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CUBA

Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACU002

5 October 2012

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2012
to 30 June 2012.**

A rescue operation exercise being carried out by specialized Cuban Red Cross relief teams. Source: Cuban Red Cross.



Overview

The complex and unique Cuban context affects the development of the Cuban Red Cross (CRC), with respect to the diversification of its financing, the modernization of its management and facilities for the implementation of activities. This is reflected in the 2012 plan which is ambitious taking into consideration the current context and the limitation of funds in the short-term future in Cuba.

It is important to improve communication with the National Society through increased presence and field visits to Cuba, Close communications with the National Society tend to be limited as a result of a lack of access the media in the Cuban context and the availability of resources in the regional representation.

Working in partnership

Since 2008, the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) has been developing a cooperation project with the CRC in disaster preparedness for vulnerable communities. Early this year, a new NRC representative in Cuba was introduced to the National Society and will continue cooperation and establish close coordination with the regional representation.

The Cuban Red Cross also continues to cooperate with the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Mexico (Federal District), which provides technical support in the areas of international humanitarian law (IHL) and restoring family links (RFL), amongst others.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its regional representation in the Dominican Republic, provides institutional support to the CRC, as well as technical inputs in risk reduction management and volunteer development.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) is one of the CRC's on-going donors, holding regular meetings to analyse the situation and humanitarian needs in Cuba through its regional office in Santo Domingo.

Operational Partners	Agreement
Norwegian Red Cross	PRECO IV (Community Preparedness)
ECHO	Dipecho VIII
IFRC	Cooperation

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line I: Humanitarian Diplomacy

Outcome 1.1: The Red Cross is better positioned to lead and demonstrate the Federation-wide contribution to reducing vulnerability, the exposure to risks and the ability of most vulnerable people to deal with their daily challenges; and capture learning and knowledge management to improve the quality of Red Cross work.

Output 1.1.1: Humanitarian access is addressed through learning and action:

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the Cuban Red Cross develops capacities in legal preparedness for international disaster assistance and increases its capacity to liaise with the government.	0	1	No progress to date (Q3)

Output 1.1.3. Urban risk reduction, climate change adaptation, migration and violence prevention, non-communicable diseases are better understood and promoted within National Societies.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
In 2012, 3 National Societies in the sub region including the Cuban Red Cross are sharing knowledge and expertise through a regional network in the Latin Caribbean.	0	2 activities	No progress to date (Q4)

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRC is promoting an analysis of existing legislation with reference to disaster response. It is important to mention that the Cuban Red Cross has identified the gaps in the existing legislation and has met with governmental authorities to propose recommendations. The regional representation has expressed its

support to assist the National Society in their efforts by offering provide technical assistance and terms of reference, as well as to provide them with a list of questions to facilitate analysis of existing legislation.

Outcome 1.2. A system for research, education, learning and knowledge-sharing initially focusing on urban risk reduction, climate change adaptation, migration issues, and violence prevention enhances the understanding of these trends in the context of the Red Cross, as well as the capacity to address them.

OUTPUT 1.2.1. Federation-wide Reporting System and the databank are established in the National Societies of Americas

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The National Society has provided and completed the requirements of the databank through the submissions on paper by the end of 2012.	0	1	No progress to date (Q4)

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRC faces limitations regarding internet access – therefore, it is necessary to adopt a strategy with the aim of identifying the best solution for providing the support required by the National Society to participate in the Federation Data Bank and Reporting System. A first step towards this goal would be to work towards filling in the template and reaching an agreement with the CRC in order for the data to be loaded onto the web platform.

Outcome 1.3: The use of Federation-wide assessment tools, furthering the understanding of the collective impact of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is promoted.

OUTPUT 1.3.1 Organisational Capacity Assessment and certification (OCAC) process established

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
In the second half of 2012, the National Society has trained one focal point for the OCAC process.	0	1 person	No progress to date (Q4)

Business Line II: DISASTER AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Outcome: 2.1: Red Cross National Societies, through their network of branches, have enabled communities to better understand trends (urban risk, climate change, migration and violence) that increase the impact of disasters and crisis in their lives, and to develop appropriate integrated responses.

OUTPUT 2.1.1 Key humanitarian trends are integrated into disaster crisis plans and programmes

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
Two members of the National Society are prepared with knowledge of standards for relief operations.	0	2 members	No progress to date. (Q3)
Federation support and coordination for Cuban Red Cross project implementation is further acknowledged on the part of the authorities.	0	1	No progress to date. (Q3)

Output 2.1.3 CLIMATE CHANGE adaptation is integrated into disaster and crisis management:

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
In 2012, the Cuban Red Cross has integrated the climate change approach in risk management.	0	1	No progress to date (Q3)

Output 2.1.6: Increased the logistics capacity to deliver logistics services for preparedness and relief activities, connecting National Society assets where possible, and making it self-sustaining through promoting the effective functioning of the Federation

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
In November 2012, the National Society has successfully completed the implementation of DIPECHO projects/activities and related reporting.	0	1 final report	Authorization is awaited from the Cuban authorities for the entry of all materials purchased under the DIPECHO project in order to deliver them to the Cuban Red Cross.
Increase the capacity of the Cuban Red Cross to address and respond to emergencies.			Authorization is awaited from the Cuban authorities for the entry of all materials purchased under the DIPECHO project in order to deliver them to the Cuban Red Cross.

Business Line III: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Red Cross National Societies, through their network of branches, demonstrate leadership through adopting policies, procedures and practices which promote social inclusion, non-discrimination and a culture of peace in the manner in which they work internally, with communities and with other beneficiary groups.

Output 3.1.1: National Society leadership and institutional capacity for partnership exist.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, 14 branches of the National Society facilitate support in the development of	0	14	30 national staff from 26 different branches and from the main

branch planning to other municipal branches			office of the CRC gained knowledge in <i>Strategy 2020</i> , the disaster response system of the Federation, and the new capacity building Framework of the Federation.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

The active participation of the Cuban Red Cross in the “National School for CRC management” in February 2012 is of note. The secretaries general and staff from the branches followed a basic course on the Red Cross including international and regional perspectives. For two years, the regional representation in Santo Domingo has been committed to continue supporting this initiative of the CRC, providing technical and financial support in order to strengthen the knowledge of the members of the Cuban Red Cross.

3.2. Red Cross National Societies, through their network of branches, have enabled communities to better understand trends that impact their lives and take action to improve their health, safety, environmental and socioeconomic conditions.

Output 3.2.1: National Societies addressing major trends and challenges contributing to vulnerability.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
Some 1,500 families have been reached in the community and received orientation of the main risks in disaster situations.	0	1,500	No progress to date (Q4)

3.4. Volunteers of National Societies, representing all sectors and ages and involved in all aspects of National Society life from decision making to programme implementation, are key actors in demonstrating the added value of the work done by the Red Cross network and in expanding National Society humanitarian access.

Output 3.5 Volunteers of National Societies, representing all sectors and ages and involved in all aspects of National Society life from decision making to programme implementation, are key actors in demonstrating the added value of the work done by the Red Cross network and in expanding National Society humanitarian access.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
In 2012, six volunteers from the CRC have participated in three relevant events.	0	6	One CRC volunteer participated in the YABC in Haiti. She is the focal point in the CRC to disseminate tools and share the knowledge inside the National Society.
In 2012, the material on volunteering in emergencies has reached at least in 14 provincial branches and is available in hard copy and digital media.	0	14	Electronic material with information related to volunteering has been delivered. Hard copies of materials will be distributed during a visit of the regional volunteering delegate.

At the end of 2012, the database application system is under implementation.	0	1	Taking into account the Cuban context, an electronic template was prepared in order to capture the information from volunteer registries in all the branches. It is necessary to provide follow up to this initiative in the second half of the year.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

Promotion and facilitation of the participation of Cuban Red Cross volunteers in different events taking place in the region is taking place as well as the organization of local activities to share experiences and knowledge obtained amongst CRC volunteers.

Business Line V: EFFECTIVE JOINT WORKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Outcome 5.1: A knowledge network is established to provide a framework to disseminate innovations; promote horizontal cooperation and improve programming capacities in administration and finance, IT/Telecom, human resources, logistics and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Output 5.1.2. The National Societies in the Americas and the Secretariat successfully organized the XIX Inter American Conference to define our key priorities and strategic orientations for the Americas over the next four years and follow up the outcomes:

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The regional representation sponsors two people from the National Society to participate in the IAC in 2012.	0	2	Three staff from the Cuban Red Cross participated in the Inter-American Conference. With these representatives the National Society acquired inputs to share with members of the CRC to be included in the National Development Plan 2012-2020.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Cuban Red Cross participation in the Inter-American Conference as well as in the working groups has contributed to promoting initiatives within the National Society.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
- Delays in the arrival of some resources have set back compliance with certain indicators.	M	- Work towards cooperation agreements with the Cuban authorities.

- Coordination with the Norwegian Red Cross.	L	- Strengthen coordination with the new NRC representative.
- The current decisions and economic guidelines of the Cuban government have a strong impact on the implementation of the CRC plan for the period 2012–2013	H	- Reach concrete cooperation agreements with the government
- New regulations or adjustments in all sectors will affect cooperation in Cuba.	H	- Introduction of rules and laws for cooperation in disaster situations in Cuba through the disaster law intervention.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The 2012 plan for Federation support to the Cuban Red Cross is ambitious considering the current context and the limitations in funding for the short-term in Cuba.

Click here to go directly to the financial report. A total of 277,000 Swiss francs were spent in the implementation of development programmes over the period January – June 2012.

How we work

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

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

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

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

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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