Several processes are currently underway in Indonesia to review and strengthen the relevant laws, regulations and guidelines for disaster management. Due to the massive impact which disasters have had in Indonesia, legal development and reforms have typically focused on disaster management and response. However, in line with key international commitments such as the recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), increasing focused is being placed on strengthening legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Since 2012, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been working on a collaborative project aimed at supporting the strengthening of domestic legislation for DRR. Based on the findings of a multi-country study published in 2014, a ‘Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction’ has now been produced. The Checklist provides a list of ten key questions that lawmakers and implementing officials should consider to make sure that their laws provide the best support for DRR.

The review of Indonesia’s Disaster Management Law 24/2007 is an opportunity to utilize the Checklist as part of the review process. Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), IFRC and Indonesia’s National Disaster Management Authority, Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB) will be conducting a research project to examine the laws and regulations that address disaster risk in Indonesia, and identify priority areas that need further attention, either through new sections or amendments to the law, or through a greater focus on implementation. The project is due to commence in June 2015 and will include legal research and a stakeholder consultation.

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