Disaster Law in 2018

Key goals in 2018

40 National Societies strengthen their disaster law and legislative advocacy capacities

5 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

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 a dozen 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 30 countries since 2007. Our main themes include:

Auxiliary Role
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.

Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance (‘IDRL’)
Procedures for international disaster relief that put domestic authorities in the driver’s seat, reduce barriers, costs and quality problems, and uphold humanitarian principles.

For further information, please visit: http://www.ifrc.org/dl
Disaster Law Programme in 2018

Law and Disaster Risk Reduction
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.

Domestic Preparedness and Response
Integrated legal frameworks for disaster risk management that adequately address domestic preparedness and response, including institutional and procedural arrangements, gender and protection issues, as well as planned approaches to regulatory issues in post-disaster shelter.

How we will work in 2018

A. Building disaster law capacity

In 2018, 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 training materials on advocacy skills, auxiliary role, and disaster law in at least 10 National Societies
- Supporting 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 3 countries
- Organizing 2 global, 4 regional and 12 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 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Central African Republic, The Gambia, Malawi,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madagascar, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>Belice, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guatemala, Granada, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peru, SVG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Solomon Islands</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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 on ways to accelerate progress in strengthening legal frameworks for the reception of international disaster assistance, and work with partners, such as UNDP 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, through a process of case study research and stakeholder consultations. We will also produce the first global index of disaster risk management laws, and initiate a multi-country research process on law and policy related to disaster and climate risk management.