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Law and disaster risk reduction: research and tools

Disaster Law Programme



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Overview of law and disaster risk reduction



- **Why legal frameworks for DRR are important**
- **UNDP and IFRC multi-country study**
- **The Checklist on Law and DRR**
- **Questions**

Global Guidance: Sendai framework for DRR

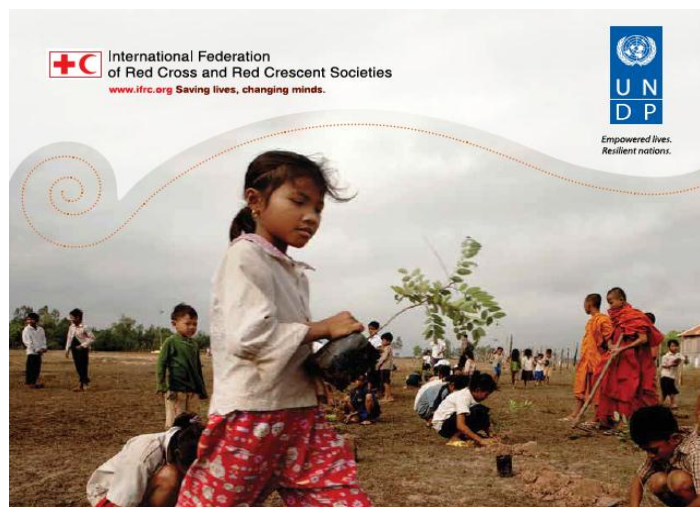
Priority 2: **Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk :**

- Review and strengthen legal frameworks to enhance transparency
- Enhance levels of compliance with existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations (building codes, urban planning)
- Assign clear roles to community representatives within legislation ...

Experience highlights the importance of legal frameworks for DRR



Multi-Country Report



**Effective law and regulation
for disaster risk reduction:
a multi-country report**

In 2014 IFRC and UNDP launched a global study looking at 31 countries:

- Examples of good practice legal provisions
- What helps or hinders implementation
- Recommendations for reviewing or drafting laws
- **Aim to support legislators, public administrators and DRR and development practitioners to prepare and implement legal frameworks**

Key lessons learned

1. Real progress – many more laws now include DRR

- Need more specific provisions and not just principles and ambitions
- Specific funding streams are essential

2. Need more integration of DRR into sectoral planning & climate change laws

- Especially land use, environment & resource management laws

3. Need stronger mandates to engage communities & civil society

- Good intentions for community participation are not enough

4. Cannot just adopt and forget law

- Accountability, liability, monitoring, and review

Next steps: The Checklist on Law and DRR



- A succinct and easy to use tool to support the strengthening of legal frameworks for DRR
- Pilot version now available
- Handbook is being developed to provide more detailed guidance and examples
- It will help to identify:

The **strengths** in
the legal framework

Where greater
focus is needed on
implementation

If **drafting** or revising
legislation is needed

The Pilot Process



- Pilot project will be conducted in at least 5 countries
- The ‘pilot process’ will generally include:
 - Legal mapping/research process
 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue and consultation on priority areas for focus
 - Feedback on the checklist
- At the same time, feedback received and handbook developed
- Final checklist and handbook ready for adoption at the 32nd International Conference of the RCRC

The checklist questions..

-  Do you have a dedicated law for disaster risk management that prioritises risk reduction and is tailored to your country context?
-  Do your laws establish clear roles and responsibilities related to risk reduction for all relevant institutions from national to local level?
-  Do your key sectoral laws incorporate provisions to increase safety and reduce vulnerability?
-  Do your laws ensure that sufficient resources are budgeted for disaster risk reduction?
-  Do your laws establish clear procedures and responsibilities for risk assessments and ensure risk information is considered in development processes?

The checklist questions

6

Do your laws establish clear procedures and responsibilities for early warning?

7

Do your laws require education, training and awareness-raising to promote a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction?

8

Do your laws ensure the engagement of civil society, the private sector, scientific institutions and communities in risk reduction decisions and activities?

9

Do your laws adequately address gender considerations and the special needs of particularly vulnerable categories of persons?

10

Do your laws include adequate mechanisms to ensure that responsibilities are fulfilled and rights are protected?

In sum...



**We welcome your
feedback, comments
and suggestions**

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www.drr-law.org

Thank you

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