




Key Definitions, Core Responsibilities, Regional and International Support, Initiation and key legal matters

Aishah Amin
International Disaster Response Laws Rules and Principles (IDRL)

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Agenda

- About The RC/RC Movement
- IDRL Guidelines
- Civil -Military Cooperation and Humanitarian Coordination
- Shelter coordination
- Disaster response tools

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The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement


 186 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide.

 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), founded in 1919.

 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in 1863.

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National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies "National Societies"

 Currently 186

- Not NGOs – established by national act/statute, must be formally recognised
- National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field (Geneva Conventions)
- Subject to laws of their respective countries
- Must maintain autonomy
- Always act in accordance with the principles of the Movement
- They provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programmes, and assistance to people affected by war.

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International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)


 ICRC

- Impartial, neutral and independent Swiss organization (HQ in Geneva)
- Humanitarian mission to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance (Geneva Conventions)
- Directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict.
- It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



- Membership organisation of National Societies
- Secretariat based in Geneva:
 - Coordinate and mobilize relief assistance for disaster situations
 - Promote cooperation between National Societies
 - Represent National Societies in the international field
- Regional and country field delegations:
 - Assist and advise National Societies with relief operations and development programmes
 - Encourage regional cooperation


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The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary service
- Unity
- Universality

Adopted in 1965 by 20th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent



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Humanitarian coordination - within the Movement

The RC / RC Movement has its own coordination mechanisms for different situations - "Seville Agreement"

For international relief operations, the concept of "lead agency" applies: one of the components is given responsibility for directing and coordinating all the Movement's international relief activities

- **ICRC** - international and non-international armed conflicts, internal strife and their direct results and armed conflict concomitant with natural or technological disasters.
- **Federation** - natural or technological disasters and other emergency and disaster situations in peace time which require resources exceeding those of the operating National Society.
- **National Society** - may undertake the functions of lead agency necessary for the coordination of international relief assistance within its own territory subject to the concurrence of the ICRC or the Federation.



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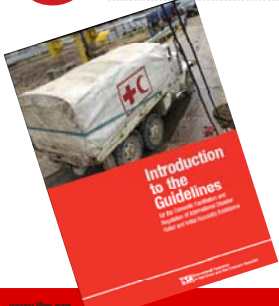
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Guidelines on the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL Guidelines)

The IDRL Guidelines were adopted by the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, November 2007

Copies at: www.ifrc.org/idrl



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IDRL Guidelines – In a Nutshell

- Recommendations to governments on how to prepare domestic legal and institutional frameworks for non-conflict disasters
- Compile existing international norms and best practice
- Intended to help governments ensure that disaster-affected communities receive speedy and appropriate relief



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Common Problem Areas

Entry and Operations



Quality and Coordination



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The IDRL Guidelines' standards

- **Aid providers always:**
 - Abide by domestic and international law
 - Coordinate with domestic authorities
 - Abide by humanitarian principles
 - Humanity, neutrality and impartiality
- **To the greatest extent practicable, they:**
 - Meet int'l quality standards
 - Coordinate with other actors
 - Involve beneficiaries
 - Use fully trained personnel
 - Build on local capacities
 - Ensure transparency




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The IDRL Guidelines' proposed legal facilities



- Personnel**
 - Visas
 - Work permits
 - Professional qualifications
 - Freedom of movement
- Goods and equipment**
 - Customs clearance and duties
 - Food, vehicles, telecoms, medicines
- Transport**
- Domestic legal status**
 - Power to open bank accounts, contract, etc.
- Taxes**
- Security**
- Extended hours**
- Costs**

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The Guidelines and humanitarian actors: the recommended link



Humanitarian actor requests legal facilities

Govt decides
Facilities conditioned on adherence to minimum quality standards

Ongoing obligation of recipient to abide by standards
Gov't monitors progress

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Civil -Military Cooperation and Humanitarian Coordination

- Civil defence and military assets can play an important role in disaster relief operations, in particular through the mobilisation of large-scale logistical support.
- However, it's important to distinguish between humanitarian and military resources and objectives
- Confusion can arise when:

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Armed forces conduct combat and relief operations at the same time, using the same materials | Other actors use materials which are similar to those used for combat operations | Civilian and military actors are operational at the same place and time for combat and relief operations with similar materials | Civilian Civil Defence personnel can be perceived as lacking neutrality and independence, even though they are non-military |
|--|--|---|---|



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Neutral and Independent Humanitarian Action

- To carry out its mission around the world the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement must maintain its neutrality and independence at all times.
- It's not enough to BE neutral and impartial, we must also be PERCEIVED by others to be neutral and independent.
- Failing to do so can put not only staff and volunteers at risk, but also jeopardises assistance reaching vulnerable people
- Eg. National RC Society relied on military transport to deliver disaster relief in peace time – when conflict broke out, they became a target for attack because they were perceived as being associated with the government and the military.



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Humanitarian vs. Civil Military Relations – guiding documents

- The **Fundamental Principles** of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- **International humanitarian law** (IHL), especially the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols
- The **Statutes** of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- The **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- The **Principles and Rules** for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief
- The **Seville Agreement** and other Movement coordination mechanisms in force
- Other relevant **resolutions and regulations** of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and of the Council of Delegates, in particular on **armed escorts** and on the **use of the emblems**.
- **Guidance Document On Relations Of Components Of The Movement With Military Bodies**, Council Of Delegates, 16 - 18 November 2005

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"The use of military assets by a component of the Movement – particularly in countries affected by armed conflict and/or strife or other violence – should be a last resort: it can be justified only by the serious and urgent need for life saving humanitarian action and when there is no alternative means of taking that action.



Such a serious decision must be taken by the senior leadership of the organisation concerned. Any use of military assets should be prompted by needs rather than availability."

Council of Delegates Decision, 2005

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IFRC Shelter Coordination

- **IFRC-led Shelter Coordination Team (SCT)** – Dedicated support to the coordination efforts of Government & NGOs.
- **SCT separate from IFRC operational shelter activities** – IFRC, NS & PNS are operational leads & cluster participants the same as other NGOs.
- **IFRC SCT personnel** – Trained and experienced persons. Standard team of 3 members, can increase if scale of disaster requires.
- **Cluster partner agencies (NGOs and UN agencies) can contribute SCT personnel** – Based on standard agreements and ToRs.

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Disaster Response levels ('local to global'):

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Disaster Response levels ('local to global'):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local branch network Trained staff & volunteers - National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) Search & Rescue + First Aid Pre positioned stocks Early warning system | <p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS network Trained staff & volunteers - Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) Zones -Disaster Management Unit Regional Logistics Unit | <p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement Coordination DREF, DMIS Emergency Appeal FACT, ERU, RAT Geneva technical departments RTE |
|---|---|---|

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The major disaster management tools:

- **Disaster Information Management System (DMIS)**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)**
- **Emergency Appeals**
- **FACT, RDRT, ERU**

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Disaster Management Info System (DMIS)

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

- Federation's main mechanism for accessing immediate emergency funding
- Non earmarked funds used for start up of response in disasters
- Funding of non-visible and forgotten disasters
- Target level of expenditure: CHF. 20 mln annually
- 2010 – CHF 13,8 mln

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Emergency Appeal

- A request to donors for assistance
- A plan articulating how we intend to support a NS responding to an emergency
- Based on a request from a member NS and usually issued on the basis of a needs assessment
- Appeals always consist of a narrative with maps and a corresponding budget
- Revisions can be made regularly
- Once an ERU is deployed it's input is used for a sectorial 'Plan Of Action'
- 2361 appeals for 162 countries since 1919

Emergency appeal → Emergency appeal Monsoon flash floods

RDRT /RIT - Regional Disaster Response Teams

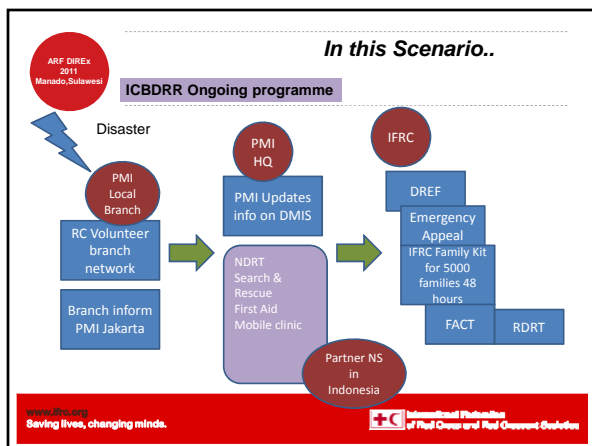
- Regional RC/RC teams
- Standardised training
- Deployed regionally
- Local language & culture
- Smaller scale emergencies when use of global tools is not appropriate
- Assessment and hands-on
- Managed by Regional Offices
 - SA, SEA, PAC
 - (EA in discussions)
- Latest deployment to Pakistan

FACT (field assessment & coordination team)

- Globally selected RC/RC team
- Primary output a Plan of Action (PoA) with the affected NS
- assesses ERU needs
- Coordination with UN
- In country for 1 month
- Deployed within 48 hours
- Standardised training

Emergency Response Units (ERU)

- People & equipment package
- Equipment standardised & modular
- Standardised training
- When local facilities are either destroyed, overwhelmed by needs or do not exist
- Deploy in 24-72 hours for 4 months
- Maintained and funded by NS
- Deployment coordinated by Geneva



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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