

## Disaster Law in 2019

### Key goals in 2019

#### 35 National Societies

strengthen their disaster law and legislative advocacy capacities

#### 10 new laws, policies or regulations

at minimum, are strengthened

#### 12 draft laws, policies or regulations

at minimum, are strengthened

#### 500 advocates and officials

at minimum, are trained



Launch of Nepal [Case Study](#) 'Effective Law and Policy on Gender Equality and Protection from SGBV in Disasters' (March 2018).



Guatemala tests IDRL scenarios in FAHUM's Simex days before the *Volcano de Fuego* erupted (April 2018).

## What we do

The IFRC's Disaster Law Programme assists National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support their authorities in developing and applying state-of-the-art disaster-related legislation, policies and procedures. We do this in order to make communities safer, to ensure timely and effective humanitarian relief, and to improve the protection of the most vulnerable when faced with crisis.

We operate on an international mandate provided by all state parties to the Geneva Conventions, providing technical advice based on over fifteen years of global research and consultations. By harnessing their unique auxiliary role, National Societies working with our programme have successfully strengthened new disaster laws and policies in [37 countries](#) since 2007. Our main themes include:

	<p><b>Domestic Preparedness and Response (New!)</b> Integrated legal frameworks for DRM that adequately address domestic preparedness and response, including institutional and procedural arrangements, risk financing (such as FbF and CASH programming), as well as planned approaches to regulatory issues in post-disaster shelter.</p>
	<p><b>Disasters and climate laws that leave no one behind (New!)</b> Support to governments in strengthening their legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management to ensure they are gender and diversity responsive, protective and inclusive, and reflect international humanitarian standards.</p>
	<p><b>Auxiliary Role</b> Recognizing the critical role of National Societies, as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field with a unique community outreach, to ensure community voices and engagement with national level policy development and planning processes.</p>

	<p><b>Law and Disaster Risk Reduction</b> Modern legal frameworks that have integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into disaster risk management and sectoral laws and policies, in line with key international and regional commitments.</p>
	<p><b>Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance ('IDRL')</b> Procedures for international disaster relief that put domestic authorities in the driver's seat, reduce barriers, costs and quality problems, and uphold humanitarian principles.</p>

## How we will work in 2019

### A. Building disaster law capacity



In 2019, we will provide targeted legislative advocacy training and mentoring to enable National Societies to provide the best advice to their authorities on disaster law. This will include:

- Rolling out the new *Legislative Advocacy Toolkit* in at least 15 National Societies and support each trained National Society to develop a legislative advocacy strategy tailored to its context
- Supporting communities to understand rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster risk management at the local level in at least 10 countries
- Organizing 2 global, 4 regional and 15 country-level training workshops
- Facilitating peer-to-peer learning and exchanges

### B. Strengthening domestic law and policy



We will support National Societies and their partners to assist and advise their governments in the **priority countries**, chosen on the basis of National Society and government demand, risk profile, and political opportunities. We will also continue to provide ad hoc support in other countries.

#### DLP priority countries 2019

<b>Africa</b>	Malawi, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda
<b>Americas</b>	Barbados, Belize, Bolivie, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>	Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Depending on local priorities, projects will focus on the strengthening of the auxiliary role, regulation of international relief, legislation for disaster risk reduction, legislation for preparedness and response, and/or gender and diversity.

### C. Fostering partnerships and advocacy at the regional and global levels



We will support **12 regional organizations** in developing tools, guidance and mechanisms to promote disaster cooperation, disaster risk reduction, and to integrate legal issues within disaster simulation exercises. The IFRC will also continue to support dialogue at the global level at the GPDRR and 33rd **International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** to move forward the disaster law agenda. Also, IFRC will work with partners, such as UNDP, ISDR and OCHA, to promote greater impact and outreach.

### D. Pursuing high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy



To provide a broader base of **evidence-based** recommendations, we will collaborate with key partners to finalize a *Checklist on law and disaster preparedness and response* and the first *Global index of disaster risk management laws*. We will also initiate a global research project aiming at providing concrete guidance to integrate climate change and adaptation perspectives within DRM laws and policies.