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Annual report

Dominican Republic

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAADO001

16 May 2012

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2011 to
31 December 2011**

*Dominican Red Cross volunteers work within
the community carrying out cholera
prevention activities. Source: Dominican Red
Cross*



In brief

This report updates the progress taken to implement the 2011 support plan for the Dominican Red Cross (DRC).

The Dominican Red Cross' work is guided by the Guayaquil Inter-American Plan 2007-2011 and Strategy 2020, which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Financial situation

The total revised 2011 budget is 477,610 Swiss francs, of which 429,716 Swiss francs (90 per cent) was covered during the reporting period. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 208,104 Swiss francs (48 per cent) of the income.

During the first half of the year the Dominican Red Cross experienced a lack of funding, as it received contributions for the operation focusing on response to the cholera outbreak (Appeal MDR49007) that shared several of the budget lines of the country plan, and as a result of the lack of a resource mobilization strategy. However, before the end of the reporting period the National Society received significant funds from sources such as DFID and DIPECHO VIII that will be implemented from 2012 onwards, although budgeted in 2011.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<https://fednet.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual11/MAADO00111arf.pdf>

See also: Dominican Republic: Cholera outbreak (MDR49007)

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDR49007eu7d.pdf>

No. of people we have reached

The regional representation focuses on building the capacities of the Dominican Red Cross. Consequently, direct beneficiaries of the regional representation's programmes are the members of the National Society, including its staff at headquarters and branch level, governing bodies and volunteers. Indirect beneficiaries belong to civil society, since it is through the strengthening of the National Society's capacities and the technical support offered that methodologies, initiatives and activities can be carried out and implemented accordingly.

Our partners

The Dominican Red Cross, through the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation (LCRR) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), works in close coordination with the Spanish Red Cross, which is their programmatic partner, the Canadian Red Cross, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through its office in Port-au-Prince.

Until 2011 the DRC also worked closely with the German Red Cross, although the PNS left the Dominican Republic at the end of 2011.

There is a large number of United Nations agencies present in the Dominican Republic which all enjoys good cooperation with the National Society. Moreover, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) at the regional level has been a reliable partner for emergency operations.

Context

The Dominican Red Cross operates within a complex disaster risk setting, which involves constant hurricane threats, floods and, over the past few years, seismic related land movements such as the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. The main disaster-related regulatory framework of the Dominican Red Cross is the Constitution of the Dominican Republic together with Law 147-02 on Risk Management which established a national disaster risk management policy and created the National Council of Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (with the acronym in Spanish of CNPMR), the National Commission for Emergencies and the Emergency Operations Centre, of which the Dominican Red Cross Society is a member.

At the moment, the core set of activities of the DRC are centred on disaster risk management, whereby the National Society carries out consistent, highly recognized initiatives at both national and community level, as well as health related activities with programmes such as prevention of epidemics, voluntary blood donation, pre-hospital care and water and sanitation. These programmes are targeted at the most vulnerable, with a strong community focus. Furthermore, the humanitarian challenges that Haitian migration poses to the Dominican Republic have been the subject of a recent case study and the recommendations of the study are under discussion and review.

The Dominican Red Cross has established 12 coordination centres, more than 100 strategic centres and a National Training Centre to prepare and respond to the range of disasters it faces. It also has a roster of 150 trained people who form part of the National Intervention Teams, and 7 who are trained as members of Regional Intervention Teams. The VCA methodology is applied by the branches which have carried out a VCA analysis in more than 200 communities. However, key

issues such as knowledge-sharing and coordination with certain external partners and National Societies in the region are yet to be reinforced.

Some of the key challenges the Dominican Red Cross has faced during the first half of 2011 are the lack of a concrete resource mobilization strategy, which is reflected in low budget coverage in the initial months of 2011, affecting all programmatic areas within the first half of the year.

The election process which took place in July and August also delayed the strategic planning process of the National Society. Following the elections, a protest from two former leaders at branch level led to a potential risk for the National Society of negative coverage in the national media. In response, the zone office conducted a risk assessment and proposed a communications strategy to control the potential damage.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters

Programme Component 1: Community Preparedness/Risk Reduction

Outcome 1: Increased use of community-based disaster risk management programming in the major urban areas integrating the issue of climate change, seismic risks and precarious collective and individual shelter.

Comprehensive research on urban risk in the Dominican Republic and possible operational implications for further programmes in view of the DRC country support plan on urban risk was developed with the aid of the regional DRR delegate.

The Dominican Red Cross participated in a Climate Change workshop with the President's Office's National Council for Sustainable Development of the Dominican Republic, which provided a good opportunity to dialogue with high level government actors and advocate for the Red Cross to take up more engaged commitment with future DRR programmes related to climate change trends in the Dominican Republic.

With support of the Canadian Red Cross, the Dominican Red Cross is participating in the First Response Initiative programme. Staff from the regional representation are providing support with planning, volunteering in emergencies and are also participating in the team that develops the simulations needed for the project.

Outcome 2: Improved capacity of the National Society to be better integrated in the regional Disaster Management system, focusing on an enhanced cooperation strategy with the Haitian Red Cross Society at local and national level.

A joint Haitian Red Cross and Dominican Red Cross working session was conducted in April 2011 to update contingency planning with PADRU and the Centre of Reference. It is expected that a joint agreement is issued by both National Societies to reinforce their cooperation mechanism and political commitment.

Logistics support for the Haiti earthquake response operation from the Dominican Republic has been continued through the recruitment of a local logistics procurement officer. More than 180,000 Swiss francs' worth of items have been procured and forwarded to Haiti, including shelter items, water and sanitation equipment and office items, together with medical supplies for the Colombian Red Cross Society team working in Haiti.

Through bilateral cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross, the DRC has implemented the PPDSUR Project, part of which included conducting VCA workshops in 15 different branches in the south, including the border.

Programme Component 2: Disaster Risk Reduction institutional dissemination

Outcome 1: Improved understanding of the existing national legal framework by local Red Cross branches and local and national institutions

A legal study on Disaster Risk Reduction was carried out by the IFRC with the key stakeholders in the Dominican Red Cross; this study gives an accurate and detailed mapping of the existing laws concerning DRR and the different challenges presented at local levels in the Dominican Republic. At the end of the reporting period the study was finalized and published (with support from the Danish Red Cross) under the title “Analysis of legislation related to disaster risk reduction in the Dominican Republic”.

The above mentioned study served as a basis for one of the key working documents of the 31st Red Cross Red Crescent International Conference called “Law and disaster risk reduction at community level”, developed along with studies on legislation and disaster risk reduction from countries such as Albania, Brazil and South Africa, and academic and institutional documents. The discussions around this document led to the drafting of the 31st International Conference Resolution 7: Strengthening disaster law.

The activities programmed for this component were moved to next year within the framework of the project to improve legal frameworks for international humanitarian assistance. It is expected that the project will be initiated in March 2012.

Programme Component 3: International Disaster Response Law

Outcome 1: Policy-makers understand and make use of the IDRL Guidelines to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for disaster response

A case study on migration was developed in the second half of the year as part of the review of the Fundamental Principles; this is entitled “Institutional Resilience: Towards Red Cross Red Crescent Engagement in Migration”. The report was issued in February 2012.

In conjunction with the Dominican Red Cross, the IDRL programme at the continental level is developing a new technical assistance project for the Dominican Republic involving a detailed study of national laws, consultation with domestic and international actors and the development of detailed findings and recommendations for the strengthening of national legal frameworks.

The activities programmed for this component were moved to next year in the framework of the project towards an improved legal framework for international humanitarian assistance. It is expected that the project will be initiated in March 2012.

Health and Care

Programme purpose: Reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies

Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS

Outcome 1: Dominican Red Cross intends to be part of the Global Alliance on HIV and is able to address HIV issues nationwide and at community level.

Due to human resources and institutional constraints, in addition to the cholera outbreaks during the reporting period, little progress has been made in supporting the National Society on HIV programme development and implementation.

Through bilateral cooperation, the Dominican Red Cross has advanced in regards to HIV prevention and anti-stigma campaigns, as well as peer support methodology. Through these cooperation agreements the DRC has trained 25 national peer educators and 100 dissemination agents.

Programme Component 2: Public Health in emergencies

Outcome 1: Contribute to the health in emergencies particularly dengue fever preparedness and response with community health promotion campaigns and institutional preparedness.

The cholera response operation in Haiti and the Dominican Republic has mobilized both National Societies in responding through an Emergency Appeal. The Dominican Red Cross has strengthened its coordination with the Federation's disaster response system and technical support programmes. The proposed emergency health outcome in the Appeal: reducing cholera-related morbidity and mortality through a comprehensive health approach, is being reached through activities such as: distribution of 2,500 cholera supply kits to cholera patients, distribution of oral re-hydration solution (ORS) to 10,000 families to start early treatment of cholera at home (complementing preventive health and hygiene promotion talks), conducting psychosocial support activities in health centres and communities in order to enhance awareness campaigns and address stigma and fears surrounding cholera, and supporting health authorities with supplies including stretchers, ORS and tents for cholera treatment facilities as required.

The DRC has worked within the national disaster management system, promoting the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy and messages agreed with the Ministries of Health and Education as well as the Humanitarian Working Group in country that includes UNICEF, OCHA, UNDP, AECID and ECHO. The National Society capacity in "health in emergencies" has been strengthened through this process.



Volunteers of the Dominican Red Cross carrying out activities to promote health information to avoid Cholera.

The secretariat facilitated joint contingency planning for the island of Hispaniola with representatives from the Dominican and Haitian Red Cross Societies. The planning had a particular focus on the 2011 rainy season and the ongoing cholera situation affecting both countries. The secretariat emergency health and water and sanitation focal points supported the disaster response team in this process.

The DRC continues gathering information from the activities in the branches and reported a total of 16,286 people trained in epidemic control (cholera) and hygiene promotion. The DRC has appointed a new coordinator, who led the second phase of the project including cascade training of volunteers and communities.

During the phase of the operation from October 2010 to July 2011, 650 volunteers were trained in various related themes, such as cholera prevention and treatment and hygiene; through this more than 50,000 people were reached (which in turn carried the message to their families).

In addition, the DRC deployed 28 water purification plants around the country (eight of them were placed in the border provinces) and distributed safe water, in coordination with government authorities. Disinfections were performed in health centres, correctional facilities and homes.



A Dominican Red Cross volunteer participates in a cholera prevention campaign with children.

During the second phase of the operation, as of 15 November, 190 volunteers had been trained at country level. Despite some delays in the process of fund transfers and purchases, the DRC pre-positioned awareness materials in the target areas.

The programme has taken on a triple methodology to train community leaders, members of organizations and networks and to promote public awareness. At the moment some 2,000 people have been reached directly.

The National Society received about 70% of the total funds sought in the appeal. In order to implement fully the operation, the DRC requested an extension until 29 February 2012.

The main achievement of the operation was been the focus on health and improving the management of information in the DRC. However, there have been limitations with regard to the implementation of the operation.

Additionally, staff from the Dominican Red Cross participated in the CBHFA master facilitators' workshop that was held in Panama during November, along with secretariat personnel, 15 National Societies, and the American Red Cross. This workshop builds on the first master facilitators' workshop for Latin American National Societies held in Lima in late 2010 and ensures that staff and volunteers have been trained to support the roll out of the methodology in their countries. The lessons learned workshop on Water and Sanitation technical units held in Panama from 22 to 25 August also included participation from the Dominican Red Cross.

Outcome 2: Understanding of the Road Safety context is improved

No progress has been made during the reporting period due to lack funds to support this line of action.

Organisational Development /Capacity Building

Programme purpose: To increase local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability

Programme Component 1: Volunteering Development

Outcome 1: Ensure the development of volunteering in the Dominican Red Cross

The development and roll-out of a volunteer database is being considered through the planning of the First Response Initiative (FRI) that the Dominican Red Cross is developing with the support of the Canadian Red Cross.

At the end of the year it was decided that the workshop on the implementation of a data base would be merged with the workshop on Volunteering in Emergencies, as part of the FRI project. For internal reasons, the workshop was rescheduled for February 2012. However, the planning of the workshop started at the end of the year 2011.

The FRI project included several meetings on the Dominican Red Cross DRR strategy. Components on the protection and rights of volunteers were incorporated in a final document. In 2012, the FRI

project will also support the implementation of key volunteering development components, such as the volunteering management cycle.

Since May 2011 the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation has benefitted from the presence of a volunteering delegate who supports volunteering development throughout the region.

On 5 December 2011 an event to celebrate the international day of volunteering IYV +10 was organized in the headquarters in Santo Domingo. Volunteers came from the capital district branches to participate in the event and give visibility to the work of the volunteers during the year of an extensive response by volunteers nationwide to promote the prevention of the spread of cholera.

Programme Component 2: Branch Development

Outcome 1: Empowered branches implement their branch development plan

Regarding the development of branches, during the months of September through December branch development workshops with a strong focus on the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (or SWOT analysis) were facilitated. The expected result was to train branches in developing their branch development plans 2012-2013. These workshops were held in the framework of the project PPDII (Disaster Preparedness) of the Dominican Red Cross with support from the Spanish Red Cross.

Once the XIX Inter-American Conference has taken place in March 2012, the DRC plans to align its strategic plan taking into account the commitments that come forth from the conference as well as S2020. Most planning activities have been postponed for the second half of 2011, mainly due to the Cholera Outbreak operation and the National Society elections held in July and August.

Constraints and challenges:

Lack of funding has slowed down the process of ensuring availability of the volunteering development tools and introducing volunteers to them through workshops.

Programme Component 3: Development of Systems, Procedures and Staff Sustainability / Capacity Building

Outcome 1: Support is provided for Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Outcome 2: Support is provided to improve Communication

Outcome 3: The National Society has improved capacity in mobilizing resources

One person from the DRC participated in the project/programme planning training organized by the Americas zone PMER unit in the first quarter of 2011. Furthermore, in October, a Programme / Project Planning workshop was held in Santo Domingo with the participation of 27 people from the Dominican Red Cross who successfully completed the training. In this regard, the improvement of project proposals submitted by the DRC during next year is expected and will facilitate the assessment of the achievements of this workshop.

The Dominican Red Cross is planning to restructure its communications department, including hiring new staff, and developing and implementing a communications strategy.

In 2011, the Dominican Red Cross participated in a continental workshop on Resource Mobilization, maintaining their interest in continuing to seek to improve resource mobilization in the National Society; however, to date, little progress has been made.

Constraints and challenges:

A much needed consultancy for the development of a resource mobilization strategy is still pending because of lack of funding. Resource mobilization is one of the main concerns and priorities of the National Society and the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation.

Working in partnership

The Dominican Republic hosts the IFRC Latin Caribbean Regional Representation, and until the end of 2011 the German Red Cross had an office in-country, maintaining constant communication with the Dominican Red Cross. Other PNSs, such as the Canadian Red Cross, also collaborate with the DRC. The ICRC carries out coordination with the DRC through its office in Port-au-Prince.

The Haitian Red Cross remains a key partner of the Dominican Red Cross, with which it maintains a bilateral cooperation agreement.

The Dominican Red Cross is well integrated into the National Civil Defence System and has a seat on all government forums focused on development and cooperation related to its humanitarian mandate. It also participates in the humanitarian country team of the UN, along with the IFRC, and maintains excellent technical relations with aid agencies in the country such as Oxfam, Plan.

Moreover, the DRC holds constant meetings amongst these actors, especially in times of crisis and disasters. It is expected that this coordination will eventually expand to areas such as development and strengthening of the organizational capacities of the DRC.

Contributing to longer-term impact

- Dissemination of Strategy 2020 at all National Society levels using available discussion opportunities such as meetings, presentations, events and workshops held in the Dominican Republic is being carried out.

- Promoting the knowledge and use of the International Federation Learning Platform by staff and volunteers in order to strengthen and build capacity through the online courses is taking place.

Looking ahead

The country support plan is being re directed to more developmental activities for long term planning with the Dominican Red Cross.

The DRC will make a special effort to update its website and use it as a vector of communication, enhancing its capacity to mobilize new energies around the use of new IT technologies (social networks and alliances with the private sector).

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\)](#) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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