



Disaster Preparedness: A View from the Border

World Trade Organization - WTO

21st March 2023

22 March 2023

Key Messages

- Governments should update National legal Frameworks: ‘Humanitarian access’ challenges or ‘bureaucratic and administrative impediments or restrictions’ should not be perceived simply as practical or logistical problems
- Legal framework should be supported by clear procedures to facilitate the humanitarian action. Legal Framework and procedures should be well disseminated among the key governmental entities (ministries, departments) mainly among the one's members of the National Disaster Management Authority.
- Mutual assistance agreements between governments are recommended, mainly, in cases where one country could play the role of the transit of the humanitarian assistance, or when humanitarian corridors will be needed.
- Unsolicited goods: governments offering support should verify the needs and the humanitarian contexts of the affected country before sending humanitarian assistance. NDMA assessments could guide the decisions of the government and organizations offering the humanitarian support.

Key Messages

- Regional intergovernmental system should facilitate the legal and administrative arrangements among the countries members – SICA, ASEAN, CARICOM, Africa UNION etc)
- International donors and cooperations agencies such as ECHO, USAID, CIDA etc Private sector, Military Bodies etc be well informed and aware about the legislation in the countries, the context, humanitarian needs among other aspects
- The IFRC has developed a set of recommendations, tools and guidance to support governments on how to prepare their disaster-related laws to overcome the most common regulatory problems in international disaster relief. This includes the IDRL Guidelines, the IDRL Model Act and the IDRL Model Emergency Decree.
- Since the adoption of the IDRL Guidelines in 2007, in partnership with National Societies, IFRC has worked in more than 95 countries and with over a dozen regional organizations to develop, strengthen and implement disaster laws and policies. Over 60 new legal instruments have been adopted drawing on the recommendations of the IDRL Guidelines, including new IDRL laws.

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