

# DISASTER LAW IN AFRICA



The Disaster Law Programme in Africa works to build the capacities of 49 National Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa to provide technical support to regional bodies and governments in the enhancement of laws, policies, strategies and plans for climate smart disaster risk management. The Programme is focused on ensuring an integrated policy coherence to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, through the promotion of gender-responsive approaches, and community leadership in risk analysis, planning and decision-making.

## Our Strategy

### Building disaster law capacity in African National Societies

Since the inception of the program in the region, 20 African National Societies have been supported through legislative advocacy trainings to be advisors to their national authorities on disaster law.



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### Strengthening law and policy on Disaster Management

Through influencing legislative reforms for disaster risk reduction at all levels, the program has supported disaster management legislation development in over ten countries in the region.

### Fostering partnerships and advocacy at the regional level

Continued collaboration with humanitarian partners and regional bodies, has seen the programme engage in regional legislative processes such as the development of the African Union Model IDRL Act and the ECOWAS DRM Handbook.



### Pursuing high-quality research that informs legislative advocacy

The programme continues to engage evidence-based research to develop and update tools that support legislative advocacy processes geared towards Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate change adaptation and that enhance sustainable development.

- Disaster law projects
- New laws or rules are adopted
- Draft laws/rules pending
- 📍 Regional instruments



# Disaster Law activities in AFRICA

Components of a

# DISASTER LAW in-country project

1

## Legal Mapping

Carry out review of the country's DRM/DRR Legislative framework with considerations on the IDRL provisions within the framework. The report produced provides recommendations on review of legislations to improve the response mechanisms of the country.

2

## Revision of the Law

Based on the recommendations laid out in the legal mapping report, the country will undertake to review their legislation. This process can involve revising existing laws or developing a new draft law to cover the recommendations proposed.

3

## Engagement with Stakeholders

Legislation development and revision processes have a cross cutting impact across government departments. They may also have an impact on private entities. Stakeholders will be given a chance to debate the contents of the bill and provide comments on how to improve it.

6

## New Law!

Once the Bill is passed in Parliament, it is presented to the Head of State for assent after which it becomes a new law.

5

## Presentation to Cabinet and Parliament

Once a final draft of the Bill is developed, the Ministry in charge of Disaster Management will present the bill to Cabinet for its approval. Once this approval is obtained, the Bill will be presented to Parliament for debate and subsequent approval.

4

## Engagement with Parliamentarians

To facilitate the debate on the proposed new law in Parliament, the Committee under which the new law falls under will be extensively educated on the content on the Bill to enhance support for it in Parliament once presented. Parliamentarians at this stage will also be given a chance to make comments on the Bill.

7

## Awareness and Implementation

The National Society will continue its support of the government in the implementation of the bill. This often involves development of a dissemination programme aimed at creating awareness at the national, state and community level to ensure greater understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of various actors as provided in the policy.

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Disasters are disruptive and we need to be prepared to deal with them and reduce their impact on the population. We can only be truly prepared if we have the right laws in place.”

— **Mr. Hussein Mar Nyiuot**  
Minister of Humanitarian Affairs  
and Disaster Management,  
South Sudan  
April 2018

# Moving Forward

## 2020–2022

**15** National Societies strengthened their capacities on disaster law and legislative advocacy

**2** Resolutions at Regional Level are influenced by Disaster Law

**7** new disaster laws and policies adopted

### 3 Year Goals

**3** regional bodies strengthened their regional preparedness and response mechanisms

**5** draft disaster laws and policies are finalized

Annual funding required

**670,000 CHF**

#### DL priority countries 2020–2022

Botswana, Eswatini, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

#### Priority Regional Organizations

African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)

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