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Annual report Ecuador

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAEC001

21 May 2012

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

*The Ecuadorian Red Cross offering
assistance to communities during floods.*

Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross



In brief

Programme outcome

In line with *Strategy 2020* and the priorities of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC), the regional representation for the Andean countries (regional representation) is strengthening the capacity of the National Society in the key areas of disaster management, health and care and organizational development to better respond to the basic needs of the most vulnerable people.

Programme(s) summary

During this period support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross has been concentrated in the areas of health and organizational development, while the focus on DRM was related to the piloting of a small urban risk project. Technical capacity in the area of health has been strengthened during recent last years. The ERC is one of the National Societies in the region that has adopted an integrated approach, introducing activities based on the needs and interests of the National Society and of the population. The National Society has also initiated activities based on internal capabilities and innovative thinking, adopting processes, methodologies or projects which are considered to be in line with the strategic plan.

The Federation's health and care programme worked jointly with the National Society's health and youth departments. Furthermore, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' secretariat (IFRC) provided support, through the Swedish Red Cross, aiming at strengthening Ecuadorian Red Cross's volunteer network.

In addition, with support from the Norwegian Red Cross, a resource mobilization project that aimed to boost compliance with financial and administrative systems in Ecuadorian Red Cross branches was put in place.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget was 313,836 Swiss francs, of which 125,430 Swiss francs were received, resulting in a coverage of 40%; expenditure amounted to 124,929 Swiss francs representing 99.6% of the funds received for the implementation of the plan.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<https://fednet.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual11/MAAEC00111arf.pdf>

No. of people we have reached

The main beneficiary of IFRC support was the Ecuadorian Red Cross and its volunteers and staff. During this period, direct beneficiaries reached by the programmes included youths (primary/secondary and university students, communities), people living with HIV (PLHIV), family members of PLHIV, workers and guards at national penitentiary centres, people living in prison settings, community promoters, people that have used the counselling services for voluntary testing, ethnic groups, companies, male and female volunteers, humanitarian personnel and government bodies of the ERC and members of the general public.

Our partners

The main international partners within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Ecuador are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Spanish Red Cross. Both maintain a presence in the country. Other Partner National Societies (PNSs) such as the American and German Red Cross Societies are supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross through bilateral projects. The Swedish and the Norwegian Red Cross Societies provided support for the volunteering and the resource mobilization projects through the IFRC.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross also worked closely with institutions such as: the Foundation against Drug Addition, the Ecuadorian Network for Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP),¹ the Ecuadorian Coalition for People Living with HIV and AIDS, the Peace Corps and other local organizations in the capital city of Quito, in the Pichincha province.

Context

Economic activity in Ecuador accelerated in the first half of the year but slowed slightly in the second half. Growth continued to be driven by domestic demand, which was fuelled mainly by strong public spending; although it is expected that government spending will remain high in 2012, it will not be enough to maintain the current pace of economic growth. Inflation is expected to reach 4% in 2012.

In May 2011, a referendum was proposed to the population with a list of ten questions in relation to the reform of the national judicial system, press regulations and social security, which was approved with results which were narrower than expected.

The government informed international NGOs and foreign governments that existing agreements and treaties will be revised in order to align them to the Ecuadorian Constitution and the National Plan “del Buen Vivir”.

Important international events took place this year in Ecuador, for example the International Summit on the sustainable use of Biodiversity which was held in Quito from 16 to 17 May 2011.

¹ The Alternatives to Violence Project (APV) is a volunteer initiative that began in 1975 in a New York prison when a group of inmates invited members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to work together to reduce violence in prisons.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impacts of disasters.

Due to limited funding in this area, the IFRC disaster risk management (DRM) programme at the regional level was unable to support all the planned activities for this year mainly focused on building the ERC capacities in disaster management and risk reduction. Nevertheless, technical support was provided and human resource capacities in disaster risk management and disaster management strengthened through continental events and several technical visits to the National Society. A pilot urban risk project was also developed and supported, which is expected to be a learning basis for other similar initiatives.

Programme Component 1: Institutional capacity building for community risk reduction

Outcome 1: The Ecuadorian Red Cross is encouraged and receives support for strengthening capacities to work with communities to be better prepared and organized to reduce, respond to and recover from disaster impacts, contributing to building safer and more resilient communities.

With the aim of promoting the integration of climate change adaptation across Red Cross DRM initiatives and programmes, a regional workshop was organized in Lima with the coordination of the German Red Cross. The workshop focused on the linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change.

The ERC had an active role during the urban risk meeting organized by the IFRC in Haiti. This meeting anticipated the implementation during the last quarter of 2011 of a pilot experience of DRR in an urban context in the Atucucho neighbourhood, Pichincha city. This project was supported by Norwegian Red Cross. The main activities of the project were the development of contingency plans and the formation of the integral security neighbourhood council which is in charge of risk management, environment, security, peace education and healthy behaviour related issues.

In addition, community awareness-raising activities around disaster risk reduction were carried out which were well received and supported by local authorities and the population in general. The initiative was systematized and the report is available with the National Society.

Programme Component 2: Institutional capacity building for disaster preparedness

Outcome 1: The secretariat encourages and supports the strengthening of the Ecuadorian Red Cross capacities to effectively support communities to plan, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies.

Due to limited funding in this area, the IFRC disaster risk management programme at the regional level was unable to support most of the planned activities in this component.

Programme Component 3: Institutional capacity building for community risk reduction

Outcome 1: The participation and coordination processes between the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the local and national authorities; other national and local organizations and regional platforms to develop disaster risk reduction, response and recovery initiatives have resulted in key partnership and strategic alliances.

Due to limited funding in this area, the IFRC disaster risk management programme at the regional level was unable to support most of the planned activities in this component.

Programme Component 4: International Disaster Response Law

Outcome 1: Interested National Societies and humanitarian partners are empowered to use legal tools and advocate for strengthened legal frameworks for disaster response.

In a meeting with the Secretary for National Disaster Risk Management, the government expressed to members of the IFRC and the ERC its strong interest in the International Disaster Law initiative and requested guidance to start with the assessment process in Ecuador. This is now in progress.

Health and Care

Programme purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross' health and care department implemented various community health programmes during 2011 and has seen positive results. One such programme is Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) *in action* which was implemented through its integration into training for volunteers. To ensure the application of techniques into programmes, work with the youth department was undertaken throughout 2011 to facilitate the implementation of Club 25. Within the ERC Club 25 is seen as a youth-based strategy to promote healthy lifestyles, safe blood collection, support for HIV programmes and the inclusion of a behavioural change strategy.

Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS

Outcome 1: National Societies have been strengthened to apply the Global Alliance in HIV and AIDS through prevention, care, treatment and support reducing HIV stigma and discrimination and strengthening their capacities.

The National Youth Programme has been implementing the Global Alliance on HIV strategy in collaboration with the Community Health and Development Programme, and the Institutional Communication department. Global Alliance programmes and activities reached a total of 265,547 beneficiaries nationally. This represents coverage of 96 per cent of the target population as established in the three year proposal (2008–2011). The beneficiaries reached per product were: 255,434 through prevention messaging, 87 with treatment and care services, 6,753 with anti-stigma and discrimination messaging and programmes and 3,273 people with capacity building programmes and activities.

The main Global Alliance activities during 2011 included establishing a new room for the voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services in the Buena Fe canton and 3 VCT rooms in the Los Ríos canton. In addition, technical and personal capacities of volunteers in the 22 provincial branches were strengthened during 2011. Other activities included workshops covering topics such as raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health, safe sex and sexual diversity. These workshops aimed to dispel myths and erroneous ideas regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT). Workshops also aimed to develop project development skills and build skills to facilitate GAM, the Reference and Counter-Reference System and Crisis Intervention.

The training workshops for the Reference and Counter-Reference System, held in the four areas of the Territorial Network, helped volunteers master psychological first aid techniques that can be applied to



situations of stress. These situations may include when beneficiaries must receive a positive HIV test result. These tools therefore benefit users of VCT services to receive quality, appropriate and compassionate counselling.

In terms of strengthening ERC volunteer capacities during 2011, workshops focused on technical and individual skills trained a total of 3,215 people (1,592 males and 1,623 females). This capacity building helps build skills to manage groups and community involvement and participation, two areas in which HIV prevention is addressed, with a focus on youths and the general public.

The Federation held a decentralized meeting of the Global Alliance on HIV in Quito, with the participation of three National Societies. During this meeting, the foci of work in health regarding Strategy 2020 and the Global Health framework were submitted. In addition, the evaluation of the progress made by the Global Alliance since 2008 – including the percentage of the target population reached and an analysis of the processes and budget – was also submitted. Finally, an evaluation was completed on what activities needed to be improved, such as the synchronization of reports with branches, communication, the strengthening of the reporting structure, and the need to strengthen relationships with international organizations such as UNAIDS, PAHO and WFP in the Americas.

Throughout 2011 the ERC worked with many external organizations in order to strengthen its national position in relation to HIV programming, and to widen the scope of beneficiaries reached. When targeting specific at-risk groups the ERC worked with the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religion for its work with people in prison and the Foundation Against Drug Addiction (FAD) for work with youths. In addition it worked on general HIV programme implementation with partners such as Ecuador's Alternative Proposals to Violence Network (PAV), the Peace Corps, the Ecuadorian Coalition of People Living with HIV and AIDS and the Coordinator of Organizations that work in HIV in Pichincha (COOPVS). Currently, the Pichincha provincial branch is participating in meetings with the institutions that belong to the COOPVS in order to include HIV issues in Health Law.



HIV and AIDS sensitization campaign. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Programme Component 2: Public Health in the Community

Outcome 1: Ecuadorian Red Cross has strengthened its management capacities and scaled up actions related to Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD), and HIV within an integrated community health strategy.

During August 2011 a CBHFA workshop was held for community-based volunteers in the Tungurahua province, an area that has been continuously affected by volcanic activity. A complementary workshop for facilitators was carried out at the national level with four of the country's regions participating. In addition, the ERC participated in the CBHFA Monitoring and Evaluation workshop held in Lima in December.

National Society activities relating to Club 25 included the formation of a multidisciplinary team of Healthy Lifestyle Promoters to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) activities. These promotional activities are aimed at helping to empower Club 25 members. Activities were supported by volunteers who managed the development of peer education methodologies in the provincial branches of Tungurahua, Imbabura, Loja, El Oro and Pichincha.

2011 saw the strengthening of Club 25 in Loja, Tungurahua and Pichincha, the three provinces with the highest level of VNRBD. Healthy Lifestyle Promoters were trained to work in schools and educational centres, with a national meeting of Club 25 leaders and the official Club 25 launch held in the municipal branches of Calvas, Paltas and Puyango in the Loja province. In addition to these four municipalities a proposal was presented to the Puyango municipality outlining the benefits of implementing Club 25. As a result of this proposal the municipality of Puyango agreed to finance the dissemination of materials and the creation of a Club 25 local branch. Due to local needs and priorities it was decided that the primary focus of Club 25 health promotion activities would be on HIV prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Club 25 activities during 2011 were many and varied. Communication campaigns promoting participation in outdoor activities such as climbing the Cotopaxi volcano are one example of ways Club 25 actively promoted healthy lifestyles and social integration to its members. In addition, concerts and workshops on STIs and HIV in the provinces of Tungurahua, El Oro, Loja, Ibarra and Pichincha were used as a means of targeting the youth membership of Club 25.

During 2011, the ERC implemented psychosocial support programmes, (PSP), contributing to the creation of the NIT curriculum with a PSP focus. In terms of support between National Societies, the ERC actively participated in initiatives such as the pilot workshop held in September in Colombia aimed at stimulating regional collaboration.

The ERC was also active in behaviour change programmes during 2011 with the integration of The Behavioural Change Strategy into its programmes. This integration came about as a result of the National Society's participation in the inaugural training workshop held in Jamaica. The IFRC supported National Society participation, organizing an additional behaviour change workshop in Quito during November 2011. The workshop was given for the first time in its finalized format in Spanish. The participation of the Argentine, Colombian and Ecuadorian Red Cross Societies indicated a level of regional commitment and collaboration. Through this collaboration, National Societies within the region were enabled to broaden the training of those responsible for project creation, drawing on the experiences of others.

Programme Component 3: Public Health in Emergencies

Outcome 1: Ecuadorian Red Cross has strengthened its capacities to prepare, respond to and recover from health emergencies related to epidemics/pandemics and disasters.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has strengthened its capacities to prepare, respond and recover from health emergencies related to epidemics, pandemics and disasters.

The National Society participated in and contributed to the emergency regional health workshop entitled "Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas: Lessons Learned and Innovative Approaches" organized by the Public Health in Emergencies unit in April 2011, where it shared different experiences from responding to emergencies caused by epidemic diseases in Ecuador, such as H1N1 and dengue.

The ERC also participated in the emergency regional health psychosocial support meeting of Red Cross focal points which took place in early September 2011 in Colombia, where several reference manuals, training materials, and experiences from recent disasters and crises were presented with the objective of strengthening the participating group at the regional level. The workshop also helped in integrating the National Society into the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Psychosocial Support Referral System, with the objective of expanding its knowledge and promoting organizational cohesion in this area.

A psychosocial support in emergencies module for National Interventions teams has been finalized with the contribution of the psychosocial focal point from the Ecuadorian Red Cross in collaboration with the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness.

Organizational Development / Capacity Building

Programme purpose: Increase the skills of local communities, civil society, and Red Cross to face the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme Component 1: National Society capacity development in organizational development.

Outcome 1: A renewed, representative and diverse leadership in the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

The IFRC prioritized support and guidance to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in developing improved governance, volunteer management and youth leadership, as well as focusing on management strategies.

In terms of generating change and promoting the emergence of new leaders, the ERC has supported the exchange of staff between different National Societies within the region or others. Direct support was provided to the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Guatemalan Red Cross to strengthen their national training centres.

The implementation of a leadership training process for governing and management boards within the Movement framework was planned, through either workshops or online courses.

Outcome 2: Increased, renewed and diverse volunteering in the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

The IFRC, through the Swedish Red Cross's contribution, supported the ERC's project that aimed at strengthening the National Society's volunteer network. This project has been successfully put into practice and final reports have been presented.

The participation of the head of the Volunteer Unit of the Ecuadorian Red Cross in different activities such as a meeting in Haiti as well as the re-creation of the youth network have been important factors in building the skills and tools of the National Society.

The implementation of clear volunteering policies has been achieved through the revision of the internal Statutes and Rules of the ERC.

Outcome 3: The Ecuadorian Red Cross has reduced its integrity risks.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has implemented the Statutes and the internal rules manual which have been disseminated amongst staff and volunteers from both headquarters and the branches.

Outcome 4: The sustainability of the Ecuadorian Red Cross has increased with respect to the 2006 baseline

Resource mobilization remains one of the challenges of the National Society. Nevertheless, the Ecuadorian Red Cross consolidated financial and administrative information and processes in approximately 50 per cent of its branches in 2011. This process was supported in its second phase by the Norwegian Red Cross through the IFRC during 2011. The last phase of this process should take place in 2012.

The ERC also has a well-defined project portfolio and has put a lot of emphasis on improving the quality of its work by setting up an audit and quality control departments.

Outcome 5: A common planning, monitoring and evaluation system is in place in the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Both the Strategic Plan of the Ecuadorian Red Cross and its Operational Plan were approved during 2011, and are harmonized with S2020 (2011-2015). Furthermore, since February 2011, there is a new team in the ERC planning unit that is focusing on developing a branch network that is more balanced in terms of overall capacities and strategic and operational planning processes within the National Society. Branch development will continue to be a key area for development in future.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross also had the opportunity to participate in the project/programme planning (PPP) workshop held in Panama during the first quarter of 2011, ensuring an increase in the National Society's capacities in planning, monitoring and evaluation. The workshop had the objective of training National Society staff on the Federation's new PPP methodology in order for them to apply the basic principles within their National Society's planning processes and was supported and organized by the Americas zone office planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit.

Constraints or Challenges

- More resources are needed in order to improve the follow-up and evaluation processes of the health activities being implemented; in general, all National Societies in the Andean region, including Ecuador, are in need of further support in these areas.
- Additional funding is needed to implement activities in psychosocial support and to carry out the behavioural change workshop.
- There is a need to strengthen and promote blood donation due to certain changes in blood policies in the country.
- There is a need for new and innovative ways to mobilize resources that help tackle the financial situation within the National Society.
- The lack of a disaster risk management coordinator within the regional representation team has particularly affected the implementation of activities in this area due to limited capacities. However by the end of the year a delegate had been recruited in the position.

Working in partnership

- Coordination meetings took place over the year with the participation of the ICRC and PNSs in order to better align the actions of the National Society according to a common approach and to work in a more effective manner. These efforts are on-going.
- The National Society has provided peer-to-peer support to sister National Societies in Latin America and has shared effective experiences and good practices. One key example is the technical support and advice provided to the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama with regard to their training centres. There are more good practices in other areas that will be the basis of future exchanges.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ERC has committed to work towards the integration of gender, equity and multicultural issues throughout the National Society. This is the case especially within the HIV programming which works with groups facing risks throughout all sectors of society.

Furthermore, the National Society promoted the Fundamental Principles and Values of the Movement effectively through the actions developed by its programmes: health, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods.

The updated country support plan updated has been an opportunity to define how the secretariat will provide more effective support for the implementation of the National Society's Strategic Plan through a long-term perspective.

Looking ahead

The experience, capacities and good relations with key national and local stakeholders of the Ecuadorian Red Cross provide the opportunity to promote innovative approaches.

Branch development remains an area which further support to ensure that community-based programmes and initiatives are developed with and within communities, using all relevant organizational development tools.

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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- In the Ecuadorian Red Cross: Rosa Marta Lobo, Secretary General; email: rlobo@cuzroja.org.ec
- Telephone + 593 2 2956004 Ext.202: fax + 593 2 2570424
- Andean Countries: Iñigo Barrena, Regional Representative for the Andean Countries, Lima, Peru; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org; phone: + 511 221 8333; fax: + 511 4413607.
- Americas Zone, Panama: Jan Gelfand, Head of Operations; email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org
Telephone: + 507 380 0250; Fax + 507 317 1304
- America Zone, Panama: Zuleyka Maynard, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas Zone; email: Zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org; Telephone: + 507 380 0250; Fax + 507 317 1304