

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAWS (IDRL)

14 July 2004

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.*

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.100/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to June, 2004; Appeal target: CHF 733,689 (USD 568,395 or EUR 471,233); Appeal coverage: 48%; Outstanding needs: CHF 364,000 (USD 297,294 or EUR 239,821).** [Click here for Contributions List](#)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None.**

**Programme summary:** in an effort to promote better understanding, implementation and development of laws, rules and principles to ensure the fast and effective facilitation of international disaster response for the benefit of vulnerable populations, in 2001, the International Federation conducted an initial 2-year research process to collect and examine the various international laws, practices, guidelines and other relevant instruments which related to international disaster response activities. Following the actions on IDRL adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003, the work on IDRL now enters a new phase in 2004. This work focuses on the harmonization of the laws, rules and principles at all levels which are relevant to international disaster response operations, to ensure that they are complimentary and work to facilitate and enhance international disaster response efforts. This is clearly a long-term objective which will require the commitment and support of many sectors of the international community. Thus, the work on IDRL will need to focus on a number of areas: continuing the research process to develop our knowledge and understanding of the existing legal and regulatory framework; analysing and clarifying the underlying principles which guide international disaster response, which could be used as a basis for harmonising national, regional and international systems of law, policy and practice; developing partnerships between all facets of the international community to better implement the instruments which facilitate and enhance international disaster response; and continuing to advocate for better awareness and understanding of IDRL and for commitments to improve it for the benefit of disaster affected populations.

**For further information specifically related to this programme please contact:** In Geneva: Legal Affairs Unit, Victoria Bannon, IDRL Programme Coordinator, [victoria.bannon@ifrc.org](mailto:victoria.bannon@ifrc.org), Phone 41.22.730.4360; Fax: 41.22.730.4929

*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at*

<http://www.ifrc.org>

## Operational developments

The IDRL Coordinator was appointed in March 2004, supported by AusAID and the Australian Red Cross. The Austrian Red Cross also made a significant contribution to this appeal. Following from developments of the International Conference in 2003, the IDRL Strategic Plan was developed to guide the International Federation's work on IDRL up until the next International Conference in 2007. A more detailed work plan was developed for 2004-2005 which includes the activities outlined in this Global Appeal. The research and field study programme is now under way and a number of consultation activities are planned for the second half of 2004.

## International disaster response laws (IDRL)

**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.**

### Progress/Achievements:

- Legal intern appointed for the continued collection and analysis of international materials relevant to IDRL and to examine, through research and consultations, a process for identifying core principles.
- Preparation and development of methodology for IDRL legal and field research in Asia-Pacific underway.
- Support of research initiative on Belgian and EU law by Belgian Red Cross (Fr) and other National Society initiatives under discussion.
- Research partnerships being explored with United Nations University, DHL and other interested stakeholders including the UN system.

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

### Progress/Achievements:

- Staff on loan from Iranian Red Crescent made available for 3 months to contribute to IDRL case study on Bam earthquake
- Consultations planned for development IDRL fact sheets and handbook containing summaries of IDRL on identified subject areas and case studies, for use by operational personnel.
- Incorporation of IDRL information exchange within Federation disaster management and preparedness training activities put in place
- Proposal to incorporate IDRL information into Federation operations evaluation materials

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

### Progress/Achievements:

- Two new IDRL Fact Sheets developed to promote International Conference Agenda for Humanitarian Action and the IDRL Strategic Plan 2004-07.
- New format for IDRL Mailing List was developed and the first update was distributed to over 200 subscribers.
- Press release and updated information on the imminent entry into force of the Tampere Convention planned (see IDRL Fact Sheet 4), subject to the final ratifications/accessions being deposited with the UN.

**IDRL; Appeal no. 01.100/2004; Programme Update no. 1**

- Briefing for a number of Permanent Missions in Geneva on the IDRL Strategic Plan was held in June.
- Support and contribution to initiative of by Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society for a conference on IDRL implementation and training in the Balkans region planned for September 2004;
- Advocacy activities on issues of concern to IDRL undertaken for UN ECOSOC and planned for Wilton Park and other international and regional events;
- Consultations with wide range of stakeholders on to be conducted as part of Asia-Pacific Study and identification of core principles.

**Impact:** As acknowledged by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003, the improved understanding and better use of the laws, rules and principles which facilitate international disaster will make a significant impact on the ability for international disaster response to occur quickly and effectively when needed. Thus, the work on IDRL will ultimately benefit disaster affected populations who depend on international relief efforts to assist them to respond and recover from large scale disaster.

**Constraints:** Opportunities are now being explored for additional staff to assist with research, consultations and online communications strategy.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

# International Disaster Response Law

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.100/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/07/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

### CASH

					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>733,690</b>		<b>48.2%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				134,557		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT				161,805	05.04.04	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER
AUSTRIAN - RC		13,000	EUR	20,274	09.04.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				316,636	CHF	43.2%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRAN	DELEGATE(S)			37,000		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				37,000	CHF	5.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	