

# 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)

16 December 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. 2, Period covered: July - December, 2004; Appeal target: CHF 733,680 (USD 568,395 or EUR 471,233); Appeal coverage: 59.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 299,259  
[Click here for Contributions List](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None.

**Programme summary:** This programme strives 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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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

A short-term position was filled to assist with IDRL communications, in particular the development of IDRL Fact Sheets, mailing list and websites. The major activity for the second half of this year was the Asia-Pacific Study, which involved both legal research and field studies. The majority of this work is now completed and the final report is being prepared. The Norwegian Red Cross and British Red Cross Societies have made further contributions to the IDRL Programme of nearly CHF100,000. Other activities included providing input into the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe in January 2005, as well as presentations and workshops both within and outside of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

## 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:

- IDRL legal and field major research in Asia-Pacific completed. Studies conducted in Fiji, Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia. Information now being compiled into a report.
- Research completed on processes for identifying IDRL “core principles”.
- Partnership agreed in principle with United Nations University for research support and hosting a workshop on IDRL in 2005.
- Partnership activities agreed with DHL to assist with research in the area of customs and disaster relief goods/equipment.
- Preparations underway to extend legal/field research process to Americas region in 2005.
- Discussions underway with UNOCHA for partnership on “core principles” initiative.

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

### Progress/Achievements:

- Asia-Pacific Study used as an opportunity for consultations on the development IDRL fact sheets and handbook containing summaries of IDRL on identified subject areas, case studies and best practice examples, for use by operational personnel.
- Consultations with IFRC Logistics on strategies to promote faster customs processes for relief goods. Proposals being developed with assistance of DHL.

**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:

- Workshops on IDRL undertaken with wide range of stakeholders, including governments, international organisations and NGOs, were conducted as part of Asia-Pacific Study.
- A short-term IDRL communications position was filled in Geneva.
- New IDRL Fact Sheets developed on the Asia-Pacific Study and an overall Programme Summary.
- IDRL section on FedNet launched for Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.
- IDRL Mailing List was further updated and distributed to over 200 subscribers.
- Advocacy activities on IDRL issues were undertaken in various forums including: Balkans Conference on IDRL Implementation and Training; Wilton Park Conference on the Immediate Response to Disasters; ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management; Stability Pact Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

**IDRL; Appeal no. 01.100/2004; Programme Update no. 2**

Initiative Meeting; Annual National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society Legal Advisors Meeting; World Customs Organisation/UNJLC Workshop on Customs.

- Preparations underway for significant IDRL representation at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe 2005.

**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:**

Appeal for 2004 not fully covered, therefore additional personnel recruitment did not occur.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page](#)

# International Disaster Response Law

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.100/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				733,690	TOTAL COVERAGE 59.2%	
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	
BRITISH - RC		2,500	GBP	5,715	28.09.04	
NORWEGIAN - RC		500,000	NOK	93,750	27.10.04	IDRL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				416,101	CHF	56.7%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRAN	DELEGATE(S)			18,600		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				18,600	CHF	2.5%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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