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Ecuador

Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAEC001

11 October 2012

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

*A workshop related to the project
"Strengthening Volunteering in the
Ecuadoran Red Cross"*

Source : Ecuadoran Red Cross



Overview

During the first half of 2012, the regional representation for the Andean countries (regional representation) has worked closely with the Ecuadoran Red Cross (ERC) to strengthen its capacities in disaster management, health and care, and organizational development. In line with Strategy 2020, the ERC continues to fortify its skills to better fulfil its mandate to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people in Ecuadoran society.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
International Committee of the Red Cross- ICRC	In-country presence
Spanish Red Cross	In-country presence
American Red Cross	Bilateral projects
German Red Cross	Bilateral projects
Swedish Red Cross	Support through the IFRC
Norwegian Red Cross	Support through the IFRC
Foundation against Drug Addiction	Local partner
Ecuadoran Network for Alternatives to Violence Project- AVP	Local partner
Ecuadoran Coalition for People Living with HIV and AIDS	Local partner
Peace Corps	Local partner

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line I: Humanitarian Standards

Outcomes:

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 ERC has more knowledge regarding national legislation for international disaster response compared to 2011.		100%	15% Initial contacts have been made to work towards this objective.

Comments on progress towards outcomes
The regional representation planned to provide technical support for the National Society for the International Disaster Response Law- IDRL project which began during this reporting period. The primary tasks of establishing contact and providing information to the Ecuadoran authorities regarding the IDRL project were undertaken by the IDRL zone focal point following a meeting between the regional representation and the National Disaster Risk Management Secretary.

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

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has drawn up a case study on one of the external trends based on its experience.		1 case study	0% Funding challenges have hindered progress towards this indicator.
By the end of 2012, the ERC considers the key humanitarian trends as defined within the National Society's strategic plan during the identification and formulation of at least one of its new projects.		1 project	30% The mother-child health survey is complete. Other actions on non-communicable diseases and violence are underway.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Despite the existing funding challenges to support the ERC's participation in regional and global platforms, conferences and meetings, the ERC has made progress in identifying key humanitarian trends. The mother-child health survey was completed in this period and a draft report on maternal, newborn and child health in the Americas will be disseminated in the second semester; the implementation of the work on non-communicable diseases is pending. The ERC received information about road safety whereby a group will be formed to work on the guidelines in this area of work. The inclusion of trends in violence, urban risk and migration in health initiatives is pending.

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 the Americas.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of January 2013, the ERC has completed the databank exercise.		1 exercise	50% Actions to meet this output will be completed in the last half of 2012.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The Ecuadoran Red Cross has a focal point with strong technical skills in FDRS. The National Society has completed the information against the 7 proxy indicators for 2011 and general information on the ERC is also available in the data base. Once the new version of the web based platform is available, this information can be reviewed and updated. The Ecuadoran Red Cross has set up an on-line system to collect data relating to the FWRS 7 proxy indicators which can be shared with and replicated in other National Societies.

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 2.1.2. Urban risk approaches are adopted in disaster and crisis management.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has promoted better integrated programming in disaster and crisis response compared to 2011.		100%	5% Participation in the water and sanitation-meeting in Guatemala; the ERC is part of the group which is carrying out the revision of

			the National Intervention Team (NIT) curriculum.
By the end of 2012, the ERC has identified at least one initiative to improve the management related to volunteering in emergencies, according to the recommendations of the regional assessment of the application of common Minimum Standards for Volunteering in Emergencies.		1 initiative	50% Half of the planned activities for the regional assessment for common minimum standards for volunteering in emergencies have been completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As part of the planning process for 2012, the ERC, with the support of the regional representation, programmed specific activities to achieve these indicators. Understanding the importance of a comprehensive approach, the technical support to update the national response plan and development of contingency plans, which entails analyzing humanitarian trends, has multiple components. Within the health component of this approach, the ERC participated in the water and sanitation meeting held in Guatemala, and wrote a report on epidemics for the health in emergencies area. The latter is currently in the validation process. The revision of the National Intervention Team- NIT curriculum on water and sanitation has taken place and the global platform on water and sanitation has disseminated it, and implementation is pending for the second half of the year.

The ERC has completed half of its projected actions for 2012 in the regional assessment of the application of common minimum standards for volunteering in emergencies. The terms of reference for the assessment were distributed and an initial interview with the volunteer coordinator was held. The ERC returned the questionnaire with its contribution. The assessment is composed of eight activities: the terms of reference, initial interview with the National Society, the use of a questionnaire, responses to the questionnaire, additional interviews, analysis, a round of feedback, and the final report. The ERC has made satisfactory progress towards reaching this outcome in 2012.

Business Line III: Sustainable Development

Outcome: 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, the ERC has revised the national health plan or strategic health plan.		1 plan	50% The Federation's health operational framework was disseminated.
By the end of 2012, the ERC has at least one operational		1	0%

agreement with a partner outside of the Movement.		agreement	Actions in this area are pending.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>The ERC is committed to consolidating comprehensive work combining the areas of health, disaster risk management- DRM, organizational development, and services. During this reporting period, it has continued its work as part of the Global Alliance, completing the second report while waiting for further funds. The ERC has reached the general population (1,951), together with prisoners (540), youth (2,536), VCT users (3,588) and staff and volunteers (233). In relation to community-based health and first aid- CBHFA – the process has begun implementation with 45 volunteers trained, and 4 branches have worked using the methodology in Guayas, Napo, Tungurahua and Pichincha. This process is being implemented with the National Society’s own funds.</p> <p>As part of its technical support, the regional representation has provided the National Society with the Strategic Operational Framework in health. The ERC will use the plan to review and insert strategic lines such as climate change, urban risk and non-communicable diseases in the operational plan. Meetings to ensure alignment with International Federation standard are planned for the second half of this year.</p> <p>The regional representation was challenged to implement DRM activities planned with the National Society due to the funding challenges; no funds have been allocated to this area.</p> <p>While the ERC has not established an institutional partnership outside the Movement, work is pending to update the previous operational agreement with the Pan-American Health Organization- PAHO.</p>

Outcome: 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
By the end of 2012, the ERC has trained facilitators in leadership and governance directed to volunteers.		15 facilitators	25% The first of four tasks, a mission to the National Society in order to train facilitators was implemented.
By the end of 2012, the ERC has supported the organization of a zone workshop in Development of Volunteering.		21 participants	17% The first of six tasks, the mission to the National Society to organize the workshop was completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<p>In an effort to ensure comprehensive work towards this outcome, the regional representation conducted a mission to the ERC in May 2012. Represented by the country support plan coordinator and the zone volunteering coordinator, the regional representation met and jointly worked with the staff under the leadership of the National Society to establish a project to train facilitators in leadership and governance, who in turn would train volunteers in these essential areas, and discuss the organization and implementation of a volunteering development workshop.</p>

The training of facilitators' project is composed of four tasks: a mission, establishment of a project agreement, provision of technical support, and presentation of the final report. During this period, the first task was completed; the following three tasks are planned for the second half of this year.

The volunteer development workshop entails the participation of other National Societies in the region which will be invited to support the ERC in this endeavour. During the mission -- the first task conducted in May, the secretariat made important headway towards the following five tasks: presentation of the first letter to the ERC, creation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, establishment of a technical group, creation of the terms of reference, invitation to the National Society, and presentation of the workshop report.

Outcome: 3.6: Youth, as agents for change of the Red Cross network, are a leading voice for joint actions with different sectors of society for inclusion, peace and innovation.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has increased the participation of its youth volunteers by three per cent.		3%	25% This indicator is related to the first indicator in Output 3.5. The first of four tasks—the mission to the National Society, to train facilitators was implemented.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As this indicator is related to the first indicator in Output 3.5, the work done in this reporting period is reflected in the mission made to the National Society. Beyond this and in spite of the National Society's commitment to expanding its volunteer base with youth volunteers, other direct work towards this expected output has not occurred during the first half of the year. The regional representation, as well as the ERC, will continue to strive to fully meet the proposed outcome before the end of 2012.

Business Line IV: Humanitarian Diplomacy

Outcome: 4.3: National Societies and donors invest increasing financial and human resources to improve National Societies' abilities to deliver internal support services as the way forward for providing strong programming.

Output 4.3.1. Resource mobilization capacities and efforts of the National Societies are scaled up to inspire more reliable contributions to the Red Cross Red Crescent.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has strengthened one of its services compared to 2011.		1	0% Funding challenges have hindered progress towards this indicator.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As with other outcomes, the lack of earmarked funds to work towards this outcome is a major challenge. While the National Society is interested in expanding its capacities to mobilize funds and eventually work

toward self-sustaining activities, unless there is support in the present, this will continue to be unlikely in the future.

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 organised 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
By the end of 2012, the ERC has contributed through the working groups and its participation in the XIX Inter American Conference.		100%	100% Fully implemented with the ERC's participation in the XIX Inter American Conference.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation facilitated the ERC's participation in the XIX Inter American Conference and its working groups. The ERC participated in the Migration, Health, Volunteering, Youth, Secretary General and Governance working groups. More than mere attendance, the ERC's active participation was additionally key to ensuring its progress in other areas. The support of the ERC Executive Director was crucial for the drafting of the Montrouis Commitment.

Output 5.2.1. Peer-to-Peer initiatives around support services (finance, administration, human resources and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation) are promoted among with National Societies and disseminated through the knowledge network.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has identified areas to modernize, as part of its overall efforts to be accountable to its donors and stakeholders.		1	0% To date, no sister National Society has been identified for a peer-to-peer initiative with the ERC.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Although the regional representation would like to facilitate activities between sister National Societies in the region, until now, no sister National Society has been identified that could benefit from peer-to-peer initiatives with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The limited funding sources for this type of activity additionally hinder efforts to share knowledge, particularly for support services.

Outcome 5.6: Federation policies and best practices on support services are increasingly adopted and implemented by National Societies.

Output 5.6.1. IFRC policies on support services (finance, administration, human resources and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation) are disseminated among National Societies.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has disseminated its administrative and financial system in three provincial branches.		3 branches	20% The project was created and will be implemented in the second half of 2012.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

With regards to the project to implement a new administrative and financial system in the ERC branches, plans are underway for the second half of the year. Despite the commitment of the National Society, the lack of sufficient allocated funds hinders progress towards this outcome.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

During the reporting period, the secretariat promoted two coordination meetings with the Ecuadoran Red Cross, the ICRC and the regional representation to better align the actions of the National Society with a shared approach, and stimulate more effective work. These efforts are on-going and will be continued in the second half of 2012.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
The implementation of certain planned activities, particularly in DRM—will continue to be minimal or nil until funds are allocated.	H	Given the interest in supporting the National Society to strengthen its comprehensive capacities, including resource mobilization, strategic planning must be concurrent with actions to identify and obtain needed funding sources.
Staff changes at the regional level have caused delays in the creation of the operational plan with the Ecuadoran Red Cross. The previous country support plans coordinator left the position in March, thus delaying the drafting of the operational plan and subsequently implementation of the planned activities, until a replacement was found.	L	With the start of the new coordinator, this work is moving forward. Adjustments most likely will be made in order to achieve some of the proposed outcomes for 2012.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The National Society's experience, capacities and good relations with key national and local stakeholders provide the opportunity to promote innovative approaches to humanitarian issues. There is nevertheless a need to strengthen the profile of the National Society and the understanding of the government on the auxiliary role and the added value of ERC in Ecuador. Branch development remains an area needing further support; a particular focus needs to be established to ensure the development of community-based programmes and initiatives with and within communities, employing all relevant organizational development tools.

Financial situation

The total 2012 budget is 156,205 Swiss francs, of which 127,661 Swiss francs were received, resulting in coverage of 82 per cent. During this reporting period, expenditure amounted to 17,600 Swiss francs representing 13.78 per cent of the funds received for the implementation of the plan.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

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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