


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Colombia Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACO001

13 May 2013

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2012
to 31 December 2012**

*Red Cross volunteers organise different
recreation activities for children from El
Calvario neighbourhood. Elkin Díaz / IFRC*



Overview

The regional representation for the Andean countries (regional representation) provided a diversity of support to the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) in 2012 so that the National Society could better fulfil its humanitarian mission. Particular reinforcement was given in the areas of disaster management, health and care, and organizational development. These joint actions were done in alignment with International Movement strategies and standards, including *Strategy 2020* and the Inter-American Framework for Action 2012-2016.

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

The CRCS also coordinates with non-Movement actors. As part of its work on HIV and AIDS and other issues, some of its 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 contact and coordination with State bodies in fulfilment of its auxiliary role in 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% Secretariat coordination began with the CRCS.

Comments on progress towards outcomes
The International Disaster Response Law- IDRL zone focal point established contact with the CRCS on this issue and to start the updating of the 2011 IDRL report. The CRCS maintains a strong commitment to humanitarian access and continue to improve its capacities in this area.

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% No activities were completed.
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 CRCS developed an urban risk project initiative focused on building resilient communities and in support of the National Society's participation in regional platforms on urban risk. Efforts were made to identify and obtain funding for this approach.
The CRCS has also conducted a mother-child health survey and a draft report on maternal, newborn and child health in the Americas was disseminated
The CRCS attended the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) regional meeting in Lima in December, which included a sustained focus on behavioural change communication, non-communicable diseases, and urban risk. The secretariat supported the mobilization of peer National Societies from

Venezuela to assist the CRCS with manners to improve the implementation of the CBHFA approach.

The lack of funds for disaster risk management (DRM) has challenged the progress of the National Society in incorporating these trends and integrating the work, particular with the DRM area. The CRCS National Disaster Management Director, with IFRC support, participated in the United Nations ITC/ILO Disaster Risk Reduction Course.

Nevertheless, in collaboration with OSSO corporation disaster risk reduction training was organised in the Colombian Red Cross Society training centre in Cali. New trends in urban risk and disaster risk reduction were presented to all the national disaster management directors.

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	20%

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The technical support plan for the CRCS was delayed, thus generating further deferment in the plans to implement the Federation-Wide Reporting System indicators and the database. However, the National Society has started to update its information up to 2012 in the databank.

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	67% Four of the six tasks were completed: information for the CRCS and confirmation of its commitment- in this process, preparation of self-assessment, and NS self-assessment.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRCS completed four of the six tasks in the self-assessment process. The secretariat facilitated the participation of the CRCS Executive Director in the introductory workshop on OCAC. The National Society sent a letter confirming its commitment to conducting the self-assessment in 2012. An OCAC workshop was held in November for the self-assessment.

The two remaining steps-- receipt of the results and recommendations and the further development-- will be completed in 2013 based on the results of the self-assessment.

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%	100% Participation in the water and sanitation meeting in Guatemala and in the regional CBHFA meeting in Peru.
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	100% Support provided for the terms of reference, interview with CRCS, and questionnaire completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRCS participated in the water and sanitation meeting in Guatemala in the first half of the year. The revision of the National Intervention Team- NIT curriculum on water and sanitation was completed and the global platform on water and sanitation disseminated it.

Through bilateral cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross, the CRCS created a health project to improve the health of displaced population in the country.

The CRCS participated in the global CBHFA meeting in December in Peru, where participants from the National Societies in the Americas strengthened their skills through an integrated approach to crisis management. Alongside the content, which included urban risk, participants conducted a comprehensive assessment of a marginal urban community in Lima. In 2012, the CRCS reached 11,088 people with CBHFA activities.

The CRCS has completed the activities composing the regional assessment of the application of common minimum standards for volunteering in emergencies: 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 CRCS strengthened its national relief department's capacities with a diverse range of activities in 2012. A member of this department participated in the International Labour Organization (ILO) course on "Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Local Development", which innovatively used online and in-person methodology over an eight-month period. The National Society additionally participated in a British study on resilient communities on community organization work in risk management and approaches employing this topic. The results of the study will be disseminated in mid-2013.

In addition, the National Society sat in on the III Regional Platform on Risk Reduction, which was held in Chile in October. This opportunity allowed the CRCS to update its knowledge of risk management and reduction and gain further experience in this area.

At a national level, the CRCS organized a forum on urban risk for authorities from different municipalities in Colombia. The organization of the event contributed to fortifying their knowledge and their improved positioning on the issue. The forum participants analyzed the disaster risk management in urban spaces and contexts.

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	100% Activities were completed.
By the end of 2012, the CRCS has created a risk reduction initiative in an urban context.		1 initiative	50% Implementation of CBHFA activities have begun.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The CRCS has conducted activities to consolidate an integrated approach to health, disaster risk management, organizational development and services.

The strategic operational framework for health was circulated with the goal of incorporating topics such as climate change, migration and violence.

During 2012, the CRCS continued its work as part of the Global Alliance, reaching 68,370 people directly and 215,107 people indirectly for a total of 283,477 people reached. This work is mainly conducted with men who have sex with men, vulnerable youths, sex workers, people in prison settings, and pregnant mothers. The Club 25 proposal was created and submitted to request financial support. The Global Alliance work has supported internal order, homogenization of indicators, relations with other organizations and the creation of multi-disciplinary teams. The CRCS disseminated the Design for Behaviour Change (DBC) methodology as part of the Global Alliance process. The CRCS alongside other Club 25 members from National Societies in the Andean countries regularly disseminates its reports, tools and information regarding alliance building on the issues.

The implementation of the CBHFA process began with the active participation of 13 branches. At least 225 volunteers were trained in this approach and approximately 11,088 persons have been reached to date.

The CRCS health coordinator attended the CBHFA regional meeting in Lima in December, which included a sustained focus on behavioural change communication, non-communicable diseases, and urban risk.

The National Society continued its work on road safety.

The CRCS, with the contacts facilitated by the regional representation, established a collaboration agreement with the Colombian Federation of Municipalities to mainstream disaster risk reduction and create a framework for partnership in this area.

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 passed in January 2012 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	50% The CRCS invested in telemarketing.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the last quarter of 2012, the CRCS invested in telemarketing as part of its search for new individual donors. This activity was supported by the regional representation with Norwegian Red Cross funding. Due to the delay in obtaining the funds, the results will be measured during the first semester of 2013.

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 (IAC) 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		100%	100% The CRCS participated in

in the XIX Inter American Conference.			working groups and the XIX Inter American Conference.
---------------------------------------	--	--	---

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation facilitated the CRCS's participation in the XIX Inter-American Conference and its working groups. The National Society successfully participated in the conference and working groups on 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	25% The project management system was analyzed and a proposal from the CRCS is pending.

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. The secretariat visited the Colombian Red Cross Society to discuss the possibility of sharing the CRCS project management system with the Bolivian Red Cross; the proposal for this action remained pending at the end of the year.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The CRCS, the ICRC, and the IFRC regularly hold tripartite meetings to address the strengthening of the National Society via feedback from its Movement partners. This was also done through coordination meetings with the CRCS, the ICRC, Participating National Societies in the country, and the regional representation to better organize efforts and actions, contributing to more efficient and effective humanitarian actions in Colombia. All parties benefit from these meetings, which are programmed to continue in 2013.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
The CRCS's progress in certain areas, particularly DRM and resource mobilization, has been seriously delayed or continually postponed due to the lack of allocated funds.	H	As mentioned above, this is a quagmire created by unfinished or postponed activities, which cyclically undermine future planning. If these activities were implemented, they could potential contribute to identifying and obtaining new funding resources.

The change of the CRCS Director General could delay or risk the consolidation of the National Society's organisational change process.	L	Leadership change often implies an adjustment period. It is important that the secretariat support the change process involving the CRCS Director General to ensure the sustainability of the organizational change process.
Staff changes (country plan coordinator) at the regional level delayed the creation of the CRC's operational plan.	L	The delays incurred due to staff changes at the level of the secretariat, as well as in the National Society, can be decreased by the compliance with streamlined operational systems that allow for efficient and effective hand-overs.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

At the internal level, renewed energies have been demonstrated this year to facilitate better and more frequent communication between the Colombian Red Cross Society and other International Movement actors. The National Society, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the secretariat, has developed and is currently implementing coordination mechanisms that serve all the Movement actors present in the country. Furthermore, similar mechanisms have been established for non-Movement stakeholders and partners.

The CRCS is piloting the CBHFA approach and the urban risk focus, taking a regional lead in addressing new humanitarian trends related to these topics and unreservedly providing and receiving peer support from National Societies in the Americas. The National Society additionally has expressed interest in incorporating climate change into its work.

Faced with an ongoing and historic humanitarian crisis, the Colombian Red Cross Society reiterates its commitment to continue to comprehensively accompany and respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable population in the country in 2013. The secretariat through its regional representation shares this commitment and will continue supporting the National Society in these actions.

Financial situation

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

http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF/Process/LTPF/2012/SP246COLTPF_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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Colombian Red Cross, in Bogota:** Walter Cotte, Executive Director; email: direjecutivowrc@cruzrojacolombiana.org; phone: + 571 437-6324; and fax + 571 660-7010
- **In the regional representation for the Andean countries, in Lima:** Iñigo Barrena, regional representative for the Andean countries; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org; phone: + 511 221 8333; and fax: + 511 4413607.
- In the Americas zone, in Panama; phone: + 507 317 3050 and fax + 507 317 1304.
 - Jan Gelfand, head of operations; email: jan.gelfand@ifrc.org
 - Sandra Lombardo, resource mobilization officer; email: sandra.lombardo@ifrc.org