

BACKGROUND

The role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NS) as “auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field” is at the core of their identity. The auxiliary role is a unique and defining feature, which distinguishes a National Society from all other organizations in its country. In a nutshell, the auxiliary role of a National Society is to support its public authorities by supplementing or substituting for public humanitarian services, while acting in conformity with the Fundamental Principles, in particular neutrality and independence. Today, National Societies are recognized as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field both in times of war and peace.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Recent and ongoing complex crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and other key humanitarian crises, have highlighted the need for National Societies (NS) to strengthen collaboration with their domestic authorities to fulfil their auxiliary role, meet the needs of the most vulnerable and speak on their behalf. However, there is often a gap in NS and governments’ understanding of the important humanitarian mandate and auxiliary role of NS, and how the extended IFRC network operates in support of affected communities.

Given the vital role NS play in support to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, there is a need to strengthen governments’ awareness and understanding of the critical auxiliary role of NS in responding effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters. It is critical to ensure that NS’ auxiliary role in sectors such as disaster risk management and health is well defined and recognized by domestic governments. More effort should also be placed on increasing domestic governments’ understanding of who we are as an IFRC network and how we work.

In addition, there is a need and an opportunity for increased recognition of the unique role of NS to support efforts to address global challenges such as climate change, migration, health and food security.



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ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Expanding on earlier IFRC research, in more recent years, the IFRC Secretariat has provided support to NS in strengthening the auxiliary role with a particular focus on laws and policies.

In the last 3 years, over 15 NS have strengthened their auxiliary role in new sectoral laws and policies, including specific language recognizing the auxiliary role of NS as first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic in emergency decrees. Further to this, answering requests from NS, IFRC has developed technical guidance and tools to support NS in their advocacy efforts to enhance the auxiliary role mandate, such as:

- the Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy;
- a Model Pre-Disaster Agreement to establish modalities and areas for cooperation between the NS and its government;
- an online training module on the auxiliary role;
- a new game on the auxiliary role;
- a Legislative Advocacy Toolkit (LAT); and
- a Training of Trainers on the LAT.

In addition, desktop mappings of how the auxiliary role is provided for in domestic legal instruments have been completed in over 70 countries.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1

Capacity strengthening such as the provision of trainings to NS so they can sensitize their authorities to the RCRC mandate, the Fundamental Principles and the RCRC Movement's functioning, and effectively advocate for enhancing their auxiliary role. This can also include trainings to disaster-related authorities and stakeholders so they can better understand and recognize the NS's auxiliary role.

2

Representations to public authorities such as the development and implementation of advocacy strategies, including evidence-gathering, participation in diplomatic events, workshops, working groups and the like. These activities will support NS in their representation to governments, parliamentarians, and disaster-related stakeholders to strengthen their legal base through strong RCRC laws, policies, procedures, plans and agreements related to disasters and emergencies.

3

Dissemination and communication activities such as the development of communication campaigns, communication packs for use by NS including stories, case studies, social media graphics, videos, etc. This will also include auxiliary role focused events with authorities, the general public, the private sector, and the like.

4

Coordination of activities on the auxiliary role such as: the provision of guidance and support to colleagues from NS and IFRC's programme areas to ensure harmonization of processes, avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts; collaboration with the Joint Statutes Commission and the ICRC; and establishment of an advisory group of interested NS to provide guidance on necessary action.

5

Development of tools to support National Societies' efforts such as the development of guidance, methodologies, structured trainings; consolidation of network-wide best practices and learnings, development of case studies and material; development of a database of existing RC laws, policies, MOUs etc. recognizing the auxiliary role, and the like.





PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo

Americas: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela

Asia Pacific: Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu

Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Middle East and North Africa: Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon



ESTIMATED BUDGET

To meet the objective that “80 NS strengthen their auxiliary role by 2027”, CHF 20,000,000 would be required during an initial period of 5 years. The breakdown of this funding requirement is shown in the table below. Funding would also be required to continue this initiative after the initial 5-year period.

Resources required	CHF/year	CHF/5 years
National Society resources		
National salary and costs (80 NS x CHF 25,000)	2,000,000	10,000,000
National level activities (workshops, trainings, dissemination, communication, etc) (80 NS x CHF 17,500)	1,400,000	7,000,000
IFRC resources		
IFRC 5 regional technical experts (salary and costs, CHF 60,000 x 5)	300,000	1,500,000
IFRC 1 global expert (salary and costs)	175,000	875,000
Production, translation, communication, travel, etc	125,000	625,000
Total	4,000,000	20,000,000

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