



CARIBBEAN IDRL

WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

*Advancing the Regulatory Agenda Governing
International Disaster Relief and Humanitarian
Assistance in the Caribbean*

November 17-19, 2021

Acknowledgements

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**Interreg
Caribbean**



READY Together 

About this Report

This Summary Report of the Caribbean International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Workshop was commissioned by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The workshop was a virtual event held on 17-19 November 2021 and was co-facilitated by the IFRC and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).



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THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

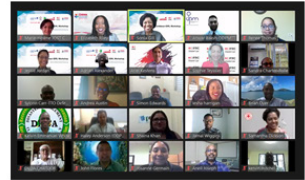
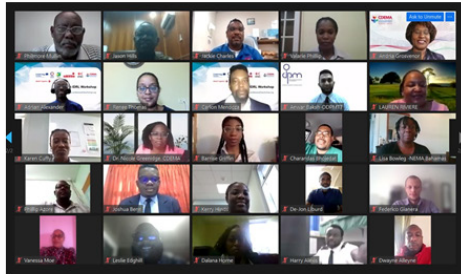
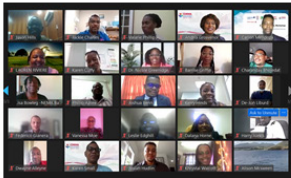
It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



Public



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This workshop aimed to facilitate the advancement of a Caribbean perspective on regionally appropriate regulatory standards that are aligned to current international best practices in IDRL.

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Background

Recognizing the need to continually improve and adapt to the increasing complexities of disasters, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the French Red Cross, through its Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean held a virtual: **Caribbean International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Workshop** on November 17-19, 2021.

Within the framework of an INTERREG “READY Together” Project, which seeks to enhance disaster resilience in the Caribbean, this workshop was conceptualized to examine ways in which the existing regional framework and its mechanisms can be strengthened through IDRL principles. Taking into consideration the doctrine of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM), this workshop aimed to facilitate the advancement of a Caribbean perspective on regionally appropriate regulatory standards that are aligned to current international best practices in IDRL.

Over the period of 3 half-days, this virtual workshop brought together representatives from across 20 of CDEMA's Participating States and included representatives of National Disaster Offices and National Disaster Coordinators, Red Cross National Societies, regional and sub-regional organizations with interest in international disaster relief, and government officials from across the region with responsibility for ports (air and sea), foreign affairs, immigration, customs and taxation, food security, national security and health.

Opening Remarks

Ms. Elizabeth Riley, the Executive Director of CDEMA in her opening remarks, highlighted the CDM Model Legislation of 2013, while also recognizing there was a need for updating disaster legislation that reflected new learnings and best practices. She encouraged participants to consider how we can strengthen multisectoral engagement as it relates to international disaster relief.

From the IFRC, **Mr. Ariel Kestens**, Head of Delegation for the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean recognized how recent disasters have exposed certain weaknesses in laws, policies and procedures in managing the record numbers of humanitarian relief groups, resulting in countless administrative and financial burdens for governments. He urged States to seriously consider how IDRL principles could enhance their domestic and regional capacities in international humanitarian assistance.

As the lead agency of the Ready Together Project, the French Red Cross, PIRAC, represented by **Marie-Helene Jost-Cholin**, Emergency Preparedness Training and IDRL activities Coordinator, highlighted the role of PIRAC to assist Caribbean populations affected by major disasters and crises. She emphasized the paramount importance of sharing lessons learned from the hurricane seasons of 2017 and 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent eruption of La Soufriere, with a view to strengthening comprehensive disaster laws and policies.





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**Broad Perspectives
in International
Disaster Response
Laws (IDRL)**

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Day 1: Broad Perspectives in International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL)

On Day 1, the philosophy of IDRL was introduced along with an examination of potential opportunities for enhancing existing regulatory frameworks within the Caribbean. Presentations included peer to peer exchanges with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), Trinidad and Tobago and the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres en América Central y República Dominicana (CEPREDENAC)) based in Guatemala, sharing their positive experiences on incorporating IDRL principles into laws and policies.

MAKING THE CASE FOR IDRL IN EXISTING REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Sophie Teyssier, IFRC Americas Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy Coordinator, introduced the concept of disaster law as an emerging area of law that focuses on the legal and institutional frameworks necessary to equip domestic authorities with the capacities to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters.

With respect to the entry of international humanitarian aid, most countries face two kinds of challenges, that is, (i) regulatory barriers or red tape that restricts the entry of humanitarian aid resulting in delays in the distribution of aid and higher costs and (ii) lack of coordination, procedures and institutional arrangements to regulate the incoming aid leading to poor quality assistance, for example, donations that do not match the needs of the affected communities that were identified by the State.

Specifically, for COVID-19, there were operational challenges regarding the entry of aid, namely the closure of international and provincial borders prevented the movement of personnel as well as restrictions on importation and exportation of critical PPE items.

In order to respond to these kinds of challenges, the IFRC in collaboration with OCHA, developed the *IDRL Guidelines* and the *IDRL Checklist*, which propose recommendations to governments on how to prepare their disaster laws and plans for the common regulatory problems in international disaster relief operations. Those recommendations recognize the domestic actors as having the primary role in responding to a disaster on its territory, while international relief providers have a supporting or complementary role. At the same time, international relief providers have responsibilities to abide by certain minimum standards of quality and eligible international humanitarian actors need legal facilities in which to operate. Overall, these recommendations aim to improve regulatory efficiency and donor coordination and accountability.

Ms. Teyssier noted that in the Caribbean, the IFRC has been working in various countries including Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago to engage in policy review assessments against the CDM Model Legislation, 2013 and the IDRL recommendations. These policy assessments also identified areas for improvement which can pave the way for legislative review and policy reform.

Ms. Andria Grosvenor, CDEMA Deputy Executive Director (ag) presented on the CDEMA Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Legislation, the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) and the incorporation of IDRL into the existing regulatory framework.

Ms. Grosvenor highlighted the doctrine of CDM as the management of all hazards, through all phases of the disaster management cycle by all peoples and sectors through an “all of society” approach and involves risk reduction and the integration of vulnerability assessment into the development planning process.

Regarding the RRM, this mechanism was built upon the homegrown desire to have mutual assistance from the Participating States. The RRM aims to provide effective and efficient coordinated disaster response support to CDEMA Participating States requiring regional and/or international assistance. Ms. Grosvenor highlighted the governance structure, the triggering mechanisms for activating the RRM, the coordinating model, and the RRM actors and organs.

In describing the CDM legislation, it was noted that the legislation was designed to facilitate the RRM. The development of the CDM legislation is evolutionary and ongoing and began with the development disaster preparedness legislation in 1996. This was then reviewed in 2010, which led to the CDM Model legislation of 2013. In 2021, CDEMA initiated a review of its entire blueprint framework, which would include a review of the 2013 Model.

Concerning the opportunities for incorporating IDRL, it was acknowledged that as CDEMA reviews its blueprint framework and its model legislation and regulations, this will allow for a consideration of IDRL in areas where focus is needed, such as in legal facilities for international response agencies.

PEER TO PEER EXCHANGES: SUCCESS STORIES

Ms. Claudia Herrera, CEPREDENAC Executive Secretary, presented to participants how Central American countries have been working since Hurricane Mitch in 1999, to build a comprehensive regional policy framework for regional and international disaster relief, through laws, policies and instruments that address institutional coordination, migration, customs and logistics to respond to emergencies.

The “MecReg” is the instrument Central American countries must apply to respond efficiently to a disaster affecting one or more countries of the region when the national coping capacities are exceeded, and the regional humanitarian assistance requested. The MecReg is guided and informed by several principles, standards and international instruments, including Humanitarian Principles (neutrality, impartiality, independence, no-discrimination), the Red Cross Code of Conduct and Sphere Standards, the “INSARAG Guidelines, the Teams response, the Tampere Convention, the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 and the IDRL Guidelines.

As to the institutional coordination, the MecReg provides for the establishment of Special Units respectively within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CEO that function as a one-stop-shop. As to the operational coordination, the MecReg provides for the setup of an accreditation system to recognize and allow Specialized National Teams to operate across the SICA region within the MecReg – CEPREDENAC Council of Rep. being the entity granting the accreditation. Each SNT has its own expertise in three focus areas: Emergency response; Damage and needs analysis; Sectorial response (health, water supply, logistics, telecommunication, shelter, etc.). SNT can be deployed at the request of the Affected State within 24 hours and are allowed to operate for a period of 7 to 10 days. They can also set up a Central American Task Force.

In 2014, SICA adopted a specific Protocol which sets the institutional and operational coordination mechanisms between the authorities of the Assisting State, Transit State and Affected State during the four phases of shipment, transit, receipt and return by land of international disaster relief across the region.

Ms. Herrera also mentioned the approval of an IDRL law adopted in November 2020 in Honduras – the first ever adopted IDRL Law in the Americas fully based on the IDRL Law Model - that supported the emergency response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

In light of lessons learnt from recent disaster responses (Hurricanes Eta, Iota and COVID-19), the Presidents of the countries gave a mandate to update these mechanisms and protocols to further improve the regional policy framework. Currently, the region is engaging in a wide consultation involving all disaster management actors, with the support of the IFRC, including Ministers of government, and risk actors at national and regional levels, to identify challenges they had to face in previous emergency operations and formulate recommendations to improve the MecReg.

Muhammad Anwar Baksh, ODPM, Planning and Development Officer, shared Trinidad and Tobago’s experience in incorporating IDRL into policy and legislation.

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) is the coordinating agency for disaster management in Trinidad and Tobago and has the mandate to build national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation capabilities with partners and coordinate response and recovery operations. In light of the many advances regionally and internationally to the approach of DRM, the ODPM moved to re-engage the process of reviewing policy and law with a view to updating and revising the 2014 draft legislation and developing a draft disaster risk reduction and management policy or CDM policy.

In terms of the intention to integrate IDRL into law and policy, the ODPM adopted a structured approach that involved a review of its entire governance framework. First, a Technical Review Committee was convened to conduct a legislative gap analysis of the 2014 draft legislation using the DRR Checklist, the DPR Checklist, the IDRL Checklist and the CDM Model Legislation as benchmarking tools.

Simultaneous with the legislative gap analysis, the ODPM engaged in stakeholder consultations to identify priority areas for strategic intervention into the CDM policy. Once priority areas were identified, the draft CDM policy was developed and consultations on the draft policy were held with a wide range of stakeholders including academia, civil society, government sectors, developmental partners and the general public. The draft policy is now at the stage of being finalized for submission to Cabinet for approval. Once this policy is approved, instructions will then be given for the drafting of the legislation which will include IDRL principles.

Some of the areas where IDRL will be incorporated into policy and legislation include provisions for expediting the entry of international disaster relief, establishment of a focal point for international disaster assistance, provisions within the Customs Act that allow for elimination of duties and tariffs for disaster relief and procedures for requesting and accepting international assistance.

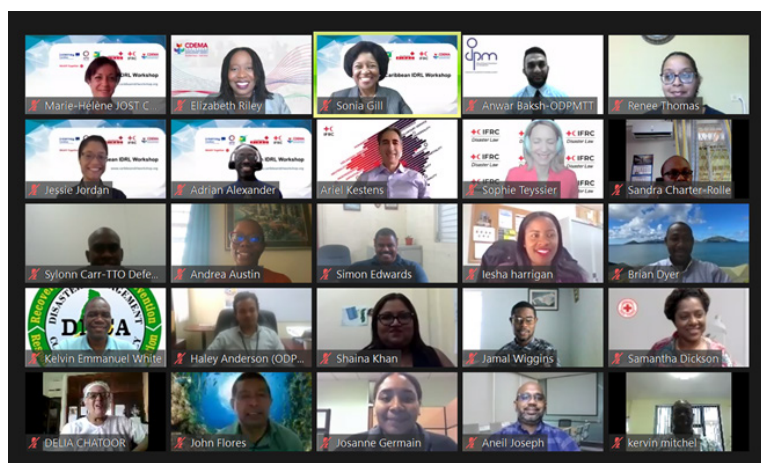
SIMULATION EXERCISE 1: REQUESTING AND ACCEPTING INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE

Participants were placed into 4 breakout groups for an interactive simulation exercise using the Google Jamboard application.

The simulation exercise was an opportunity for participants to examine a hypothetical scenario during an emergency to see how their response framework will operate to facilitate international assistance. The particular tasks of this exercise required participants to set out the processes or procedure for deciding if and when international assistance may be received as well as the procedures for requesting and accepting international offers of assistance. Participants were also asked to examine whether there were gaps in their country's procedures and if yes, what would be their recommendation to fill those gaps.

Following insightful discussions, participants identified the key players involved in requesting and accepting offers of international assistance. Firstly, the National Disaster Offices play a major role in carrying out damage assessments and needs analysis. Based on the findings of the analysis, a recommendation is made to the Prime Minister or Cabinet on whether international assistance is needed and the particular needs identified. This information is channeled to international agencies, embassies and consulates through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CDEMA is also notified on whether assistance is needed through the RRM.

In terms of recommendations, participants acknowledged that coordination mechanisms needed to be strengthened e.g. through the establishment of a focal point for international disaster assistance and the publication of official 'needs lists' to avoid poor quality assistance and duplication. It was also mentioned that in the Bahamas, a pre-registration system was developed for the registration of humanitarian agencies, pre-disaster, so as reduce administrative delays as well as ensure quality assistance during a disaster.







DAY 2

Key Themes in IDRL

Day 2: Key Themes in IDRL

After examining the broad concepts of IDRL on Day 1, the discussions on Day 2 took a 'deep dive' into certain key aspects of IDRL, and involved a close examination of the IDRL Guidelines, the Model CDM Bill, and the Model IDRL Act in relation to the requesting and accepting of international offers of assistance and the granting of legal facilities. A case study on Unsolicited Bilateral Donations in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian was also examined as well as the CDEMA Logistics and Relief Management Programme.

REQUESTING AND ACCEPTING INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE

Ms. Jessie Jordan, IFRC, Disaster Law Officer, examined in detail the IDRL recommendations relating to requesting and accepting international offers of assistance and presented a case study on Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBDs) in the Bahamas, and how the recommendations of the *IDRL Guidelines* could assist to reduce the incidence of UBDs after a disaster.

A comparison was made between the recommendations of the *IDRL Guidelines*, the IDRL Model Act and the provisions of the Model CDM Legislation 2013. Common between these instruments was the idea of State sovereignty and that international assistance should only be initiated with the consent of the affected State. The procedural aspects of requesting and accepting offers of assistance were also outlined in these instruments and included assessing the needs of the population and making the requests through diplomatic channels e.g. through Ministries of Foreign Affairs. However, a critical aspect of IDRL in requesting and accepting offers of assistance was the recommendation to be as specific as possible as to the types and amounts of goods, services and expertise needed, so as to avoid influxes of goods and services that do not match the needs of the affected population. It was noted that this was not included in the provisions of the Model CDM Legislation.

Ms. Jordan also presented on the experience of The Bahamas (case study) as it related to the requesting of international assistance after Hurricane Dorian. In terms of key findings, it was observed that there was some inconsistency in “Needs lists” published by the government. In one instance, there were vague descriptions and broad categories resulting in some uncertainty in what was needed. This situation was also compounded by the high amount of international media attention resulting in a flood of offers of assistance, even before needs were properly identified. As a consequence, Bahamas was inundated with goods that turned out to be unusable and NEMA was left with high costs e.g. freight charges of over USD 500,000 as well as storage fees.

Based on these findings, it was recommended that the legislation or the National Disaster Plan should provide some clarity on who is responsible for the generating of “Needs Lists”. Additionally, a strategy should be developed to manage UBDs as part of preparedness planning. Further, a communications strategy should be developed to inform potential donors on how best to assist in a disaster and may include a “cash is best” approach.

LEGAL FACILITIES FOR ELIGIBLE HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

Mrs. Tania Chambers, IFRC Consultant, presented on the IDRL issue of legal facilities for eligible humanitarian actors, drawing from the extensive research done on this topic in various Caribbean jurisdictions.

She outlined several principles that should be observed when discussing legal facilities for humanitarian actors. Of great significance was the principle that sovereignty of the State should always be respected, and the granting of legal facilities should be based on pre-qualification. That is, they should not be available to all relief actors, but should go through a process of qualification to determine eligibility.

The *IDRL Guidelines* are also clear on the types of legal facilities that may be recommended for humanitarian actors. These include (i) legal recognition that allows foreign entities to be registered and operate in the country; (ii) waivers and exemptions for, inter alia, entry/work visas, duties and taxes on relief items, VAT, registration of foreign professional qualifications, foreign drivers’ licenses; (iii) special arrangements e.g. extended opening hours (customs), arrangements for security, warehousing, transportation and logistics.

In light of the *IDRL Guidelines* and Model Act and the CDM Model legislation, Ms. Chambers outlined the general strengths and challenges that exist in regulatory frameworks in the Caribbean. In terms of strengths, these included the existence of regional focal point for international coordination, that is, through the CDEMA Regional Response Mechanism and its sub-regional focal points; and the prescribed role for Red Cross National Societies in the disaster plans of most countries.

In terms of challenges, some of the main ones included the fact that national systems are not scaled for a major disaster event resulting in domestic capacities being overwhelmed by mass influxes of international disaster organisations and ad hoc volunteer groups. Most Caribbean countries also do not have specific procedures for the registration or legal recognition of new donors and the process of granting tax and duty waivers is usually ad hoc or discretionary which can create an undue burden on administrative systems.

Ms. Chambers highlighted key recommendations based on lessons learned from recent large-scale disasters. Some of these included the recommendation to implement a pre-registration process and eligibility requirements for new donors during peace time; in relation to the influx of goods, it was recommended to prelist eligible and ineligible items as well as ensure the early dissemination of DANA reports. The promotion of cash donations and cash transfers through the local private sector and NGOs and the enforcement sanctions applicable to registered actors for non-compliance with minimum standards was also recommended.

COORDINATION AND PREPAREDNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Mr. Kevon Campbell, CDEMA Logistics Specialist, presented on CDEMA's Logistics and Relief Management Programme which proposes new strategies in logistics management.

The main objective of the Logistics and Relief Management Programme is to provide a policy and plan framework that will guide the creation and maintenance of procedures, systems and mechanisms. It adopts a strategic approach which includes elements relating to governance, institutional strengthening and a mechanism for distributing, monitoring and tracking relief supplies.

An integral component of the programme is the development of plans, policies and guidelines that all countries would be required to develop. Another component is the Donations Management Policy which is critical during a disaster as countries can be inundated with goods and services that are not needed. This policy provides for the development of a mechanism that allows for preferred goods and services to reach designated reception centres based on demand-centric priority settings.

The CDEMA Logistics System (CLS) is also a system under the programme, currently being developed. It is guided by a technical committee and comprises the Emergency Logistics Module (ELM) and the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). These are digital tools that will assist in tracking shipment of stocks as well as the management of needs lists and will be integrated into national and regional plans. The roll-out of the CLS throughout the 20 CDEMA States would greatly improve humanitarian supply chain processes.

Mr. Campbell also shared two case studies, namely the La Soufriere volcanic eruption and the Integrated Regional Logistics Hub activated for the sending of relief supplies during COVID-19. These case studies provided operational insights on the management and coordination of logistics and relief.

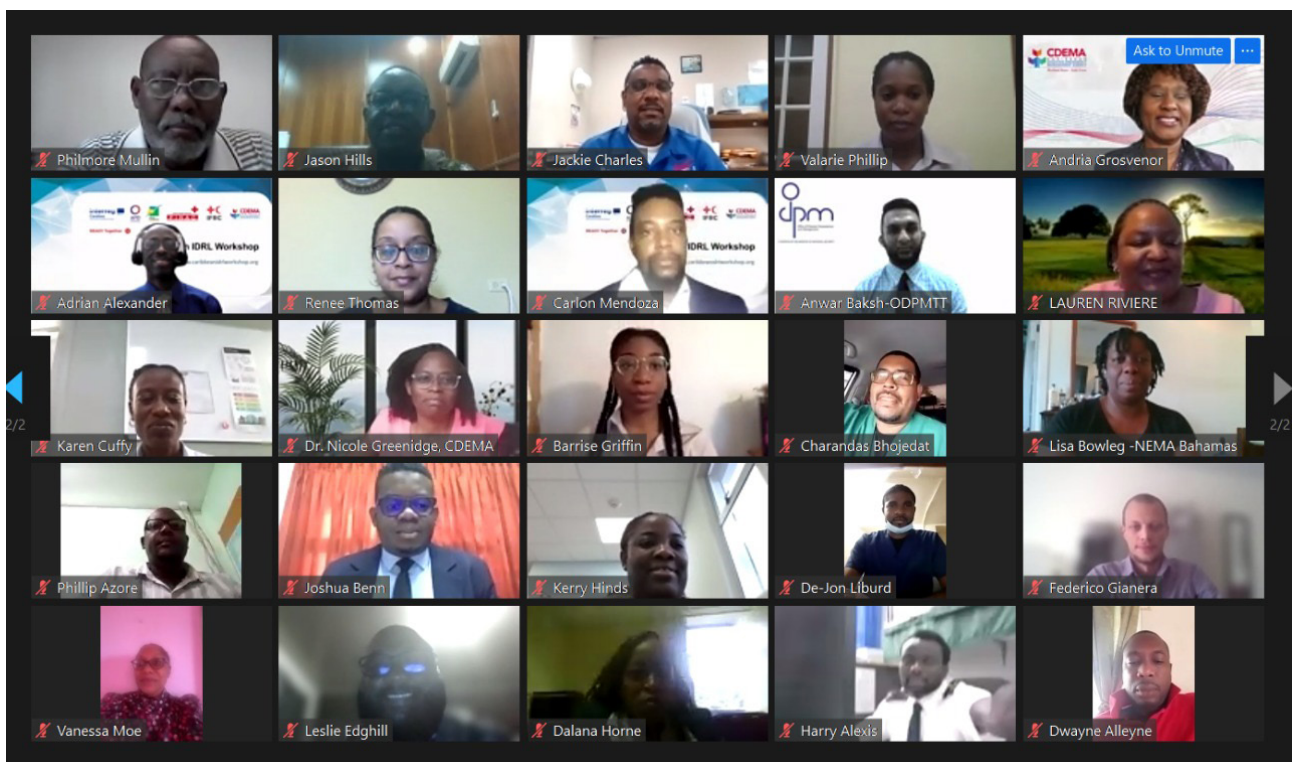
SIMULATION EXERCISE 2: LEGAL STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTING ACTORS

Participants were placed into 4 breakout groups for an interactive simulation exercise using the Google Jamboard application.

Simulation exercise 2 carried the same format as simulation exercise 1, but a different scenario was proposed. For exercise 2, participants were required to set out the current policy or process for International NGO's to be able to do official business in-country (e.g. open bank accounts, hire staff) and whether there was an expedited process for humanitarian organisations during a disaster. Participants were also asked to examine whether there were gaps in their country's procedures and if yes, what would be their recommendation to fill those gaps.

Coming out of the discussions of the breakout groups, it was noted that there were some variations with respect to the procedures for registration. In some countries, international organisations were required to register with the Ministry of Finance, in others, they were required to present their credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which acted as a focal point. In all cases it was necessary to obtain approval in order to operate, and in some countries, such as Bahamas, a pre-registration process was set up. There were other instances e.g. in Dominica where the international organization had an established link to a local entity (Dominica Red Cross and IFRC) and the local entity helped to facilitate the operations of the international organization.

However, there were certain gaps that were identified e.g. in BVI, the current procedure for registration of international organisations was not suitable for an emergency or disaster situation. It was recommended that there should be established eligibility criteria for registration with clear policies and guidelines for international organisations to ensure a smooth process. This information should be readily available online, beforehand, so that organisations could pre-register and be vetted during peace time. Additionally, it was noted that it was critical to look beyond registration and to implement a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the operations of international organisations so as to ensure that they adhere to the minimum standards to enjoy the legal facilities that they were granted, and for the protection of the affected populations.



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The way forward

Day 3: The Way Forward

On Day 3, the discussions centered around sharing lessons learned from recent major disaster events as well as discussing proactive steps for the way forward. This included a proposal to create a Regional Working Group to advance the development of Caribbean protocols and regulatory standards for the strengthening of the existing regulatory framework in the area of international humanitarian assistance.

REGIONAL IDRL WORKING GROUP

Mrs. Tania Chambers, IFRC Consultant, facilitated an interactive discussion around the establishment of a Regional IDRL Working Group as a mechanism that would allow for the IDRL conversation to move beyond the life of the workshop and to be able to flesh out issues in a more complex way and to pull out ideas and activities that can be institutionalized.

During this session, participants considered 6 key questions: (i) What are the main IDRL issues to be prioritized? (ii) What would be the mission? (iii) What would be the objectives? (iv) What would be the role of the Working Group? (v) What would be the composition of the Working Group? (vi) What would be the regularity and purpose of Working Group meetings?

Regarding the main IDRL issues to be prioritized, participants highlighted the need to address international relief coordination mechanisms in the context of a pandemic as well as careful management of donations to ensure that the intended relief does not actually harm the affected country. The issue of regulating surge personnel, the coordination of military relief and the challenges relating to customs inspections of heavy equipment being imported during an emergency were also mentioned.

In terms of clarifying the mission, the participants noted that an IDRL framework should be considered within the national context of the State and incorporated within the national legislation. It should also show the connection to the regional mechanism and regional framework.

In defining IDRL objectives for Caribbean jurisdictions, the participants noted the importance of establishing minimum standards for the treatment of surge personnel as well as establishing consistency in the requirements for anyone providing relief, whether they are from within the region or outside of the region, which allows for easier monitoring. Establishing minimum standards for goods was also raised, understanding that goods have varying shelf life. The idea for setting up a regional ethics group that could monitor ethical issues around donations of relief goods was also raised.

In identifying what could be the role of the Working Group, it was proposed that the mandate could centre around the regional synchronization of laws and policies relating to disaster relief and the movement of people that would facilitate an efficient humanitarian response. The Working Group could sensitize governments on what IDRL is trying to achieve and how it could be done through the enhancement of existing laws. It was also noted that the work of the Working Group should also be aligned to the work and role of other regional organisations e.g. the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality Assurance.

As it related to the composition of the Working Group, participants noted that there should be fair representation from among Participating States. There should be representation from regional organisations such as CARICOM and CDEMA as well as from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs at the national level. International organisations should also play a role as it relates to providing technical perspectives in disaster coordination.

On the issue of the life span of the Working Group, participants recognized that the Working Group should establish clear deliverables and a time frame for the delivery of each item. However, the Working Group should not have a definitive life span as new issues will always emerge as the climate continues to change and coordination becomes more complex. The Working Group should start with a workplan by mapping out the different priority areas and the ways in which they could be achieved. Ms. Chambers went on to explain that since the role of the Working Group speaks to disaster coordination, it would be established within the context of CDEMA and its mechanisms and its recommendations would be proposed to CDEMA e.g. recommendations to amend the Model CDM Legislation.

OPTIMIZING THE AUXILIARY ROLE OF THE RED CROSS

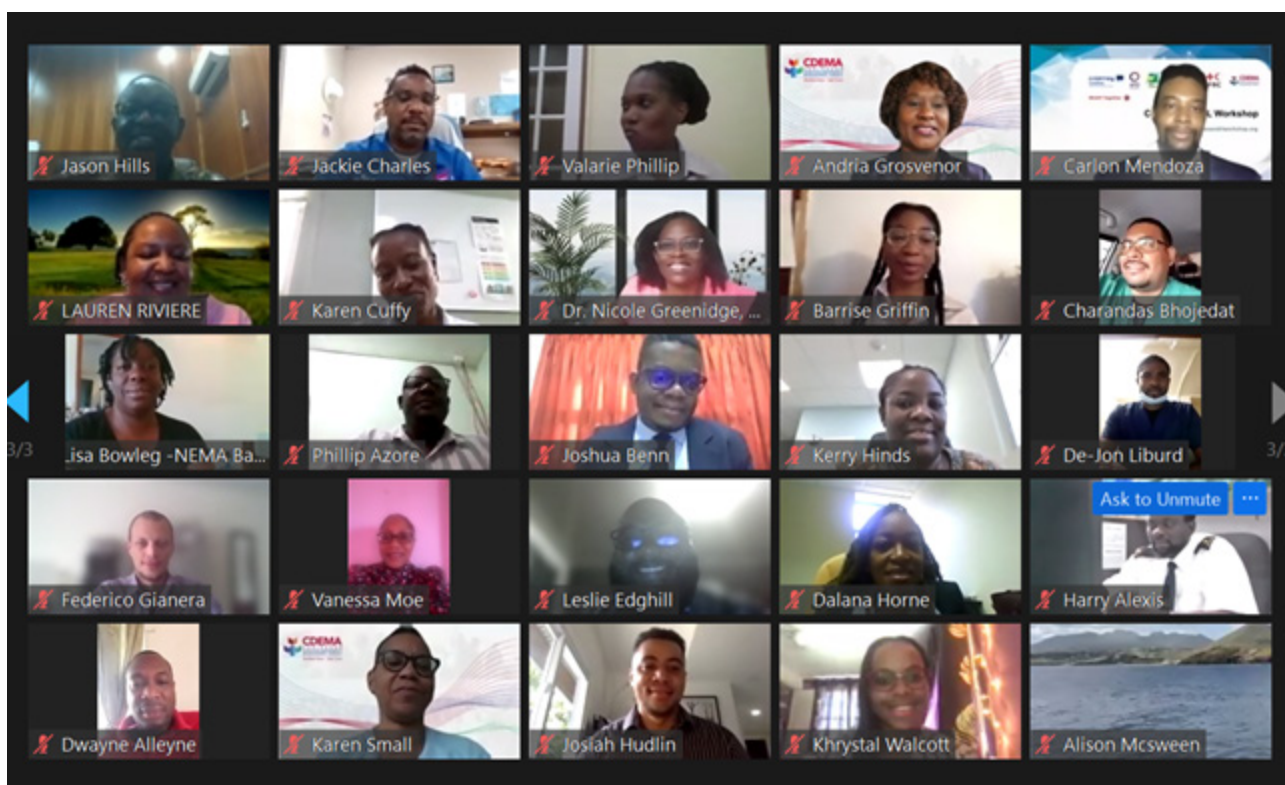
Ms. Stacy Cummings, IFRC, Legislative Advocacy Advisor, presented on the auxiliary role of Red Cross National Societies, the significance of this role in supporting public authorities, and how this can be leveraged during an emergency response where international humanitarian assistance is needed.

In defining the auxiliary role, Stacy Cummings explained how National Societies occupy a special relationship with public authorities and have a mandate to provide supplemental support or in some cases substitute public humanitarian services, where the government is not able to provide those services. Although the work of the Red Cross originated in assisting wounded soldiers on the battlefield, it has since expanded to include a wide range of services such as health and social programmes as well as responding to disasters.

It was emphasized that every local Red Cross Society is part of the world's largest humanitarian network and can be leveraged to respond to a large scale disaster. This network is made up of 192 countries, 17 million volunteers and assists up to 160 million people each year.

As regards funding for disasters, National Societies have access to IFRC's Funding Mechanisms namely, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) which is a grant fund to respond to small-scale emergencies and the Emergency Appeal (EA) which is an international marketing and positioning tool to promote an emergency operation to partners/donors and external audiences to raise funding. In Dominica, after Hurricane Maria, IFRC made a call for CHF 7 million to support 20,000 persons, and 99% of that coverage was received. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, after the eruption of La Soufriere, an appeal of CHF 2 million was made to support 5,400 persons.

To take advantage of this vast network, preparation is key. The auxiliary role should be enshrined not only in Red Cross Acts, but also in disaster management laws and coordination mechanisms. Additionally, it is recommended that pre-disaster agreements be concluded between National Societies, the IFRC and the government where roles and responsibilities can be defined during peace time.



ADAPTING TO A PANDEMIC: EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING COVID-19

Dr. Joy St. John, CARPHA, Executive Director, presented on the Caribbean Public Health Agency's response to COVID-19 and the regional mechanisms for coordination.

The regional coordination was led at the CARICOM level with governance of the response led by Heads of Government and involved not only the Prime Ministers, but also Ministers of Health, Chief Medical Officers and the CARICOM Secretariat.

CARPHA managed COVID-19 from the perspective of health security and brought all security forces of CARICOM together. In terms of vaccines, while there was global inequity in vaccine distribution, CARPHA sought to develop a regional formula to based on population data and vulnerabilities within the populations to ensure equity within the region. CARPHA also played a regulatory role to ensure quality of vaccines entering the region.

Dr. Lisa Indar, CARPHA, Director, Surveillance Disease, Prevention and Control, provided more details on CARPHA's role in the regional response.

CARPHA provided a wide range of support and services to the COVID response including laboratory support for testing, epidemiological support, guidance to tourism and health sectors, capacity building and training etc. Regional guidance documents were also developed such as guidance for cruise ships, evacuation protocols, recommendations on quarantine, travel bubble requirements, repatriation, guidelines for re-opening etc.

CARPHA also coordinated with technical groups e.g. medical expert advisory groups, communications networks (vaccine hesitancy) CMO's Networks etc.

Dr. Indar also provided insights into CARPHA's role as it related to public health threats/emergencies which includes the monitoring of public health threats, providing staff for rapid response deployment teams, laboratory support for outbreak investigations and coordinating health inputs for emergencies after the impact of a natural disaster e.g. Guyana floods 2021.

Mr. Carlon Mendoza, IFRC, Research Officer presented on the key findings and recommendations of IFRC's Global Synthesis Report on the Law and Public Health Emergency (PHE) Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global Synthesis Report was the result of extensive research conducted on the plethora of laws and regulations being enacted and implemented around the world to deal with COVID-19. It was observed that these emergency decrees restricted freedom of movement and assembly which played a significant role in how governments managed the spread of the pandemic. As such, the Global Synthesis Report analyses current legislation and instruments governing public health emergencies and develops recommendations based on lessons learned.

In terms of methodology, the research firstly mapped emergency decrees by examining how the law facilitated humanitarian efforts. Secondly, an analysis of legal and institutional frameworks was done to understand the role of law in mitigating against secondary impacts and to learn from the experiences of past PHE's e.g. Ebola, SARS, Zika.

Coming out of this analysis, the research proposed several key recommendations including the recommendation that PHE risk management should be integrated with general DRM frameworks and include an "all of society" approach. Laws and policies should refer to the roles and responsibilities of the Red Cross and emergency powers and measures should be consistent with international laws on human rights. Additionally, PHE contingency plans should address the specific and additional needs of vulnerable groups and laws and policies should not restrict cross-border movement of relief goods and equipment.

SURVIVING THE AFTERMATH: PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr. Timothy Affonso, IFRC Consultant, presented a Case Study Report on the Regional Coordination and Cooperation Frameworks in Disaster Response, which focused on OECS zone countries.

The main purpose of the research was to gain a better understanding of the interaction of legal and institutional coordination frameworks between regional actors in disaster response (e.g. CDEMA, CARPHA, OECS) with a view to identifying strengths and weaknesses to propose recommendations for improvement and to ultimately assist governments in improving their international disaster response and the regulation and facilitation of international aid.

In terms of research methodology, it involved the conduct of desk research, key informant interviews with key stakeholders as well as stakeholder validation. The IDRL Checklist was utilized as the analytical benchmarking tool to assess the disaster response system's capacity to support international disaster relief.

The integration of the national system with the regional system was seen as a key strength of the framework. Additionally, it was observed that between regional organisations, there was a symbiotic relationship e.g. where there was a natural disaster, CDEMA was the lead agency in the response, whereas in the case of a public health emergency, CARPHA was the lead agency, with CDEMA in a supporting role. This was seen in the response to La Soufriere eruption in SVG, where CDEMA was the lead agency and CARPHA provided support as it related to the health inputs to the response. In terms of international aid mechanisms, specific mention was made of Red Cross National Societies and the IFRC in their capacity to conduct field work and to quickly mobilize on the ground during an emergency.

Regarding particular weaknesses within the system was the impaired ability to facilitate international aid due to a lack of resources nationally to provide information (e.g. needs lists) and facilitate effective communications. The slow pace of national policy development was also noted as well as a lack of training for border control agencies on the role of international aid agencies in disasters.

Some of the preliminary recommendations proposed were the revitalization of existing regional frameworks which could lead to an improvement in national frameworks, specific training for border security personnel and a programme for policy development and legislative reform. It was acknowledged that this was not a simple process but that it required an examination of relevant national laws and policies, which are not housed in 1 document or piece of legislation but in multiple instruments. This examination should be guided by the IDRL Model Law and Guidelines, but also by the CDEMA CDM Model Legislation and the RRM which is an indigenous approach to disaster management.

Mrs. Terez Curry, Bahamas Red Cross Society, President, shared on the experiences of the Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS) in responding to Hurricane Dorian, the challenges, the lessons learned and the successes.

One of the first major challenges to the response was the management of the large numbers of incoming surge personnel. It became necessary to clear out warehouse space to accommodate their office space. While some persons came for 2 weeks and others for longer, the lesson learned was that it was better to have persons stay for longer periods which helped in the continuity of the recovery process.

Another challenge was in data collection. Due to the large number of persons seeking assistance, it was necessary to quickly convert manual systems to digital. This was done using a mobile application Open Data Kit (ODK). A case management approach was also used in the management of beneficiaries, which turned out to be very successful, as beneficiaries felt appreciated as they could liaise directly with case workers assigned to them.

There were also challenges in the management of volunteers as well as with the increases in in-kind donations solicited and unsolicited. However, there were lessons learned and capacity built in the area of warehouse management, psychosocial support among other areas.

In early recovery interventions BRCS also provided support to migrant populations who went into hiding and did not seek immediate assistance for fear of deportation. However, the BRCS went in search of them to provide help. Eventually they trusted the Red Cross brand as an institution to provide help and sought assistance.

Another significant lesson learned was in dead body management. The BRCS obtained the assistance of ICRC Forensic Science experts to help locate dead bodies in the rubble and to provide advice to the government in the management of dead bodies. BRCS successfully advocated for the 55 unclaimed bodies to be buried in exhumable coffins along with a database that could help categorize the remains to make it possible for identification in years to come. Subsequently, a committee was formed for the purpose of developing laws on how to manage dead bodies after a major disaster.

The experience of Dorian built the capacity of BRCS to respond to disasters in the future as they were able to develop and run programmes in multipurpose cash, voucher assistance, rental assistance, livelihoods and others. When COVID-19 hit, BRCS acted innovatively to adapt their programmes to COVID-19 protocols e.g. doing digital cash programmes and setting up procedures to avoid groups of persons coming physically to their offices for assistance.

Capt. Stephen Russell, NEMA (Bahamas) Director, shared on the challenges and lessons learned in coordinating relief and logistics after Hurricane Dorian.

One of the greatest challenges in the response was related to the geography of the islands. Grand Bahama and Abaco, the two most impacted islands were located 150 miles away from the capital in Nassau, where the response was being coordinated. In terms of search and rescue, all airports were inoperable after Dorian. Also, all major aircrafts and vessels moved out of the jurisdiction in preparation for the storm, and it took time for them to receive safety clearance to return to be able to provide evacuation services or assistance.

In terms of receiving international assistance, there was a registration system put in place for international organisations. There were also coordination meetings held to understand their expertise and the assets that they brought so as to appropriately match them with local agencies.

As it related to security, all security vehicles and officers were impacted. A request was made to CDEMA for assistance from the Regional Security System to provide the needed security. The Dutch, British and American military forces also provided assistance. However, it was necessary to ensure that there was effective coordination so they could be properly tasked in the response.

One significant lesson learned was that the government saw the need to increase capacity so that disaster management would not be dealt with by a single agency, but by an entire Ministry. The Disaster Reconstruction Authority was also established.

Ms. Terece Bootle Laing, Abaco Administrator (Bahamas), shared the challenges and the lessons learned from the Abaco experience after Hurricane Dorian.

One of the major lessons learned was that there was a need for continuous training in disaster management, and one could not take for granted that disaster management personnel know what to do. Post Dorian, every opportunity for refresher trainings was endorsed.

Reliance on a single method of communication did not work. The destruction of heavy equipment by the storm inhibited the ability to reach remote parts of the islands and as such it took several weeks to establish communications and logistical support. Also, due to the fact that critical personnel were themselves impacted, the only option was to wait for outside assistance.

Another major challenge was the incidence of private boats and planes dropping off supplies. This resulted in chaotic scenes and additional man-power was needed to bring order to drop-off sites. Additionally, there was an overwhelming amount of unsolicited goods that landed in Abaco that had to be sorted. These included canned goods that were not desired by the local population as well as medicines that did not meet the standards of the Ministry of Health.

As regards the provision of gender-based support, many able-bodied men were the first to get employment in manual intensive labour in the areas of clean-up and reconstruction. However, there were many single mothers, persons with disabilities and the elderly that required tremendous support to rebuild, and their relief needs were great. It was necessary to find innovative ways to reach vulnerable populations. For example, where assistance was provided through direct deposits to bank accounts, some persons did not have the requisite paperwork to conduct banking and so cash and digital assistance was used.

Mr. Jasen Penn, Department of Disaster Management (BVI) Ag Director, provided key insights and lessons learned from the experiences of the BVI after Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

He first noted that the NEOC was completely destroyed, and the communications infrastructure was obliterated. There was no communication with the outside for at least 2 days. Due to the loss in communication, most persons had to walk until they could get assistance and it was not possible to reach out to partners until communication was established. For example, the British military had to stand down until communication was established. As such the lesson learned was that there was a need to have pre-established mechanisms with international partners and NGOs as well as with local organisations familiar with the BVI context.

Once airports were opened, there was a lot of solicited and unsolicited aid coming in. Also, within the private sector, persons who owned private jets and private islands were flying in aid, resulting in congestion at the ports. Distribution also became an issue because of the lack of information on the quantity of supplies coming in and where it was going. The lesson learned in this instance was that it was important to meet with partners before-hand to understand the kind of support they are able to provide in an emergency.

There were also significant geographical challenges as the BVI comprise several islands, with the furthest island being 30 miles out. Most vessels and ferries were destroyed, and military vessels could only come in when harbours were declared to be safe. Only when helipads and airports were cleared, could vessels come in to do reconnaissance. To overcome logistical challenges with the geography, satellite EOC's were established on various islands, so that the island could run a local EOC in case they got cut off from the main island. Satellite warehouses were also established on different islands so that the recovery process and relief distribution could start while waiting to connect to the main island.

There were also legal issues that arose in relation to the magnitude of NGOs coming in to provide assistance. This was not anticipated and due to the large number of them, the government did not even know who some of them were and this also resulted in a duplication of efforts and poor coordination. To overcome this challenge, mechanisms were set up under the Non-Profit Act to coordinate NGOs. At present, NGOs are coordinated through the Ministry of Health, where briefings can take place to understand and coordinate the skills sets and the numbers of persons coming in.

There was also heavy looting after the hurricanes due to the compromised security and the low penalties. As such, penalties were upgraded.

KEY OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

- **Regional IDRL Working Group**

A key outcome of the workshop was the keen interest from States and a commitment from CDEMA and IFRC to coordinate the establishment of a Regional IDRL Working Group. The Working Group would be responsible for advancing the recommendations of the workshop through the development of Caribbean protocols and regulatory standards for the strengthening of the existing regulatory framework in the area of international humanitarian assistance. This would include the development of a regional IDRL protocol or regulation. It is expected that this commitment to establish the Working Group will be realized in 2022. In terms of next steps following the workshop, IFRC and CDEMA will finalize the Draft Terms of Reference in the first quarter and coordinate the first physical meeting of the Working Group in the second quarter of 2022.

- **Established network of Caribbean disaster management actors**

The Caribbean IDRL Workshop was a milestone event for IDRL in the Caribbean, to the extent that it was the largest gathering of disaster management actors from across the region for IDRL. This has resulted in the establishment of a wide network of key actors which can support the promulgation of IDRL and serve as a platform in which to engage in further IDRL activities.

- **Increased interest from States to work on IDRL**

During the workshop discussions and simulation exercises, participants clearly recognized and identified the short-comings within their country's framework as it related to the entry of international disaster relief and the significant challenges faced by States to manage influxes of ad hoc humanitarian actors during a large-scale disaster. From those discussions, there was a collective interest from National Disaster Coordinators and government representatives to tackle the issues within their domestic frameworks as well as an interest to receive additional information and training in matters relating to IDRL.

ANNEX 1: CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

A. Recent years have seen an increase in the scope, intensity and frequency of severe hazards and disaster events in the Caribbean region, and a commensurate increase in the breadth of planned and ad hoc international relief entering the region. This trend was highlighted in the 2017 Hurricane season, during which multiple Caribbean countries issued calls for international relief and recovery assistance, receiving inflows of goods and services through both established and ad hoc donors. Record numbers of humanitarian relief groups flowed into the Caribbean, including medical service providers, military personnel, engineering professionals and other specially regulated humanitarian actors. Caribbean governments benefitted significantly from humanitarian inputs, but in some instances bore the costs of unsolicited donations. Uncertainties surrounding the regulation, coordination and facilitation of international humanitarian groups were among the most significant legislative and policy gaps identified by stakeholders. These experiences have underscored the importance of having clear legislative, policy and practical guidelines for the governance of international relief actors, before, during and after a disaster event.

B. Additionally, the 2020 COVID-19 crisis is a wake-up call that showcases the realities of unprecedented global systemic risks and demonstrates how vulnerable the world is to a truly global catastrophe. Many Caribbean governments, like the rest of the world, imposed unprecedented exceptional measures, including closing their borders and internal restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. While these circumstances are the result of a public health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic also presents a deeper socio-economic crisis that further intensifies already vulnerable Caribbean societies. Further, the highly active 2020 Atlantic hurricane season reminds us that extreme weather events do not stop during pandemics. It illustrates how risks overlap and exacerbate other risks, and that inequalities create vulnerability – between countries, but also within countries and communities.

Thus, it is imperative to continue to invest in preparedness in disaster prone contexts including legal and institutional preparedness through the adoption of law and policy frameworks that regulate and facilitate eligible international humanitarian aid and assistance.

C. In the Caribbean, Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) is the management of all hazards through all phases of the disaster management cycle – prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation – by all peoples – public and private sectors, all segments of civil society and the general population in hazard prone areas. It involves risk reduction and management and integration of vulnerability assessment into the development planning process. Since 2010, CDEMA Participating States adopted a Blueprint that provides the conceptual framework needed for the effective delivery of CDM at the national level. There are three principal components to the CDM Blueprint, i.e. policy, legislation, and country work programmes [PLC].

D. As it relates to the legislation component of the Blueprint, CDEMA has integrated considerations regarding the planning and facilitation of International Humanitarian Assistance in its Model Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Legislation and Regulations, 2013. In keeping with international best practice, these provisions on International Humanitarian Assistance were fairly influenced by IFRC's globally recognized "Guidelines on the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief Operations in case of Disaster" (known as the "IDRL Guidelines"). CDEMA has promoted the adoption of its Model Legislation throughout the region, as well as supporting approaches to international relief management and facilitation set out in its Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy. CDEMA's Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) presents a potential landing point for prospective international donors and has provided some predictability and clarity for those donors who have an active regional presence.

E. Recognising the need to continually improve and adapt to the increasing complexities of disasters, the IFRC has advanced its research in the regulation and facilitation of international disaster relief to develop additional tools to complement the *IDRL Guidelines*. These include the “Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, 2013” (IDRL Model Act); the IDRL Model Emergency Decree (2017) and the IDRL Checklist (2017). Using the IDRL Guidelines and Checklist, the IFRC, with the support and involvement of Red Cross National Societies and National Disaster Offices across the region has supported the review of laws and practices in Jamaica (2013), St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada (2017), Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia (forthcoming publications), in order to assess national and regional legislative and policy preparedness for international disaster response regulation. Benefiting from the support of CDEMA, these studies are highly consultative and bring to bear a Caribbean perspective on the types of regulatory strategies that are needed at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to fulfill the principles of the IDRL Guidelines.

F. In alignment with a Memorandum of Understanding executed in 2016, CDEMA and the IFRC have collaborated on a number of initiatives designed to raise awareness on the importance of achieving regulatory and policy clarity on international disaster relief rules in the Caribbean. IFRC facilitated a 2016 meeting of CDEMA’s Technical Advisory Committee (1) (TAC) on the issue of IDRL, and the outcome statements from this high-level activity identified the need to strengthen national regulatory and planning systems that guide the influx of humanitarian relief through national borders. Recently, at the 12th meeting of the TAC, held in April 2021, the TAC recognised the legislative matters emerging from the recent impacts of hazard events including the La Soufriere volcanic event; and the importance of the appropriate treatment of disaster relief and assistance within the national CDM Bill [legislation] and regulations. It further recognised the need to appropriately treat disaster relief and assistance within the CDM Bill [legislation] as a recommendation for the way forward. CDEMA continues to provide support to IFRC’s national legislative reviews and contributes to regional discussions on the nuances of a Caribbean agenda for IDRL in laws, plans and policies.

PURPOSE

G. It is within this context, that the Caribbean IDRL Workshop has been conceptualized, to examine ways in which the existing regional framework and its mechanisms can be strengthened through IDRL principles. Taking into consideration the doctrine of CDM, this Workshop seeks to facilitate the advancement of a Caribbean perspective on regionally appropriate regulatory standards that are aligned to current international best practices in IDRL.

H. The Caribbean IDRL Workshop is funded by the INTERREG “Ready Together” Project led by the French Red Cross, through its Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Regional Council of Guadeloupe. In partnership with the IFRC, CDEMA and the OECS, the “Ready Together” Project seeks to enhance disaster resilience in the Caribbean, identifying the need to strengthen disaster legal and institutional frameworks as one of its four key pillars along with enhancing economic actors’ preparedness and promoting risk prevention among the Caribbean population.

(1) The CDEMA TAC comprise of the National Disaster Coordinators and representatives of specialized regional organizations, such as those engaged in technological, meteorological, and seismological fields whose programmes are directly related to the regional disaster management agenda.

PROPOSED SCOPE & CONTENT

Objectives

1. Examine ways in which the existing regulatory framework on international humanitarian assistance can be strengthened through IDRL principles by:
 - o Encouraging States to adopt the Model CDM Legislation and the IDRL principles through examination of key themes in international humanitarian assistance
 - o Sharing lessons learned in international relief facilitation, in particular, the hurricane seasons of 2017, 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic response and the La Soufriere eruption with a view to strengthening this aspect of their comprehensive disaster laws and policies
 - o Examining National Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation and the Regional Response Mechanism
 - o Examining new strategies in logistics management through the Logistics and Relief Management Programme
 - o Sensitization to the international disaster response mechanism of the RC
 - o Sharing Caribbean models and achievements in intra-regional (or south-south) relief coordination through peer to peer exchange of experiences and knowledge with other regions (e.g. CEPREDENAC)
 - o Examining culturally appropriate strategies to address gender responsive support and the needs of vulnerable populations

2. Create a Regional IDRL Working Group responsible for advancing the recommendations of the Workshop through the development of Caribbean protocols and regulatory standards for the strengthening of the existing regulatory framework in the area of international humanitarian assistance.

Outcomes

- Clear understanding of the added-value of IDRL principles to existing regulatory frameworks on international humanitarian assistance.
- Identification of key areas and opportunities for the strengthening of CDM regulatory frameworks through the further adoption of IDRL principles.
- Establishment of a Regional IDRL Working Group to advance the development of Caribbean protocols and regulatory standards for the strengthening of the existing regulatory framework in the area of international humanitarian assistance.

PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the organizers, i.e. FRC PIRAC, IFRC and CDEMA, the Workshop will be attended by representatives of National Disaster Offices, Red Cross National Societies, regional and sub-regional organisations with interest in international disaster relief, and government officials from across the region with responsibility for ports (air and sea), foreign affairs, immigration, customs and taxation, food security, national security and health.

FORMAT

This Workshop is a virtual event over three half days and is jointly facilitated by CDEMA and IFRC. Participants will be engaged through virtual sessions via Zoom which will include presentations, panel discussions, working group activities and opportunities for open discussions.

To register for the Workshop, kindly use the following link: <https://www.cadrim.org/caribbeanidrlworkshop>

For more information or questions about the event, please contact Jessie Jordan, Disaster Law Officer, IFRC at jessie.jordan@ifrc.org.

ANNEX 2: AGENDA

TIME ZONE: AST or UTC-4



Day 1: Broad perspectives in IDRL

Time	Session	Facilitator/Speaker
9:00-9:15	Opening Ceremony: <i>Overview of the Background, Purpose and Agenda</i>	Sonia Gill <i>Secretary General, Caribbean Broadcasting Union</i>
9:15-9:40	Opening Remarks: <i>Heads of Regional and Partner Organisations: CDEMA/IFRC/PIRAC</i>	Elizabeth Riley <i>Executive Director, CDEMA</i> Ariel Kestens <i>Head of Delegation, Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean IFRC</i> Marie Helene Jost-Cholin <i>Emergency Preparedness Training and IDRL activities Coordinator, French Red Cross PIRAC</i>
9:40-9:45	Photo call: <i>Participants will be invited to participate in a group photo</i>	
9:45 - 10:45	Making the Case for IDRL in existing regulatory frameworks: <i>IFRC: Broad overview of IDRL and the key themes that could add value to Caribbean regulatory frameworks and the Model CDM Bill. (30 mins)</i>	Sophie Teyssier <i>Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy Coordinator, IFRC Americas</i> Andria Grosvenor

	CDEMA: Examine how the existing regulatory framework facilitates the Regional Response Mechanism and whether there is room for improvement using IDRL mechanisms. (30 mins)	Deputy Executive Director, CDEMA
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK	
11:00- 11:45	Peer to peer exchanges: Success stories <i>Panel discussion:</i> CEPREDENAC – Incorporating IDRL into DRM frameworks in Central America (30 mins) ODPM (T&T) – Developing a new CDM Policy and Legislation (15 mins) <u>*Spanish/English interpretation available</u>	Claudia Herrera Executive Secretary, CEPREDENAC Muhammad Anwar Baksh Planning and Development Officer, ODPM
11:45- 12:45	Simulation Exercise 1: Requesting and accepting international offers of assistance <i>Participants will be placed into groups to work on a simulation exercise that will examine how their response framework will operate in a particular scenario to facilitate international assistance (30 mins)</i> <i>Feedback in plenary (30 mins)</i>	
12:45- 13:00	Summary and Reflections	Adrian Alexander Disaster Law Researcher, IFRC
Day 2: Key Themes in IDRL		
9:00- 9:10	Welcome and Introduction: <i>Day 2: Summary of Agenda Participant feedback</i>	Adrian Alexander Disaster Law Researcher, IFRC

<p>9:10-9:50</p>	<p>Requesting and accepting international offers of assistance</p> <p><i>IFRC: Closer look at the Guidelines, the Model CDM Bill and the common challenges faced by States in requesting and accepting international offers of assistance</i></p> <p><i>IFRC: Bahamas Case Study on Unsolicited Bilateral Donations after Hurricane Dorian</i></p> <p><i>Participants note: This session will be particularly relevant to NDO's, ministries with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and National Security, international donor organisations</i></p>	<p>Jessie Jordan Disaster Law Officer, IFRC</p>
<p>9:50-10:50</p>	<p>Legal Facilities for Eligible Humanitarian Actors</p> <p><i>IFRC: Closer look at the Guidelines and IDRL Model Act on establishing mechanisms for eligibility for legal facilities for international humanitarian actors and the kinds of legal facilities that should be granted.</i></p> <p><i>This session will include findings and recommendations from Caribbean IDRL research studies in the area of legal facilities</i></p> <p><i>Participants note: This session will be particularly relevant to NDO's, ministries responsible for National Security, Customs and Immigration, Finance, international donor organisations</i></p>	<p>Tania Chambers IFRC Consultant</p>
<p>10:50-11:05</p>	<p>BREAK</p>	
<p>11:05-12:00</p>	<p>Coordination and preparedness for International Disaster Assistance</p>	

	<p>CDEMA: Logistics and Relief Management Programme: New strategies in logistics management: overcoming infrastructural and coordination limitations that accompany the influx of goods following a major disaster event. (40 mins)</p> <p>Participants note: This session will be particularly relevant to NDO's ministries with responsibility for ports, port authorities (air and sea), national security, international donor organisations, customs and immigration, food security and health</p>	<p>Kevon Campbell Logistics Specialist, CDEMA</p>
12:00 - 13:00	<p>Simulation Exercise 2: Legal status of International Assisting Actors</p> <p>Participants will be placed into groups to work on a simulation exercise that will examine how their response framework will operate in a particular scenario to facilitate international assistance (30 mins)</p> <p>Feedback in plenary (30 mins)</p>	
13:00 - 13:10	<p>Summary and Reflections</p>	<p>Adrian Alexander Disaster Law Researcher, IFRC</p>

Day 3 – Theme: The way forward

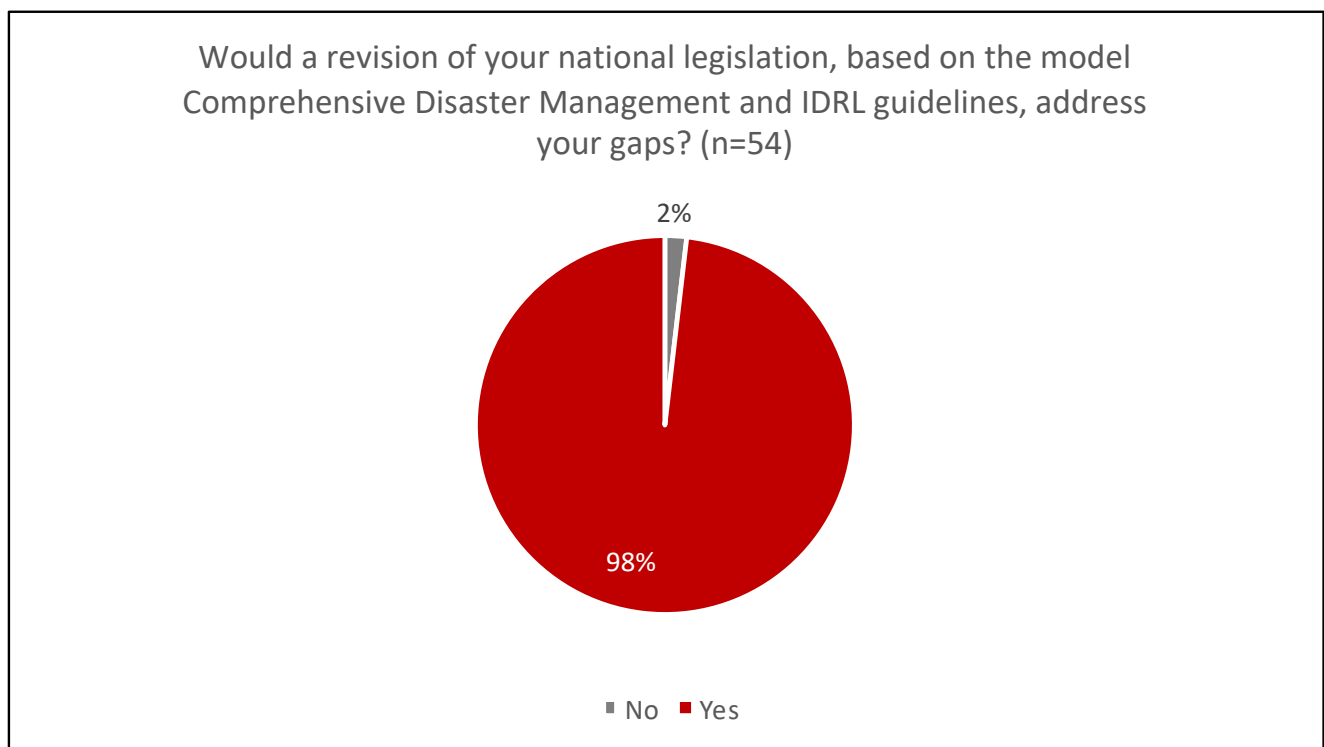
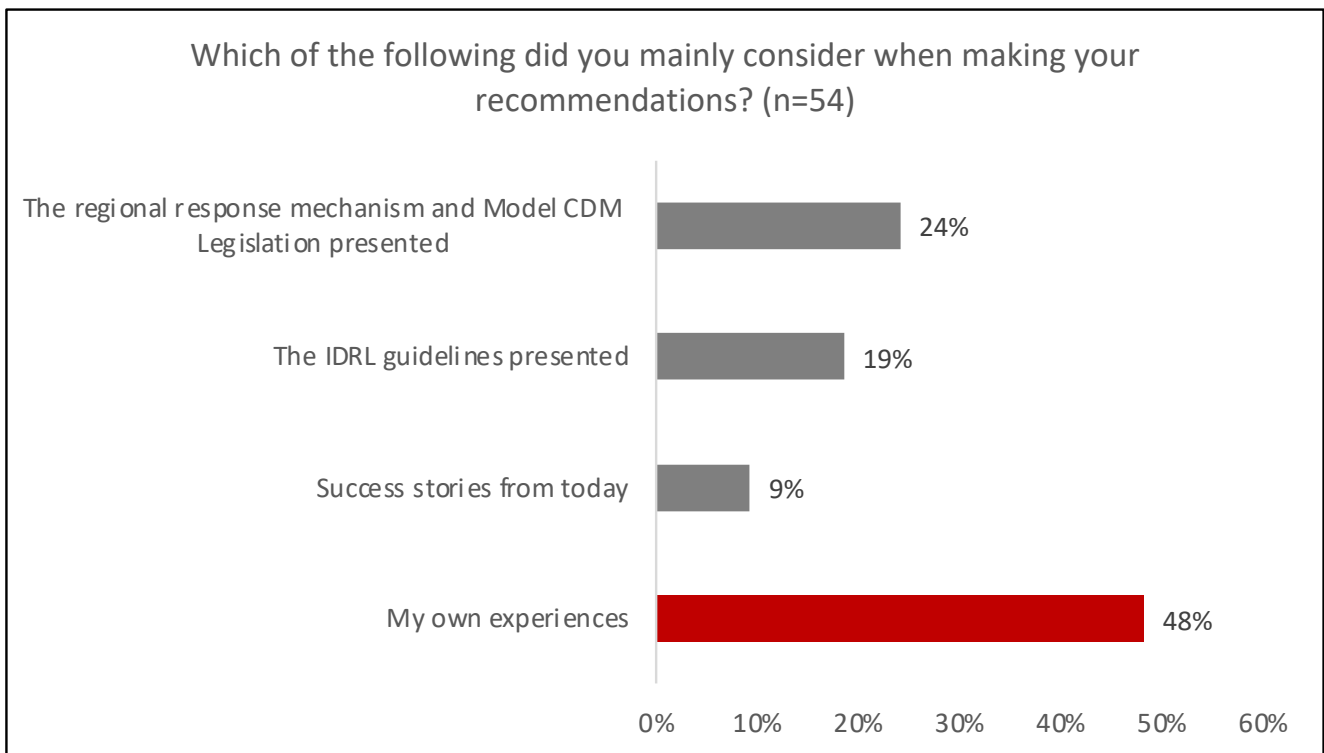
9:00-9:05	<p>Welcome and Introduction: <i>Day 3: Summary of Agenda</i></p>	<p>Adrian Alexander Disaster Law Researcher, IFRC</p>
9:05-10:30	<p>Regional IDRL Working Group: The way forward</p> <p><i>Proposal to create a Regional Working Group to advance the development of Caribbean protocols and regulatory standards for the strengthening of</i></p>	<p>Tania Chambers IFRC Consultant</p>

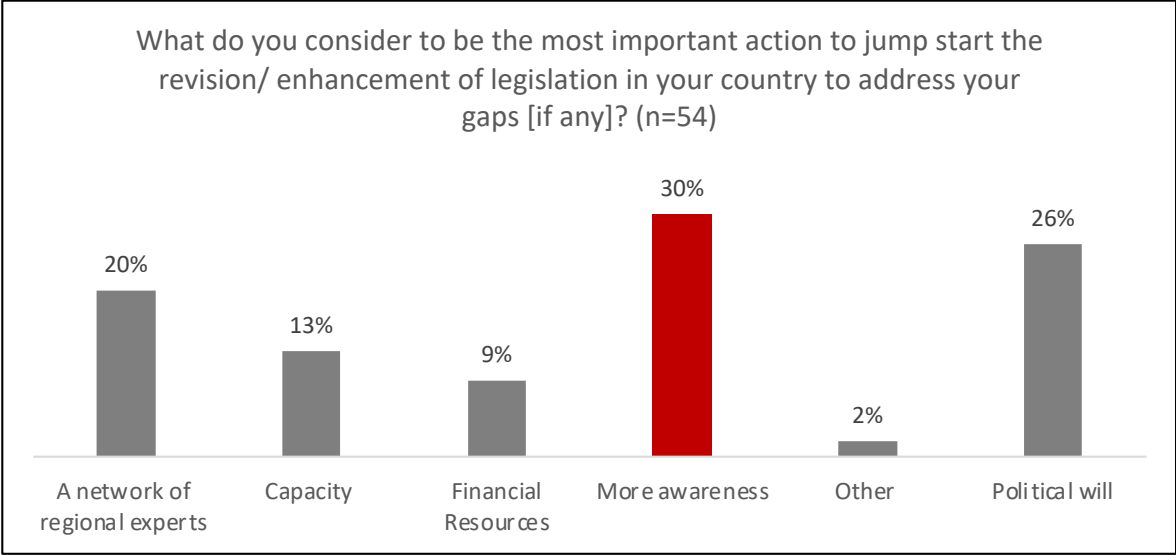
	<i>the existing regulatory framework in the area of international humanitarian assistance.</i>	
10:30-11:00	<p>Optimizing the Auxiliary Role of the Red Cross:</p> <p><i>IFRC: Taking advantage of the international disaster response mechanism of the RC through strengthening key partnerships and outlining roles and responsibilities pre-disaster</i></p>	<p>Stacy Cummings <i>Legislative Advocacy Advisor, IFRC</i></p>
11:00-11:15	BREAK	
11:15-12:00	<p>Adapting to a Pandemic: Emergency Response during COVID-19</p> <p><i>CARPHA: Coordination and cooperation in CDM – What were the lessons learned so far, achievements, challenges and recommendations for the future? (30 mins)</i></p> <p><i>IFRC: Global Synthesis Report on Public Health Emergencies (15 mins)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Joy St. John, <i>Executive Director, CARPHA</i></p> <p>Dr. Lisa Indar, <i>Director, Surveillance Disease, Prevention and Control, CARPHA</i></p> <p>Ms. Angela Hinds, <i>Head of Health Information, Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response, CARPHA</i></p> <p>Carlton Mendoza <i>Research Officer, IFRC</i></p>
12:00-12:45	<p>Surviving the Aftermath</p> <p><i>Panel discussion: Sharing lessons learned in coordinating and facilitating international disaster relief after Hurricanes Maria, Irma, Dorian and La Soufriere volcanic eruption</i></p>	<p>Timothy Affonso <i>IFRC Consultant</i></p> <p>Terez Curry <i>President, Bahamas Red Cross Society</i></p>

	<i>This panel discussion may include lessons learned in coordination and logistics, early recovery interventions, gender responsive support and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations</i>	<p>Capt. Stephen Russell, <i>Director, NEMA (Bahamas)</i></p> <p>Terece Bootle Laing <i>Abaco Administrator</i></p> <p>Jasen Penn <i>Director (Ag.) Department of Disaster Management (BVI)</i></p>
12:45-13:00	<p>Next Steps:</p> <p><i>Proposal of next steps to advance the recommendations arising out of the Workshop</i></p>	CDEMA/IFRC
13:00-13:15	Closing Ceremony	Sonia Gill

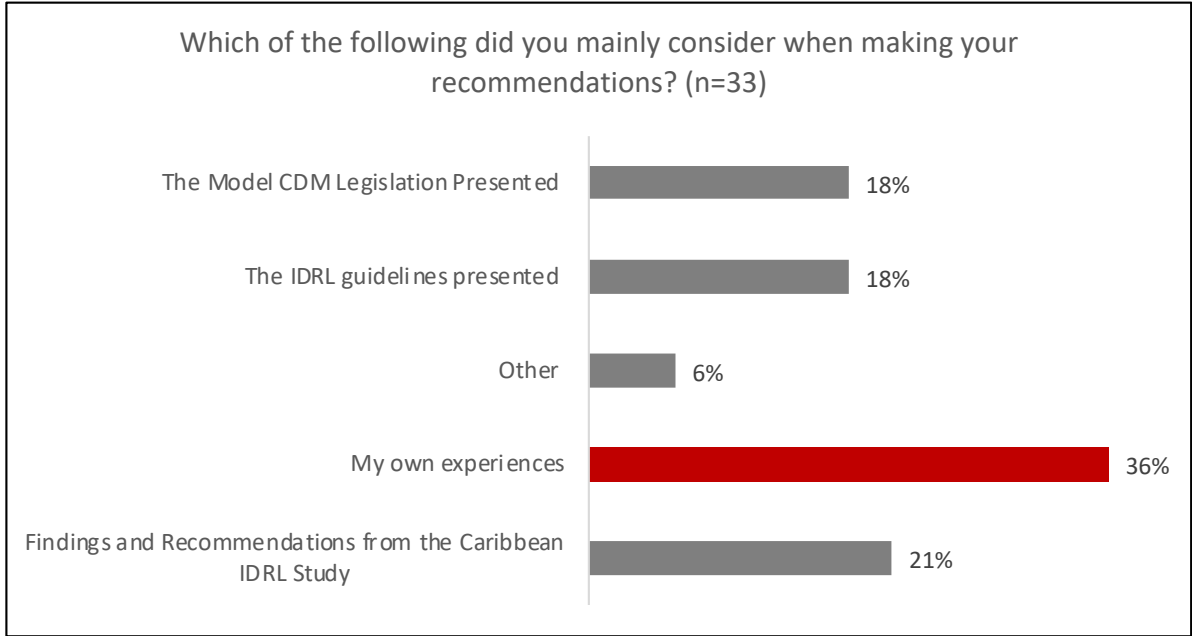
ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANT POLLS

DAY ONE POLLS





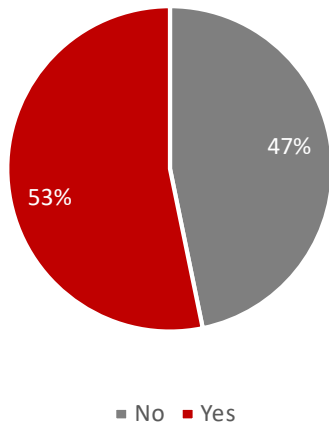
DAY TWO POLLS



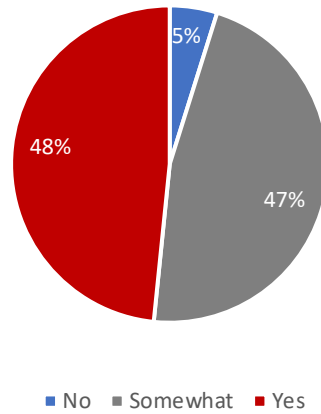
Is there a specific action that you/ agency can take forward, to address the gaps [if any] in your policies and procedures for external/ international NGOs offering humanitarian assistance, after a disaster, to operate in your country? (n=33)



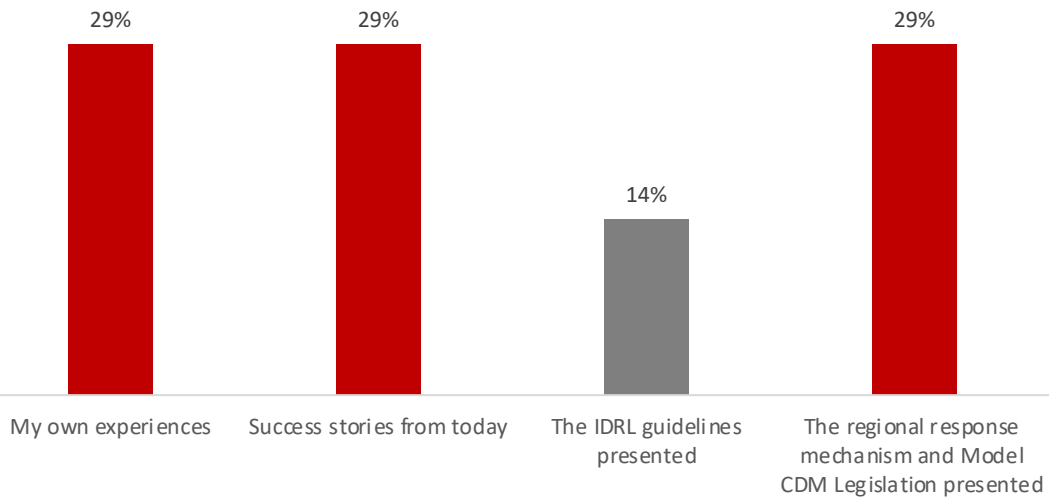
Before today, I was aware of the Logistics and Relief Management Programme presented by CDEMA? (n=62)



I understand how my country can access the logistics and relief management programme presented by CDEMA? (n=62)

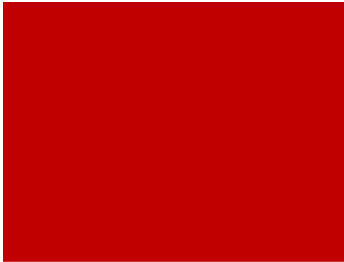


Which of the following did you mainly consider when making your recommendations? (n=7)



Would a revision of your national legislation, based on the model Comprehensive Disaster Management and IDRL guidelines, address your gaps? (n=7)

100%



Yes

What do you consider to be the most important action to jump start the revision/ enhancement of legislation in your country to address your gaps [if any]? (n=7)

43%



14%



Capacity

14%



Financial Resources

14%



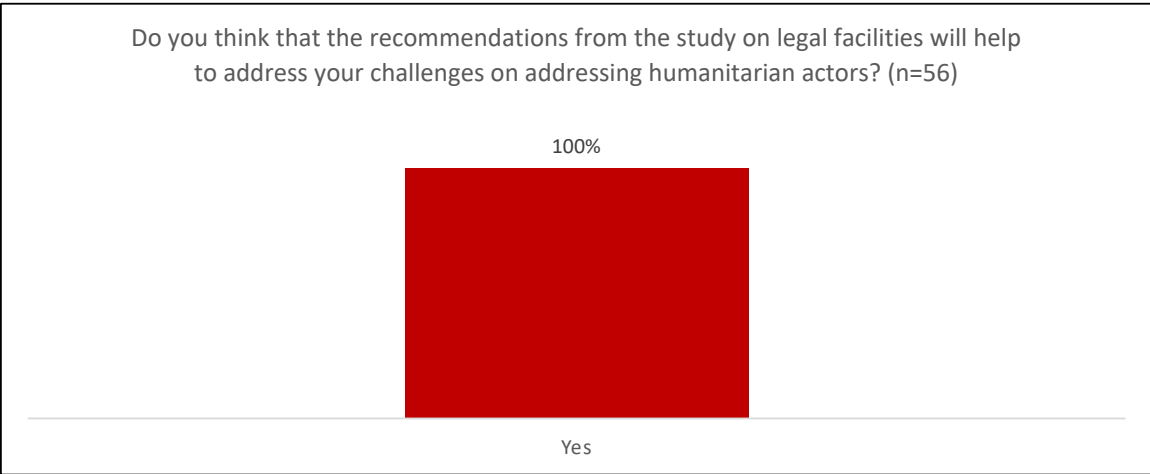
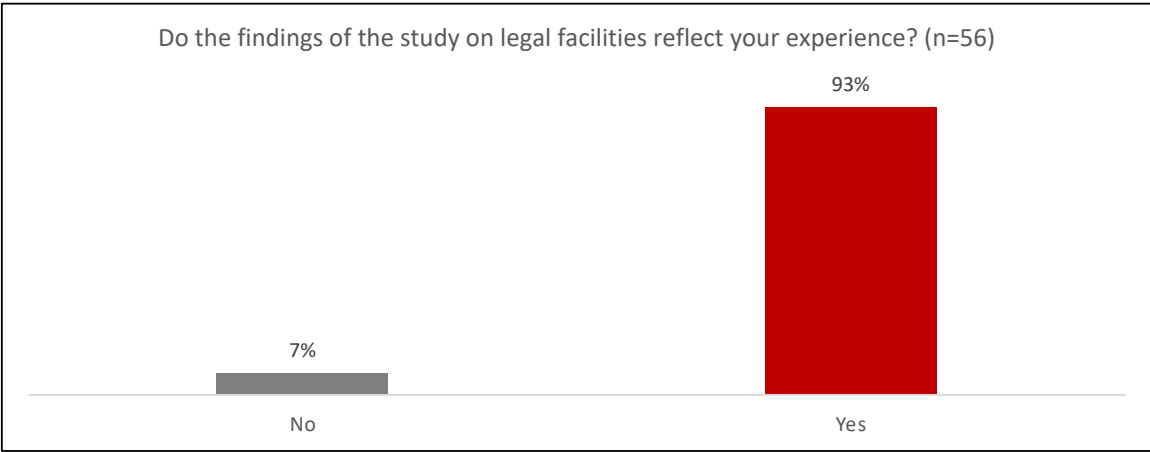
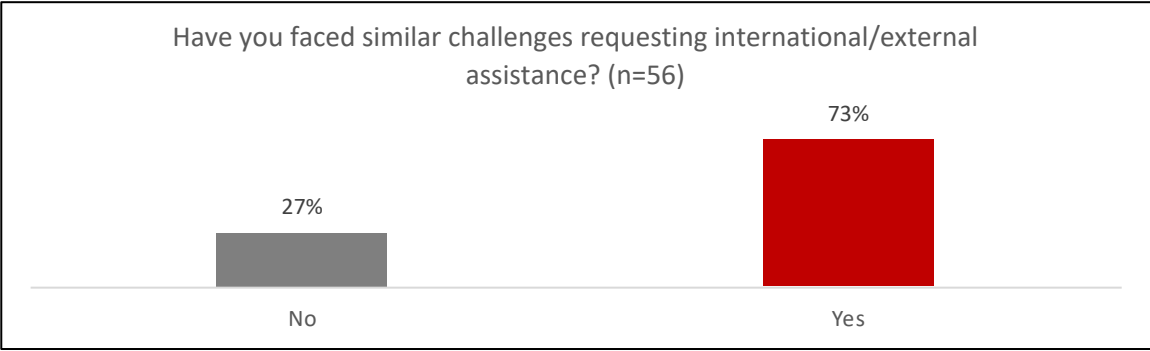
More awareness

14%



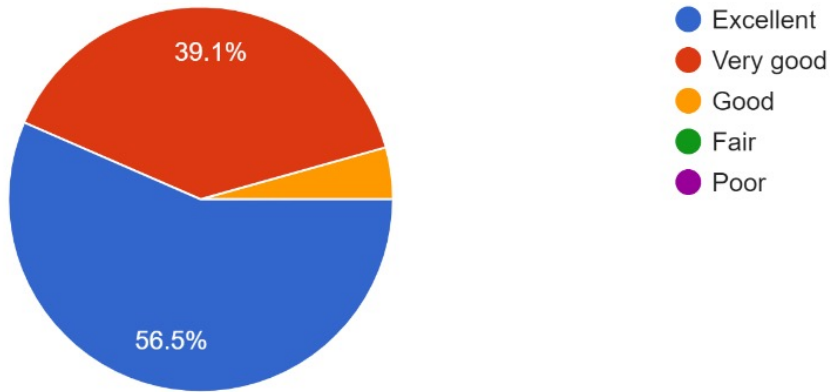
Political will

A network of regional experts

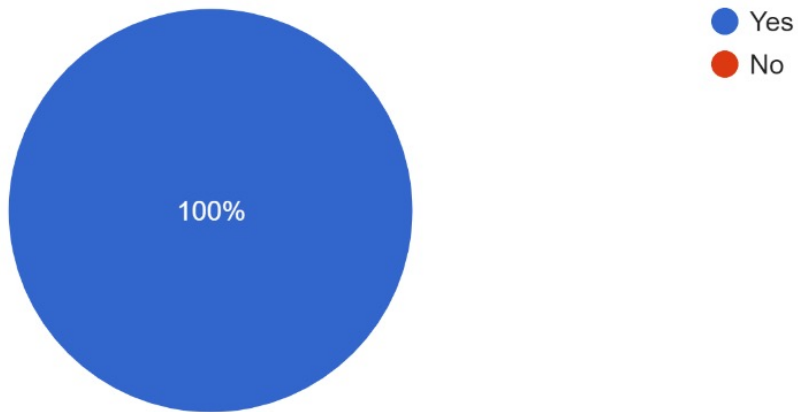


ANNEX 4: EVALUATION

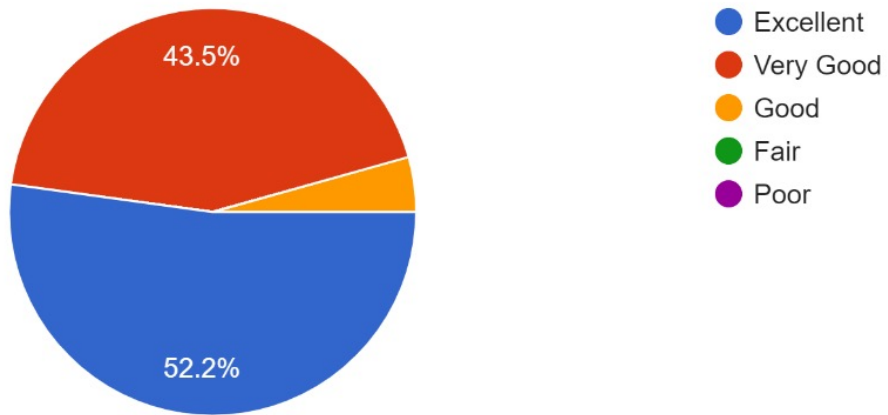
Overall, how would you rate the workshop?



Did the workshop cover the content you were expecting?



How would you rate the moderators' / facilitator's knowledge and expertise?





The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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