

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAW (IDRL)

Appeal no. 01.100/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a global programme and related activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Click on figures below to go to the detailed budget

	2004 (in CHF)
International disaster response laws (IDRL)	733,689
Total	733,689¹

Context

Every year, millions of people are affected by natural and man-made disasters. Every year, the international community is faced with the challenge of responding to crises that exceed the capacities of national infrastructures, by assisting with essential tasks such as the protection of survivors and the immediate assistance to communities in desperate need of the most basic necessities such as food, shelter and safe drinking water. International disaster response is therefore essential for saving lives, retaining human dignity and reducing the vulnerability of disaster-affected communities. Yet, despite the continuous need for fast and effective international disaster response, there remain many barriers which prevent or delay assistance from reaching those who need it.

Unlike situations of armed conflict, there are no well recognised and comprehensive legal instruments which identify internationally agreed rules, principles and standards for the protection and assistance of people affected by natural and technological disasters. Nor is there one single source where humanitarian workers and governments can find this information. As a result, many international disaster response operations are subject to ad hoc rules and systems, which vary dramatically from country to country and impede the provision of fast and effective assistance - putting lives and dignity at risk.

Background and achievements/lessons to date

¹ USD 568,395 or EUR 471,233.

In 2001 The International Disaster Response Law Project was initiated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), in response to the growing concern within the international community, including the worldwide network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (national societies), as to the adequacy of existing legal and other mechanisms to facilitate humanitarian activities in response to natural and technological disasters.

In particular [resolution 5 of the Council of Delegates](#) of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in November 2001 requested the International Federation to:

- advocate for the development and, where applicable, the improvement and faithful application of International Disaster Response Law through in particular, but not limited to, the compilation and publication of existing international laws and regulations, and the evaluation of their actual effectiveness in humanitarian operations;
- engage or, where applicable, continue the dialogue with governments and promote appropriate disaster response laws and regulations, allowing relief actors to meet the needs of the disaster victims in the most effective way.

During 2002 and 2003 the International Federation undertook a number of activities relating to the various directives of the Council of Delegates, namely:

- [Global research](#), to collect and analyse existing legal and other instruments relevant to IDRL, during which documents were collected from United Nations repositories and from over 30 countries spanning nearly every region. This research focussed primarily on international and regional instruments. These instruments will be included in a searchable CD rom database (due December 2003);
- [Field studies](#) were conducted in over 15 countries to examine the relationship between existing IDRL and practices in the field, with particular reference to a number of challenges experienced during disaster response operations. This process also examined the effectiveness of national and local laws, policies and disaster response mechanisms as well as international and legal instruments;
- [Consultations and advocacy](#) in a number of international forums to raise awareness and discussion of issues relating to IDRL, in particular involving states and the UN system;
- Publication of a series of papers written by legal, academic and disaster management experts on topics related IDRL (due December 2003).

All of these processes contributed to the [International Disaster Response Laws Project Report 2002-2003](#), which contains the key findings relating to the current nature and scope of existing IDRL and recommendations for the future study and development of this area for the improvement of international disaster response. This report will be presented to the [28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent](#) in December 2003 and the recommendations form the basis of the actions proposed for adoption by the Conference.

The IDRL Project Report makes a number of recommendations, which will guide the International Federation's continued work on IDRL in 2004 and beyond, namely:

- achieving greater understanding and acceptance of the term "IDRL" and its the nature, scope and content.
- the identification and inclusion of core principles of IDRL in all international, regional and national disaster response instruments
- improved implementation of IDRL instruments that facilitate international disaster response.
- continued development and promotion of IDRL.

This Global Programme is designed to implement the key recommendations arising from research and consultations so far, as well as the actions adopted by the 28th International Conference.

This IDRL Global Programme is seen as making important contribution to the achievement of improving the lives of vulnerable people in accordance with the objectives of the [International Federation's Strategy 2010](#). In particular, it seeks to achieve the specific objectives of mobilizing the network to respond to disasters that exceed local and national capacities and improving the speed and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms.

Similarly, the work on IDRL is linked to several International Federation objectives for 2004-7, including the improvement of cooperation and coordination within the Movement and with states and international organisations, the improvement of the Movement's response to situations of disaster and the development of the capacity of national societies to engage with governments on issues concerning IDRL.

The IDRL Project has been the subject of discussions at two Regional Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In November 2002, the [VIth Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#) in Manila adopted an [Action Plan](#), which included support for the IDRL Project. The Manila Action Plan commits the 49 national societies in Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East, to a series of activities that aim to improve the lives of disaster victims, including an undertaking to encourage governments to promote a greater understanding, coherence and consistency in relation to IDRL.

Similarly, the [XXVIIth Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross](#), comprising some 35 national societies, undertook to “promote a better understanding, and commitment to national and international disaster law among respective governments in order to facilitate better disaster prevention, preparedness and response.”

The value of the International Federation’s work on IDRL has been recognised and welcomed not only within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but also in a number of other international and inter-governmental forums. In particular, it has been the subject of several interventions by the International Federation in various other international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as some functional commissions and in Specialised Agencies. It was first described to the UN General Assembly during the [Special Session on Human Settlements in 2001](#), and was brought firmly into the context of the United Nations system in 2002 by a reference in the Report of the Secretary-General on the [Strengthening of the Co-ordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations](#).

More recently, the work of the International Federation has been noted by the General Assembly in [resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002](#) on Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue, an instrument which serves as positive example of recent improvements to existing IDRL. The work done since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/150 has also been noted in the Secretary-General’s [2003 Report on the Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance](#). The resolution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in April 2003 on [International Cooperation for the Prevention and Management of Transborder Natural Disasters](#) also notes the International Federation’s IDRL Project and encourages parliaments to make good use of the final project report.

Thus, the value of IDRL in improving international disaster response and reducing the impact of disaster on vulnerable people has been widely recognised. However, the work so far has only marked the beginning of a much longer process, reflected in the actions adopted by the 28th International Conference and forming the basis of this Global Appeal.

Goal: In conformity with Strategy 2010 and proposed actions from the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, IDRL aims to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by natural and technological disasters by utilising the expertise and knowledge base of the International Federation to lead international efforts to improve international disaster response through the promotion and strengthening of IDRL.

Objective: build the knowledge base on IDRL for the benefit of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the international community.

Expected programme results; and related projects for this objective:

- continue process of global research on existing IDRL, including the collection and analysis of relevant laws, instruments and tools;
- continue examining the links between existing IDRL and operational experiences and needs through field studies and surveys in a range of countries and regions;
- coordination of national society research activities and development of regional expertise;
- highlight the core principles and identify legal trends in IDRL;
- identification, development or contribution to model agreements, laws and policies on international disaster response;
- encourage international research on IDRL both within and external to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Objective: facilitate better implementation of IDRL by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, governments, international organizations and the international community.

Expected programme results; and related projects for this objective:

- develop practical tools to facilitate implementation of IDRL, including but not limited to, the development of a handbook and CD ROM containing the basic instruments, core principles and best practice examples of IDRL and its use in a field context;
- development and delivery of training materials on IDRL for internal and external disaster managers and other relevant personnel; and
- incorporate the core principles and rules of IDRL into Federation disaster management and preparedness policies and training activities.

Objective: to advocate for the continued research, development and implementation of IDRL by states and international organizations, utilizing the network of national societies.

Expected programme results; and related projects for this objective:

- support national societies in advocating with governments and other relevant organizations in reviewing national laws and policies and in developing and adopting disaster preparedness and response plans, which include reference to core principles and rules of IDRL;
- undertake international advocacy activities on issues of concern to IDRL;
- consult with a wide range of stakeholders and experts on the analysis, development and implementation of IDRL, including the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, governments, inter-governmental and international organizations, and academic, legal and disaster management sectors;
- develop networks and knowledge sharing strategies with governments, international organisations, national societies and other relevant civil society organizations;
- support and coordinate national or regional activities related to IDRL, such as conferences.

For further information please contact: Governance Support and Legal Department; Victoria Bannon, IDRL Project Coordinator; Email: victoria.bannon@ifrc.org; Phone: +41 22 730 4360 ; Fax: +41 22 733 0395

[Budget below – click here to return to the title page](#)

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.100/2004

Name: International Disaster Response Law

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	47,689	0	0	0	0	47,689
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	47,689	0	0	0	0	47,689
Personnel-delegates	0	466,000	0	0	0	0	466,000
Personnel-national staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
PERSONNEL	0	516,000	0	0	0	0	516,000
W/shops & Training	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Travel & related expenses	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Information	0	60,000	0	0	0	0	60,000
Other General costs	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	10,000
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	120,000	0	0	0	0	120,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	733,689	0	0	0	0	733,689