations in Panama and Port-of-Spain).

In [Guatemala](#), as a result of the IDRL Project undertaken in 2019 in the framework of the Appeal “Volcan de Fuego”, a National IDRL Commission was established in 2020 under the leadership of a group of Congressmen with the objective of developing an IDRL Law based on the *IFRC IDRL Model Law*. The Guatemalan Red Cross and DL Team are leading this initiative. A first technical meeting was convened to define a road map for the drafting of an IDRL Law.

In [Honduras](#), to operationalize and apply the provisions of the new Law on the Facilitation of International Humanitarian Disaster Assistance and Initial Recovery as adopted in November 2020, the Honduran Red Cross and IFRC led the development of an IDRL Regulation, in partnership with COPECO and other key representatives from government ministries.

In [Trinidad and Tobago](#), IFRC Disaster Law and TTRCS engaged in a policy assessment of the DRM policy framework of the country, in partnership with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and

Management (ODPM). A national DL Task Force was established, meeting twice a month (9 times at the second Semester of 2020) to review key topics, identify gaps and recommendations to address them. The policy assessment process identified several phases at the end of which a new DRM Law Proposal is expected to be developed and adopted by the end of 2021, beginning of 2022.

Asia-Pacific



NSs are in the process of/ or have influenced advanced disaster law reform processes in **12 Asia Pacific countries** in 2020. This includes the adopted laws in three countries; **Lao** (DM Fund Decree), **Nepal** (international assistance regulations), **Vanuatu** (Disaster Risk Management Act); and support to advanced processes in **Fiji** (DM Act Revision), **India** (DM Act Revision), **Indonesia** (revised DM Act), **Kiribati** (integrated CCA/ DRR regulations), **Marshall Islands** (Customs Bill), **Mongolia** (DRM/COVID Law revision and dissemination), **Myanmar** (revised DM Act), **Nepal** (municipal DRM legislation/ policy), **Philippines** (Resilience Bill), **PNG** (DM Act revision), **Timor Leste** (DM Law development).

IFRC Disaster Law facilitated the **Indonesia** Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting in their DM Law Review Consultation in mid-2020. The IFRC disaster law checklists were used in the development of the HCT position paper. IFRC has subsequently hired a local consultant to support the government and wider HCT in the disaster management law revision process. The focus of the technical support was on the following issues (a) General paradigm/ policy shift from disaster response to risk reduction, and localization (b) role of military in DM, (c) protection and participation of women and vulnerable groups, and (d) role of the military in DM. The final report was presented by IFRC and OCHA to the Indonesia Ministry of Social Affairs for their consideration. Parliament is scheduled to approve the law early 2021.

Over 2020, **Myanmar** Red Cross supported the government, through provision of a local legal consultant, to review the Natural Disaster Management Law 2013. Global IFRC Disaster Law tools were used as the basis for the review assessment and translated into Myanmar language. Advocacy continued to finalise the draft IDRL report, however the Myanmar Government (DDM) did not approve the publication report due to the elections. There will be a need to revamp and update this report given the considerable amount of time between now and its research and writing in 2016.

IFRC Disaster Law supported **Philippines** Red Cross on an advisory opinion analysing available government health coverage of PRC staff and volunteers for COVID-19 treatment, and advocacy recommendations to strengthen and clarify the claim for such coverage. This included real time legal and risk analysis of COVID-19 quarantine and other relevant regulations to humanitarian action. Technical review/inputs were provided to the draft Philippines Red Cross Disaster Law Training Toolkit for PRC Chapters. The disaster law team provided technical guidance in the development of PRC's Humanitarian Diplomacy Mapping (with DM as the scope). This is the first HD mapping to be done by PRC so that it can guide its advocacy strategy and its new HD focal point. The IFRC Disaster Law team provided input on the Philippines Disaster Resilience Bill has been submitted through UN /

HCT channels IFRC position focuses on auxiliary role, IDRL, protection, HLP, and stakeholder participation particularly by vulnerable groups.

In early May 2020, the IFRC Disaster Law team in partnership with [Kiribati](#) Red Cross provided technical support (assessment and review) to the Kiribati Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Regulations, including specific advice on declarations of emergency later in the year, which sits under the Climate and Disaster Management Act 2019. The regulations are expected to be adopted by parliament in 2021. In addition, a stock take of the obligations and auxiliary role of Kiribati Red Cross as set out in the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Regulations was made alongside comments to the Regulations. IFRC also supported the internal finalisation of the Kiribati Red Cross Draft Law before its introduction through the parliamentary process in December.

Since 2018, there has been localised partnership and long-term commitment of the Government of [Fiji](#) and Red Cross to review and strengthen its disaster management law and national disaster management plan. Since the start of the review, Fiji has been hit by multiple cyclones, the COVID-19 pandemic and also a number of institutional changes within the National Disaster Management office (NDMO) with line ministry and staffing changes. Despite this, 2020 saw continuation of a dynamic and local approach to disaster law development, which means the technical working group overseeing the review of the DRM arrangements are able to respond to community needs and ensure national and local ownership across the process. Key highlights and points of interest in the Fiji disaster law review process in 2020 includes:

- Early learnings from COVID-19, demonstrated the important role the NDMO plays in both national and subnational coordination of emergency preparedness and response, be it for natural hazards including those that are climate induce, or biological or technological hazards. The scope of the draft law has been widened to enable a more seamless multi hazard response system, with greater clarity and guidance on the role of the NDMO and other key agencies, dependent on the hazard risk.

- There has also been progress in coordination and understanding with other line ministries. After a series of consultations, the Ministry of Defense has agreed for responsibilities for search and rescue to be under the authority of the NDMO. Provisions to support this will be included in the new law.

- The climate change division is also looking to ensure greater alignment and coordination between the draft climate change law and disaster law. One area of focus has been on disaster/ climate displacement and planned relocation, with discussions underway on how the NDMO can play a more active role in proactive and reactive disaster/ climate planned relocations and how displacement issues can be integrated into disaster law and policy.

- The dual challenge of responding to Tropical Cyclone Harold during the pandemic, highlighted the need for more streamlined approaches between the government and non-government humanitarian system, to better coordinate and compliment efforts. To achieve

this, a humanitarian trusted organization registry, has been established in the draft law. The purpose of this registry is to have a pool of pre accredited humanitarian organizations, who meet quality standards. In the event of an emergency, the assistance from these organizations can be fast tracked and they can be exempted from any regulatory bottlenecks (such as curfews etc.) so they can provide critical assistance to communities in need, in a coordinated manner with the NDMO and provincial level authorities.

-Recent cyclone responses have further illustrated the need for strong preparedness and response measures at the local level, and for communities themselves to be included in the decision making. Due to this the bill provides for establishment Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees (CBDRMC) down to village or farming community level subject to agreed conditions being met. Members of the CBDRMC's are to be trained to become member of the Community Emergency Operation Centers during a disaster.

The Disaster law review also provided the first opportunity for front line border agencies to come together and discuss their role in disaster preparedness and response. Border agencies, despite playing a crucial role in facilitation of the movement of humanitarian aid and goods, have not been a part of the disaster risk management planning to date. Through a workshop held in December, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Health, Immigration, Customs, Ports and Biosecurity came together to discuss and plan cooperation. This resulted in development of an initial ToR with recommendations for what provisions need to be incorporated in the disaster law and their own sectorial laws. Red Cross was also credited by Fiji Foreign Affairs and SG's Office for creating a platform for the various ministries and partners to convene and discuss Border agencies cooperation in for disaster preparedness and response.

Over the first quarter of 2021, the bill will be further revised and adjusted to accommodate any legislative recommendations from the TC Yasa and TC Ana After Action Reviews. The draft law will be submitted to the Attorney General's office in March 2021.

In the [Marshall Islands](#) the IDRL study and country profile for the Risk Governance Mapping for Disaster Law and Health Emergencies were completed. A Technical Working Group was established to look at making amendments to the Marshall Islands Disaster related laws principally the Disaster Assistance Act 1987. The Technical working group includes members of government, Marshall Islands RC and IFRC Disaster Law team. Some urgent amendments are required to ensure the Act provides the enabling legal provisions to enable effective implementation of the Marshall Islands National Disaster Arrangements 2017 (officially published in 2019). IFRC Disaster Law also consulted with the Marshall Islands Customs Agency regarding comments on the existing draft Customs Bill. Reference was made to including enabling provisions for implementation of guidance under Specific Annex J 5 of the Kyoto convention. Exemption for RMI Red Cross consignments were also discussed. The Marshall Islands Red Cross Society Act 2013 already provides for general exemptions on duties, however, to remove doubt there may be a need to clearly specify exemptions from customs duty on imports under the Customs Bill.

The municipal disaster risk governance assessment tool was finalised and launched by the Government of [Nepal](#) and Red Cross during official International Disaster Day for Risk Reduction celebrations on 13 October. The municipal tool is an outcome of long collaboration and advocacy by Red Cross to support more systematic and inclusive DRM decision making and laws/ policies across the 753 newly established municipalities in Nepal. The tool is based on IFRC Disaster Law assessment checklists and adapted for use at the local level in Nepal. Training for all municipal leaders on the tool will be conducted over end of 2020 and into 2021. IFRC Disaster Law also learned of successful outcome of earlier Red Cross advocacy on IDRL, which included passage of a customs regulation on relief goods. International assistance arrangements which details coordination, and triggers for international assistance has been included in the National Disaster Response Framework (2019). IFRC has now been requested to review these documents and support Government of Nepal with final review, and to consolidate into international assistance handbook.

[Mongolia](#) Red Cross supported the Government of Mongolia's COVID-19 task force to raise awareness and understanding of the COVID-19 measures that were included in the revised Disaster Protection Law (revised in first quarter of 2020). The dissemination built on earlier "know your rights, roles and responsibilities" model that was developed and implemented in the country in 2018/2019. The training involved the national COVID-19 Task Force (cross sectorial government agencies and key humanitarian / health providers), a separate training was also held for local authorities and local MRCS branch heads. In 2020, Mongolia Red Cross was also supported by IFRC Disaster Law to develop a case study detailing the process it undertook to strengthen its auxiliary role through it owns Red Cross law, and in disaster protection law. The case study has been included in the new *Guide on Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy* also finalized in 2020.

Discussions underway with the Government of [India](#) NDMA to provide technical support and comparative analysis to feed into the review of the DM Law of India. The Disaster Management Law 2005 provided the statutory basis for the COVID-19 response in the country, however there was limited integration of public health measures into the DRM arrangements which caused administrative hurdles. In order to support the process, IFRC Disaster Law undertook a regional analysis which was shared with the Government of India, about the level of public health emergency synergy with DM arrangements, identifying good practice and recommendations. Support across the process will continue into 2021.

The Government of [PNG](#) and UN Resident Coordinator office contacted IFRC Disaster Law in regard the upcoming revision of the PNG DM Act 1984. The Government identified key issues to be addressed in the new law, including states of emergency, vertical / horizontal coordination/ decentralisation and displacement/ planned relocation. A joint presentation (RCRC Movement (PNG RC, ICRC and IFRC)) was made to the National DM Council, on 13 October. Red Cross advocacy and input included recommendations on institutional arrangements, states of emergency, funding, protection and inclusion, displacement, IDRL and the importance of formalising the auxiliary role. The written submission was also provided to the Government and Red Cross has committed its support to the long-term review process in 2021.

IFRC Disaster Law commissioned an unofficial English translation of the draft Civil Protection Law for [Timor Leste](#) (CVTL), which is before the legislature for consideration in Timor Leste. Currently the draft law focuses on disaster response and does not cover measures dealing with disaster prevention / mitigation and climate change. It also lacks participation and representation from local communities and vulnerable groups. The role of CVTL also needs to be strengthened. IFRC Disaster Law team has provided written feedback to the CVTL Leadership with recommendations for the law and encourage them to provide this feedback to their government.

Finally, support to NS auxiliary role and legal base has been progressed in 12 Asia Pacific National Societies.⁵ In [Malaysia](#), IFRC Disaster Law is in the process of mapping and strengthening its auxiliary role as well as disaster law and engagement. Terms of Reference for the two desk top reviews for Malaysia on auxiliary role and DM law review was finalized and shared with MRCS. In [Pakistan](#), a case study on advocacy was undertaken by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to have its auxiliary status “recognized” by the Government. PRCS has indicated they would like support to formalize auxiliary role status both through constitution reform and in national arrangements. In [Fiji](#), an auxiliary role mapping was held in December, paving way for legal base review. In the [Philippines](#) technical review/inputs was provided to the draft Philippines Red Cross Disaster Law Training Toolkit for PRC Chapters and PRC’s Humanitarian Diplomacy Mapping. In [Sri Lanka](#) there was a compilation of auxiliary role information and road map discussions were developed. Further [Mongolia](#) RC developed a case study detailing the process it undertook to strengthen its auxiliary role through its own Red Cross Law. The Disaster Law team provided the [Federated State of Micronesia](#) with advocacy support and training with respect to the development of the Red Cross Law. Further, Auxiliary role mappings were carried out in [Samoa](#), [Kiribati](#), [Vanuatu](#) as well as in [Nepal](#), in addition to an auxiliary role publication in the latter. During the reporting period, the Disaster Law team provided support to the [Tuvalu](#) on their Red Cross law development.

Central Asia



With the support of IFRC, in 2020 [Turkmenistan](#) adopted the International Disaster Response Law. Necessary assistance in introducing the required changes into subsidiary legislation such as bylaws, regulations and procedures is to be provided accordingly.

In [Kazakhstan](#), studies on law, disaster preparedness and response have been undertaken to serve as the basis for reviewing the current disaster law framework, emphasizing the promotion of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent's auxiliary role and climate-smart legislative processes.

In [Tajikistan](#) and [Kyrgyzstan](#), the IFRC has progressed with disaster risk management studies with the aim of contributing to reducing the risk of disasters at regional, national, and local levels. Technical engagements on the needed legal advice to develop sectoral laws and bylaws to the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) of 2017 were undertaken in Kyrgyzstan. In Tajikistan, IFRC Disaster Law held consultative technical engagements emergency preparedness and response.

⁵ Philippines, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomons, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nepal, Fiji, Malaysia, Pakistan

In Uzbekistan, IFRC Disaster Law has planned to conduct mapping and analysis of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society's auxiliary role, including its role in disaster preparedness, response, and disaster risk reduction. This model will be further promoted to governments and National Societies across Central Asia.

Discussions on compilation of auxiliary role information and road map were initiated in Uzbekistan. Technical discussions on the Red Cross Law advocacy were held in Kazakhstan.

Global tools



Within the context of COVID-19, IFRC Disaster Law developed a number of tools to support NS' advocacy efforts to governments, including a set of [Key messages for NS facing access challenges](#), a [template letter addressed to public authorities](#), and a [Model pre-disaster agreement](#).

IFRC Disaster Law developed a new guidance document for NS focusing on how law and policy can support their auxiliary role. The new guidance document, entitled '[Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#)', addresses the Red Cross or Red Crescent Law as well as sectoral laws, policies, plans and agreements. It also addresses legal facilities, meaning special legal rights and exemptions that enable National Societies to conduct their operations more efficiently and effectively. The Guide will be available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish in 2021. It is accompanied by an [online training course](#) on the IFRC Learning Platform, which provides an engaging overview of the key concepts in the Guide using an interactive fictional scenario.

IFRC Disaster Law developed an online course on advocacy designed for National Societies. The online course, entitled '[Getting Ready for Red Cross and Red Crescent \(RCRC\) Advocacy](#)', provides an introduction to how to develop and implement an advocacy strategy, while adhering to the Fundamental Principles. The course is based on the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit, developed by IFRC Disaster Law in 2018. The course is available on the IFRC Learning Platform in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Outcome 3: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships

Intergovernmental advocacy

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – continue to gain attention in intergovernmental, humanitarian and academic fora. IFRC Disaster Law also organized or participated in a number of events at the global and regional levels.

At **global level**, IFRC Disaster Law contributed to the Comprehensive Review of the Revised Kyoto Convention. IFRC Disaster Law collaborated with UN OCHA and UNCTAD to prepare a proposal for

the revision of Specific Annex J-5 to the Revised Kyoto Convention, which deals with relief consignments. The proposal identifies key changes required to bring Specific Annex J-5 into line with the IDRL Guidelines and better facilitate the cross-border movement of goods, equipment and personnel for international disaster response. The proposal has been well-received, with the Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee determining that three of the five proposed changes should be implemented. Discussions on the precise nature of the amendments required to Specific Annex J-5 will take place in 2021.

IFRC Disaster Law participated in a Virtual Discussion with UN Member States on, ['Disaster Law and the Draft Articles for the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters'](#), organized by the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Japan and Nigeria to the United Nations in New York on 11 September.

IFRC Disaster Law participated as panellist at the [launch of the Yearbook of International Disaster Law](#) at the Geneva Academy, University of Geneva on 9 March 2020. The DLP also presented on IFRC's work in the area of disaster law and recent developments to the [Disaster Law American Society of International Law](#) Virtual Meeting on 24 June 2020, and at the PILNET Global Forum, ['COVID19 and Legal Responses'](#), on 21 October 2020.

IFRC Disaster Law organized an expert panel ['Enhancing coherence between CCA and DRR: law and policies improvements for the protection of the most vulnerable'](#) at the Climate Red Summit on 9 September 2020.

Remarks on the importance of legal preparedness to disasters were included in IFRC Senior Leadership remarks to international forums, including the Good Humanitarian Donorship Meeting on 30 April 2020, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board Annual report launch on 14 September 2020 and the OCHA's Global Humanitarian Policy Forum on 10 December.

Further to this, IFRC Disaster Law co-sponsored the Third [Disaster Law Essay Contest](#) jointly with the American Society of International Law's Disaster Law Interest Group, the Jean Monnet Project 'Disseminating Disaster Law for Europe' at Roma Tre University, and the International Disaster Law Project of the Universities of Bologna, Roma Tre, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and Uninettuno. The winner of the Third Essay Contest was Rhys Carvosso of Cambridge University with his [essay](#) entitled ['Techniques for Regulating Disasters across the Breadth of International Law: Disapplication, Exculpation, and their Shortcomings'](#). Louise Baumann of the University of Auckland received an honourable mention with her essay entitled ['Rooting the evil: the stakes of addressing the structural and intersectional dimension of vulnerability in specific disaster laws'](#).

Finally, IFRC Disaster Law developed an article on 'The 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent' for the [Yearbook of International Disaster Law](#), and an article ['Tackling Disasters and Pandemics Together with Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind'](#) for the American Society of International Law.

Africa

As kick off to planned engagements in 2020 with UNDRR, IFRC Disaster Law participated in an Interagency Round Table on Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the UNDRR where the team shared their 2020 plans and areas of potential collaboration in mainstreaming DRR in both policies and programs.

Further, IFRC Disaster Law submitted a case study to UNDRR featuring the Kenya Red Cross support to national initiatives aimed at achieving policy coherence with respect to DRR, CCA and sustainable development, both at national and county levels. The case study is proposed for inclusion in the UNDRR Africa Regional Assessment Report (Af-RAR) 2020.

In Commemoration of the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction, the Disaster Law team provided keynote presentations at the Africa Climate Fellowship and the IDRR Day Commemoration hosted by UNDRR. During the UNDRR commemoration event, IFRC Disaster Law Coordinator provided contributions alongside other panellists from across the region on the day's theme on governance and the role that NS have in supporting their governments as their auxiliary. She highlighted how the RCRC work on disaster law is contributing to the DRR governance in the region as well as important role NS can play in the achievement of Target E.

During the World Disasters Report pre-launch event at the Climate:RED summit Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) was invited to speak on the importance of coherent legal frameworks, risk governance structures and community engagement in planning around climate and disaster risk. The URCS Community Resilience Manager, Brian Kanaahe spoke on these issues in light of the URCS's involvement in the development of the Uganda Climate Change Bill.

In enhancing IFRC Disaster Law engagement with the African Union, the Disaster Law team supported development of talking points for IFRC briefing of the AU Member States Ambassadors held virtually in New York on 16th July 2020, on the continued cooperation and support to the African Union, its Member States and their National Societies.

Similarly, IFRC Disaster Law also supported participation at the African Working group on Disaster Risk Reduction Panel Discussion on "How [partners can] do more to enhance the capacity of Member States and RECs to effectively prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19 and other hazards and associated disasters such as floods, locust infestations, epidemics and drought."

Finally, as part of the introduction of the new IFRC Pre-Disaster Agreement, IFRC Disaster Law Africa team held a virtual meeting with the IFRC Africa Regional Office heads of unit to introduce this Initiative, in order to know the opinions of the different areas of focus and thus consider it for the official presentation of this Initiative. The presentation was successful, with comments from areas such as health, logistics, legal affairs and PSK.

Americas

With the support of the American Red Cross, the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in partnership with the Disaster Law Team of the IFRC and Amazon Web Services (AWS) led two webinars in September and October 2020 on IDRL International Disaster Response Law for OAS member states representatives. The webinars allowed reviewing the state of play of disaster laws in the Americas present and discuss lessons learned from past disasters' responses experiences to further promote climate-smart disaster laws on the continent through an enhanced partnership IFRC/OAS/AWS. These webinars gathered Attorneys-General and Ministries of Legal Affairs representatives, as well as national and regional disaster management agencies, relevant faculties of academic institutions, and National Societies of CARICOM countries.

The IFRC Americas Disaster Law Team facilitated two sessions on “Enabling RC Humanitarian Access during the COVID-19 pandemic” at the annual [Red Cross Pre-Hurricane Conference](#) held in May 2020. The sessions allowed peer-to-peer exchanges and showcasing the positive experiences of the Jamaican Red Cross and the Panamanian Red Cross in successfully requesting special legal facilities to enable them safely operating despite the restrictions put in place.

Asia Pacific

Support has been provided to humanitarian coordination and wider governance reform in three sub regional processes (ASEAN, SAARC and Pacific regional organizations SPC and PIFS). Due to COVID-19, planned disaster law initiatives could not proceed with ASEAN as planned (IDRL roadshow), instead participation was limited to engagement in ASEAN webinars (logistics and COVID-19) and related trainings. In South Asia, the regional research on Legal preparedness for Disaster and Pandemic response in South Asia was completed. This research was undertaken in partnership with academia, NSs and governments across the region. It focused on how IDRL, and regional commitments in the South Asia Regional Disaster Treaty has been formalized in national /local governance arrangements and put into practice. There has been heavy investment and impact in regional Pacific processes throughout the year. Notable highlights are contained below.

Through the Pacific Resilience Partnership's Technical Working Group on Risk Governance - NDMOS, Attorney Generals Offices, the Pacific Legal Officers Network (Pacific AG's Forum), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Emergency Managers Alliance (PIEMA), UNDRR and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) - have been supported in both national and regional initiatives related to domestic governance frameworks for disaster, climate and public health emergencies.

Through this Pacific Resilience Partnership Risk Governance Technical Working Group which IFRC supports, Red Cross has facilitated peer learning amongst policy makers in the Pacific on relevant disaster law issues through three technical working group meetings over 2020 and ongoing research and support at the national level to deliver on outcomes identified in the [Risk Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific Report](#). The working group was also the first to kick start the PRP webinar series with a regional webinar on: Laws and the pandemic – a Pacific case for resilience within a multi-hazard impact. The [recording of the webinar](#) and [summary](#) were shared widely.

Over the course of 2020, Red Cross has also been supporting the regional Technical Working Group in a baseline mapping and analysis of [Law, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies the Pacific](#). The research analyses legislative and policy linkages between disaster and public health emergency responses in 8 Pacific countries. It maps experiences and best practices arising from responding to natural hazards during the current pandemic, in addition to analysing policy and practice applied to past public health emergencies in the region. The findings will be shared in early 2021.

Strengthening Pacific Regional Preparedness and Response has continued to be a focus for IFRC disaster law in 2020. Support was provided at both regional and national level in the development and operationalization of the [Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID 19](#). This has included support to front line agencies to raise awareness of the regional commitments and to develop the necessary domestic protocols to facilitate the regional assistance. This is in line with the work and recommendations of the [Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance in the Pacific research](#) which was launched in 2020.

Central Asia

In general, disaster law remained high on the agenda of Central Asian Red Crescents; whereby IFRC Disaster Law continued supporting the NS in raising awareness, building the capacity of government stakeholders, mapping relevant laws and regulations, providing technical advice, and conducting additional local research about climate-smart disaster laws and policies. In 2021, IFRC Disaster Law will work closely with stakeholders in providing technical assistance to the national Red Crescent Societies and relevant governments in drafting new legal instruments, as well as building capacity at local and national levels. Close coordination will continue with institutions such as the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Kazakhstan, the National Secretariat of Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) in Kyrgyzstan, and the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) in Tajikistan.

Media coverage and communication

IFRC Disaster Law's dedicated Facebook group and Twitter have been updated regularly and continue to highlight progress of IFRC Disaster Law's activities globally. In [Central America DL, Humanitarian Diplomacy, Legislative Advocacy and Auxiliary role group on Facebook](#) is active as NS colleagues engage with each other varied disaster law and advocacy issues affecting the region.

The UN observance, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, was focused on good disaster risk governance in 2020. IFRC Disaster Law created key messages, social media posts and graphics that highlighted this theme and the IFRC's role in disaster law. These communication resources went out via the IFRC Newswires and were used by IFRC, IFRC regions and National Societies. On IFRC's Twitter account, related posts had 16,700 impressions, - 835 people engaged with the tweet - clicked on it, liked it, retweeted it, which is significant 5% engagement rate.

The launch of the IFRC World Disaster Report 2020 Red Cross had a chapter written by IFRC Disaster Law ['Climate-smart disaster risk governance – ensuring inclusive and coherent regulatory](#)

[frameworks](#) that called for governments, humanitarians and donors to be climate smart, to get the priorities right, and to integrate and localise climate approaches. IFRC Disaster Law created social media posts and graphics and pushed this on twitter, these were used by IFRC leadership, regions and partners. During this week our Twitter posts had 41,900 impressions.

A climate smart [disaster law animation](#) was produced and launched which provides an overview of why law is important, some of the key issues for consideration, and tools/ resources provided by IFRC Disaster Law.

Finally, IFRC Disaster Law dedicated time and resources for the development of the new [Disaster Law website](#), launched in 2021.

Outcome 4: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy

At the **Global** level, catalysed by the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, IFRC Disaster Law embarked on the '[Law and Public Health Emergencies Research Project](#)' to identify the key features of an effective domestic legal and policy framework for public health emergency preparedness and response. The project involved country-level desktop research undertaken in two stages.

The first stage of research was a [mapping of COVID-19 emergency decrees in 113 countries](#) during the initial stages of the pandemic. The second stage of research, which focused on 33 countries, involved a detailed assessment of domestic legal and institutional frameworks for public health emergencies. This second stage of research focused not only on the COVID-19 pandemic, but also on the legal and policy instruments used to respond to previous outbreaks and epidemics, such as the Ebola virus, SARS, MERS and Zika virus. The country-level research was undertaken on a pro bono basis by law firms Allens and White & Case, legal volunteers of the British Red Cross, and faculty and students of the University of Canterbury School of Law. The Law and Public Health Emergencies Research Project will culminate in the publication of a synthesis report and a new guidance document in 2021.

To date, IFRC Disaster Law has published research and recommendations relating to three of the four main phases of disaster risk management — disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. In 2020, IFRC Disaster Law turned its attention to disaster recovery, publishing a [Literature Review on Law and Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction](#). The Literature Review will form part of the preparatory analysis, research and evidence base to develop a set of recommendations on law and disaster recovery for law and policy makers. In turn, the recommendations on recovery will be incorporated into a single comprehensive Checklist on the legal aspects of disaster risk management.

As part of the IRC-MSCA CAROLINE Research Project in "[Leave No One Behind: Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030](#)", IFRC jointly with University College Cork of

Ireland produced three new publications. Two of the publications are case studies focusing on the integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the normative and institutional frameworks of the [Philippines](#) and [Pacific Island countries](#). Both case studies identify good practices and gaps in existing frameworks and conclude by identifying recommendations or areas for potential improvement.

IFRC Disaster Law also published a chapter in the [World Disasters Report 2020](#), entitled '[Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Governance: Ensuring Inclusive and Coherent Regulatory Frameworks](#)'. The chapter discusses good practices and areas of improvement for climate-smart governance structure that provide for the resilience of communities through risk informed and more integrated laws, policies and plans.

With pro bono support from law firm White & Case, IFRC continued work on the 'DRM Index', a project which aims to profile the disaster risk management laws of countries around the world and to analyse the extent to which the laws address key disaster law thematic areas. The DRM Index will be available on IFRC DLP website in 2021.

IFRC Disaster Law provided technical advice and key messages on disaster law and the importance of legal preparedness and good governance for disasters were added in other IFRC teams, Movement Components and other organizations, such as the New Disaster Preparedness to DG ECHO: Partner consultation process; Spanish RC '[Estudio de caso: Aumentado la agilidad de la cadena de suministro de equipos de protección individual durante la respuesta a la pandemia COVID-19](#)', IFRC NS Financial Sustainability Guidelines, IFRC Guidance document for NS on options for ensuring coverage for uninsured Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers impacted by COVID-19, [Red Alert. National Red Cross Societies managing disaster risks in Europe](#), and [ICRC Checklist on Domestic Implementation of International Humanitarian Law Prohibiting Sexual Violence](#).

Africa

The IFRC Disaster Law launched 2 reports: Country Case Study for Uganda: [Effective law and policy for addressing child protection in disaster risk management](#) which documented the advocacy gaps and opportunities for effective participation of children and/or their guardians and care-givers during policy formulation; and the [International Disaster Response Law in Sudan: A study on Sudan's legal preparedness for facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance](#).

IFRC Disaster Law developed and launched a new tool for NS: "[Advocating to strengthen Disaster Laws and Policies to Protect Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: A Guide for National Societies](#)" to support NS advocating for access to internally displaced persons in the event of a disaster. This new guide is also expected to support in advocacy for stronger disaster risk management and related laws and policies that not only ensure legal preparedness for disasters, but also address disaster and climate related internal displacement.

As part of the ongoing mapping of IDRL and auxiliary role status of African NSs, IFRC Disaster Law completed an auxiliary role mapping of Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe as well as a mapping of the international disaster response law (IDRL) frameworks in these countries.⁶ In this regard, a sub-regional assessment of ‘Legal Preparedness for International Assistance in Southern Africa’ is expected to be finalised in 2021. Additional auxiliary role and IDRL mappings are also expected to be carried out in Central and West Africa in 2021.

Americas

Through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and under the “Resilient Islands” Project, IFRC Americas Disaster Law Team completed policy assessments on best foster Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in DRR and climate change adaptation policy frameworks in three jurisdictions: Jamaica, Grenada and the Dominican Republic. This initiative aims at assessing the respective policy framework of these countries against the IFRC DRR Law Checklist and TNC NbS Checklist to formulate recommendations accordingly. IFRC Disaster Law is also supporting the respective NSs of the three target countries in developing advocacy strategies with a view to influencing the government authorities and communities to incorporate, prioritize and invest in NbS.

Through the ZFRA and IFRC Disaster Law technical support, the Costa Rican Red Cross developed key DRR Advocacy Material to disseminate and promote the implementation of the recommendations identified in the DRR Law Report, including : i) [Strengthening of technical capacity and disaster risk management processes of municipalities](#); ii) [Application of standardized disaster risk management and its situation in each canton](#); and iii) [Characterization of the vulnerable population in each canton](#).

35 legal mappings on “Enabling Humanitarian Access for the RC” were carried out by the IFRC Disaster Law Team in the Americas with the pro bono support of the British Red Cross, as part of the real time evaluation undertaken by Operations. These mappings allowed Operations and NSs to better understand to what extent the COVID-19 restrictions adopted by governments impacted their operations and activities and undertake measures to mitigate risks. This work initiated in the Americas informed the development of the Global DL Synthesis Report to be published in 2021 on “Law and Public Health Emergencies”.

The DL Team also partnered with the PSK and Communications Teams to develop a [Toolbox](#) for NS to collect, consolidate and organize the work and humanitarian diplomacy efforts undertaken by the Red Cross family in the Americas in response to the pandemic. The Reference Centres (CREPD and CADRIM) are lead on this knowledge management exercise.

Asia Pacific

27 research projects on disaster law have taken place in Asia Pacific countries over 2020, this includes country profiles and mapping of public health emergency and disaster law considerations in

⁶ See Outcome 2 of this report

17 Asia Pacific Countries,⁷ legal preparedness for international disaster assistance and pandemic response in South Asia,⁸ integrated approaches to CC/DRR in law in the Philippines, and child protection and disaster law studies in the Philippines and Indonesia. Also, the Pacific Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance Platform, was launched which included IDRL country profiles from 16 Pacific Island Countries⁹ and a regional synthesis report.

The Asia Pacific Disaster Law team has contributed to external research publications including UNDP's [Recovering from COVID-19: Lessons from Past Disasters in Asia and the Pacific](#) and UNDRR's [COVID / Disaster Risk Governance in Asia Pacific](#). The team also supported Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to 7 Centre for Excellence, Disaster Management Handbook Reports that were launched in 2020.¹⁰

Additionally, there were four case studies produced in Asia Pacific demonstrating disaster law engagement and impact in Asia and the Pacific ([The Disaster Law Programme Fifteen Years in Asia](#)), Pacific ([The Disaster Law Programme: Ten Years in the Pacific](#)), relevance to COVID-19 ([Disaster Law: COVID 19 Response in Asia Pacific](#)) and protection and inclusion ([Disaster Law: Leaving no one behind in Asia Pacific](#)).

There has been investment in regional disaster law communication and social media, including a [regional newsletter](#) and ongoing development of more interactive social media assets, including [Pacific disaster law video](#) and [Asia Disaster Law video](#) for use on twitter.

The [Pacific Legal Preparedness for International/Regional Disaster Assistance Platform](#) was launched, including [country profiles](#) of 16 Pacific Island countries and [regional comparative summary](#). The Law and Public Health Emergencies Project is underway, with global research and [Pacific research](#) to be launched in early 2021.

Climate Action and Disaster Law research were finalized and launched for the [Pacific](#) and the [Philippines](#).

⁷ Australia, China, Fiji, Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Vietnam and New Zealand

⁸ Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

⁹ Australia, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshalls, Nauru, NZ, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

¹⁰ Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Nepal, Palau

Results against indicators¹¹

Disaster law goal/outcome	INDICATOR	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Central Asia	Global / Europe	
A: Strengthen National Society advocacy for disaster law and the auxiliary role	# of NS engaged in peer to peer support through IFRC network	27	24	-	-	-	<p>Africa: National Societies Participating in Africa Climate Fellowship, UNICEF-SGBV Training Series, Displacement Guide Launch & COVID-19 Webinar (Uganda, Niger, Gambia, Burundi, South Sudan, Malawi, Botswana, Senegal, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Nigeria, Gabon, DRC, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, CAR, Togo, Zambia, Namibia, Tanzania, Comoros, Liberia, Seychelles)</p> <p>Americas: March 2020 Humanitarian Diplomacy Workshop (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Perú, The Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela); May 2020 COVID-19 webinar with CARICOM NS (Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, The Bahamas, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago)</p>
	# of people trained by IFRC in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy	345	172	95	-	-	<p>Africa: COVID-19 webinar (50), UNDRR IDRR Commemoration (100), UNICEF – SGBV Learning Series (50), Africa Fellowship Programme - Advocacy Session (65), Sahel Migration Webinar (20), Internal Displacement Guide Launch (60),</p> <p>Americas: March 2020 Humanitarian Diplomacy</p>

							<p>Workshop (24), May 2020 Pre-Hurricanes Conference (20), DRR Advocacy Strategies with Costa Rican Red Cross and key municipalities stakeholders (20), June 2020 Principles & Rules part 1 Webinar (8), Humanitarian diplomacy, access and assistance during the pandemic by COVID-19 Workshop part 2 (80), Peer-to-peer exchange between the Trinidad and Tobago RCS, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, the Honduras Red Cross and the Honduran Permanent Commission on Contingencies (COPECO) (20)</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Philippine Red Cross (online IDRL training) (25); Afghan Red Crescent (Disaster Law Programme virtual briefing) (20); Fiji Red Cross (Auxiliary Role Mapping workshop) (50).</p> <p>Africa: South Sudan, Malawi, Botswana, Uganda, Americas: Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Vanuatu, Nepal, Lao, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Kiribati, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, India, PNG and Timor Leste. Central Asia: Kazakhstan</p> <p>Africa: Uganda Americas: Costa Rica, Honduras Asia Pacific: New Zealand (Flood Resilience Alliance);</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at national level	4	6	13	1	-	
	# of NS engaged						

	in legislative advocacy activities at local level	1	2	2	-	-	Nepal (Flood Resilience Alliance);
	# of NS that have developed a legislative advocacy strategy	2	3	1	-	-	Africa: Uganda, Botswana Americas: Guatemala, Honduras, Trinidad & Tobago Asia Pacific: Philippines
	# of NS that have delivered education or training on DL and legislative advocacy (e.g. ToT)	-	2	1	-	-	Americas: Costa Rica, Honduras Asia Pacific: Philippines;
B: Legal and policy advice from the IFRC and NSs supports the development and implementation	# of adopted national disaster laws and policy documents	-	1	3	1		Americas IDRL Law of Honduras Asia Pacific: 3 Vanuatu (Disaster Risk Management Act); Nepal (international assistance regulations), Lao (DM Fund Decree) Central Asia: Turkmenistan Law on International Humanitarian Aid during emergency situation. The law developed by IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, and the Government was adopted in 2020

<p>of national law and policies to reduce human vulnerability to disasters and improves humanitarian assistance</p>	<p># of draft national disaster related legal and policy instruments in progress</p>	6	3	11	1	-	<p>to enable Turkmenistan to better respond and prepare for large-scale disasters and become more active internationally - providing disaster relief and transit to other countries if needed.</p> <p>Africa: South Sudan DRM Policy, Malawi DRM Bill, Uganda Red Cross Act , Uganda DRM Bill, Seychelles DRR/ M Bill, Kenya National Disaster Risk Management Bill</p> <p>Americas: Draft Disaster Risk Management Law Proposal in Dominica, Draft IDRL Regulation in Honduras, Draft Disaster Risk Management Law Proposal in Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>Central Asia: Turkmenistan</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Indonesia (revised DM Act), Myanmar (revised DM Act), Philippines (Resilience Bill), Kiribati(integrated CCA/ DRR regulations), Fiji (DM Act Revision), Marshall Islands (Customs Bill) Nepal (municipal DRM legislation/ policy), Mongolia (DRM/Covid Law revision and dissemination), India (DM Act Revision), PNG (DM Act revision), Timor Leste (DM Law development).</p>
	<p># of countries supported to improve the implementation of their law and</p>	-	4	20	1	-	<p>Americas: Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Samoa, Tuvalu, Palau, Kiribati, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Nepal, China, Mongolia, India, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea,</p>

	policies						Timor Leste and Pakistan Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan
	# of operations where disaster law advice supports coordination and humanitarian assistance	1	3	12	-	-	Africa: COVID-19 response Americas: COVID-19 response, Nov. 2020 Hurricane “ETA” response, Nov. 2020 Hurricane “IOTA” response Asia Pacific: issues related to humanitarian access and advocacy relating to COVID-19 in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar Philippines, Solomons, Samoa, Marshall, Fiji, Tuvalu.
	# of NS with better defined auxiliary roles in draft or new national law and policies	1	2	2	1	-	Africa: Uganda Americas: Argentina (May 2020 Argentinian Red Cross Law), Honduras (Nov. 2020 IDRL Law) Asia Pacific: Philippines and Kiribati Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan (legal review on enhancing the implementation of the RC law)
C: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds	# of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence	4	3	4	-	4	Africa: UNICEF, UNDRR, IGAD, RCCC Americas: CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, OAS Asia Pacific: 1 st Symposium on Policy, Regulation and Standard of Emergency Management of Countries along the Belt and Road (China); Legislating and Policy Making Smart DRR in the Pacific (Fiji); South Asia Forum on Preparedness for Regional Disaster Response (Nepal); Pacific Resilience Meeting; ASEAN AHA Event on International Assistance (Jakarta) Global, EU: Roma Tre University, University of College

greater visibility and partnerships	# of new/amended international instruments IFRC and NS have influenced	1	-	-	-	1	<p>Cork, Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee</p> <p>Africa: IGAD’s Technical Advisory Committee Priority Agenda</p> <p>Global: ICRC Checklist on Domestic Implementation of International Humanitarian Law Prohibiting Sexual Violence</p>
	# External media articles/broadcasts that have featured IFRC or NS legislative advocacy work	1	1	-	-	1	<p>Africa: Newspaper interview (La Estrella de Panama) featuring Africa’s DLP Coordinator in her role promoting the regulation and institutionalization of disaster risk management</p> <p>Americas: IDRL Law of Honduras: several interviews from Honduran RC rep. and Honduran gov. rep. shared via Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook.</p> <p>Global: ASIL Insight entitled ‘Tackling Disasters and Pandemics Together with Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind’</p>
D: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy	# of legislative advocacy research projects completed	5	4	9	-	6	<p>Africa: Child Protection Study in Uganda, Sudan IDRL Study, IDRL Mapping in 12 Countries, Auxiliary Role Mapping in 12 Countries, and IDP Guide</p> <p>Americas: Child Protection Study in Brazil, IDRL Policy assessment of Guatemala, DRR Law report of Costa Rica, DRR Law report of Honduras</p> <p>Asia Pacific: Bangladesh IDRL Research; 3 Preparedness and Response Law Fact Sheets; Auxiliary Role Mapping (5</p>

							<p>countries)</p> <p>Global: Literature Review on Law and Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction; Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy; Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Governance: Ensuring Inclusive and Coherent Regulatory Frameworks (Chapter 6 of the World Disasters Report 2020); Yearbook of International Disaster Law; Addressing Specific Vulnerabilities through Integrated Climate and Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from the Philippines; Law and Policies that Protect the Most Vulnerable against Climate-Related Disaster Risks: Findings and Lessons Learned from Pacific Island Countries</p>
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Stakeholder participation and feedback

One of the main areas of work of IFRC Disaster Law is building the capacity of NSs and providing technical assistance to governments in matters related to disaster law and the auxiliary role of NSs. By its nature, this work requires the direct participation, 'buy-in' and feedback of key stakeholders. The importance of disaster law was strongly endorsed by the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019, as well as in previous resolutions before that – not only of the RCRC Conference but also the UN General Assembly.

IFRC Disaster Law continues to receive a consistent, often increasing, number of requests for technical assistance from states, NSs, regional organizations and key international partners such as the UN. In order to continue improving the delivery of the programme, various modalities are employed in order to receive stakeholder feedback, particularly at training and advocacy events. These include the distribution and collection of feedback forms, verbal feedback activities (e.g. at disaster law trainings) and continuous monitoring and reporting through regular IFRC and donor reporting processes.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Despite the challenges and delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has been another successful year for the IFRC Disaster Law. As shown in the table above, the teams across the regions have met most of its results indicators for 2020 through the hard work of a strong global team and dedication from National Societies across the globe. Most projects and activities have been implemented through or in close coordination with the National Societies.

As the number of countries asking for support on disaster law keeps increasing, more focus has been given to **strengthening the capacity of National Societies**, so that they can truly take the lead and run their own projects and initiatives. Through this sustainable approach, we believe IFRC Disaster Law will be in a better position to positively answer to increasing demands and build longevity and sustainability of the work amongst NSs and key partners. As such, in 2020, through adaptive virtual engagements, IFRC Disaster Law continued to support NSs in developing their advocacy skills, and technical capacity more intensively using the legislative advocacy toolkit. NSs were also trained on this methodology and have continued preparing and implementing advocacy strategies with the support of the IFRC Disaster Law.

IFRC Disaster Law has continued to receive requests to support NSs in understanding and promoting their **auxiliary role** to public authorities. Sessions regarding the auxiliary role of NSs have been included in disaster law trainings and workshops. Sessions on the auxiliary role and legislative advocacy have also been included into other thematic trainings where Disaster Law teams were asked to support, such as protection and climate action. To further support NSs increased demand in understanding and promoting their auxiliary role, IFRC Disaster Law developed the Guide on Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy. This Guide offers practical guidance to National Societies about how to strengthen their auxiliary role through domestic law, policies, plans and agreements.

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In regard to **COVID-19**, when governments around the world emerge from the current crisis, many will wish to draw on the experience of the pandemic to review and strengthen their legal frameworks for disaster risk management including public health emergencies. IFRC new research and guidance on law and public health emergency preparedness and response will provide a valuable resource for governments embarking on this endeavour. IFRC together with its network of National Red Cross and Red Cross Societies stand ready to work in close collaboration with governments in this regard to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters and protect the most vulnerable when faced with crisis.

Additionally, following the adoption of the disaster law resolution at the 33rd International Conference and the Checklist on Preparedness and Response, 2020 saw the IFRC Disaster Law engage more with NSs and their governments as well as other international organisations such as UNDRR on climate action, and particularly on achieving Target E. In 2021, IFRC Disaster Law will produce a new set of recommendations for law and policy makers to support the development of climate smart disaster risk management legal frameworks, and IFRC will provide legal advice to states in the achievement of their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

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 2030 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.

Learn more about IFRC's Strategy 2030 at <https://future-rcrc.com/>

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