



AN INTRODUCTION TO IFRC DISASTER LAW

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Disaster Law

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Cover Photo: Philippines 2021 Typhoon Rai caused torrential rain and flash floods in the Philippines, wiping out homes, destroying vegetation and damaging infrastructure. © Philippine Red Cross / IFRC

Contact us:

Requests for commercial reproduction should be directed to the IFRC Secretariat:

Address: Chemin des Crêts 17, Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Postal address: P.O. Box 303, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland

T +41 (0)22 730 42 22 | **F** +41 (0)22 730 42 00 | **E** disaster.law@ifrc.org | **W** [ifrc.org](https://www.ifrc.org)

AN INTRODUCTION TO
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Eswatini 2020 Eswatini Red Cross Society talk to community members about what assistance they need during the the food crisis. © Ville Palonen / Finnish Red Cross

1 / ABOUT IFRC DISASTER LAW

What is IFRC Disaster Law?

IFRC Disaster Law is a program of the IFRC which aims to save lives and keep communities safe through more effective disaster laws, policies, and plans.¹ IFRC Disaster Law works with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (**National Societies**) and governments to strengthen disaster risk governance through the development and implementation of disaster- and emergency-related instruments. With 20 years of experience in developing and implementing disaster law and policy around the world, IFRC Disaster Law is the global leader in providing disaster law technical advice to governments.

¹ IFRC Disaster Law has been known by two previous names: the International Disaster Response Law Programme (until 2012); and the Disaster Law Programme (until 2020).

How does IFRC Disaster Law work?

IFRC Disaster Law works in three main areas: (1) providing technical assistance and advice to governments that are reviewing their domestic disaster laws and policies, and to inter-governmental organizations that are reviewing their regional disaster risk management mechanisms; (2) conducting capacity building on disaster law; and (3) conducting and publishing research and guidance on all aspects of disaster law. With a team of regional and in-country advisors around the world, IFRC Disaster Law works through long term programming and localised support, and in partnership with National Societies, who are integrated within their countries' disaster risk management frameworks. Equally, IFRC Disaster Law partners with governments, national disaster management offices, regional bodies and UN entities.

IFRC Disaster Law's work is tailored to the differences and diversity of countries, legal systems and peoples around the world. To date, IFRC Disaster Law has assisted more than 40 countries to strengthen their disaster laws and has conducted disaster law activities in more than 90 countries. IFRC Disaster Law's mandate derives from several resolutions of the [International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent \(International Conference\)](#), adopted by the states parties to the Geneva Conventions and the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.² These resolutions mandate:

- National Societies to provide advice and support to their governments in the development and implementation of effective legal and policy frameworks relevant to disaster and emergency management at all levels; and
- IFRC to support states and National Societies in the area of disaster law, through technical assistance, capacity building, the development of tools, models and guidelines, advocacy and ongoing research.

What are IFRC Disaster Law's areas of focus?

Laws and policies underpin all aspects of disaster risk management. They form the often-invisible foundation of disaster risk management, protecting and preparing communities all around the world. Despite significant improvements in recent decades, many countries still need to strengthen their disaster laws to effectively manage the risks and impacts of disasters. IFRC Disaster Law advocates for a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management that addresses all of the following key thematic areas:

- a. disaster preparedness and response
- b. climate-smart disaster risk reduction
- c. public health emergencies
- d. international disaster response
- e. disaster recovery
- f. the auxiliary role of National Societies

Each of these topics is discussed in more detail in the following section.

Protection, gender and inclusion is a key cross-cutting theme for all aspects of disaster risk management. This is because women, children, older people, people with disabilities and many other groups may be disproportionately impacted by disasters, climate change and public health emergencies. People with vulnerabilities during 'normal times' are at risk of being left behind in disaster preparedness and response and left out of decision-making that affects them. IFRC Disaster Law advocates for the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of disaster laws, policies and plans.

² [Resolution 4 of the 30th International Conference \(2007\)](#); [Resolution 7 of the 31st International Conference \(2011\)](#); [Resolution 6 of the 32nd International Conference \(2015\)](#); [Resolution 7 of the 33rd International Conference \(2019\)](#).



Mozambique 2020 Mozambique Red Cross provide food distribution to communities following floods in the region. © Anette Selmer-Andresen / IFRC

2 / DISASTER LAW AREAS

Disaster preparedness and response



Underpinning every disaster preparedness activity or response operation, whether large or small, is a network of laws, policies and plans which determine who does what, when and how. In 2019, IFRC Disaster Law published the [Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response \(DPR Checklist\)](#), an assessment tool that guides decision-makers through a series of targeted questions designed to identify gaps and weaknesses in existing domestic laws and policies. Like other Checklists developed by IFRC Disaster Law, the DPR Checklist is designed to support governments, National Societies and other stakeholders that are involved in reviewing and updating domestic disaster laws. The DPR Checklist is informed by recommendations developed by IFRC Disaster Law following a comprehensive review of existing literature and an analysis of the laws and policies in a sample group of 20 countries. This research is published in the [Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response Literature Review](#) and the [Multi-Country Synthesis Report on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response](#).

The DPR Checklist is structured around ten key topics, each of which is critical to timely and effective disaster preparedness and response. These topics include (but are not limited to): the institutional framework for disaster preparedness and response; disaster risk financing; contingency planning, education and drills; early warning and early action; states of emergency or disaster; disaster-related human mobility; housing, land and property rights in disasters; and the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. As is evident from this list of topics, the DPR Checklist and Synthesis Report address how to integrate important cross-cutting themes – such as human mobility and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence – into disaster laws, policies and plans to ensure the most vulnerable are not left behind in disaster preparedness and response.

An introductory online course on Disaster Preparedness and Response Law is available on the [IFRC Learning Platform](#).

Climate-smart disaster risk reduction



Law and regulations are essential to reducing existing risks posed by natural hazards and preventing new risks from arising. Building and construction codes may, for example, contain minimum standards designed to make buildings more resilient to local hazards, while land use and planning laws may restrict new development in areas that are highly prone to natural hazards.

In 2015, IFRC Disaster Law and the United Nations Development Programme launched the [Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR Checklist\)](#) and its accompanying guide, the [Handbook on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR Handbook\)](#), to provide practical guidance on this area of law. The DRR Checklist is designed to serve as an assessment tool to guide a review of national and local level laws and regulations. The DRR Handbook supports the Checklist by providing further guidance on how to answer the DRR Checklist questions including issues to consider, a rationale for each question, a list of the types of laws that need to be reviewed to answer the questions, and examples of good practice from different countries.

More recently, in light of the increasing number of climate- and weather-related disasters as a percentage of all disasters, IFRC Disaster Law has investigated how laws and policies can effectively reduce the risk of climate- and weather-related disasters by reducing exposure and vulnerability.³ Between 2019 and 2021, IFRC Disaster Law conducted a global research project in partnership with the University College Cork's School of Law aiming to identify successful practices and challenges in strengthening climate and disaster resilience through legislation. The project was funded by the Irish Research Council and the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, with additional financial support provided by the German Government.

Following a [Literature Review on Aligning Climate Change Adaptation \(CCA\) and Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#), four country case-studies were conducted in different continents ([Fiji and the Pacific Island Countries](#); [The Philippines](#); [Dominica](#); and [Kenya](#)). These research outputs provide informed insights and original analysis on relevant normative advancements, assessing the actual impact of more integrated law and policy on CCA and DRR at different levels, and identifying suitable models for reducing the vulnerability of the most at-risk.

A final [Global Synthesis Report on Law and Policies for Climate Resilience](#) was published in 2021, consolidating the main findings of this research project and providing a list of key recommendations for law and policymakers. The Report, which is intended as a tool for legal advocacy and technical assistance to domestic decision-makers, contains eight thematic sections, each of which addresses a specific issue necessary to improve the normative structures for climate resilience. Drawing on the country case studies, each section provides evidence on how these issues are currently addressed by domestic law in the sample countries, as well as examples of good practice.

An introductory online course on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction is available on the [IFRC Learning Platform](#).

Public health emergencies



Law and policy have underpinned all aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Laws enabled states of emergency to be declared, lockdowns to be imposed and expedited approval of medical countermeasures. Old laws, policies and contingency plans were dusted off, often proving to be outdated or inadequate, requiring the rapid development of new laws. Never have so many laws been made in so many countries in respect of one event in such a short time.

In 2020, IFRC Disaster Law embarked on the 'Law and Public Health Emergencies Research Project' to identify the key features of an effective domestic legal and policy framework for public health emergency (PHE) preparedness and response. The project involved [country-level desktop research](#) undertaken in two stages. The first stage of research was a mapping of COVID-19 emergency decrees in 113 countries during the initial stages of the pandemic. The second stage of research, which focused on 32 countries, involved a detailed assessment of domestic legal and institutional frameworks for public health emergencies.

³ See IFRC, World Disasters Report 2020 ('Come Heat or High Water: Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together'), [Chapter 6 on 'Climate-smart disaster risk governance – ensuring inclusive and coherent regulatory frameworks'](#).

IFRC Disaster Law published a report synthesising the results of the country-level research and providing a comprehensive set of recommendations: [Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (PHE Report). The PHE Report provides detailed analysis of countries' existing laws and institutional frameworks relating to PHE preparedness and response, including the protection of vulnerable groups and mitigation of secondary impacts. While the PHE Report predominantly focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic, several of the countries studied had experienced previous PHEs caused by, for example, the Zika, Ebola and SARS-CoV-1 viruses. The analysis and recommendations in the PHE Report therefore also draw, where possible, on the experiences of these other PHEs.

Based on the recommendations in the PHE Report, IFRC Disaster Law has also prepared a Guidance on Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. The principal aims of this concise Guidance are to identify key legal elements that underpin and support effective PHE preparedness and response and to serve as an assessment tool for undertaking reviews of domestic laws, policies and plans relating to PHEs. Like other IFRC Disaster Law tools, the Guidance is not intended to be prescriptive. It is, instead, intended to provide high-level recommendations that can, and should, be adapted to each country's specific constitutional, legal, political, institutional and operational environment. The Guidance comprises a list of nine key questions, which are designed to provide lawmakers, officials, and those supporting them, such as National Societies, with a structure for reviewing existing laws, policies and plans relating to PHEs.

IFRC Disaster Law has also prepared resources for National Societies facing humanitarian access challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions. These resources are available to National Societies upon request.

International disaster response



While many countries have improved their ability to mitigate and respond to disasters, no country is immune from experiencing a catastrophic event that overwhelms domestic capacity. The likelihood of such catastrophic events is, unfortunately, increasing due to climate change and the growing number of people living in vulnerable areas.

Few countries are legally prepared to receive international assistance and this can lead to a myriad of problems. Over-regulation in some areas creates bureaucratic bottlenecks that slow the entry and distribution of relief, while under-regulation in other areas can create quality and coordination issues. These problems are compounded by the increasing number and variety of international actors who may seek to provide assistance in response to large disasters.

International disaster response law (**IDRL**) is the area of disaster law which addresses the facilitation of international disaster assistance. IFRC Disaster Law is globally recognised as a leader in IDRL, having developed the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, commonly known as the [IDRL Guidelines](#).

Based on a comprehensive desk study entitled [Law and Legal Issues in International Disaster Response](#) and years of consultations with stakeholders, the IDRL Guidelines are a set of recommendations to governments about how to prepare their disaster laws and plans to mitigate the regulatory problems that commonly arise in international disaster response operations. The IDRL Guidelines address the minimum quality standards that should apply to international humanitarian assistance and the types of legal facilities humanitarian actors need to do their work effectively.

The IDRL Guidelines were adopted by the 30th International Conference in 2007 and, since then, have been widely used as a benchmarking tool for domestic governments in reviewing and strengthening their laws. In 2017, IFRC Disaster Law released a checklist based on the IDRL Guidelines. The [IDRL Checklist is an assessment tool](#) designed to assist domestic actors to identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in an existing legal framework through a series of targeted questions.

In collaboration with UN OCHA and the Inter Parliamentary Union, IFRC Disaster Law developed an [IDRL Model Act](#) and [IDRL Model Emergency Decree](#), which provide templates for how a domestic law or emergency decree can implement the key components of the IDRL Guidelines. Given the diversity of legal systems around the globe, and especially the different domestic approaches to disaster risk management, the Model Act and Model Emergency decree are designed to be adapted to the local legal and institutional context.

An introductory online course on International Disaster Response Law is available on the [IFRC learning platform](#).

Disaster recovery



Disaster recovery is a relatively new area of focus for IFRC Disaster Law. IFRC Disaster Law is currently researching the legal dimensions of disaster recovery to develop recommendations for domestic law and policy makers on this topic. In 2020, a [Literature Review](#) on this topic was completed and in 2021–2022 we are conducting country-level research into law and disaster recovery around the world.

The Literature Review discusses the international, regional and domestic legal frameworks relevant to recovery and reconstruction. It identifies and discusses a wide range of recovery and reconstruction themes including (but not limited to): post-disaster needs assessments; community/people-centred approaches to recovery; recovery in urban settings; environmental protection; disaster debris/waste management; livelihoods restoration; psychosocial recovery; the role of the private sector; recovery financing; housing, land and property rights; building codes and regulations; and internal displacement.

Interestingly, the literature demonstrates that the definition and scope of disaster recovery require consideration of the intersection and linkages between recovery and the concepts of disaster response, ‘early’ recovery, reconstruction, development, and resilience. The literature also evidences that the concept of ‘building back better’ is widely viewed as fundamental to a successful recovery process. The concept of building back better refers to using the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities.

The auxiliary role of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



The auxiliary role of a National Society is to support its public authorities by supplementing or substituting for public humanitarian services, while acting in conformity with the [Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#). The auxiliary role means that National Societies are private and independent organisations, with a recognised public function.

In 2020 IFRC Disaster Law published the [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy \(Auxiliary Guide\)](#) to provide practical guidance to National Societies about how to strengthen their auxiliary role through domestic laws, policies, plans and agreements. The Auxiliary Guide draws on insights from a collection of 30 country-level mappings commissioned by IFRC Disaster Law, as well as supplementary research into other countries’ legal arrangements. Each country mapping focuses on how a National Society’s auxiliary role is reflected in domestic laws, policies, plans and agreements.

The Auxiliary Guide has a strong focus on the role of sectoral laws and legal facilities in supporting the auxiliary role. It explains how sectoral laws – meaning laws that relate to a specific sector of activity such as a Public Health Act or Disaster Risk Management Act – can support National Societies’ auxiliary role by clearly outlining their roles and responsibilities and providing for them to be included in relevant coordination and decision-making bodies. Equally, the Auxiliary Guide discusses legal facilities, meaning special legal rights and exemptions that enable National Societies to conduct their operations more efficiently and effectively. The Auxiliary Guide identifies five key categories of legal facilities for National Societies: staff and volunteers; tax; funding; humanitarian access and freedom of movement; and disaster-related goods, equipment, and personnel.

The Auxiliary Guide is accompanied by a 30-minute online training course on the [IFRC Learning Platform](#). The online course provides a high-level overview of the content of the Guide and an interactive scenario that allows users to apply their learning.



Laos 2015 Participants from Village Disaster Preparedness Units in Laos form a line to transport water during a Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction simulation. © Bart Verweij / IFRC



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Honduras



In 2017, with technical support from IFRC Disaster Law, Honduran Red Cross started working closely with the Government of Honduras to ensure laws and regulations are in place for national and international agencies to better respond to disasters. Building on years of research and advocacy, Honduran Red Cross prepared a legal study on disaster law in 2019. The study was used to advocate for a new disaster law to serve as the ‘rules of the road’ in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

A working group was also established, made up of 16 government institutions, UN-OCHA and civil society organisations. In parallel, Honduran Red Cross and the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), with the support of IFRC Disaster Law, met with members of the Government of Honduras to highlight the need for legislative reform. A joint commitment was made to form a group of experts accompanied by an adviser to the National Congress, who would begin drafting a preliminary bill.

In November 2020, as hurricanes Eta and Iota tore through the country affecting more than one million people as well as livelihoods, water and health systems, the National Congress of Honduras passed a new law to ensure regulations are in place for national and international agencies to better respond to disasters. The new law, entitled ‘Law for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance in case of disasters and initial recovery’, was adopted by Congress and, subsequently, endorsed by Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez on 14 November 2020.

This represented the culmination of many years of work by Honduran Red Cross, in partnership with Government and with technical support from IFRC Disaster Law. The new law incorporates key International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) elements and is the first law based on the IDRL Model Act to be adopted in the Americas. Abner Laitano, a Honduran Red Cross volunteer Legal Advisor, said “before the law, procedural requirements used to slow the transit and entry of donations in times of national crisis, the approval of the law means that there will be immediate measures to protect human dignity”.

Honduran Red Cross continues to work with the Government to develop a new regulation to better operationalise the law. The law also institutes an IDRL Working Group, composed of key government representatives (from the Ministries of Disaster Risk Management, Migration, Foreign Affairs, and Customs, among others), as well as Honduran Red Cross and IFRC. Since 2020, the IDRL Working Group has been working to develop the IDRL Law Regulation, formally submitted to COPECO in August 2022.

Uganda



Over the last two decades, Uganda has experienced increasingly frequent and severe weather-related disasters. To mitigate the effects of this trend, the country has made significant progress in implementing the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#), having established a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Management Committees at the district level, and a National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC).

However, there is still a need for a more comprehensive disaster law and for legislation that strengthens disaster-related institutions and their accountability. Uganda Red Cross Society and IFRC are working to support the Office of the Prime Minister and national authorities to develop a Disaster Risk Management Bill.

Uganda Red Cross Society and IFRC outlined the need for such a Bill in their 2011 [International Disaster Response Law in Uganda](#) report. The report provided an analysis of Uganda's legal and policy frameworks, with a particular focus on common legal issues related to receiving international disaster assistance. Recommendations were focused around implementing disaster risk management, public health emergencies and international disaster response law in Uganda's legislative and institutional frameworks. The report prompted the government to review and update its legal framework for disaster risk management.

The new Bill will aim towards an integrated and coordinated approach for disaster risk management. The Bill will also seek to set guidelines for key stakeholders in relation to disaster preparedness, mitigation and management. The Bill is currently in drafting, with many national stakeholders involved in the process.

In 2021, the development of a climate change law in Uganda, the National Climate Change Act, provided a platform for public dialogue in Uganda about climate change and disaster risk management. Before the Act was passed, Uganda Red Cross Society developed an engagement strategy on the importance of adaptive climate measures, as well as dissemination plans and policy dialogues to help local communities and other key actors understand the law and prepare for its implementation. Women, students, academia and communities participated in the dialogues to ensure that protection, gender and inclusion were key elements of the new law.

Consistent with its ongoing effort to strengthen its legal framework for climate-smart disaster risk management, the Government of Uganda has also recognised the important role and responsibilities of the Uganda Red Cross Society. The new Uganda Red Cross Society Act legally formalises the role of Uganda Red Cross Society as auxiliary to the Government of Uganda in the humanitarian sphere. The Act was passed in March 2021 and is awaiting presidential assent.



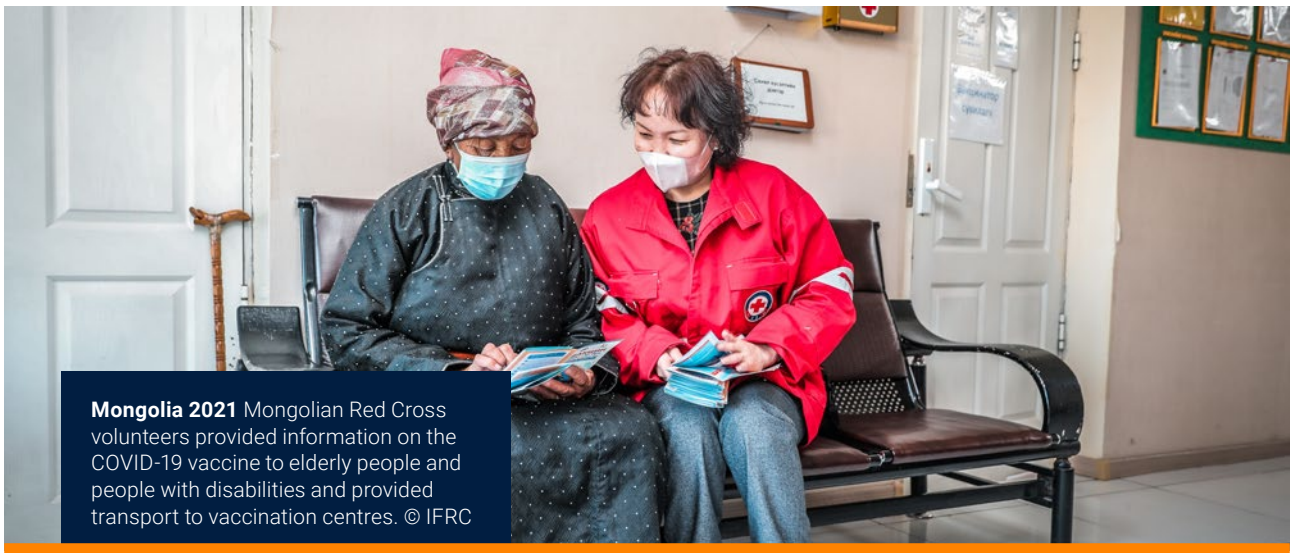
Fiji 2016 Tropical Cyclone Winston, a category 5 cyclone, was the biggest cyclone to ever hit Fiji. Clean water and sanitation were two areas of urgent need after the cyclone. © Paul Grierson/IFRC

In 2016, Tropical Cyclone Winston tore through Fiji destroying homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. 43 people were killed, 62 per cent of the population was affected and cyclone-related losses were estimated at 32 per cent of Fiji's GDP.

Following the cyclone, the Government of Fiji decided it needed to strengthen and update its disaster law, policies and procedures. The Government asked Red Cross to assist and in 2018 an MOU was signed to review the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 and the National Disaster Management Plan 1995. Fiji Red Cross, as an auxiliary to the Government and a longstanding partner, and IFRC, with its disaster law expertise, were natural choices for the Government.

A technical working group, that included Fiji Red Cross Society's Disaster Coordinator and IFRC's Suva-based Disaster Law Manager, was set up to review the current law and plan. The working group held consultations at national and local levels for relevant government departments, at-risk communities and non-government actors including civil society, religious groups, the private sector, and academia. This extensive participation and stakeholder engagement provided opportunities for people's voices to be included in disaster law decision making, both collectively and individually.

A key recommendation that emerged from consultations was to strengthen subnational and community risk governance. This recommendation has been taken on board in the draft text of the Disaster Risk Management Bill, which sets out the establishment of disaster risk management committees at subnational and community level. These committees will have community-based disaster risk management plans. They will be the focal point for communicating risk to their communities and support communication of risk from their community to the national level.



Mongolia 2021 Mongolian Red Cross volunteers provided information on the COVID-19 vaccine to elderly people and people with disabilities and provided transport to vaccination centres. © IFRC

4 / DISASTER LAW RESOURCES



IFRC Disaster Law has developed many resources designed to increase understanding and awareness of disaster law not only within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement but also within government, civil society, the humanitarian sector, and academia. Some of the resources developed by IFRC Disaster Law are open access while others are available upon request to disaster.law@ifrc.org

Online Training Courses

Introduction to International Disaster Response Law - When the impacts of a disaster overwhelm the capacity of local actors, there can be a role for international actors to supplement the local response. Yet, unless the local legal system is prepared for international assistance, legal barriers can prevent the right assistance reaching the right people on time. This online training module introduces common legal problems faced during international disaster response operations and how they can be mitigated.

Introduction to Disaster Preparedness and Response Law - Effective disaster preparedness and response is underpinned by robust laws, policies and plans. This online training module introduces the key elements of an effective legal and policy framework for disaster preparedness and response. It addresses institutional frameworks, funding, 'early warning early action', states of disaster/emergency, protection of vulnerable groups and legal facilities.

Law and Disaster Risk Reduction - Well-crafted laws and regulations can help to save lives and livelihoods from the impacts of disasters. This online training module explains what types of laws are effective for disaster risk reduction (DRR), using a fictional scenario to guide the learner through the key issues.

Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy - This online training module introduces the auxiliary role and explains how it can be strengthened by laws, policies, plans and agreements. The module also provides an introduction to how to advocate to get new laws in place, or influence changes to existing ones. This module is based on the [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#).

Getting Ready for Red Cross and Red Crescent Advocacy - Advocacy is not as complicated as many people think – essentially, it means pushing for a change to law, policy or practice. However, there are a number of aspects of advocacy that must be done well for it to work effectively. This online training module is designed to provide members of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with an introduction to how to develop and implement an advocacy strategy, while keeping in line with the Fundamental Principles.

These courses are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

IFRC Disaster Law Database

The [IFRC Disaster Law Database](#) was established to bring together in one place the resources needed for practitioners and academics working in the field of disaster law. The materials in the Database are from the international, regional and domestic levels, and from a wide range of actors including states, international organisations, the IFRC and academic institutions.

Thanks to partnerships with academic institutions, and financial support from the German Government, the Database is a living and constantly updated resource, which is easy to search. It is organised by the following eight categories:

- Case law
- Documents of international organisations
- Documents of transnational private actors
- Documents of treaty bodies
- Literature
- National documents
- Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement documents
- Treaties

All documents are available in PDF format and, where available, translations are provided.

Legislative Advocacy Toolkit

Legislative advocacy means pushing for a change to law or policy. The Legislative Advocacy Toolkit is designed to be used by the IFRC and National Societies to strengthen their legislative advocacy knowledge and skills. The Toolkit is a comprehensive training package comprising a Facilitators' Guide, a Participants' Handbook and a set of handouts, templates and reference documents. The Toolkit focuses on the "how to" and provides a step-by-step guide to developing and implementing a National Society-owned advocacy strategy. The Toolkit is a useful resource to support a range of advocacy initiatives – not only those supported by IFRC Disaster Law, but by other programmes and departments too. The Toolkit is available upon request to disaster.law@ifrc.org.

Know Your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities (3Rs) Facilitator Guide

Strengthening disaster laws and their implementation, particularly at the local level, has been identified as a key priority in global and regional multilateral commitments, such as the Sendai Framework. The "Know Your 3Rs" dissemination module aims to strengthen awareness and implementation at sub-national and community level of the rights, roles and responsibilities established by climate and disaster-related laws and policies. It can easily be adapted and used to support the awareness and implementation of other relevant emergency frameworks, such as those relating to public health emergencies. The Know Your 3Rs Facilitator Guide offers a step-by-step approach to delivering the 3Rs module and is available on request to disaster.law@ifrc.org

Yearbook of International Disaster Law

The [Yearbook of International Disaster Law](#) represents a hub for critical debate in this area of research and policy, aiming to foster the interest of academics, practitioners, stakeholders and policy-makers on legal and institutional issues relevant to all forms of natural and human-made hazards. The Yearbook primarily addresses the international legal dimension of relevant topics, alongside important regional and national legal dimensions. The Yearbook features a 'Thematic Section' devoted to an in-depth analysis of a specific topic, as well as a 'General Section' which contains papers addressing diverse issues pertaining to international disaster law.

The Yearbook also has an 'International Disaster Law in Practice' section comprising short articles on significant developments at the international, regional and domestic levels. IFRC Disaster Law, through its regional and country-level officers, is instrumental to facilitating the identification of relevant developments to be included in this section and provides annual financial support for it to be made [available as an open access source](#). The section is a useful reference for researchers and practitioners alike, enabling the identification of key developments and best practice in the field of disaster law.



IFRC Disaster Law works with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments to strengthen disaster risk governance, through the development and implementation of disaster and emergency-related legislation, policies and procedures. With 20 years of experience supporting the development and implementation of disaster law and policy around the world, we are the global leader in disaster law technical advice to governments.