



Disaster Preparedness and Response Law Checklist

Underpinning every disaster response operation, whether large or small, is a complex network of laws, regulations and policies which determine when, how and by whom disaster response activities can be carried out. In fact, laws and regulations underpin nearly every aspect of disaster preparedness and response operations.

What is the Disaster Preparedness and Response Law Checklist?

The Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response has been developed through an extensive review of global literature and more than 20 country case studies. It provides detailed guidance on how to strengthen law and policy for disaster preparedness and response. It provides:

- Clarity on key legislative issues impacting the timeliness and effectiveness of Disaster Preparedness and Response activities;
- A framework for review of national and local level laws and policies for enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response; and
- Guidance for improvement of national legal and policy frameworks and bring them in line with existing international standards, including the Sendai Framework.

Who is it for?

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Checklist is a useful guide for:

- Lawmakers and government officials, at all levels, responsible for the development and implementation of disaster preparedness and response laws

- National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other organisations that support with disaster preparedness and response

What does it cover?

Different types of laws

- Constitutional and institutional laws
- Disaster risk management laws
- Sectoral laws

Institutional arrangements

- National and local government
- National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
- International organisations
- Local organisations
- Civil society

Disaster preparedness and response activities

- Finance mechanisms
- Early warning/early action
- Contingency planning, training and education
- Response and recovery activities across different sectors
- Protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups

Key legal and policy issues

- Liability and privacy issues
- Fraud and corruption
- Housing, land and property
- And many others

10 Key Questions of the Checklist

1

Do your country's laws establish a strong institutional framework for disaster preparedness and response?



2

Do your country's laws support the implementation of an effective disaster risk financing strategy?



3

Do your country's laws provide clear mandates and resources to undertake contingency planning and awareness through training, education and drills?



4

Do your country's laws facilitate effective early warning and early action to reduce the impacts of disasters?



5

Do your country's laws establish 'states of emergency' and 'states of disaster' that are tailored and proportionate to differing degrees and types of risk?



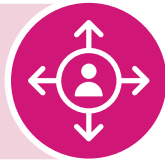
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Do your country's laws provide appropriate legal facilities for disaster preparedness and response?



7

Do your country's laws establish a comprehensive framework for addressing disaster displacement and planned relocation?



8

Do your country's laws contain measures to address common problems that arise in the context of shelter assistance in relation to housing, land and property rights?



9

Do your country's laws contain measures to ensure that vulnerable groups are included in, and protected by, disaster preparedness and response activities?



10

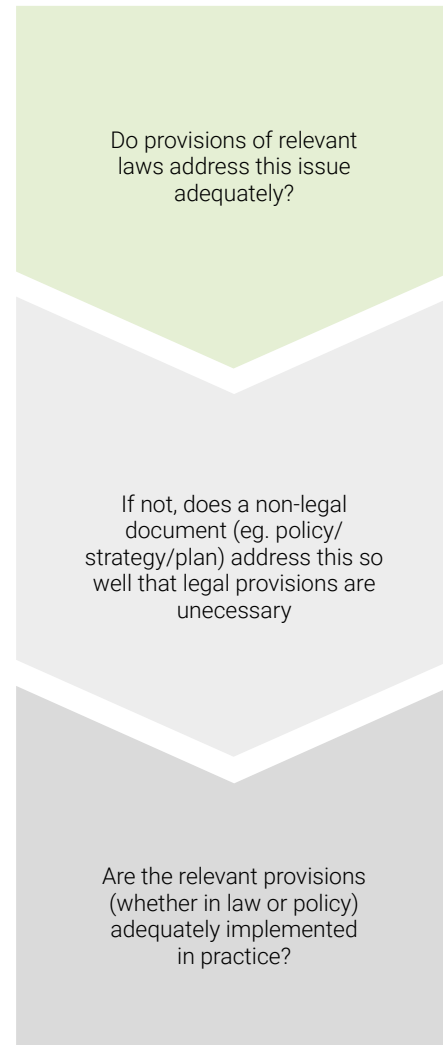
Do your country's laws contain measures to promote quality and accountability, and to prevent fraud and corruption, in disaster preparedness and response?



How to use the Checklist?

Each Key Question has a series of sub-questions which provide further guidance on good practice and the identification of potential gap areas to address.

When considering these questions as part of a legal review process, the following issues should be considered:



A legal review process should also include consultations with a range of stakeholders including through:

- National and local government ministries and departments
- National platforms for disaster management, risk reduction or climate change;
- Local and international organisations and civil society interest groups and experts

Further information and resources are available on <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/what-we-do/disaster-law/>