

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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAWS, RULES & PRINCIPLES (IDRL)

December 2005

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA091; Appeal target: CHF 700,578. Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: September - December 2005; Appeal coverage: 43.3%

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

The IDRL Programme seeks to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by non-armed conflict disasters by raising awareness, promoting the implementation, and encouraging the strengthening of laws, rules and principles that ensure a timely, adequate and efficient international response to disasters, where international involvement is needed.

IDRL pursues this goal in consultation with major stakeholders (NS, Governments, IGOs, NGOs and academics).

As mandated by the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003, the Federation's International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Programme has continued to compile, analyze and raise awareness of the laws, rules and principles pertinent to international disaster response and to advocate for the implementation, strengthening and harmonization of this regulatory framework at the national and international levels.

Appeal support and coverage. This appeal was 43% funded thanks to a carry-over from 2004 and additional contributions from the Australian, British, Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross National Societies. We also thank the French Red Cross for extending an assistant to the programme.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: In Geneva: Legal Affairs Unit, Katrien Beeckman, IDRL Resource Mobilisation & Advocacy Officer, katrien.beeckman@ifrc.org; Phone 41.22.730.42.56; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

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>

Progress achieved in the realisation of the 2005 Global Appeal objectives

OBJECTIVE 1. Compilation: Enlarge the collection and dissemination of IDRL laws, rules and principles.

Progress/Achievements

- **Surveys: expected result obtained.** Questionnaires have been finalized for governments, national societies, NGOs, international organizations, and private firms and will be put on line on the IDRL web-site in February 2006. Their aim is threefold: 1) to further collect national instruments, 2) to systematically take stock of operational challenges encountered by these different types of actors, and finally 3) to identify their needs and view with regard to a potential strengthening of the current IDRL framework. Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies will coordinate their distribution and follow-up with their national authorities. The collaborator extended to the programme by the French Red Cross has been able to conduct 20 phone interviews with Federation personnel members working on disaster management, both at headquarters and in the field.
- **Data-base: expected result obtained.** All previously contained international and regional instruments in the CD-Rom have been codified with a view to their insertion in the public web-based database. The data-base is now finalized and will be put on the web early February. General and in-depth search will be possible by type of document (including national legislation), by country, by type and phase of disaster and by detailed thematic search. Main identified users will be lawyers, disaster managers as well as governments interested in legislative or policy review in the disaster response field. A powerpoint demonstration of the data-base is available.

The screenshot displays a web-based search interface for IDRL documents. On the left, there is a search filter section titled 'Hike documents filter'. It includes a text input for 'Document title', a dropdown for 'Language' set to 'All', and a section for 'Search on document sets, where sets are included' with several dropdown menus. Below this is a 'Select a country' section with a list of regions: Africa, Asia, San Pacific, Europe, and World/International Africa, each with a checkbox. Underneath is a 'Select a category' section with a list of categories: 1. Evaluation of response, 2. Assessment and/or providing or consulting non-material assistance, 3. Types of disaster, 4. Regional legislation, 5. Types of disaster, 6. Types of disaster, and 7. Disaster response topic. The '7. Disaster response topic' category is highlighted with a red box. An orange arrow points from this box to a detailed view of the '7.3.3.5.2 Locally-purchased relief goods and equipment' sub-category. This sub-category is also highlighted with a red box and contains a list of items with checkboxes: '7.3.3.5.1.2 Import restrictions', '7.3.3.5.1.3 Customs duties' (checked), '7.3.3.5.1.4 Re-export/local sale', and '7.3.3.5.2 Locally-purchased relief goods and equipment'.

OBJECTIVE 2. Clarification and analysis of the scope of existing IDRL laws, rules and principles, including any gaps and weaknesses.

Progress/Achievements

- **Case studies: expected results obtained for 2, others in progress.**
 - Ø Three operational case studies on best lessons learned in the Tsunami response have been identified by the Asia-Pacific Programme; the **Sri Lanka** one is already completed. The report is available upon request and will be published on the web-site in February. Two other studies in **Indonesia** and **Thailand** are currently underway. The case studies indicate the degree of implementation and usefulness of IDRL during the Tsunami response, IDRL best practices in national laws and policies, field best lessons learned and identify remaining ratification, implementation as well as thematic gaps.
 - Ø In November, a legal roundtable on foreign disaster assistance to the U.S, focusing specifically on **Hurricane Katrina** was organized by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the initiative of the IDRL Programme in Washington. The American Red Cross also participated. The report is available on the web site.
- **Comprehensive thematic study: in progress.** The thematic outline of the study, conducted by the IDRL Legal researcher, is now available upon request. The first draft of the study will be available in June and be discussed at the European regional meeting in Turkey.

OBJECTIVE 3. Raising awareness & improving implementation.

Progress/Achievements

- **New communication tools developed:** *e-newsletter and weekly news service:* Since September 2005, the IDRL Programme has sent out two e-newsletters to respectively 400 and 600 people working in the disaster response area. Electronic newsletters update readers of Programme developments, activities and results, as well as recent legal developments, for which a summary and reference web-site is given. Two fact sheets concerning respectively preliminary Tsunami best lessons learned and an update to the Tampere Convention have been put on the web-site, www.ifrc.org/idrl.
- **Supporting national societies in Asia-Pacific.** The IDRL Asia-Pacific Programme has been supporting National Societies identify ways to achieve more effective regional cooperation for disaster response. Initiatives under discussion include the development of pre-disaster agreements and considering the opportunities afforded by the new ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.
- **Active participation at international fora.** The IDRL Asia-Pacific Programme participated in the Beijing Conference on disaster reduction in September. The IDRL Global Programme made a presentation on the rights of vulnerable communities in disaster management to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction focusing on the Corporate Sector's role and responsibility (Mumbai, November). It equally presented on issues of national legislation in the Wilton Park Conference on Improving Natural and Regional Disaster Response Capacity (December, U.K.). A general introduction to the Programme was made in a Workshop organised by the U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency (Italy) as well as in the annual national Red Cross and Red Crescent society Legal Advisors Meeting (Geneva), both in September.
- **Training:** The Asia-Pacific Programme conducted training sessions during the following events :
 - Ø RedR Australia Humanitarian Field Management Course, Bangkok.
 - Ø ICRC First Teaching Session on International Humanitarian Law for Southeast and East Asia, Kuala Lumpur.
 - Ø South East Asia national societies Leadership Secretary Generals Meeting, Manila.
 - Ø Pre-deployment legal training for Southeast Asia Regional Disaster Response Teams deployed for the Pakistan Earthquake, Bangkok.

- Ø International Federation Southeast Asia Heads of Delegation Meeting, Bangkok
- Ø IDRL Workshop, Colombo.
- Ø Australian Red Cross Basic Training Course for Delegates, Melbourne.

OBJECTIVE 4. Closing the gaps.

Consolidating the IDRL network and preparing the 30th International Conference. At Geneva level, the communications and advocacy officer has started a general IDRL briefing tour of Permanent Missions to the UN Office, with the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national society concerned. The aim is to brief the missions on the IDRL Programme, its activities, plans and results, as well as to gather the views of their respective governments on strengthening the currently existing IDRL framework. As such, the inclusive dialogue, as requested by the 28th International Conference is making progress. Further discussions have been held with UN agencies, NGO groups as well as private firms both in Geneva and in the Asia-Pacific region.

Overall assessment: impact and constraints of the IDRL 2005 programme

IDRL 2005 Impact:

The IDRL Programme has further deepened international understanding of the legal dilemmas associated with international disaster response and of the need for enhanced implementation of existing standards and progressive development in gap areas. The new IDRL database will be an extremely useful tool for lawyers, disaster managers and governments interested in policy or legislative review. The IDRL Programme has met its objectives for 2005 and is making progress towards the preparation of the 2007 International Conference.

IDRL 2005 Constraints:

The IDRL Programme has been able to carry out its planned activities in the year 2005, despite its tight budget. If the commitment and support of national societies is renewed in 2006 and 2007, the Programme will be able to successfully report to the 2007 International Conference and carry out the activities described in its 2006-2007 Global Appeal.



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

APPEAL No. 05AA091

PLEDGES RECEIVED

25/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				700,578		43.3%
OPENING BALANCE				231,792		
FINNISH - RC		46,572	EUR	71,907	25.05.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				303,699	CHF	43.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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