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Disaster Law Programme Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

G00253, P60013, P42068,
P42072, P42073, PHT065,
PDO017, P50033

30 September 2013

This report covers the
period

01/01/2013 to 30/06/2013

*High-level event on strengthening
legal preparedness for disasters
during the 5th Summit of Heads of
State and/or Government of the
Association of Caribbean States
in Haiti in April.*



Overview

In the first half of 2013, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Law Programme (DLP) continued its work promoting legal preparedness for disasters, focused on the following main goals:

- (1) Improve legislation and normative instruments on disaster management
- (2) Establish expanded and permanent capacity of the Red Cross Red Crescent in disaster law
- (3) Grow the international knowledge base on key disaster law issues
- (4) Achieve appropriate visibility for disaster law issues.

Top achievements of the DLP during the reporting period include:

- (1) Offering technical assistance projects and/or comments on draft laws in 16 countries.
- (2) Organising 6 major training workshops at the country level and 6 at the regional level.
- (3) Providing input into 6 major international resolutions, guidance notes and outcomes at the global and regional level.
- (4) Finalising and launching the Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Assistance" (Model Act) and beginning consultation on a model emergency decree.
- (5) Continuing a major research project on law and disaster risk reduction, together with the IFRC's Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction (CPRR) Department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and publishing two country case studies and a report on global preliminary findings.
- (6) Advancing research on regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter together with the IFRC's Shelter and Settlements Department and launching the first in-depth country review.

Financial situation

The following chart summarizes the financial situation of the DLP at the global level and in each of the zones. Note that these figures will also be separately reported by the Zones in their overall reporting on activities in their regions. Figures are listed in Swiss Francs.

DLP (level)	2013 Budget (initial)	2013 Budget (as revised)	Funds received (% of revised budget)	Expenditure (% of revised budget)
Geneva (global)	1,026,335	803,670	599,158 (75%)	402,917 (50%)
Africa Zone	749,196	243,536	201,852 (83%)	56,735 (23%)*
Americas Zone	988,707	700,849	700,849 (100%)	286,701 (41)%
Asia-Pacific Zone	735,369	676,377	305,525 (45%)	284,426 (42)%

* The low rate of expenditure showing in the Africa Zone was due to the absence of a disaster law coordinator for Africa from January to May.

Working in partnership

In each of the countries where the DLP engaged in technical assistance projects, it worked with the National Society concerned as well as with the relevant authorities. The DLP also cooperated with several other departments of the IFRC in research and advocacy projects, including the Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction Department, the Shelter and Settlements Department, and the International and Movement Relations Unit at headquarters, as well as with a variety of other colleagues in the Zone, regional and country offices.

Externally, the DLP continued to cooperate closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and developed stronger links with UNDP, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Brookings Institution, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR). It also deepened working relationships with a large range of regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Association for South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters (CEPRENAC), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), among others.

Progress towards outcomes

The DLP contributes to IFRC Secretariat Business Lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 (raise humanitarian standards; grow services for vulnerable people; strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development; heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work).

The following chart sets out specific objectives related to the overall goals and quantitative targets, as appropriate. Note that the targets are expressed for the two-year period of 2013-14 and were set based on full funding of the global and zone-level DLP budgets.

Measurement			
Objectives	Indicators	Target for 2013-14	2013 YTD Actual
Outcome 1: Disaster law support by the IFRC and NSs results in new domestic laws, policies, and/or procedures	<i># of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures drawing on the IDRL Guidelines</i>	8	2
	<i># of countries that have adopted new laws, rules or procedures including disaster law suggestions from IFRC/NSs (in addition to IDRL)</i>	7	0

New disaster management legislation was adopted in Bhutan and new procedures on international humanitarian assistance were adopted in Colombia, reflecting recommendations from the DLP. Draft disaster management and related legislation incorporating elements enhanced by IFRC advice is currently pending in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Haiti, the Philippines, Rwanda and Vietnam.

In the Americas, following the adoption of the Model Regional Compendium of Regulatory Instruments for the Management of International Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies in Quito in 2012, a number of governments have started to compile relevant information on their respective legal systems (including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico). Mexico, which last year adopted new provisions in its Civil Protection Law and Regulation for the facilitation and regulation of humanitarian assistance following disasters, is in the process of adopting new standard operating procedures to complement existing regulations.

It is expected that additional new bills or draft procedures will also soon be developed in several of the other countries where the IFRC has offered its advice.



IDRL workshop in Kingston, Jamaica examines study conclusions



Exercise in West Sumatra addresses IDRL issues



Tongan cabinet approves IDRL project

Output 1.1: Country-level technical assistance projects	<i># of projects completed (at least through the production of a substantial report and recommendations)</i>	23	3
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A major area of activity of the DLP is supporting National Societies to carry out technical assistance projects for their governments to enhance legal preparedness for international disaster relief. Reviews are undertaken to identify strengths and weaknesses of the existing legal frameworks, using the recommendations of the *Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance* (also known as the [IDRL Guidelines](#)) as a reference.

Projects typically include oversight from a government-chaired task force, both desk research and stakeholder interviews, and one or more workshops to validate findings. During the reporting period, 2 such projects were completed in the Americas ([Argentina](#) and [Jamaica](#)) and 1 in Asia Pacific ([Cook Islands](#)).

Argentina

The IDRL report was prepared in collaboration with the Argentinean Red Cross and is based on the findings of an initial desk review and research project on the national legal framework applicable to international disaster relief operations. Preliminary recommendations were provided and more research and consultations are required to complete the analysis.

Jamaica

The project was launched in 2012 under the auspices of the Jamaica Red Cross and was conducted in close collaboration with the national Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management as president of the project steering committee. The Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of the University of West Indies and the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development also participated as members of the project steering committee. The findings and recommendations of the report were vetted during a national workshop in January 2013, in which representatives from thirty local and international organisations participated. The report is expected to be published before the end of September.

Cook Islands

The Cook Islands IDRL study was undertaken by a focal point within the Cook Islands Red Cross, in close collaboration with Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI). Following the launch of the study in 2012, the National Society has continued to work with EMCI to implement the recommendations contained in the study. The second phase of the project included the development of a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for international assistance and a Prime Minister's Directive, soon to be officially adopted.

In addition, the final report from the previous [Kazakhstan](#) study was published in English. Other similar IDRL projects were underway in **Afghanistan, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kenya, Pakistan, and Tonga.**

Dominican Republic

The project was launched in May 2013 and is conducted in close collaboration with the Dominican Red Cross, the National Emergency Commission and representatives of several other government entities including departments of finance, immigration, and foreign affairs, as well as OCHA. The first national workshop for the project is scheduled for September 2013.

Ecuador

The project was launched in December 2012 and is implemented by the Ecuador Red Cross in close collaboration with the National Secretariat of Risks Management as president of the project steering committee. Representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, health, and security, as well as the National Assembly, the International Cooperation Secretary and international organizations including WFP, OCHA and OPS are also participating. The first national workshop for the project took place in May 2013 and the second is scheduled for September 2013. Publication of the report is expected later this year.

Guatemala

The project was launched in April 2013 in close collaboration with the Guatemala Red Cross and the Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala. The project's aim is to complete the drafting of a law for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance. A national consultation workshop to ensure that comments and recommendations by government stakeholders are reflected in the draft is scheduled for October 2013. The project is scheduled to be completed in November 2013.

In **Haiti**, dedicated DLP staff based in Port-au-Prince is supporting the authorities with technical assistance aimed at the adoption of new laws, regulations and procedures following an earlier IDRL project there. To date, 2 bills have been submitted to the Haitian Parliament (one on medicines and another one on communications), and an inter-ministerial working group on customs clearance of humanitarian goods during an emergency has been established in cooperation with the Haitian civil protection authority and the World Food Programme.

The DLP’s first ‘impact’ study was on going during the reporting period in **Indonesia**. This study examines the existing legal framework for disaster management and response, how it has been implemented, and the impact of new laws and regulations on disaster response and international assistance in the response to two recent disasters in Indonesia.

The DLP is also providing guidance and advice to National Societies conducting or participating in studies in Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, and Poland.

Agreements were reached for the launch of new IDRL projects in the Philippines and Samoa and a follow-up project in Peru. Discussions were also under way for a potential project in Malawi and additional follow-up work in the Cook Islands. Considering the number of projects underway or in discussion, we are on track to achieve our two-year target for country-level technical assistance projects.

Output 1.2: Country-level workshops and presentations	<i># of workshops undertaken at the country level</i>	25	7
	<i># of presentations (short of a full DLP workshop) to governmental stakeholders at the country level</i>	29	9

Country-level disaster law workshops were organized in Cook Islands, Ecuador, Jamaica, Malaysia, **Paraguay**, Tonga and Uganda, and presentations were delivered to government stakeholders in **Cuba**, Guyana, Haiti, Mongolia and Trinidad, as well as in natural disaster simulation exercises in **Honduras**, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Output 1.3: Ad hoc advice provided on draft legislation	<i># of laws commented on (beyond the scope of the technical assistance projects)</i>	22	5
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Working with the relevant National Societies, the DLP offered ad hoc advice on legal preparedness for international disaster assistance on 5 draft disaster bills during the reporting period, including 1 in Africa (the East African Legislative Assembly), 3 in the Americas (Paraguay and 2 in Haiti), and 1 in Asia Pacific (Vietnam).

Output 1.4: Model IDRL act, decree and regulations	<i>Final model act, decree and regulations finalised and disseminated</i>	See below	
	<i># model acts and decrees disseminated</i>	810 (printed copies of the Model Act, plus additional electronic distribution of both tools)	

In March, the IFRC together with UN OCHA and the IPU **launched** the “**Model Act on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance**” at the IPU General Assembly in Quito. The Model Act is a reference tool for states wishing to implement the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines into their national law. The launch followed a year-long pilot phase, during which additional expert comments were received and the tool was further refined.

Based on suggestions raised during consultations on the Model Act, the IFRC and OCHA are now developing a model IDRL emergency decree for those situations when, following a major disaster, states find

their legal frameworks ill-adapted to handle incoming international assistance. During the reporting period a consultation version of the draft tool was disseminated on line and in several global and regional meetings.

Output 1.5: Checklist for lawmakers on DRR (for completion in 2015)	<i># of consultation meetings organized</i>	10	2
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Following on the recommendations of the 31st International Conference, the IFRC is launching a process to develop a “Checklist for lawmakers on Disaster Risk Reduction.” During the reporting period, the concept was introduced in several fora, including to National Society legal advisors at their annual meeting in Geneva as well as the newly-formed disaster law consultative group of Geneva-based missions. Interest was also solicited among National Societies and during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May to join a network on law and DRR that will contribute to the development of this tool.

Outcome 2: Disaster law advocacy by the IFRC and NSs influences relevant international and regional instruments, organizations and processes	<i># of new/amended instruments (resolutions, guidelines, etc.) that address IDRL issues</i>	10	5
	<i># of new/amended global/regional instruments taking into account DL suggestions by IFRC/NSs</i>	9	5
	<i># of IGOs engaged with DL issues</i>	4	3
	<i># of regional organizations engaged with DL issues</i>	18	16

Global and regional inter-governmental organizations continued to demonstrate a growing interest in disaster law issues. A number of global IGOs (the UN and several of its offices and constituent bodies including OCHA and ECOSOC, as well as WCO and WFP) and 16 regional organizations (ACS, APEC, ASEAN, AU, CAPRADE, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, EALA, ECOWAS, EU, IOC, NATO, OAS, PIF, SAARC, SADC) are actively engaged on the topic. Among these, several have moved beyond the initial phase of political dialogue to technical training (e.g. WCO and WFP) and development of tools (e.g. ASEAN, CDEMA, EU, NATO), including a revised manual on mutual assistance produced by CAPRADE.



ASEAN disaster relief exercise addresses IDRL issues



IDRL panel at the EU Parliament in Brussels



Workshop for New York diplomats on IDRL and humanitarian coordination

Output 2.1: DLP contributes to development of Principles and Rules and associated commitments	<p><i>Contribution to drafting of the P & R and associated commitments by states on IDRL-related issues for the Movement.</i></p> <p><i>Contribution to building consensus for the outputs at the 32nd International Conference</i></p>	See below
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<p>The DLP contributed its perspectives and drafting advice to the coordinators of the revisions to the “Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Response.” It is expected that the Principles and Rules will be placed before IFRC members for adoption in November 2013, and subsequently before the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015.</p>			
<p>Output 2.2: DLP leads discussions on future directions of IDRL</p>	<p><i>Discussions on potential future directions for IDRL with NSs, states and other stakeholders</i></p>	<p><i>See below</i></p>	
<p>In April, IFRC hosted a consultation meeting with National Societies to take stock and chart the future of the IFRC’s work on disaster law. Participants overwhelmingly affirmed that disaster law should be an on-going and increasingly important part of the IFRC’s work over the coming years, and they validated the diversification of topics addressed by the DLP in order to serve the different needs and interests of National Societies. In May, a new consultative group of Geneva-based permanent missions was formed and held its first meeting. Through periodic meetings, the group will help sustain attention to disaster law issues in the years between International Conferences and help shape thinking toward the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015.</p>			
<p>Output 2.3: DLP contributes to dialogue on key global and regional initiatives</p>	<p><i>Contribution on the substance of key global initiatives such as ILC, certification discussions, Hyogo and Kyoto successor instruments</i></p>	<p><i>See below</i></p>	
<p>Stemming from a session on IDRL, and in the lead up to the 2015 Humanitarian Summit, the OCHA Regional Humanitarian Policy Forum recognized stronger legal frameworks at the national and regional level as a key theme for improving humanitarian effectiveness in Asia Pacific.</p>			
<p>Output 2.4: DL presentations to international and regional organizations</p>	<p><i># of presentations provided</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>The DLP also provided presentations to inter-governmental bodies on seven occasions during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASEAN Core Group Workshop for the Establishment of a Network of Disaster Management Training Institutes (DMTI), in Singapore in February ○ Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme’s and Mercy Malaysia’s training for ASEAN member states in February ○ Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Quito, Ecuador in March ○ RedLAC monthly meeting in Panama City, Panama in April ○ ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREX) in Cha’am, Thailand in May ○ Regional Meeting on the Movement of International Humanitarian Assistance convened by CEPREDENAC, WFP and IFRC in Panama City, Panama in May ○ a preparatory meeting for the SICA summit in Panama City, Panama in May ○ US Pacific Command Military Law and Operations (USPACOM MILOPS) Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in June ○ Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee Meeting in Fiji in June ○ CEPREDENAC Consultation Forum in San José, Costa Rica in June ○ Organization for Security and Co-operation consultation on cross-border issues in crises in Vienna, Austria in June ○ NATO Civil Protection Seminar on Host Nation Support in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 			

Output 2.5: Dedicated DLP workshops organized for states at the global and regional levels	<i># of workshops and seminars organized (may overlap with the workshops described in Output 3.4)</i>	<p>10</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>The IFRC developed five dedicated disaster law workshops/sessions during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 23 April, the IFRC collaborated with ACS and the Governments of Mexico and Haiti to convene a side event on IDRL with the participation of the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion among others, on the occasion of the ACS Summit in Pétion-Ville, Haiti. • Also on 23 April, the IFRC convened a dedicated discussion session on regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter, at the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum in Geneva. • On 6-8 May 6-8, the IFRC collaborated with CEPREDENAC and WFP to organize a workshop for Central American officials on legal issues in the entry of international humanitarian assistance in Panama City, which led to recommendations subsequently taken up by heads of state at the SICA summit (as noted in Section 2.7 below). • On 20 May, the IFRC collaborated with UNISDR in the development of a governmental consultation on “Effective normative frameworks for disaster risk reduction” at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva. • On 5 June, the IFRC collaborated with the Special Rapporteur of the European Parliament to organize a dedicated panel session at the European Parliament on IDRL, with the participation of ECHO Director-General Claus Sorensen among others, in Brussels. • On 28 June, the IFRC collaborated with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing to organize a roundtable on security of tenure in humanitarian shelter attended by representatives of permanent missions, donor agencies and humanitarian organisations active in the shelter sector in Geneva. 			
Output 2.6: Dedicated training events for permanent missions	<i># trainings for permanent missions in Gva, Brussels, NY and Addis</i>	<p>8</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Following the positive feedback on the first training workshop on legal and institutional frameworks for international disaster assistance for representatives of permanent missions, held in Geneva last year, the IFRC contributed to two workshops for missions in New York and Brussels. Both workshops were organized under the mantle of the “Disaster Response Dialogue,” a joint initiative of the Swiss government, IFRC, OCHA and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.</p>			
Output 2.7: DL messages proposed for resolutions, agreements and other instruments	<i># of resolutions/instruments for which suggestions are provided</i>	<p>20</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>The DLP influenced several international and regional resolutions or similar texts. The following address legal aspects of disaster risk management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pétion-Ville Declaration, adopted by the 5th Summit of the Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) • The Declaration of San Jose, adopted by the 41st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Central American Integration System (SICA) • The Chair’s Summary of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction • ECOSOC resolution on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations • The outcome document of the June meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) • OSCE Draft Self-assessment tool for nations to increase preparedness for cross-border implications of crisis 			

Output 2.8: Global tools on regulatory barriers to post-disaster shelter	<i>Global tools developed and widely consulted with shelter practitioners</i>	<i>See below</i>	
<p>During the reporting period, the DLP and the IFRC Shelter and Settlements Department launched a joint study on participatory land mapping in post-disaster contexts, with the support of the Global Shelter Cluster working group on regulatory barriers in the provision of shelter. The aim of the study is to cull from the number of existing tools a set of “minimum elements” land mapping tailored for the post-disaster context. The minimum elements will facilitate a common approach among humanitarian actors, provide assurances in respect of rigour and equity – and could eventually serve as a basis for legal recognition by states as an interim measure. Aspects of this work were discussed at the Roundtable on Security of Tenure in Humanitarian Shelter and the Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum in June as well as at UK and Australian shelter forums.</p>			

Outcome 3: National Societies, the IFRC, and key partners achieve greater capacity for their work in disaster law	<i># of NS whose staff/volunteers have increased their skills in legislative advocacy</i>	70	29
	<i># of NS that have participated in legislative advocacy in disaster law</i>	22	19
	<i># of partner organizations taking part in trainings</i>	26	9
	<i># of persons taking the IDRL e-module in the period</i>	220	765
<p>The staff and volunteers of 29 National Societies increased their skills in advocacy related to disaster law in 6 country-level workshops and 1 regional workshop. Nineteen National Societies were directly engaged in legislative advocacy on disaster law during the reporting period, either through their own efforts or by soliciting/submitting input on draft legislation from the IFRC.</p> <p>Seven-hundred sixty-five new individuals registered for the introductory online e-training module on IDRL, which is available on the IFRC’s learning platform. This brought the overall number of persons who have registered since the module was developed to 3,469. Of these, 1,574 successfully completed the module exam.</p>			



First Lady of Paraguay addresses participants at an IDRL workshop.



Simulation exercise in Honduras to test the effectiveness of regional mechanisms disaster assistance.



Participants of a disaster law workshop in the Cook Islands.

Output 3.1: Disaster law focal points and peer groups developed	<i># of NSs designating a focal point with substantial expertise in disaster law</i>	21	7
	<i># of active NS disaster law peer groups</i>	6	4
	<i>Support for short term disaster law advisor</i>	4	5

	<i>positions</i>		
<p>The DLP supported and contributed to the discussions of the Advocacy Network on Disaster Law in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Legal Network, African National Societies Legal Network and the European Legal Support Group. At least 19 National Societies, supported by these networks and the DLP, were engaged in disaster law advocacy activities.</p>			
Output 3.2: Sample TORs and guidance for IDRL projects developed and disseminated	<p><i>Kit for NSs interested in running their own technical assistance projects developed on IDRL</i></p> <p><i>Similar kit designed for assistance projects focused on DRR law</i></p>	<i>See below</i>	
<p>Finalization of the sample TORs for National Societies for IDRL projects is foreseen for completion in the second half of the year.</p>			
Output 3.3: Legislative advocacy manual disseminated	<i># of copies of the legislative advocacy manual disseminated</i>	680	0
<p>Work on a revised version of the legislative advocacy manual, dividing up its various components into individual “guidance notes” will commence in the second half of the year.</p>			
Output 3.4: Dedicated global, regional and country training workshops organized	<p><i># of global training workshops</i></p> <p><i># of regional training workshops</i></p> <p><i># of country-level training workshops (may overlap with the workshops described in Output 1.2)</i></p>	4 15 20	0 1 6
<p>Several of the workshops reported above in output 1.2 included a training component. In addition, the DLP held a training on disaster law for 13 National Societies and ICRC at the Legal Advisors Meeting (Southeast Asia and East Asia) in Hong Kong in March.</p> <p>Planning for the third annual disaster law short course was also carried out. The course, organised in collaboration with the Brookings-London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement, OCHA and UNHCR and hosted by the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, is scheduled for December 2013.</p>			
Output 3.5: Develop textbooks and training for professors	<p><i>Develop textbook for law schools</i></p> <p><i>Develop abbreviated version for DM students</i></p> <p><i>Provide training for law /DM professors</i></p>	<i>See below</i>	
<p>Work has not yet begun on the textbook and training for academic courses on disaster law. Work began to develop a public database of existing disaster law courses and syllabi in law schools and disaster management certificate programmes.</p>			
Output 3.6: Disaster law integrated into other IFRC and partner trainings	<p><i>DL module created and managed for Tata DM course</i></p> <p><i>DL material contributed to humanitarian diplomacy course</i></p> <p><i>DL integrated into relevant Movement, DM and HD training</i></p>	<i>See below</i>	

Disaster law was also integrated into the FACT and IMPACT trainings in Australia in April, as well as an Australian Red Cross training on legal frameworks for humanitarian assistance in June. The DLP also took part in a workshop to discuss and finalize the curriculum for a new online disaster management course run by the TATA Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India. Disaster law topics will be included in the module on “Humanitarian Principles, Laws, and Values in Disaster Management”. In addition, the e-training module on IDRL was incorporated as a mandatory component of RIT trainings in Trinidad and El Salvador.

Outcome 4: New research on disaster law broadens the general knowledge-base and facilitates change	<i>High quality studies well received by relevant disaster management and legal stakeholders</i>	<i>See below</i>
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The DLP is establishing a solid evidence base in its newer focus areas, in particular law and disaster risk reduction. The impact of this work is not expected until next year when the research phase is complete and concrete programming tools are developed and piloted. In the meantime, however, the greater integration of DLP work with that of other departments as well as the growing partnership with UNDP are already a valuable by-product. The country research on law and DRR has already informed the development of legal analysis components in IFRC joint project plans on urban DRR – in Mexico, and for a major project proposal on 8-10 cities in Africa.



DRR law study in Ethiopia



DRR law study in Nicaragua



Community consultation during the DRR law study in Madagascar

Output 4.1: DRR law research project	<i># in-depth country case studies completed</i>	6	5
	<i>Synthesis study completed</i>	1	0

The IFRC-UNDP joint research project on law and disaster risk reduction is advancing well. Building on the IFRC-UNDP desk surveys of relevant laws in 27 countries, 5 new in-depth country studies were completed by IFRC, with 1 further case study nearing completion (in parallel with 3 UNDP case studies under way). The [Ethiopia](#) and [Nicaragua](#) studies were published, final reports were received for the case studies in Guatemala, Madagascar and Vietnam, and a draft report for the New Zealand study. A paper on [global preliminary findings](#), for the project, ‘Better Laws, Safer Communities?’, was published and disseminated at the Fourth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Publication of the jointly-produced synthesis report is planned for early 2014.

Output 4.2: Research on regulatory barriers to shelter	<i># regional desk studies of country laws completed</i>	3	1
	<i># in-depth case studies completed</i>	5	0
	<i>Synthesis study completed</i>	1	0

<p>A regional desk study on regulatory barriers to shelter in the Americas was largely completed during the reporting period, focusing on 6 countries (Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Peru). Summary reports of this and the Asia regional study conducted last year are in preparation. Following from these desk-based studies, an in-depth regulatory review was launched in Nepal and discussions began for a review in Haiti later this year.</p>			
Output 4.3: Real time legal evaluations in selected disaster operations	<i># of real time evaluations conducted</i>	6	1
<p>On the request of the Global Shelter Cluster, a DLP staff member was deployed to the Philippines from 20-28 February to support the cluster in the assessment of regulatory issues in the shelter response to Typhoon Bopha. This included guidance on beneficiary selection, no build zones, and tenure issues. The report was published by the Global Shelter Cluster and disseminated widely to humanitarian stakeholders.</p>			
Output 4.4: Additional legal research on targeted issues	<i># of additional research projects for other IFRC departments, as requested (such as food security, first aid, health emergencies, nuclear accidents, logistics issue, DRR in slums, etc.)</i>	2	2
<p>The DLP developed a research options paper on legal issues in nuclear accidents for discussion by the National Society Nuclear Accidents Reference Group in August. Work on a similar options paper concerning food security was on-going.</p>			
Output 4.5: Comprehensive disaster law database	<i># of records in the database</i>	2000	994
<p>The database grew to 994 records, including international instruments, national laws and key articles. In addition, as noted above, a new database of disaster law courses was developed.</p>			

Outcome 5: Disaster law issues receive greater visibility, including in humanitarian and academic fora	<i># of RC/RC & NGO meetings addressing disaster law issues</i>	20	12
	<i># of new masters/diploma courses include regular modules on IDRL and other key DL issues</i>	5	3
	<i>Disaster law is addressed in relevant IFRC courses and trainings</i>		
<p>Disaster law issues – and the valuable contribution of the Red Cross Red Crescent and its partners – are gaining attention in both humanitarian and academic fora. For example, in April OCHA published a new manual for disaster response in Asia Pacific including the IDRL Guidelines among the key instruments for effective disaster response. We are also seeing a surge of interest among academics, who are pursuing exciting new research in the field as well as a large increase in the number of related courses. (See the new database of disaster law courses.)</p> <p>Also, though the DLP did not co-sponsor any academic events during the period, the programme was invited to deliver academic lectures and training, including to students from Australian National University in Geneva in February, and as part of the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian action (CERAH) Certificate Course on in Disaster Management in Geneva in March.</p>			

Partnerships between National Societies and academia are also on the rise. The Italian Red Cross partnered with a university to launch a new [IDRL training programme for its volunteers](#). The programme was a success, and it is hoped both that it will be continued and that the model might be replicated in other countries. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has also succeeded in adding legal issues in international disaster response in [university courses](#) at the Latin-American Faculty of Social Science the San Francisco de Quito University.



Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum featured a hub session on regulatory barriers to emergency and transitional shelter



Italian Red Cross volunteer training on IDRL at the Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo



IDRL presentation in Ecuador

Output 5.1: Support provided for attention to DL issues at key RC/RC conferences and meetings	<i>IFRC statutory & regional meetings address DL issues</i>	5	0
	<i>IFRC Governing Board advisory committees on DM and HD supported on DL issues</i>	2	2

Disaster law was addressed at several Red Cross and Red Crescent conferences and meetings, including:

- Advisory Body on Humanitarian Principles and Diplomacy meetings in Geneva, Switzerland in February and June
- IFRC-American Red Cross Workshop on Urban DRR in Arusha, Tanzania in February
- Americas RC Partnership Meeting in Panama City, Panama in March
- Southeast Asia Leaders Meeting in Laos in March
- RCRC Legal Advisors Meeting (Southeast Asia and East Asia) in Hong Kong in March
- European Legal Support Group meeting in Oslo, Norway in April
- PADRU Think Tank Meeting in Panama City, Panama in May
- PADRU Pre-disasters Meeting in Bogota, Colombia in June
- RC Auxiliary Role Meeting in San José, Costa Rica in June
- Annual Meeting of National Society Legal Advisors in Geneva, Switzerland in June

Output 5.2: Key humanitarian partner meetings address disaster law issues	<i># of humanitarian partner meetings (e.g. Interaction Forum) where disaster law is discussed</i>	10	12
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DLP issues were addressed and presentations delivered at a number of partner meetings and conferences, including:

- African Regional Platform for DRR in Arusha in February
- Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme's and Mercy Malaysia's training for ASEAN member states in February
- UK Shelter Forum in Oxford, United Kingdom in February
- Health and Disasters National Congress in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba in March

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IASC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in March • Logistic Cluster meeting in Haiti in April • Europe and Central Asia Housing Forum in Geneva in April • Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva in May • Regional Meeting on the Movement of International Humanitarian Assistance convened by CEPREDENAC, WFP and IFRC in May in Panama City • OCHA Asia Pacific Regional Humanitarian Policy Forum in Bangkok in May • Australian Shelter Forum in Sydney in June • Roundtable on Security of Tenure in Humanitarian Shelter in Geneva in June (co-organised) 			
Output 5.3: Effective and widely used DLP websites, newsletter and news service	<i>DLP websites in all languages are effective and up-to-date</i>		
	<i># of DL newsletter list subscribers</i>	3,500	6,562
	<i># of DL news service subscribers</i>	500	767
	<i># of weekly news service reports</i>	80	25
	<i># of newsletters</i>	12	3
<p>The quality of the DLP website continues to improve and it is kept regularly up-to-date. The programme's two regular communications tools – the weekly news service and bi-monthly newsletter – were published regularly and reached a wide audience. Subscription rates during the reporting period were 767 for the news service and 6,562 for the newsletter.</p>			
Output 5.4: DL essay contest	<i># of students participating in the contest</i>	80	0
<p>The student essay competition was not yet launched.</p>			
Output 5.5: Disaster Law Working Paper Series	<i># of working papers published</i>	4	0
<p>The Disaster Law Working Paper Series published no new papers during the reporting period.</p>			
Output 5.6: Articles published in external journals	<i># of articles published</i>	8	1
<p>One article was published in an external journal during the reporting period: David Fisher, The Future of International Disaster Response Law, German Yearbook of International Law, volume 55 (2012).</p>			
Output 5.7: Additional DL videos created	<i># of videos published</i>	2	2
<p>Two new videos were published, the first on disaster law in West Africa jointly produced with ECOWAS, and the second highlighting key messages and outcomes of the 5th Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean.</p>			
Output 5.8: DL messages reflected in external media	<i># of external media articles/broadcasts per year have featured IFRC or NS disaster law work</i>	22	2
<p>External media covered the IDRL ACS side-event in Haiti in April (12 TV and radio channels, and one article published in a local newspaper) as well as an interview given on the Bangladesh building collapse.</p>			

Stakeholder participation and feedback

One of the main areas of work of the DLP is building the capacity of National Societies and technically assisting governments in matters relevant to disaster law. By its nature, this work requires stakeholders' direct participation. The importance of the IFRC's work on disaster law was strongly endorsed by the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011. Since then, we have been pleasantly surprised by the increasing number of requests for technical assistance by both National Societies and states.

Representatives of National Societies and governments have joined other partners at our training events, such as at the workshop jointly organised with CEPREDENAC and WFP in Panama earlier this year. In participant evaluations, these events received consistently high ratings.

Our research projects this year are all collaborative efforts, involving several departments of the IFRC and colleagues from across different specializations, as well as key external partners, such as UNDP.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
A major risk in legislative advocacy is that political considerations separate from those in the substance will slow progress. This has often led to delays in the launch and finalization of the DLP's projects.	M	We have tried to adapt the structure of projects to accord with political realities in each country. However, we remain committed to using them to engage key stakeholders and this often takes time.
The development of new and untested areas of disaster law expertise could lead to misunderstandings or tensions with other concerned stakeholders.	M	Ensure adequate time for the building of an evidence base. Create partnerships with key actors to avoid duplication and conflict.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

As in the past, obtaining clear results over the short term is extremely challenging in the legal field. As interest in disaster law appears to be rising, the DLP has received no shortage of invitations to speak, present and provide training. While building up the knowledge and engagement of key stakeholders will clearly be important over the long term, measuring the real effectiveness of this work in the short and medium term can be difficult. Even more difficult is determining how much time and resources to devote to each legislative project, given that legislative bills can sometimes languish for years for reasons unrelated to their content. To date, the DLP has emphasized the depth of in-country research on existing law to ensure that its advice is made on the basis of a thorough understanding of the country's current situation. The raft of unsolicited requests for comments on draft bills, however, will require some adjustment of this approach so as not to lose opportunities.

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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 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.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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