In brief

Programme outcome

This annual report updates the achievements made to implement the 2011 Country Support Plan for the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC). The Guatemalan Red Cross’ work during the past year was guided by the Guayaquil Inter-American Plan and the 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 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ secretariat contributed to strengthening the areas of disaster risk management, health and care and organizational development of the Guatemalan Red Cross. During the year, the GRC focused on institutional strengthening in the area of disaster risk management with the training of National Intervention Teams, the updating its response plan, and the development of a national policy for risk management. The National Society also participated in regional internships and workshops organized as part of the regional DIPECHO VII project focused on urban risk. At the community level, as part of the national DIPECHO VII project and in alliance with the Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the Guatemalan Red Cross continued the implementation of community-based activities for disaster preparedness.

During the reporting period, the Guatemalan Red Cross health department, with the support of the secretariat, continued scaling up their response to HIV through the Federation’s Global Alliance on HIV framework. The HIV initiatives were focused on providing care and support to people living with HIV (PLHIV), HIV prevention with at-risk groups, building a culture based on respect and non-discrimination. Through the Club 25 programme, the National Society has continued working towards their four-year action plan (developed in 2010) for voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and health promotion among young people. Funding for these activities comes from a pool of global funding from the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation.
Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion is supported through the newly developed technical unit with training, technical and resource mobilization support. Technical and operational support for the health in emergencies component has also been a key area during 2011, with a focus on epidemic outbreaks and psychosocial support in emergencies.

In relation to organizational development, the provision of accompaniment and on-site assistance to the governance and management bodies enabled the National Society to respond to the challenges generated by the election of its new Governing Board. Subsequently, six of its new members visited the secretariat's America zone office based in Panama for an induction course covering topics of interest such as Strategy 2020, the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and accountability. This visit also helped to undertake joint work on the project proposal for strengthening the capacities of the Institute for Comprehensive Training of the National Society. The secretariat also supported the GRC Youth area to plan and implement a micro-project and participate in an internship within the framework of the Regional Youth Network’s project to strengthen leadership capacities. The National Society’s capacities to formulate projects with a gender focus have also been addressed through the training of a member of the GRC management staff and two representatives from the governance body.

Financial situation
The total 2011 budget was 123,168 Swiss francs, of which 124,606 Swiss francs (101 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 108,500 Swiss francs (88 per cent) of the budget.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

See also Tropical Storm Agatha (MDRGT002)
Guatemala - Floods (MDRGT003)

No. of people we have reached
The National Society’s actions in 2011 directly focused on disaster risk management, organizational development, health, and principles and values, which directly reached all of the volunteers, staff, and leadership of the Guatemalan Red Cross. In the area of health and care, in total 70,790 people (36,306 men and 34,484 women) were reached through Global Alliance on HIV activities at the national level. The Guatemalan Club 25 was able to open five new Club 25 branches during 2011, accruing a total of 192 new members.

Our partners
The Guatemalan Red Cross coordinates its activities with a number of different partners within and external to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Key partners are the American, Finnish, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the UN agencies and local and national authorities including the Ministry of Health and the Civil Protection.

The Japanese Red Cross Society supports the strengthening of the Integral Training Institute through equipment, while the Norwegian Red Cross supports the development of a marketing plan for it. The Finnish Red Cross has developed activities to strengthen the leadership of the GRC, especially its youth, through a micro-project based in school brigades and an internship about violence prevention and culture of peace in the Nicaraguan Red Cross. All other Partner National Societies (PNS) in Guatemala (Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross) have constant dialogue with their programme counterparts in the GRC to appropriately follow up the country plan and share information about the priorities of the National Society and their cooperation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also works closely with the National Society in exchanging priorities.
**Context**

Guatemala is a country of deep divisions. It has the largest proportion of indigenous population in Central America, speaking 24 indigenous languages. The country has one of the most unequal distributions of income in the world.

Its geographical location is key to the drug trade to North America and as a result the problem of violence remains a major concern in the country. The Guatemalan Red Cross faces this contextual challenge in implementing its programmes and services. For this reason, it is working to include in its daily approach from the operational and strategic planning a comprehensive vision that responds to this growing trend.

**Progress towards outcomes**

**Disaster Risk Management**

**Programme component 1: Organizational Preparedness**

**Outcome 1:** Improve the GRC’s basic skills in organization, logistics and equipping for disaster response and risk reduction supported by the REDCAMP-DESASTRES network.

The first indicator under the planned outcome was not achieved. Sufficient funding support was not received in order to develop a development of the disaster preparedness programme in line with the preparedness and response guide was not received.

By the end of 2011, GRC volunteers have participated in the National Intervention Team (NIT) strategy in training, specialization and updating. It was possible to strengthen the capacities of volunteer to handle emergencies and disasters. Training was provided on relief, including damage and needs assessments (basic concepts, formats and delivery surveys), distributions and logistics management. In addition, 54 volunteers and 24 NITs were trained on the use of water treatment equipment through the Tropical Storm Agatha Operation. Furthermore, the GRC was trained on the use of the Mega-V software (barcode system)\(^1\). This system has a direct benefit for the beneficiaries as it reduces by 80 per cent the time of distribution of items.

In relation to trainings, the National Society staff and volunteers participated in several regional trainings organized under the regional DIPECHO VII project\(^2\). Topics included: VCA - Learning by doing, response and contingency planning, water, sanitation & hygiene promotion, pedagogical and participatory techniques. Furthermore, the Centres of Reference provided technical guidance of the use of IFRC tools and methodologies (e.g. Better Be Ready modules) to the National Society for their bilateral projects.

By the end of 2011, some progress was achieved in relation to third indicator of the plan. The Guatemalan Red Cross began updating its logistics procedures as well as reviewing the functioning of the Emergency Operations Centre. The National Society also updated procedures in the event of disasters and crises. These activities were carried out with the support of the secretariat’s Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and with funding from the Tropical Storm Agatha operation.

By the end of 2011, the GRC policy on disaster risk reduction has been developed.

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1. This was conducted under the framework of the Emergency Operation – MDRGT003.
2. This regional project is managed by the secretariat through the regional disaster risk reduction programme for Central America and Mexico, jointly with the Centres of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador and for Community-based Education on Disaster Preparedness in Costa Rica. Expenditure is reflected under the Americas zone 2011 Annual Report (MAA42003).
Programme Component 2: Safer and better prepared communities
Outcome 1: Communities and local branches are strengthened to respond and recover more rapidly to disasters, identifying the measures and actions to be implemented for risk reduction and immediate effects of disasters, mobilizing resources and existing resources

The originally planned work in seven communities and related indicators were not reached due to lack funding for this country plan. Nevertheless, the GRC did develop work to strengthen communities to respond and recover more rapidly to disasters through bilateral projects (DIPECHO VII Action Plan with support from the Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross). The secretariat provided technical support to the bilateral projects through visits from the Centres of Reference for use of tools and methodologies.

With secretariat support community strengthening work took place through two emergency operations: Tropical Storm Agatha (MDRGT002) which concluded in May 2011 (see Final Report), and Floods (MDRGT003) which started in October 2011 and will continue in 2012.

Programme Component 3: Coordination
Outcome 1: The sustainability strategy for risk reduction actions through coordination and alliances with key counterparts and participating communities has been established.

The National Society has maintained excellent relationships with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health, as well as with CONRED.

The GRC is currently responsible for coordinating the REDCAMP network of Risk Management Directors in Central America. As mentioned above, the Pre-Hurricane Meeting 2011 was held in Guatemala and the network coordinator supported the preparations for the meeting. Participation of the National Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, was secured. The meeting also brought Partner National Societies present in the region, such as the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. It is noteworthy to mention that the Guatemalan Red Cross has coordinated for the past 3 years the REDCAMP network.

In 2011 significantly improved relations with strategic partners such as DG-ECHO, through the project DIPECHO VII. Through this project several communities were benefited, including Retahuleu, where risk reduction activities to strengthen capacities at the community and institutional levels.

Health and Care
In 2011, 81 per cent of the health budget was covered. This funding was available to develop the Global Alliance on HIV and global funds from the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation for the Club 25. The remaining budget has been provided at the country level to support processes where the National Society health staff and volunteers have benefited from peer support and trainings at regional level.

Programme Component 1: Global Alliance and HIV and AIDS programme
Outcome 1: Guatemalan Red Cross has contributed to the reduction of prevalence of HIV in the country’s geographic regions that are considered priority

During 2011 the IFRC, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Guatemalan government continued to support the Guatemalan Red Cross HIV programme. The GRC, through the 11 participating branches, reached a total of 70,790 people with information, education and communication (IEC) messages related to HIV prevention, care and treatment, support services, and anti-stigma and discrimination campaigns. Furthermore, the National Society indirectly reached approximately 353,950 beneficiaries. These figures show that during 2011 a total of 424,740 people were reached.
directly and indirectly through GRC HIV programming.

In 2011, 92 national peer educators were trained in the Together We Can (TWC) methodology. These 92 educators were subsequently able to reach 306 GRC volunteers in the south-west, north-west and central regions – areas with a high incidence of HIV in Guatemala. Some 83 volunteers were active in HIV interventions in these GRC branches. Furthermore, 3,884 people received assistance through Volunteer Counselling and Testing services (VCT), with 19 positive cases benefitting from positive prevention services and counselling.

In order to prevent vertical transmission, the GRC targeted pregnant women, reaching 97 expectant mothers, referring them to Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services.

For the second consecutive year, the GRC was selected as the key referral organization for Rapid Testing Days. This selection occurred through forums such as the national “Get Tested!” campaign which is coordinated by the National AIDS programme and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance. These services are focused on most at-risk populations.

Some of the main activities developed in order to achieve this outcome were related to one on one education sessions, TWC workshops, home visits, radio campaigns and a radio show titled “Talking about sexuality”, workshops for people living with HIV (PLHIV), counselling and testing services, inter-agency meetings, PLHIV supporting groups, the celebration of World AIDS day, condom distribution, campaigns, and supporting activities on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in health centres and with transgender organizations.

**Outcome 2: Red Cross care, treatment and support services for people living with HIV (PLHIV) have been extended.**

In the reporting period, 786 PLHIV and 25 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) were supported by the Guatemalan Red Cross. From this group, 457 PLHIV participating in support groups were reached with care, treatment and support and 299 PLHIV and their families were reached with income generating activities. Twenty-five OVC were reached with educational support.

Furthermore, with funding from the SAQB'E Association, the GRC assisted 25 children of PLHIV to continue or commence their primary education. The support was in the form of school materials, bags, uniforms and shoes.

**Outcome 3: Stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AID has decreased.**

This outcome has been 100 per cent met, during 2011, 70,790 people were reached with messages of anti-stigma and non-discrimination through IEC interventions with vulnerable populations and the general community, including social mobilization campaigns.

Additionally, 528 GRC staff of the National Society on HIV-related projects are implemented were made aware of the issues of anti-stigma and non-discrimination towards PLHIV through HIV workplace programmes.

During 2011, 70,790 people were reached with messages of anti-stigma and discrimination. IEC materials were used to convey messages to vulnerable populations as well as the general public. Social mobilization campaigns were also used as a means of disseminating information. Additionally, 528 GRC staff working on HIV-related projects were made aware of the issues of stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV through HIV workplace programmes.

**Outcome 4: The Guatemalan Red Cross has strengthened its skills to deliver and sustain intensified and scaled-up programmes in attended communities.**

The GRC’s active participation in various networks, committees and organizations contributed to the strengthening of HIV activities at local, regional and national levels. Within the GRC, all programme
activities undertaken during 2011 were run by appropriately trained volunteers.

The National Society conducted HIV workplace training with staff and volunteers on the existing HIV Workplace policy. These trainings were coordinated by the GRC HIV programme team through quarterly meetings. The HIV related activities of the participating 11 branches were responsible for strengthening volunteer skills and capacities for working with most at-risk populations. It was observed that the implementation of Global Alliance on HIV programme contributed to fostering a sense of belonging and permanency amongst volunteers. This in turn provided the volunteers with an incentive to continue their humanitarian work with the GRC, ensuring the sustainability of the HIV initiatives in these branches.

Programme Component 2: Community Health

Outcome 1: GRC branches have increased their skills in Community-based health and first aid, including maternal child and health promotion and illness prevention

In November 2011, the Guatemalan Red Cross participated in the second Training of National Facilitators on the Federation’s revitalized community health methodology Community Based Health and First Aid in Action (CBHFA) in Panama. This will facilitate the roll-out of the methodology to GRC branches during 2012 and beyond.

Outcome 2: Red Cross Club 25 members foment healthy lifestyle habits among youth, contributing to voluntary blood donations and promoting a culture of voluntary blood donation in the country

During 2011 the Guatemalan Club 25 was able to open five new Club 25 branches, with a total of 192 new members. The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) is the only non-governmental organization that provides education on the importance of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and actively participates in receiving blood donations. In this way, the GRC is able to play an important political role in the strengthening of VNRBD as a vital public health measure.

With a total of 24 Club 25 branches and 1,026 members, the GRC is embracing the Club 25 approach to VNRBD and the important health and safety aspects it encompasses. One example of the dedication of Club 25 members and the GRC can be seen through the significant increase in available voluntary blood donation within national hospitals. The National Mazatenango Hospital was able to report an increase of 72.8 per cent (from zero to 72.8) in their monthly voluntary blood donation levels. This can be directly attributed to the participation and activities of the Guatemalan Club 25.

The Guatemalan Club 25 has continued to work towards the potential benefits of integrating blood donation activities with relevant public health issues. 2011 saw issues of HIV, STI, youth violence prevention, and strengthening of family ties addressed within two workshops that reached 204 Club 25 members. Based on data provided by the National Society, of the 76 participants attending the workshop on youth violence prevention, 95 per cent were able to identify incidents when they had been either victims or perpetrators of youth violence. As a result of being able to identify these situations, workshop participants committed to changing their everyday behaviour to ensure these situations of violence were minimized.

Programme Component 3: Health in Emergencies

Outcome 1: The Guatemalan Red Cross in coordination with the Ministry of Health has increased its skills to prevent public health risks in vulnerable communities.

In this period, the secretariat focused its efforts of support to the Guatemalan Red Cross on providing technical and operational support for health in emergencies. This support included technical support in emergency health, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion related to the planning and analysis of the 2011 hurricane season.
GRC staff and volunteers participated in the Regional Psychosocial Support (PS) workshop held in Colombia. At this workshop, the National Societies shared their experiences on psychosocial support programming and were introduced to the Copenhagen Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support global tools and the new Americas Psychosocial Support in Emergencies module developed in 2011.

**Outcome 2: Strengthen the GRC’s skills to respond to health emergencies and the health aspects of disasters.**

The Guatemalan Red Cross participated in a secretariat coordinated continental emergency health workshop “Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas: Lessons Learned and innovative approaches” in April 2011. The objective of the workshop was to share the different National Society experiences of emergencies caused by epidemic diseases and disasters 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 NIT activation protocol in case of national emergencies. This brings National Societies into line with Strategy 2020 emergency intervention protocols.

In October 2011 with soil already saturated and river levels high as a result of previous rains, severe storms and rain caused flooding and landslides across Guatemala. The GRC initially mobilized emergency funds through the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and later via an emergency appeal to enable them to adequately respond to the emergency situation in the country.

In terms of health in emergencies, the Secretariat supported the implementation of the 2011 plan of action. This encompassed programmes relating to rapid health assessments, providing first aid services, undertaking epidemic prevention control measures (such as mosquito net distribution), focusing on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention activities, and providing psychosocial support to affected populations. All these interventions were linked to long-term community health programmes. Detailed information regarding the appeal’s progress can be found on the IFRC website.

**Outcome 3: The technical water unit is established and is prepared to implement development projects and act in situations of disasters through the development of management skills.**

The water and sanitation technical unit was established in the GRC health department during 2011. This unit comprises a water and sanitation coordinator and hygiene promoter. The unit is tasked to promote water, sanitation and hygiene promotion either in a development context or in response to disaster. The secretariat supported the strengthening of the technical unit through capacity building on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), development of monitoring tools, design of water and sanitation systems utilizing computer software, and technical advice for proposal development. Thanks to this support, the GRC was able to identify communities not yet serviced, and has developed a proposal for a long-term project covering seven communities in El Palmar, in the Quetzaltenango department which will be submitted to potential donors.

A follow up pilot project is being implemented with funding support from the Centre for Disease Control and the American Red Cross in the north-east of the country. The project covers two communities and involves the Ministry of Health and the local municipality. This project focuses on capacity building at the community level as well as to refresh hygiene practices, especially those that are key for improving health, such as hand washing, use of latrines and water treatment. This project is benefiting more than 3,000 people.

This technical water unit had an active role during the emergency operation starting in October 2011, providing an integrated response on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. According to the plan of action, 1,500 families had access to safe water through water filters and water provision. These families also received hygiene kits and jerry cans, and were involved in hygiene promotion.
educational campaigns and sanitation activities. The operation will continue until July 2012.

Constraints or Challenges

- Funding has been a constraint for programmed health activities, particularly in the areas of community and emergency health.
- Long-term sustainability of the water and sanitation technical unit is a challenge.
- The late transfer of secretariat funds from donors has delayed the HIV programme implementation.
- Some staffing and volunteer constraints have affected implementation in several sites, however, this situation has been addressed.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Programme Component: National Society leadership, management and volunteer Development

Outcome 1: Support National Society governance and management to strengthen the ability to effectively lead the organization and improve its delivery of services. Leadership ability has increased through governance, management and volunteer development; sustainable organization development; innovation and effective coordination and collaboration within the IFRC and with other partners.

Leadership Strengthening – Governance Bodies: The Regional Representation supported the National Society’s electoral process for new members of the National Council. Six new members were elected.

The new governance body members, together with the President and the General Director, participated in a specially programmed induction course organized by the regional representation for Central America. The course also had facilitators from the Zone team in Panama, including the Director of Zone, colleagues from Partner National Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Induction topics included: governance and management, Strategy 2020, structure and mandate of the Movement components, accountability and leadership.

Organizational Development of the Institute for Comprehensive Training: With cooperation provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Red Cross, the GRC strengthened the capacities of its Institute for Comprehensive Training. An advisor formulated the development project, which incorporated the resources offered by the PNS and the secretariat. The GRC’s management team participated in two exchange/internships on management of training centres. The first with the Red Cross Society of Panama focused on establishing first aid courses through strategic partnerships. The second with the Mexican Red Cross covered academic and administrative management and marketing services. Additionally, part of the equipment goals were met with the acquisition of two smart boards, two accident simulation kits, an audio system, and two hazmat suits for practices on technological emergencies. The partnership with Wal-Mart to provide first aid training to their employees has been strengthened. In 2011, three other companies became clients of the Institute for Comprehensive Training.

Youth Volunteering: With Finnish Red Cross support, the GRC implemented the micro-project in school brigades and climate change. This programme will train at least 50 branch leaders in dissemination and facilitation skills. Furthermore, two members of the Nicaraguan Red Cross had an internship with the GRC to assist in reinforcing the school brigades’ programme and providing leadership training for 15 GRC volunteers.
The Guatemalan Red Cross organized a national volunteer camp, attended by at least 400 volunteers, which resulted in: 1) Greater integration of volunteering, with a view to restructuring into a single, cohesive entity; 2) Maintenance of a distinct structure for youth volunteers, in line with *Strategy 2020* and the Inter-American Plan; and 3) Greater emphasis on updating databases and training.

**DFID:** A consultant was hired to head up the drafting of a proposal, according to the DFID standard format. The proposal has a comprehensive focus on disaster risk management, health, organization development and volunteering. The National Council President and members, the General Director, the administrative-finance team, the programme coordinators, volunteers, the ICRC and PNSs started a strategic planning process that was launched with a two-day long meeting. The meeting achieved the following: a context analysis, an analysis of institutional capacities, the definition of priorities according to *Strategy 2020* strategic aims and enable actions, the role of Movement cooperation in the process, and the establishment of the chronogram for this process. The General Directorate agreed upon the job description for the project coordination position and the terms of reference to begin the recruitment of candidates. Due to the disagreement over the salary for this position, the chosen candidate was not hired in 2011.

**Principles and Values**

**Programme Component: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values**

**Outcome 1:** The Guatemalan Red Cross with Secretariat support has enhanced internal understanding of the Fundamental Principles through the implementation of systematic actions to promote humanitarian principles and values and integrate them into National Society operational programmes (disaster management and health and care).

The director of the Youth area for the Guatemalan Red Cross participated in an internship with the Youth area of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. This activity enabled him to learn about the sister National Society's programmes and the school brigades' activities, as well as receive training in the peacemakers programme, which will be reproduced in Guatemala.

Six new members of the National Council received training on the application of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values as part of their induction course held in Panama.

The President of the Guatemalan Red Cross participated in the leadership training focused on human rights, organized by the Henry Dunant Institute and FLACSO. Furthermore, The President of the National Society and the speaker of the governance body participated in a training workshop on project/programme planning with a gender focus.

In coordination with the regional representation, the Youth Network provided new printed materials for distribution and training on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and leadership to the National Society. The GRC distributed 500 posters at the national and branch levels, particularly aimed at youth.

**Working in partnership**

- The Japanese Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Red Cross, through the secretariat, supported the activities to strengthen the Institute for Comprehensive Training. The Finnish Red Cross supported the volunteering initiatives of the Youth area. All of the Partner National Societies in Guatemala (the National Societies of Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain) engaged in dialogues and bilateral meetings with the respective GRC counterparts to monitor the plan and share information on the National Society's priorities and cooperation. The Guatemalan Red Cross and the ICRC exchanged information on the National Society's priorities and analysis of its institutional risks.
In 2011, the Guatemalan Red Cross closely worked with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction- CONRED, PNS, in addition to State institutions such as the ministries of environment, health, and education and United Nations agencies.

**Contributing to longer-term impact**

- Through the capacity building activities, which respond to diverse processes supported by Movement components and international cooperation, the Guatemalan Red Cross will have a properly equipped training institution and a marketing strategy that guarantees the sustainability and advancement of its development plan.

- As part of the IFRC-DIPECHO VII regional project on urban risk, in coordination with the GRC and the Netherlands Red Cross, the National Society researched and produced a case study, “Women’s Role in Risk Management Activities in Guatemala City”. This document, part of the case studies looking at working with urban communities and women’s roles, contributes to the shared activities undertaken within the framework of work with urban communities.

**Looking ahead**

In 2012, the secretariat will focus on providing assistance to the Guatemalan Red Cross and monitoring its planned project activities for capacity building, DFID- funded actions and the Institute for Comprehensive Training.

The secretariat aims to boost coordination and communication with PNS to generate increased impact by the cooperation provided to the GRC, particularly for the implementation of the Federation-supported *Guatemala’s Long-Term Planning Framework* and the development of the National Society’s Strategic Plan 2012–2015, in alignment with *Strategy 2020* and the Inter-American Framework for Action.

Furthermore, the Guatemalan Red Cross plans to make advances on its national risk management policy, approve and dissemnitate its response plan, as well as strengthen coordination and agreements with academic institutions.

With the funds from the Netherlands government and technical and financial support from the Netherlands Red Cross, the GRC will implement a four-year project on climate change and disaster preparedness. This project aims to reduce the impact of natural hazards on vulnerable communities’ livelihoods.

The secretariat will continue to support the Guatemala Red Cross with technical advice, tools and methodologies in health and disaster risk reduction to strengthen its capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, as well as strengthen vulnerable communities’ health and resilience. 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 Guatemala Red Cross will develop its four year Global Alliance on HIV proposal 2012–2015 and will have an opportunity to share experiences in 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.

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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