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CUBA

Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACU002
30 May2013

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2012
to 31 Dec 2012.**

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



Overview

The complex and unique context of the country affects the development of the Cuban Red Cross, with respect to the diversification of its financing, in the modernization of its management and facilities of the implementation of activities. However, considering the context and the limitations of funds for short-term future in Cuba, the development plan for the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) is still very ambitious.

The National Society needs to improve its communication actions through increased presence and field visits to Cuba, which is difficult sometimes due the limitation on access to media in the Cuban context and the availability of resources to do it from the regional office.

At end of October, the tropical storm Sandy affected the eastern region, during its passage through Cuba, Sandy left significant damage behind, particularly in the city of Santiago de Cuba which is not usually in the direct path of Caribbean hurricanes. The city sustained the strongest winds as it was exposed to the eastern and stronger side of the hurricane. Members of the Red Cross have coordinated efforts internally and externally in response to the emergency. In Cuba, the National Society also coordinating all its actions with local authorities, while sharing information with partners. This affectation became in an opportunity for the movement to position the Cuban Red Cross as a strong humanitarian actor and confirmed the Cuban Red Cross has ample experience working alongside the government authorities to assist in the rapid evacuation of families living in areas of risk.

Working in partnership

The Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) which has been developing a cooperation project with the CRC in disaster preparedness of vulnerable communities since 2008. During early 2012, the new NRC representative in Cuba, was introduced to the CRC to continue the cooperation and establish a near coordination with the country office.

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 IHL and Restoring Family Links (RFL), amongst others.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its country office in the Dominican Republic, provides institutional support to the Cuban Red Cross, as well as technical inputs in risk reduction management and volunteer development. Attending to operation response of Hurricane Sandy, the IFRC's disaster and crisis response and early recovery unit is also in regular contact with the Cuban Red Cross, as well as with Partner National Societies including the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, which are currently working bilaterally with the National Society.

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO) is one of the CRC's on-going donors, holding regular meetings to analyze 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	H.Sandy operation response
ICRC	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
1. By the end of 2012, the NS would develop capacities in legal preparedness for international disaster assistance and its interlocutory capacity with the Government	0	1	The CRC has designated one focal point to analyze existing legislation in reference to disaster response, working in consultation with government authorities.

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
1. In 2012, 3 NSs of the subregion, including CRC are sharing knowledge and expertise through a regional network in Latin Caribbean.	0	2 activities	<p>The Cuban Red Cross is actively preparing their staff, volunteers and their equipment to respond in disaster cases in alignment with the humanitarian trends.</p> <p>The CRC had an active participation in two important events in the region: the Seminar on Seismic Risk Reduction 2012 and the Forum of Urban Risk in both in Santo Domingo, in a multisectoral scenario with government institutions and international partners.</p>

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRC is currently analysing existing legislation in reference to disaster response, and has already have identified relevant gaps and met with authorities to propose recommendations. The IFRC expressed its readiness to provide technical assistance and examples of terms of reference and Q&A to facilitate analysis of existing legislation.

Next year, it will be integrate the CRC within IDRL projects.

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
1. The NS has provide and complete the requirements of DATABANK through presentation in paper by the end of 2012.	0	1	Although the CRC expected to have the information for the databank by November it has not been achieved. The CRC is aware of the use of the tool, but completion of the formats to provide information was affected by the emergency arose in October.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

IT limitations and issues with internet access, as well as the emergencies which took place on 2012 have slowed the process for the CRC. The IFRC country coordination office is working on a strategy to support to the CRC on the completion with the Databank requirements and their input in the system.

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
1. In the second half of 2012, the NS has a trained 1 focal point for the process of OCAC	0	1 person	Not achieved in 2012

Comments on progress towards outcomes

At the moment this target has not yet been achieved. It will have to be postponed to 2013.

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
1. 2 members of NS have completed and are prepared with knowledge of standards of relief operations.	0	2 members	At the moment this target has not been achieved. It will have to be postponed to 2013.
2. It acknowledged the support of the Federation and Cuban RC in projects in Cuba.	0	1	The CRC has worked with the Norwegian Red Cross in the development of a DIPECHO proposal. The CRC has also received support from the Caribbean DIPECHO.

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

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. In 2012, The CRC has integrated climate change approach in the Risk Management.	0	1	As national policy and part of the strategic plan of CRC is promoting social mobilization towards greener lifestyle. It has also integrated the climate change approach in their plans and within VCA practice.

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
1. By November 2012, the CRC has successfully completed the execution of the activities and reports.	0	1 final report	Emergency items stock for up to 1,500 families is available for distribution. The stock of NFI was managed by CRC to provide first response for families affected by Hurricane Sandy.
2. Increase the capacity of the Cuban RC to address and respond to emergencies.			Emergency items stock for up to 1,500 families is available for distribution.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In case of branch of Santiago de Cuba, members of relief operations use the sphere manual as consultation tool, but it is still necessary to provide them a training and to roll-out the practice to other branches

An integrated programme management workshop took place on December, and had the participation of 34 volunteers of the CRC. The workshop also integrated climate change approach within Risk Management.

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
1. By the end of 2012, 14 branches of NS facilitate to other municipal branches the support in development branches planning.	0	14	54 staff people from 26 branches from both branches and HQ of the CRC participated and received knowledge in S2020, the IFRC disaster response system of the Federation, and new IFRC frameworks.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The "CRC National Management School" initiative, was developed on February 2012, and had active participation. General Secretaries and staff from the branches followed a basic Red Cross course, which included international and regional Red Cross perspectives. The IFRC office in Santo Domingo has supported this initiative for the last two years and is committed to continue the actions, providing technical and financial support to strengthen the knowledge of the members of CRC.

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
1. 1,500 families have been reached in the community orientation of the main risks in disaster situations.	0	1,500	There were no funds to produce these guidelines, nor projects that could cover this activity. It has been postponed for 2013.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

At the moment this target has not yet been achieved. It will have to be postponed to 2013.

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.

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Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. In 2012, 6 volunteer representatives have participated in 3 relevant events.	0	6	1 volunteer of CRC has participated in YABC in Haiti. She is the CRC focal point for the dissemination of the tools and knowledge sharing in within the National Society.
2. In 2012, the material of volunteering in emergencies has reached at least in 14 provincial branches, available in hard copies and digital media.	0	14	Electronic versions of information related to volunteering has been delivered. There are hard copies available, which will be shared when the volunteering delegate visits the National Society.
3. At the end 2012, the Database application system implementation is in course.	0	1	At the moment, and taking in account the Cuban context, they prepared a electronic template to capture the information of volunteering registries in all the branches. It's necessary to provide follow up to this initiative.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The country coordination office has provided support in promoting and facilitating the participation of CRC volunteers in the different events in the region and organising local activities to share experience and knowledge with volunteers of CRC.

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
1. The RRO has sponsored 2 people of the NS to participate at the IAC 2012	0	2	Three staff people of the Cuban RC participated in IAC2012. With these representatives the NS acquired the inputs to share with the Cuban RC and include it in their National Development Plan 2012-2020.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The IFRC country office facilitated the participation of the CRC in the IAC and inclusion in works groups to contribute to generate initiatives to implement inside the organisation.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
- Delays in the arrival of some resources have set back compliance with some indicators	M	-Advances with cooperation agreements with the authorities in Cuba.
- The coordination with Norwegian Red Cross	L	- Strengthen coordination with new 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	-Concretize regular cooperation agreements with the government
- New regulations or adjustments in all sectors will affect the cooperation in Cuba.	H	-Introduction of rules and laws for cooperation in disaster in Cuba.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

As reflected in our 2012 plan is very ambitious and we know the current context and the limitations of funds for short-term future in Cuba. Financial situation to implement activities must be considered hereinafter.

Financial Situation

Click [here](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF/Process/LTPF/2012/SP249CULTPF_12arf.pdf) to go directly to the financial report.: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF/Process/LTPF/2012/SP249CULTPF_12arf.pdf

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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