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Colombia

Mid-Year Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACO001

15 October 2012

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

*Volunteers of the Colombian Red Cross
Society celebrated the benefits of the new
Volunteering Law in Colombia
Source: Colombian Red Cross Society*



Overview

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

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Movement partner
American Red Cross	Bilateral agreement
German Red Cross	Bilateral agreement
Netherlands Red Cross	Bilateral agreement
Spanish Red Cross	Bilateral agreement
Norwegian Red Cross	Support through the IFRC

In addition to these Movement partners, the CRCS maintains coordination with institutions in the context of its work in HIV and AIDS and other areas. Some of these partners are: UNAIDS UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, the Ministry of Social Protection, INPEC (the national penitentiary institute), WFP, the Country Coordinating Mechanism-MCP, PROFAMILIA, ECHO, PAHO, LIGASIDA, FUNDAMOR, the Global Fund and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

The Colombian Red Cross Society maintains close working relationships with State bodies focused on humanitarian issues.

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 CRCS has updated its 2011 report, based on new legislation for international disaster response law-IDRL.		1 report	5% Coordination has started with the CRCS, and other activities towards this indicator are in process.

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 CRCS has conducted a case study on its experience addressing climate change.		1 case study	0% Activities towards this indicator have yet to be implemented.
By the end of 2012, the CRCS consider the key humanitarian trends as defined in the National Society's strategic plan during the identification and formulation of at least one of its new projects.		1 project	45% A project initiative on urban risk reduction was developed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The secretariat has begun coordination with the CRCS to update its 2011 IDRL report. Other activities will follow in order to support the CRCS's strong commitment to implement improvements in humanitarian access.

During this reporting period, the CRCS developed an urban risk project initiative oriented to resilient communities in the Colombian context and to support the National Society's participation in regional platforms related to urban risk for which it has sought funding. The CRCS has also conducted a mother-child health survey while work is underway to establish actions in community health, non-communicable diseases and a road safety platform.

The CRCS is making efforts to promote work on emerging humanitarian trends. However, the lack of funds for disaster risk management has challenged the progress of National Society in this area.

The CRCS National Disaster Management Director participated with the support of IFRC in the United Nations ITC/ILO Disaster Risk Reduction Course.

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 CRCS has completed the databank exercise.		1 exercise	0% Activities towards this indicator will be implemented in the second semester.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

While the regional representation and the National Society value these actions to allow for easier and more consistent reporting within the Federation, actions towards this end such as the provision of technical support for reporting on the Federation-Wide Reporting System indicators and the database have not been possible due to delays in the implementation of a technical support plan for the CRCS. Actions to achieve these outputs are planned for the second semester of the year.

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
By the end of January 2013, the CRCS has completed its self-assessment.		1 Self-assessment	33% The first two tasks— information for the CRCS and its commitment-- of the six tasks in this process have been completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation facilitated the participation of the CRCS Executive Director in the OCAC introductory workshop which was held following the Inter-American Conference, and the National Society confirmed its commitment to undertake the OCAC process over the course of this year. This process is composed of six tasks: information for the National Society, National Society commitment, and preparation of the self-assessment, National Society self-assessment, receipt of the results and recommendations, and

further development. During this reporting period, the first two of the six tasks included in this assessment were completed.

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 CRCS has promoted better integrated programming in disaster and crisis response compared to 2011.		100%	50% Participation in the water and sanitation-meeting in Guatemala; participation in the revision of the National Intervention Team- NIT curriculum.
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has identified at least one initiative to improve 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% Four of the eight activities comprising the volunteering in emergencies process were completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In this reporting period, the CRCS participated in the water and sanitation meeting in Guatemala. The National Intervention Team(NIT) curriculum on water and sanitation was revised and is currently in the validation process. The information from the global platform on water and sanitation has been disseminated and will be integrated in the second semester of the year. The CRCS has created a health project to improve the health of displaced persons in coordination with the Canadian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross on a bilateral basis.

The CRCS has made progress 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 was held; the questionnaire was presented to the CRCS and has been returned. 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.

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 CRCS has revised the national health plan or strategic health plan.		1 plan or strategy	25% The Federation health operational framework was disseminated. A Club 25 proposal was created and submitted.
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has at least one operational agreement with a partner outside the Movement.		1 agreement	0% Activities towards this indicator have yet to be implemented.
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has created a risk reduction initiative in an urban context.		1 initiative	25% Implementation of community-based health and first aid- (CBHFA) activities have begun.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Promoting the National Society's capacity for leadership remains a central goal for the secretariat. In addition to the dissemination of the Federation's operational framework for health, technical support was provided, which included a meeting to ensure efficient implementation.

The CRCS is committed to consolidating comprehensive integrated approaches in the areas of health, disaster risk management- DRM, organizational development and services. During this reporting period, the strategic operational Framework for health was received. The principal aim is to insert topics such as climate change, migration and violence. The CRCS has continued its work as part of the Global Alliance; however, delays were incurred given the lack of an HIV coordinator for three months. The National Society is completing the second report and seeking further funds. The total people reached by the Global Alliance are 246,000 from the general population: young people (4,211), sex workers (1,546) MSM (1,848), staff (697), and children living with HIV (126). The Club 25 proposal has been created and submitted to seek financial support. The CRCS disseminated the Design for Behaviour Change (DBC) methodology as part of the Global Alliance process. The inclusion of other topics for complementary knowledge is pending.

The CBHFA process has begun to be implemented. There are 13 branches working, 225 volunteers were trained and approximately 11,088 persons have been reached to date. Activities on non-communicable diseases and the road safety platform are underway.

Outcome: 3.5: National Society volunteers, 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 new national Volunteer Law recognizes the CRCS and is approved by the Colombian government.		1 law	100% The new law, was passed in January 2012 and recognizes the CRCS.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation provided technical support to the CRCS to participate in the discussion groups related to the volunteering law which was approved by Colombian government in January 2012. This legal framework provides incentives for volunteering to facilitate and enable the environment, such as leave of absence from the workplace without suspending the employment relationship when volunteers respond to an emergency, tuition benefits and credits in educational institutions and priority access to housing subsidies, among others.

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 mobilisation capacities and efforts of the National Societies are scaled up to inspire more reliable contributions to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has increased the number of individual donors compared to 2011.		5% more	0% Activities towards this indicator have yet to be implemented.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Despite the need to scale up resource mobilization capacities, the CRCS has been unable to work on this to date precisely because of a lack of funds. It is projected that funds will be received during the beginning of the second semester, allowing the CRCS to implement a project aimed at achieving this indicator. 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 organized the XIX Inter American Conference to define our key priorities and strategic orientations for the Americas over the next four years and monitor the outcomes.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has contributed through the working groups and its participation in the XIX Inter American Conference.		100%	100% The CRCS has contributed through the working groups and participated in the XIX Inter American Conference.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation facilitated the CRCS' participation in the XIX Inter American Conference and its working groups. The CRCS participated in the Migration, Health, Volunteering, Youth, Executive Director and Governance working groups. More than mere attendance, the CRCS's active participation was key to ensuring its progress in other areas. The CRCS was also represented within the Montrouis Commitment drafting Committee.

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

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has shared at least one tool or good practice related to services (finance, administration, human resources and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation) with another National Society in the region.		1	0% To date, no sister National Society has been identified for a peer-to-peer initiative with the CRCS.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

There are two new peer-to-peer initiatives under negotiation: one to support the Bolivian Red Cross to adopt the CRCS' project management system, and another for potential provision of support to the Peruvian Red Cross' training school.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Coordination between the CRCS, the ICRC, and the Federation is maintained through regular tripartite meetings. Additionally, the secretariat promoted two coordination meetings with the CRCS, the ICRC, PNSs, and the regional representation, to better align the actions of the National Society with a shared approach, and to promote more effective work. These efforts are on-going and will be continued in the second semester of 2012.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
The implementation of certain planned	H	Given the interest in supporting the

activities, particularly in DRM, will continue to be minimal or nil until funds are allocated.		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 Colombian Red Cross Society. The previous country support plans coordinator left early in the year, thereby delaying waylating the drafting of the operation plan and subsequently of the planned activities, until a replacement was found.	L	With the start of the new coordinator, this work is moving forward. Adjustments will most likely be made in order to reach some of the proposed outcomes for 2012.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

During the first semester of 2012, the Colombian Red Cross Society, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the secretariat, has taken strides to develop its framework for coordination with Movement and non-Movement actors. Given the CRCS's existing capacities and experience, this National Society has an opportunity to pilot innovative approaches and methodologies in areas such as urban risk. The CRCS has taken the lead in several new trends and has shown a particular interest and commitment to incorporate climate change into its work, serving as a reference National Society for the continent.

The National Society remains committed to increasing its skills to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable population in Colombia. The regional representation will continue to support these efforts in the second semester of this year.

Financial situation

The total 2012 development budget is 150,413 Swiss francs, of which 93,850 Swiss francs were received, resulting in coverage of 62.4 per cent. During this reporting period, expenditure on development programmes amounted to 19,439 Swiss francs representing 20.71 per cent of the funds received.

[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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