



IFRC DISASTER LAW PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Saving lives and keeping communities safe through strong and well-implemented national disaster and emergency-related laws, policies and plans.



+C IFRC

Disaster Law

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and, as a result, has developed an advanced legal framework for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. We have worked for many years with the Philippine Red Cross and the government to strengthen and integrate disaster and climate-related laws and policies, namely through community-level implementation.

ABOUT IFRC DISASTER LAW

IFRC Disaster Law is the global leader in disaster law technical advice, research and resources.

IFRC Disaster Law works around the world with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, governments and regional disaster risk management organisations to strengthen disaster governance, through the development and implementation of disaster and emergency-related laws, policies and plans. Our work includes technical support, capacity building, the development of tools, models and guidelines, advocacy, research and promoting the sharing of experiences and best practices between countries.

Our mandate is established by resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted by the states parties to the Geneva Conventions and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

WHY IS DISASTER LAW IMPORTANT?

In the context of climate change, compounded by health and technological hazards, more must be done to prepare for and effectively manage disasters and disaster risk.

Laws, policies and plans provide the architecture for an effective and well-functioning disaster risk governance system. Having strong and well-implemented disaster laws, policies and plans which provide for the full cycle of disaster risk management is essential to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters, strengthen the resilience of communities and save lives.

Domestic laws, policies and plans are critical to implementing global commitments for strengthening resilience as provided in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Vasiti Soko, Director of Fiji's National Disaster Management Office speaks at a meeting for the review of Fiji's national disaster laws. The review is conducted in partnership with Fiji Red Cross and IFRC Disaster Law.

OUR IMPACT

For more than 20 years, in partnership with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, we have supported more than 40 countries to strengthen and implement disaster laws, policies and plans, and conducted disaster law activities in more than 90 countries.

Regionally, IFRC Disaster Law has significant engagement with regional bodies and mechanisms on disaster law issues and processes. This includes ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America and the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency, on African Union and the Africa Centre for Disease Control. Engagement includes peer learning, training, and technical support for regional and member states, with the development of law and policy and support with regional simulation exercises

100+ countries supported to develop and strengthen disaster law and policy

420 research projects and reports completed

38 governments currently being supported on disaster law issues and processes

35 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies currently supported with legislative advocacy activities

10 regional organisations working with us to support disaster law processes

OUR THEMATIC FOCUS



Effective disaster risk governance

Working with governments to strengthen their laws, policies, plans and institutional arrangements for an effective disaster risk management system which underpins prevention and mitigation, preparedness, anticipatory action, response and recovery. Supporting authorities to review and update disaster laws to ensure that they are fit for purpose, outline mandates, roles and responsibilities of DRM authorities and other actors, establish coordination mechanisms, create regular budget allocations, establish guiding principles or objectives for disaster risk reduction, and mandate and allocate responsibility for key DRM tasks.



Addressing the humanitarian consequences of climate change

Working with governments to ensure risk prevention and mitigation measures are integrated into sectoral instruments relating to climate change, the environment, natural resource management, land use planning and construction. Advising governments to ensure their laws, policies and plans mandate and allocate clear responsibilities for establishing an effective early warning system and enable anticipatory action ahead of extreme weather and climate-related events.



Scaling up local engagement and implementation in disaster risk governance

Working with governments to ensure that disaster-related laws, policies and plans define the roles, mandates and responsibilities of local actors, expressly promote decentralization of decision-making and funding, meaningfully engage and empower communities, provide for the participation and representation of marginalised and at-risk groups, and enable locally-led action which contributes to strengthening the resilience of communities. We also promote the recognition of the National Societies' auxiliary role in disaster risk management-related laws, policies and plans.



Protection, gender equality and inclusion in disaster governance

Working with governments to ensure that disaster-related laws, policies and plans are gender and diversity responsive, protective and inclusive, and reflective of international standards. Laws, policies and plans should eliminate direct and indirect discrimination in disaster risk management activities, support the active participation and representation of women, and provide specific measures to protect vulnerable people, such as requesting disaster-related stakeholders to collect disaggregated data, removal of informal barriers to access assistance, meet specific needs, and prevent, monitor and respond to protection risks.

Guidelines on Disaster Risk Governance: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management

IFRC Disaster Law's *Guidance on Disaster Risk Governance: Strengthening Laws, Policies and Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management* consolidates over 20 years of research and recommendations into a single document to support domestic legislative reviews and reforms, with the fundamental aim of keeping people safe from the impacts of disasters.

The Guidelines address the foundations of an effective disaster risk management system, including institutional arrangements, funding, monitoring and evaluation, and prevention of fraud and corruption. They cover the key components of the disaster management cycle - prevention and mitigation, preparedness, anticipatory action, response and recovery. They contain dedicated recommendations on public health emergencies, international disaster assistance, legal facilities for disaster risk management actors, the protection and inclusion of marginalised and at-risk groups, mental health and psychosocial support, and disaster displacement. The Guidelines also address the synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and how to achieve coherence in policies and activities between sectors.

OUR PRINCIPAL WORKING APPROACHES

OUTREACH

- **Strengthening and implementing domestic laws, policies and plans**

Supporting National Societies to advise their governments in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster laws, policies and plans. In 2024-2028, we will focus on countries based on factors such as National Society and government interest and demand, vulnerability, and political stability. IFRC Disaster Law will also remain available to provide ad hoc support as required by other countries.

- **Fostering partnerships and advocacy at the regional and global levels**

Engaging in robust legislative advocacy regarding the importance of strengthening disaster governance in global and regional intergovernmental fora around the world. We will continue providing support to at least a dozen regional disaster risk management organizations in developing tools, guidance and mechanisms to promote disaster cooperation and to integrate legal issues within disaster simulation exercises. IFRC Disaster Law will continue to support the dialogue at the global level on the Draft Articles for the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters which address international cooperation in disasters, and work with partners to promote greater impact and outreach.

- **Communication**

IFRC Disaster Law continues to engage with key disaster-related stakeholders by producing comprehensive content for our website, media, social media, workshops and events, demonstrating the impact of our work on building the resilience of communities and saving lives.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Legislative advocacy training**

Enabling National Societies to advise their authorities on stronger and better laws, policies and plans for disaster risk management. To ensure sustained follow-up from the training, National Societies will be supported to develop a legislative advocacy strategy tailored to their context.

- **Disaster law training courses and seminars**

Bringing together National Societies, government officials, intergovernmental organizations and UN agencies from various countries to strengthen their knowledge of disaster law and develop country implementation plans.

- **Community-level dissemination**

Supporting national disaster law dissemination processes. These will take the form of the 'know your rights, roles and responsibilities' approach developed by IFRC Disaster Law, as requested specifically by governments and National Societies.

- **Communities of practice**

Developing communities of practice made up of IFRC, National Society and government disaster law experts to provide peer-to-peer learning and exchanges.

GUIDANCE

- **Pursuing high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy**

Contributing to the global evidence base through our own targeted research. To provide broader evidence-based recommendations, IFRC Disaster Law will collaborate with key partners such as National Societies, UN agencies and universities. This will be undertaken through a process of desk-based research, comparative analysis of domestic legal provisions, data collection of law and policy documentation and interviews with key informants including vulnerable groups. These activities build on over 20 years of research and support the development of new international recommendations and capacity-building tools for National Societies supporting their governments in implementing them.



In Uganda, IFRC Disaster Law has worked extensively across legal frameworks for disaster and climate risk management with the National Society and the government. This includes a national disaster risk management bill, a climate change law and a national adaption plan. The National Society continues to engage varied stakeholders in the NAP's development and implementation as well as supports the development of the DRM bill.

OUR **PRIORITY** COUNTRIES

2024 – 2028

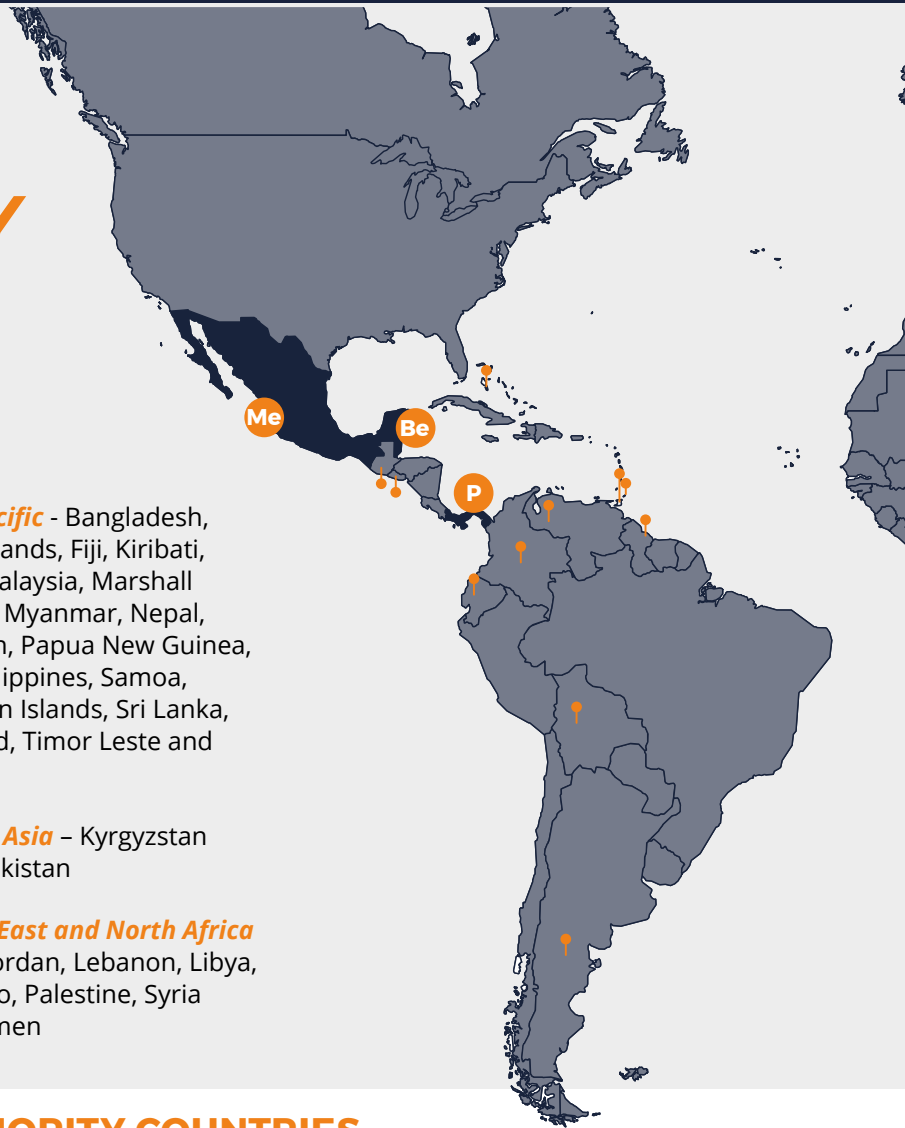
> **Africa** – Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

> **Americas** – Argentina, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela

> **Asia Pacific** - Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Tuvalu

> **Central Asia** – Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

> **Middle East and North Africa** - Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Yemen



SNAPSHOT EXAMPLES OF PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Me Mexico – In Mexico, we are working with the Mexican Red Cross to conduct legislative advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy trainings to increase the advocacy skills among its 47,000 members, and to develop and implement an advocacy strategy that advocates for the approval of the Disaster Risk Management Bill currently before Congress.

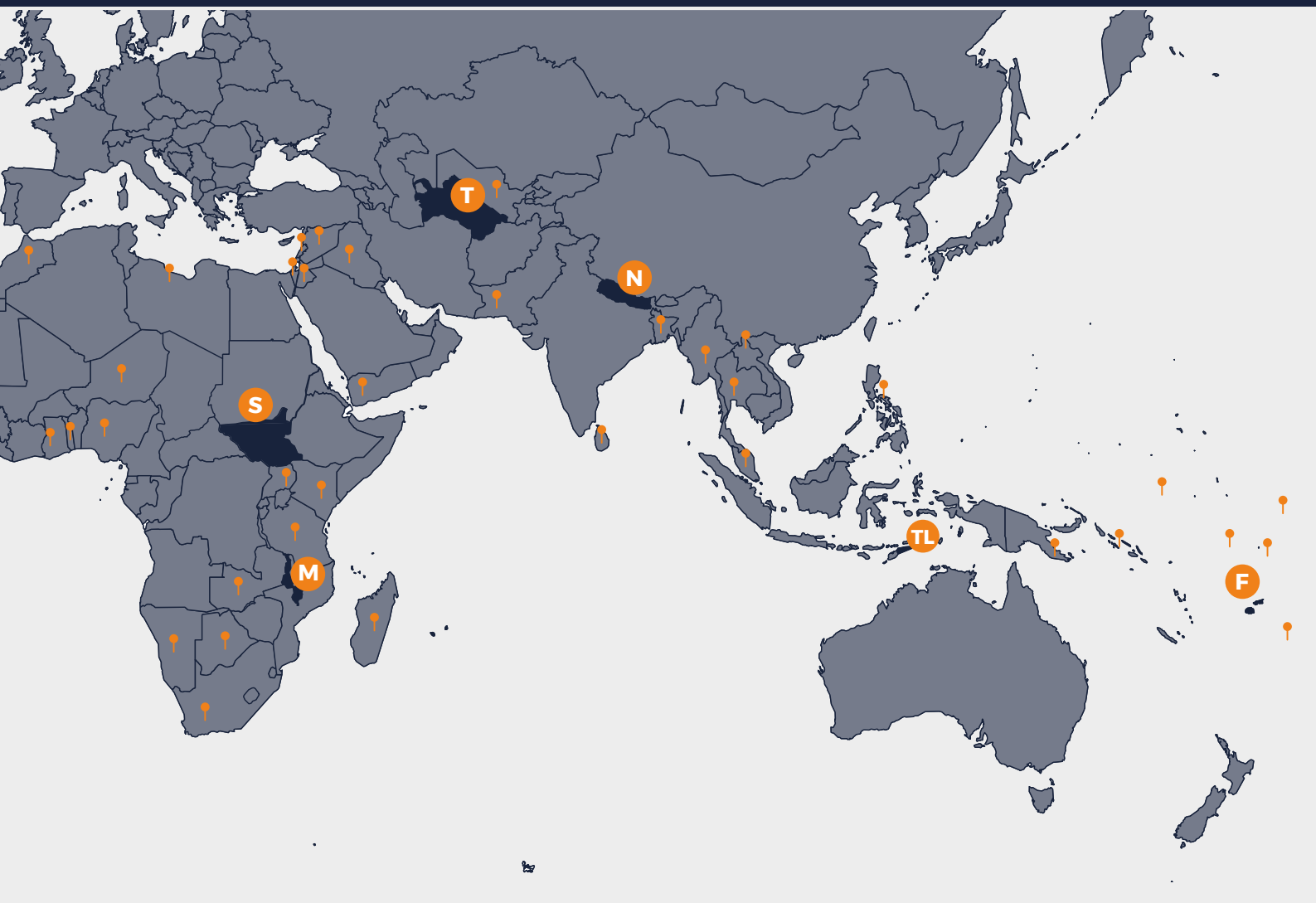
P Panama – In Panama, we supported the Panamanian Red Cross to have its Red Cross Law approved in August 2023. The new law outlines the auxiliary role of the National Society, and includes provisions relating to its role and functions in risk reduction, community and institutional preparedness for emergencies and disasters, the organization of relief for victims of disasters, protection for volunteers, as well as provisions on certain exemptions from tax.

B Belize – In Belize, we will be working with the Belize Red Cross and the National Emergency Management Organisation to provide technical support on legal and policy requirements for effective international humanitarian assistance

based on the IDRL Guidelines, in 2024. NEMO has recognised the need for increased collaboration and has signed an MOU with the Belize Red Cross to formalize its engagement and cooperation on DRM activities including IDRL.

Ma Malawi – In Malawi, significant community engagement ensured the new DRM Bill, which was passed by the Malawi Parliament in April 2023 was reflective of local issues, risks and needs. Further work for the implementation and dissemination of this instrument lies ahead, through raising awareness of the rights, roles and responsibilities of disaster management actors at the local and national levels and within the community.

S South Sudan – In South Sudan, with the South Sudan Red Cross, we are supporting the government in the development of the national disaster risk management legislation which will enhance coherence in the management of DRM in the country as well as mandate the establishment of a comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and national DRM fund.



- Ta Tajikistan** – In Tajikistan – we have piloted the Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response and are supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the government to draft new legal instruments and establish an intergovernmental disaster risk management working group to guide and facilitate the development and implementation processes of these instruments.
- N Nepal** – In Nepal, we are supporting the government and Nepal Red Cross to develop the Nepal Municipal Risk Governance Assessment Tool, an easy-to-use checklist and self-assessment framework to support more risk-informed municipal regulations, policies and systems at the community level.
- TL Timor Leste** – In Timor Leste, work had begun to incorporate anticipatory action into the disaster risk management framework through an Anticipatory Action Roadmap, jointly with government ministries and partners. This roadmap aims to expand and integrate anticipatory action strategies, including within legal frameworks over the next five years.

- F Fiji** – In Fiji, with the government, national and international disaster responders and Fiji Red Cross we are working to review and integrate climate and disaster risk management laws for a stronger disaster risk governance framework.
- R Regional Engagement** – Regionally, in Eastern Africa we are exploring with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development on how to work together to build the capacity of member states' National Disaster Management Authorities in disaster law to strengthen cross border disaster coordination. First steps in this engagement include mapping the existing DRM frameworks of member states to identify opportunities for further development.

BUDGET

	Budget per year (CHF)	Budget for 5 years (CHF)
Africa – 14 countries Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia	1,150,000	5,750,000
Americas – 14 countries Argentina, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela	1,150,000	5,750,000
Asia Pacific – 18 countries Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Tuvalu	1,480,000	7,400,000
Central Asia – 2 countries Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	170,000	850,000
Middle East and North Africa – 8 countries Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Yemen	650,000	3,250,000
Geneva	400,000	2,000,000



CONTACT

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At the Regional Simulation of Humanitarian Assistance in Central America and the Dominican Republic, IFRC Disaster Law provided briefings and evaluations on the protocols for domestic and regional international humanitarian assistance.