

IFRC Disaster Law

Annual Report 2024

Executive Summary

10 of new instruments which include our disaster law recommendations adopted in the last year: Union of Comoros National Disaster Risk Management Act of 2024 (Law No. 24-010/AU); Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Angola and the Angolan Red Cross Society on Community Health Services and Systems; Central Asian Action Plan for 2025-2026 adopted by the Central Asia's Heads of Emergency Authorities; Kyrgyz Regulation on International Humanitarian Assistance Facilitation Group; Fiji Disaster Risk Management Act; Fiji Nepal Municipal Disaster Risk Governance Assessment Tool; Ecuador Organic Law of Disaster Risk Management (January 30, 2024); Africa Windhoek Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction; SIDS Pact for the Future; Resolution 3 of the 34th International Conference of the RCRC.

59 of National Societies were trained in legislative advocacy and were supported to develop advocacy strategies to improve their positioning within their disaster management frameworks, including through strengthened and formalized partnerships with key government agencies such as National Disaster Management Offices. National Societies were also supported in building their capacity and awareness on the Resolutions to be considered at the 34th International Conference of the RCRC (**Africa:** Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe; **Americas:** Barbados, Belize, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis; **Asia-Pacific:** Afghanistan RC; Bangladesh RC; Bhutan RC; Cook Islands RC; Fiji RC; Kiribati RC; Malaysia RC; Maldivian RC; Marshall Islands RC; Micronesia RC; Nepal RC; Palau RC; Papua New Guinea RC; Samoa RC; Solomon Islands RC; Sri Lanka RC; Timor Leste RC; Tonga RC; Vanuatu RC; **Central Asia:** Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan; **Europe:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Italy, Moldova, Sweden, Ukraine; **MENA:** Libya).

26 of Governments and supported on disaster law issues including in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster laws, policies, procedures and regional instruments: (**Africa:** Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Kenya, Madagascar, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda; **Americas:** Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, **Central Asia:** Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, **Asia-Pacific:** Bhutan, Fiji; Kiribati, Nepal; Niue; Maldives. IFRC also continued to closely engage with UNGA international discussions

concerning the future of the International Law Commission's [Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters](#).

42 National Societies supported in building their capacity on their auxiliary role, developing advocacy strategies to strengthen their auxiliary role, how to negotiate for their auxiliary role through the revision of their constituting acts and the revision of DRM-related frameworks, better strategic positioning with key government partners, and the negotiation of MoUs and Pre-Disaster Agreements. The IFRC accompanied National Societies to (in-person) meetings with key government partners including Ministries responsible for disaster management, education, social development and foreign affairs to sensitize on the auxiliary role and to advocate for legal facilities for the National Societies. (**Africa**: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe; **Americas**: Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Uruguay Red Cross; **Asia-Pacific**: Fiji; Sri Lanka; Solomon Islands; Bhutan; Tonga RC; **Central Asia**: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, **MENA**: Jordan, Morocco).

4 of new instruments recognizing the RC auxiliary role adopted in the last year (MOU on Community Health Services and Systems in Angola, Windhoek Declaration, Resolution 3 [Strengthening disaster risk governance through comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks](#) and Resolution 5 [Enabling local leadership, capacity and delivery in principled humanitarian action and strengthening resilience](#) of the 34th International Conference (2024))

IFRC Action

1. Africa

1.1 Regional level



In 2024, the Disaster Law team engaged with the African Union (AU) and continued to support in actioning its regional efforts in disaster risk management (DRM) and humanitarian response, focusing on building resilience and enhancing legal frameworks for disaster preparedness. A key highlight for 2024 was the finalization of the AU's draft **Model Act on Disaster Preparedness and Response in Humanitarian Context**. The Model Act serves as a pivotal tool in supporting member states to be prepared for the most common legal and regulatory issues that arise in

disaster operations. Moreover, it serves as a Technical Guide for member states to develop or amend their domestic DRM frameworks. Additional notable efforts included the **African Humanitarian Disaster Managers Platform (AHDMAP)** meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, which brought together experts from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and AU partners to strengthen coordination in DRM. At this Platform, the Disaster Law team facilitated sessions on key legal instruments, including the UN ILC's Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters and the AU's draft Model Law on Disaster Preparedness and Response in Humanitarian Context. Key outcomes of the AHDMAP included commitments towards improved data generation, strengthened disaster protection laws, better coordination, and a shift towards more sustainable development in humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, in November, the Disaster Law team also contributed to the **Sixth AU Humanitarian Law and Policy Training** in Lusaka, Zambia, supporting African policymakers and civil servants in understanding the importance of international and regional legal frameworks for the protection of displaced populations. This training was aligned with the African Union's goal to enhance humanitarian actions by 2025 and supported the broader objectives of the AU Agenda 2063.



In October, the **9th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** culminated in the adoption of the [Windhoek Declaration](#), which outlines a Programme of Action for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa. The Declaration outlines a three-year roadmap to

strengthen Africa's commitment to reducing disaster risks and enhancing resilience. A significant milestone within the Declaration is its recognition of the role of the RCRC National Societies in resilience-building across the continent. Importantly, the Declaration also includes a call for states to develop and implement comprehensive DRM legal and policy frameworks. Importantly, in this Platform, the Disaster Law team facilitated a session with Parliamentarians and showcased the importance of how legislation can strengthen DRM as well as the important role that Parliamentarians have in achieving this objective.

In strengthening the Disaster Law capacity of African States within the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the IFRC co-hosted a **webinar aimed at raising disaster law awareness among Indian Ocean African States**, in April of 2024. The first part of this webinar focused on International Disaster Response Law, pre-disaster agreements, climate resilience, and managing secondary impacts like sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), epidemics, and displacement. Moreover, it highlighted how strong DRM laws can enhance climate resilience in African Island States. The second part of this webinar was marked by practical experience sharing by the Republic of Madagascar and the Union of Comoros respectively. Madagascar, through the National Bureau of Disaster Risk and Management (BNGRC), showcased the pre-disaster agreement signed with the Malagasy Red Cross Society and the IFRC, whilst the Comoros' Generale Directorate for Civil Security (DGSC) demonstrated how strong disaster laws translated into effective response and community inclusion during COVID-19.

In February, the Disaster Law team supported the facilitation of the kick-off workshop of the [Strengthening Pastoralist Livelihoods through effective Anticipatory Action \(PASSAGE\)](#) project in Nairobi, Kenya. PASSAGE, which is part of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience initiative (CLARE) co-funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and IDRC, seeks to strengthen the management of risks from extreme climate events through impact-based climate forecasts to enhance the capacity of pastoral communities to prepare for and recover from the impacts of extreme climate events through robust and cross-cutting anticipatory actions. The inception workshop brought together several implementing partners including Kenya Red Cross, South Sudan Red Cross, and Uganda Red Cross, IFRC, the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), University of Nairobi, University of Sussex, and the World Food Program. At the workshop, the National Societies working to implement the project at national level, worked on developing their country plans, which included disaster law components. Also under this project, the Disaster Law team initiated a research study to assess regional legal and policy frameworks supporting pastoralism in the Greater Horn of Africa. The study focuses on legal and policy frameworks and mechanisms of the AU, IGAD, and EAC that can support cross-border anticipatory actions to address the climate and disaster risks affecting pastoralist livelihoods. The research, conducted through desktop analysis and consultations with national

stakeholders, will culminate in a report identifying challenges and opportunities to enhance disaster preparedness and pastoralist livelihoods in the region

In strengthening our working partnerships within the Red Cross Movement, in 2024, the Disaster Law team engaged with the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** at several events. The Disaster Law team attended the annual simulation training exercise for the Southern Africa National Defense Forces (CJAX). During this CJAX training, the Disaster Law team sensitised participants on the importance of both Disaster Law and the recognition of the auxiliary role of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in emergencies. Additional events included the ICRC's **Sixth Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on International Humanitarian Law** in April; its **2nd Online International Humanitarian Law Conference**, in June; and its **Regional International Humanitarian Law Seminar** in September. At these events, the Disaster Law team presented in sessions on the IFRC-led resolutions proposed for adoption at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent, with a focus on resolution 3 on Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance through comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks. IFRC Disaster Law also collaborated with the ICRC in a preparatory session with the South African Red Cross, to share additional information about the International Conference and the proposed resolutions.

In 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to engage with our **Disaster Law Champions Group**, recalling that the Champions Group comprises relevant Disaster Law focal points from African National Societies from across the region. In May, the Disaster Law team hosted a virtual Town Hall focusing on the first piloted DRM Ecosystem Assessment conducted in Lesotho, this Town Hall showcased the Assessment and its value for the Lesotho Red Cross Society. In August, the Disaster Law team hosted another virtual Town Hall for the Disaster Law Champions group. This Town Hall was focused on [the role of Legal Frameworks in supporting EWEA](#). Through this Town Hall, the Disaster Law team gathered valuable peer-to-peer exchanges on the critical role of EWEA mechanisms in legal and policy frameworks. Crucial interventions from the Malawi Red Cross and South Sudan Red Cross created the space for participants to deeply understand their respective journeys in contributing to the development of these frameworks. Through these exchanges, participants were able to identify lessons learned and best practices between countries that can support better disaster preparedness. Importantly, participants for these Town Halls included National Society representatives from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Malawi, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan and Togo.

The IFRC **Disaster Law Champions Group** also supported the engagement and advocacy of National Societies at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, at which a resolution on [Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance through Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Frameworks](#) was adopted. As IFRC

Disaster Law continues to support the Champions Group, the team will be looking to undertake more climate and disaster-related research to support messaging at various events and will do so with the technical support of other relevant IFRC teams, in particular for preparation around the adoption of an International Disaster Law treaty.

To further increase the understanding and importance of legal frameworks for **Early Warning Early Action (EWEA)** in Africa, the Disaster Law team developed a [Snapshot](#) to briefly illustrate this point. This document emphasizes the vital role legal frameworks play in ensuring the effectiveness of early warning systems and actions. Importantly, it outlines key components necessary for successful EWEA, focusing on how such frameworks enable proactive disaster management. This Snapshot was complemented by the development of a [Case Study on Legal Frameworks for EWEA in Africa](#) which highlights how public authorities, in collaboration with their National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and the IFRC, are leading efforts to integrate EWEA into their legal and regulatory frameworks. This work is crucial for mitigating the impact of disasters specific to their regions. These new legal frameworks contribute significantly to the four pillars of the EW4ALL initiative, demonstrating a proactive approach to disaster management and early action in the African context.

In April of 2024, the Disaster Law team facilitated sessions at the **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Learning Retreat**, these sessions focused on the role of DRR and Law as well as the participants' understanding of the auxiliary role of National Societies. In addition, the sessions provided the opportunity to engage national societies on their auxiliary role through the fingerprint game and aimed to enhance the capacity of attendees in DRM and response. Importantly, National Societies from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, and Zimbabwe participated in the retreat, fostering cross-country collaboration and knowledge sharing.



In May of 2024, the IFRC Disaster Law team continued to support the **Community, Epidemic, and Pandemic Preparedness (CP3) program**. Building on the completion of auxiliary role mappings in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kenya, and Uganda, which assess the role of National Societies in supporting

DRM and health systems, a global CP3 meeting was convened in Nairobi, Kenya. During the meeting, the IFRC Disaster Law team presented the findings of the auxiliary role mappings and facilitated a session on strengthening the auxiliary role of National Societies in health. The session featured presentations on global trends in law and policy, advocacy strategies, and collaborative group work aimed at

addressing challenges and engaging public health authorities. The meeting provided a valuable platform for National Societies to share their experiences, reflect on successes and challenges, and explore mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of their programs at both the community and institutional levels.



Also in May of 2024, National Societies from the Indian Ocean Islands gathered for a coordination meeting on **Integrating Humanitarian Diplomacy as a way of working**. National Societies exchanged views on their strategic priorities, including in humanitarian diplomacy & disaster law. The Disaster Law team supported the identification of avenues for creating stronger partnerships through a

presentation on humanitarian diplomacy and showcased the support IFRC can provide in this regard. The presentation focused on the importance of strengthening the auxiliary role and how this privileged partnership can be used to advocate in favor of the communities we serve.

In July, the Disaster Law team supported National Society leaders in Southern Africa to prepare for the 2024 statutory meetings at a leadership meeting held in Johannesburg. The session was attended by National Society leaders from Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. The session provided an overview of the key topics to be discussed at the IFRC General Assembly, as well as an overview of the resolutions proposed for adoption at the Council of Delegates and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Lastly, in 2024, the Disaster Law team finalized the publication of [The Auxiliary Role of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Law and Policy in Africa: A Stock Take](#), drawing on over five years of auxiliary role mappings across the continent. The report highlights that a strong legal base is crucial to enhancing the understanding of the auxiliary role and facilitating the humanitarian work of National Societies. While most RCRC laws in Africa recognize the auxiliary role, the report identifies areas where these laws can be strengthened. It also examines key trends with respect to the reflection of the role of National Societies in legal and policy frameworks in the areas of disaster risk management, health, civil-military relations, and migration, as well as legal facilities provided to National Societies in law and policy. Finally, the report offers recommendations on how National Societies can strengthen their auxiliary role through legal and policy reforms.

1.2 Country level

1.2.1 Angola

The IFRC Disaster Law team supported in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Community Health Services and Systems in Angola, fostering collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Angolan Red Cross Society. This MoU is designed to enhance community health services and systems. In addition, the Disaster Law team supported the development of a draft MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Angola and the Angola Red Cross, focusing on the promotion of food security. This agreement aims to enhance collaboration on DRM and food security initiatives in Angola.

1.2.2 Botswana

The Disaster Law team continued to provide technical support to the Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS) in strengthening its legal preparedness for disasters. In May 2024, the team reviewed the latest draft of the BRCS Bill and provided technical comments. Further progress in the development and adoption of the BRCS Bill is expected in 2025. Moreover, in 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to support preparedness and response operations to bring awareness to the practical application of disaster law. In doing so, the team developed an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Snapshot for [Botswana](#). This snapshot is a valuable tool to quickly identify key areas of the legal and policy framework relating to international disaster assistance which could be strengthened and can also be used by the BRCS to support its government in the ongoing DRM law review process.

1.2.3 Comoros

In 2024, significant progress was made in developing the DRM Law in the Union of Comoros. In June, the Minister of the Interior presented an explanatory memorandum for the draft law, which was passed by the National Assembly on June 28, after evaluation. The new Law aims to strengthen the country's capacity to mitigate disaster risks and adapt to the evolving challenges posed by climate change. The development of this legislation has been a collaborative process, with notable contributions from a range of stakeholders, including the Comoros Red Crescent with technical support provided by the Disaster Law Africa team. This milestone marks a key step in the country's commitment to building a more resilient and disaster-aware society.

1.2.4 Kenya

In 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to support the Kenya Red Cross (KRCS) in the review of the national DRM Bill. This is on the backdrop of comments provided to the Bill during the stakeholder consultations process following the first reading of the Bill in parliament in 2023.

1.2.5 Lesotho



In February, the IFRC and Lesotho Red Cross Society piloted the [Disaster Risk Management Ecosystem Assessment](#) (the Assessment) in the Kingdom of Lesotho. This two-week Assessment consisted of a desktop review of the DRM legal framework in the country, followed by an in-depth on-the-ground analysis of the practical arrangements in place for disaster preparedness and response activities to identify strengths and gaps experienced in practice. This included

interviews and discussions with relevant disaster management stakeholders at the national and local levels. Importantly, the assessment was led by the Lesotho Red Cross and supported by the IFRC. Following the success of the Assessment, the Disaster Law team supported the review of Lesotho's DRM Act at the request of the Lesotho Red Cross Secretary General. Further progress on the DRM Act is anticipated to take place in 2025.

Moreover, in 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to support preparedness and response operations to bring awareness to the practical application of disaster law. In doing so, the team developed an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Snapshot for [Lesotho](#). This snapshot can be a valuable tool to quickly identify key areas of the legal and policy framework relating to international disaster assistance which could be strengthened and can also be used by the LRCS to support its government in ongoing DRM law and policy review processes.

1.2.6 Madagascar



In collaboration with the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS), the National Bureau of Disaster Risk and Management (BNGRC), the IFRC, the Regional Platform for Intervention of the Indian Ocean (PIROI-CRF), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a workshop was held in March of 2024 to advance Pillar 4 of the

[EW4ALL initiative](#). Following the development of Madagascar's national action plan for EW4ALL in late 2023, the workshop focused on disaster preparedness and response, as well as access to reliable disaster risk knowledge (Pillar 1). In this way, participants were also guided on the critical role of law and policy in DRM.

In addition, to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, the MRCS focused on strengthening the advocacy skills of its volunteers to better promote the needs of vulnerable communities and advance the National Society's key priorities. From December 3 to 6, 2024, a Series of Advocacy Training Sessions, including a training of trainers, was conducted with financial support from DG ECHO (through Programmatic Partnership funding) and technical assistance from the IFRC Disaster

Law team. Using the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit, three draft advocacy strategies were developed on key topics relevant to the MRCS. Looking ahead to 2025, plans are in place to replicate these trainings at the branch level, ensuring that advocacy efforts are contextualized and have a meaningful impact at the local level.

1.2.7 Malawi

In 2024, the Disaster Law team published a [case study](#) highlighting Malawi's pioneering efforts in disaster risk management, centred around the newly passed Disaster Risk Management Act of 2023. The case study examines how this landmark law, developed in collaboration with the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the IFRC, provides a comprehensive framework for enhancing disaster resilience. It details key features of the Act, including its provisions for coordination, multi-hazard contingency planning, EWEA, and the establishment of disaster management information systems. By showcasing these critical components, the case study underscores Malawi's commitment to safeguarding its most vulnerable populations from the severe impacts of disasters.

1.2.8 Mozambique

In 2024, the Disaster Law team was invited by the Norwegian Refugee Council to provide comments to the draft National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Policy and Strategy on the Management of Internal Displacement. The key aims of this Plan are to provide clarity, direction and accountability, thereby ensuring the efficient and effective execution of initiatives to respond to the needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Mozambique. Moreover, the Disaster Law team continued to support preparedness and response operations in Mozambique to bring awareness to the practical application of disaster law. In doing so, the team developed an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Snapshot for [Mozambique](#). This snapshot can be a valuable tool to quickly identify key areas of the legal and policy framework relating to international disaster assistance which could be strengthened and can also be used by the Mozambique Red Cross Society to support their government in ongoing DRM law and policy review processes.

1.2.9 South Africa

IFRC Disaster Law attended the National Consultative Workshop on Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL), which was held from 26 to 28 August 2024 in Pretoria and hosted by the South African Weather Service. This event represented a significant milestone, bringing together key stakeholders to finalize a roadmap to enhance early warning early action efforts in the country, aligning them with the global UN initiative to ensure that everyone on earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events by the end of 2027. The South African Red Cross Society is leading Pillar 4 of the EW4ALL initiative in South Africa, and the event provided a platform for IFRC Disaster Law to promote the importance of legal and policy frameworks as the foundation of early warning early action efforts.

Moreover, in 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to support preparedness and response operations to bring awareness to the practical application of disaster law. In doing so, the team developed an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Snapshot for [South Africa](#). This snapshot can be a valuable tool to quickly identify key areas of the legal and policy framework relating to international disaster assistance which could be strengthened and can also be used by SARCS to support its government in future DRM law and policy review processes.

1.2.10 South Sudan

The IFRC Disaster Law team assisted in the development of a draft MoU between the Government of South Sudan and the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC), focusing on food security. This agreement aims to strengthen cooperation on DRM and food security initiatives, enhancing the country's capacity to address food security challenges. Moreover, the IFRC Disaster Law team continued our efforts to support the SSRC in the development of the DRM Bill, further progress on this is expected to materialise in 2025.

1.2.11 Tanzania

Recognising that disaster risk governance informs all four pillars of the EW4ALL initiative of disaster risk knowledge; detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting; warning dissemination and communication; and preparedness and response capabilities, the Disaster Law team provided technical support to the Tanzania Red Cross Society in its efforts to map the country's DRM framework in relation to early warning early action as part of the [EW4All Initiative](#). The mapping, which was finalized in late 2024, is a critical step in enhancing EWEA in the country. The finalized report, identifies key strengths, gaps and actionable recommendations to strengthen disaster risk governance, particularly with regards to EWEA.

2. America



2.1 Regional Level

The Disaster Law Team continues to provide technical assistance and support to Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) through the **Regional IDRL Working Group**.

The Regional IDRL Working Group was established in September 2022, with a mandate to provide 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 Management (CDM). In April 2023, during the 14th meeting of the CDEMA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Regional IDRL Working Group was confirmed as a Working Group of the CDEMA Work Programme Development and Review Sub-Committee.

In 2024, with support from the Disaster Law Team and the three National Societies of Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who are members of the Working Group, the Regional IDRL Working Group produced the following key outputs: **(1) A Regional IDRL Gap Analysis Report** with recommendations on the needs and requirements for effective facilitation and regulation of international humanitarian assistance in the Caribbean in the context of CDM; and **(2) proposed Model Provisions on international humanitarian assistance** for the revision of the CDM Model Policy and Legislation. In April 2024, at the 15th meeting of the CDEMA TAC, the proposed Model Provisions were endorsed by the CDEMA TAC, with recommendations to further circulate among CDEMA Participating States for feedback.

In line with this recommendation, **a three-part IDRL Webinar Series** was held in October 2024, where these Model IDRL Provisions were sensitized to over 100 participants across the Caribbean. During the webinars, critical feedback was received from National Disaster Offices on how the provisions may be enhanced based on practical experiences and lessons learned of previous disasters. Additionally, as part of the webinar series, **a peer-to-peer exchange** was held with between the National Disaster Offices of Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, Ecuador as well as with the Belize Red Cross and the Japanese Red Cross on strengthening laws and policies related to international humanitarian assistance and disaster management and the role of National Societies.

In November 2024, **IFRC and the University of the West Indies (Global Campus)** signed an agreement to jointly develop and deliver an online short course on disaster law. This partnership will capitalize on IFRC's expertise in Disaster Law and UWI's expertise and accreditation in tertiary and professional education to deliver an internationally accredited disaster law course that is targeted to DRM professionals and stakeholders in the Caribbean including National Societies.

Legislative advocacy continues to be a priority for National Societies in the Caribbean. As small National Societies, building capacity in advocacy is critical to ensure that it is strategically positioned to influence humanitarian actions and protect the most vulnerable. During 2024, four legislative advocacy trainings were held with the **National Societies of Barbados, Belize, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis**. These trainings allowed participants to increase their knowledge and learning on key advocacy concepts and strengthen their capacity to design and implement advocacy strategies. In Jamaica and Belize, a Training of Trainers component was included, where participants were provided with some additional tools that would assist them in sharing their knowledge with others. In Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis, focused

sessions on advocacy strategy development on strengthening the auxiliary role were held.

2.2 Country Level

2.2.1 Belize

In May 2024, the Disaster Law Team supported the Belize Red Cross Society to participate at the Fourth International Conference on Small Islands Developing States, held in St. John's Antigua. Specifically, Belize Red Cross Society participated as a panellist during IFRC's Side Event on, "Strengthening Disaster and Climate Risk Governance." At this panel discussion, Belize Red Cross Society highlighted the importance of the auxiliary role in implementing effective risk governance and how the Belize Red Cross Society is supporting their government to strengthen disaster laws and policies. This side event put forward a strong call to action for improved and inclusive disaster laws, policies and plans at local, national, and international levels.

In August 2024, the Disaster Law Team supported the Belize Red Cross Society to facilitate an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Stakeholder Consultation with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO). The main purpose of the consultation was to review the main gaps in the disaster laws and policies of Belize, specifically in relation to international disaster response, and to identify and agree on recommendations and tools to address those gaps, and the next steps for strengthening the overall disaster risk management regulatory framework. There were 17 participants from the various Disaster Management Committees of NEMO including those responsible for foreign affairs, search and rescue, damage assessments, relief and supplies, transport as well as the Belize Defence Force. Participants were sensitized to various tools that would help Belize to strengthen their disaster laws and policies and they identified recommendations and next steps for enhancing their DRM framework.



IFRC and Belize Red Cross conduct an IDRL Consultation with NEMO in Belmopan on August 29, 2024.

2.2.2 Jamaica

In 2024, the Disaster Law team continued to support the Jamaica Red Cross Society to develop a new Red Cross law. A policy brief with recommendations for a new and

modern Red Cross law was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This policy brief was based on the recommendations of IFRC's *Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy* and aims to address the existing gaps in the current Jamaica Red Cross Act, 1964 as well as address specific issues being faced by the Jamaica Red Cross to access legal facilities such as tax exemptions, and recognition of the auxiliary role.

In November 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to support the Jamaica Red Cross to champion their new Red Cross law to Cabinet. Discussions will continue in 2025 to progress this initiative.

2.2.3 Trinidad and Tobago

In April 2024, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) with support from the Disaster Law Team, re-engaged with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) on the finalization of the Draft National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Policy. The Disaster Law Team and TTRCS worked closely with the ODPM to develop a second draft of the policy to ensure that the Draft NDRRM Policy was properly aligned to international best practices and existing policy documents, including the recommendations of the legislative gap analysis, the Draft NDRRM Legislation and the recent IDRL updates to the CDEMA Model CDM Policy and Legislation.



Participants at the NDRRM Policy Consultation on November 20, 2024.

In November and December 2024, the Disaster Law Team with support from TTRCS, facilitated with the ODPM, two stakeholder consultations were held on the Draft NDRRM Policy. There were approximately 75 organizations, including government agencies, civil society and international organizations that participated in the consultations. These agencies included ministries and departments responsible for national security, planning, agriculture, education, health, social

development, emergency services, local government, foreign affairs, bureau of standards, cyber security, the Meteorological Office, Seismic Unit, tourism, environment, marine affairs, fisheries, among others. The Draft Policy was well received by stakeholders and insightful feedback was provided to further enhance the draft policy. This feedback will be incorporated into a third draft and finalized for approval by the line Ministry and submission to Cabinet.

3. Asia-Pacific



3.1 Regional Level

Disasters and climate-related crises pose significant challenges to communities across the Asia-Pacific region. Strengthening legal frameworks and policy implementation is essential for effective disaster preparedness and response. IFRC Disaster Law has made significant progress in advancing disaster law frameworks through advocacy, capacity building, and legal reform.

At the regional level, IFRC Disaster Law has focused on legislative advocacy, policy development, and institutionalizing anticipatory action. Legislative advocacy training has been instrumental in equipping National Societies with the knowledge and skills needed to influence disaster-related laws and policies. During the reporting period, 17 National Societies participated in these training sessions, each formulating their own advocacy strategies to push for stronger legal preparedness frameworks. This capacity-building initiative ensures that National Societies are better positioned to work with their respective governments to strengthen disaster risk management policies.

Another key regional achievement has been the provision of technical assistance for legal framework development. IFRC Disaster Law has provided expert guidance to governments and National Societies in drafting and amending disaster-related laws and policies. By working closely with regional bodies such as ASEAN, SAARC, and the Pacific Islands Forum, the programme has facilitated cross-border cooperation and enhanced regional disaster governance.

Institutionalizing anticipatory action into law and policy has been another significant milestone. By integrating early warning systems and disaster risk reduction measures into national legal frameworks, the programme has helped ensure that preparedness mechanisms are legally recognized and systematically implemented. The release of reports on public health emergencies and legal frameworks further underscores the programme's commitment to research and knowledge dissemination, with studies conducted in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, and Pacific nations providing valuable insights into gaps and opportunities for legal reform.

3.2 Country Level

3.2.1 Bhutan, Lao & Malaysia

Bhutan, Laos, and Malaysia have all benefitted from national-level workshops focused on integrating Early Warning Early Action (EWAA) into disaster risk governance. These workshops brought together National Societies, government agencies, and humanitarian actors to develop comprehensive strategies for institutionalizing early warning systems into national legal and policy frameworks.

The programme's technical support in these countries has enhanced their ability to implement anticipatory action mechanisms, ensuring that communities are better prepared for potential disasters. Additionally, through peer-to-peer learning initiatives, these countries have been able to exchange best practices and collaborate on regional disaster law initiatives.

3.2.2 Fiji

In Fiji, the programme played a pivotal role in supporting the development of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Law. IFRC Disaster Law provided technical input to the government and facilitated stakeholder consultations, ensuring that the law was aligned with existing legislative frameworks and international best practices. Furthermore, Fiji saw significant progress in finalizing its Red Cross Bill, with workshops conducted to engage stakeholders and increase awareness of disaster law-related issues.

Beyond legislative work, IFRC Disaster Law contributed to Fiji's engagement in international forums. Through active participation in the Pacific Week of Anticipatory Action and collaboration with international agencies, Fiji has strengthened its disaster preparedness mechanisms. The programme's technical guidance on integrating climate resilience and disaster law governance has provided a robust foundation for sustainable policy development.

3.2.3 Kiribati

In Kiribati, the programme has worked closely with the government and the National Society to strengthen partnerships in disaster governance. The team advocated for the formal inclusion of the Red Cross in national disaster management frameworks, allowing for improved coordination in disaster response efforts. Additionally, technical support was provided to assess legal gaps in disaster preparedness, ensuring that existing frameworks are strengthened and aligned with best practices.

Kiribati has also played a key role in the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Technical Working Group. IFRC Disaster Law's advocacy efforts have helped to institutionalize anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction in national policies, ensuring a proactive approach to disaster management.

3.2.4 Maldives

The Maldives has been another key beneficiary of IFRC Disaster Law's legal and policy expertise. The programme facilitated workshops focused on institutionalizing anticipatory action in disaster laws, engaging key stakeholders in the process. National-level sensitization sessions provided government representatives and humanitarian actors with a deeper understanding of the role legal frameworks play in disaster preparedness.

The Maldives also benefited from legal research support aimed at integrating early warning mechanisms into national disaster governance policies. By mapping out existing gaps in legislation, the programme has laid the groundwork for future policy reforms that enhance the country's ability to respond to disasters effectively.

3.2.5 Nepal

Nepal has made substantial progress in integrating disaster risk governance into its legislative framework. The programme facilitated the approval of the Municipal Disaster Risk Governance Assessment Tool, which empowers local governments to assess their disaster risk governance capacities and take necessary measures for improvement. Furthermore, the co-hosting of Heat Action Day with over 100 representatives highlighted the urgency of addressing extreme heat risks through stronger legal frameworks and policies.

Additionally, Nepal has benefited from national-level legislative advocacy training conducted for the Nepal Red Cross Society. This training, attended by 25 participants, equipped government officials, technical staff, and governance representatives with the skills necessary to influence legal reforms that support disaster risk reduction. The approval of disaster law policies at the municipal level has set an example for other countries looking to strengthen localized disaster risk management strategies.

3.2.6 Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has also made significant strides in disaster law reforms, largely due to the expert guidance provided by the programme. The Disaster Law team worked closely with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to draft the Sri Lanka Red Cross Act, ensuring

that it aligns with international disaster response legal frameworks. Additionally, the programme supported Sri Lanka in presenting Disaster Law resolutions to the National IHL Committee, reinforcing the importance of legal preparedness in disaster response.

The programme also co-facilitated a national-level Anticipatory Action workshop in Sri Lanka, providing technical assistance on integrating early warning systems into disaster governance policies. This effort has contributed to a broader regional dialogue on how legal frameworks can better support disaster response and preparedness at the national level.

4. Central Asia



4.1 Regional Level

At the regional level in partnership with the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), an intergovernmental body of Central Asia States, IFRC in 2023 conducted an IDRL Mapping Research for Central Asia, which emphasized the importance of adopting a legally binding agreement to establish a Regional Coordination Centre for Emergency Response in the region, on the basis of the CESDRR. The report also provided recommendation to improve the national

legislation of Central Asian countries in response coordination to emergency situations and strengthen the regulation “On the Regional Emergency Response Coordination Mechanism” considering the findings of the Regional Report on the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL). These recommendations were supported by the Emergency Management Authorities of Central Asia and have been incorporated into the Central Asian Action Plan for 2025-2026, adopted at the Regional Meeting of the Heads of Emergency authorities of Central Asia, which took place in Kyrgyzstan in August 2024.

The Central Asian National Societies’ Leadership Meeting, an annual event, organized by the IFRC CA CCD was held on 17-18 December 2024 in Almaty with participation of leaders of all five National Societies and provided them an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the priority issues in the context of work, programmatic activities as well as challenges and opportunities for cooperation. During the event the IFRC DISASTER LAW presented the Revised Model RCRC Law. The presentation of the Model Law was timely, as the RCSK, NRCST, and RCST in Central Asia each have distinct laws that regulate the status of their National Societies. Currently, the RCSU

and RCS RK are working with public authorities in their countries towards the development and adoption of the laws pertaining to the status of National Societies.

4.2 Country Level

4.2.1 Kyrgyzstan

Disaster law activities remained a priority in Kyrgyzstan. In 2024 the IFRC and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, under the DG ECHO PPP, supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations in developing the IDRL by-law which led to the adoption of the “Regulation on the International Humanitarian Assistance Facilitation Group, which operates based on a single-window principle” in April 2024. It regulates the coordination of international assistance during emergencies, addressing permits, border crossings, and aid logistics. The IFRC, together with the RCSK, conducted a SimEx with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic to see the practical implementation of the provisions of the Regulation and the mechanisms for interaction and coordination of the Assistance Group to ensure the effective and expeditious reception, registration and transit of international emergency assistance across the state border of the Kyrgyz Republic.

4.2.2 Tajikistan

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) prioritizes disaster law as one of the key dimensions of its activities. Through research and study of Tajikistan's disaster legislation, the IFRC and RCST aim to provide the Government of Tajikistan with general information on its legal framework for disaster risk management, as well as a set of recommendations on how to strengthen the legal framework. Under the Year II of the ECHO-PP programme, the RCST started a comprehensive review of Tajik legislation in four disaster law areas (legislation on international disaster assistance, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and response, public health emergency and law) prepared by the National Legislation Centre (NLC). One of the key recommendations was to align Tajikistan's existing legislation into line with the IDRL. To this end, the IFRC is supporting the RCST's plans to conduct further in-depth research on the IDRL and develop evidence-based recommendations for improving IDRL legislation in Tajikistan under Y3 of the PPP.

4.2.3 Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

To strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Societies in the region, the IFRC continued consultations with the National Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on the draft laws on the status of the Red Crescents in both countries. Out of 5 Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan does not have separate laws on the status of their National Societies and they operate on the basis of the President's decree “On the activities of the Kazakh Red Crescent and Red Cross Society”, and

President's Decree "On the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan " both adopted in 1992.

5. Europe



5.1 Regional Level

Activities to disseminate and strengthen International Disaster Law in the European region continued in 2024, confirming the growing trend in the volume of activities and stakeholders' interest in this area.

In terms of new tools, The IFRC Civil Protection Guidance for National Societies and Federation Secretariat relations with European Union actors (2023) were finalised and disseminated. The overarching objective of this document is to facilitate interactions between Red Cross and Red Crescent entities and Civil Protection stakeholders inside and outside the EU, including in capacity building, project collaboration, operational cooperation during emergencies, training initiatives, exchange of information, and communication.

Specifically, the new document aims to lay down practical guidance on principled and constructive engagement with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism and national civil protection stakeholders of Red Cross and Red Crescent entities in the light of the changes brought about by the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), and the subsequent relevant European legislation such as Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and the Council, and regulating the Mechanism's development. It will facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the current functioning of the Mechanism; illustrate how National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat can effectively position themselves and potentially contribute to it; and support their capacities to navigate its evolution in the future.

In terms of its scope, the institutional relations and forms of cooperation addressed by this guidance target primarily NS whose country is part of the UCPM – both as an EU Member State and as a participating state (to date, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine), as well as the IFRC Secretariat. Its relevance is intended to be expanded in the future also to NS in states joining the UCPM both as EU Members and as Participating States.

As for training activities, the 9th edition of the International Disaster Law Sanremo Course was held in November, organised by the Sanremo Institute in collaboration with IFRC Disaster Law and with the support of the Italian Red Cross. In comparison

to previous editions, the Course structure has been renewed in order to address more comprehensively European Disaster Law. Through a mixture of online and on-site lectures, practical exercises, self-assessment tools and interactive group works, the course included a residential workshop focusing on the European context, addressing issues of utmost importance such as the interplay between International Disaster Law and EU Law; EU policies & standards in Disaster Risk Reduction, Prevention and Preparedness; Disaster Response and Management strategies and practices at the EU level; and the EU external action in the Disasters domain, with specific reference to humanitarian aid and collaborations between the EU and other regional and international entities.

Dissemination activities took place with regards to both legal experts from European RCRC NS as well as DM staff and governmental authorities. In the first case, a Workshop on the role of law and policy in strengthening NS Auxiliary Role in EU at the European Legal Support Group was held Iceland with around 20 NS legal experts involved. The Workshop provided participants the possibility to get more familiar with four existing tools with relevance to the topic addressed: the RC/RC Model Law; the Model Pre-Disaster Agreement, the Assessment Questions annexed to the IFRC 'Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy'; 'Fingerprint' - A Red Cross Red Crescent Game on Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy. Initially, these tools were illustrated to participants in order to allow them to assess and discuss their relevance, use, and potential adaptation to the European context.

As for dissemination among practitioners, international disaster law issues were presented and discussed in the occasion of a Workshop on Transboundary Plan and National Plan held in Italy in January as part of the PPRD3 East project. The workshop brought together experts and practitioners of the civil protection systems, and the National Societies from all five project partner countries (Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine and Azerbaijan) to address the challenges and imperatives associated with preparing for and responding to emergencies that cross national borders. Emphasizing that international cooperation is key to building resilience, the workshop explored the different regulatory frameworks and international disaster law, operational complexities, coordination and tools required to begin to outline cross-border emergency plans encompassing all key elements. Finally, dedicated disaster law workshops were held in Sweden in cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross, with the involvement of official from the Swedish Civil Protection Agency, and in Portugal, where staff and volunteers of the Portuguese Red Cross were involved in a dedicated training.

5.2 Country Level

5.2.1 Italy

On the occasion of the 34th International Conference of the red Cross and Red Crescent, Italy and the Italian red Cross submitted two pledges with relevance for Disaster Law. The first one is of bilateral nature and dedicated to ‘Strengthening dissemination and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Disaster Law’. Through this document, the Italian Government and the Italian Red Cross expressed their intention to remain actively committed to enhancing respect for International Disaster Law, both domestically and internationally, targeting relevant stakeholders, in line with Italy’s traditional and recognized attention to this sector. As part of the action plan, Italy and the ItRC committed to cooperate in dissemination and advocacy activities on International Disaster Law for civil society, including schools, professionals, and academia, as well as supporting increasing efforts towards the adoption of a new global legal instrument on the Protection of Persons in the event of disasters, based on the Draft Articles on this topic adopted by the UN Commission on International Law in 2016.

The second pledge of ‘open’ nature and therefore to be signed by other participants to the Conference, was dedicated to ‘Enhance the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities during situations of risks, including situations of armed conflicts and disasters’. This document is based on the consideration that, among vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities are too often in great danger and risk in emergencies arising from natural hazards or human activity, and that their specific needs and rights are not always and not sufficiently included in emergency plans and in preparedness, response and recovery efforts (e.g. in the course of evacuation, transportation or delivery of health and other services).

The action plan includes coordinated efforts to advocate for the inclusion of the rights, needs and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all national plans and actions aimed at preparedness, response and recovery in situations of disasters, and ensure the adoption of a disability-inclusive and human rights-based approach, including accessibility considerations, at all stages of humanitarian relief, disaster prevention and risk management, recovery and reconstruction. This objectives are foreseen through the integration of the specific barriers and risks faced by persons with disabilities in international disaster law dissemination and training activities, through the development of content-related models and standards and the drafting of research-based report/guidance document aiming at raising awareness and illustrating how the specific barriers and risks faced by persons with disabilities in situations of risk may be integrated in operational training, education, doctrine, planning and conduct of military or humanitarian relief operations.

Finally, in 2024, Italy and the Italian Red Cross continued to cooperate in International Disaster Law dissemination through the insertion of dedicated modules in six different IHL training to Armed Forces, as well as in four universities.

6. MENA



6.1 Regional Level

In mid-April 2024, IFRC Disaster Law was introduced in the MENA region for the first time, marking a significant milestone as it expanded to cover all IFRC

operational regions. The MENA IFRC Disaster Law leveraged 20 years of global expertise, tools, and resources developed over the years to support its initial activities in the region. During its first few months, the focus was on introducing IFRC delegations and National Societies to the key areas of IFRC Disaster Law—disaster law and the auxiliary role. This involved extensive meetings with individual National Societies and advocacy efforts to encourage them to integrate these priorities into their 2025 IFRC Country Plans. Many National Societies demonstrated strong interest, with several incorporating one or both focus areas into their work priorities. By the last quarter of 2024, technical support had already been initiated for some National Societies, with more engagements expected in 2025. Early observations highlighted notable interest in disaster law and/or the auxiliary role in several countries, including Morocco, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan. It also became clear that a coordinated regional approach to legal and policy frameworks must be developed to enhance collaboration and impact.

In June, a webinar to introduce Disaster Law was given to National Societies, with attendance including other Arabic-speaking NS personnel. The webinar was attended by around 80 participants and revealed the high interest and little knowledge participants had about the work of IFRC Disaster Law or the interest and opportunities both themes hold for NS and the movement as a whole.



In December, IFRC organized a workshop in Dubia on “Contingency Planning and Auxiliary Role” for National Societies. Accordingly, participants discussed the needs and relevance of a well-recognized auxiliary role for the operation and as part of planning response.

6.2 Country Level

6.2.1 Morocco

The earthquake in Morocco caused significant damage and loss of life. While public authorities mounted a strong response, the Moroccan Red Crescent (MRCS) faced challenges in accessing affected areas, delivering aid, and receiving international assistance due to gaps in its recognized auxiliary role and related legal facilities.

Recognizing the need to strengthen its legal position, MRCS leadership engaged in multiple discussions with IFRC Disaster Law during Q3 2024 to explore disaster law and auxiliary role-related concepts. Both parties identified key legal challenges and agreed on the necessity of advocating for improved legal facilities with public authorities. Given MRCS's operational focus on earthquake response and leadership's availability, it was agreed that a technical visit would take place in 2025 to advance discussions and negotiations on securing better legal facilities.

6.2.2 Libya

In August, IFRC Disaster Law conducted a briefing session for Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS) staff, introducing key concepts related to disaster law and the auxiliary role. This session was part of LRCS's strategy workshop to define its 2025 priorities.

LRCS stakeholders showed strong interest in strengthening disaster law and International Disaster Response Law within the country. As a result, LRCS incorporated these priorities into its annual plan, leading to a mission in December. Meetings were held with LRCS leadership and legal focal points, resulting in an action plan with two key objectives: 1. Developing Disaster Risk Management legislation, as Libya faces a significant legal gap, which had severe consequences during the Derna floods. 2. Exploring the issuance of a pledge on disaster law by LRCS.

6.2.3 Syria

Between late September and October 2024, IFRC Disaster Law held several meetings with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) Operations and NSD focal points, who requested support in raising awareness among HQ and branch staff and volunteers regarding the auxiliary role.

Following these discussions, it was agreed that IFRC Disaster Law would conduct a mission to Syria in February 2025 to support SARC in documenting and mapping legal instruments related to its auxiliary role and disaster law governance. As political and administrative shifts took place in Syria in December 2024, the need for such support became even more urgent, confirming the importance and timely nature of the planned mission.

6.2.4 Lebanon

IFRC Disaster Law engaged with Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) to introduce the types of support available to the National Society. LRC expressed strong interest in disaster

law, particularly given that LRC had already submitted a draft recognition law to the Lebanese Parliament.

Subsequent meetings with designated focal points and a Lebanese public official focused on assessing the feasibility and needs concerning disaster law. These discussions revealed the necessity of conducting a baseline assessment of the disaster law landscape in Lebanon. However, work was delayed following the outbreak of war in Lebanon in October, as LRC shifted its focus to responding to high casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

6.2.5 Jordan

IFRC Disaster Law initiated discussions on Jordanian Red Crescent's auxiliary role during a workshop hosted by the RCRC Movement in Amman in September 2024. An initial assessment of needs was conducted, followed by detailed meetings with JNBRCs leadership. Further support on the auxiliary role is planned for 2025.

7. Global Level



Inter-Governmental Advocacy

The IFRC Disaster Law team served as penholder for the [Disaster Risk Governance Resolution](#), adopted at the [34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent](#). Throughout 2024, the team led strategic engagement with States and

National Societies, coordinated the internal drafting process, and represented IFRC in all sessions of the Standing Commission and Drafting Committee chaired by Ambassador Guillermet of Costa Rica and supported by Ambassador Lauber of Switzerland. The team also prepared dissemination materials, including the publication [Celebrating 20 Years of Disaster Law](#), to highlight key achievements over the last 20 years, enhance stakeholder understanding and advocacy efforts.

At the margins of the 34th International Conference, the IFRC co-organized a [High-level side-event titled *Advancing the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters*](#), in partnership with the Government of the Philippines and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. Held in Geneva on 28 October 2024, the event brought together diplomats, practitioners, and experts to explore the operationalization of the ILC's Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters. The IFRC team conceptualized the event and led coordination



efforts with co-hosts. The event underscored the importance of state-led efforts in developing a new international legal instrument for the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

IFRC Disaster Law team played a leading role in designing and organizing [Spotlight Session II within Commission III of the 34th International Conference](#). This session focused on the auxiliary role of National Societies, highlighting how States and their National Societies can work together to strengthen humanitarian action through legal recognition and partnership. The team coordinated the production of a dedicated [video](#). The session provided a high-level platform for showcasing good practices and catalyzing stronger engagement on auxiliary role recognition through legal frameworks. It is built on the foundational understanding that National Societies' contributions to comprehensive disaster risk management are significantly enhanced by legal clarity and institutional recognition.

Further to this, the IFRC Disaster Law team maintained its active involvement in ongoing discussions at the United Nations on the proposed treaty based on the *ILC's Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters*. The team represented IFRC at the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and in bilateral engagements with the Core Group of States advocating for the treaty. In 2024, the team also hosted expert meetings for Member States, contributing legal expertise and promoting alignment between humanitarian and legal frameworks. In December of 2024, the [UN General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution A/C.6/79/L.16](#), submitted by the Sixth Committee. Through this resolution, the UNGA has officially decided to begin negotiations on a legally binding instrument for the protection of persons in the event of disasters, aiming to conclude the treaty by the end of 2027. The adoption of the resolution opens the door to intergovernmental negotiations, during which States will address a range of legal and operational issues key to the development of the treaty.

Capacity strengthening and dissemination

The team directed and facilitated the annual [San Remo International Disaster Law Course](#), a flagship capacity-building initiative co-hosted with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law and the Italian Red Cross. This intensive course brought together practitioners from across sectors and regions, providing them with essential tools and legal knowledge to enhance disaster risk governance at national and international levels. It concentrated on EU law through a specialized residential workshop that addressed the frameworks, systems and relevant legal instruments within the EU. The 2024 edition also featured specialized modules on early warning and anticipatory action, reflecting a growing emphasis on pre-disaster preparedness within the international legal landscape.

Research and Publications

A key achievement in 2024 was the development of the revised [Model Red Cross and Red Crescent Law](#). Led by the IFRC Disaster Law team, the model law serves as a

benchmark to assess the legal base of National Societies. This resource can be used by National Societies and States seeking to align their national legislation with the relevant resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as international humanitarian and disaster law standards. It clarifies the nature of the auxiliary role and emphasizes the significance of robust Red Cross and Red Crescent laws. It was developed through a consultative process involving National Societies legal experts and the ICRC, ensuring its adaptability to a range of legal contexts. The model offers guidance on codifying the auxiliary role, the Fundamental Principles, legal facilities, and institutional responsibilities of National Societies, contributing to the Movement's broader commitment to strengthening and developing National Societies globally. In 2025, the Disaster Law team will finalize this new tool and will be hosting a series of global webinars to disseminate and educate RCRC colleagues on the revised model law.

Programme Management and Strategic Partnerships

In 2024, the Disaster Law team expanded its geographic reach by strengthening activities in the MENA and Central Asia regions. The team mentored three new Regional Coordinators, in the America, Central Asia and MENA, ensuring institutional continuity and regional adaptation of global frameworks. Strategic partnerships were further developed with the EU Red Cross Office and ECHO, particularly through their engagement in the San Remo course. Additionally, cross-sectoral collaboration with DRR teams advanced joint initiatives such as the Early Warning for All initiative, the Platform for Preparedness and Prevention and the Zurich Alliance, integrating disaster law into broader climate resilience and early action programming.

Communications and media support

Communication and media support has been provided to activities under IFRC Disaster Law. All materials produced are shared on [IFRC Disaster Law's website](#), home to the world's largest collection of resources on disaster law and has excellent traffic and engagement. In addition, stories and news are shared on our social media channels, [X / Twitter](#) and LinkedIn, and humanitarian websites, PreventionWeb and ReliefWeb. Examples of coverage from the global and regional highlights include the [Celebration of 20 Years of Disaster Law](#), a case study on [Legal Frameworks in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#) in the Dominica, and a case study on the [Development of Malawi's Disaster Risk Management Act of 2023](#). Examples of coverage of stories, news articles, reports and research include; a policy brief on [Updating the Jamaica Red Cross Act to Facilitate its Auxiliary Role](#), a news piece on the piloting of the [Disaster Risk Management Ecosystem Assessment](#) in Lesotho, [A Stock Take: the Auxiliary role of red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Law and Policy in Africa](#), and the mapping and guidelines on [ASEAN Disaster Law and Public Health](#) emergencies covering South East Asia. Other global communication included the [San Remo Disaster Law Course](#) and wide coverage of the UN ILC's [Draft Articles](#).



Disaster Law

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 National Societies, 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.

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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