

Appeal 2005



INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAWS, RULES AND PRINCIPLES

Appeal no. 05AA091

Appeal target: CHF 700,577¹

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 2005, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning this programme please direct questions to: Victoria Bannon, Programme Coordinator; International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL); email: Victoria.bannon@ifrc.org or website: www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/idrl/ and e-mail: idrl@ifrc.org

For programmes or operations in 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

Programme title	2005
Disaster Management	700,577
Total	700,577²

Context

Every year, the international community responds to the challenge of non-conflict disasters that exceed the capacities of national infrastructures. In addition to the many difficulties posed by the sheer scale of these disasters, affected countries and the international humanitarian community also face many challenges which often escape the world's attention. For example, lengthy customs processes for relief goods, difficulties obtaining over-flight or landing rights, limitations on the use of communications equipment and visa restrictions can cause serious delays to the delivery of urgently needed disaster response activities. Similarly, lack of coordination and consultation, poor quality of assistance and a failure to adhere to basic humanitarian principles can hamper the effectiveness of international assistance and can encourage increased regulatory barriers which further delay essential relief and recovery processes.

¹ USD 600,631 or EUR 461,090.

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The International Federation's recent research on IDRL shows that many of these issues have been considered at various times over the past decades. They have been the subject of some 300 different international instruments, ranging from treaties, to resolutions, to guidelines and recommendations. However it is also apparent that these instruments, whilst containing many important laws, rules and principles, have not enjoyed wide recognition or implementation during disaster operations and thus have had limited impact.

Thus it is imperative that the international community continue to search for solutions to better understand and implement the various laws, rules and principles which could help improve international assistance and save lives. This will help to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of international disaster response and ensure that it can be provided in a timely and coordinated manner.

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Examining the international legal framework:

In 2002 and 2003, the International Federation conducted global research into the existing international legal framework and the many practical challenges affecting international disaster response. The results of this research included:

- the publication of a series of field studies from different countries and regions exploring the link between operational challenges and the international legal and regulatory framework for international disaster response;
- a collection of over 300 international and regional instruments published on CD ROM, including multilateral and bilateral treaties, resolutions of the United Nations, the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, resolutions and decision of other international and regional bodies, standards and guidelines developed by the humanitarian sector and many others;
- publication of a book on "International disaster response laws, principles and practice: reflections, prospects and challenges", containing papers written by experts on various topics of IDRL; and
- the IDRL Project Report for 2002-2003 containing the overall findings from the research work and recommendations for future action in this area.

In December 2003, the International Federation presented the IDRL Project Report to the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. States and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement acknowledged the importance of a coherent and harmonized legal and regulatory framework for international disaster response and adopted a number of specific actions for governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement over the coming years. Included in this was a commitment by the International Federation and National Societies to lead collaborative efforts involving states, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to disseminate, clarify and implement the existing laws, rules and principles to better facilitate and improve international disaster response efforts.

Developing a strategic plan for work on IDRL for 2004-2007

In 2004 the International Federation developed the IDRL Strategic Plan for 2004-2007, which identifies the ways in which the International Federation will contribute to the tasks identified by the International Conference, to be reported on at the next International Conference in 2007.

The Strategic Plan focuses on four core areas of work:

- continuing the research process to identify and analyse existing IDRL instruments at the international, regional and national levels;
- exploring ways to consolidate the various laws, rules and principles into an instrument (such as "core principles") which could be used as an advocacy tool and as the basis for harmonising national, regional and international disaster response laws and mechanisms.
- identifying practical ways to apply IDRL core principles and rules more readily during operations, to integrate them within national and regional legal and disaster management systems and organization policies and practice, and to collect case studies which could serve as best practice examples and models.

- undertaking advocacy and promotion initiatives to improve understanding about IDRL and to actively engage other sectors of the international community and civil society, in particular governments, to make improvements to national, regional and international disaster response systems.

Highlights and achievements in 2004

In 2004, the International Federation commenced the first phase of the IDRL Strategic Plan. In particular the following activities were achieved:

Research:

- continued collection of international and regional instruments applicable to international disaster response;
- examination and comparison of national legal frameworks for international disaster response and collection of best practice, commencing with a study in the Asia-Pacific region with specific research conducted in Fiji, Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar. Preliminary report due in December 2004;
- facilitation and support of initiatives by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to research IDRL in their country / region. These initiatives included a study on IDRL in Belgium by the Belgian Red Cross (Fr), research undertaken by the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross to develop a number of practical recommendations for Balkans governments which were adopted by a meeting of Balkans National Societies; research on IDRL in Papua New Guinea with the support of Australian Red Cross.

Clarification:

- research and recommendations for identifying “core principles” for international disaster response from the various international instruments, and the development of a series of practical implementing guidelines, drawn from existing IDRL and best practice examples.
- preliminary consultation meetings to determine the feasibility of developing of such a tool and the process/stakeholders involved.

Application and implementation:

- continued collection of case studies on the legal challenges/good practice for international disaster response operations, including a case study on the Bam earthquake and examples from the Asia-Pacific region collected during the Asia-Pacific study field research
- inclusion of IDRL information in the International Federation’s Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response.
- providing information upon request to organisations and governments in the process of reviewing their laws and policies concerning international disaster response operations

Advocacy and partnerships:

- continued development of partnerships, both formal and informal, with relevant stakeholders including United Nations agencies, the United Nations University, disaster research institutes, inter-governmental bodies and the private sector.
- recognition of the Federation’s work on IDRL included in the UN Secretary-General’s Report to the General Assembly and ECOSOC on Strengthening the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations (UN Doc A/59/93 – E/2004/74)
- participation in a number of conferences and meetings to advocate for the continued development and implementation of IDRL (full list available on the IDRL website).

Goal: A harmonized legal and regulatory framework which enhances and facilitates international disaster response and thereby contributes to saving lives and reducing the vulnerability of disaster affected populations.

Objective 1: Identification and collection of the relevant laws, rules and principles relevant to the facilitation of international disaster response.

Expected programme results for this objective:

- continue collection and publication of IDRL instruments;
- conduct specific research on regional and national IDRL instruments, with a focus on the Americas region

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- encourage and facilitate IDRL research in other regions utilizing the resources of National Societies, IFRC delegations, universities, the UN and others.

Objective 2: Further clarification of the nature and scope of existing laws, rules and principles relevant to the facilitation of international disaster response, including any gaps and weaknesses.

Expected programme results for this objective:

- finalization of concept paper for the identification of “core principles” of IDRL and accompanying implementing guidelines;
- launch the core principles and guidelines project through expert consultation meetings with academics and operations personnel;
- conduct wider consultations involving states, the United Nations and other organizations and experts;
- commence the process of defining core principles, including research for developing implementing guidelines as a way of implementing the core principles in national and organizational laws, policies and practice, including the development of model agreements and other practical tools.

Objective 3: Improved application, implementation and adherence to the relevant laws, rules and principles which facilitate international disaster response.

Expected programme results for this objective: improved understanding of the way in which IDRL can enhance and facilitate international disaster response and facilitate its practical application through the following activities:

- continue collection of case studies from current international disaster response operations in particular through IFRC regional DM delegates, and added to database, with a focus on the Americas region.
- feed the key issues / trends arising from case studies into the process for developing implementing guidelines (above).
- encourage the ratification / implementation / application of specific IDRL instruments where appropriate
- incorporate IDRL information into IFRC disaster preparedness and management tools and training where appropriate.
- IDRL officers attend where appropriate the coordination and task force meetings of disaster response operation within and outside the Federation and provide information on IDRL as needed.

Objective 4: Improved awareness of the existence, importance and utility of the laws, rules and principles relevant to the facilitation of international disaster response

Expected programme results for this objective: increased awareness and acceptance of IDRL within relevant sectors of the international community and improved understanding of the collaborative leadership role of the Federation and national societies to be achieved through the following:

- conduct and facilitate workshops / seminars on IDRL for stakeholders in different regions, including a workshop and publication in collaboration with the United Nations University;
- as the lead role institution, present IDRL to the United Nations and the relevant international community, which includes the ISDR Conference in Kobe, UN ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly;
- conduct promotion and advocacy activities with emphasis on the following groups: Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; Academic / research institutes; Disaster management; Government; UN; Inter-Governmental Organizations; NGOs and the Private sector and develop networks of contacts on IDRL through meetings and mailing lists;
- support the formation of partnerships with international organizations, governments, NGOs and the private sector and continue collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;
- develop website capabilities to enhance promotion, awareness and information sharing on IDRL, including the IDRL library and case study database.

Please find detailed budget below; [click here to return to the title page and contact details](#)

BUDGET 2005

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 05AA091

Name: INT'L DISASTER RESPONSE LAW (IDRL)

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	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000
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	45,537	0	0	0	0	45,537
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	45,537	0	0	0	0	45,537
Personnel-delegates	0	387,000	0	0	0	0	387,000
Personnel-national staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants	0	70,000	0	0	0	0	70,000
PERSONNEL	0	457,000	0	0	0	0	457,000
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	60,000	0	0	0	0	60,000
Information	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Other General costs	0	36,040	0	0	0	0	36,040
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	146,040	0	0	0	0	146,040
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	700,577	0	0	0	0	700,577