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# Annual report El Salvador

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAASV002**  
**08 June 2012**

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

*The Salvadorean Red Cross Society used its emergency operations centre to respond to emergencies related to floods in 2011. Source: Salvadorean Red Cross Society.*

## In brief



## Programmes summary

In 2011, the regional representation for Central America and Mexico worked with the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRCS) to strengthen its organizational development and efforts in the areas of health and care.

The National Society received guidance, technical and financial support from the secretariat in **organizational development** to implement the components of its Intensified Capacity Building project. These actions directly benefitted the SRCS branches by fostering their development and more effective management of traditional and community volunteering and strengthening of administrative-financial aspects and fundraising at the branch level. Additionally, the regional representation monitored the contribution granted to the SRCS Youth area to implement a micro-project and an internship related to leadership and school brigades.

**Health and care programme** – During the reporting period, the secretariat continued supporting the Salvadorean Red Cross Society in scaling up their response to HIV and AIDS through the Federation's Global Alliance on HIV. Furthermore, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion were supported through the newly developed technical unit, with training, as well as technical and resource mobilization support being provided. Technical and operational support for the health in emergencies component has been focused on epidemic outbreaks.

## Financial situation

The total 2011 budget was 98,066 Swiss francs, of which 65,451 Swiss francs (67 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 64,723 Swiss francs (66 per cent of the budget and 98.9 per cent of the total funding amount).

The National Society's income for the Intensified Capacity Building project is not reflected in the budget codes at country level for El Salvador since this is managed directly from the secretariat headquarters; the same applies to the Finnish Red Cross contribution for youth activities which is reflected in regional codes.

**Click here to go directly to the financial report.**

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAASV00211arf.pdf>

See also [Tropical Depression 12-E \(MDRSV004\)](#).

### No. of people we have reached

The National Society's actions in 2011 directly focused on organizational development and health, which directly reached all of the volunteers, staff and leadership of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. In the area of health and care, a total of 14,061 people were reached under the implementation of the Global Alliance on HIV at the national level.

Additionally, the National Society's actions indirectly impacted the general population of this country of 6.2 million people.

## Context

El Salvador is challenged to address social violence caused by organized armed groups—mainly gangs (*maras*)—and the influence of drug trafficking, which continues to affect the Central American countries. During 2011, this violence increased and a Salvadorean Red Cross Society volunteer died after having been attacked by one of these criminal groups.

Internally, the National Society continued its administrative and financial reorganization efforts. By the end of the year, the SRCS had culminated important processes such as the creation of its Strategic Development Plan and the implementation of the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) plan.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Risk Management

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

#### Programme component 1: Institutional Preparedness

**Outcome 1:** The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat and REDCAMP-DESASTRES support enhances its qualified human resources' skills and financial and material abilities for effective disaster management.

During 2011, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has participated in various workshops and internships organized by the IFRC regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme through the DIPECHO VII project. These included: Participation in developing the *Conceptual Framework for urban risk in small and medium cities*, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Learning by Doing, Response and Contingency Planning Workshop, Water and Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion, and a workshop on pedagogical and participatory techniques.

The SRCS through the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management worked in 2011 to strengthen their role to prepare, coordinate and manage relief efforts. Particular attention was placed on the adaptation and dissemination of harmonized tools and methods that enhance the capacity of the entire disaster and crises management system. This included the technical knowledge and systems

to support the transition from response to recovery, ensuring that planning at this stage was carried out in parallel with the relief effort.

A workshop to update the Response and Contingency Plan of the municipality of Cojutepeque, San Pedro Perulapan, was carried out. Workshop's participants included municipal members of the Civil Protection System. The team of trainers from the Salvadorean Red Cross Society provided technical guidance and accompaniment to the municipal members to update their response and contingency plans. Other initiatives were also supported by the team of trainers including the preparation of response plans in the San Vicente department. This department was the most affected during the recent disasters in El Salvador. This was carried out as part of the disaster risk reduction programme implemented through the support of the Finnish Red Cross and with technical support from the Centre of Reference in Disaster Preparedness.

### **Programme Component 2: Safer and better prepared communities**

**Outcome 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat support, builds better prepared and more organized communities in the country to respond and recover from the effects of natural disasters. They are knowledgeable about possible risk reduction measures and actions that should be taken.**

In 2011, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society developed and implemented a campaign of disaster preparedness with an inclusive vision promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The campaign was promoted at community-level through the DIPECHO VII project implemented by the SRCS and achieved a culture of inclusion in community organization. Design and implement the guidance of community organizing camps and didactic guide to the teams were trained first aid and evacuation of community civil defence committees. This guide is designed to meet a group of 50 participants, who were to become part of community brigades.

At community level, the SRCS organized and empowered communities with teams of search and rescue and first aid. In addition, sensitization sessions on risk management with a focus on law, gender and an inclusive vision were carried out. The National Society also developed micro-projects with special emphasis in environmental mitigation and constructed infrastructure works including inclusive measures to improve accessibility for people with disabilities of 12 rural and 14 urban communities, working also in 16 schools, and reaching a total of 16,524 beneficiaries.

### **Programme Component 3: Coordination**

**Outcome 1: The National Society is associated with key stakeholders and participates in strategic alliances for disaster risk reduction.**

The SRCS maintains a close relationship with the National Directorate of Civil Protection and the Secretary of vulnerability in the country, which has enabled the participation of the National Society in the development of the National Risk Management Policy. This is one of the main achievements of the Risk Management Director, as this area had been neglected in the past. In addition, the National Society is a member of the Technical Council of the Civil Protection Committee and it participates in coordination meetings with the UN Humanitarian Network. Thus, the National Society during 2011 has worked, cooperated, and actively participated in platforms or national and local systems for the disaster management system.

With the support of the IFRC - DIPECHO VII project, the Centre of Reference in Disaster Preparedness based in El Salvador through the facilitators' network, has provided technical support and training to other organizations working on Disaster Risk Reduction in the country. Support has been provided especially to DIPECHO Partners organizations. It is noteworthy also the participation of some Salvadorean municipalities, which are engaged in risk reduction efforts.

Additionally, the SRCS was the host of the meeting of presidents of Central American countries held in December 2011, where Presidents of National Red Cross Societies in the region have signed and

delivered a letter of intent on how the Red Cross will continue its active role in disaster preparedness and response in order to assist the most vulnerable.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society in the framework of the DIPECHO VII project also established cooperation and coordination links with the following institutions: PROCOMES, OIKOS, Oxfam Solidarité, Interactional Plan Assistance-Switzerland. Work included collaboration during geological studies that were carried out to strengthen national early warning systems.

#### **Programme component 4: Disaster Law<sup>1</sup>**

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

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held in El Salvador from 5 to 7 June. The Federation secretariat organized a press conference on its report “Humanitarian Law in Disasters” and received relatively good coverage. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also held a press conference on the five OEA resolutions concerning its work. The ICRC signed a cooperation agreement with the Salvadoran Red Cross Society with regard to the provision of first aid training to government institutions dealing with migration.

## Health and Care

**Programme Purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from the diseases and public health in emergencies**

#### **Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS**

**Outcome 1: The National Society, with secretariat support, reduces vulnerability to HIV and its impact by preventing new infections, expanding care, treatment and support and the reduction of stigma and discrimination, as well as the reduction of other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).**

During the reporting period, within the framework of the Federation’s Global Alliance on HIV, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRCS) reached 13,756 people (7,010 males and 6,316 females) with HIV prevention and anti stigma messaging, education and referral services. This included: 3,110 people reached through peer education (1,775 males and 1,335 females), 9,036 people reached with information and education on HIV prevention and anti stigma and discrimination messages (4,989 males and 4,047 females), 542 people reached with Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) services and 693 pregnant women who received information and education on HIV mother-to-child transmission. In addition, 94 orphaned HIV positive children (OVC) (33 boys and 61 girls) were assisted by the National Society health services, 83 PLHIV (42 males and 41 females) were able to receive support through participating in support groups reached. 61 of those attending PLHIV support groups were involved in income generating activities to support their family livelihoods. 67 PLHIV were reached through SRCS supporting groups.

Within the National Society, 679 (395 males and 284 females) staff and volunteers were reached through HIV workplace education, with 65,520 volunteer hours mobilized during 2011. As these results show, in spite of the delayed arrival of funding during 2011 the National Society was able to implement important HIV programmes and reach a significant number of people – PLHIV, at risk groups and the general public.

Throughout the year, HIV programming contributed to institutional strengthening by supporting the secretariat funded Intensified Capacity Building project. The HIV programme was also supported through bilateral partnerships including the American Red Cross which supported the LARRA

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<sup>1</sup> Formally known as International Disaster Response Law (IDRL).

project, the Italian and Spanish Red Cross Societies which provided support for violence prevention projects and the Canadian Red Cross which supported the First Response Initiative (FRI) project. Youth peer education activities were conducted in collaboration with the SRCS youth department. In addition, the SRCS has secured airtime on two national radio stations Radio Exa with the programme “Tonight with Luciana” and Radio Stereo with the programme “SISCA”.

In addition to Red Cross partnerships, the Global Alliance on HIV programme contributed to the efforts of and strategic operational alliances with local and international NGOs and civil society. This took place at national and local levels through capacity building and volunteer support. Projects funded by the Spanish Red Cross (youth peer education utilizing the Together We Can (TWC) methodology) and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (Mesoamerican project with mobile populations) were completed in 2010 and this has resulted in the SRCS being reliant on secretariat funding for 2011.

### **Programme Component 2: Community Public Health**

**Outcome 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society, supported by the secretariat, improves its community-based health programmes, including voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, community-based health and first aid, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.**

In November 2011, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society participated in the second Training of National Facilitators in Panama as part of the Federation’s community health methodology Community Based Health and First Aid *in Action* (CBHFA). However, it is vital that the SRCS appoints a dedicated community health focal point to move this work forward during 2012 and beyond.

Through the Intensified Capacity Building project the SRCS was able to implement two community based health prevention workshops and two psychosocial support workshops. These workshops took place in Chalatenango, Santa Ana and Santa Tecla and Santa Ana and Chalatenango respectively.

In the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), the Club 25 National Coordinator participated in virtual meetings of Club 25 focal points in Latin America. To date there has been no progress towards supporting the SRCS to develop a baseline and three year action plan 2012–2015. Supporting the process would bring the SRCS in line with the seven National Societies currently participating in the global Club 25 project funded by the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation. A lack of available Club 25 resources has been responsible for the limited participation of the SRCS.

During 2011, the SRCS strengthened their capacities in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. This was supported by the secretariat through the implementation PHAST and capacity building at community level, PMER focused on water and sanitation indicators and the design of a water and sanitation system using computer software. The American Red Cross and the secretariat jointly supported the implementation of a follow-up pilot project aimed to improve the community health of the La Ceiba community. This programme enabled the SRCS to reach 525 beneficiaries through the training of committees on administration, operation and maintenance, hygiene promotion and rectification of water and sanitation infrastructure.

### **Programme Component 3: Public Health in Emergencies**

**Outcome 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat support, improves its skills to prepare, respond, and remain up-to-date and equipped to support communities facing adverse effects to their health consequence of disasters, as well as sustain preparedness and response to epidemic and pandemics.**

During the reporting period, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society participated in a continental emergency health workshop, “*Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas: Lessons Learned and innovative approaches*” in April 2011, organized by the secretariat. The objective of this

workshop was to share National Society experiences of emergencies caused by epidemic diseases in the Americas. The workshop focused on community-based approaches and integration of prevention and preparedness activities. It was aimed at strengthening capacity building within the National Society to put into place a health National Intervention Team (NIT) activation protocol in case of national emergencies.

On 14 October 2011, the Salvadorean government declared a state of emergency due to extensive rainfall across the country, causing at least 132 rivers to overflow. This resulted in 185 floods, 419 landslides, 18 sunken areas and 20 cases of ground subsidence. It is estimated that 300,000 people were economically, socially and psychologically impacted by the storm and heavy rains, with many of those effected living in poverty. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society swiftly mobilized the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the emergency response. In addition, on 4 November, an Emergency Appeal was launched for over one million Swiss Francs to assist the SRCS to cope with the devastation and increasing needs of the population resulting from the emergency. The operation will continue until July 2012. In terms of Health in Emergencies, in the early stages of the operation the SRCS provided health care to the affected population, with a focus on the provision of psychosocial support.

In terms of health care, the SRCS was able to assist affected areas using mobile clinics. The personnel from these clinics provided assistance and medication for patients suffering from respiratory, gastrointestinal and skin diseases. A total of 2,237 consultations were completed in the departments of La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, La Unión and Morazán. As the emergency progressed and affected families occupied collective centres, 30 volunteers from the SRCS (including 18 university students) provided recreational activities for children in an effort to assist them in processing the stress associated with the situation, as well as working towards strengthening their coping mechanisms. Through these activities 513 children were reached. In addition to reaching the affected population, the National Society also provided psychosocial support to the volunteers and staff involved in the response operation.

In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, the National Society undertook a three-step approach during the response: access to safe water, distribution of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities. These activities were aimed at reducing the risk of epidemics and outbreaks of disease related to lack of safe water and adequate sanitation. Thus far, the SRCS has installed water tanks (each tank holds 10,000 litres), with the tanks being replenished on a daily basis to assist some 500 families (2,000 people). In addition, the National Society continues to distribute hygiene kits with 3,015 families (15,075 people) reached as at end 2011.

### Constraints or Challenges

- The lack of a permanent health focal point has contributed to slow progress and implementation of activities. However, the National Society has expressed interest in filling the position soon.
- Funding has been a constraint for health programmes, particularly in the areas of community and emergency health.
- The project focused orientation of the new Health, Water and Sanitation Unit presents a constraint to programme development. Health components will require programme coordination in key areas, such as community health and emergency health in order to move forward.
- The HIV programme is now reduced to multilateral funding through the secretariat and funding diversification was a key priority for 2011 and going forward.
- The current challenge for the HIV programme is to continue reaching the most at-risk populations and to mobilize new funding sources to ensure both the scaling up and sustainability of the programme.

## 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:** Support the governance and management bodies organizational development processes.

**Outcome 1:** The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat support will strengthen its governance and management skills for effective leadership and service provision through National Society leadership and administrative development. Leadership skills will be improved through the development of governance bodies and the establishment of sustainable and innovative organization methods based on coordination and collaboration with the IFRC and other partners.

In 2011, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society participated in a cooperation exchange with the Colombian Red Cross Society to share knowledge and experiences on ICB projects in both National Societies. This exchange enabled SRCS representatives to learn about its sister National Society's organizational structure at the national headquarters and branch level.

The SRCS General Director participated in the Project/Programme Planning (PPP) workshop organized by the secretariat's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting unit. The General Director also participated in the subsequent planning workshop which focused on planning using a gender perspective.

**Outcome 2:** The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat technical support and effective coordination, will improve its organizational development process, access manageable resources, strategic planning and management transformation, as well as update its legal framework to increase integrity with transparent legal and accounting mechanisms.

As part of the process to create its Strategic Plan, a meeting was held with the President and General Directorate of the SRCS to receive feedback on its form and content prior to its publication.

During 2011, the SRCS recovered its matrix for the revision of its Statutes. It was agreed that it would be employed as a reference for the agenda and process to be approved by the National Council.

**Programme Component 2: Volunteering and youth development through national coverage to branch and community services**

**Outcome 1:** Support to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society for the development of national scale coverage for branches and services.

During this reporting period, the SRCS supported six communities to strengthen their organizational management for the reinforcement of their communal structures. These six communities (Los Vásquez in Santa Ana, El Chuptal in Chalatenango, Santa Eduviges in Santa Tecla, La Salinera in La Unión, El Palmar in Sonsonate, and El Tular in Usulután), then joined the Community Development Associations (ADESCO).

During 2011, the National Society employed a comprehensive focus, including image, communication, fundraising, planning skills, and report presentation. The secretariat visited a strong departmental branch in Santa Ana. This branch has the ability of providing services over the long-term to the population based on local resource mobilization and serves as an example of good practice.

The fund's manager from the Organizational Development department in Geneva, focused on the ICB project, conducted a monitoring and assistance visit to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. He provided concrete recommendations to the governance and management bodies so they could improve their focus on branch development and community development. Consensus was created within the National Society to engage in "working up from below" in branch-community relations. Additionally, it was agreed that resources need to be invested towards self-sustainability and that municipal community units should be created.

**Outcome 2: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society, with secretariat support and effective coordination, will improve its skills and management through volunteer and administrative development that promotes a favourable environment for volunteers.**

The National Society, with secretariat support, acquired an insurance policy to cover volunteers. As part of the ICB project, volunteers from 6 branches received training in VCA and another 10 workshops were held on a variety of topics.

The SRCS director of the Youth area participated in an internship in the Costa Rican Red Cross to exchange experiences on "social facilitators", and learn about other successful youth programmes in Costa Rica such as conflict resolution, leadership, HIV and AIDS, and fundraising. Upon her return, the SCRS youth area director reproduced the training received with 20 volunteers in the National Society.

The youth volunteering area implemented a micro-project for training school brigades. 30 youth volunteers were trained as facilitators of school brigades in 6 provincial branches of El Salvador. As a result of the project, 13 School Brigades were initiated in El Salvador in 2011.

## Principles and Values

**Programme Purpose: Promote respect for diversity and preservation of human dignity, reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.**

**Programme Component: Promote the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values**

**Outcome 1: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat support has improved the internal understanding of the Fundamental Principles, implements systematic work to promote humanitarian principles and values and has incorporated these into the National Society's operative programmes of disaster management and health care.**

As mentioned under the previous section, the SRCS participated in the Project/Programme Planning workshop with a gender focus organized by the Zone's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting unit.

In coordination with the regional representation for Central America and Mexico, the Youth Network provided new printed materials for distribution and training on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and leadership to the National Society. The SRCS distributed 200 posters on Fundamental Principles and 50 manuals on youth leadership training (school brigades), which had been given to the National Society for its dissemination and training activities.

**Outcome 2: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society with secretariat support develops an internal consultation processes to respond to discriminatory conduct and practices and attain inclusive and equitable participation.**

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society implemented a micro-project to train 30 youth leaders as facilitators of school brigades.

The Canadian Red Cross coordinated with the SRCS, with secretariat support, to organize and facilitate a workshop on the ten steps to violence prevention

**Outcome 3: The beneficiary population with the support of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society is aware of humanitarian values and is taking initiatives to change behaviours.**

During the reporting period, in the framework of the Federation's Global Alliance on HIV, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society reached 13,756 people (7,010 male and 6,316 female) with HIV prevention and anti stigma messages.

### Working in partnership

The SRCS received support in 2011 from Movement members present in El Salvador and several without a continual presence in the country. The Finnish Red Cross supported youth volunteering initiatives. The Partner National Societies present in the country (Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross) have facilitated dialogues and bilateral meetings with the SRCS to monitor the country plan and share information on the priorities of the National Society and the cooperation granted by other Movement actors. The SRCS, with American Red Cross support, made progress towards the implementation of the Latin America Risk Reduction Activity- LARRA on the preparedness for disasters and disaster risk reduction. The secretariat exchanged information on the SRCS' priorities, as well as analyzing the institutional risks. The Italian Red Cross announced its plan to support a violence prevention project in San Salvador.

In relation to coordination with external partners, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society works closely with the National Directorate for Civil Protection and the National University of El Salvador. In addition, the National Society worked in partnership with the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries, the National AIDS Programme, the National PLHIV Association, and key international and national non-government partners, local community organizations and associations.

### Looking ahead

The IFRC secretariat will focus its future efforts on supporting and monitoring the Salvadorean Red Cross Society' decisions, plans and their implementation, based on the results of the studies and support provided in 2011. For 2012, coordination and communication with the PNS are expected to increase in order to attain more impact from the cooperation provided by the secretariat and in favour of the Federation Long-Term Planning Framework, and monitoring the Salvadorean Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan 2012–2015, aligned with *Strategy 2020*.

The secretariat will continue to support the Salvadorean Red Cross Society with technical advice, tools and methodologies in health to strengthen their capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, and to strengthen the health and resilience of vulnerable communities. This will include support in HIV, psychosocial support in emergencies, community health, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. In the area of HIV, the secretariat will conduct external evaluations of the youth peer education methodology "*Together We Can*" and the first three years of the Global Alliance on HIV. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society will develop their four year Global Alliance on HIV proposal 2012–2015 and will have an opportunity to share experience at regional and continental meetings.

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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.

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