

## Norwegian law students organize the world's first public fundraising campaign on IDRL

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The Norwegian Law Students' Humanitarian Organisation organizes a week-long festival and fundraising campaign known as "[HumAk](#)" every other year in Oslo, Bergen and Tromsø. The festival combines cultural events with academic activities and support for a selected humanitarian project. In collaboration with the Norwegian Red Cross, the students chose the IFRC's IDRL programmes as this year's beneficiary for the event commenced at the end of August.

Hege Jordbakke, chair of the HumAk's fundraising campaign in Oslo, describes the choice to support IDRL as a particularly stimulating one. "Not only is IDRL about developing a new field of international law, giving rise to fruitful brainstorming sessions for law students, but it is also a very actual and pragmatic topic that improves the quality and efficiency of all humanitarian actions."

In addition to lectures about IDRL and recreational events, HumAk featured a rally race for law firms, which were asked to contribute to IDRL by donating a sum of their choice before challenging another law office to offer more. Hundreds of students also collected individual donations from law firms and from their peers. In all, a total of NOK 800,000 was collected, which will support IDRL projects involving the National Red Cross Societies and Governments of Haiti, Mozambique and Namibia. As noted in this month's newsletter, the Haiti project has already begun, thanks to HumAk's support.

Each project will enable national Red Cross societies to assist their authorities to strengthen their regulatory frameworks for international disaster relief, in order to avoid unnecessary delays and barriers and to ensure adequate quality.

"We are very impressed by the students' success with this campaign and honoured that they have chosen to contribute to our work," said David Fisher, the IFRC's IDRL Programme Coordinator. "We will do our best to make sure that these donations lead to a real difference in the lives of vulnerable communities."

Norwegian Red Cross Secretary-General Børge Brende was equally enthused. "As Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross Society, I very much appreciate the excellent cooperation we have with the student organization HUMAK. Raising awareness of the IDRL, this new and very important area of international law, is a task ideally suited to the efforts and enthusiasm of law students. I therefore would like to suggest that the model of co-operation we have managed to establish in Norway might be of interest both for other national societies and the Federation in our efforts to further promote IDRL."



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies