

## DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

### Disaster Law workshop in Lao PDR | 2015

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#### Background

Since October 2013, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Lao Red Cross (LRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE) have been working together as key partners in the development of a new disaster risk management and climate change law in Lao PDR.

The development of the new law is a central component of the 'Integrated Disaster and Climate Risk Management Project' (ICDRM) currently being carried out in Lao PDR by UNDP and MoNRE, with IFRC and LRC as key implementing partners. Over the past 12 months, these four partners have achieved several milestones which have marked the progress of this work. These include:

- An inception workshop in October 2013 to introduce the IDCRM project and commence the implementation phase.
- Recruitment of a National Law Coordinator who serves as the key focal point facilitating the law drafting process.
- A national law consultation in September 2014 to update key stakeholders on the background research undertaken to inform the law development process, and to provide an introduction to International Disaster Response Law (IDRL).
- The development of a 'framework for cooperation' between IFRC and UNDP to support the law development process.
- A one week study tour to Vietnam, to meet with government ministries, departments, international, national and provincial organizations involved in the development of the new disaster management law in Vietnam (adopted in 2013). These organizations included the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Assembly, UNDP Vietnam, Vietnam Red Cross, and provincial disaster management authorities.

#### Objectives

As a next step, and building upon these milestones, the project partners plan to hold a national 'disaster law workshop' in Vientiane, to bring together key national and local stakeholders to discuss progress to date, key thematic/technical components to consider when developing the new law, and to solicit their feedback and inputs in this process.

The workshop will also be in line with international commitments made by the government of Lao PDR and the Lao Red Cross at the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in 2011, where a resolution was adopted calling upon states to review their existing legislative frameworks at all levels (or develop new ones) to adequately establish key disaster risk reduction measures, and to promote community level action. The resolution also encouraged states to make use of the *Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance* (also known as the 'IDRL Guidelines') and the Model Act on International Disaster Assistance to strengthen their national legal, policy and institutional

frameworks for disaster management and response.<sup>1</sup> States and National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, including Lao PDR, will have an opportunity to report on their progress towards these goals at the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the RCRC Movement in December 2015.

The project partners propose to hold a workshop aiming to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of disaster law concepts and issues, and how to incorporate these in the new law (E.g. IDRL, DRR, Climate Change)
- Introduce key tools such as the IDRL Guidelines, Model Act on International Assistance and DRR Checklist
- Provide technical support and discussion in the development of the new national disaster risk management and climate change law
- Solicit input and feedback from key stakeholders involved in the development of the law, in order to garner support and momentum for the development and passage of the law.

### Size and scope of the workshop

This event will be held over the course of **one day**, for a maximum of **40-50 participants**. The target participants include:

- MoNRE leadership and relevant technical staff (including IDCRM project team)
- LRC leadership and relevant technical staff (disaster management, legal, humanitarian diplomacy, health, organizational development etc.) Provincial representatives may also attend.
- Relevant ministries/departments (Labour and Social Welfare, Disaster Management, Justice, Health, Foreign Affairs (CIQ), National Assembly/Parliamentarians, Attorney General etc.).
- UNDP and other relevant UN agencies
- IFRC (including relevant PNS)
- NGOs/INGOS/civil society

### Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness and understanding among partners and stakeholders on disaster law themes and of the importance of legal preparedness for disasters and climate change.
- Stronger collaboration and communication between key stakeholders in the area of disaster risk management and development of the law
- Identify key components to include in the new law
- Plan/present the way forward/next steps for drafting the law (including drafting committee, additional consultations etc.).

### Proposed dates and funding

It is proposed to hold the one-day workshop on **29<sup>th</sup> July 2015**. It is proposed that the workshop will be funded by the IFRC, within reasonable budget (to be discussed).

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<sup>1</sup> See Resolution 7 of the International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent on 'Strengthening normative frameworks and addressing regulatory barriers concerning disaster mitigation, response and recovery' (2011), available online at [http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/93534/31IC\\_R7\\_disaster%20laws\\_adopted\\_12Dec\\_clean\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/93534/31IC_R7_disaster%20laws_adopted_12Dec_clean_EN.pdf)