



Disaster Law



SNAPSHOT

Strengthening disaster and climate risk governance in Africa

In Africa, 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.

Strengthening disaster and climate risk governance in Africa

Africa is a vast and diverse region, and while the disasters and emergencies are also diverse, the impacts on millions of people are the same.

IFRC Disaster Law has worked in Africa since 2000, conducting 25 in-country projects, resulting in the development of approximately 17 laws, policies and strategies related to national disaster risk management.

We are currently supporting disaster risk management legislative reviews in Botswana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Seychelles and Sierra Leone.

In Malawi, the Disaster Risk Management Bill is being finalised, and the government has embarked on a review of the Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plan to integrate climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing national development policies, programs and activities. This significant work has been supported by IFRC and the Malawi Red Cross since 2013.

In Uganda, Uganda Red Cross continues to advocate for the development of a climate-smart disaster risk management law, working to support the office of the Prime Minister in developing this law.

Regionally, we work with the African Union to engage member states on disaster risk management and disaster law. We are supporting the African Union to draft the African Union Model Act on International Disaster Response Law to be used by member states to develop their national disaster risk management legislation, and we will support member states with implementation.

At the sub-regional level, IFRC Disaster Law continues to work with the Intergovernmental Authority in Eastern Africa (IGAD), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to promote the development of comprehensive disaster risk management legal frameworks and enhance a unified cross border approach to disaster preparedness and response.

South Sudan

Throughout ever-evolving humanitarian crises, South Sudan has remained committed to strengthening its disaster risk governance frameworks and ensuring that they are integrated across all sectors.

Since 2012, IFRC Disaster Law and the South Sudan Red Cross have worked with the Government to develop laws and policies for disaster management. This decade-long relationship has seen Red Cross support the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in the finalisation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the drafting and finalisation of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and the facilitation of training for customs authorities on domestic regulations for international assistance.

Today, the South Sudan Red Cross is supporting the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in developing a Disaster Risk Management Bill. Once passed, the new law is expected to clearly outline the institutional framework for DRM at the national and state level, recognize the auxiliary role of the South Sudan Red Cross; provide funding for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, and recovery activities as well as enhance a whole of society approach to disaster risk reduction.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and the new Disaster Risk Management Bill all speak to the country's commitments under the Sendai Framework.

Disaster Law activities in Africa are supported by:



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.

