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# Costa Rican Red Cross Annual Report 2013

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAACR001**  
**03 July 2014**

**This report covers the  
period 1 January to 31  
December 2013.**

*Costa Rican Red Cross Strategic Plan  
presentation. Source: Costa Rican Red  
Cross*



## Overview

In 2013, the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) working in conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Costa Rica implemented a plan that promoted the development of processes that had a major impact on the definition of positions and strategic documents of the institution. The National Society capacities in community work were reinforced through DIPECHO project VIII.

The country plan activities implemented helped the National Society to strengthen its positioning platform management and emergency care in the country. In 2013 the alignment work and formulation of plans gave the Costa Rican Red Cross the opportunity to make visible their commitment and contribution to support national and Central American policies and Risk Management.

The country support plan for Costa Rica allowed to coordinate and direct the resources and the available initiatives in a coordinated manner based on the dynamic and context of the Costa Rican Red Cross. The National Society in coordination with the IFRC country office innovated the adaptation and application of existing pilot tools for community work. The National Society reinforced the interest and comprehension of the community needs and the importance of working at municipal level and with the beneficiaries.

## Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
American Red Cross	Memorandum of Understanding--Bilateral
ECHO	Multilateral
NORAD	Multilateral

## Progress towards outcomes

### Business Line I: To raise 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	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. During 2012 on a weekly Red Cross Youth radio programme the National Society informs the public about its work through the dissemination of the institutional doctrine of Movement Principles and Values	100%	During 2013 at least 35 radio programs mentioned articles on doctrine and principles of the Red Cross.
2. At the end of 2013 the Central Plan will be updated with the MECREG and legal aspects of the international humanitarian response to be released in Costa Rica	1 plan	In 2013, the Central Regional Plan was updated in a participatory manner. It will be released by the National Emergency Commission (CNE).
3. At the end of 2013 is the first completed Checklist for Legislators on the legal aspects of humanitarian assistance - Disaster Act - is produced and contributes to MECREG.	1 checklist	Developed the legislators Checklist, which has been shared with authorities. This list collects important issues that policymakers should take into account the laws of humanitarian assistance.
4. By the end of 2013 the National Society harmonizes its risk management policy with the Central and Regional Policy Framework.	1 policy	In November 2013, the National Society harmonized its management and strategic plans with the Central American Policy.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Through the DIPECHO VIII project the National Society capitalizes on the opportunity of alignment of their emergency response processes and risk management policies with the existing documents of the Central American region. This same process also allowed the strategic positioning of the National Society with the National Emergency Commission as a strategic partner in the complementary work on risk management from municipalities and at the national level.

#### 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:

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The National Society, with secretariat support, will facilitate a space to analyse violence, migration, urban risk, and climate change in marginal populations that contributes to the drafting of its Strategic Development	At least one meeting for discussion	In 2012 the First Urban Risk Forum was organized by the CRRC.

Plan 2013–2017.		
2. The CRRC, with Secretariat support, will implement an impact study on the ambulance service and the migrant population.	1 study	The new templates will facilitate the collection of information, but the indicator is not yet completed.
3. At least 50 per cent of the governance and management bodies receive information and training on the trends and lines of action related to risk reduction, adaptation to climate change, violence prevention and migration in the national context.	100%	Through 2020 strategy and MAI workshops forums and meetings, 2012 was a year of promoting the interest in trends such Urban Risk
4. The National Society is part of at least one inter-agency platform or partnership related to key trends or emerging health issues (non-communicable diseases, migration, violence prevention or climate change)	At least 1 inter-agency platform	The Inter-agency platform was established during the REDCAMP-Health networking meeting that took place on September 2012.
5. The National Society staff/volunteers participate in inter-agency platforms, and regional events related to key trends and emerging health issues.	Undefined target	Presence in regional activities and continental events.
6. The National Society staff/volunteers participate in two virtual seminars carried out during 2012 to better understand key trends in relation to health within regional context	2 virtual seminars	Virtual seminars took place after the REDCAMP-Health networking meeting in September 2012.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the reporting period, the CRRC took part of the REDCAMP-Health networking meeting in order to share experience and discuss new issues related to health as non-communicable diseases, migration, violence prevention and climate change adaptation and urban risk reduction.

Progress towards the output above is reflected under the Business Line II and III below.

**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 Americas**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The Costa Rican Red Cross strengthens its planning, monitoring and evaluation processes by applying the Federation Wide Reporting System.	Undefined target	Updated information on the seven indicators.

**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	Annual Target	Implementation to date
On 2012 the National Society, with regional representation assistance, continues the phase of self-assessment with OCAC process.	1 process	A self-assessment exercise took place in September 2012.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In the month of September the self-assessment exercise of the first phase of OCAC was implemented by representatives of the CRRC, who defined different development opportunities that require investments and efforts. On the last semester of 2012 the National Society defined and adjusted the information forms required to report the progress on the annual operation plan with the aim to improve the data collection to update the FWRS.

**Outcome 1.4: The professional qualifications and competencies of the Red Cross volunteers and staff are strengthened, enabling National Societies to take the lead in addressing new risks and vulnerabilities.**

**Output 1.4.1 The capacity of the National Societies to provide professional qualifications and competences to volunteers and staff at all levels is strengthened.**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The CRRC, with secretariat support, incorporates the secretariat learning platform into its knowledge management system.	20% increase	New incorporation of at least 75 people who are using the system
2. At the end of 2013, the National Society through DesAprender platform documents the implementation of Urban Risk tools in Jaco.	Undefined target	Problems with the platform did not allow to document the implementation in DesAprender.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The learning and training system of the National Society was under evaluation in 2012 with the goal of finding and defining spaces of integration and new approaches.

In 2013, while urban risk tools were applied in select communities through community committees and volunteers job systematization was not possible due to technical difficulties in the DesAprender platform.

**Business Line II: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people.**

**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	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. First Urban Risk Reduction Forum.	1 forum	The forum took place in November 2012.
2. The National Society has validated the revised training curricula for RIT and NIT health in emergencies and water and sanitation training.	At least 1 revision	Qualified members of the National Society participated in several regional processes to validate training curricula.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

During this period, the International Federation supported the CRRC in integrating water and sanitation into operations. In an effort to facilitate information sharing within the water and sanitation sector, the Americas Zone Office (AZO) has established online services with the purpose of maintaining updated contact

information, sharing information, and hosting discussion forums.

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

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The National Society holds health meetings to discuss the links between Urban Risk and water and sanitation, health in emergencies and community health programs for further interventions.	Undefined target	Meetings to define the kind of interventions took place in the last semester.
2. At the end of 2013, the National Society has been involved in the adaptation of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in Urban incorporating the thematic contexts of Climate Change and violence in urban settings.	At least 1 meeting for VCA discussion	The adaptation process of VCA was carried out incorporating thematic context and urban food security and livelihoods.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The National Society was part of the revision of health in emergencies curricula interventions, but more activities to involve the CRRC were carried out during the second semester such as the Urban Risk Forum.

#### Output 2.1.3 Climate change adaptation is integrated into disaster and crisis management.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The National Society holds health meetings to discuss the links between Urban Risk and water and sanitation, health in emergencies and community health programs for further interventions.	At least 1 meeting	Meetings to define the kind of interventions took place in the last semester.

#### Output 2.1.4: Better Programming Initiatives mainstreamed in programming and services to communities of origin and host communities impacted by migration

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The CRRC, with Secretariat technical assistance, establishes a Community Health office.	1 health office	Terms of reference for the officer were defined and presented to the National Board.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The National Society defined a Community Health officer to address the community development and related projects.

**Outcome 2.2: An efficient and effective Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in the Americas will lead and inspire through strengthened capacity and coordination of all components focusing on increased shared operational responsibility with National Societies, improved mapping, the inclusion of innovative technology, creating new approaches and tools to address external trends in the zone and improved early warning/early action.**

**Output 2.2.2 The disaster and crisis response system in the Americas will be forward looking through innovation and by taking maximum advantage of the resources available throughout the Red Cross network:**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The CRRC disseminates a National Disaster Management plan to all management structures.	1 plan	The adjustment process for the plan took place. Dissemination is pending.
2. The CRRC, with secretariat support, starts a process to create response plans for auxiliary committees.	Undefined target	The National response plan is under revision.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2013, the National Society made efforts to define these plans. It is expected that by early 2014 these plans are disseminated to all the National Society's branches.

### Business Line III: To strengthen the specific Red Cross contribution to development.

**Outcome: 3.1 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 3.1.1 National Society leadership and institutional capacity for partnership exist.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The National Society participates in the discussion of the global health SOF as part of the regional health network	At least 1 meeting	Implemented.
2. The National Society health/ youth staff have been informed about the global initiatives and health framework and the new MoU signed between Federation and PAHO.	Undefined target	Implemented.
3. In 2013, the National Society will harmonize the risk management policies with the Central American policies and the regional reference framework.	Undefined target	Implemented. The progress will incorporate the changes and adjustments to the annual operative plan and the strategic plan.

#### Output 3.1.2 Urban risk is integrated into National Society programming.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The National Society participates in discussion on global urban health working paper through the regional health network.	At least 1 discussion	Carried out during the Guatemala network meeting in 2012.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The Youth Department of the CRRC was involved in discussion about global health SOF. Other discussions took place after the REDCAMP-Health networking meetings, regarding other global initiatives. The Costa Rican Red Cross was also involved in the discussion about Urban Risk related to disease outbreaks and health issues.

So far, the MoU renewal among Federation and National Society has been postponed until the election of the new PAHO's director.

The National Society participated in the health networking meeting that took place on September 2013. The Costa Rican Red Cross will be involved in the discussion about Climate Change related to outbreaks and health issues in general.

**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 key humanitarian trends (urban risk, climate change, migration and violence prevention) are integrated into community-based development programme National Societies addressing major trends and challenges contributing to vulnerability.**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The National Society, with Secretariat support, employs integrated and coordinated methodologies in health, community development, and risk management to strengthen the most vulnerable communities' capacities in alignment with Federation standards and Strategy 2020.	Undefined target	Accomplished in 2012.
2. The National Society has mapped MNCH activities and contributed to regional mapping.	Undefined target	Accomplished in 2012.
3. The National Society has scaled up HIV programming as part of Global Alliance on HIV with Secretariat support.	Undefined target	Achieved under the Global Alliance implementation.
4. # people reached with HIV prevention messages during 2012.	Undefined target	5,458 people reach during 2012.
5. During the first semester of 2013, the VCA tool will be adapted for urban environments.	1 adapted VCA tool	The VCA tools strengthened with livelihood approaches and integration in urban environments.
6. During the first semester of 2013, the VCA adapted tool is applied in a community.	1 adapted and applied VCA tool	The adapted tool was applied in the community of Jaco Garabito.
7. During 2013, horizontal cooperation and exchange of knowledge is promoted among the National Societies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.	At least 1 meeting	Fully implemented through the exchange of experiences and the meeting of lessons learnt.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The Global Alliance on HIV reached 5,458 people in 2012. In addition, 23 volunteers were trained under Together We Can methodology and pair educators for HIV sensitization and prevention, 500 people received information and preventative messages, and 2,454 people were reached through mass media information with radio spots created by CRRC.

The VCA tool supported by Reference Centre for Community Education was adapted and applied in Garabito-Jaco Municipality. An inclusive and participatory process allowed community members, representatives of the management and volunteers Municipal offered and incorporate their own considerations for the implementation of the VCA.

**Outcome 3.3 Red Cross National Societies have a progressive vision to reduce vulnerability including leadership skills and capacities for working in partnership with communities, government, NGOs, NGLs, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society networks.**

**Output 3.3.1 Red Cross leadership is recognized by government and other key stakeholders.**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The National Society is updated on the HIV epidemic and the Global Alliance on HIV through AIDS2012 and the CRRC pre event.	Undefined target	The presence of the National Society in the AIDS conference was not possible due to lack of funding.

#### Output 3.3.3 Building National Society financial sustainability.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. Two health proposals developed with Secretariat support.	2 proposals	One proposal was developed in 2012.
2. By 2012, the National Society has developed at least one proposal for donor to work on health community health interventions addressing key trends.	1 proposal	It was postponed for 2013. No confirmation if it was completed.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The Global Alliance on HIV was developed on 2012 and was expected to be continued during 2013.

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

##### Output 3.6.1 Involvement of young people at all levels and in all services in National Societies increased.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The CRRC, with Secretariat support and in response to the national context, contributes to training 15 youth leaders who promote joint actions on the issues of social inclusion, migration, peace, and innovation, internally in the National Society and at the community level.	At least 1 training	The CRRC defined the required profiles for each activity.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The implementation of the country plan strengthened the definition of profiles required for leadership positions and Headquarters premises. Through the road safety project and the Global Alliance on HIV, the CRRC Youth increased its presence in local branches.

#### Business Line IV To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work.

#### Outcome 4.2 Strong links are fostered with governments, the public (including especially opinion leaders), academia, private sector, and other partners of the Red Cross who work at local and national levels. Including representation in key forums to address humanitarian challenges and trends.

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. The National Society at the community level incorporates advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, dialogue and strategic alliances with leading	1 alliance	The National Society conducted several coordination and agreements with Jaco

organizations on the issues of migration, urban violence, violence and climate change.		Municipality in order to address Urban Risk
2. The Costa Rican Red Cross, jointly with the Federation and other institutions, fosters dialogue with the National Commission for Emergencies, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Relations leading to the improvement of humanitarian assistance standards and international cooperation in cases of disasters and complex emergencies	Undefined target	The CRRC engaged in several dialogues with the National Commission, within the framework of DIPECHO VIII.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Through DIPECHO VIII project the CRRC had the opportunity to improve its work as auxiliary to public authorities, which led to a closer approach and dialogues with the local municipality and thus better engagement in community risk management.

**Business Line V: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability.**

**Outcome 5.3 National Societies' access and ability to use affordable technologies are improved, increasing outreach in a self-sustaining manner by bridging the digital divide.**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
The Costa Rican Red Cross is strengthened through the implementation of a comprehensive technological system that ensures effective internal Movement communication and accountability and fulfils the country's legal standards.	Undefined target	Not implemented due to lack of funding.

**Output 5.3.1 National Societies in the Americas have a plan aligned with Strategy 2020 and report data on Federation wide reporting indicators**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
1. By the end of 2012 the Strategic Plan 2013-2017 is finished and aligned to 2020 Strategy	1 plan	Strategic plan is aligned and approved.
2. During 2012 CRRC will provide information of the FWRS	Undefined target	Seven indicators updated.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

During 2013, the Planning Department, developed the protocol required for gathering the information required from the branches to complete the FWRS. At the end of the year, 7 indicators were updated. The 2013-2017 Strategic plan was completed and shared.

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

**Output 5.6.2 National Societies in the Americas region have improved their capacity in the area of finance and therefore have achieved some common goals of a well-functioning finance department, enabling them to move from the working advance (WA) system to the Cash Transfer system (CT System).**

Indicators	Annual Target	Implementation to date
During 2012 CRRC will start the process to enable the organization to move from the working advance system to cash transfer.	Undefined target	Implemented

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

The National Society is interested in implementing the cash transfer system, adjustments were made in the finance department and a representative from the National Society met with the respective IFRC analyst.

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
a) New demands and adaptation to new context affecting the core business	H	-Implementation of the recommendations made on the needs assessment study.
b) Modernization of the country operations assignments	H	-Development of new operation model

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

In 2012, the National Society made the effort to define its main strategic lines that will allow the incorporation of new trends and adaptation to the challenges of the Costa Rican context.

In 2013, after the execution of the first phase of the National Society OCAC top priorities were identified in the development of institutional capacities. These findings were included and approved in the National Society's Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

## Financial situation

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 \(NGOs\) 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

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