



SOUTHERN CONE IFRC Country Cluster Office

REGIONAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The countries that make up the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) have diverse challenges, as well as common issues that require collaboration. The Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) assists each National Society (NS) through technical support, shared advocacy efforts, guidance to ensure compliance with Movement standards, and a focus on financial accountability.

Argentina is a country with significant socio-political risks and high poverty levels. However, the Argentina Red Cross (ARC) is a well-functioning NS with a solid membership base. ARC has a well-structured and coordinated 4-year strategy focused on disaster preparedness, community health and First Aid, health education, and social support programs. ARC is a key player in local and national governments and an aid to public authorities in disaster response. In 2019, Argentina RC will host the XXI Inter American Conference.

Brazil remains in a complex socio-political crisis. The 4-year strategy of the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) focuses on health services, social support programs, and preventive health. The BRC has been monitored by the IFRC Compliance and Mediation Committee (CMC) since 2014 to ensure robust internal control mechanisms, financial sustainability, and unity between branches and headquarters.

As Chile sits atop one of the largest active faults in the world, it is extremely vulnerable to earthquakes. Efforts must be made to develop the capacity of the Chilean Red Cross (CRC) to respond to major disasters. The focus of the CRC is on preventive health and seasonal shelter. The CMC has emphasized internal controls, statutory reform, accountability, and a resource mobilization strategy for financial sustainability.

Paraguay, the poorest country in the Southern Cone, has experienced severe challenges due to corruption and politicized appointments. However, after a successful election, Paraguay can expect significant economic growth. The Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) has been monitored by the CMC since 2014, which recommended a complete renewal of leadership. The lack of internal controls has led the PRC into serious fraud and corruption, leading to a limited operational capacity. They are focused on health, social programs, disaster preparedness and response.

The Uruguayan Red Cross (URC) is undergoing major improvements, such as its revised strategy. In 2019, the URC will focus on developing internal control mechanisms and refurbishing their national headquarters. Commercial First Aid, road safety, disaster preparedness planning (DPP), and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are key priorities for 2019. Financial viability and projected programming capacity are challenges going forward.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Southern Cone countries are vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, while rapid urbanization has increased vulnerability in certain areas. Disaster preparedness and response is essential.

Since 2016, Southern Cone countries have seen a significant influx of migrants, mostly coming from Venezuela. National Societies seek to improve their response to the migration issue.

Other needs of Southern Cone NSs include strengthening their leadership, aligning their membership with the new strategic framework, financial transparency & accountability, and adopting resilience as a guiding principle.

STATISTICS

\$4.5 Billion

Average annual loss from natural disasters for Brazil only

Up to 28%

Of the population lives below the poverty line

Up to 922%

Increase in Venezuelan migrants in the past 2 years

>10 Million

People are exposed to major earthquake risk

AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

CHF 50,000 required

Due to the significant vulnerability existing in the Southern Cone, the IFRC will strengthen the capacity of National Societies (NSs) in disaster preparedness and response in coordination and Information Management (IM). IFRC will support the ARC to integrate a resilience perspective in their DRR programmes, revising tools and methodologies, and harmonizing with the RC Roadmap for Resilience.

- 1,000 people trained
- 3 community leaders engaged
- 4 communities prepared
- 5 ARC branches engaged with the DRR process
- 10 people trained in Info Management for disaster preparedness for response.

HEALTH

CHF 20,000 required

Based on the strengths in community health, first aid and health education of the Argentine Red Cross, the Secretariat will work with this National Society to share its skills in peer-to-peer (within the sub-region and elsewhere) with other National Societies. The Americas region health unit will also coordinate with the ARC to share training opportunities, tools and support the identification of potential resources.

- Communities in Argentina are supported to effectively respond to health and psychosocial needs during an emergency.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

CHF 4,000 required

The population movement from Venezuela, combined with historic flows of migrants from neighbouring countries to the more economically stable countries of the Southern Cone, will serve as a catalyst to launch Secretariat support for PGI in all five National Societies Based on the identified needs, further actions in this area could peer-to-peer experiences that could build on strengths in the sub-region and in South America. In continuation of past actions, the CCST will encourage the timely registry of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) in the FDRS.

MIGRATION

CHF 890,000 required

IFRC will provide technical guidance in migration issues to National Societies to respond to the massive, continuous movement of people from Venezuela. The IFRC will support Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in their auxiliary role to national authorities related to migration humanitarian challenges.

- 3,000 migrants benefit from Cash Transfer assistance
- 5,000 migrants access social services
- 5,000 people reached with a non-discrimination campaign
- 6,000 returnees receive assistance

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

CHF 80,000 required

The UR is in a restructuring process, strengthening its volunteering, human capital, systems, procedures, and control mechanisms. It will focus on strengthening programs in accordance with its strategic plan and ensuring sustainability to strengthen its leadership and territorial network of branches. The PRC must strengthen all accountability systems and procedures. The National Society needs support to improve their accounting system, consolidation of all financial statements, and management of the volunteer system database (RMS) to ensure real volunteer participation in decision making. The BRC must present consolidated and audited financial statements for 2018, as well as revising their statutes, including internal rules and regulations. The ARC will provide support to other NSs through IFRC network.

- 25 local and national leaders and 150 volunteers trained
- Software for national membership database and account system in place
- Coaching and support for NS Governance with CMC recommendation follow-up
- OCAC workshop held and National Society Development plan in place
- Volunteer database system and management is developed and operational
- Governance coaching and support for board meetings and election
- External audit of consolidated financial statements is undertaken
- An electoral process take place with volunteer voter participation.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS STRATEGIC PARTNERS

CHF 20,000 required

In 2019, IFRC will provide technical support and training to strengthen National Societies capacities on disaster law, legislative advocacy, and humanitarian diplomacy. NSs will also be supported in partnership and resource development through IFRC network.

- Training in the Legislative Advocacy Toolkit
- New Red Cross Law published and disseminated
- Advocacy strategies for effective implementation of IDRL/DRR recommendations

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

CHF 160,000 required

- Security measures and training
- IFRC Standards promoted and upheld
- Data and information management systems established for monitoring
- National Society Development expertise
- An internal audit and investigations conducted to improve accountability
- Legal advice provided.

CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

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