

**Global (G00344)**

**Asia-Pacific (P50033)**

**Africa (P60013)**

**Americas (P42068)**

**Central Asia (P70010)**

**This report covers the  
period:**

**01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021**



*Women receive seeds and farming tools at a distribution point in Ajuet, South Sudan. The South Sudan Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC and partner national societies reached 30,000 people to strengthen agriculture and food production in the onset of the rainy season (April, 2021).*

## Overview

During the 2021 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 [28<sup>th</sup>](#), [30<sup>th</sup>](#), [31<sup>st</sup>](#), [32<sup>nd</sup>](#) and [33<sup>rd</sup>](#) International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, IFRC Disaster Law focused on supporting National Societies (NSs) to meet the following main goals:

1. NSs, 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 (DRM) 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; and
4. IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy.

**Top outcomes from IFRC Disaster Law's efforts during the reporting period included:**

- Adoption of **new legal instruments** drawing on recommendations of the NSs and IFRC in **3 countries** (Argentina, Lao PDR and Uganda).
- **5 NSs with better defined auxiliary roles** in draft or new national laws and policies (Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Philippines; Timor Leste and Uganda).
- Involvement in **19 legal drafting procedures** (in Botswana, Bangladesh, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Palau, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tonga, Uganda and Vanuatu) adoption of which is expected to occur in 2022-2023.

**Major activities included:**

- **43 NSs engaged in legislative advocacy activities and/or developed a legislative advocacy strategy** with the support of IFRC Disaster Law (Afghanistan, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Perú, South Sudan, Solomon Islands, St Lucia, St Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, Timor Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, Tonga, Uruguay, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe).
- Over **1900 people from more than 30 countries were trained** in the auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy (virtually or in person).
- Over **30 inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora** actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence.
- IFRC Disaster Law launched a research report entitled **Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic**, as well as an accompanying **Pilot Guidance** on this topic. A public global launch of the report was held on 8 July 2021 and, throughout the remainder of 2021, feedback on the Pilot Guidance was obtained from governments, public health experts, NSs and international organisations.
- IFRC Disaster Law launched **four new online training courses** on the IFRC Learning Platform. The courses focus on: (1) international disaster response law (IDRL); (2) disaster preparedness and response law (DPRL); (3) strengthening the auxiliary role through law and policy; and (4) getting ready for Red Cross and Red Crescent advocacy. The courses are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. In addition, IFRC Disaster Law converted the training materials of the **Legislative Advocacy Toolkit (LAT)** from an in-person training to online training.

- The team also completed **15 country case studies** (Costa Rica (Study on the Costa Rican Legal Framework on Flood Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)); Dominican Republic (Case Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Legislation); Honduras (Legal framework study on flood risk reduction in Honduras, in accordance to the IFRC's DRR Checklist); Country Profiles in DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for 5 OECS countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bahamas; Kenya ([Law and Policies that Protect the Most Vulnerable against Climate-Related Disaster Risks: Findings and Lessons Learned from Kenya](#)); and mini-case studies in Malawi ([Disaster Law in Malawi](#) and [Snapshot: Climate Smart Disaster Laws in Malawi](#)); Mauritius ([Mauritius' National Disaster Risk Management Act leads the way with community engagement](#)); and Uganda ([Snapshot: Climate-smart Disaster Laws in Uganda](#)); Indonesia and the Philippines).
- Auxiliary role mappings were completed in **28** countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Peru, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, St Lucia, St Kitts/Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, the Bahamas, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay).
- IDRL mappings were undertaken in **5** countries (Cameroon, Niger, Republic of the Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe and Togo), and DRM mappings were undertaken in **2** countries (Madagascar and the Seychelles).
- Ongoing support for disaster law processes with **8 regional organizations**.
- Support for disaster law discussions in over **15 humanitarian and academic conferences**.
- **Support to COVID-19 response** in Africa, Asia Pacific and the Americas regions.

### Financial situation

IFRC Disaster Law location	Budget (2021)	Expenditure (% of budget)
Geneva (Global Programme) *	460,500	460,500 (100%)
Africa region	508,911	642,368 (126%)
Americas region	602,179	595,699 (99%)
Asia Pacific region	584,176	523,030 (90%)
Central Asia	313,825	295,683 (92%)
<b>Total Project Sum (CHF)</b>	<b>2,469,591</b>	<b>2,517,280 (102%)</b>

\*220k was also allocated to Disaster Law in G00345, 13,000 were allocated from the COVID-19 Appeal G00421/MDR0005, and the balance in G00344.

Major donors to IFRC Disaster Law work in 2021 were the Government of Australia, the Government of Germany, the European Union, and the United States as well as the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, and the National Red Cross Societies of Australia, Germany, France, Finland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. This support is gratefully acknowledged. We also sincerely thank all the support and pro bono work provided by our academic partners (full list below) and volunteers of Disaster Law.

It is worthy to note that IFRC has signed a new partnership agreement with British Red Cross (funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO)) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) to support the strengthening of climate-smart disaster-related laws and policies in Cape Verde, Fiji, Malawi, Philippines, St. Lucia, and Uganda. Collaboration on disaster law has also started in new countries in Africa and Americas as part of the new DG ECHO Multiyear Programmatic Partnership.

### 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 NSs 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 NSs 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), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the European Union (EU), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Central America Integration System (SICA), the Central America Economic Integration System (SIECA), the 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, University of South Pacific, Canterbury University (New Zealand), Universidad de San Carlos (Guatemala), Roma Tre University (Italy), University College of Cork (Ireland), the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the University of Victoria (Canada), the University of West Indies (Jamaica), and the University of Reading (UK).

## **Progress towards outcomes**

### **Outcome 1: NSs, the IFRC, and key partners gain greater capacity and tools for their work in disaster law**

#### **Africa**

The IFRC Disaster Law Africa Team held several trainings in 2021, some of which targeted only NS representatives, and others which targeted both NSs as well as government representatives.

With respect to NS capacity building, IFRC Disaster Law held a [regional webinar series for African NSs](#) throughout August, which aimed to enhance the capacity of NSs in region in the field of disaster law as well build their legislative advocacy skills. The sessions covered the regulation of international disaster assistance; law and DRR; law and disaster preparedness and response; the role of law in managing public health emergencies and legislative advocacy (using the IFRC legislative advocacy toolkit). The webinar series was attended by participants from over 15 NSs from the Africa region.

As part of a capacity building initiative for Southern African NSs, IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a session on IDRL and a session on the role of law in DRR in February and June of 2021, respectively. Both sessions aimed to familiarise NSs in the region with the Disaster Law tools and resources available to them in these areas, and to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and learning. IFRC Disaster Law presented a session during the Anglophone and Francophone sessions of the 2021 African Climate Fellowship. The Fellowship aims to strengthen NSs' technical and coordination capacities and to demonstrate leadership on climate action. The sessions facilitated by IFRC Disaster Law provided an introduction and general overview of Disaster Law, demonstrated the link between DRR and CCA, and the importance of policy coherence in these sectors.

During the monthly NS Development meeting attended by NS Development colleagues in the NSs in March, IFRC Disaster Law provided a briefing on how the NSs can harness their auxiliary role. The presentation highlighted the tools that have been developed by IFRC Disaster Law to enhance the auxiliary role function through advocacy. IFRC Disaster Law also presented the tools available to support NS involvement in national legislative advocacy processes at the Sahel Africa Disaster Management Advisory Group (ADMAG) meeting. These tools offer a crucial opportunity for NSs to ensure that the national DRM Laws clearly articulate the role and responsibilities of the NSs in preparedness and response, as well the necessary support national governments can provide to the NSs to ensure they are well facilitated to carry out their mandate.

As part of a larger project on the promotion of livelihoods and resilience coordinated by the German Red Cross, IFRC Disaster Law conducted a legislative advocacy training with the Somali Red Crescent aimed at supporting the NS have a better understanding on what advocacy is and how to develop an effective advocacy message. Also in 2021, the Disaster Law Africa Team supported the Board induction of the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS). The presentation was aimed at providing an understanding of

Disaster Law, the auxiliary role and the tools available to support the NS advocacy to enhance it.

There were also trainings targeting both NSs as well as government representatives in the region, which provided a platform for engagement between NSs and government authorities on the development of climate-smart disaster risk management frameworks. The Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform of the French Red Cross (PIROI) and IFRC Disaster Law organised a [three day virtual workshop](#) on the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance for South-West Indian Ocean countries from 7 - 9 September 2021. The regional workshop was designed to support key stakeholders from countries of the South-West Indian Ocean in the integration of IDRL and related standards, to facilitate international disaster assistance in their context and strengthen the design of a regional strategy to facilitate and regulate cooperation in international assistance. The workshop was attended by NS staff from Benin, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, and Mozambique as well as government representatives from Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique.

Additionally, as part of the ongoing project in support of the development of the DRM Bill and the review of the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) Act, IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a [three-day workshop](#) with the Botswana Red Cross aimed at enhancing the capacity of the NS on Disaster Law as well on legislative advocacy and the development on legislative advocacy strategy. The third day of the workshop also provided an opportunity for the NS to engage with public authorities on the enhancement of the auxiliary role with respect to review of the BRCS Act and the development of the DRM Policy. During the workshop, the Director of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Botswana confirmed that the recently revised DRM Policy, which BRCS had the opportunity to comment on, had been approved by Cabinet, which has instructed that the development of the DRM Bill be expedited. The Director further confirmed that BRCS will be a stakeholder in the development of the DRM Bill.

In December 2021, IFRC Disaster Law facilitated an online session on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles as part of the Disaster Management workshop hosted by the ICRC and the Argentine Embassy in Pretoria. The webinar series was attended by diplomatic and consular staff, government officials, disaster managers, forensic and law enforcement personnel, humanitarian organization staff, judicial officers, health professionals and military personnel.

In addition to the trainings above, IFRC Disaster Law also finalised and published the 2nd Edition of the [Guide to the Auxiliary Role of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies – Africa](#). This 2nd Edition replaces the previous Guide developed in 2015. This updated Guide serves to enhance the understanding of the crucial nature of the auxiliary role of African NSs as well as bolster their engagements with their public authorities. Recognizing the changing landscape that NSs are operating in, this revision is aimed at updating the content of the guide to ensure continued relevance to the NSs in the region. The revised guide also showcases four examples of successful collaboration between African NSs and their public authorities in conducting a wide variety of humanitarian and development activities, which include Malawi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. The Guide was also translated into Arabic, French and Portuguese to be accessible across the region. The translations will be laid-out and made available online in 2022.

A number of other Disaster Law tools were also translated into Arabic (the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit Facilitator’s Guide and Participant’s Handbook, Reference List and PowerPoint master presentation) and Portuguese (the Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy, the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit Facilitator’s Guide and Participant’s Handbook, Reference List and PowerPoint master presentation, and the Portuguese translation of the IDRL Guidelines was proofread). These translations were undertaken in an effort to expand the reach of IFRC Disaster Law’s tools in the region to build capacity of NSs in Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy. The documents will be laid out and made available online in 2022.

## Americas

In an effort to continue supporting the legislative advocacy efforts of NSs during the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, IFRC Disaster Law, in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell of Excellence (CADRIM) converted the training materials of the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit (LAT) from an in-person training to online training. This conversion involved the development of a new methodology, consisting of virtual interactive sessions and activities to be conducted online for 2 ½ hour sessions over 8 days. From May 25 - June 17, IFRC Disaster Law piloted the **virtual LAT training** with the NSs of [Grenada](#) and [Jamaica](#), as well as **The Nature Conservancy**, within the context of the [Resilient Islands](#) Project. Two draft advocacy strategies were developed for Grenada and Jamaica respectively, to support the objectives of the project, i.e. to advocate for the inclusion of nature-based solutions in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation law and policy frameworks.

Recognizing the value and potential of the virtual LAT Training, IFRC Disaster Law also started development of an online **Training of Trainers (ToT) Course** to complement the LAT and to help to build the capacity of trainers within the Disaster Law Teams globally as well as focal points within NSs to more effectively deliver the LAT training. In 2022, virtual pilot trainings in the ToT Course will be conducted for Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

In [Bolivia](#) and [Ecuador](#), as part of the Andean Community Induction Plan, a Disaster Law Module was facilitated to 44 representatives of the NSs' new staff. The Module included topics such as Disaster Law in the Americas, Disaster Law key instruments and achievements.

In the [Dominican Republic](#), the "Synthesis Report on Legal Preparedness for International disaster relief-towards the application of the IDRL Guidelines in the Dominican Republic (2021 update)" was developed. A 5-day virtual Legislative Advocacy Training was facilitated to 12 participants, including NS branch presidents and NS legal staff. Three advocacy strategies were developed by the participants, considering the DRR scope in climate change, community engagement, and law and policy implementation.



*Dominican Republic DRR and CCA Synthesis report presentation to the National Technical Committee for Risk Prevention and Mitigation. Dominican Republic, November 2021*

After the presentation of the Synthesis Report to the Dominican Republic's National Emergency Commission, interest in the subject was generated among the members of the Technical Committee, promoting an on-site Legislative Advocacy Toolkit workshop for the authorities that formed the **Dominican** National Technical Committee for Risk Prevention and Mitigation. The workshop was facilitated by the Dominican Red Cross, TNC Resilient Islands Project and IFRC Disaster Law, and had the attendance of 17 national authorities (including the Public Health Ministry, National Geological Service, Interior and Policy Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, National Seismic Evaluation Office, Dominican Red Cross, among others). The outcomes included the presentation and review of the recommendations included on the Synthesis Report on "Ecosystem-based adaptation in the framework of DRR and CCA policies". The workshop provided a space

to share legislative advocacy tools in the revision of the Dominican Republic's DRM legislation, and the creation of a petit committee that will advocate for the recommendations of the Synthesis Report in the revision of the DRM Law.

In coordination with the Americas Regional Logistic Unit, the webinar: *“Emergencias: introducción a requisitos logísticos y de asistencia humanitaria internacional para SN”* was facilitated. The objective of the webinar was to provide guidance to NSs on the procedures required before, during and after a disaster occurs; legal preparedness and consideration of legal facilities to request from their governments considering the IDRL Guidelines and other IFRC Disaster Law tools. 90 participants from countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru attended the webinar.

As part of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance Project (ZFRA) a peer-to-peer exchange of project experiences meeting was held between [Costa Rica](#) and [Honduras](#) Red Cross. The meeting was developed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, with 18 participants from both NSs, the Honduran Permanent Contingency Committee (COPECO) and Sula Valley Flood Control Commission (CCIVS). Its outcomes included the presentation of the DRR Legal Study based on the IFRC DRR checklist, training and advocacy strategies developed by both NSs, based on the IFRC Legislative Advocacy Toolkit, targeting the strengthening of community resilience, fostering community participation in DRR and sharing relevant information on DRR legal frameworks to government authorities, external actors and society. Through this project, DRR legal frameworks were revised with municipal authorities, external stakeholders and society at large, enabling communities to be resilient.

### [Asia-Pacific](#)

The Asia Pacific Disaster Law team facilitated a peer-to-peer exchange between **Papua New Guinea** and the [Fiji](#) NDMO to share lessons learned from the Fiji disaster law review. It was a successful exercise where common challenges were identified and exchanges in knowledge, culture and best practices were made. The Disaster Law team will continue this support to Papua New Guinea in 2022.

In the [Philippines](#), the **Philippine Red Cross (PRC)** held the [first round of online disaster law trainings of facilitators](#) for its local chapters (branches) in the Luzon and Visayas regions. This training, targeted at PRC staff and volunteers, piloted the [PRC Disaster Law Training Toolkit](#) which was developed with the technical support of IFRC Disaster Law and the German Red Cross through its project “Empowering the Philippine Institutions and Communities in DRRM” (EPIC) Project. It is the first disaster law training toolkit that is

localized at the level of NS branches. The activity was led by the PRC Diplomacy and disaster management teams, with the technical supervision of IFRC Disaster Law. One of the facilitators from Samar Province shared their chapter's success in accessing local DRR funds to implement their pilot Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project this year. This is part of the discussion on DRR funds established by the law (more info can be found in this [tweet](#) and [article](#)). The continued roll-out of training this year has increased the knowledge of local chapters on disaster law as applied in the local context and given them more confidence to engage with the local government. The [3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rounds of the PRC Disaster Law Training for Chapters \(Training of Facilitators\)](#) was conducted online in June 2021 with a total of 50 participants from Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao regions.

The **PRC's** Diplomacy Technical Working Group also organised a brown-bag discussion on the IFRC report "[Addressing Specific Vulnerabilities through Integrated Climate and Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from the Philippines](#)". The discussion aimed to share the key findings and recommendations on DRR-CCA integration through laws and policies with PRC staff and volunteers, and to look at how PRC can establish its advocacy strategy on DRR and CCA. As the above IFRC report recommends, implementation at the local level is crucial for successful integration, which opens opportunities for PRC to support government efforts through its broad network of local branches.

The Asia Pacific Disaster Law Team presented on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights in Asia Pacific during the webinar on COVID-19 and Shelter Initiatives that took place in March 2021. The presentation focused on HLP rights during the pandemic and highlighted work from the **Philippines**. A NS capacity and awareness project "Asia Pacific HLP Capacity Building for National Societies" on HLP in disaster-related settings was agreed and finalised between the regional shelter and Disaster Law teams, with inputs from other technical teams. The project seeks to enhance the capacity and understanding of NSs on Housing, Land and Property issues in disaster-related settings, so they can better navigate, advocate and programme effectively in this complex area. A three-stage project plan was agreed, with 2021 dedicated to the development of the training toolkit. The consultancy Terms of Reference were finalised, and the consultants were hired to start on the training toolkit. This consultancy began in the second half of 2021 and will continue through the first quarter of 2022.

As part of the HELP Logistics and IFRC support to PRC's logistics preparedness, the Disaster Law team presented on IDRL and Basic Importation Laws for PRC's "Logistics in emergencies training". The participants were staff from the Logistics Service and other services of PRC. The presentation highlighted the positive impact of IDRL, specifically legal facilities under COVID-19 laws, for PRC's implementation of its COVID-19 health response.

In [Mongolia](#), the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) organised and delivered four trainings where 200 participants, including university students and MRCS staff, were sensitised to the newly amended disaster law and the newly promulgated COVID-19 law in Mongolia. Staff from the Climate and Disaster Management Department and staff from the University of Internal Affairs (UIA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) organised and facilitated the training at the MRCS Youth Development Center. These trainings aimed to prepare human resources to disseminate the newly amended Disaster Protection Law and the Mongolian COVID-19 law. Furthermore, a disaster law promotion classroom was established at the University of Internal Affairs to disseminate information on disaster laws. In addition, calendars were designed and disseminated, which included descriptions of the disaster law revision and the new COVID-19 law. Lastly, an academic conference on disaster law was organised with 70 students and researchers engaged. This project has created a pool of skilled human resources who can disseminate disaster law training to their community. There is also a physical facility and information, education and communication materials to strengthen people's understanding of disaster law, contributing to the efficient implementation of the law.

The Asia Pacific Disaster Law Team presented on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights in Asia Pacific during the webinar on COVID-19 and Shelter Initiatives that took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021. The presentation focused on HLP rights during the pandemic and highlighted work from the Philippines. As part of our work on HLP and advocacy, a NS capacity and awareness project "Asia Pacific HLP Capacity Building for National Societies" on HLP in disaster settings was developed by the Asia Pacific shelter and disaster law teams with inputs from other technical teams. The project seeks to enhance the capacity and understanding of NSs on Housing Land and Property issues in disaster settings, so they can better navigate, advocate and programme effectively in this complex area. A three-stage project plan was agreed with 2021 dedicated to the development of the training toolkit. The expert consultants officially commenced work in the second half of 2021 and will continue through the first quarter of 2022.

The Disaster Law team continued to engage and support NS capacity in issues related to climate/disaster displacement. Over the month of June, this included providing support to the Webinar on Migration and Displacement in the Pacific. The team facilitated outreach with a technical expert to present and extended an invite to the **Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS)** to reflect on the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and Human Mobility Working Group. Short remarks were also shared to capture disaster law and displacement connections. The webinar was attended by several Pacific NSs (including leadership and programme staff). This served as introductory/ awareness-raising webinar, with more capacity building planned to follow in 2022.

The [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#) and related online course was also circulated to all Asia Pacific NSs and IFRC technical teams.

### **Central Asia**

In Central Asia, IFRC Disaster Law continued working with NSs and governments on capacity-building and strengthening implementation of domestic laws and policies. There were some implementation challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions and a gap in human resource during Quarter 2, but this gap was addressed upon the hiring of a new Disaster Law Delegate for Central Asia in Quarter 4.

A regional briefing on disaster law thematic areas and activities was also organised for the IFRC Central Asia and Europe offices. The briefing was intended to raise the profile of the program among technical colleagues, and to facilitate identifying common areas of work that may be supported by Disaster Law.

In [Kazakhstan](#), IFRC Disaster Law continued discussions for piloting a 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).

In [Kyrgyzstan](#), a Legislative Advocacy Training for Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent staff and volunteers was held in March 2021 for Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society staff at the senior leadership and technical levels. Participants represented policy, legal and operational departments. The NS participants agreed to continue



*Participants from Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan doing group work on the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit.*

dialogue on strengthening of disaster laws and learning from other NSs. For this, the proposal was to organise an Advocacy Champions Working group within the NS, and to organise regional and country-level peer learning activities on Disaster Law and Advocacy.

In [Tajikistan](#), IFRC and the Tajikistan Red Crescent prioritised the need for capacity-building on and dissemination of their role as auxiliary to the public authorities. This was considered a priority for 2021 because the NS regional branches had been supporting disaster assistance for communities displaced by the border conflict between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and for the population movement from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. Hence,

six Auxiliary Role workshops were undertaken (one for HQ and five for regional/provincial levels). The workshops were well-attended, with all Tajikistan Red Crescent HQ senior managers and staff as well as the presidents and executive secretaries of four regional and 64 district



*Participants from a Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan branch who completed the Auxiliary Role workshop.*

branches present. These workshops included interactive role play and advice on advocating the role and independence the Tajikistan Red Crescent when working with national and decentralized government structures. The outcome of this initiative is a stronger recognition of the auxiliary role by government and partners, and better preparedness for the Tajikistan Red Crescent to respond to current and future emergencies.

In [Uzbekistan](#), IFRC Disaster Law also initiated discussions to conduct a legal mapping and analysis of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society's auxiliary role in the broader disaster law framework. This work will be continued in 2022.

### **Europe and Global level**

At **global level**, IFRC Disaster Law launched four new online training courses on the IFRC Learning Platform. The courses are: (1) [Introduction to International Disaster Response Law](#) (30 minutes); (2) [Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Response Law](#) (30 minutes); (3) [Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#) (30 minutes); and (4) [Getting Ready for Red Cross and Red Crescent Advocacy](#) (90 minutes). Each course is designed to provide a highly accessible and interactive introduction to the subject-matter. While the first two courses are designed for a very broad audience, the latter two are designed specifically for staff and volunteers within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. All courses are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish and have received high ratings from participants. In addition, the IDRL Checklist was translated into Arabic, and the [French](#) and [Spanish](#) translations of the [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#) were laid out. The finalised

report '[Integrating CCA and DRR Laws and Policies towards a Climate-Resilient Development: Lessons from the Commonwealth of Dominica](#)' was also laid out in 2021.

IFRC Disaster Law also developed new tools and guidance to support capacity strengthening of NSs in the area of disaster law and the auxiliary role. New tools will be published in the second quarter of 2022. These include: (1) a new board game on common auxiliary role and Fundamental Principles issues which can be used as an interactive tool to encourage a discussion with authorities on opportunities and challenges; (2) a disaster law dissemination/training packages that can be "self run" and adapted by NSs covering all thematic areas of IFRC disaster law; and (3) a "what is what" guide for NSs on international climate change and disaster governance.

IFRC Disaster Law contributed to the revised Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Induction Course's Module 3 "Representing Your NS on National and Global Platforms". This module focuses on strengthening the auxiliary role through laws and policy, the fundamental principles, and discusses how NSs can influence or support changes in laws and policies through advocacy. A module on the auxiliary role and disaster law was also developed as part of the new "Working as Part of the Surge Team" learning module and introduction to IFRC operations.

IFRC Disaster Law also contributed to and provided advice on the development of the Global Protection Cluster's Task Team on Law and Policy's "e-Learning on International Displacement, Law and Policy Making".

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 2022.

## **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 **three** countries (Argentina, Lao and Uganda).

In [Argentina](#), the **Argentinian Red Cross** signed the Collaboration Agreement between Airports Argentina 2000, Argentinian Red Cross and IFRC concerning the Humanitarian Assistance Logistic Center for the Southern Cone of America (Humanitarian Hub), to be located within the premises of La Seiza Airport, Argentina.

In [Lao PDR](#), the Disaster Management Fund Decree was developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) with the technical support of IFRC and Lao Red Cross, UNDP and ADB. The DM Fund Decree is part of the implementation of the 2019 Lao Disaster Management Law, the development of which was also supported by IFRC and Lao Red Cross. MLSW submitted its activity report on the Disaster Management Law Decree, after which the latest draft of the Decree was translated to English (unofficial). The DM Fund Decree **came into force** in 2021.

In [Uganda](#), Parliament passed the Uganda Red Cross Society Bill on the 11th of March 2021, to legally formalise the auxiliary role of Uganda Red Cross with the Government of Uganda and other public authorities. The new Act recognises Uganda Red Cross' auxiliary role across disaster risk management and response in situations of armed conflict and other situations of violence, disasters and public health emergencies. It further highlights the Uganda Red Cross Society's commitment to promoting and disseminating International Humanitarian Law, Disaster Law and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Bill is currently awaiting presidential assent.

## Logística

SECCIONES - ME ENCUENTRO - MI VIRTUAL - PROVEEDORES - REVISTA - VIDEOS ENTREVISTAS NEWSLET

### La Cruz Roja abrirá un hub logístico en Argentina

El hub tendrá capacidad de facilitar "suficiente ayuda humanitaria para atender las necesidades de hasta 10.000 personas afectadas por emergencias y desastres".

Marcio Olivares Orquera | 12 de octubre del 2021



## Technical support on Law and Policy development

### [Africa](#)



IFRC Disaster Law continued to support the development of a DRM Law in [Malawi](#). Following a request from the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), IFRC Disaster Law supported the Malawi Red Cross Society to organise a working session on the DRM Bill in June 2021.

The Disaster Law team was requested by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs (MHADM) and South Sudan Red Cross to support the development of a national DRM Bill in [South Sudan](#). Resultantly, IFRC recruited a consultant to support the DRM Bill national taskforce in drafting of the bill as well as carrying out consultations with concerned stakeholders. Activities completed in 2021 included stakeholder consultations (with the support of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and South Sudan Red Cross) in Juba with various government ministries, INGOs and academia. A zero draft of the Bill has also been prepared and is expected to be taken through state level consultations ahead of a national level validation in the first half of 2022.

In [Eswatini](#), IFRC Disaster Law supported the Baphalali **Eswatini** Red Cross Society to prepare a draft Pre-Disaster Agreement to enter into with the IFRC and the National Disaster Management Agency to ensure that roles and responsibilities of each party are clearly defined, and a humanitarian pathway is in place for the NS and IFRC, in the event of a disaster. Negotiation is expected to continue in 2022. Both the **Eswatini** as well as **Zimbabwe** Red Cross Society are also advocating for the revision of their Red Cross acts, the Disaster Law Team was requested to review and provide comments to both the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society Bill and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Act to enhance their alignment with the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Model Act.

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 continued to support Botswana Red Cross in its advocacy efforts for a comprehensive review of its Red Cross Act. This revision is expected to reflect the current auxiliary role status



*Participants from the Disaster Law workshop in Botswana*

of as first responder in disaster and health related emergencies. During engagements on the Red Cross Act, BRCS was invited to provide comments on the Draft National DRM Policy that was under review. The DRM Policy was approved by Cabinet in late 2021. The Red Cross Act revision process is expected to continue in 2022 and this will be carried out alongside the development of a DRM law which the NS will also be supporting.

In [Uganda](#), the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) continued to engage with parliamentarians to advocate for the need of a national DRM bill as part of the ongoing DRM bill development process in the country. As a recognised partner in this national

process, URCS engaged with the Office of the Prime Minister and other relevant stakeholders in developing the roadmap for the development of the Bill.

### Americas



In [Trinidad and Tobago](#), in the second quarter of 2021, the IFRC, working closely with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), concluded a series of 17 workshops which were central to the completion of gap analysis for the DRM legislative review. The Disaster Law Team later submitted a report consolidating the findings and recommendations arising out of all workshops. This gap analysis report was then used, along with other IFRC benchmarking tools such as the IDRL Guidelines and Model Law, as the basis for the drafting of a revised Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Bill for Trinidad and Tobago in the last quarter of 2021. The draft was produced by a consultant who was engaged by the IFRC. The IFRC was also invited by the ODPM to participate in the stakeholder consultations for a new National Policy on Disaster Management. Work is currently ongoing on both the draft Bill and the national policy and the DL Team continues to work closely with the ODPM and other partners in this process.

In Central America, following the adoption of the IDRL Law of [Honduras](#) in November 2020 amid the response to hurricane Eta, the Disaster Law Team supported the Honduran Red Cross and COPECO (the Honduran governmental institution responsible for comprehensive disaster risk management) to develop the IDRL Regulation that will support the effective implementation of the law. A consultant was hired to develop the draft proposal, the content of which was discussed and validated with the different authorities involved in the management of the international response.

### Asia-Pacific



NSs are in the process of/ or have influenced advanced disaster law reform processes in 10 **Asia Pacific countries** in 2021. This includes the support to advanced processes in [Fiji](#) (Disaster Law Review), [New Zealand](#) (National Adaptation Plan), [Palau](#) (DRM Bill), [Papua New Guinea](#) (DM Act revision), [Solomon Islands](#) (Public Health Emergency Bill and DRM Act), [Vanuatu](#) (Disaster Recovery Bill), [Afghanistan](#) (DRM Law and National DRR

Strategy), [Bangladesh](#) (Standing Order on Disasters), [Nepal](#) (Municipal Risk Governance Assessment Tool) and [India](#) (DM Act Revision).

Through the **Fiji** Disaster Law review, support was provided to the Fiji NDMO for the review of related risk management bills, disaster plans and policies to identify clear roles and responsibilities for agencies involved in disaster preparedness and response, including the Fiji Search and Rescue Bill, Fiji Police Power Bill, and the Fiji Logistics Manual. The Fiji NDMO also requested the Fiji Red Cross and the IFRC Disaster Law team's continued support for the review of the Fiji Humanitarian Policy and the formulation of the Fiji Community Based Disaster Risk Management Policy. The Disaster Law team supported briefings and introductions between the Fiji NDMO and UNCTAD on the Automated System for Relief Emergency Consignments (ASYREC). The discussions have helped to put together a process flow for the system for pre-clearance and expedited clearance of humanitarian aid with the potential of end-to-end tracking from the port of origin to port of destination down to end beneficiaries in the community. IFRC Disaster Law worked closely with the Fiji NDMO policy team on putting together summaries for parts of the Fiji DRM Bill which can be used to support speaking points on various DRM and climate change related issues covered by the Bill. Support was also provided to Fiji Red Cross (FRCS) on a draft MoU with the Ministry of Health to guide the FRCS support on COVID-19 operations. Legal research and advocacy support are also ongoing with the relevant public authorities including the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services concerning FRCS legal facilities such as customs duty exemption on their humanitarian aid consignments. Legal advocacy support was also provided for Fiji Red Cross Law through contribution to the SG's speaking points in his meeting with the Fiji PM during COP26. The Pacific Disaster Law Manager also supported the Fiji NDMO policy team on contributions to the Fiji PM's speaking points. A favourable outcome of the meeting was the support by the Fiji Prime Minister for a Fiji Red Cross Law.

Discussions have commenced with **New Zealand** Red Cross (NZRC) regarding collaboration and support to their advocacy efforts on their National Adaptation Plan (due for adoption in 2022). NZRC is looking to make a submission and influence the plan to ensure better connection at the community level and to at-risk communities for adaptation measures and investment and ensuring linkages with DRR initiatives. Potential for support included internal advocacy capacity training (for NZRC), support in the development of advocacy and engagement strategies as well as provision of regional and global research and tools.

In 2021, **Palau Red Cross** and the Disaster Law Team supported the review of the Draft Palau Disaster Risk Management Bill. Two meetings were undertaken to go over the

current draft and consider good practices in other Pacific Island countries. The Palau DRM Bill is unique as there are emergency response and assistance provisions in the Compact Agreement with the US that needs to be taken into consideration. Further work on the Bill will be jointly undertaken in 2022. The Disaster Law team also supported discussions between Palau Red Cross and the government on road safety relating to child restraint systems (car seats). This engagement will be jointly undertaken with Palau Public Safety, Palau Red Cross and the IFRC Global Road Safety team.

IFRC Disaster Law and **Papua New Guinea** Red Cross supported the Papua New Guinea Government consultations on the review of their disaster legislation. The methodology used for Fiji disaster law review consultations and the IFRC Disaster Law studies and materials were also shared with the UNDP colleagues supporting the review. The Disaster Law team also facilitated a peer-to-peer exchange between Papua New Guinea and the Fiji NDMO to share lessons learned from the Fiji disaster law review. It was a successful exercise where common challenges were identified and exchanges in knowledge, culture and best practices were made.

IFRC Disaster Law supported **Solomon Island** Red Cross's contribution to the Solomon Islands Public Health Emergency Bill Parliament Committee hearings. In 2021, the Disaster Law team provided guidance and support materials for the **Tonga** Attorney General's Office in the finalization of their Disaster Risk Management Act. Support was also provided to the Tonga Attorney General, through the Technical Working Group on Risk Governance on sharing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for multi-hazard responses from other Pacific Island Countries including Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

IFRC Disaster Law provided comments to the **Vanuatu** NDMO colleagues on their terms of reference for a consultant to draft a Recovery Bill. During discussions, the Disaster Law team provided examples of tax incentives and other facilities that some governments introduce during the recovery phase. It was also highlighted to Vanuatu colleagues that IFRC is undertaking a study in this area and is happy to share findings in future. The Disaster Law team is in continuous discussions with Vanuatu colleagues on this initiative and will support comments on the Bill when it is ready. The Vanuatu Disaster Recovery Bill is being drafted with funding assistance from UNDP. The Pacific Disaster Law Manager also supported the Pacific Disaster Risk Management team and the Shelter Officer on guiding the **Vanuatu Red Cross** (VRCS) on neutral and independent support to persons displaced due to evictions.

A meeting was held with UNDRR and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to discuss collaboration and support in the review of **Afghanistan's** DRM Law and the development of a national DRR strategy. IFRC Disaster Law committed to supporting the

legislative component. UNDRR is to have further discussions with the National DM Agency to discuss the details of this request and will be back in touch with ADPC and IFRC in 2022.

In **Bangladesh**, a roadmap to reignite disaster law related activities has been developed. This includes the finalisation and launching of the report on IDRL in Bangladesh, support to the government in awareness and dissemination of the Standing Order on Disasters, and advocacy to authorities in relation to regulatory barriers regarding vehicle importation, to support IFRC disaster-related activities.

The Government of **India** reached out to IFRC and UN partners for background support in the revision of its 2005 Disaster Management Law. They sought support to revise their DRM arrangements to better integrate public health measures. IFRC Disaster Law provided a regional comparative analysis to feed into the DRM Act review. The law is now being revised to better integrate public health measures. The amendments were considered by Parliament in mid-2021. IFRC Disaster Law has been working with UNDRR and UNDP to provide behind-the-scenes support to the National Disaster Management Agency in preparation for the revised law. This has included the facilitation of regional expert discussions and provision of technical research, comparative analysis, and advice regarding the revised law. As part of this, on 25 February 2021, the UN and IFRC convened an expert group with the Government of India on COVID-19/ DRM Arrangements. This included New Zealand Red Cross Secretary-General, the Public Health Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Teddy Herbosa who is part of the Philippines COVID-19 Taskforce and Prof Emily Chan from Hong Kong University. The Disaster Law team provided some initial analysis to the Government of India regarding specific legal questions they have raised in their review. A formal report, in partnership with the UN, was submitted in mid-March.

In **Nepal**, the Municipal Risk Governance Assessment Tool, which Red Cross has been supporting for several years as the official governance diagnostic assessment for use in all 753 municipalities in Nepal, is undergoing the final approval process with the Government. A training of trainers was held in April on the Municipal Risk Governance Assessment Tool for municipal leaders. This training had to be moved online due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Auxiliary role and disaster law mapping support for **Pakistan** was planned by Pakistan Red Crescent, IFRC and German Red Cross. A high-level project proposal was developed and submitted to the Government of Germany who have tentatively agreed to fund work over the next three years. A detailed concept note and action plan for auxiliary role strengthening and disaster law was developed and shared with the German Red Cross (Pakistan Red Crescent and IFRC Country Office) for inclusion in the 3-year project

proposal that has been shared with the Government of Germany. The concept note outlines initiatives in support of auxiliary role awareness and strengthening in domestic law and policy in Pakistan, as well as the potential for collaboration between the Government of Pakistan and Pakistan Red Crescent on disaster law.

**Korea** Red Cross is in the process of revising its legal base, to support a more sustainable financial base, detail governance arrangements and ensure better protection for the emblem. The IFRC Disaster Law team in partnership with the ICRC Korea office and the Regional Cooperation Delegate, provided technical support to review and advise on the law, as well as prepared joint letters to the President and Prime Minister signalling the Movement's endorsement of the draft law and process.

Discussions were held with **Cambodia** Red Cross, the National Committee on Disaster Management, universities and school-based youth, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Logistics Cluster (convened under WFP) and the Cambodia Humanitarian Response Forum on Disaster Management Law dissemination for the academic sector; and the review of the Cambodia Red Cross Logistics Guidelines based on Cambodia IDRL laws and subsidiary legislation. A concept note to guide discussions and initiatives is under development. The next steps are to arrange for virtual meetings with the Government and NS to discuss these initiatives.

In **Indonesia**, IFRC Disaster Law provided technical inputs to the Advisory Group's research on localization 'Blueprint for Change', focusing on the need to highlight IFRC and Palang Merah Indonesia's (PMI) contributions to strengthening the legal framework for localization of disaster-related aid, which is an outcome of its long-term work on IDRL regulations and support for the Disaster Management Law review. Parliament and government technical teams discussed institutional issues in the amendments. To move the support forward, the IFRC Disaster Law team proposed to have an online symposium to present the findings of the DM Law review report which was commissioned in support of the government and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). It was not possible to hold the symposium in 2021 due to COVID-19 related challenges. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) advised that the support should be led by different stakeholders, to avoid the perception of undue intervention by international organizations in the legislative agenda. AMPU-PB (a leading local CSO group, of which PMI is a member) also continued engagement with the parliament Technical Working Group (TWG). The Disaster Law team is looking at hiring a disaster law focal in Indonesia who may be able to support this long-term process and actively engage with parliament.

The Government of **Lao PDR** requested support for the dissemination of the Disaster Management Law and the new Disaster Management Fund Decree (adopted in

December 2020) at the provincial and district levels. The Disaster Law team developed a concept note on this using the 3Rs toolkit, and it was shared with Lao Red Cross and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare for feedback.

In the **Philippines**, IFRC Disaster Law was part of a field mission to Occidental Mindoro to assist a community affected by Typhoon Phanfone addressing regulatory issues. A 50-year gratuitous usufruct (right to use) over a relocation site was negotiated with the municipal mayor, to ensure the security of tenure for the disaster-affected people. A template usufruct contract, which will be granted to each beneficiary, was reviewed and sent to the local government for their feedback and approval. Also, as part of our support to integrating housing, land and property (HLP) rights in shelter and settlements programming, IFRC Disaster Law and the Philippines Shelter Cluster Coordinator initiated a meeting with the Philippines Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) to discuss proposed scoping research on HLP practices and challenges experienced by member agencies in past shelter assistance projects. This comes at an opportune time given the ongoing resettlement assistance for Typhoon Ulysses affected areas and the pending resettlement of displaced households in Marawi (ISIS armed conflict). This research is intended to inform an HLP Strategy for the whole shelter cluster to cover HLP components for internal programming and advocacy. The SAG also agreed to widen the research scope, i.e., disasters, development assistance, and peacebuilding / development aggression, to provide a broader understanding of the overlapping HLP issues in the Philippines disaster-related context.

IFRC Disaster Law and German Red Cross also supported the **Philippine Red Cross (PRC)** for an activity entitled "Revisiting of Philippine Red Cross' Project Houses in the Covered Areas to Gather Shelter Related Grievances and to Take Account of the Effectiveness of the Shelter Assistance Granted to the Beneficiaries". The objective of this activity was to document evidence on the HLP related issues which PRC encountered in selected shelter program areas and document ad hoc measures that worked and did not work when dealing with HLP issues. This will contribute to the aforementioned scoping research on HLP practices in the Philippines to inform the HLP Strategy.

The **Philippine** Red Cross Diplomacy Technical Working Group held meetings to discuss the findings of the "Humanitarian Diplomacy Scoping Report" and the next steps required to carry out the report's recommendations. IFRC Disaster Law provided guidance to PRC on the framework of the report which is intended to serve as the evidence-base for its organizational strategy on diplomacy, including on Disaster Law and advocacy around DRR-CCA integration. The Disaster Law team also presented the recommendations of the IFRC research on ["Addressing Specific Vulnerabilities Through Integrated Climate and](#)

[Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from the Philippines](#)” to support PRC’s advocacy work on climate change and resilience.

In support of strengthening the auxiliary role of the **Philippine** Red Cross and disaster-related activities in country, IFRC Disaster Law has submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Philippine Red Cross and the Office of Civil Defense on the accreditation of the PRC Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM) Training Module. Currently, the Office of Civil Defense has the sole authority to provide official training on CBDRRM using its own CBDRRM module, specifically government-mandated training for civil servants and CBDRRM training which can be publicly funded. The MoU seeks to formally accredit PRC so that it can be a recognised provider for government-mandated training for civil servants. The MoU is now with PRC for its final review and approval.

In [Samoa](#), an Auxiliary Role Mapping Workshop was held virtually in March and was facilitated by the Pacific DLM and SRCS. Workshop participants included SRCS staff, Board members and Branch Volunteers. The workshop covered the history of the SRCS establishment and its work to date; the auxiliary role, the existing SRCS Legal base, the sectoral laws that provide for other SRCS auxiliary services and the issues faced by SRCS in implementing its auxiliary role. A session on disaster law and the connection with the auxiliary role was also included. In October, the Secretary General of SRCS was supported to develop and deliver remarks during the Kaldor Conference on Climate Displacement to highlight the role of the NS in supporting communities on climate/ disaster displacement.

In February, IFRC Disaster Law supported legal research for [Tuvalu](#) Red Cross (TRCS) to request the release of gifted communications equipment free of customs duty and tax from Tuvalu Customs. Ongoing support is provided to TRCS on negotiations with Ministry of Health on an MOU to clarify engagement between TRCS and the Tuvalu Government in relation to Health Emergencies. The joint IFRC and ICRC Pacific NS New Leaders Orientation took place in March 2021. The participants included the new SGs, CEOs, Presidents and Vice Presidents for the NSs of Australia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Discussions took place between TRCS and Tuvalu Attorney General to review the Tuvalu disaster law and approval was given subject to Cabinet Approval. The Tuvalu NDMO and TRCS agreed to proceed with a national disaster law workshop to start officials thinking about the review. TRCS supported the planning and engagement efforts with their government on the disaster law and diplomacy work which started late October.

The Disaster Law team provided technical inputs to Cruz Vermahla [Timor Leste](#) (CVTL) Disaster Management Policy, including a suggestion to separate sections on community engagement and accountability (CEA) and humanitarian diplomacy (HD). The HD section proposes to maximise the auxiliary role and influence of CVTL and the wider Red Cross Red Crescent network through humanitarian diplomacy. This includes advocacy for clearer rights, roles and responsibilities in DM, safe humanitarian access for RCRC, and legal facilities for RCRC and other humanitarian actors working in international disaster relief and early recovery assistance.

### [Central Asia](#)



In [Kazakhstan](#), IFRC Disaster Law initiated discussions with the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society to identify areas of support to advocate for the passage of the Red Crescent Law which will formalise the auxiliary role of the NS. The draft law is currently with the Office of the Prime Minister for review.

In [Kyrgyzstan](#), technical and stakeholder engagements were held to discuss the law reform process and advocacy strategy for the development of by-laws to the 2017 Law on International Emergency Assistance. The development of by-laws is crucial since the 2017 law was included among laws under review by parliament, noting the gaps in enforcement including the lack of some subsidiary legislation.

Coordination sessions with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society, the humanitarian coordination platform Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) and the UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan were initiated in preparation for the inter-ministry meeting on the by-law development roadmap scheduled in 2022 Q1.

Following the passage of the [Turkmenistan](#) law on international emergency assistance in 2020, IFRC continued its engagement with government and UN partners in late 2021 through commitments for financial and technical support for the development of the law's first set of by-laws. This commitment was formalised in the approved 2022 plan of action between UN and the Government of Turkmenistan. This support will build on the law's broad adoption of the IDRL Guidelines and, at the same time, provide an avenue to strengthen the auxiliary role of the Red Crescent Society within the national disaster law framework through the proposed by-laws.

Towards the end of 2021, the **Uzbekistan Red Crescent** and IFRC Disaster Law began discussing dissemination activities on the Auxiliary Role in support of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Law. **Tajikistan Red Crescent** also requested and received technical advice from IFRC Disaster Law on the Auxiliary Role in relation to the government's request for the NS to establish and manage a proposed Initial Reception Center for Afghan refugees.

### Global tools



To provide support to NS and governments on law and policy development, IFRC Disaster Law launched a research report entitled [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), which was translated into [Spanish](#). An accompanying [Pilot Guidance](#) on this topic was also developed. The Pilot Guidance provides recommendations about how to strengthen domestic laws, policies and plans relating to the preparedness and response to public health emergencies. It provides guidance on topics such as: institutional arrangements; preparedness, early warning and early action; legal facilities for humanitarian actors; protection of vulnerable groups; domestic implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005); and integration between disaster and PHE instruments. Consultations on the Pilot Guidance were run in 2021 to solicit feedback from governments, public health experts, NSs and international organisations. The Pilot Guidance will be finalised in the first quarter of 2022.

IFRC Disaster Law launched a new website featuring a [Disaster Law Database](#). The materials in the Disaster Law Database come from the international, regional and domestic levels, and from a wide range of actors including states, international organisations, the IFRC and academic institutions. The Database is the world's largest collection of materials relating to disaster law and will be an invaluable tool for diverse stakeholders working on disaster law. In 2021, IFRC Disaster Law initiated collaboration with the University College Cork of Ireland School of Law, University of Canterbury School of Law, University of Victoria Faculty of Law, and the University of Reading School of Law to develop the [Case Law section of the Disaster Law Database](#).

**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 organised or participated in a number of events at the global and regional levels.

At the **global level**, IFRC Disaster Law finalised and published its report on [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response](#). The [report was successfully launched](#) to diplomatic missions in [Geneva](#) and to states in [Asia Pacific](#) and [Africa](#). In Asia-Pacific, the Law and PHE report was launched with the participation of UNDRR, WHO and special guest Ms. Adelina Kamal (former Executive Director) of AHA Center. The recording of the launch can be found [here](#). In Africa, IFRC Disaster Law and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), organised a [consultation](#) on the [Pilot Guidance for Law and Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) Preparedness and Response](#). Disaster-related, public health and legal experts from across the Africa region, including representatives from governments as well as NSs, joined to mark the first public collaborative engagement between IFRC and Africa CDC following the [signing of an MoU](#) on collaboration to support preparation for better response to PHEs. The purpose of the consultation with key stakeholders in Africa was to gather critical feedback on the Guidance to ensure that it is fit for its purpose in the region. The recording of the consultation can be found [here](#) for day one and [here](#) for day two.

Work in this area led to IFRC being invited to present at an interactive webinar organised by the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN entitled "[The Need for an International Pandemic Treaty?](#)", and to IFRC being asked to join the [Global Health Security Agenda's Legal Preparedness Action Package](#) initiated by Argentina, the USA, and Georgetown Law's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. In response to a common call for an international treaty on pandemics by the WHO and world leaders, IFRC published a [press statement in July](#) and highlighted the role of disaster laws and policies in public health emergency preparedness and response, and developed an Op-Ed entitled "[An new pandemic treaty needs to be powerful not only on paper](#)" published by Geneva Solutions in April. Recommendations developed by IFRC on Law and PHE Preparedness and Response were also presented at the Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid during Slovenia EU presidency (2021-II) in November.

IFRC submitted comments to the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The submission focuses on internal displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse impacts of the climate crisis, and included recommendations on the role of disaster-related laws in addressing internal displacement. Remarks with regard to the importance of legal preparedness were also included in IFRC's President

remarks to the G20 Ministerial event 'The role of logistics in preparedness and response for the COVID-19 pandemic and future health crises' in June.

At the virtual meeting of the United Nations Sixth Committee on the *"Building on the ILC Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters towards a universal legally-binding instrument"*, organised by the UN Permanent Missions of Colombia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, and Nigeria in September 2021, IFRC DL delivered a presentation on the IFRC positioning regarding the Draft Articles, highlighting the potential added value of such treaty if it was to be adopted, as well as the gaps that would need to be addressed in the current draft.

IFRC Disaster Law has finalised and launched a new report and recommendations, [Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience: Enhancing Normative Integration between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction](#). This synthesis report consolidates existing knowledge on the topic based on the four country case-studies conducted in 2021 ([Fiji/ Pacific Island Countries](#); [Philippines](#); [Dominica](#) and [Kenya](#)). IFRC signed a cooperation agreement with the [Centre for International Sustainable Development Law \(CISDL\)](#) and participated and shared recommendations on law and CCA-DRR coherence in two events of the CISDL during UNFCCC CoP 26 (Glasgow – UK). The academic conference on *"Climate Change, the SDGs and the Law"* was hosted at the University of Cambridge (29-30 Oct 2021) and the [Climate Law and Governance Day 2021](#) during COP26 in Glasgow (5 Nov 2021), was co-hosted by the faculties of law of the University of Glasgow, the University of Cambridge and Strathclyde University. These events were aimed at favouring the sharing of leading international research, knowledge-building, scientific dialogue and capacity-strengthening, including on how sustainable development can jointly address climate-related disasters risks.

Also in the context of COP, IFRC collaborated with the REAP and produced a video presented in the [REAP High Level Event: Welcome to 2025: Where early action is the default](#). IFRC President Francesco Rocca also presented at the Adaptation Action Coalition Ministerial Event: [Mobilizing Adaptation Action in Partnership](#) at COP26 and highlighted the importance of strong and integrated disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws and policies in supporting vulnerable communities face the climate crisis and in delivering ambitious actions and tangible solutions to build a climate-resilient future.

IFRC Disaster Law also presented IFRC's work in the area of disaster law and recent developments at the following events:

- Annual NSs' Legal Advisers Meeting (January);
- Red Cross European Disaster Management Working Group (January) during which NS recommended to strengthen legislative preparedness in Europe;
- [Disaster Law American Society of International Law](#) Annual Meeting (March),
- Red Cross's Baltic Sea Disaster Preparedness Meeting (March);
- German Institute for International and Security Affairs' Pandemic Treaty Roundtable (May);
- Lecture at a Geneva Academy's course on international disaster law (May);
- IFRC Donors Advisory Group Meeting (June and October);
- [University College Cork of Ireland's webinar on law and policies to strengthen climate resilience](#) (July);
- OECD's event "[Protecting people and the planet in times of crises: How to increase resilience of international rulemaking?](#)", 8th Annual Meeting of the Partnership of International Organizations for Effective International Rulemaking (September);
- [Webinar of ASIL's Disaster Law Interest Group](#) (September);
- Webinar of the IFRC network European Legal Support Group (September);
- Agenda item 20: Sustainable Development Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (October);
- [Roma Tre University and ASIL's Expert Meeting "Is International Disaster Law Protecting Us?"](#) (October);
- [University of Cambridge's Online Conference on Climate Change, the SDGs and the Law](#) (October); and
- [10th Global Conference on Health Promotion "Ensuring Effective Judicial Protection: Wellbeing and the Rule of Law"](#) (November); and
- Heads of RCRC International Relations Network Meeting (November).

## Africa

The [Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (the Platform) was held in November under the over-arching theme: Towards Disaster Risk-Informed Development for a Resilient Africa in a COVID-19 Transformed World". During the Platform, UNDRR and IFRC Disaster Law hosted a Parallel Working Session on [Comprehensive Disaster & Climate Risk Management in Africa](#) to foster exchanges between government representatives and development partners on enhancing coherence between CAA and DRR, strategies, plans and practices through climate and disaster risk management. During the panel discussion, Uganda Red Cross (URC) discussed how clarification of roles and responsibilities of DRR and CCA stakeholders supports the establishment of a strong governance system aimed at achieving long-term resilience. This was in line with the

recommendations of the [Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience](#). URC also highlighted the key role of the NS in the development of coherent DRR and CCA policies and strategies, aimed at enhancing sustainable development. In addition, the Disaster Law Africa team represented IFRC in the Drafting Committee of the [Nairobi Declaration on accelerating the path to achieving the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa](#). The Declaration captured key provisions that align to the strategy of engagement of African NSs and IFRC, including the urging of States to “establish strong risk governance systems supported by regulatory and legal frameworks to buttress the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action at all levels”.

In June 2021, IFRC Disaster Law was requested to reshare the Draft Model IDRL Law for consideration and approval by the **African Union’s** legal counsel (AUCL). Once approved by the AUCL, a validation workshop with Member States is expected to be held by the AU in 2022. IFRC Disaster Law also collaborated with the Africa CDC, a public health agency of the AU, in the regional consultation on the PHE Pilot Guidance. Further information on this event has been set out above.

Building on discussions with the **IGAD** on the development of a DRR Regional Framework and the inclusion of disaster law as one of the topics for development under IGAD’s agenda in 2020, IFRC Disaster Law started working on solidifying areas of collaboration. In 2021, further engagements with IGAD were held and a roadmap for the implementation of the partnership between IFRC and IGAD on Disaster and Climate Resilience was developed. This road map builds on the discussions held between IFRC Disaster Law and IGAD in 2020 and includes activities such as conducting a mapping analysis of IGAD member states’ DRM frameworks to inform the development of a policy framework or guidance to support IGAD member states in the development of robust national legislations that take into consideration innovative DRM funding processes like Forecast-based Financing. Implementation of the roadmap is expected to begin in 2022. IFRC Disaster Law supported the conclusion of an MoU with **SADC** in mid-2021. The MoU provides a framework for cooperation between the IFRC and SADC in a number of areas, including in the field of disaster law, more specifically in improving legal preparedness of SADC Member States for international humanitarian assistance, both from within and outside the Southern Africa region. IFRC Disaster Law also attended a virtual SIMEX hosted by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The SIMEX aimed at sensitizing Member States on the available SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanisms, including newly developed communication processes, SADC Disaster

response tools, and coordination mechanisms. Following the SIMEX, IFRC Disaster Law was given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SOPs developed for some of these mechanisms. In October 2021, IFRC Disaster Law presented its key tools and highlights of its work in the Southern African region as part of the IFRC's intervention at the virtual SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning Workshop. In December, IFRC Disaster Law attended a planning meeting with SADC on the operationalisation of the MoU. Following the planning session, joint activities related to disaster law have been included in the draft workplan, including supporting SADC in the development of a regional agreement on humanitarian assistance.

IFRC Disaster Law Africa has also developed an informal partnership with the University of Pretoria, and was invited to present a lecture on IDRL as part of the LLM in International Law curriculum in June 2021. This lecture was recorded and also shared with undergraduate students as well.

IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a session at the global online conference on [Law in a Time of Covid: Regional Perspectives on the Role of Law in a Global Pandemic](#), which was hosted by the International Disaster, Emergency and Law Network. The virtual conference was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September and comprised of four different sessions representing the Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, and America regions. IFRC Disaster Law was represented by Stella Ngugi, who presented a session titled: *Lessons Learned on the Role of Law in Public Health Emergencies*.

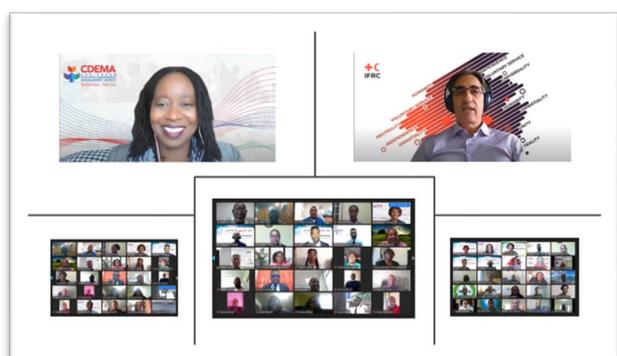
Finally, as part of the introduction of the IFRC Pre-Disaster Agreement in the region, IFRC Disaster Law Africa provided a briefing to the larger DCPRR Africa team on the Tripartite Pre-disaster Agreement, in order to introduce the initiative and get feedback on its relevance in the region.

## **Americas**

At the Central America subregional level, IFRC Disaster Law contributed to the **CEPRENAC** webinar "*El adecuado manejo y atención de emergencias, con enfoque de derechos*" (*Adequate management and attention to emergencies, with a rights-based approach*), facilitating a session to 136 participants from government representatives (civil protection systems, customs, migration) from the six Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. The Disaster Law session focused on the IDRL Guidelines, the auxiliary role and legal frameworks for disasters. IFRC Disaster Law also contributed to the June 2021 "*Derecho Internacional sobre respuesta a desastres: Construyendo*

*capacidad nacional para el manejo de desastres” (International Disaster Response Law: Building National Capacity for Disaster Management)* webinar, organised by CEPREDENAC, with the participation of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Amazon Web Services (AWS). The webinar was virtually attended by 30 participants from NSs and governmental authorities from Central American countries and examined the state of art on disaster legislation in the Central American Isthmus and drew lessons from best practices and case studies on disaster response legislation through IFRC Disaster Law. In addition, the Central America Integration System (SICA) developed the “SICA’s regional mechanism for assistance during disaster” webinar, with an attendance of 130 participants, which included a Disaster Law session.

IFRC Disaster Law has also been engaging with **SICA-CEPREDENAC** to assist Central American countries to review and update the Central American Regional Response Mechanism (known as the “MecReg”) considering the lessons learned from the response to Category 5 hurricanes Eta and Iota that struck Central American countries in November 2020. IFRC and SE-CEPREDENAC concluded a MoU that set the collaboration relating to the technical (and financial) assistance to be provided to CEPREDENAC in this regard, and which identified the following objectives: (i) Further inclusion of IDRL considerations in the upcoming revised version of the MecReg; (ii) Recognition of the auxiliary role of Central American NS; (iii) Granting of special legal facilities to the IFRC; and (iv) Definition of the framework for civil-military cooperation.



IFRC Disaster Law, in partnership with the French Red Cross Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) collaborated with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to co-facilitate the [Caribbean IDRL Workshop](#) from November 17-19. This 3-day virtual event represented a milestone in

cooperation between IFRC Disaster Law and CDEMA to advance IDRL in the Caribbean region. This workshop brought together key stakeholders in disaster management including National Disaster Organisations, government officials in the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Customs, Finance, Ports Authorities, Health, among others, as well as Red Cross NSs. There were over 100 participants each day of the workshop who were sensitised on key issues including the granting of legal facilities for disaster assisting

actors, unsolicited bilateral donations and implications for IDRL during public health emergencies. Coming out of these discussions, IFRC and CDEMA committed to partner together in 2022 to establish a **Regional IDRL Working Group** responsible for providing Caribbean-specific perspectives, insights and recommendations for improving the regional regulatory framework for the facilitation and coordination of international disaster relief within the context of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management.

During the **IFRC Pre-Hurricane Conference 2021**, a session on "[Anchoring our Auxiliary Role in Laws and Policies](#)" was facilitated and attended by 170 participants, NS staff and volunteers from the four sub-regions of the Americas. The session allowed the promotion of the "Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy", the "Synthesis Report on Law and PHE" and the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit virtual training. The session provided an opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences by showcasing successful NS advocacy strategies that had positive impacts on emergency responses last year. [Honduras](#) (the Red Cross and the Government) presented on the IDRL Law adopted amid the response to Hurricane Eta in November 2020, the first ever adopted IDRL Law on the continent.



*During the Pre-Hurricane Conference, IFRC DL and DCPRR Staff held a session with Honduras Congressman. Panama City, June, 2021.*

In October 2021, IFR Disaster Law also participated in the dialogue between Ministers and High-level authorities of Cooperation from the 34 OAS member states with the private sector focused on partnerships for recovery. The theme was "*Cooperation and Partnerships as engines for post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in the region*". The Meeting was organised by the OAS in conjunction with the Government of **Mexico** as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter- American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD). It provided an opportunity for private sector leaders to engage with Ministers and High-Level Authorities on potential partnerships to boost the region's recovery from the crisis specifically in the areas of (i) Knowledge and Virtual Economy; (ii) Education in the Digital Era; (iii) The Future of Work; and (iv) Climate Action and Building Resilience.

Also in 2021, a webinar on “International Disaster Response Law”, was organised by CEPREDENAC, with IFRC Disaster Law, AWS, PAHO, OEA/SEDI, and focused on the review of instruments related to international disaster response, the status of disaster legislation in the Central American isthmus, best practices and legislation in disaster response, as well as coordination among international relief actors.



Finally, in [Colombia](#), IFRC Disaster Law facilitated a session at the [IDRL Session of the Regional Forum for the exchange of instruments and experiences of the International Cooperation in Disaster Response](#), organised by the Colombian National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres-UNGRD).

## Asia Pacific

Support has been provided to disaster response coordination and wider governance reform in three sub regional processes in the Asia Pacific region (**ASEAN**, **SAARC** and **Pacific regional organizations (SPC and PIFS)**).

In [Southeast Asia](#), a concept note was developed on IFRC’s contribution to the new AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025. The concept note focuses on reviving the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Disaster Law Peer Learning Platform** which was cited among the achievements of the past AADMER Work Programme 2015-2020. The Disaster Law team has initiated a regional and country-level mapping of laws and policies that have enabled DRM and health sector coordination in the context of COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. This work is using the [IFRC’s Law and Public Health Emergencies \(PHE\) report](#). The intended timeline for the project is 2021-2022. More information on this is provided below in the research section.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **ASEAN** Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) Executive (ACE) Training was revamped into a fully online course, targeting joint participation from NDMOs and NS. The online ACE training for ASEAN governments and NSs took place in October 2021. The Disaster Law module focused on IDRL, Law and Preparedness and Response, 'Rights, Roles and Responsibilities' in Disaster Risk Management, and the Auxiliary Role.

The IFRC Disaster Law team partnered with the global logistics team to support IDRL messaging and interventions at the **ASEAN** HELIX workshop in May 2021. IFRC led a session on "[Strengthening government preparedness through strengthened NS logistics](#)". In this session, the IFRC Southeast Disaster Law Advisor and a speaker from the Philippines Red Cross shared reflections on their work to support the Government of Philippines on IDRL during COVID-19, which was enabled by a strong auxiliary role in the [COVID-19 legislation](#). Fiji NDMO also discussed the work they are doing to support the logistics capacity of Fiji Red Cross and explained how this, in turn, strengthens the Fiji Governments disaster management operations. This included discussions of the Disaster Law review and IDRL provisions of the DRM Bill.

In [South Asia](#), the regional analysis of the research on legal preparedness for Disaster and Pandemic Preparedness and Response 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 have been formalised in national and/or local governance arrangements and put into practice. A meeting took place between the IFRC and the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** SG in February to discuss areas of collaboration and continued work and engagement on disaster law was identified as one key area.

There has been heavy investment and impact in regional **Pacific** processes throughout the year. For the year 2021, IFRC Disaster Law supported the Technical Working Group for Risk Governance Development (TWG-RGD). This TWG supports peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices in disaster risk management and emergency laws. It also provided a pathway for sharing of laws being enacted to support Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation, and the COVID-19 Response. The platform also allowed for peer-to-peer support between National Disaster Risk Management Offices and National Emergency Management Offices by sharing of emerging practices, developed SOPs or other policies relating to Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation and Public Health Emergencies. The Disaster Law team also provided support to the Technical Working Group (TWG-HM) for Human Mobility. The team was requested by PIFS and IOM to support the TWG-HM as the chair of its Peer Review Committee which peer-reviewed the studies relating to relocation and mobility finance; land tenure and

climate mobility; and women and disability in the context of climate mobility. These studies were to be used as baselines for where the Pacific is at the moment, and to provide recommendations on how to progress work on these important issues.

The Disaster Law team supported IFRC engagement in the [2021 Pacific Resilience Meeting](#) which was held in July. The outcome statement included comments from the IFRC Pacific team and highlighted the need for an integrated, cohesive, multiple risk and hazard approach to climate change and disaster risk management policy and legislation. The Public Health Emergencies youth outcome statement also called for “the review of current national policies, frameworks and legislation to ensure integration of disaster risk management and climate change.”

During the reporting year, IFRC Disaster Law supported the planning of the Import and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT) World Customs Organisation (WCO) and Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) regional workshop on the Facilitation of Humanitarian Aid consignment SOPs the Customs workshop agenda and compiled the list of participants. The agenda included a presentation from the Fiji Red Cross Disaster Management team, Fiji NDMO and a presentation on the IDRL guidelines which also included an introduction to the checklists for law and DRR and law and disaster preparedness and response. Advocacy was successfully undertaken during the workshop to shift the mindset of the participants from looking only at the response but also looking at strengthening preparedness. UNCTAD acknowledged the support IFRC has provided in updating ASYREC through work with Fiji NDMO. OCO and WCO also acknowledged the contribution of IFRC to the workshop in giving expert advice in Disaster Law and Customs Law.

The Disaster Law team supported discussions with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) on collaboration concerning climate change work, meteorological related work, resilience, disaster waste and other environmental related issues in 2022. During the meeting, the reach of the Red Cross Movement in the community was acknowledged and commended by the SPREP lead focal point. She also highlighted that it was this niche which they believe is one of the values in collaboration with the Red Cross in the Pacific. The initial meeting was with the SPREP meteorology division, and it was agreed to reach out to the other SPREP programmes in 2022, to strengthen collaboration in the areas raised.

IFRC Disaster Law supported the Pacific Island Countries' submissions to the International Law Commission on Sea Level Rise, Statehood and Protection of Persons. The team provided a summary of relevant work done by the Pacific NSs related to supporting communities affected by disaster, climate change and sea-level rise on 30<sup>th</sup> December. The Red Cross work and tools were also highlighted.

The Disaster Law team is leading engagement in Asia Pacific disaster displacement discussions. In Asia, the team has been approached by IOM and the Norwegian Refugee Council for collaboration on disaster law and displacement considerations as well as further joint work on Housing Land and Property. Over June, this included work with partners to finalise the content and script for the WiA disaster displacement training videos, as well as participating in the regional roundtable, during which IFRC put its name forward to be part of the organizing committee for the displacement sessions during the 2022 Global Platform and also to support the Government of Bangladesh in the development of its Action Plan related to its National Strategy on Disaster Displacement. In the Pacific, the Disaster Law team members participated in the High-Level Panel on IDPs which engaged several governments in the Pacific. All governments identified that issues of disaster/ climate IDPs are managed under their disaster and climate laws and policies, and this was an area that required greater support. IOM and IFRC are now in discussions on how to best support in this area, including closer alignment of the Pacific Human Mobility Technical Working Group and Risk Governance Technical Working Group.

The joint IFRC and ICRC Pacific NS New Leaders Orientation took place in March 2021. The participants included the new Secretary Generals, CEOs, Presidents and Vice Presidents for the NSs of [Australia](#), [Marshall Islands](#), [New Zealand](#), [Palau](#), [Solomon Islands](#) and [Tuvalu](#), during which IFRC Disaster Law arranged for a representative from the **Pacific Island Forum Secretariat** to present the work done by the Pacific NSs and IFRC to support the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. The Disaster Law team also presented on the Legal Base of NSs and the requirements to be met by the NS law and strengthening the legal base. A presentation on the NS auxiliary role was also made, including auxiliary role mapping, its linkages to legal advocacy for strengthening the NS auxiliary role, and how it supports the identification of key public authorities for legislative advocacy.

In March 2021, IFRC Disaster Law participated in and provided facilitation support during the Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific urban hub regional platform. The team facilitated discussion on displacement in urban settings as well as co-facilitated the discussions on DRM. As an outcome of the meeting, disaster law has been one of the identified strategic areas that can strengthen the auxiliary role of NSs in building urban resilience, particularly in disasters and other crises. IFRC Disaster Law continues to work with an urban hub in the development and implementation of a more detailed work plan, including collaboration on local and municipal regulatory frameworks.

The Disaster Law team together with the Protection, Gender and Inclusion team discussed a potential collaboration with **UNICEF** on its learning series on child protection

in disasters and a planned regional launch of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. In particular, to share the findings and recommendations in the child protection and disaster law case studies for the Philippines and Indonesia. The contribution from IFRC Disaster Law will be on laws and mechanisms that strengthen child protection and disaster law.

IFRC Disaster Law provided a keynote presentation on Pacific Risk Governance, to the annual meeting of the **Council for International Development (CID) New Zealand Humanitarian Network** on 2 March 2021. This included participation from across the humanitarian and development network in New Zealand, the government and the private sector.

During the **Regional Symposium on COVID-19 and DRM in Asia Pacific** on 27 October 2021, IFRC Disaster Law was selected to lead the governance session. The event was co-hosted by the Governments of **Indonesia** and **Australia**. An IFRC paper on Laws, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies in Asia Pacific formed the basis of discussions. Over 300 people registered for the regional symposium and the need for stronger more integrated laws was a key recommendation.

In the [Philippines](#), IFRC Disaster Law contributed to the UN Philippines' multi-sector Climate Forum to celebrate World Humanitarian Day 2021. With support from the IFRC Philippines Communications Coordinator, IFRC Disaster Law [presented](#) on the report entitled "[Addressing Specific Vulnerabilities Through Integrated Climate and Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from the Philippines](#)". Key messages focused on the importance of community and local level implementation of climate-smart disaster laws and the mandate of IFRC and NSs to work with communities on these issues.

A keynote address on Legal Preparedness for Disasters, Climate Change and Public Health Emergencies was made at the India Republic Day Inaugural Lecture organised by the **Network of Asia Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG)** on 25 January. The event included over 100 participants and academics from across South, Southeast and East Asia.

The Disaster Law team was invited by IOM to speak on the IFRC Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management Law work in the Pacific Civil Society consultations on climate mobility (23 – 25 June 2021). The opportunity was used to discuss some of the work being done by the Asia Pacific Migration Network, including the guidance for NS on displacement and relocation, the IFRC Disaster Law tool kits and how this is all supported and informed through the auxiliary role of the Pacific NSs to their governments.

IFRC Disaster Law has been supporting the design and content for Asia Pacific NS consultation on the Asia Pacific Plan of Action for Sendai Implementation (2021 – 2024). This includes facilitating feedback on the plan from IFRC technical colleagues and Asia Pacific NSs. IFRC Disaster Law also provided background and speaking notes for the UNDRR/IFRC regional heads' meeting which was held in May.

The 2021 Virtual Health and Humanitarian Action in Emergencies (HHAEE) Course organised by the **Center for Excellence in Emergency Management** was held from 7 to 15 June 2021. The IFRC Disaster Law team provided a presentation on our work, tools developed by the Movement, the importance of setting out proper roles and responsibilities for DRM, and the importance of an integrated approach to Disaster Risk Management.

IFRC Disaster Law continued its engagement with the **University of the South Pacific (USP)**. An hour long Disaster and Emergency Law lecture was provided to USP Post Graduate Students undertaking the PC431 Course on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The opportunity was used to promote Red Cross volunteers, especially for DRM and climate change professionals and practitioners. The IFRC e-learning catalogue was also shared with the students. Several students raised their interest in volunteering for their respective NSs. The Disaster Law team was also invited to support the evaluation of USP post-graduate students' presentations for their final assessment (major assessments) for the PC432: Disaster Response and Recovery Module. The opportunity was used to promote the IFRC e-learning platform and the Movement approaches for a risk-informed preparedness for effective response. The IFRC Disaster Law team supported responses to questions related to IDRL issues, humanitarian coordination, and the difference between a sector approach versus a cluster approach. During the debriefing on the evaluation, the USP coordinator for postgraduate courses on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and Disaster Response and Recovery, stated his interest to include a disaster law module in one of his courses. It was agreed that this initiative can be taken forward in 2022.

### **Central Asia**

After addressing the Disaster Law human resource gap in the region by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021, work was done to restart the partnership and discussions between Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the Ministry for Emergency Situations and the inter-agency Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) led by OCHA, to kickstart the planning for the development of implementing regulations / by-laws for the "[Law on International Emergency Assistance](#)" which was adopted by the parliament in 2017.

The first disaster law mapping conducted for [Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Tajikistan](#) on IDRL, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Domestic Preparedness and Response was also finalised this year, with the main objective of informing country-level and regional-level discussions on law and policy reform processes in Central Asia. More information on the research is provided below.

## Media coverage and communication

2021 was a significant year for IFRC Disaster Law communications, as we began to more consistently and strategically ensure we communicate about what we do, the impacts of disaster law and how disaster law fits into other humanitarian and climate frameworks and narratives.

Finally, IFRC Disaster Law dedicated time and resources for the development of the new IFRC [Disaster Law website](#), launched in 2021. The IFRC [Disaster Law website](#) is home to the world's largest collection of reports, resources and research relating to disaster law, and the [Disaster Law Database](#) – which is also the world's largest of its kind. The [launch of the Database](#) took place in June at a joint event organised by IFRC and Roma Tre University. Through ensuring the website has regular new content and through strong SEO keywords throughout the site, our webpages are appearing well in Google searches. IFRC Disaster Law guidance and resources were also added into the [Catalogue of Resources of the IFRC Go Platform](#).

We have a dedicated [IFRC Disaster Law Twitter](#) account and over 2021 we have doubled our followers through regular posts.

As research and reports are a large part of our work, from a communications perspective we are writing brief stories about the documents for the website, external humanitarian sites and for sharing on social media. This is helping with SEO, driving more visitors to our site and helping to get more coverage of the reports and research.

News and events were shared throughout the year, and particular success was had with the launch of the [Law and PHE reports](#), International DRR day, [COP26, DRR and CAA coherence in legal frameworks](#) and stories about domestic disaster law activities, the [auxiliary role](#), [displacement](#), and reviews and updates of legislation.

For all of these events comprehensive communications packs were created that included stories, case studies social media graphics, [videos \(5\)](#) and marketing documents. In total **42** news and events were posted on the site in 2021.

Lastly, Disaster Law newsletters were revived over the year, with three newsletters going out from Asia Pacific, two from the global portfolio and two from the Africa region.

#### **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 finalised and launched its report entitled [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), which was translated into [Spanish](#). The report examines how law and policy can support preparedness for and response to public health emergencies, and how public health laws relate to wider DRM laws. The report was developed to provide support to NSs and governments on law and policy development. An accompanying [Pilot Guidance](#) on this topic was also developed. The Pilot Guidance provides recommendations about how to strengthen domestic laws, policies and plans relating to the preparedness and response to public health emergencies. Consultations on the Pilot Guidance were run in 2021 to solicit feedback from governments, public health experts, NSs and international organisations, as described above. The Pilot Guidance was finalised in the first quarter of 2022.

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](#). Following the publication of the [Literature Review on Law and Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction](#) in 2020, in 2021 IFRC Disaster Law commenced research into common legal challenges faced in domestic disaster recovery operations. In 2021, research focused on Australia and Italy. More legal mappings will be conducted in 2022 and the findings on this topic 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](#)” initiated in 2019, IFRC jointly with University College Cork (UCC) of Ireland finalised a new [Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience: Enhancing Normative Integration between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The research explores and provides recommendations on how climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction can be effectively integrated through law and policy. Also, as part of this

research project, IFRC and UCC published country-level research on integration between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in [Dominica](#) and [Kenya](#).

Recommendations were provided with regard to the integration of climate-related displacement into national laws, policies and strategies through the IFRC report "[Displacement in a Changing Climate: Localised humanitarian action at the forefront of the climate crisis](#)". This report includes two IFRC Disaster Law thematic profiles on Fiji and Malawi.

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 was made available on IFRC Disaster Law website in 2022.

IFRC initiated collaboration with the WWF to develop a [report on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#). The report will also address the role of laws and policies to support nature-based solutions and will be published in 2022.

Finally, IFRC Disaster Law continued its fruitful partnership with Roma Tre University to support the development of the new [Disaster Law Database](#) and the development of the [Yearbook on International Disaster Law \(YIDL\) 'International Disaster Law in Practice, Volume 3'](#) as open-access. IFRC Disaster Law also developed an article on "[International Disaster Law at the Domestic Level: the Philippines](#)" published in the YIDL.

## [Africa](#)

Following the IDRL mappings that took place in [Southern Africa](#) in 2020, IFRC Disaster Law developed and published a report on IDRL in Southern Africa entitled: [Legal Preparedness for International Assistance in Southern Africa: Regional Assessment and Country Profiles](#). The report compiles the IDRL country profiles, assesses the legal preparedness of states in the sub-region to facilitate international assistance if a disaster exceeds national capacities, and proposes recommendations to strengthen IDRL in the sub-region. It is accompanied by a [shorter version of the report](#), which contains the executive summary and the regional analysis of IDRL in the sub-region. The summary version was also translated into [French](#) and [Portuguese](#) to be more accessible across the region.

As part of the ongoing mapping of DRM frameworks and auxiliary role statuses of African NSs, IFRC Disaster Law completed an auxiliary role mapping of **Cameroon**, [Madagascar](#), **Republic of the Congo**, **São Tomé and Príncipe** and **Togo** as well as mappings in **Niger** and [Seychelles](#) (which still require validation from the NSs). 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. A mapping of the IDRL frameworks in **Cameroon**, **Republic of the Congo**, **São Tomé and Príncipe** and **Togo**, as well as a mapping in **Niger** (which still requires NS validation), were also completed. The IDRL mapping aims to identify and analyse the legal and policy arrangements for international disaster response across these countries. Additionally, IFRC Disaster Law embarked on a new research initiative which involves mapping the entire DRM framework, including questions on DRR, preparedness and response (including international disaster assistance), recovery and public health emergencies. In 2021, DRM mappings were completed in [Madagascar](#) and [Seychelles](#) and shared with the respective NSs for validation. Additional auxiliary role and DRM mappings are also expected to be carried out in 2022. The DRM mapping aims to identify and analyse the legal and policy arrangements for DRM across these countries broadly. Collectively, these mappings aim to 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 best practices. The IDRL research is also aimed to inform the development of an online dashboard of international disaster assistance facilities available across the region, which is expected to be finalised in 2022.

Together with Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) Africa team and as part of a partnership between IFRC and UNICEF, IFRC Disaster Law supported the development of the report [Gender responsive disaster risk management: An analysis of gender integration in national and regional disaster risk management frameworks in Eastern and Southern Africa](#). The report explores the extent of integration of gender considerations, including gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation, prevention and response considerations, in national and regional DRM legal and policy frameworks in Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland), South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the African Union Commission (AUC), the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

A number of case studies in the region were also developed, including on [the role of DRM laws in community engagement in Mauritius](#), the role of the [Malawi Red Cross in the](#)

[development of the DRM Bill in the country](#), and snapshots on climate-smart disaster law in [Uganda](#) and [Malawi](#).

## Americas

Auxiliary role evaluations and advocacy strategies were developed and finished in three South Cone countries (**Argentina**, **Chile** and **Uruguay**) and four Andean Community Countries (**Bolivia**, **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru**). In the Andean Community, the auxiliary role and advocacy strategy review were conducted in coordination with NS focal points.

Through the ZFRA and IFRC Disaster Law technical support, the Costa Rican Red Cross and Honduran Red Cross developed DRR on Flood Case Study, based on the IFRC DRR Checklist.

Through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and under the “Resilient Islands” Project, IFRC Americas Disaster Law Team completed assessments on how best to foster Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in DRR and CCA policy frameworks in [Jamaica](#) 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 explore and promote the use of NbS as an enabling action in DRR and CCA and to formulate recommendations accordingly. A third policy assessment, for [Grenada](#), will be completed in 2022.

In **the Bahamas**, a case study on the impact of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBDs) on the response to Hurricane Dorian was conducted. This research study represented one of the first of its kind in the Caribbean aimed at identifying examples of UBDs during Hurricane Dorian and exploring the sources and motivations behind them. Utilizing the *IDRL Guidelines and Checklist* as benchmarking tools, recommendations were developed with a view to changing attitudes and reducing the incidence of UBDs in future humanitarian emergency operations in the Bahamas and the wider Caribbean. This study will be published in 2022 and will be used to assist Bahamas Red Cross Society in advocating for the development of a UBDs policy among other recommendations.

To strengthen the IDRL research and ongoing work in Disaster Law in [Dominica](#), the IDRL Report for Dominica was updated to take into consideration implications of COVID-19 restrictions on the entry of international humanitarian aid as well as the Dominica Draft Comprehensive Disaster Management Bill, 2019. Although this Bill has been in draft form

since 2019, it represents an opportunity for advocacy to incorporate the recommendations of the IDRL Report into the proposed legislative framework. The updated Dominica IDRL Report will be published in 2022.

Within the context of the “READY Together” Project led by the French Red Cross PIRAC, IFRC Disaster Law completed IDRL studies for **Antigua and Barbuda** and **Saint Lucia**. Utilizing the *Checklist on Law and DRR*, country profiles in DRR and CCA were completed for 5 OECS countries namely: **Antigua and Barbuda**, **Dominica**, **Saint Kitts and Nevis**, **Saint Lucia** and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**. The recommendations coming out of these studies have identified a clear pathway for strengthening legal and institutional frameworks in IDRL, DRR and CCA, and will be published in 2022.

Understanding the significance of the CDEMA Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) for coordinating international relief in the Caribbean, including in OECS countries, IFRC Disaster Law conducted a case study on “Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Policy Frameworks in Disaster Response in the OECS”. Utilizing the IDRL Guidelines and the IDRL Checklist, this research analyses the capacities at national and regional levels to support the regulation and facilitation of international disaster assistance; and examines the coordination and cooperation between regional actors during the responses to Hurricanes Maria, Irma, Dorian, La Soufrière Volcanic Eruption, and COVID-19. It analyses how the RRM operated in practice and identifies possible areas for improvement. CDEMA has expressed interest in utilizing this research to review its overall “Blueprint” for Comprehensive Disaster Management.

Policy reviews of the auxiliary role of NSs were also conducted in 12 NSs in the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean, including **Trinidad and Tobago**, **Barbados**, **Grenada**, **the Bahamas**, **St Lucia**, **St Kitts/Nevis**, **Dominica**, **Guyana**, **Antigua/Barbuda**, **Suriname**, **St Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Belize**. This review was undertaken by four consultants under the supervision of the Disaster Law Team in Port-of-Spain. At the conclusion of the review, an advocacy strategy was developed for each NS to advocate for legislative and policy changes that would strengthen their auxiliary role in their country’s legal and policy frameworks, based on priority areas identified by each NS.

### **Asia Pacific**

The roundtables were held and consultations for the Asia and Pacific Guide on Planned Relocation in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change continued over January and February 2021. Leadership and technical focal points from eight Asia NSs and all Pacific

NSs were invited. Further to this, work has started to develop a global version of this guide.

As part of Disaster Law's contribution to the IFRC partnership with the **ASEAN** Secretariat, the Disaster Law team has formally partnered with ASEAN, through the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), on the [ASEAN Law and PHE mapping project](#). The project spans from 2021 to 2022 and focuses on mapping DRM and PHE legislative frameworks that were used for the COVID-19 response. Country-level legal mappings have commenced, and the regional analysis will then undergo a regional consultation with ASEAN, NSs, and disaster-related partners. This consultation will not only support the finalization of this new tool but will also support ASEAN in its goal to integrate health and pandemics in its disaster risk management strategy and in its COVID-19 recovery strategy. The "ASEAN Law and PHE Mapping Project" Concept Note was developed jointly with the ASEAN Secretariat, and was successfully endorsed by the ACDM - Prevention and Mitigation Working Group.

The second draft of the Pacific Law and Public Health Emergencies mapping was shared with the eight country delegations consisting of the NDMOs, Attorney General's office and NSs (with an invite to share with health authorities) in Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A Regional Dialogue with the country delegations and key partners was held in March. The dialogue was designed to raise awareness of the initial outcomes and seek final input from the countries. It was attended by NDMOs from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea, and NSs from Fiji, Marshall Islands and [Samoa](#), as well as regional partners from **PIFs** and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC). The study was finalised in the last quarter of 2021.

In [Indonesia](#), the Child Protection and Disaster Law report on Indonesia was finalised and will be published in 2022. The report has two components: the analysis and recommendations for strengthening child protection mechanisms in the national and sub-national disaster management legal framework, and a scoping study of Palang Merah Indonesia's (PMI) child protection mechanisms in its disaster-related programs. The first component is intended to inform government policy reform processes on child protection in disaster settings, while the second component is intended to inform a child protection policy to be developed by PMI in the future. The next step would be to discuss the findings with PMI and identify advocacy strategies to implement the research recommendations.

IFRC Disaster Law has also been supporting regional UNDRR research and consultation examining CCA/ DRR coherence. This has included participating as a key informant in the

research process. A case study on the good practice of the [Philippines](#) in more integrated laws and the enabling frameworks this captures downstream has been included in the research which will feed into the global/ regional platform process. IFRC was also invited to participate in regional consultations in early July.

An auxiliary role mapping of the **Vanuatu Red Cross** (VRCS) was also undertaken, and a draft report has been formulated. Due to COVID-19 and issues arising throughout the year, it is envisaged that the report will be amended to include additional roles which VRCS may be interested to support relating to displaced persons.

### [Central Asia](#)

In 2021, IFRC Disaster Law finalised the first disaster law mapping for [Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Tajikistan](#) on IDRL, DRR, and Domestic Preparedness and Response. The legal mapping was guided by the IFRC recommendations and are meant to provide policy-makers with a baseline overview of the DRM frameworks in the three Central Asian countries, based on the essential elements of good disaster laws globally. The mappings will serve as a reliable resource for disaster law reform efforts in the three Central Asian countries. They also serve as an advocacy tool to demonstrate the importance of formalizing the NS auxiliary role in disaster law frameworks. The research will be launched at the proposed regional Disaster Law conference for Central Asia in 2022.

The disaster laws and regulations of [Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Tajikistan](#) were also translated from Russian to English in order to aid our work on legislative advocacy and research and to add to the [IFRC Disaster Law Database](#) for use by legal scholars, law students, and other researchers in the field of disaster law. This is crucial, noting that there is very limited access to Central Asian disaster laws translated into English.

Results against indicators

Disaster law goal/ outcome	Indicator	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Central Asia	Global / Europe	
<b>A: Strengthen National Society advocacy for disaster law and the auxiliary role</b>	# of NS engaged in peer to peer support through IFRC network	25	2	2	1	-	<b>Africa:</b> NSs Participating in the Regional Disaster Law Webinar Series, PIROI IDRL workshop organised with IFRC Disaster Law, IFRC Southern Africa Cluster Delegation Capacity Strengthening Initiative, Africa Climate Fellowship sessions, and/or the Law and PHE Consultation sessions (Benin Red Cross, Botswana Red Cross, Comoros Red Crescent, Gambia Red Cross, Ghana Red Cross, Lesotho Red Cross, Liberian Red Cross, Malagasy Red Cross, Malawi Red Cross, Mauritius Red Cross, Mozambique Red Cross, Namibia Red Cross, Nigerian Red Cross, Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire, Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegalese Red Cross, Seychelles Red Cross, Sierra Leone Red Cross, South Sudan Red Cross, South African Red Cross, Tanzania Red Cross, Togolese Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross, Zambia Red Cross and Zimbabwe Red Cross).

							<p><b>Americas:</b> Ecuador Red Cross Disaster Law Induction, Bolivia Red Cross Disaster Law Induction</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> Papua New Guinea and Fiji</p> <p><b>Central Asia:</b> 2021 Auxiliary Role Workshops for Tajikistan Red Crescent Society</p>
	# of people trained by IFRC in auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy	414	923	540	40	-	<p><b>Africa:</b> Persons participating in at least one session of the Regional Disaster Law Webinar Series (58), PIROI IDRL workshop organised with IFRC Disaster Law (70), IFRC Southern Africa Cluster Delegation Capacity Strengthening Initiative session on IDRL (25) and DRR (20), Africa Climate Fellowship sessions (approximately 20 Anglophone session and 20 Francophone session), Law and PHE Consultation sessions (18), Eswatini Board induction (20), Somalia Red Crescent Legislative Advocacy Training (16); Sahel ADMAG legislative advocacy training session (approximately 20), Botswana Red Cross Disaster Law workshop (14), University of Pretoria lecture on IDRL (25), IDRL session in the ICRC DRM workshop (43), NSD focal points meeting (45)</p>

						<p><b>Americas:</b> Dominican Republic virtual LAT (17), Ecuador RC Disaster Law Induction (20), Bolivia RC Disaster Law Induction (22), CEPREDENAC Workshop (136), Pre-Hurricane Conference (170), Migration High level meeting Panama RC and Foreign affairs ministry (20), CEPREDENAC AWS Workshop (130), RLU IDRL webinar (90), Dominican Republic National Emergency Commission Case Study presentation and presentation(35), LAT Workshop Dominican Republic Technical Commission (17), Binational meeting between Costa Rican Red Cross and Honduran Red Cross (20); Resilient Islands LAT Training for Grenada, Jamaica and TNC (13); Trinidad and Tobago DRM Legislative Review (15); Caribbean IDRL Workshop (218);</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> Philippine Red Cross online IDRL training (90); Regional Symposium on COVID-19 and DRM in Asia Pacific (300); India Republic Day Innaugural Lecture on Legal Preparedness for Disasters, Climate Change and Public Health Emergencies (100); Disaster and Emergency Law (50).</p>
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	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at national level	6	7	11	2	-	<p><b>Central Asia:</b> Tajikistan Red Crescent (Auxiliary Role Workshop (20), Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent (Legislative Advocacy Workshop) (20)</p> <p><b>Africa:</b> Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe</p> <p><b>Americas:</b> Argentina, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> Fiji; New Zealand; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu; Afghanistan; Bangladesh; India; Tonga; Mongolia</p> <p><b>Central Asia:</b> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan</p>
	# of NS engaged in legislative advocacy activities at local level	1	2	2	-	-	<p><b>Africa:</b> Uganda</p> <p><b>Americas:</b> Costa Rica, Honduras</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> New Zealand (Flood Resilience Alliance); Nepal (Flood Resilience Alliance)</p>

	<p># of NS that have developed a legislative advocacy strategy</p>	2	22	-	-	-	<p><b>Africa:</b> Botswana, Uganda  <b>Americas:</b> Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Peru, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay</p>
	<p># of NS that have delivered education or training on DL and legislative advocacy (e.g. ToT)</p>	-	2	2	-	-	<p><b>Americas:</b> Dominican Republic, Honduras  <b>Asia Pacific:</b> Philippines; Mongolia</p>

<b>B: Legal and policy advice from the IFRC and NSs supports the development and implementation of national law and policies to reduce human vulnerability to disasters and improves humanitarian assistance</b>	# of adopted national disaster laws and policy documents	1	-	1	-	-	<b>Africa:</b> Uganda Red Cross Act <b>Asia Pacific:</b> Lao (DM Fund Decree)
	# of draft national disaster related legal and policy instruments in progress	7	4	9	-	-	<b>Africa:</b> Botswana DRM Policy, Kenya National Disaster Risk Management Bill, Malawi DRM Bill, South Sudan DRM Policy, Seychelles DRR/M Bill, South Sudan DRM Bill and Uganda DRM Bill <b>Americas:</b> Draft Disaster Risk Management Law Proposal in Dominica, Draft Dominican Republic DRR National Plan, Draft Honduras IDRL Law Regulation, Draft Disaster Risk Management Law Proposal in Trinidad & Tobago <b>Asia Pacific:</b> Fiji (DM Act Revision); Palau (DRM bill); Solomon Islands (Public Health Emergency Bill); Tonga (DRM Act); Vanuatu (draft Recovery bill); Bangladesh (Standing Order on Disasters); India (DRM Act Review); Nepal (Municipal Risk Governance Assessment Tool); Timor Leste (Disaster Management Policy)

	# of countries supported to improve the implementation of their law and policies	-	3	15	1	-	<p><b>Americas:</b> Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> Fiji; New Zealand; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu; Afghanistan; Bangladesh; India; Tonga; Vanuatu; India; Nepal; Timor Leste; Mongolia</p> <p><b>Central Asia:</b> Kyrgyzstan (IDRL by-laws)</p>
	# of operations where disaster law advice supports coordination and humanitarian assistance	2	3	-	-	-	<p><b>Africa:</b> COVID-19 response, Rwanda/DRC Floods and Volcano response</p> <p><b>Americas:</b> Eta and Iota operation, Haiti emergency, La Soufriere Volcanic Eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines</p>
	# of NS with better defined auxiliary roles	2	-	2	1	-	<p><b>Africa:</b> Eswatini, Uganda</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> Philippines, Timor Leste</p> <p><b>Central Asia:</b> Kazakhstan (RC Law)</p>

	in draft or new national law and policies						
<b>C: Legislative advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences outcomes of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora, and builds greater visibility and partnerships</b>	# of inter-governmental, inter-agency and academic fora actively engaged on legislative advocacy issues with IFRC and NS influence	8	8	12	-	4	<p><b>Africa:</b> Africa CDC, African Union Commission, IGAD, RCCC, SADC, UNICEF, UNDRR, University of Pretoria</p> <p><b>Americas:</b> CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, OAS, OEA/SEDI, OPS, UNGRD Colombia, Universidad de San Carlos- Guatemala, ODPM (Trinidad and Tobago)</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> ACE Training; ASEAN HELIX Workshop; 2021 Pacific Resilience Meeting; Import and Customs Organisation (OCO) regional workshop on Facilitation of Humanitarian Aid; Pacific Island Countries’ submission to the International Law Commission on Sea Level Rise, Statehood and Protection of Persons; Pacific NS New Leaders Orientation; Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific Urban Hub Regional Platform; Council for International Development (CID) New Zealand humanitarian network annual meeting; Regional Symposium on COVID-19 and DRM in Asia Pacific; IFRC Climate Smart Disaster</p>



	# External media articles/ broadcasts that have featured IFRC or NS legislative advocacy work	-	1	-	-	1	<p><b>Americas:</b> Dominican Republic National Technical Committee LAT</p> <p><b>Global:</b> ASIL Insight entitled “Tackling Disasters and Pandemics Together with Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind”</p>
<b>D: IFRC produces high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy</b>	# of legislative advocacy research projects completed	18	30	3	-	6	<p><b>Africa:</b> Publication of: Auxiliary Role Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), IDRL in Southern Africa Report, Gender responsive disaster risk management: An analysis of gender integration in national and regional disaster risk management frameworks in Eastern and Southern Africa, Law and Policies that Protect the Most Vulnerable against Climate-Related Disaster Risks: Findings and Lessons Learned from Kenya, DRM mapping in 2 countries, IDRL Mapping in 5 Countries, Auxiliary Role Mapping in 7 countries</p> <p><b>Americas:</b> Auxiliary role evaluation and legislative advocacy strategies developed in</p>

						<p>Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay; IDRL Mapping in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Lucia; UBDs Study in Bahamas; DRR and CCA mapping in 5 OECS countries; Auxiliary Role Mapping in 12 Caribbean countries (Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad/Tobago, St Lucia, St Kitts/Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and the Bahamas).</p> <p><b>Asia Pacific:</b> IFRC Disaster Law Report: Addressing Specific Vulnerabilities through Integrated Climate and Disaster Risk Governance: Lessons from the Philippines; Pacific Law and PHE Report; Child and Protection DL Report on Indonesia</p> <p><b>Global:</b> Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic; Guidance on Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Pilot Version; Integrating CCA and DRR Laws and Policies towards a Climate-Resilient Development: Lessons from the Commonwealth of Dominica; Global Synthesis Report on Law and</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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 continued challenges and delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 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 2021 through the hard work of a strong global team and dedication from NSs across the globe. Most projects and activities have been implemented through or in close coordination with the NSs.

As the number of countries asking for support on disaster law keeps increasing, more focus has been given to **strengthening the capacity of NSs**, 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 2021, 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. Session on the auxiliary role and legislative advocacy have also been included into other thematic trainings where IFRC 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 NSs about how to strengthen their auxiliary role through domestic law, policies, plans and agreements.

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 33<sup>rd</sup> International Conference and the Checklist on Preparedness and Response, 2021 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 2022, 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 NSs, 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



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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For more on IFRC Disaster Law please visit <https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/>