



Brussels, 26 October 2021  
(OR. en)

13261/21

COHAFA 79  
SAN 632  
GENDER 107  
INTER-REP 27

**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	13 October 2021
To:	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject:	Resilience of health in emergencies with special focus on women as humanitarian actors and recipients of humanitarian aid
	- presentation by IFRC

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Following the informal COHAFA videoconference of 9 September, delegations will find in Annex presentation made by International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IFRC)<sup>(1)(2)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 132236315085-89.

<sup>2</sup> This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



## Law and Public Health Emergencies

IFRC Presentation to COHAFA

12 October 2021



### 1. Introduction to IFRC Disaster Law

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# IFRC

## *Disaster Law*

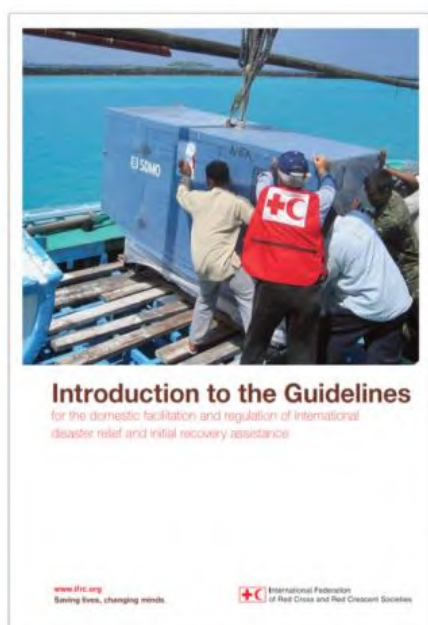
**IFRC Disaster law** is a global team with 17 regional and national advisors around the world

**Aim** = reduce human vulnerability to disasters by promoting effective legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management

**20 years of experience** advising governments on how to strengthen their disaster laws and policies

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Internal



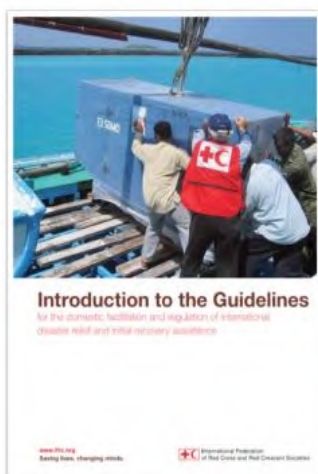
### IDRL Guidelines (2008)



- Recommendations on how to prepare for the common regulatory problems in international disaster response
- Legal facilities
  - Expedited customs processing
  - Waiver of taxes and fees
  - Recognition of foreign qualifications
  - Priority landing and docking rights
  - Expedited visas
  - Licensing for vehicles and telco
- IDRL Guidelines have been influential (UNGA Resolutions, ILC Draft Articles, domestic implementation efforts)

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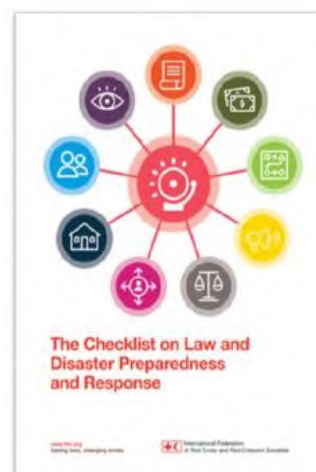
Internal



International  
Disaster  
Response



Disaster Risk  
Reduction



Disaster  
Preparedness  
and Response



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Internal



## 2. Law and Public Health Emergencies

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Internal



## Law and Public Health Emergency Research

### 1. Emergency Decree Mappings (113)

Focus on operational issues:

- exemptions from restrictions
- coordination measures

### 2. PHE Mappings (32)

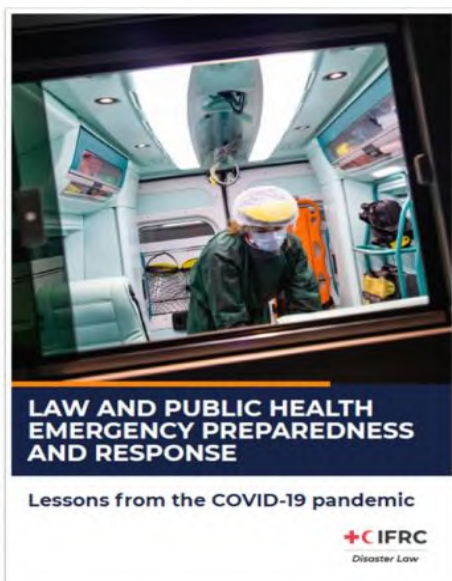
- Very detailed examination of legal and institutional frameworks for PHEs
- Focus not only on COVID-19, but also previous PHEs (SARS, Zika, MERS, Ebola)

Research made possible by support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



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Internal

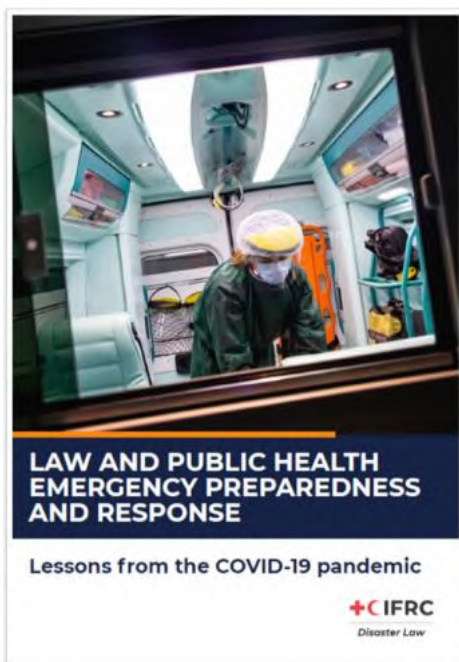


## Law and PHE Report

- Analyses information gathered from country-level research and literature review
- Very broad range of topics addressed
  - Institutional arrangements and coordination
  - Use of states of emergency/disaster
  - Preparedness (contingency planning, early warning)
  - Implementation of international commitments
  - Protection of vulnerable groups
  - Mitigation of secondary impacts
- Launched on 8 July 2021
- Comprehensive recommendations for how *domestic* laws, policies and plans can support effective PHE preparedness and response

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Internal



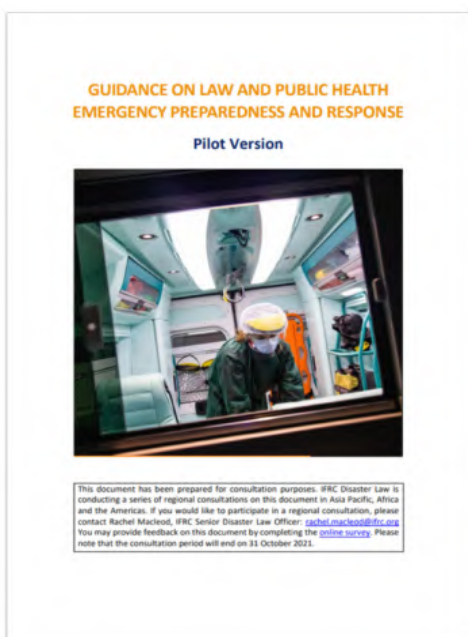
## Key findings



- Prevalence of old and outdated legislation that does not adopt an 'all risks' approach'
- Failures in implementation of core capacities required by the IHR
- Lack of clear legal facilities for humanitarian actors, both domestic and international
- Limited evidence of duties on public authorities to provide early warning to the general population
- Limited evidence of all-of-society and all-of-state approach

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Internal



## Pilot Guidance on Law and PHE



- Pilot Guidance document open for comment until 31 October 2021
- Aims to support the development and review of domestic instruments relating to public health emergencies
- 9 questions designed to identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in existing laws, policies and plans
- Feedback to be provided via online survey or to me via email: [rachel.macleod@ifrc.org](mailto:rachel.macleod@ifrc.org)

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Internal