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Ecuadorian Red Cross Annual Report 2013

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAEC001

07 May 2014

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2013
to 31 December 2013**

*The Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers met
in 2013. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross*



Overview

The regional representation for the Andean countries (regional representation) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) in alignment with International Movement strategies and standards, including *Strategy 2020* and the Inter-American Framework for Action 2012-2016.

Particular reinforcement was given to the ERC in the areas of disaster relief, disaster risk reduction and international disaster law.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	In-country presence
American Red Cross	Bilateral projects
German Red Cross	Bilateral projects
Italian Red Cross	Bilateral projects
Spanish Red Cross	Bilateral projects
Norwegian Red Cross	Support through the IFRC

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line I: Humanitarian Standards

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.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
By the end of 2012, the ERC has more knowledge regarding national legislation for international disaster response compared to 2011.	0	100%	15% The ERC has more knowledge, but further action with state authorities is needed.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has strengthened its auxiliary role, promoting the humanitarian access in its country, compared to 2012.	0	100%	100% Proposal for legal changes related to laws concerning disasters.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The ERC successfully instigated and facilitated a participatory process with state and non-state stakeholders on domestic legislation regarding disaster response and relief. Beginning in 2012 with a project, led by the Americas Zone focal point for international disaster response law (IDRL)—now referred to as international disaster law—, actions were initiated with the regional representation and the ERC National Disaster Risk Management Secretary and then with the pertinent Ecuadoran authorities. The project was launched in 2013 with a series of meetings and workshops to draft a proposal of the needed changes to the Ecuadoran legislation on disasters. The regional DIPECHO VIII project continued the process and sponsored one of the two workshops held in 2013. The process concluded with the finalization of proposal for legal changes in the Ecuadoran domestic legislation on this topic. However, more attention is required for the follow-up that will guarantee these modifications and additions.

Additionally, the DIPECHO-funded regional project plans to continue work to support the ERC in its auxiliary role in humanitarian issues. Emphasis will be made so that the ERC can participate in CAPRADE events and other related working groups on humanitarian access in the country.

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	0	1	0%

case study on one of the external trends based on its experience.		case study	No activities were implemented to attain 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.	0	1 project	60% The mother-child health survey was completed and the ERC participated in the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) regional workshop.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the ERC made progress towards understanding and promoting key humanitarian trends in its work. A mother-child health survey was completed and a draft report on maternal, new-born and child health in the Americas was disseminated. The ERC health focal point attended a CBHFA regional meeting, which focused on behavioural change communication, non-communicable diseases, and urban risk. The ERC received information about road safety. The ERC health area underwent internal restructuring.

This indicator was not included as such in 2013. There was no follow-up on the planned case study on external trends due to the lack of funding for this action.

The CBHFA approach has been central to the National Society's moving into integrated programming.

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 (FWRS) 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.	0	1 exercise	50% This was only partially completed in 2012.
By the end of January 2014, the ERC have completed the FWRS exercise	Partially completed exercise	1 exercise	100% The FDRS data tracker reports full compliance by the ERC.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the ERC partially completed the information solicited in the databank exercise. It established an online system to collect data relating to the FWRS seven proxy indicators which can be shared with and replicated in other National Societies.

As this indicator was included in 2013, the ERC was able to full comply with the requirements of the now named Federation-wide Database and Reporting System (FDRS). The ERC is able to provide support in this area to other sister National Societies. The online FDRS data tracker lists that the National Society is in full compliance. As such, the ERC is contributing to transparent knowledge sharing within the International Movement.

Output 1.3.1: Organizational Capacity Assessment and certification (OCAC) process established.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
By the end of 2013, the ERC has completed its organizational assessment workshop (as part of OCAC) and received the results and recommendations from the Secretariat	0	1 workshop	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Despite having created this indicator for 2013, no activities were implemented towards this end. The lack of financial resources combined with deficient coordination mechanisms between Geneva and the regional representation have resulted in a complete standstill of this activity.

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	Year to Date Actual
By the end of 2013, at least two members of the ERC staff have contributed to improve the ERC curricula on risk management with an integrated programme approach for the National Society Institute	0	2	100% Two representatives from the ERC finished their participation in a course
By the end of 2013, the ERC institute will be considered as part of reference centres' resources in the Americas Zone, such as the one in Costa Rica	0	Undetermined target	100% The ERC participated in the livelihoods workshop in Chile

Comments on progress towards outcomes

These indicators were new to 2013 and reflected the need to strengthen one of the ERC's strongest assets: its Technological Institute. Two ERC staff from the institute took the DELNET course on urban risk (resilient communities) and fully completed it in December 2013. They will share the acquired knowledge in 2014 via the ERC Technological Institute to ERC volunteers and other individuals and institutions from outside the ERC.

Furthermore, three ERC representatives (the rector the ERC Technological Institute; the national

coordination of local development and planning; a technical staff person from the health and community development programme) participated in the livelihoods continental workshop in Chile. All of the participants committed to replicate this activity in their own countries, particularly inviting the national risk management secretariat, based on the commitment of the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) approved by ECHO and the Spanish Red Cross. In November 2013, the three participants organised livelihoods training in Ecuador con with ERC staff and volunteers from different departments.

Furthermore, during 2013 the regional representation began negotiations with DELNET to adapt one of its training modules to local risk management and local development as part of the DIPECHO regional project. This action, now planned for implementation in 2014, aims to strengthen the ERC institute's staff capacities to facilitate this course in the region.

The actions undertaken towards this output in 2013 have contributed to better identifying and addressing new humanitarian trends.

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.	0	100%	30% Participation in the water and sanitation meeting in Guatemala and in the regional CBHFA meeting in Peru.
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.	0	1 initiative	50% Support provided for the Terms of reference, interview with ERC, and questionnaire completed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the secretariat supported the ERC to adopt more integrated approaches. As part of the health component, 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 revision of the National Intervention Team- NIT curriculum on water and sanitation was completed, which was disseminated by the global platform on water and sanitation.

The ERC participated in the global CBHFA meeting in December 2013 in Peru, in which participants from the National Societies in the Americas strengthened their skills in an integrated approach to crisis management. Alongside the content, which included urban risks, participants conducted a comprehensive assessment of a marginal urban community in Lima.

The ERC 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, interviews with the volunteer coordinator and external actors. This action was not extended in 2013, as it was part of the previous DIPECHO-supported regional project. The ERC later signed an agreement with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and with the Ecuadoran Association of Scouts. Specific actions related to the regional assessment have not been implemented due to the lack of funding.

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.	0	1 plan	50% The IFRC health operational framework was disseminated.
By the end of 2012, the ERC has at least one operational agreement with a partner outside of the Movement.	0	1 agreement	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has designed at least one project with an integrated programme approach	0	1 project	100% Project with integrated programme approach designed.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the secretariat supported the ERC to implement the health actions through the Global Alliance work on HIV and launch its CBHFA approach through training of branch-level volunteers. The health focal point attended the regional CBHFA meeting in Lima in December 2012. This same year, the regional representation presented the ERC with the Strategic Operational Framework in health, which was programmed for use to incorporate climate change, urban risk and non-communicable diseases in the ERC operational plan.

In 2013, the secretariat shared a presentation/guide on integrated programmes with the ERC so it could eventually organize a forum on integrated approaches to local development. Due to the lack of financial resources for this indicator, the actions towards its attainment have not been implemented.

The National Society presented a project proposal with an integrated programme approach to the Inter-American Development Bank in May 2013. Although the project was not approved for funding, it will be presented to other funding agencies.

The ERC, with secretariat support, is establishing a foundation in which its actions are integrated. This focus allows it to better implement comprehensive actions with communities that contribute to inclusion and a culture of peace.

Outcome 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: The National Society is addressing major trends and challenges contributing to vulnerability.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
To be defined by DIPECHO project	Undefined	Undefined	0% No activities were implemented to

			attain this indicator.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

This indicator was not defined or attained in 2013. As part of the DIPECHO regional project for the 2013-2014 period, the secretariat plans to support the ERC in its advocacy actions with decision makers on disaster risk management (DRM). Efforts will be made to develop the National Society's capacities in knowledge development through regional-level activities that form a part of the project in 2014.

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.	0	15 facilitators	100% 15 facilitators were trained.
By the end of 2012, the ERC has supported the organization of a zone workshop in Development of Volunteering.	0	21 participants	67% 14 members of the National Society participated in the workshop in October 2012.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has extended in at least two more branches the leadership and governance training for volunteering, as part of an integrated development project for branches.	Current level	2	20% Progress during this period has been minimal.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the zone volunteering coordinator and the country support coordinator worked with the National Society staff to establish a training of facilitators project in leadership and governance. The training project resulted in the ERC having 15 facilitators in governance issues oriented to branch-level volunteers.

The secretariat and the ERC worked together to organize a zone-level volunteer development workshop in October 2012 for 14 participants. The Latin America Volunteering Network was reactivated.

In 2013, the secretariat provided technical support to design an integrated development project for branches.

After some changes in the zone volunteering coordinator position, the National Society volunteering coordinator received support and guidance in this area, including the Americas Zone work plan and other guidance from the secretariat in Geneva. The lack of funds has not allowed the secretariat to implement further actions in this area and fully attain the indicator.

With secretariat support for volunteering issues, the ERC is continually increasing its efforts to efficiently manage, provide new training opportunities in humanitarian issues and count on the diverse capacities of its volunteers.

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
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By the end of 2012, the ERC has increased the participation of its youth volunteers by three per cent.	Current level	3% increase	100% This indicator is related to the first indicator in outcome 3.5.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

As this indicator is related to the first indicator in outcome 3.5 of 2012, the ERC successfully attained this indicator. The workshops on governance and leadership for volunteers increased youth participation; more than the 50% of the trainings' participants were volunteers in their early twenties.

This indicator was not included as such in 2013.

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.	0	1 service strengthened	100% 3 new branches strengthened their accountability capacities.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has identified a non-traditional initiative on corporate social responsibility	0	1 initiative identified	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The indicator on strengthening one service is related to output 5.6.1. Funded by the Norwegian Red Cross through the IFRC, the secretariat provided support for updating the ERC administrative and financial system in three provincial branches (Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Chimborazo and Pastaza). The ERC strengthened the accountability capacities of its branches so it can readily and transparently implement future received funds through its national resource mobilization strategy.

As a continuation of this in 2013, it was planned that the secretariat would provide technical support to the ERC to identify the potential of obtaining funds through corporate social responsibility initiatives. However, the ERC was unable to implement this activity due the lack of sufficient funds. Sufficient funds are required to leverage other funds.

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 on the outcomes.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
By the end of 2012, the ERC has	0	100%	100%

contributed through the working groups and its participation in the XIX Inter-American Conference (IAC)			The ERC participated in working groups and the XIX Inter-American Conference.
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Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2012, the regional representation facilitated the ERC's participation in the XIX Inter-American Conference and its working groups. This indicator, while important, was not continued in 2013 because it was based on a one-time event. However, the secretariat has supported the ERC to continue to manage, share and improve its knowledge, skills and capacities with other components of the International Movement.

Outcome 5.2: The IFRC Framework for Evaluation is upheld for all secretariat-funded programmes and activities.

Output 5.2.1: Peer-to-peer initiatives around support services (finance, administration, human resources and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation) are promoted among 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.	0	1	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has extended in at least two more branches the implementation of its Strategy and Project/Programme Planning (PPP) course as part of an integrated development project for branches	Current level	2	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.
By the end of January 2014, the ERC have supported other National Societies on FWRS	0	Unspecified target	0% No activities were implemented to attain this indicator.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Knowledge sharing in support services is generally underfunded. Furthermore, the secretariat should ideally support peer-to-peer learning, distinct constraints to attaining these indicators exist. In 2013 the regional representation and the ERC were unable to identify opportunities for peer-to-peer initiatives and unable to do so for the FWRS due to the lack of financial resources. However, the National Society has continued to work on the topic with their own funds.

While there was an attempt to follow-up on the PPP workshop in early 2013, this was unable to be conducted due to the lack of financial resources and time. Increased efforts are required to follow-up in this area or decisive strategizing that acknowledges the inability to implement PPP activities due to financial challenges.

Joint work within the International Movement, particularly between National Societies in the Andean region, is not only dependent on the skills available, but also the financial resources to make this possible.

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.	0	3 branches	100% The project was fully implemented.
By the end of 2013, the ERC has extended in at least two more branches the dissemination of its administrative and financial system as part of an integrated development project for branches.	3	5	50% Technical assistance was provided at the national level and the branch level is pending.
By the end of 2013, the ERC have moved from the working advance (WA) system to the Cash Transfer system.	WA	Cash Transfer	50% This indicator has been partially attained. Final approval pending from Geneva.

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As detailed in output 4.3.1, in 2012, the regional representation, with Norwegian Red Cross funding, supported the extension of the ERC administrative and financial system in three provincial branches (Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Chimborazo and Pastaza). This project, implemented by the National Society, includes the system software, internet access and trainings.

In 2013, the ERC received technical guidance from the finance officer from Argentina to make the needed adjustments to its administrative and financial system. The follow-up to the cash transfer process was to conduct a mission to the ERC to revise its financial and administrative processes, and gather pertinent information, to solicit approval from Geneva for cash transfer process for the National Society. However, approval remained pending at the end of the year.

The attainment of part of this outcome is a contribution to the ERC's process to adapt its administrative and financial processes to IFRC standards. While this outcome continues to be useful in plans for 2014, it is imperative that these efforts are also assigned the pertinent funds.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The secretariat works with the Ecuadorian Red Cross to define strategy, coordinate actions and evaluate achievements and challenges.

Additionally, the regional DIPECHO project is supporting the National Society to strengthen its capacities to serve as resource for sister National Societies in the region on local risk management and local development. This aspect of the project contains a component that fosters participation by local stakeholders (local decision makers and community leaders).

Furthermore, the presentation of proposed legal preparations, including a plan of action, required for Ecuador to receive international support in disaster situations, took place with a wide range of stakeholders. This participative process was undertaken with representatives from state institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, international cooperation agencies and the National Society and the secretariat. During the diverse meetings and events, the ERC gathered feedback from the participants that directly contributed to improving its manner of leading and facilitating the establishment of a more complete set of domestic laws related to disasters.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<p>In recent years, the secretariat has been repeatedly faced with reduced financial resources to offer tailor-made support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross. This risk has frequently led to the lack of, or delay of, planned actions to reach established indicators.</p>	H	<p>Despite the presence of a secretariat delegate in the National Society, to manage the DIPECHO regional project, the secretariat has been unable to address this noticeable challenge. Sustained efforts are needed to ensure that funds are available on an annual basis to implement actions with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. Additional coordination efforts are required between secretariat programmes to combine limited resources and still support the ERC as a well-recognized and essential humanitarian actor in Ecuador.</p>
<p>As possible, the secretariat has positively fostered the capacity building of the ERC in training events held outside Ecuador.</p>	H	<p>The ERC is progressively strengthening its capacities, particularly those that comply with IFRC standards, and support is required for the dissemination of skills acquired at the branch level.</p>
<p>The ERC has a highly functional resource in its Training Institute that can be better disseminated to sister National Societies, as well as potentially serve as a funding source for actions undertaken with the secretariat</p>	M	<p>The DIPECHO regional project (2013-2014) is taking advantage and strengthening this institutional resource. Following up on this project, efforts should be made to ensure the continuation of the peer-to-peer training that the ERC will offer select National Societies in the region and DIPECHO partner organizations.</p>

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The financial constraints of the secretariat have limited the type of support that has been available to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in 2013. One of the most important lessons of this past year is the manner in which coordinated efforts between different components of the secretariat (regional, zone and headquarters) have contributed to a multi-pronged programmatic and administrative accompaniment.

However, the secretariat remains challenged—and should address this issue in 2014—to translate this type of successful coordination to attain the indicators that were not fully attained in 2012 and 2013. As several of the planned actions for the past two years depended on distinct secretariat components, effective and efficient communication between the responsible offices, and most importantly with the National Society, will strengthen the ability of the Ecuadorian Red Cross to comply with the three strategic aims of *Strategy 2020* to save lives, enable healthy and safe living and promote social inclusion and peace.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report:

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2013/MAAEC00113arf.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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