

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, RULES & PRINCIPLES (IDRL) PROGRAMME

August 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; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to August 2005; Appeal target: CHF 700,578; Appeal coverage: 43.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 396,879.

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

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

IDRL Programme Goal: The IDRL Programme seeks to reduce the vulnerability and suffering of people affected by natural and technological disasters by raising awareness, promoting the implementation, and encouraging the progressive development of laws, rules and principles that ensure a timely, adequate and efficient international response to disasters, where international involvement is needed.

The IDRL pursues this goal in consultation with major stakeholders - national societies, Governments, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), NGO's, 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, progressive development and harmonization of this normative framework at the national and international levels.

The need for the Programme's work was again highlighted by the December 2004 tsunami. While unique in its scope and destructive force, as well as in the unprecedented outpouring of international assistance it provoked, the tsunami was much like past disasters in that legal and administrative barriers, absence of clear standards for international assistance, and failures of coordination were among the greatest challenges to speedy and effective humanitarian relief. In the wake of the tsunami, the IDRL Programme added a specific focus on Asia and the Pacific this year, to draw out and act upon the lessons learned in that and other disasters in the region.

Looking forward, the programme intends to expand its collection and analysis of disaster response laws,

rules and principles, develop a public web-based thematic database of practical use to humanitarian organizations and governments considering enhancements to national laws and policies, prepare a comprehensive study of IDRL issues, continue its case studies of national legal systems' approach to international assistance, and develop tools such as training modules, model legislative elements and an IDRL practical handbooks to encourage greater use and improvement of laws and policies that facilitate international assistance where it is needed.

Budget implications. The budget associated with the original IDRL 2005 Global Appeal has been funded at 43.3%, thanks to a carry-over from 2004 and an additional contribution from the Finnish Red Cross for the Asia-Pacific Project. Consequently, there is still a need to raise an additional CHF 396,879.

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>

Operational developments

Staff: In order to carry the IDRL Programme to its next stage of concentrated research and building up of an effective network to disseminate IDRL information and advocate for enhanced implementation, additional staff have been added in Geneva and one officer has been posted in Bangkok to concentrate on the Asia-Pacific region. The programme now consists of:

- The Asia-Pacific IDRL Coordinator, based in Bangkok (August 2005-July 2006).
- Two IDRL officers based in Geneva (1 legal researcher and 1 resource mobilisation & advocacy officer, June 2005).

In consultation with national societies, donor and affected countries, IGOs and NGOs, the IDRL team plans to create the following products by the time of the **29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007:**

- A comprehensive IDRL study identifying general principles, existing laws and state practices, best practices of IDRL implementation and gaps;
- A user-friendly web-based public IDRL data base;
- A legislative guide for states engaging in legislative reform;
- An operational handbook and training module.

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

- Publication of the report and recommendations of the research conducted on regional and national IDRL in Fiji, Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar.
- Work begun on development of questionnaires on IDRL to be distributed to national societies, Federation delegates, IGOs and NGOs, donor and assistance-receiving countries, with a view to developing information both on the existing laws, rules and principles as well as current problems and best practices for the IDRL data-base.
- Collection of national IDRL legal instruments started.
- Work begun on coding of collected instruments for web-based database.

- Review of regional and national IDRL framework in 3 Tsunami-affected and 2 Pacific countries started.

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

Progress/Achievements

- Completion of a paper: “*Strengthening IDRL. Overview of the Current System and a New Way Forward*”, HKC University/Sweet & Maxwell (publication forthcoming).
- Stakeholder consultations and background research commenced for comprehensive IDRL study.
- The consultative process will be accompanied by an expert meeting in October, convening academics, States, IGOs and NGOs. Consultative process preliminary results will be integrated progressively into IDRL database. Funding to be raised.
- Launching of a series of case studies (Fall 2005 – Summer 2006), starting with Tsunami studies, which indicate the degree of implementation of IDRL, IDRL best practices in national laws and policies, field best lessons learned, any remaining gaps. In 2006, these case studies results will be explored (key issues and trends) in 4 regional meetings addressed to governments.

Objective 3. Raising awareness & improving implementation.

Progress/Achievements

Promotion and advocacy:

- IDRL press coverage (through press releases and opinion pieces) of the Asian Tsunami.
- IDRL contribution to (background papers and interventions):
 - Ø World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, January.
 - Ø International Conference on Issues Relating to Disaster Management (Hong Kong, March).
- Preparation of a bi-monthly electronic newsletter to the IDRL network, starting September.
- Preparation of the annual national Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Legal Advisors Meeting in which legal advisors will be asked to collect relevant national disaster response laws, regulations and plans of action to be included in the IDRL database.

Training: the IDRL team gave presentations at several training workshops, including the South-East Asia Regional Disaster Management Committee (Bangkok, April), Advanced Diploma on Emergencies and Humanitarian Assistance (Geneva, July) and OCHA (Geneva, July).

Objective 4. Closing the gaps.

Since the enlargement of the IDRL team, the IDRL programme has identified a fourth objective which will mainly be pursued in the next biennium as it builds upon the findings and results of previous activities launched under objectives 1 to 3. The following activities will be carried out:

- 2005: Encouraging ratification of existing international IDRL instruments, including continued advocacy by the IDRL programme for the Tampere Convention led to its entry into force on 8 January 2005 after ratification by 30 States.
- 2006: Supporting dialogue on the progressive development of IDRL at the international level to close gaps in existing standards and encourage enhanced cooperation between stakeholders, with the full participation of states, national societies and other stakeholders.
- 2007: Elaborating an IDRL operational handbook targeting international disaster response personnel and a guidebook for governments seeking technical assistance in integrating IDRL principles and best practices into national legislation and policies.

Overall assessment: impact and constraints of the IDRL 2005 programme

Impact: The IDRL Programme has already 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. Its existing IDRL database and publications are still the only widely-used

IDRL Programme, Appeal N°. 05AA091, Programme Update N°. 1

sources in this new field. National societies, governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders are increasingly turning to the Programme for technical assistance in designing improved regulatory frameworks.

Constraints: If the programme is able to raise the outstanding CHF 396,879 it will succeed in accomplishing its 2005 objectives, given the recent integration of new members in the IDRL team. Furthermore, it will be able to lay the necessary foundations for taking the IDRL programme significantly further towards usefulness and application in the field, through the elaboration of the thematic synthesis, the web-based practical database, the operational handbook, and a guidebook for governments interested in national legislative or policy reform.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA091

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/09/2005

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	