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Annual report

Nicaragua

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAANI002

22 June 2012

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

*The Nicaraguan Red Cross used its
Annual Plan workshop to disseminate
Strategy 2020 among its staff and
volunteers. Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross*



In brief

Programme outcome

This report presents the progress on the implementation of the 2011 Country Support Plan for the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC). The Nicaraguan 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.*

Programmes summary

In 2011, the secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) worked with the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) to strengthen its organizational development and actions in health and care.

The National Society received on-site assistance from the secretariat to support its governance and management bodies respond to institutional integrity risks. Assistance, with resources from the SOS Fund, also was given to search for solutions to priorities issues such as internal organization and the strengthening of their strategies for fundraising, branch diagnostics, communication and public image.

The secretariat has supported the NRC Youth area to organize an internship with the Mexican Red Cross, implement micro-projects, and coordinate with the regional youth. The NRC is monitoring the installation of a new accounting and financial software. Furthermore, support was provided on volunteering for the future development of a volunteer database.

The communication strategy, the research on the NRC's image, and a branch diagnostics completed during the year have directly and indirectly benefitted the Principle and Values programme, allowing the National Society to identify strengths and weaknesses and obtain specific recommendations to internally and externally strengthen this area. The NRC has new printed materials for distribution and training on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and leadership, especially addressed to the youth population. The

Canadian Red Cross, with secretariat support, coordinated with the NRC to train leaders, volunteers, and administrative staff in the ten-step training programme on violence prevention.

During the reporting period, the secretariat continued supporting the Nicaraguan Red Cross' health department. The National Society's health department has been working in coordination with the Nicaraguan Commission for AID (CONSIDA), implementing prevention actions prioritizing key groups such as in and out school youth and mobile workers as taxi drivers. Also, the NRC has been engaged in advocacy to reduce prevalence of infectious diseases, as well as the promotion of volunteer non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD). In 2011, the NRC started to implement the revitalized Federation's Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) *in Action* strategy as part of their community health initiatives, working with vulnerable communities. The capacities to respond health in emergencies situations have been strength through training of volunteers, there is a need to increase the health in emergencies training focus on epidemic control and psychosocial support.

Secretariat support has focused on strengthening the National Society's response to epidemics and outbreaks, sharing lessons learned with peer national societies; waste, sanitation and hygiene promotion through technical units; and on contributing to safe blood supplies trough increasing regular youth blood donation and promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth through support of the Club 25 initiative of the Nicaraguan Red Cross blood service.

Financial situation

The total 2011 revised budget was 3,225 Swiss francs, of which 2,796 Swiss francs (87 per cent) was covered during by the end of the year (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 2,227 Swiss francs (69 per cent) of the budget.

Club 25 funding provided was from global funding and therefore is not reflected as income at country level. Similarly, the disaster risk management programme was also supported through continental funding, which is not reflected as income at country level.

Support to the organizational development priorities was covered through the SOS project and regional funds provided by the Finnish Red Cross. These funds are not reflected as income at the country level, because they were allocated to global and regional codes respectively.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAANI00211arf.pdf>

See also [Nicaragua: Floods – DREF operation \(MDRNI004\)](#)

No. of people we have reached

In Nicaragua, the direct beneficiary of the secretariat's support is the Nicaragua Red Cross itself, including its governance bodies, volunteers and staff at headquarters and in its branches. In effect, the indirect beneficiaries belong to the 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.

Context

In 2011, the Nicaraguan people experienced mild earthquakes and storms that did not caused serious damage or losses. However, during October a low pressure system and the remnants of Tropical Depression 12-E caused significant flooding and landslides damaged homes and infrastructure, flooded wells and latrines, and forced thousands of people into collective centres. A DREF allocation was approved to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross response to this emergency.

The current Nicaraguan government has forewarned the National Society of future significant budget cuts in the subsidy provided to support the provision of essential services. This has led to the NRC

conducting an enormous amount of advocacy work with government authorities to impede the implementation of this measure. If the budget cuts do occur, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will be challenged to identify and take appropriate administrative and financial measures to avoid or reduce the deficit that will be generated.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Management

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

Programme component 1: Disaster Response Preparedness

Outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross is prepared and organized to respond to the vulnerable population during adverse events.

During 2011, 28 NRC rescue workers were trained with the aim to strengthen the organizational structure of the Nicaraguan Red Cross' national relief directorate at the headquarters and branch level. The relief workers are the risk reduction department's focal points in the municipalities where they are located. The training focused on management of Emergency Operation Centres, refresher training on the Sphere standards and Safe Access.

Furthermore, five NRC volunteers participated in the regional workshops carried out through the DIPECHO VII project on methodological techniques, developing response and contingency plans, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross Well-Prepared National Society (WPNS) document was revised, adjusted and used as the base for the needs assessment of the First Response Initiative project, which is implemented through Canadian Red Cross's support. The information gathered through the WPNS document was complemented with the diagnosis of the first simulation exercise carried out to establish the baseline for the project.

Programme Component 2: Build safer and more resilient communities

Outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross programmes and services facilitate a cross-cutting approach to climate change.

In 2011, the Nicaraguan Red Cross, carried out the first Training of Facilitator's on Climate Change. This was the first training of this type directed to volunteers and 14 volunteers now have facilitation skills. Through this first training it was possible to establish a network of facilitators for Climate Change, thus reaching the first planned indicator under this component. This training was possible through the support of the Innovation Funds provided by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

The five branches involved in this process since 2010 (Yalí, Wiwilí, Sébaco, Camoapa and Santo Tomás) have tried to provide continuity and follow up on the interventions implemented with schools. The schools received informational material and training through the project.

During the first semester, the Nicaraguan Red Cross conducted a national forum on climate change, followed up by forums in the branches carried out with the participation of local universities and institutions. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided technical and financial support towards these activities.

In addition, the National Society carried out community-based activities through the national DIPECHO VII project implemented by the NRC supported in consortium by the Italian Red Cross,

Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross (bilateral programming). Through the project, the National Society organized and trained neighbourhoods of Managua, on the following topics: search and rescue in collapsed structures and community first aid. 33 participants of these courses are part of the districts' search crews. Also, this bilateral programme supported the development of modules that complement the "Better Be Ready" series.

In coordination with PAHO, the Nicaraguan Red Cross, held two workshops with the participation of 65 persons for the implementation of hospital safety indexes for safe hospitals within the recent Cities Campaign under the pillar of safe hospitals.

Programme Component 3: Coordination

Outcome 1: The National Society establishes and participates in alliances with key stakeholders for disaster risk reduction.

During 2011, the National Society participated in inter-institutional coordination processes. The NRC continued to participate as an active member of SINAPRED, and share information with the National System, the National Institute of Territorial Studies of Nicaragua (Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales – INETER), the Ministries of Health and Education, the Majors' offices in the Madriz department and in Managua to coordinate activities. The NRC has contributed to risk reduction activities (preparedness and training) jointly with these external partners.

Moreover, the Nicaraguan Red Cross collaborated closely with the secretariat's regional DRR programme in the validation process of the conceptual framework for urban risk. The collaboration is based on the experience of the National Society, which worked with urban communities under the DIPECHO VII project.

In coordination with the Major's Office of Managua, the University of Engineering and the Centre of Reference for Community Based Education in Disaster Preparedness (CREEC), INETER, the Nicaraguan Red Cross supported the development of an earthquakes manual, which is the fifteenth module of the "Better be Ready" series.

Furthermore, DIPECHO VII partners and the Nicaraguan Red Cross, jointly organized the celebration of the International Day for Risk Reduction focused on urban risk being a pioneer in this area it also co-organized a territorial assessment of threats.

In coordination with the Haitian Red Cross and the secretariat, the Nicaraguan Red Cross made two visits to Haiti to exchange experiences for addressing risk in urban settings.

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: Nicaragua National Society (NRC), supported by the secretariat, has increased their capacity to deliver and sustain HIV programmes that respond and mitigate the impact of HIV in the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV.

Following the departure of the former health director a new health director was appointed in October 2011. The focus of Secretariat assistance in 2011 has been to support the National Society in the areas of community health, blood donor recruitment, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and emergency health.

Programme Component 2: Community Public Health

Outcome 1: The NRC supported by the secretariat, improves its community-based health programmes, including initiatives in mother-child health (MNCH), voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), food security and road safety.

In May 2011, the secretariat zone health coordinator visited the Nicaraguan Red Cross to discuss the integration of the Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) *in Action* approach with the Canadian Red Cross-supported bilateral maternal newborn and child health (MNCH) project in two branches.

In November 2011, the Nicaraguan Red Cross participated in the second Training of Facilitators in the CBHFA approach in Panama. This facilitated the roll-out of the methodology to NRC branches. Immediately after, the National Society carried out the first National CBHFA training, in which the secretariat provide support with the leadership of the workshop and with peer facilitators from the Argentine and Peruvian Red Cross Societies. During this training 23 volunteers from nine branches were trained, including Leon, Boaco, Tipitapa, Camoapa, Managua, Granada, Sébaco, Yali and Rivas branches. This has been the starting point for the CBHFA roll out at the national level, and for the next year, the National Society will include the CBHFA approach in their current community health interventions.

In the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), the NRC participated in the second year of a five year global project along with 12 other national Societies supported by the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation. The project aims to strengthen the Red Cross Red Crescent Club 25 initiative worldwide. The National Society carried out the project with positive results. Thus, in the 3 regions where the project was developed, Managua, Leon and Matagalpa, there are 118 new Club 25 members, and 468 blood units were donated during the 14 blood donation and healthy lifestyle campaigns carried with the objective to recruit and maintain new Club 25 members and increase awareness among youth and general population. In addition, 805 youth were trained on blood donation and healthy lifestyles to maintain as a good donor. Furthermore, the National Society has implemented several information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns where 8,530 youth have increased their knowledge and awareness about VNRBD. The table below shows the progress by region.

Department	Nº of blood units donated	Nº of youth trained on blood donation and healthy lifestyles	Nº of youth informed through IEC campaigns	Nº of new Club 25 members
Managua	245	350	4,380	55
Leon	150	275	2,150	38
Matagalpa	73	180	2,000	25
Total	468	805	8,530	118

For the World Blood Donation Day 2011, the Nicaraguan Red Cross developed several activities around the country in coordination with their regional Blood Banks, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Moreover, the Nicaraguan Red Cross has been able to develop health campaigns carried out by the new members of Club 25, targeted at the general public to raise awareness of blood donation and its benefits. In addition, campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles have been carried out including household visits conducted by Red Cross volunteers, Club 25 members and community leaders. Thus, in total 9 health campaigns about blood donation and 8 about healthy lifestyles, 325 blood units were donated by youth and general public, 1,700 people took part in the health campaigns and 1,600 households were visited by Red Cross volunteers and Club 25 members to promote VNRBD. The table below shows the progress by areas of intervention.

Department	Nº of Health	Nº of blood	Total of no. of	Nº of health	Nº of household
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	campaigns focused on blood donation	units donated	participants in health campaigns	campaigns focused on healthy lifestyles	visited
Managua	5	110	1000	5	1,000
Leon	3	215	450	3	600
Matagalpa	1	-	250	-	-
Total	9	325	1700	8	1,600

Overall, the National Society was able to recollect **793 blood units** during the year.

In relation to the Road Safety workshop in Panama to which the NRC was planning to participate during the second half of the year, the workshop had to be postponed due to delays experienced by host National Society. The workshop will be carried out in 2012 with support from the IFRC Youth programme and the regional representation from Central America and Mexico.

Programme Component 2: Public Health in Emergencies

Outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross with secretariat support improves its skills to prepare, respond, and recover from epidemics/pandemic and provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene to vulnerable populations.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross health director 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 was to share the different experiences in emergencies caused by epidemics and diseases in the Americas, with a focus on community-based approaches and integrating prevention and preparedness activities.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross psychosocial support focal point participated in a National Societies working group of for the development of a psychosocial support in emergencies and disasters module for National Intervention Teams specialized in health, which was developed in collaboration with the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness (CREPD), in the context of the Chile earthquake operation. These training activities have enabled further development of disaster response teams in Nicaragua.

Furthermore, the National Society participated in a series of activities led by the secretariat aimed at strengthening the capacity of the recently established technical unit for the development of the water and sanitation component. Activities include the definition of a strategy, training of staff and volunteers on the PHAST methodology and capacity building at community level, PMER focused on water and sanitation, and design of water and sanitation systems using computer software. These tools will enable the management of the technical unit.

A follow up pilot project was implemented in the northern municipality of Dipilto benefiting 745 people from two communities. The project consists of capacity building of the community on administration, operation and maintenance, behaviour change through hygiene promotion activities and the renovation of water system infrastructure. The project was completed in July 2011.

Constraints or Challenges

- Funding for the Nicaragua health support plan has been a constraint to the full implementation of the planned activities.
- Long-term sustainability continues to be a challenge.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme Purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component 1: National Society governance, management and support for the organisational development process.

Outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross has an updated regulatory framework (policies, statutes, regulations).

Outcome 2: National programmes and branches understand and apply planning tools.

In relation to the indicators of defining a volunteer policy in the National Society and updating of the volunteer regulations, no progress was carried out during the year due to funding constraints. Nevertheless, it is a priority area of support which reflected in the Long-Term Planning Framework for the Nicaraguan Red Cross. During 2011, in coordination with the Canadian Red Cross, the National Society took initial steps towards the volunteer identification process and data base registry under the framework of the First Response Initiative (FRI) project, which will continue during 2012.

The definition of fundraising rules was not fully completed within the year; however, consultants from the company MC2 Group delivered their preliminary report to the National Society, which included general recommendations for fundraising.

During 2011, the secretariat provided reference documentation for statutory regulations to the Nicaraguan Red Cross to support the update of their own institutional procedures (Statutes and regulations). Support to this area will continue in 2012.

The National Society completed visits to 36 branches to develop an institutional diagnosis of each branch. The diagnosis was carried out using consultation tools based on the National Society's Statutes and other reference materials in order to obtain key information on the main priorities, achievements and development needs of all the NRC branches. This work was conducted by four teams of administrative personnel and board members. It is expected that during the second semester, this diagnosis will be used to orient decision-making on the institutional strengthening priorities, to develop a database, its Strategic Plan 2012–2015 and its 2012 operational plan. The diagnosis and its tools were developed based on the norms included under the current Statutes and regulations.

An officer from the NRC planning department participated in the Project Planning Process workshop organized by the secretariat's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting unit.

The National Society installed the 'Tecapro' software to strengthen the accounting and financial systems of the institution.

Programme component 2: Volunteer and youth development through national coverage of NRC local units and services.

Outcome 1: The Nicaraguan Red Cross volunteering management and functioning are strengthened.

This past August, the Nicaraguan Red Cross received youth volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross for an experience and knowledge exchange. The national Director of the NRC Youth area, who is simultaneously the regional coordinator of the youth network, participated in the induction activities organized by the Costa Rican Red Cross on technical and administrative management of the network. He also had the opportunity to learn about this sister National Society's programmes and services for youth volunteers. The micro-project on institutional strengthening for youth engaged in school brigades was implemented and 15 youth volunteers' capacities were built up as trainers of trainers of the Regional School Brigade material in Nicaragua, at the end of the project 30 schools have functioning school brigades. Furthermore, three NRC volunteers participated in an internship with the Honduran Red Cross.

As a contribution to the Canadian Red Cross-supported FRI project, recommendations were given with regards to the main findings of the self-evaluation of volunteering in emergencies, defining a plan of action for 2012.

Principles and Values

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

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

Outcome 1: Strengthen the knowledge and dissemination of humanitarian principles and values to Nicaraguan Red Cross elected government bodies, staff and volunteers by promoting gender equity and violence prevention.

During the year, it was not possible to define a gender policy. This area, therefore, continues to be a priority and is reflected in the Long-Term Planning Framework. The National Society has a staff person trained in project planning with a gender focus. It is expected that this staff person will actively participate in the National Society's strategic and operative planning processes and contribute to the creation of a gender policy for the National Society.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, with support from the Central American University, completed the establishment of its communication strategy and research on its image. These products were broadly disseminated to National Society volunteers, governance and management bodies in the national headquarters and in the branches. On the basis of this study, an informative campaign with visibility and promotion materials was designed and implemented. These included 12,000 brochures, a radio spot, broadcast of 3 radio vignettes on 20 stations, an institutional documentary, 15 banners, and 1,700 stickers. All of these materials used the new institutional slogan, "*Nicaraguan Red Cross... always by your side*".

The secretariat, in coordination with the Canadian Red Cross, has assisted and promoted the participation of directors and volunteer leaders (director of the Youth area) in the training workshop on the *10-step methodology on violence prevention*.

Working in partnership

The Nicaraguan Red Cross benefits from its partnerships with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement components, local State institutions and international cooperation agencies.

The Finnish Red Cross supported youth and volunteering initiatives with an internship in Honduras and the implementation of school brigades. The Spanish Red Cross and the secretariat worked together to establish and support the NRC's implementation of an upgraded accounting and financial system, which included the required software. The Canadian Red Cross supported the National Society's volunteering in emergencies assessment and promotion of the *10 Step methodology on violence prevention*.

With all the Partner National Societies present in the country (the Canadian, Italian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies), dialogues, bilateral meetings, and coordination between the National Society's Movement counterparts, have been facilitated for the monitoring of the country plan and to share information on the NRC's priorities and cooperation received. The IFRC's secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) additionally exchanged information on the NRC's priorities and analyzed its institutional risks.

Outside the Movement, the National Society also maintains working relations with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention- SINAPRED, PAHO, Nicaraguan Commission for AID (CONSIDA), the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies- INETER, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Managua municipal government, the municipal

governments of the Madriz department, DG-ECHO, and the DIPECHO partners in the current Plan of Action.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Decisions made by the Nicaraguan Red Cross are now based on more analytical elements as well as the recommendations and conclusions of recently produced studies and documents, such as the research on its image, the communications strategy, the diagnostic of NRC branches, and the consultancy on resource mobilization and fundraising.

Looking ahead

The Federation secretariat will focus its efforts in 2012 on providing assistance and follow-up for the Nicaraguan Red Cross's decision-making processes and integrated implementation, based on the results of the studies produced and assistance provided.

Furthermore, the secretariat will seek to increase the coordination and communication with Partner National Societies to attain more impact from the cooperation provided by the secretariat and in favour of the Nicaragua's Long-Term Planning Framework and of the monitoring the Nicaraguan Red Cross's Strategic Plan 2012–2015, aligned with *Strategy 2020*.

In the forthcoming year, the Nicaraguan Red Cross plans to organize more institutional training activities, implement the activities within the First Response Initiative project sponsored by the Canadian Red Cross, as well as establish a document on good conduct and lessons learned upon completing processes.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross concurrently will start a three-year project, with support from the Netherlands Red Cross, on climate change and disaster preparedness.

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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Contact information

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

- **In the Nicaraguan Red Cross**

- Daraysi Palma, Nicaraguan Red Cross Project Office; email: asistenteproyecto@humanidad.org.ni; and phone: + 505 2265 2082.

- **In the regional representation for Central America and Mexico**

- Fabricio Lopez, regional representative for Central America and Mexico; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone: + 506.222.64092; and fax: +506.2226.6634.

- **In the Americas zone office; phone: +507.317.3050**

- Xavier Castellanos, director of zone; email: xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org
- Jan Gelfand, head of operations; email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org
- Zuleyka Maynard, resource mobilization senior officer; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org