



SNAPSHOT

Strengthening disaster and climate risk governance in Asia

In Asia, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, governments and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are working together to strengthen disaster and climate risk governance at national and local levels.

We support states strengthening disaster risk governance through the development of legal frameworks to address disaster and climate risks in a comprehensive manner.

This includes integration between general disaster risk management laws and those related to climate change adaptation.

A coherent approach at the domestic level is needed to meet states' closely related commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our call to action

In the face of a global climate emergency - it is clear - we need to strengthen disaster and climate risk governance through greater coherence across climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development agendas.

We call on governments and stakeholders to:

- Prioritise and support the strengthening of disaster and climate risk governance. Strengthened disaster and climate risk governance at national, regional and local levels is critical to manage increased weather-related risks we are facing.
- Develop and implement effective climate-smart disaster-related laws. This includes aligning laws and systems across the humanitarian, development, environment and climate sectors to ensure coherence, definition of roles and responsibilities of all actors, stronger coordination, and concrete impacts on the ground.
- Address the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised people and communities in legal frameworks, including people in crises and those displaced, so that they are reached, informed and included in global, national and local decisions and plans, and their needs are met.

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IFRC Disaster Law has been providing disaster law technical support, capacity building, peer learning and developing research in 21 countries across Asia for more than 17 years.

In Asia, we focus on countries with particularly high disaster risk and those who are actively developing or reviewing their disaster risk governance arrangements. We have worked extensively across Southeast Asia – Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines. In Mongolia, we supported the development of the 2017 Disaster Protection Law and regulations, which marked a paradigm shift from response to risk management. And, recently in China, a research report, International Disaster Response Law in China, has been under consideration by the Ministry of Emergency Management.

Regionally, IFRC Disaster Law, ASEAN and the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre have worked closely over the last 15 years through peer learning, research and aligned priorities to strengthen disaster governance. Strong regional governance arrangements in Southeast Asia have helped foster a sense of confidence in regional disaster management.

With the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, we have recently engaged in a review of the South Asia IDRL, which includes eight country profiles and a regional synthesis report.



Country profile: Nepal

Nepal Red Cross has worked with the Government to strengthen law and policy for disaster risk management since 2008. Nepal Red Cross is the co-chair of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management platform with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration – the main mechanism for multi-stakeholder coordination of disaster risk management in Nepal and the co-creation of policies.

Following constitutional and governance reform in 2015, the country moved from a unitary to a federal state. In 2018, Red Cross, with support from the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, began supporting the shift of Nepal's legal frameworks for climate and disaster risk management using the Municipal Disaster Risk Governance Assessment Tool.

To date, three municipalities, with a population of approximately 500,000, have piloted the Tool, and plan to use it to strengthen their local laws and plans for risk management. Red Cross will support all municipalities in the pilot to use the tool to develop their municipal disaster risk management plans and to better integrate disaster risk reduction in them will continue into 2023.

The Government is confident that through the Municipal Disaster Risk Governance Assessment Tool, all 753 municipalities will have disaster risk management integrated into their local plans by 2025. The tool is expected to be a catalyst for stronger governance at the local level and to result in improvements in disaster and climate resilience policy and action across the country.



About IFRC Disaster Law

IFRC Disaster Law works with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments to strengthen disaster risk governance, through the development and implementation of climate, disaster and emergency related legislation, policies and procedures.

With 20 years of experience supporting the development and implementation of disaster law and policy around the world, we are the global leader in disaster law technical advice to governments.

