Increasing the Effectiveness of Existing Disaster Response Work Globally

The WHY and HOW of the New IDRN

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Author Background

J. Matt Wallace was part of the team that created the International Disaster Response Network (IDRN) in 2007, in response to a few years of high-profile disasters, especially the 2004 tsunami that struck Aceh, Indonesia, and the entire region. Initial funding behind the project was focused on improving private/public sector integration.

Wallace's academic training and professional experience before helping create IDRN were primarily in technological development, networking, and security. He worked in higher education creating systems and doing software design and development. He also worked with American Airlines/SABRE for a few years finishing that time as the Managing Director of the SABRE Technology Services. His international experience gained significant traction in implementing one of the earliest virtual private networks (VPNs) in the world for a non-profit group in the late 1990s. He has traveled to or worked in over 35 countries, including living in Europe during the transition to the Euro.

He and his wife, Miriam, have also owned and operated a media production company since 1987 and is an award-winning filmmaker. The period after the initial launch of IDRN and its subsequent decline from 35 countries to 5 active, Wallace worked in the commercial, TV, and film industry, while still being actively involved in several international non-profit and faith-based initiatives.

In 2023, Wallace was reintroduced to active IDRN members, having never lost enthusiasm and support for those active IDRN members. Wallace currently volunteers as IDRN Global's Executive Director.

Optional Initial Context

The International Disaster Response Network has a website with information that would likely enhance reading this document if seen first. Please consider watching the short introduction video found on the site and checking out the Frequently Asked Questions *(FAQs)* with topics such as why IDRN has adopted English as its primary language.

www.IDRN.info

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Executive Summary

The talents and resources already trained on disaster response, mitigation, and preparedness are significant. Amazing groups doing amazing things for the good of humanity are all around. And yet, even **those who live and breathe disaster response regularly do not know about existing key resources, networks, or relationships that could enhance their own work.** And "regular folk" – *most of humanity just trying to survive day to day* – are almost completely unaware of who and what is available to them apart from names like the Red Cross, Red Crescent, the United Nations, Doctors Without Borders, and other big names, in addition to their government. And those recognizable organizations can feel distant since the typical person has no personal connection to them.

Unfortunately, for many there can be a lack of trust with these big names. And with this lack of trust, many who would otherwise help do not. Whether such concerns are justified is not for us to decide here, but we must acknowledge that news periodically provides reason for doubt when hearing of misallocation or excesses in the use of huge amounts of funding.

The International Disaster Response Network (IDRN) seeks to significantly increase awareness and ease of locating needed resources - both people and things. More importantly, **IDRN seeks to build a reputation as the most trustworthy starting point for anyone looking to engage in disaster response efforts** or for locating resources like people, training, tools, or news.

When IDRN increases the ease and trust for people seeking information *(news, training, volunteer opportunities, donor portals, etc.),* **we believe that collaboration will increase organically.** By intentionally increasing awareness among network members of industry best-practices, the larger community of volunteers will be better equipped to engage.

Overall, we see these IDRN-driven dynamics as having a multiplicative effect on all the time and treasure already being invested. **It is our belief and hope that influential, high-impact individuals with resources and strong networks will see the potential of IDRN and help.**

> *Our future selves will take for granted what we are building now through IDRN.*

The International Disaster Response Network will become known globally as the most trustworthy, friendly, and accessible starting point for anyone interested in disaster response – before, during, and after any disaster. **IDRN seeks to become and serve as the world's best known, most trusted global force multiplier in existence.**

Introduction

IDRN seeks to magnify the effectiveness of people and systems already in place.

"It is impossible to work with someone you do not know exists."

The world of disaster response is huge. Rough numerical estimates for disaster responses globally include a quarter of a million full-time disaster response-related workers, maybe 10 million volunteers annually, and an annual economic impact of natural disasters being over $300 billion in losses and growing. *Much like other portions of this document, these figures are an estimation made after reviewing a range of reports and other estimates from different sources.*

The core issue IDRN seeks to address is lack of awareness across humanity regarding who and what is available to them when dealing with disaster response, mitigation, and preparedness. An additional key factor for this issue is the level of trustworthiness the general population has for the information, systems, and groups they encounter.

Who is the audience for this document?

Anyone trying to figure out what IDRN is all about is the first and obvious audience. However, **high-impact individuals with the capacity and habit of looking past the status quo towards a better way should benefit the most from reading this document.**

The following pages outline:

- Why building a new version of the International Disaster Response Network (IDRN) is a worthy endeavor,

- Why key elements regarding approach and structure must be protected in building a unique offering and for maintaining a trustworthy reputation, and

- How IDRN can be built and grow so that it can enable decentralized grassroots resources while magnifying the existing corporate and governmental structures.

Thank you for investing your attention in reviewing our vision and plan. IDRN seeks to literally change the world by magnifying the good already being done and encouraging those who have been hesitant to join.

Understanding the Problem

It is difficult for anyone - *professional or newcomer* - to comprehend the absolute entirety of the groups that already exist in the world of disaster response. Likewise, it is almost impossible to mentally take in the number of systems and tools – *both physical and digital* – that have been created and made available.

In the United States of America alone, there are:

> *"15 federal agencies, 56 state/territorial agencies, 3,000–5,000 local offices, 120–150 networks/associations, 200–500 nonprofits, 500–1,000 companies, and 2,700+ CERTs* (Community Emergency Response Teams) —*the range spans widely. A conservative tally, avoiding double-counting (e.g., CERTs as local extensions), might be 6,000–8,000 distinct entities. A broader interpretation, including all local and volunteer groups, could reach 10,000–12,000. This reflects operational units, not individuals or informal efforts, and aligns with the complex, decentralized U.S. disaster response landscape. Without a unified database, this remains an educated approximation."*

> Reference https://x.com/i/grok/share/jdFm0dQcnPDk62afCKKB1SWHR

Likewise, the number of resources and tools built for disaster response and related work is a very, very large number. When considering water filtration systems, in all its forms and variants, these numbers can quickly overwhelm anyone.

> *"Considering product types (e.g., pitchers, faucet filters, whole-house systems), technologies [RO (Reverse Osmosis), UV (Ultra Violet), etc.], and brand-specific innovations (smart features, eco-friendly designs), a conservative estimate might start at 5,000–10,000 distinct filtration systems and products worldwide. Factoring in regional adaptations—like biosand filters in developing nations or high-end RO units in urban Asia Pacific—and niche industrial solutions, the total could reach 20,000–50,000 unique offerings."*

> Reference https://x.com/i/grok/share/szm4O6wi6tQKpbLCrjt6Ibxd3

The same is true for remote power solutions, and temporary shelter like tents, and so many other specialized products that are central to responding to people in disaster scenarios. But beyond the tangible products that are needed, there are training curriculums, degree programs, books, podcasts, white papers, websites, software packages for a variety of tasks, and so on, all focused on some aspects of disaster response, mitigation, or preparedness.

The sheer volume of what is available is a problem that intelligent searches online cannot address – even for a trained, seasoned online search veteran. This overwhelming truth is even more profound for someone engaging for the first time.

In addition to the issue of the raw volume of available resources, **there is the challenge of navigating the existing disaster response's cultures and ecosystems found regionally and globally.** Identifying and presenting approaches to help a beginner make sense of it all is also no small task.

A big part of why this problem persists is that each group, network, or product is incentivized to frame everything they present to the public in terms of their own goals or products. Each group or company is looking after its own interests at some basic level – even when their goal is to serve and/or protect others. While it is understandable, there is no doubt each interest will frame everything in relation to their specific offerings or interests. Larger entities like the United Nations also have forms and approaches that primarily feed self-preservation in their operations.

Problems with how the professional world within the international community struggles with optimal performance due to lack of awareness and effective collaboration are not new. *(Reference Appendix: International Challenges Identified)*

Effective collaboration in disaster response is consistently undermined by coordination failures, such as mistrust from dual roles and administrative barriers, which fragment efforts across governments, agencies, and volunteers. Information sharing gaps, driven by incomplete data, poor situational awareness, and incompatible systems, further hinder timely and cohesive action. Communication failures, including inadequate planning and lack of trust between media and humanitarians, exacerbate misinformation and erode public confidence, complicating global and local response efforts.

Not all problems will be addressed through an effective IDRN. But we as a network will repeatedly return to point out that these issues are even more difficult to address when there is a clear lack of awareness of who is out there doing things that might impact any given plan of action. One slice of the problem that IDRN seeks to address is increasing awareness. We have found no other groups working towards this goal on a global scale.

Without a clear, pure, and primary directive to illuminate others as fairly and accurately as possible, this kind of service or network had not emerged or survived prior to IDRN.

A New Approach: Introducing the New IDRN

IDRN seeks to address these challenges directly. IDRN seeks to be the unified database of organizations, networks, companies, and agencies globally. And not just formal organizations, but informal groups of people, too. This new focused database or registry will operate more as a portal – a systematically searchable system that solely points network members to the source material or website.

The reason we are framing this as a "new" IDRN, is that the original version of the International Disaster Response Network *(formed in 2007)* took a more classic approach by gathering resources, training and building groups regionally, and coordinating/directing efforts from an overarching top-down control group. While effective in responding to major disaster events in China, Pakistan, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, and Haiti, this approach was only adding to the existing efforts. The new version of IDRN seeks to multiply, not add.

Conceptually, IDRN systems seek to enable members to find who or what they are looking for via what would appear to be a stereotypical mobile-device app. However, IDRN is building with underlying technologies that are typically referred to as WEB3 – *blockchain, decentralized technology* – that is conceptually aligned with the decentralized, grassroots network IDRN seeks to enable in and through its membership.

The core principles are to build and maintain conceptually simple systems focused on searchability and filtering that will help users to find appropriate solutions for whatever challenge they are addressing. This could be:

- sourcing life-saving systems in a region, or
- locating a person with a needed skill set who is also willing to help, or
- learning who else is responding to an event and deciding to contact and work with them, instead of alone.

Possibly the most unique aspect of this focused vision is that the new IDRN intentionally does not look to coordinate or direct members in their response efforts. This is quite different than most disaster networks. IDRN expects that members will voluntarily lead or join existing efforts that coordinate and organize aspects of response efforts. Apart from the membership app that enables membership searches, resource searches, and the maintaining of a master list of those responding to a disaster event, there will be no call of members to use IDRN systems in coordination or tracking of responders. IDRN's primary goal is to help people find what other coordinated efforts and appropriate tools are being used in efforts and encourage the membership to join in. Even so, members are welcome to use IDRN's social media systems to provide this ability.

Benefits of the New IDRN Approach

There is at least one truth that is both sad and funny to those individuals who have the most experience in disaster response. That true statement is - **The most qualified and advanced response coordinators are opinionated and highly unlikely to adopt someone else's system.** Therefore, IDRN makes no attempt to convince anyone to use an IDRN coordination system. The benefit of this is that IDRN will not have to carry the weight of upgrading and maintaining such an ever-evolving type of system. We just encourage members to piggy-back onto whatever other systems are out there available. And the number of these systems evolving right now is astonishing and encouraging. In short, IDRN sees no reason to reinvent the wheel.

Another benefit of IDRN's approach is that being dedicated to illumination does not require anything beyond the basic information and pointing to others**. The strong opinions that are guaranteed to emerge in the larger ecosystem and in specific response events are not IDRN's to resolve.** We will create a space where conversations can happen – *especially around the concepts of best practices* – and not much more. The burden and liability of "calling the winners" or adopting one system or group over another will always be a temptation. With any luck, IDRN will stay out of this and remain a trustworthy apolitical asset to the entire disaster response ecosystem.

With the ultimate focus to be on the development and on-going improvements to our new, very focused WEB3 decentralize app *(dApp)*, there still remains the human nature desire to connect. IDRN's Legacy groups that have survived for many years regularly and appropriately tout the importance of human personal relationships. **Everything within IDRN has been built upon these relationships.** The digital systems upon which these kinds of relationships can be maintained *(and in many cases the source of)* are not the primary focus of our development work. However, as technology continues to make such networking systems more and more accessible and customizable at reasonable pricing, IDRN will simultaneously provide the general membership with social media-like tools. This online system will be deployed earlier than the WEB3 dApp. *More about these systems and how they relate to the WEB3 dApp will be reviewed later in this document*.

Ultimately, these robust relationally-focused WEB2 social media tools will be the first systems available for members to use, even though the final unique IDRN toolset that our network looks to deliver is the dApp – with its comprehensive registries and associated secure identity and search tools. These systems *(tools)* will work independently of each other but be implemented in a way where they will be complimentary for those using both.

Yet another benefit to the new IDRN's stated goals is that the task is understood to be impossible. IDRN will never have every resource, or every group documented. The actual goal is to make it easy for members and other interested parties to help add to the system, knowing that this system is unique and of use even when it is not 100% complete.

Finally, by not promising coordination or complicated systems that will require a massive workforce to run, IDRN's focus on decentralizing everything will provide just enough technology to support the three primary data types in its registries. This approach looks to minimize *(eliminate)* the use of full-time IDRN employees. This minimizes the bulk of expenses for maintaining an HR department and payroll. IDRN systems development and projects will be organized as independent projects with their own limited time budgets and generally pursued by the US-based non-profit IDRN Global. This minimizes the on-going financial costs and pushes much of the IDRN efforts into the membership. **This ensures that individuals do not become dependent on IDRN for anything beyond awareness-focused information, making it fundamentally more resilient over time.** And in a worse-case scenario where IDRN Global systems somehow failed, the awareness and relationships already enabled before the failure would still have long-lasting benefits.

Finally, IDRN seeks to be an "anti-gravy train" in everything it does. *([See Appendix: IDRN as anti-Gravy Train](#))* This goal is key for informing the building and maintenance of our desired reputation of being trustworthy. Transparency in reporting funding used is another differentiating characteristic of IDRN. The emerging technology already referenced as WEB3 promises the tools that will enable a whole new level of transparency that should undergird our desire to prove ourselves worthy of support. We envision systems where investments through IDRN can be tailored and tracked in unprecedented ways – while simultaneously needing less human intervention which requires less manpower costs.

Ultimately, the biggest benefit to IDRN's new approach is that every effort, every group, and every supporter will be better known and better supported. **IDRN wants to be known as the best on-ramp to those groups who have been faithful, but unknown previously.** And by constantly highlighting best practices within the network, the larger volunteer base of the world will invest more wisely with their time and treasure.

Steps Towards the Future

Some will say *"It's a nice thought, but it'll never happen."* The sheer scope of the stated goals outlined in this document is off-putting to some. But before digging into the current plan, it is worth noting that **even partial success in implementing this vision will be a massive step forward** for those who:

    - do find valuable connections during a response,

    - learn of existing systems they have needed but didn't know were available, and

    - otherwise, would not have engaged due to the nature of the overwhelming world of disaster responders.

The first steps towards the new IDRN have already been taken. The first step was to honor the existing IDRN network members and groups as this shift in network identity progresses. The IDRN groups that survived from the original 35 multi-national groups are currently active in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, and the Philippines. We refer to these groups as Legacy IDRN, as they are productive, engaged, and have much of the original IDRN's DNA in their approaches and effectiveness. *(See Appendix: Legacy IDRN History & Culture)* Each group is autonomous and has different priorities and levels of engagement. Throughout the years, they have maintained proactive partnerships through bi-annual regional meetings that continue today. Honoring these individuals and relationships is fundamental and exemplary to the types of relationships IDRN hopes will continue enabling within the global International Disaster Response Network. The autonomous nature of these groups is central to how this global network can and should grow. IDRN does not ask new members to change anything other than adding their desire and capacity to connect to the world through IDRN registries.

Over two years of meetings, formal and informal, discussing how best to build the new IDRN has provided clarity and purpose as more and more people are introduced to the network. Each encounter has provided useful feedback and direction to help ensure that the new IDRN is providing unique, real value. The simplicity of our focus on improving awareness has been challenging many times. **Once people realize how useful these global registries could be, it is often followed by the disbelief they are not already in place.** But they are not, and we have found no one looking to address this. In the end, the time spent on looking for existing systems – to confirm we are not duplicating existing systems – has led us to believe we will be unique in scope and approach. With that confidently addressed, building this new network is next, and it is now.

We see three major Phases in the new IDRN development. Each Phase will have several components and subcomponents. They are:

1) **Initial Sign-ups, Vision Casting, Social Networking while dApp Systems are Developed**
2) **dApp Operational Systems Roll-out, More Learning, and Use Cases**
3) **Pursuing Significant Network Effects**

There will be overlaps as one phase fades and the next spins up. The key is trajectory. Each step, large or small, is to increase resource and relational awareness with our members and/or promote best practices and collaboration among IDRN's membership. New technology is not necessary to do this. These goals can and are realized through simple relationship building. However, doing this at scale as envisioned by IDRN Global leadership will require bespoke customized tools and concerted effort to invite the world to join us.

Phase One: 1) Initial Sign-ups, Vision Casting, Social Networking while dApp Systems are Developed

Initially, IDRN focused on basic communication through a simple sign-up website. This is now being upgraded to a more robust, social media-style platform. Data from the original system will be used to invite registered members to join the new social network. Members can also choose to bypass the social features and wait for the upcoming WEB3 dApp. We want to emphasize that our initial, simpler systems are not representative of the full capabilities IDRN will offer.

We look to be as transparent as possible in sharing the reality of where IDRN's efforts currently stand – not trying to appear to be more than we are. **Throughout our phased approach to realizing the IDRN vision, we will continue to strive to be worthy of trust**. Being trustworthy is the only path to being known as a legitimate global grassroots network.

During this time of introductions and our simple registration process, we see this as effectively "relaunching" the International Disaster Response Network which was established in 2007. During this period, **IDRN seeks to make the first iterations of our membership registry as international as possible.** With over 190 countries in the world, we believe having members from close to 40% of those countries would be a good start towards claims to be an international network. As we approach having **500 individuals representing 75 different countries signed up, we have decided to go ahead and provide the option for those interested to start engaging via our social network.**

As we approach our initial goals for diverse country involvement, IDRN Global leadership has engaged and promoted IDRN through personal introductions, targeted conferences, and response-related meetings. Limited funding has enabled this work so far. Finding more funding to continue these efforts will be an on-going job for IDRN volunteer-based leadership. With the goal of being truly grassroots, we will always seek as diverse of a financial support base as possible – ensuring there is never any evidence that would support outsized influence of the network by large, government, or corporate interests. To repeat, **IDRN wants to be synonymous with trust. IDRN intends to behave in ways that are the antithesis of anything that looks or smells like the stereotypical negative NGO "gravy train."** This is paramount.

During IDRN Phase One's relaunch, we will identify individuals and groups who are instrumental for momentum and healthy growth. **Those who provide critical and unique support for relaunching IDRN will be given a permanent designation within the network to publicly highlight their pivotal role in the new IDRN's development.** These designations will ensure the opinions of those individuals are given extra attention in the matters of on-going network activity and decision making. *(See "Level 8" definitions in the Appendix: IDRN Designator Codes)*

To recap, **Phase One's primary goals** are:

    a) general vision casting,
    b) recruiting individuals to the network,
    c) enabling new funding to support the relaunch & new systems development, and
    d) enabling the relational online network so that new relationships can be encouraged and built while dApp development proceeds.

To learn more about IDRN's Phase One plans for social media-enabled relational systems, see

Trust is Key

The underlying nature of the systems being built need to fundamentally match IDRN's desire to be trustworthy and grassroots. Adjacent words to grassroots are distributed and decentralized. **When the goal is to be decentralized and trustworthy, blockchain technology is the appropriate technology.** Within the world of blockchain options, we have adopted the Cardano ecosystem – believing it captures the spirit of IDRN and the academic rigor and open-source mindset that will enable IDRN's vision to become reality. *(See Appendix: Why Cardano?)*

Core to the entire system is our ability to trust that the individuals in our network are who they say they are, and that all activity can be verified and tied to everyone – while

simultaneously allowing each person to maintain an appropriate level of anonymity when needed. This is a key functional system feature for attracting and keeping subject matter experts. **SMEs are notoriously difficult to attract to such large networks due to the high likelihood they will be abused once the general membership is given direct access to a legitimate expert.** This value and goal of IDRN will be specifically highlighted as IDRN invites members to join our relational social media systems, and we will carefully coach members on how to protect themselves appropriately within our highly-relational systems OR recommend that they not join these systems and wait for the dApp which will be decentralized and customized to provide appropriate levels of identity protection.

When setting aside IDRN's social media relational systems and focusing on our dApp development, addressing membership identity access effectively is top priority for the network if it is to thrive. Regulating the access members have to one another – *primarily deferring to the wishes of each member* – requires special attention and specific technology which should be initially implemented in IDRN's dApp. IDRN's ability to accomplish this goal will be directly tied to what is known in the blockchain world as self-sovereign identity – typically through what is referred to as a wallet. Each user will need the ability to control what goes into the wallet and who has access to individual components and data sets in that wallet. IDRN systems will allow for this kind of self-control in a way that also helps the larger network have confidence in its IDRN interactions.

Expect IDRN systems to appear to be much like typical mobile device/smartphone apps. However, in our case, the application will be next-generation WEB3 decentralized applications or "dApps." *(More specifics about this in Phase Two.)* Once inside a trustworthy system, the IDRN systems are simply registries. **These dApp-enabled registries manage a) membership information, b) links to the entire world of relevant resources, and c) active information for response event lists with who is actively engaged in response.** There will likely be other functional aspects within the IDRN dApp focused on highlighting and sharing real-time assessment data inside and outside of the network and possibly the ability to move financial value through the network around the globe, but these three (3) IDRN Registries will be core to everything. These systems are being developed by qualified and focused volunteers dedicated to enabling the new IDRN. And **the dApp systems are separate from, but complimentary to, IDRN's social networking systems** where users will need to be open to more visibility that is not yet undergirded by newer blockchain enabled systems.

Phase One's length will likely end up being from Fall 2023 through the end of 2025. During this phase, managing members expectations and general population's understanding of IDRN's identity and unique function is key since during this timeframe

little of IDRN's intended functionality will be visible or functional. This is especially evident when comparing Phase One's steps to the fully realized vision of Phase Three - at scale. Phase One is all about the new IDRN finding its footing and establishing the values, terminology, and plan for realizing IDRN's unique contribution that will magnify existing disaster response efforts. Also, during Phase One, we will celebrate the new relationships found through IDRN's social media systems, knowing that these new connections will be the foundation which upon future collaborative efforts will be built. **Phase One represents the period of time where IDRN leadership figures out how the International Disaster Response Network will become known as the most trustworthy force multiplier in the world.**

Phase Two: 2) dApp Operational Systems Roll-out, More Learning, and Use Cases

Phase Two has many interdependent components. **IDRN's newly developed mobile device blockchain application (dApp) will be central to how IDRN members will identify as members and interact with IDRN's information and other members.** This same tool will be central for enabling viral growth of the membership as members invite others to join. Throughout Phase Two, both regular members and IDRN leadership will be **experimenting with different approaches to increase awareness, encourage best practices, and enable new and better collaboration** throughout the world. As experimentation grows and members respond to disaster events, we expect to capture more and more real-world use cases to further clarify IDRN's unique capacity with the intent to use this knowledge to its fullest during Phase Three.

What is special about the IDRN dApp?

While IDRN's customized application may look like other mobile apps, it will technically be what is called a "dApp." *Some pronounce this term… D-app, and others might say 'dap.'* Essentially, **IDRN's dApp is next generation computing because it is a decentralized application *(app)*, built with Web3 technology.** Web3 refers to a vision for the next generation of the internet, aiming to create a decentralized online ecosystem built on blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies, and non-fungible tokens *(NFTs)*. This evolution seeks to shift power away from large tech companies by emphasizing user ownership of data, digital identity, and content, fostering a more open and user-centric web. These goals align well with those of IDRN.

> *Special Note: IDRN has been blessed with a phenomenal gift in a very specifically talented individual who is working with IDRN Global as a volunteer in the*

development of this new technology. There are few people on the planet with the exact skill sets needed to make this system a reality, and he is dedicated to IDRN's vision and actively working with IDRN to make the vision reality.

When these systems are ready, **IDRN members registered through the Phase One online system** *(including those already active within IDRN's social media systems)* **will be invited to install and activate IDRN's new dApp**. At this point, two of the three primary IDRN registries should be functional within the dApp at a simplistic level. These two systems are the **Membership Registry** and **Resource Registry**. The real-world use of these systems will be the primary marker of Phase Two and all subsequent phases.

The Membership registry will operate as a global "phone book" made up of IDRN's members but with controlled access to any data beyond each member's fabricated username *(an alias/nickname)* and their country. To make this global list valuable, IDRN will utilize **IDRN's Designator Codes** *(see Appendix: IDRN Designator Codes)* to make searching useful.

Initial dApp functions for the member registry will include:

a) Simple searches on the **Membership Registry**,
b) abilities to request contact with other members – *especially those who have limited the visibility of their contact data,* and
c) an **IDRN "ID Badge."**

The second active system within the dApp will be the **Resource Registry** offering members their first look at the information accumulated so far of the resources found by IDRN. This system database will initially be populated using a custom-built systematic/AI-enabled search across the globe. These same tools will continue to add more over time. The ability for members to search this registry will enable finding resources such as:

e) water filtration solutions in a particular part of the world,
f) logistics companies that have a particular specialty or expertise, or
g) existing networks of people focused on specific UN Clusters.

Members will also have the capacity to add new resources to the registry they know about. In fact, members will be encouraged to aggressively add new resources.

Social Media Systems Laying the Groundwork for IDRN's dApp

In preparation for these dApp capabilities, IDRN's social media systems will be used to educate and prepare IDRN members for how these systems will operate. While not mandatory in the social media systems, the same Designator Codes and their associated Service Sectors will be foundational to how the social media systems are organized.

How do Service Sectors & Designator Codes Factor into IDRN's Phases?

Across both IDRN's relational social media systems and the dApp registries, information *(things and people)* will be associated with *(or tagged)* using IDRN's Service Sectors and other attributes to increase the ease in which people can find what they are looking to locate.

NOTE: While these codes apply to all of IDRN's systems, please note that much of the following is primary talking about the specific implementation within the IDRN dApp.

The goal is also to help people more quickly identify their own community of like-minded responders. IDRN Service Sectors focus on the capabilities and/or interest of the person or thing. This contrasts with the United Nations designators typically referred to as Clusters, where the focus is on what needs to be done in a response effort.
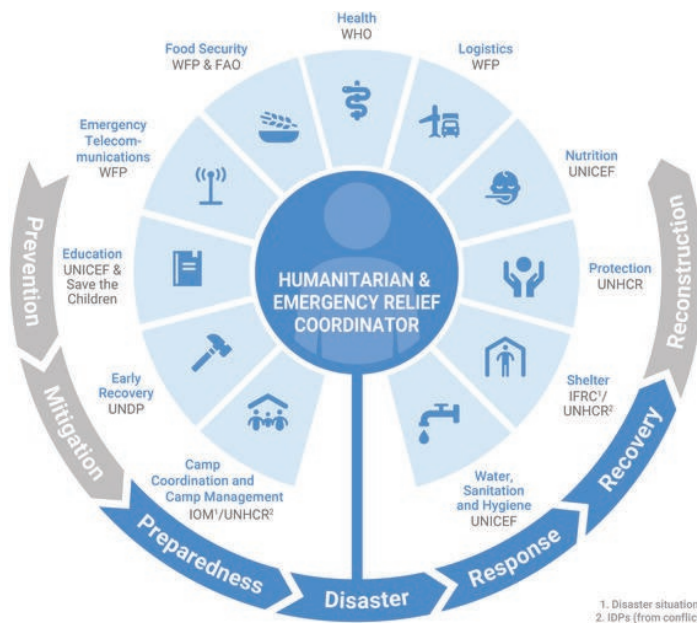
Figure 1 - UN Cluster System (https://www.unocha.org/we-coordinate)

There are clear overlaps between IDRN's Service Sectors and the UN Cluster system, and that is fine. In addition to being able to "tag" a resource *(person, group, or thing)* with appropriate IDRN Service Sectors, those same resources can be tagged with appropriate UN Clusters to increase the likelihood that a search within IDRN's systems will deliver the most useful result possible.

IDRN's **Service Sectors** are currently defined as:

(A) Accounting/Finance	**(L)** Logistics	**(S)** Security
(C) Communications	**(M)** Management	**(T)** Training
(D) Development	**(N)** Networking	**(V)** Vendor
(F) Field	**(P)** Policy/Legal/Gov't	**(W)** Well-being/Wellness
(H) Health/Medical/WASH	**(R)** Research/Data/Reporting	**(X)** Unspecified/General

For more detail on each sector, refer to the Appendix: IDRN Service Sectors.

These sectors are intended to organize and describe **what members do** in contrast to describing the **things that need to be done** in a disaster response. While resources *(people and things)* can obviously span multiple sectors, IDRN encourages picking a primary service sector. In specially approved cases, it is possible to assign a primary and secondary sector. *See Appendix: Speed, Not Complexity*

Within the Membership Directory, each **Designator Code** combines the **Service Sectors** with a numerical value *(1 through 9)* to signify the individual's engagement and expertise level within the designated service sector. **In addition to these Designator Codes being central to the dApp organization, they will be used in the Global Village social media system.** *To further understand this and see examples, see the Appendix sections for* [IDRN Designator Codes](#) *and* [IDRN Service Sectors](#).

How will IDRN Grow during Phase Two?

With the newly functional mobile dApp *(and associated IDRN website),* **IDRN's growth will continue to rely on viral principals** as IDRN members are provided with easy tools to invite others. The focus during Phase Two will remain on quality of introduction as opposed to common mass marketing techniques. The hope is that members will identify a handful of people in their personal networks who would require minimal "selling" or convincing to join the International Disaster Response Network. **While building the base of IDRN as an emerging global network, the emphasis will remain on quality over quantity.** This approach will bring into the network a wide variety of people who think the general idea of IDRN sounds great to them – even before they hear the details. Those are the ones we invite, and even **with the simple goal of each member bringing two new people with them, the network can experience exponential growth.**

In addition to using the IDRN dApp to find people and things, **we expect Phase Two to be full of experimentation and development of systems** to engage one another and disaster events with a combination of manual and automated systems. During this time, IDRN will be looking for the best balance of what is needed and what people want and will use.

How will IDRN Handle Individuals Differently Than Groups?

Throughout Phase One, most of the attention is establishing support and relationships with individuals. This focus on individuals will be central to the social media relational systems IDRN provides as an option for registered members. Of course, most individuals are associated with at least one group, and for IDRN-specific introductions, it's likely that group might have some tie to disaster response. But **there will be more group-specific development work during Phase Two – especially in relationship to the information organized within the dApp**. This is important since all individuals typically are practically associated with a wide range of groups – *informal, formal, small, large, social, topical, business, religious, political, economic, etc.* Not all these groups will register with IDRN, but they are all welcome.

Most of these groups have no connection whatsoever with disaster response. But **in Phase Two, IDRN will focus on really developing strong ties with groups through the individuals** who have registered with IDRN who are also members of one or more groups.

Each IDRN member can represent a connection point between IDRN and that individual's group. **Each group typically has some type of ethos -** *including a set of values* **- which is best understood by members of that group.** Also, they probably have some standard of communication. A sales department within a business probably uses email or some form of collaborative social media-like tool. A family planning for a family reunion may set up a private Facebook page. A regional firefighting association may use their radio systems in addition to cellphones. **When a group is added to the International Disaster Response Network Membership Registry, an individual member will be assigned to be that group's Ambassador** – serving as the official connection point. While every member of the registered group will be welcome to individually register with IDRN, the Ambassador oversees the relationship between the group and IDRN. They can know when and what to pass on, and the best way to do it.

IDRN is not a place where everyone must agree.

To be clear, IDRN's quest to be truly grassroots mandates that it connects with the world far outside of the established disaster response-oriented groups. That means the water department of a local county government would be welcome to register. A basketball association in an inner city is encouraged to register. Of course, any business providing disaster response-related services or products is clearly encouraged to register. But the larger idea is that **any collection of people –** *mosque, temple, church, or book club* **– is encouraged to register as an IDRN group** if that group of people would be likely to work together in extraordinary circumstances like a local disaster. These existing relationships are how real-world problems get solved. IDRN doesn't need to build new networks. It seeks to work with the networks people already have.

Individuals will be held to a pretty basic and reasonable "be a good person" standard that is outlined with IDRN's Membership Policy & Guidelines. *(see the document a* https://idrn.info/membership-policy/*)* These guidelines describe the General Principles IDRN pursues the topics and values of: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Autonomy, Independence, Respect, Non-discrimination, Do No Harm, Confidentiality, Accountability, Collaboration, Professionalism, Cultural Sensitivity, Child Protection, Gender Respect, Environmental Sustainability, and Reconciliation. Groups are the collection of individuals

and when/if a person or group repeatedly violates these basic standards, they will be removed from IDRN. However, note that most of the attention will be on individuals, first.

To make it clear, **IDRN is not a political or religious network, even though groups that primarily identify as such are encouraged to register.** IDRN is not a place where everyone must agree. IDRN is a place where connections are made, and information is shared, with the hope that it will save lives and benefit humanity dealing with crisis and disaster events.

Even as IDRN might be individual-centric, groups are clearly critical as they represent larger mechanisms and capacities that any one individual can never duplicate. **Groups are vital and will be seen in both the Membership Registry and Resource Registry found in the dApp Registry Tool.**

What Growth Experimentation is Expected during Phase Two?

A few of the experimental programs to be established by IDRN Global were originally outlined and presented at the end of 2024. These programs will be pursued, tested, and adjusted *(or dropped)* during Phase Two, based on what is learned through experimentation. However, **initial experimentation with these programs will likely start in Phase One, but maturity will not likely occur until Phase Two or Phase Thress.** Such experimental programs will include:

- **Vetting Program** – Network Reputation and Validation
- **Financial Initiatives Program** – Financially Enabling IDRN Programs & Systems
- **Infrastructure Development & Enhancement Program** – Enabling Network Systems
- **Member Development Program** – Assisting Member Journeys & Training
- **Champions Program** – Community Enhancement Leadership
- **Influencer Program** – Communications & Marketing via Established Communities
- **Correspondent Program** – Real-time Event Engagement, Education, & Marketing
- **Regional Networking Program** – Relationship Building among Members
- **Original Media Program** – Awareness & Best Practices Focused Content

More details about these programs are in the Appendix: Experimental Programs.

Phase Two is when IDRN focuses on growing the community and building, testing, & revamping IDRN's systems, policies, and community interaction attempting to optimize it all so that it is ready for Phase Three's attention on mass adoption.

Phase Three: Pursuing Significant Network Effects

Phase Two will conclude as **the network continues its viral growth** and case studies are documented of I**DRN clearly improving collaboration and successfully promoted best practices** through awareness. The final signal for the end of Phase Two will be IDRN's dApp proving itself to **be functionally stable and having successfully added the system that makes registering responders for specific events**. In other words, when disasters happen, IDRN will have one of the best lists available of who is responding. Other tools will have most likely been developed and added, but the functionality around the three (3) primary registries promoted by IDRN must first be solid before progressing. When these conditions are in place, IDRN will step into Phase Three.

The potential value of any network is rooted in what is often referred to as network effects. This is the simple idea that each "node" added to a network exponentially adds to the possible connections made – which inherently has value. The most common explanation of this phenomenon is the usefulness of the first two telephones. When a third phone is added, the possible connections increase. With a fourth, there are now many more options or combinations possible of individuals calling another. Similarly, much of the potential and promise of IDRN is bringing on as many people as possible. This is not simply a desire for larger numbers. This is driven by understanding that **each person on the planet is both potential victim and potential responder – therefore, a potential IDRN member.**

Viral growth during Phase Two should provide a strong foundation made up primarily by early adopters and influencers. From this base, a more classic approach for recruitment should take IDRN to the next level. It has long been my stated goal that **one in ten people on the planet will have at least heard of IDRN and that their general impression is that IDRN is an excellent trustworthy place to start** when looking for anything related to disaster response. For that to be true, some sort of mass marketing will have to exist.

During this time, **the network will have established itself as trustworthy and be well-known as a legitimate force multiplier** – assisting responders to better connect with each other and find new supporters. As a trustworthy entity, it is hoped that IDRN will be able to provide transparent paths to engage as volunteers and as financial supporters of responders – especially those primarily working as independents who identify as IDRN. When IDRN members come together in self-organized fashions to effectively respond and/or bolster other responding groups, IDRN's ability to channel funding to help those efforts is a goal. This is not foundational to the network's work, but if these dynamics eventually happen, it will be made possible by the success of our core values and systems.

In the end, **IDRN seeks to be trusted by "normal people" and by governments, educational institutions, all sizes of NGOs, the corporate world, and everyone else.** This trust will only be realized if IDRN selflessly provides fair and useful information that allows each person to decide who they want to connect with and what approaches they feel are most effective. This idealistic goal may not ever be purely realized, but some versions of this would still have an outsized positive impact through the synergistic powers that simply start with basic awareness.

So many things will be learned during Phase Two, there is no guarantee that Phase Three will only focus on what is outlined here. In simple terms, **Phase Three will ultimately be IDRN reaching much of its potential** – however that plays out.

Conclusion: Call to Action

Q: Is there action to be taken in response to this vision?

A: Yes.

Multiple action steps can be taken, and it is IDRN's desire that you take all of them. The following is a short list of possible things one could do, all of which could help IDRN realize these goals. But before reviewing the most basic action steps, we most want individuals reading this document to see something within the details that captures their imagination. **We need motivated individuals who get the larger vision but are excited to help us pursue specific parts of the overall.** When you see something in this document that really intrigues or motivates you, please let us know. Yes, we prefer everyone to learn how all the new IDRN works together. However**, those willing to implement just one part of the plan will ultimately be helping IDRN most**. With the hope of finding a part of this outlined plan that is most engaging, everyone can do the following.

Please do all four!

First, ponder the possibilities or maybe ask, **"Why doesn't something like IDRN already exist?!"** And we ask the same. The simple answer, the best we can tell, is that no one has made it a goal yet. And if someone has, why didn't they succeed? If there have been previous attempts, our suspicion is that there was some extra agenda that undermined the needed trustworthy and grassroots nature we believe are critical to this kind of success. So, we believe a doable and valuable step to be taken is to thoughtfully internalize this basic question. And please ask the associated questions and then decide that "this ought to exist!"

Second, the simple act of registering with whatever system IDRN currently offers helps the network take those tiny steps forward as we show momentum and the inherent support that each new member's account proves. **Registering does not imply a huge commitment.** What it means to register with IDRN is likely to morph and evolve. For much of the rest of Phase One, registering can be approached three different ways including:

    A) Joining the IDRN Global Village – social media platform and start meeting others and sharing resources,

    B) Signing up for "Newsletters Only" to be kept in the loop, or

    C) Registering to be included in the dApp registries and to get access to the tool when available.

Regardless of which approach, IDRN does not see registering as any promise beyond a first, simple act of support. Clearly, we hope that the value added along the way by IDRN will compel members to engage past the first act of registering. But until that value is evident, all we ask is to register.

Third, share IDRN will others. As outlined in this document, viral growth is central to the plan. **This is nothing more complicated than individuals bringing along two or three friends.** One thing we have been regularly stressing – especially in these early stages of the relaunch – is that the promised value-add benefits of IDRN are not apparent and probably won't be obvious for a while. Therefore, "selling" someone on IDRN is probably not a good tactic. However, there are those who will not need much "selling" because their personal experiences reenforce our stated value proposition – and not just within disaster response. Also, there are people who naturally appreciate and pursue networking of all types. These people realize the truth of **"it's a matter of who you know"** when getting things done. These are not the only reasons why someone would immediately be drawn to an organization with the name of the International Disaster Response Network. But IDRN suggests that you focus invitations solely on those who need minimal "selling."

Fourth, being patient may not seem to be much of an action, but it is. It is unclear as to how long it will take for IDRN to reach our stated goals, but we anticipate it mimicking many viral growth patterns. **Slow, and then, all at once.** Keeping sight of the goals, adding enthusiasm and support, when possible, will always be welcome and necessary for IDRN's ultimate success. The periods of time between excitement for the vision and when tangible progress is being made will likely be sporadic. Most likely, it will take longer than we prefer. Simply put, **managing expectations is something we encourage.**

Not Just Registering, Investing

Beyond these four basic action steps, identifying which parts of this larger plan animate you and then sharing that with IDRN is where things get interesting and fun. When dealing with awful situations like disasters, the term fun might seem a little out of place. Instead of the word fun, maybe **invigorating and fulfilling might be better words to use**. Saving lives and doing something meaningful that can bless many people is not always part of one's daily life. IDRN offers this opportunity.

Digging into the specifics of IDRN's plans, meeting other members, and brainstorming ways to speed up this implementation are excellent steps to be taken. **Each person has a unique contribution to offer.** For those who have the financial ability to super-charge these plans, they should be confident that all these programs will be pursued with whatever funding can be located or solely with the individual contributions being made

through the growing list of registered members. Everyone should look at all these programs as little "flames" looking for accelerants. People and resources that can ignite and enliven each of the programs.

Choose to be part of IDRN's Global Village and help us experiment with how to organize and engage with one another through the available social media tools and the available training systems. This type of involvement will enliven IDRN as a network of individuals – decentralized and autonomous, but electing to cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate.

Doing the basic steps outlined above will help. But, beyond that, **anyone ready to invest in the possible future needs to decide where they want to plug and or what they want to "pour gasoline on" to really get things rolling.** Thanks for your patience in using such a metaphor when we know fire-related disasters are awful. But it is a powerful force, and in our case, we want this network and its benefits to spread across the globe.

Figuring that out while bringing others along will be the way that the International Disaster Response Network realizes this vision.

Don't Walk Alone!

Join us. Register with IDRN today! You'll be glad that you did.

"Don't Walk Alone" and "Join us" are phrases regularly repeated in IDRN media and material. As simple as this sounds, these are the first steps.

Ponder the need. Register. Share with others. Be patient. Let us know what part of this plan really speaks to you. Let's build this together.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please share them with me at jmw@idrn.info. Thank you.

Appendix

Each of the sections in the following pages attempt to provide more detail regarding something mentioned in the main document. See this section as a Collection of Details.

The primary goal of this document is to provide as much detail as possible for those who are interested, while not letting the details of the Appendix weigh down the more high-level overview. Hopefully, that balance has been achieved.
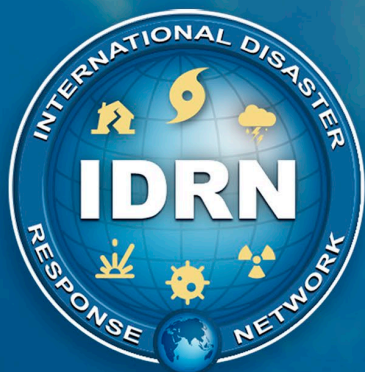
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

WWW.IDRN.INFO/REGISTER

GLOBAL GRASSROOTS REGISTRY

IDRN

Phase One: *Sign-ups, Vision Casting, "Global Village" Social Network*

Phase Two: *dApp Roll-out, Viral Growth*

Phase Three: *Mass Growth, Trust & Network Effects*

IDRN VETTED
John Washington
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRIES
IDRN SINCE **2024** **C2**

The International Disaster Response Network is a global grassroots registry encouraging awareness, best practices, with new and better collaboration between all levels of amateur to professional responders and the rest of the world.

dApp

IDRN Service Sectors

A Accounting/Finance
C Communications
D Development
F Field
H Health/Medical/WASH
L Logistics
M Management
N Networking
P Policy/Legal/Gov't
R Research/Data/Reporting
S Security
T Training
V Vendor
W Well-being/Wellness
X Unspecified/General

IDRN Member Levels

1 Friend of IDRN
2 Associate Member
3 Member
4 Experienced Member
5 Experienced/Expert
6 World-Class Expert
7 Service Sector Manager
8 Relaunch Leader
9 Legacy Leader

IDRN Designator Codes

Designator Codes are a combination of **Service Sectors** and **Member Levels**

Decentralized Mobile Device Blockchain WEB3 Application

• Membership Registry
• Resource Registry
• Event Responders' Registry
• Member Reporting Tool
• Best Practices Collection
• Master Search Tool
• Favorite Links
• Digital IDRN Member Badge

Examples:
V5 / N8 / F5N9 / D6 / X1 / L7P3 / C3N8
X2 / F3S4 / H4 / A5 / H7 / R3 / D3M3

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

• **VETTING:** *NETWORK REPUTATION AND VALIDATION*
• **FINANCIAL INITIATIVES:** *FINANCIALLY ENABLING IDRN PROGRAMS & SYSTEMS*
• **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & ENHANCEMENT:** *ENABLING NETWORK SYSTEMS*
• **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT:** *ASSISTING MEMBER JOURNEYS & TRAINING*
• **CHAMPIONS:** *COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT LEADERSHIP*
• **INFLUENCERS:** *COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING VIA ESTABLISHED COMMUNITIES*
• **CORRESPONDENTS:** *REAL-TIME EVENT ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, & MARKETING*
• **REGIONAL NETWORKING:** *RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AMONG MEMBERS*
• **ORIGINAL MEDIA:** *AWARENESS & BEST PRACTICES FOCUSED CONTENT*

LEGACY GROUPS
SINCE 2007

• **PHILIPPINES**
• **MALAYSIA**
• **INDONESIA**
• **SINGAPORE**
• **SOUTH KOREA**

IDRN global

IDRN Global is a US-based non-profit focused on supporting and growing the larger international IDRN community.

Appendix: International Challenges Identified

Definitively documenting what is happening in complex and often chaotic scenarios on a global scale is full of challenges. Here are some reports that provide some insight into what has been experienced and reported upon. Simply put, **coordinating at this scale is hard.**

Note: The following was created - with minimal editing to improve readability - through direct research using Google Gemini Pro 2.5 (Experimental) and Grok 3 beta AI tools.

Category	Finding / Evidence	Source / Example Cited
Coordination Failures & Challenges #1	The "dual role" of UN cluster leads (acting as both facilitators and responders) creates conflicts of interest, fostering mistrust among agencies and hindering effective resources and information sharing. This issue is exacerbated by unclear accountability mechanisms within the cluster system.	Rotterdam School of Management Study (2019, re: UN Cluster System); ALNAP Report (2021) on cluster coordination challenges, highlighting accountability gaps in Haiti 2010 earthquake response.
Coordination Failures & Challenges #2	Inadequate coordination between governments, volunteer groups, and humanitarian agencies leads to duplication of efforts, resource misallocation, and delayed response. This is particularly evident in sudden-onset disasters where local actors are sidelined.	IJMR Narrative Review (2022); OCHA Case Study (2023) on Turkey-Syria earthquake, noting poor integration of local NGOs; Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) Report (2020) on Cyclone Idai response in Mozambique.
Coordination Failures & Challenges #3	Administrative and legislative barriers, such as visa delays, customs regulations, and differing national disaster laws, significantly impede cross-border disaster response, delaying aid delivery and operational scaling.	JRACR Article (2021) on European cross-border response; IFRC Report (2022) on legal barriers in ASEAN disaster response; UNDRR Policy Brief (2023) on regulatory bottlenecks in cross-border aid during 2021 Haiti earthquake.
Information Sharing Gaps #1	Global disaster databases suffer from incomplete data, with 41.5% of total damage and 30% of affected populations missing in EM-DAT *(Emergency Events Database)* undermining needs assessments and response planning.	UNDRR Analysis of EM-DAT (2020); CRED Report (2023) noting similar gaps in DesInventar database; World Bank Study (2022) on data deficiencies in Sub-Saharan Africa flood reporting.
Information Sharing Gaps #2	Delayed inter-team information sharing, driven by limited situational awareness and poor articulation of needs across organizations, results in fragmented response efforts, particularly in multi-agency operations.	PMC Article (2021) analyzing UK disaster exercise data; WFP After-Action Review (2022) on Sudan flooding response, citing siloed information flows; UNOCHA Lessons Learned (2023) from 2022 Pakistan floods.

Information Sharing Gaps #3	Key **barriers to information sharing** include lack of awareness about available data, uncertainty about data ownership, and incompatible formats or access restrictions, leading to operational inefficiencies.	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Gap Assessment (2020); Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) Report (2023) on data interoperability issues; Sphere Handbook Update (2024) emphasizing data standardization challenges.
Information Sharing Gaps #4	**Funding cuts** to early warning systems, needs assessment tools, and security data streams jeopardize timely and accurate information flows, increasing risks for vulnerable populations.	The New Humanitarian Article (2023); Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Brief (2024) on funding shortfalls for climate early warning systems; UNDP Report (2022) on budget constraints in Yemen crisis response.
Information Sharing Gaps #5	**Lack of trust and mutual understanding** between media and humanitarian actors results in misinformation and inadequate community-level information, leaving affected populations uninformed about aid processes.	Internews Report (2021); CDAC Network Analysis (2023) on media-NGO disconnect during 2022 Somalia drought; Reuters Institute Study (2022) on misinformation in disaster reporting.
Communication Failures #1	**Major communication failures**, including inadequate planning, insufficient training, and failure to address information gaps, contribute to misinformation and erode public trust post-disaster. These issues are particularly acute in crises with high media scrutiny.	George Washington University Study (2019, re: Hurricane Maria); CDC After-Action Report (2021) on COVID-19 misinformation in disaster contexts; UNICEF Case Study (2023) on misinformation during 2023 Morocco earthquake.
Communication Failures #2	The **absence of national Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication *(CERC)* guidelines** for catastrophic disasters leads to information vacuums, inconsistent mortality reporting, and public confusion, amplifying distrust in authorities.	George Washington University Study (2019, re: Hurricane Maria); WHO Framework Analysis (2022) on CERC gaps in low-income countries; PAHO Report (2023) on communication failures during 2021 Haiti earthquake.
Survey Data Indicating Gaps #1	Despite reported information sharing, fewer than 50% of surveyed humanitarian organizations engage in joint planning, assessments, or funding, indicating persistent silos and missed opportunities for collaboration.	CHORD / ReliefWeb Global Survey (2024); Start Network Survey (2023) on inter-agency collaboration gaps; ICVA Report (2022) on limited joint funding in protracted crises like South Sudan.

Appendix: IDRN Service Sectors

IDRN Service Sectors offer a descriptor for whatever skill or interest a volunteer brings to a response effort – before, during, or after an event. *Note: It is possible these codes may evolve, but the current list has been developed over 18 months and IDRN's desire is to keep this list as short as possible.*

IDRN's Service Sectors are focused on skill or the focus of a resource. In other words, a sector classifies what that person, group, or thing "does" - regardless of how that sector capacity is used in a response effort. For example, someone with advanced communication skills could find themselves being useful across a wide range of UN Clusters *(Reference Figure 1)*, even though there is an Emergency Telecommunications Cluster within the UN system. Someone within IDRN who is tagged as IDRN Communications *(as a translator)* might be focused primarily on the work within the UN's Shelter Cluster. Intentionally, **the combination of both UN and IDRN tags will further pinpoint an IDRN member's exact engagement or interest**. Not all members will need this level of clarity, but for those members who are highly specialized in their focus, IDRN's systems will be able to accommodate the reality of their situation.

Defining the sectors is not intended to limit any person's ability to engage in any of the other sectors. Service Sectors are intended to be a shortcut for others to quickly assess and know another person's main interest or activity within IDRN. If a medical doctor wants to develop and engage primarily in the Policy/Legal/Gov't arena, they would be elect to have a "P" designator code as they pursue this area in training and volunteer work.

All these sectors have the potential to include a wide range of specific functions. However, "C" Communications may be the most comprehensive and diverse sector, in that it includes IT, radios, journalists, and translators. All of these are aspects of communications. By lumping these together, we hope to remind all involved that the primary goal for all of these is to effectively communicate.

These service sectors will be central to how access and connections are made within the IDRN dapps and other systems. They are a key component of the Designator Code system that is expounded upon in its own appendix reference section. **These Designator Codes will also be central to the way our social media system known as IDRN's Global Village** which will be active long before the dApp systems will be available.

IDRN's Service Sectors are:

Code	Sector	Description
A	**Accounting/Finance**	Manages financial resources for disaster response, including funding acquisition, budgets, & financial reporting with accountability.
C	**Communications**	Facilitates information flow during disasters, involving IT support, translation services, media production, journalism, telecom, and HAM radio operations to ensure accurate and timely communication.
D	**Development**	Infrastructure oriented response, often looking at the long-term rebuilding with a higher instance of preventative work, or the active promotion of what is often referred to as "build back better" initiatives.
F	**Field**	Provides direct, on-the-ground support during disasters, actively assisting immediate needs. It is understood to work across a range of areas but primarily focused on "boots on the ground" response.
H	**Health/Medical/WASH**	Focuses on the health and medical needs of individuals, including water, sanitation, hygiene, and the deployment of medical personnel and equipment (doctors, nurses, paramedics, EMTs).
L	**Logistics**	Manages the procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution of resources (water, clothing, shelter, food, equipment) in response.
M	**Management**	Coordinates and plans disaster response strategies through Local Command Centers (LCCs) and Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), providing information, reporting, research, & intergroup collaboration.
N	**Networking**	Strengthens the IDRN network by identifying and recruiting individuals with beneficial skills and interests, fostering mutually beneficial relationships, and enhancing overall network capabilities.
P	**Policy/Legal/Gov't**	Addresses the legal and policy frameworks surrounding disaster response, focusing on governmental controls, organizational governance, and accountability at local, regional, and national levels.
R	**Research/Data/ Reporting**	Focus is on gathering, collating, synthesizing raw data into helpful information & reports ensuring information is handled in a truthful, accurate way to help all other service sectors.
S	**Security**	Focused on providing safety and protection for both individuals & data. Physical security for individuals, for camps, or entire regions can also include protecting communications (cybersecurity).
T	**Training**	Develops and delivers training programs for field response, LCC and EOC management, and other disaster and crisis response skills.
V	**Vendor**	Supplies products & services (hardware, software, consumables) to response efforts, meeting specific needs & ensuring availability.
W	**Well-being/Wellness**	Focuses on the holistic, long-term physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of disaster-affected individuals & responders, including trauma counseling, human development, & spiritual support.
X	**Unspecified/General**	Provides general support to the IDRN network or disaster response efforts without specializing in a specific sector, acting as a catch-all for broad involvement or those exploring potential focus areas.

Note that the **Field, Training, and Vendor sectors will overlap with many of the other sectors** and will often be used as initial delineation points when assigning someone's Designator Code. A few examples are:

- If someone is all about medical aid, but they are very focused on the hands-on aspect of it that puts them in the field, they will receive an (F) Field Designator Code, with the possibility of an "H" secondary code.
- If someone is selling products of any kind within the disaster response ecosystem, regardless of what that focus might be, they will be primarily understood within IDRN as a "V" vendor. This allows members to immediately understand that this individual or group is interested in selling or providing products and they are deriving some sort of profit from their actions.
- If someone is primarily focused on educating and preparing others, they will be designated with the "T" Training code. This designation will trump whatever area of specialty or focus they might have. However, if a member would prefer to be seen primarily as a "S" Security-focused person, and yet they also have a strong secondary preference in that space for training, it's possible they can be assigned a secondary designator code of "T."

Appendix: IDRN Designator Codes

The central goal of IDRN is to increase awareness. Making that awareness easier and faster is a good thing. **Providing quick clarity is the reason for using Designator Codes with IDRN members.** Designator Codes are intended to be a super-quick shortcut to knowing a bit about the people each member encounters over time.

Each Designator Code is a combination of two key bits of data. First, IDRN's Service Sectors represent interest or skill. Second, answering**… "What level of engagement or expertise are you providing within the network regarding that Service Sector? "**

The combination of these bits of information should serve as an understandable and quick way to know if you are talking with a world-class logistics person or a newbie who someday hopes to be a boots-on-the-ground responder. Designator codes can help you know if you are working with an experienced security expert, or a person interested in medical solutions but only interested in getting periodic newsletters from IDRN.

To understand the first part of a Designator Code, please refer to the chart in the previous Appendix section on IDRN Service Sectors. The **valid letters of any IDRN Designator Code must start with** one of the following: **A, C, D, F, H, L, M, N, P, R, S, T, V, W, or X.**

The second part of the Designator Code is a single-digit number 1 through 9, with 3, 4, 5, & 6 being the most typical members. The meaning for each number follows:

1	**Friends of IDRN**	"Friends of IDRN" receive newsletters periodically while possibly providing financial support, recruitment, but with minimal engagement.
2	**Associate Members**	Individuals who create a basic account but have not on-boarded yet.
3	**Member**	Most basic membership, presumably with minimal skill in their service sector, but ready to learn, engage, and gain experience.
4	**Experienced Member**	A member with some service sector-specific training or experience
5	**Advanced/Expert Member**	A member with expertise in a field, but not specific to disaster response and/or individuals with extensive practical experience in responding.
6	**World-Class Expert**	A member who is an expert in a Service Sector with years of experience, especially with expertise specific to disaster response.
7	**Service Sector Manager**	Level 5 and Level 6 individuals are given temporary responsibility to define and maintain clarity within an individual Service Sector.

8	**Pivotal Relaunch Leader**	Individuals who made key investments or offered pivotal support to IDRN during its relaunch, giving permanent honor in the system.
9	**Legacy Leader**	Individuals who were key to the initial creation and on-going support of IDRN before the relaunch.

Designator Codes will be one of the most prominent parts of the IDRN badges that will be part of the dApp, plus how topics are organized within IDRN's Global Village. IDRN's initial tools used for assigning the first round of Designator Codes will be developed apart from the dApp. With the first attempts at this process, IDRN expects to learn points that will inform both systems developers and the general membership. **By default, the second pair for Designator Codes will be either N3 or X3** unless there are reasons for something else.

Example Designator Codes

V5N3	A salesperson who has been selling disaster response products for the past three decades, but would not consider themselves a world-class expert	**N8X3**	A person who has caught the vision and during the IDRN relaunch has actively provided key introductions and contact or possibly provided significant financial support to assist in building the new IDRN.
F5N9	A person who has been a leader within IDRN since its beginning, but still primarily wants to be known as a "go to the event" responder with loads of practical field experience.	**D6N3**	A person who is known as a world-class expert on resilient building and other forms of infrastructure development or rebuilding efforts.
X1N3	A person who only wants to receive periodic newsletters about the network and who has not selected an area of interest.	**L7X3**	A person who is either a world-class expert (L6) or an experienced trusted individual working with logistics (L5) who is taking on the job of managing the logistics sector.
P3N3	A young person who is interested in geopolitics, hoping to work with their local or national government in the future, but is just starting to learn.	**C3N8**	A person who contributed a significant amount of work and resources to helping build out IDRN but they want to be known primarily as someone focused on learning and growing in communications work.
X2N3	A person who has registered their name and created an IDRN account but has not completed the formal on-boarding process yet.	**F3S4**	A person who wants to be first boots on the ground but with no real experience specific to disaster response but who also has a military background/training and an interest specifically in the field of security.
H4N3	An EMT with minimal disaster specific experience or training but has very relevant skills and wants to learn and grow in disaster response.	**A5N3**	A retired CPA with some disaster response experience but is clearly qualified in financial accounting principles and application.

Appendix: Legacy IDRN History & Culture

The **International Disaster Response Network** (IDRN) was initiated in 2007 as a project under a larger *(now defunct)* global humanitarian non-profit organization which took an approach and vision resembling many of the world's largest disaster response initiatives common today – gathering resources and connections to directly respond to human need in disasters – both natural and man-made.

The Original Network

The initial network focused first on providing training to local groups to create a global network of Local Coordination Centers. This was all done with the intent of working with these centers in providing direct relief during disaster events. The training generally included four (4) levels: **Basic Preparedness, Basic Response, Basic Disaster Management, and Train the Trainer.**

At one time, approximately 35 different countries around the world had IDRN groups and individuals participating in the network. Those groups were trained and some mobilized in response to crisis events from 2009 through 2013 including events in **China, Haiti, Nepal, Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, to Japan.** Those who created and funded the original International Disaster Response Network lead the coordination efforts

Figure 2 - IDRN Update Report, circa 2011

while identifying resources and funneling them to the areas of need through dedicated IDRN personnel and through the local Coordination Centers.

When the larger organization and its associated funding dissipated years later, **there were five groups that continued independently – Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, & South Korea.** These independent groups functioned within different legal structures based on where they were located and did not have formal ties. Even so, they convened biannually to reinforce and nurture IDRN as they looked for ways to collaborate when possible. **The new IDRN will regularly refer to these groups as Legacy IDRN Groups.** These Legacy groups are a good model, born from the original IDRN.

After Time Passed

In 2021, a vision to reestablish IDRN as a truly global network emerged among past IDRN leadership and specifically among the South Korean IDRN supporters. By 2023, an Executive Director was assigned to start rebuilding the international instance of IDRN and with that, **a Texas-based US-based non-profit called IDRN Global was initiated in 2024**. The new approach for the larger International Disaster Response Network would no longer mimic many of the other established disaster response groups, coalitions, companies, and networks. The new IDRN would seek to fill a very specific gap in the larger industry and commit to a very "grassroots" approach. **The goal is no longer command and control, event-based mobilization, and direct training**. IDRN would now seek to take disaster response resources and responders to a new level through awareness among those groups already engaged and responding with the hope to magnify best practices and enable new and better levels of collaboration.

Best Practices

To this day, the existing Legacy IDRN groups continue to operate much like they have all along. Their patterns are worth emulating, even though the new IDRN does not require that to be included in the network. Even so, new local groups would benefit from the approaches these Legacy groups take, even though they all have their own "flavor" or patterns. **What is consistent among them is rigorous adherence to the original IDRN training models 1100 and 1300.** Many groups do not consider anyone to be part of the network until they have been through at least 1100 training. They also have a specific process for "badging" members – where individuals are given a physical badge that confirms their membership and provides a photo and other appropriate information.

The training models are:

- **IDRN 1100: Community-Based Disaster Preparedness** - focuses on helping an individual become aware of the issues they will face in various disasters and how they can actively prepare themselves and their immediate family and community.

- **IDRN 1300: Community-Based Disaster Response** - grounded in Incident Command System (ICS) principles which are the backbone of an organized response effort – teaching the methods used to effective coordinate people using industry standards

- **IDRN 1500: Global Response Operations** - helps people better understand the common dynamics and methods prevalent in the world's response organizations and governments. This training helps individuals better understand how things are likely to work among many larger groups. This looks at high-level coordination and how their local efforts effectively fit within that framework.

Individuals and groups that join the new IDRN are not required to use this training, but these training modules are a solid way to add value to any community.

Appendix: Why Cardano?

The following is an excellent example of AI-enable queries and resulting summaries. This summary was generated by Google's Gemini 2.5 Pro (experimental) tool. The text was edited, but the bulk of the material was generated during the writing of this white paper.

Cardano stands out in the Web3 landscape as a blockchain platform meticulously engineered with a foundation rooted in scientific philosophy and peer-reviewed academic research. This deliberate, evidence-based approach is fundamental to its mission of creating a more secure, sustainable, and equitable digital future. **For developers and users seeking new Web3 technologies built on transparent, reliable systems, Cardano's commitment to first principles offers a compelling alternative**.

Cardano's entire architecture is **designed not just for technological prowess but specifically to empower individuals, shifting control away from centralized entities and placing it into the hands of the users**, thereby fostering greater autonomy for the normal person in the digital realm.

The platform's dedication to open-source development and peer review directly translates into enhanced user trust and empowerment. Every major protocol upgrade and core component undergoes rigorous academic scrutiny before implementation, minimizing vulnerabilities and ensuring a higher degree of reliability compared to platforms developed with less formal oversight. This transparency allows anyone to inspect the codebase, understand the system's mechanics, and contribute to its improvement. For average people engaging with Web3 technology, this means interacting with applications built on a Cardano foundation designed for security and predictability, **reducing the risks often associated with nascent technologies** and giving them more confidence and control over their digital interactions and assets.

Central to Cardano's philosophy is the pursuit of maximum decentralization, a cornerstone for empowering its community. Furthermore, Cardano's explicit focus on building trustworthy voting and governance systems underscores its commitment to user control and autonomy. **The Cardano community is hyper-focused on creating a self-sustaining ecosystem where the community collectively directs the future development** and funding priorities of the blockchain. This model aims to ensure that Cardano evolves according to the consensus of its users, making it a truly community-driven platform where the normal person's voice can directly influence the network's trajectory. Empowering a normal person's voice in this way is directly aligned with IDRN's goals.

A Brief History and Development Roadmap

Cardano was founded in 2015 by Charles Hoskinson, a co-founder of Ethereum, with the goal of creating a third-generation blockchain that improves upon the scalability, interoperability, and sustainability limitations of previous platforms through a research-driven methodology. Its development roadmap is divided into distinct eras, each focusing on specific functionalities:

Era	Focus	Status as of April 2025
Byron	Foundation & Basic Network	Completed
Shelley	Decentralization *(Staking)*	Completed *(Ongoing optimization)*
Goguen	Smart Contracts *(Plutus)*	Completed *(Ongoing feature enhancements & tool improvements)*
Basho	Scaling & Interoperability	In Progress *(Layer 2 solutions like Hydra, sidechains)*
Voltaire	Governance & Treasury	In Progress *(Project Catalyst active, on-chain voting imminent)*

In summary, Cardano presents a compelling platform for developing and supporting new Web3 technologies, particularly those prioritizing user empowerment and decentralization. Its foundation in peer-reviewed research and open-source principles fosters security and trust, while its Proof-of-Stake system and dedicated governance era *(Voltaire)* are explicitly designed to distribute control and decision-making power to the community. **For developers building dApps, Cardano offers a secure, sustainable, and increasingly scalable environment with a clear roadmap towards complete community ownership.** This makes Cardano an attractive choice for projects aligned with the core Web3 ethos of giving the normal person more control and autonomy in the digital world.

"Cardano is the Linux of blockchains!"

For those who may have their doubts about the speculative nature of cryptocurrencies, **IDRN is not "banking on" the price of ADA** *(Cardano's Layer 1 token)* as important beyond the fact that higher prices show more adoption. IDRN looks to the Cardano ecosystem for relevant and useful technological capabilities previously unavailable to the world.

Appendix: IDRN as anti-Gravy Train

IDRN's desire to be trustworthy will require extra attention when wanting to have that reputation globally. Aggressively addressing this throughout IDRN's development and growth will be the only way to possibly achieve this important goal.

The term "gravy train" may not be familiar with many, so the following will help those better understand the concept. Few other phrases capture this bad phenomenon as well.

Definition of "Gravy Train"

The idiom "gravy train" refers to a situation or job that allows someone to make a lot of money or gain significant advantages or benefits with very little effort, often seen as undeserved or unfair. It implies riding along easily and profiting from a system or situation, sometimes excessively.

Application to Non-Profits

In the non-profit context, being on the "gravy train" could refer to situations where individuals within the organization (like executives or board members) benefit excessively from the organization's funds, often at the expense of the mission they are supposed to serve. This can manifest as:

- Inflated salaries and bonuses are disproportionate to the organization's size, scope, or impact.

- Lavish spending on travel, entertainment, office perks, or administration unrelated or excessive to the non-profit's core work.

- Directing contracts or business to entities owned by or related to insiders.

- Situations where only a small fraction of donations actually goes towards the intended programs, with the rest consumed by fundraising and administrative costs that unduly benefit individuals.

IDRN will operate as an awareness-focused passthrough – *where people start their journey in finding other people and new resources*. IDRN must not be mistaken as guaranteeing that everyone within our registries operates with IDRN's same level of commitment regarding financial or social accountability. With that**, IDRN will clearly note when something inappropriate is happening and remove that group or individual from the network.** However, IDRN's approach will be "innocent until proven guilty" and offer some form of "three strikes and you're out" depending on the issues at hand.

Appendix: Experimental Programs

Each of the following programs may be somewhat dependent on other programs or the core IDRN infrastructure. **The initial versions of each of these programs will likely be implemented through more manual** *(non-automated)* **approaches.** This is a practical approach that often requires less immediate funding, while lessons are being learned. Lessons discovered through experimentation will inform how and what systems are built and automated in the future.

Vetting: *Network Reputation and Validation*

IDRN's Vetting Team members are individuals *(IDRN volunteers)* who have been carefully selected by IDRN Global leadership specifically to help the network properly vet other IDRN members. Vetting Team members will pursue the following key directives:

- o **Priority 1:** Operate in a way where maintaining personal and organizational integrity are the top priority, i.e. GUARD EVERYONE'S INTEGRITY
- o **Priority 2:** Monitor IDRN's entire approach to vetting so that internal dialog is consistently documented, and methods are improving so that there is overall alignment and consistency in how IDRN addresses vetting, i.e. HELP MAKE IDRN'S VETTING CONSISTENT AND TRANSPARENT OVER TIME
- o **Priority 3:** Seek to maintain practical, doable, and reasonable approaches to vetting individuals and groups that are appropriate within the context, i.e. DON'T MAKE IT UNNECESSARILY HARD OR WEIRD
- o **Priority 4:** Seek to grow IDRN's capacity to vet appropriately by expanding the Vetting Team with training and mentoring, i.e. HELP GROW THE VETTING TEAM

Good candidates for the Vetting Program must be:

- o self-sufficient,
- o flexible/adaptable,
- o willing to follow the four (4) priorities of the program,
- o have strong communication skills *(including English fluency)*, and
- o be willing and able to engage without financial support through IDRN.

Vetting Team members must be carefully vetted before joining the effort and show appropriate skills and a level of seriousness about the job. They must be trained and verified to understand and agree to Vetting Program guidelines. Vetting Team members also must agree to document their activities as Vetting Team members, including any instances where they were not in full agreement with leadership directives.

Vetting Team members must document and submit their vetting process and conclusions regarding the various levels of vetting work done within IDRN. **Vetting Team members are generally accountable to one another, but specifically to any Vetting Team leader who is overseeing their activities.** Vetting Team members are required to report any problems and incidents where the Top 4 Priority order is not maintained or not achieved.

Vetting Team members will be evaluated, and a reputation system will emerge organically within IDRN. IDRN and Vetting Team members will maintain their right to terminate this voluntary relationship for any or no stated reason. IDRN will maintain a publicly available rooster of active Vetting Team members in a manner that appropriately protects all involved – *typically using only handles, correspondent IDs, and country affiliation*.

Vetting Team members will evaluate members and their identity, as well as their skill claims at four different levels.

- o **"Self-Vetted" Level 01:** Self documentation. All members are to enter their own identity, certifications, awards, degrees, and skills with the understanding that they vow to only enter accurate information.

- o **"Member-Vetted" Level 02:** This level of vetting is a per item or per instance type of vetting. The name of the fellow IDRN member offering the confirmation is required, even though the member's name will not be displayed with the vetted item. This "who offered the confirmation" information will only be visible by Vetting Team members and IDRN leadership. Each instance of **Level 02 Vetting simply states that a fellow IDRN member states that the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge**, and they believe it to be true.

- o **"Team-Vetted" Level 03:** This level of vetting is both an overall vetting as well as a per item or per instance type of vetting. The name of the IDRN Vetting Team member offering the confirmation is required, even though the team member's name will not be displayed with the vetted item. This "who offered the confirmation" information will only be visible by Vetting Team members and IDRN leadership. Each instance of Level 03 vetting states that IDRN Vetting Team members state that the provided information is accurate to the best of their knowledge, and they believe it to be true.

- o **"Pro-Vetted" Level 04:** This level of vetting is for a per item or per instance type of vetting and must be done by a professionally acknowledged – third-party company or network with no ties to the member being vetted. The company or network offering legally binding confirmation is required to be visible to other IDRN members and displayed with the vetted item. Each instance of Level 04 vetting states that professionals who are legally bound to accuracy have stated that the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge, and they believe it to be true.

Financial Initiatives: *Financially Enabling IDRN Programs & Systems*

Financial gain is not always the primary motivation for what many people do. Regardless of the combination of motives, some aspect of funding is needed in most worthy endeavors. IDRN needs to understand and capture the full range of incentives motivating its volunteers, and a key part of that is IDRN's ability to identify and mobilize financial resources to enable its work.

IDRN is committed to transparency and building an unquestionable trustworthiness among the general population – especially with how financials are handled. Business as usual within non-profit finances has been tainted. Even if most non-profit work is absolutely handled appropriately and above reproach, the skepticism many have with NGOs *(non-government organizations)* is understandable. Personal experience says this skepticism with some - *especially BINGOs (big international NGOs)* - is warranted. Countering this negative mistrust requires intentional, and possibly extreme, changes in how the topic of funding is addressed. Many do not share this view, especially as it may be uncharted territory. Conventional wisdom in the field of non-profit funding will be counter to some of the following ideas.

Like most other non-profits, there are broadly two categories that must be funded. A) The on-going organizational structural expenses and other relational commitments. B) Project costs – each having their own expenses, generally independent of other projects with no guarantee going forward. If a project turns into a perpetual activity, it must be rolled over to the "A" on-going organization costs. These distinctions and how IDRN intends to address the differences between these two will be where the IDRN approaches quickly diverge from the norm.

The proposed approach for IDRN is to absolutely minimize anything and everything in the "A" group of expenses. **These organizational and operational costs will not evaporate; they can be realized in different ways.** The most notable departure is the idea of "no employees" with IDRN Global. Independent groups who are registered within IDRN will have employees, but they will not represent the entire network – only their local groups. Our proposal is that all people working through IDRN be some form of volunteer. Clearly defining our definition of volunteer is important before proceeding.

A person who is doing work and not being compensated in full for that work is practically volunteering at least some of their time – making them a volunteer. This approach is counter to the idea if you are being paid anything at all, you are not a volunteer. *Clearly, gamesmanship can be applied and abused if someone claims their time is worth significantly more than they are making but still being paid commensurate with industry standard. That inappropriate approach is not what is being described or promoted.*

Ensuring workers are never paid a questionable or excessive amount through IDRN Global is IDRN's attempt to eliminate any chance that financial sponsors feel like they are funding someone else's excesses. IDRN wants term "gravy train" to be completely antithetical to IDRN's identity. "Gravy train" is another name for any system that provides "easy money" and enables forms of excess for those "on" the train. How IDRN handles money is paramount for building legitimate trust with the public and donors. *(See Appendix: IDRN as anti-Gravy Train)*

IDRN's proposed approach to this is different, but not new. Funding mechanisms and anything that looks like employment can be offloaded to other existing organizations or individuals. In other words, **people working for IDRN initiatives or towards IDRN Global goals do not have to be paid by IDRN Global**. And as they do the work, IDRN sees them as volunteers. This keeps costs and accountability decentralized – not controlled or the responsibility of IDRN directly even as IDRN still has the responsibility to protect its reputation and is accountable for any funding used in those initiatives. This approach minimizes a big portion of the "A" organizational on-going cost of salaries and the associated HR *(human resources)* costs that can weigh heavily on a non-profit.

When funding is available and directed to a group or individual's work on behalf of IDRN, that can be addressed as a project cost – most importantly a specific project with an end date and likely completion goals that can be tied to final payments or reimbursements. **This approach means that there will never be an implied on-going cost that the network is responsible for paying into the future.** The larger benefit from this approach is that only projects and initiatives that have shown their value will be funded again - with no assumptions or guarantees beyond what was defined.

IDRN has established a way to facilitate this approach through IDRN's **Approved Volunteer Position (AVP) Program** as outlined on the official IDRN website. (www.IDRN.info/avp) This approach allows an individual to clearly define his or her proposed work in a way that allows IDRN Global leadership to review this intention with the option to approve the initiative and "bless" the volunteer with an official title. This is intended to strengthen an individual's identity in a way where local organizations and/or individual supporters would be more likely to financially support the effort. **The entire program is intended to move as much work and accountability locally – ensuring that IDRN is a true grassroots, decentralized network.**

So, by minimizing *(eliminating)* HR costs, perennial program commitments, and employee salaries, the amount of money needed to maintain the infrastructure of IDRN is limited to the technical systems that undergird the registries. And when it comes to that infrastructure, we are hoping to build these systems *(dApp sub-systems, general website,*

mass emailing systems, etc.) in a way where vendors and others attempting to make a profit within the larger disaster response ecosystem will pay for these on-going costs. However, IDRN will also look for funding from foundations, other non-profits, and individual donors during the building phase. **During the early rollout, the size of the network, its general relevance, and global network effects will not be sufficient for IDRN systems to be fully supported through network use and annual vendor membership fees and advertisement revenue.** But once Phase Three is implemented, we are hopeful that all future foundation, non-profit, and individual financial support will go to IDRN initiatives driven and lead by IDRN volunteers.

The second financial category "B" we mentioned before will be project specific. Each idea, program, or initiative will need to be defined and presented with goals, timelines, requirements, and details of the funding needed or requested. These projects will be organized and viewable in a transparent way that is appropriate, so that individuals and groups can find and help enable the projects they want. The coming new IDRN systems will make the financial transactions as public and trackable as possible.

The promise of IDRN's dApp's ability *(WEB3, blockchains, cryptocurrency)* to support **"smart contracts" or what some call "programmable money" will further ensure that funds are only used as intended by the donor.** The technology, when implemented properly, means that it is technically impossible for $300 donated to help flood victims in Bangladesh could be used otherwise. This kind of assurance offered to donors could easily increase confidence and generosity of giving. All of these concepts and tools should be clearly aligned with IDRN's quest to be absolutely trustworthy.

Ultimately, IDRN's foundational qualities for improving awareness of available people and other resources can be realized without any other special programs. But as specific programs are defined to address ways to enhance and magnify these benefits within the larger responder's community, IDRN must create a way for those initiatives – *funded by donors/vendors and driven by volunteers* – to proceed within IDRN's framework. **The goal is to create as little infrastructure and friction as possible, while also enabling the work that needs to happen within IDRN's culture of transparency, accountability, and trust**.

The specifics of all of this are still being designed. Most of it will be manually implemented with simple existing tools until the technical systems are tested and implemented. With so much to be developed, it is important to note that this section has more "why" than exact examples of "how." That's where this stands, with much to come.

IDRN's immediate goal is to find groups and individuals who will invest in the larger vision presented by IDRN Global in this white paper.

Infrastructure Development & Enhancement: *Enabling Network Systems*

Much has been mentioned throughout this document about IDRN's dApp. Interacting with IDRN's unique datasets will be possible through IDRN's website, but **most of the infrastructure needed to realize IDRN's goals will be in the mobile app – IDRN's decentralized tool or dApp**. In this case, IDRN Global taking the initiative to develop, test, and manage the use of these systems is one definition of infrastructure.

These systems will evolve to empower IDRN members around the globe and **the dApp will likely become critical infrastructure – *functionally* – to the larger International Disaster Response Network**. Using the word "evolve" is intentional in that we expect that the interactions and enthusiasm of individual members and groups who fully embrace IDRN will lead to systems we have not yet envisioned. For the purposes of this document, we focus on the core IDRN infrastructure to be built and managed under IDRN Global.

Documented on IDRN's website (https://idrn.info/idrn-global/) it is worth briefly mentioning that IDRN Global does not "control" the International Disaster Response Network in that the larger network is a collection of autonomous individuals and groups deciding to work together. **IDRN Global's purpose is to facilitate this global community's ability to network**. And while doing that, IDRN Global hopes to promote best practices with new and better collaboration among its members and beyond.

As IDRN Global develops these new systems, **IDRN's goals are to build as few systems as possible while increasing awareness** *(and the ease of that awareness)* of who and what is out there in the world disaster response. As simplistic as this sounds, it is no small task. Currently, the core functionality of the dApp in development includes:

1) **Membership Registry:** Individuals and groups categorized with a useful tagging system and appropriate identification protection capabilities.
2) **Resource Registry:** Referred to as "the Mother of All Resource Databases," this registry will become the world's most comprehensive curated, organized, sortable, searchable collection of disaster response-related resource links.
3) **Event Responders Registry:** For any disaster response event that an IDRN member registers in this list, the goal is that it will actively work to become the most comprehensive list anywhere of those responding to an event. Not a coordination tool, each entry is a pointing system so that responders can know who else is responding and connect with them directly if appropriate.
4) **Member Reporting Tool:** This tool will be dual-purpose. *First,* it will be used by members to alert the network of their personal experience in a disastrous event being encountered first-hand. IDRN hopes that members will use this tool as part of how people feel connected. IDRN pleads, "Don't Walk Alone! **This tool will be how**

a member can signal the larger network in times of personal need. *Second*, this same tool will allow members to report what they see and know first-hand regarding a disaster or crisis event. It is our intention to make this reporting tool as friendly as possible for integrating with other external systems that track such information. *The interoperability of this reporting tool will be a never-ending project, but worthy of the effort. By enabling other tracking systems to easily inject IDRN dApp generated assessment reports, IDRN would see this as a way to strengthen the networks brand and identity.* In addition to providing raw data to help responders better coordinate, IDRN also looks to assist members in monetizing their own original content *(photos, videos, etc.)* that they capture so that news outlets will have a well-defined repository of fresh content for reporting on events real-time. *Note: The legal and financial obligations for this approach are not taken lightly but will be addressed to be mutually beneficial.*

5) **Best Practices Collection:** A collection of summary articles *(with reference links)* defining key concepts and approaches that are deemed as a "best practice" by an IDRN member. As these articles can be "up-voted" *(and possibly "down-voted")* by fellow IDRN members, the best ideas should always be easy to find. Much like all the other registries, there will be a standard collection of tags that can be added to each article to improve its searchability.

6) **Master Search Tool:** A way to quickly find what is needed across the entire platform.

7) **Favorites Links:** A way for members to quickly find and tag projects, individuals, and events they are most interested in following.

8) **A digital "IDRN Member Badge":** Providing members with a quick way to identify themselves to others – *especially response coordinators* – will offer many benefits in the midst of the possible chaos of an event. Clearly presenting an IDRN branded face *(picture)* with name and IDRN Designator Code with the ability to link to further verification will be the basic components of each member's badge. Other color-coded bits of information, including key training and vetting information will all eventually be found on the IDRN Member Badge. This badge will evolve and improve over time, with a serious focus on trustworthiness and ease of verification.

The same basic interaction will eventually be accessible from a browser-based Internet connection and may eventually have additional capabilities. However, **the goal is to make all of IDRN's registry information as accessible as possible from the most commonly used platform in the world** – mobile devices, and especially smart phones.

Member Development: *Assisting Member Journeys & Training*

IDRN seeks to be valuable to both professionals and everyday people. For people who spend much of their life doing disaster response, they will benefit from the well-organized data sets IDRN offers – both resources and relationships. But for someone who knows little to nothing about disaster preparedness or response, the shear volume of information available will undoubtedly be overwhelming.

IDRN's Member Development Program is specifically focused on helping anyone start from zero and effectively begin their unique journey towards better awareness, involvement, and preparedness.

This is a program that will always look for ways to improve but will hopefully be an immediate benefit to "newbies." We intend to develop some simple systems to discover what a new IDRN member is hoping to accomplish. These systems will be intended to provide broad directional cues pointing members to different groups, resources, and learning options. Most likely, the different IDRN Service Sectors will be one of the starting points to narrow down interests. However, if there's an interest in general personal preparedness, this program will provide options for training for that. IDRN's Legacy 1100 training will continue to be a solid place to start. Simultaneously, there may be similar training programs with local-based groups that might provide the needed first steps.

In addition to more automated online tools, **the IDRN Member Development Program will match members with other members who are willing to take a more direct, personal approach.** This would not be promoted as a mentorship, but it could develop into that in some circumstances. The idea of a more experienced person interacting with someone looking to learn and develop is a positive example of IDRN volunteers engaging.

This program will be led by an IDRN Champion. *(See Appendix Reference Champions: Community Enhancement Leadership)*

While members can work through the IDRN Approved Volunteer Position (AVP) Program to turn this work into a job**, it is expected that those supporting others in this development program will do so as volunteers.** With this dynamic, members will need to understand that requests for assistance from another member are not guaranteed. IDRN will provide a way for members to request development assistance beyond the automated approaches.

As the network grows, it is likely that IDRN Regional Champions will be identified under the Member Development Program so that local cultures and norms are better incorporated into the training and direction. This could include virtual meet-ups for regional networking.

Bottom line, **IDRN intends to assist any member wanting to learn, prepare, and engage.**

Champions: *Community Enhancement Leadership*

Champions are individual volunteers who foster network growth and a positive and enriching experience for a specific group within IDRN. They understand that **the overall success and growth of the entire network is intrinsically linked to the well-being, engagement, and expansion of each individual subgroup**. By taking special interest in their designated group, Champions empower their subgroup to thrive, ultimately strengthening the collective network. Every subgroup, regardless of its specific focus or composition, can benefit greatly from the guidance and support of a dedicated Champion.

Champion examples include:

- Geographically oriented Champions,
- Career or expertise oriented Champions,
- Demographically oriented Champions, or
- any other interest or topical focus that might benefit from a dedicated Champion.

The goal for each formally designated Champion is to not only encourage and strengthen the subgroup, but to figure out the best way to strengthen the entire IDRN through this subgroup's participation in and through the network. This includes being willing to hand over the Lead Champion title to anyone able to be an even better Champion.

Champions Examples could include:

- State of New York Champion
- City of Tokyo Champion
- Country of Ecuador Champion
- Sub-Saharan African Champion
- Ex-Military Personnel Champion
- Navy (Current/Retired) Champion
- Journalism Champion
- Registered Nurses Champion
- Government Employees Champion
- Single Moms Champion
- Grandparents Champion
- Mandarin Speakers Champion
- Shipping Industry Champion
- Software Developers Champion
- Air & Space Champion

From these examples, one can see that Champions can be defined as subgroups out of other defined subgroups that have a Champion. If an area of focus grows to the point where multiple people want to work together, a **Lead Champion** will be designated – hopefully the most qualified and appropriate person.

IDRN intends to identify and support a Champion of Champions volunteer who will develop tools, training, and systems to grow and encourage Champions in their individual efforts.

Influencers: *Communications & Marketing via Established Communities*

IDRN believes that personal introductions to IDRN from trusted individuals is the best way for people to learn about the International Disaster Response Network. While most of this seems to be an intimate manual process, it is possible to achieve some of these same benefits, at scale, through social media influencers.

The relationship between a mass audience and an influencer can be strong and compelling. **IDRN believes that developing relationships with a wide range of influencers is a critical part of how IDRN will achieve its true global potential.** Many of these influencers have sponsorship programs that IDRN hopes will allow for an initial introduction. Of course, if there are IDRN members who already have direct contact with viable influencers, that approach would be preferred to deliver the best introduction. Either through personal connections or via the paid sponsorship programs, **IDRN will identify appropriate influencers with unique communities and present our organizational goals – emphasizing awareness and best practices**.

If paying an influencer for initial access is possible, IDRN may take this approach if the return on investment (ROI) seems appropriate. However, **the ultimate goal is that each influencer will see what IDRN is attempting to achieve and be willing to be part of this program by producing content for their audience** – *content purely of their own interests but related to disaster response in some way* – and do this in support of introducing their audience to IDRN as their contribution to the network effort. Such programming could still be sponsored by other clients since the content they create is still aligned with their audience and typical content.

When an influencer learns of IDRN and becomes supportive through this defined approach or something similar, they will be part of the Influencers Program. IDRN volunteers who facilitate these relationships and connections will also be identified with the Influencer Program. All individuals who are part of the Influencer Program will have to have been vetted, trained, and follow these key directives:

- o **Priority 1:** To only create content that is somehow aligned with typical content and will not alienate the influencer's regular audience, i.e. DO NO HARM
- o **Priority 2:** To ensure there is a solid understanding of what IDRN is seeking to promote and develop, i.e. DON'T CONFUSE THE AUDIENCE REGARDING IDRN
- o **Priority 3:** To be creative in developing innovative ways to highlight and celebrate best practices or lessons learned from historical events, i.e. BE INTERESTING AND RELEVANT
- o **Priority 4:** To appropriately introduce individuals and groups to IDRN and assist them in joining IDRN and engaging with the network, i.e. HELP GROW IDRN

Good candidates for the Influencer Program must be:

- o Established with visible positive track record,
- o Good to work with,
- o willing to follow the four (4) priorities of the program,
- o have strong communication skills, and
- o be willing and able to engage with IDRN regardless of financial benefits.

The Influencer Program will likely be easier to grow once a few respected YouTubers join IDRN in this effort. **This program may take a while to establish and could be a source of significant expense.** However, the benefits – especially anything adding to the grassroots identity of IDRN – could be worth the wait and investment.

For some, this program could be the source of the most explosive growth of IDRN in the future. Time will tell.

Correspondents: *Real-time Event Engagement, Education, & Marketing*

IDRN Correspondents are individuals who have been vetted and trained to work in teams of at least two to travel to a response event and engage with the following key directives:

- o **Priority 1:** To not hinder the response efforts of official local systems or other active responders, i.e. DON'T GET IN THE WAY
- o **Priority 2:** To not endanger themselves or endanger others especially where actions taken effectively add to the list of people needing assistance, i.e. DON'T HURT YOURSELF OR OTHERS AND ADD TO THE PROBLEM
- o **Priority 3:** To care for and support other IDRN volunteers, especially other Correspondents, i.e. WORK AS A TEAM
- o **Priority 4:** To gather, curate, and present updates relevant to a response event through IDRN channels using IDRN methodologies, i.e. HELP THE ENTIRE IDRN (THE WORLD) SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING
- o **Priority 5:** To appropriately introduce individuals and groups to IDRN and assist them in joining IDRN and engaging with the network, i.e. HELP GROW IDRN

Good candidates for the Correspondent Program must be:

- o self-sufficient,
- o flexible and adaptable,
- o committed to following the five (5) priorities of the program,
- o strong in communication skills *(including English fluency)*, and
- o willing and able to engage with uncertain financial support through IDRN.

Correspondents are vetted through the IDRN Vetting Program and must be trained and verified to confirm understanding and agreement with IDRN's Correspondent Program guidelines. Correspondents also must agree and document their willingness to operate independently, being financially and legally responsible for themselves, not holding IDRN accountable for their own actions apart from explicit financial arrangements codified in the IDRN Correspondent Program system.

Correspondents must travel and work as a team during a response event with a minimum of two people. They are to hold each other accountable to the Five (5) Priorities and report any problems and incidents where priority order is not maintained or not achieved.

Correspondents are encouraged to submit proposals to IDRN Global for each specific response event. Proposals will be evaluated, and if approved, proposals will be assigned a financial package where initial financial support *(if offered)* is activated upon joint agreement between the Correspondent Team and IDRN Global. Typically, the remaining

financial aspects of the agreement are activated upon completion of the proposed work with appropriate documentation. Financial packages are intended to enable correspondents to volunteer their time and expertise while including minimal stipends to enable the work to be done. Most of the financial support will be for travel expenses – primarily transportation, food, and lodging.

Correspondents will have received both standardized training and successfully completed a personal interview to review and confirm a solid understanding of the importance of how **the correspondent's behavior will represent IDRN as a network and that the significance of this position must be understood and appreciated**. Self-reporting of problems will be stressed so that unfortunate encounters will be known at a network level so that proactive responses can be taken if appropriate. In other words, when something goes wrong or sideways during their efforts as an IDRN Correspondent – *especially with relationship to other networks or groups during a response event -* **correspondents are obliged to inform IDRN Global of these situations with relevant information from their perspective**. In most cases, such reporting will be related to Priorities 1 and 2, even though reports could be about anything problematic with any of the stated priorities or something completely different.

Correspondents will be evaluated on their work and how they engage others, and a reputation system will emerge organically within IDRN. IDRN and Correspondents will maintain their right to terminate this voluntary relationship for any or no stated reason. IDRN will maintain a publicly available rooster of active correspondents in a manner that appropriately protects all involved – typically using only handles, correspondent IDs, and country affiliation.

Given the grassroots identity of IDRN, **we will actively look to incorporate creative solutions that financially support individual IDRN Correspondents through well-respected crowdfunding platforms**. The options available to individuals will likely vary depending on where individuals reside. However, finding support through this mechanism will proactively engage the supporters found through such platforms and reenforce the grassroots narrative that IDRN wants to establish.

The Correspondence Program has huge potential and could singlehandedly enliven IDRN members while also bringing on many new members as they follow trusted and engaging individuals in this program.

Regional Networking: *Relationship Building among Members*

Regional networking meetings might be the most obvious way to build a global network. Events where people can spend time together face-to-face enable quality relationships that few find through only engaging with others virtually. Therefore, **IDRN hopes to see periodic regional opportunities for new connections to be made and new understanding can be found through seminars, training, or simple meetings.**

In alignment with IDRN's grassroots identity, IDRN will actively look for local sponsoring groups to host these meetings – along with funding them. **Local groups will partner with other local groups to share the investments necessary to enable meetings.** IDRN will not divert the praise for or value of hosting such an event away from the hosts. They will be celebrated as examples in collaboration. IDRN may be an excuse for local groups and individuals to get together and discuss common issues, or even better yet, start processes that will improve collaboration regionally before anything disastrous happens.

IDRN's regional meeting in Istanbul during late 2024 may serve as an excellent model in promoting a way to determine what success can look like with such a meeting. During this event, it was discovered that a few meeting characteristics seemed to maximize the value of attending such a meeting. What we found was that:

1) having fewer contingents from represented groups led to better mixing among the attendees – spending more time with new people than with a larger team attending together. In the case of Istanbul, only one group had three people attending, and two other groups had two coworkers attending together. Everyone else was independent prior to the meeting. This dynamic might be worth prioritizing.
2) allowing ample time within the structure of the meeting for extended introductions of all attendees was powerful, accelerating the depth of connections made.
3) having some relevant topics as starting points was useful, but the schedule was allowed to remain flexible and given plenty of time for conversations that arose – and attendees were encouraged to get in-depth when there was interest.
4) the optimal size of a group for such dynamics is between 14 and 24 people. A small meeting with carefully selected *(quality)* attendees - *who generally do not know one another before attending* - leads to a high-quality gathering.

Smaller regional meetings following this pattern can happen more often and with less overhead/expense. While it is true that the majority of IDRN registered members will not ever attend such a meeting, **key people meeting can help develop the backbone of the larger International Disaster Response Network.** These meetings can jumpstart similar quality relationships that took years to develop within the Legacy IDRN groups in SE Asia.

Original Media: *Awareness & Best Practices Focused Content*

Communication tools of all types can conceivably be part of this program. However, the two most likely and two targeted types will be video and articles. These two formats are most **readily understood and easily tied to the goals of increasing awareness and promoting best practices.**

Video: Podcasts/Interviews

Even with the possibility that long-form online video interviews may soon outgrow their current popularity, the public has become quite familiar and comfortable with the format. Audiences tend to value in-depth extended conversations where individuals and concepts can be properly unpacked. While time-consuming, **the authenticity that can be realized through such long interactions is very real and valuable.** Listeners get a real sense of people and their priorities. IDRN's desire to be both trustworthy and known as trustworthy is aligned with why long-form video interviews have become so popular.

IDRN Global's Matt Wallace has all the tools and experience to do this as a volunteer for IDRN leveraging his existing production resources. With this, IDRN will start scheduling and producing these unique pieces starting mid-2025 and start learning what works and what needs adjustments. The initial vision is to bring on a variety of IDRN supporters and disaster response experts to learn about them, learn about groups, systems, or products relevant to response or related topics, and have conversations about the various proposed programs and other key concepts from this document.

Every video will be developed with the goal to illuminate something of value... **always increasing awareness and focusing on best practices.** As IDRN starts accepting financial support, we will likely include this type of video production for vendors who offer a specific level of financial support through an annual membership fee. Everyone wins as new people are made aware of their products.

In addition to this general podcast-like video production, a specific subsection of IDRN-generated video will hopefully emerge. With the success of IDRN's Correspondent Program, field correspondents capture and produce newsworthy material – typically tied to a specific disaster response event. We cannot yet know the specifics of how this useful ground-based information will evolve. However, the general hope is that thoughtful *(but raw)* reports from the field will be compelling and informative.

In the end, the possibilities of IDRN media production are endless. Time will tell. We trust that a noticeable percentage of IDRN membership will eventually add to IDRN's value as a network through original content that is branded as IDRN.

Published Articles: Commentary/Opinion

As IDRN is successful in gaining the attention and support of legitimate industry experts, our hope is that they will see this unique and broad community's needs and write new material specifically to share wisdom, offer compelling reasons for different approaches, and highlight best practices to influence the community in a positive way. The hope is that **complex and or pivotal concepts will be properly explained or addressed**. This could be to create discussion among experts or existing systems. This could be more of an introduction to a serious problem but geared for those just beginning to learn.

Our hope is that **IDRN members will specifically create articles under the IDRN brand** so that their good work might introduce more people to the network, while still receiving the primary attention as the author.

Once an article is published by one of our members, it will be added to the IDRN Resource Registry. And if there are any Best Practices outlined in the article, we expect that **a Best Practices Summary overview will be added to the Best Practices database**. This system will allow people to get a short introduction to an idea or an approach that an IDRN member has deemed as possibly a Best Practice and then link that to the actual full article.

Over time, we aspire to being known for having the most comprehensive collection of original material – not as IDRN, but because IDRN members are willing to publish articles they might have written anyway but are now willing to include their ties to IDRN as part of the article's identity. The standards by which this approach develops is yet to be seen. However, each article should find a larger audience and longevity through this approach.

If successful, we believe that the existence of this program will encourage many opinionated, battle-tested, doers in the practical world to share thoughts and ideas that could benefit thousands or more. This simple idea, at scale, will hopefully become a significant resource for the world.

As stated earlier, video and articles are only the starting point. IDRN believes that a growing international network of motivated individuals will come up with much more in multiple formats – old, new, and emerging.

Appendix: Speed, Not Complexity

Don't let the lists overwhelm.

When being introduced to a new system, some can be overwhelmed with long lists or "too many" options. IDRN's **Service Sectors** and **Designator Codes** are meant to combine simplicity and comprehensiveness.

Said in another way, both these sectors and codes are not intended to be complicated or limiting. **Each system's goal is to provide a quick, initial read on people or information** by taking the robust ecosystem of all things disaster response and provide shortcuts that enable people's ability to quickly and effectively engage in response.

Designator Codes assigned to an IDRN member are not intended to describe a responder in totality. These codes are also not intended to keep an individual from engaging in other sectors. **Each IDRN Designator Code is a starting point for others** to begin understanding where someone fits into the larger landscape. Also, we expect that these Designator codes will evolve over time as interests and skill levels change.

All categorization systems have shortcomings. The **IDRN Service Sectors are crafted to be inclusive of the skills and information most often brought to response efforts**. IDRN attempts to provide clarity with as few sectors as possible, but the list is not short. Breaking some of these sectors down to be more precise would only magnify the problem of having "too many" options.

Once these IDRN systems are initially encountered and the general ideas are understood, we expect that **members will conclude that this approach is in fact fast and simple.**

Appendix: IDRN's "Global Village" Social Media Systems

Many of our members want a way to connect using the types of systems that have become common and now expected. While the identity protections and benefits IDRN looks to realize in our dApp's new technology will not be part of IDRN's initial social media systems, these systems will allow our membership to start relating to one another if they so choose.

IDRN will provide this Global Village option to members, but ultimately, being part of these systems will not be a requirement for registering with IDRN. Also, IDRN's commitment to being available to humanity at no cost will not be reflected in IDRN's Global Village as access beyond an initial trial period, users will either need to pay an annual fee for an account or register and receive a sponsored account.

Global Village Media and Training

Unlike many other private social media systems, our online systems have media and training tools at the heart of the systems. The basic membership "on boarding" process will be central to the Global Village. Also, IDRN's **Service Sectors** and **Designator Codes** will be prevalent inside the organization of IDRN's Global Village and specific training for members to better understand and utilize these systems will be mandatory.

With a focus on awareness, media-rich interviews *(much like podcasts focusing on systems and vendors)* will be central to IDRN's early attempts to provide value to our members. The formatting and prevalence of this style of information will evolve as members provide feedback and engage.

Financial Needs and Answers

After an initial FREE access test period, registered members will be required to pay an annual access fee or request *(obtain)* a sponsored account when available. When sponsored accounts are not available, member's accounts will be put on hold and sponsorships will be doled out to the first-come, first-served waiting list.

Annual account fees will initially be set to $75 (USD), and those requesting sponsorships will be encouraged to pay what they can to be added to by sponsors as available. Also, there may be other "special offers" tied to other fundraising initiatives for IDRN. Regardless of the amounts or source, these fees will pay for the underlying technology and systems support, ensuring that the system will allow IDRN networking to grow and benefit members.