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Ecuadorian Red Cross

Annual Report 2014

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAEC001

30 April 2015

This report covers the period from 01 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

The Ecuadorian Red Cross organized an event with elderly people for the international day for risk reduction.
Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross

Overview

The IFRC 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 international disaster law and disaster relief and disaster risk reduction.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
International Committee of the Red Cross- ICRC	In-country presence
Spanish Red Cross	Bilateral projects

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.

Output 1.1.1: External trends are better understood and promoted within the National Society.

Indicators	2012 BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of NS volunteers, staff and leadership that participated in regional or national platforms related to key trends and emerging health trends.	At least 10 people	Not quantified	5 (3 in national dialogue and 2 in sub-regional dialogue)

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation provided support in the creation process for the forthcoming ERC Strategic Plan, which will incorporate key trends, including those in health.

The strategic plan draft process began mid-year with a meeting of the Board of Directors (members of the governance body, the General Secretariat, as well as three members from civil society and representatives of the IFRC and the ICRC), including a discussion of the national and regional humanitarian trends. In late 2014, the regional representative conducted a mission to Ecuador to further this process. The ERC has received support for the strategic plan with an international consultant who has ensured coordination and dialogue to inform the process and develop a final draft addressing new trends in Ecuador. IFRC has ensured the engagement of Movement actors to provide economic and technical support for this process.

The ERC is engaged in ensuring the dissemination of the planning process with ERC branches. The final draft of the strategic plan is scheduled to be presented in 2015 to the ERC National Assembly for its approval.

The national communication meeting on disaster risk reduction, part of the regional DIPECHO-funded project, in September was attended by 13 (out of 29) representatives from State institutions, including the Secretariat for Risk Management- SGR, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Education, the National Meteorological and Hydrology Institute and the Technical Secretariat for Disabled people.

Following national-level meetings on communication and DRR which were held in 8 countries in South America as part of the regional DIPECHO-funded project, the ERC had the opportunity to host an international event on urban risk and disaster risk reduction that addressed communication needs with participants from State and non-State actors from Ecuador and the Andean sub-region. The sub-regional dialogue on DRR held in December was attended by 50 people, of whom 17 were representatives from State institutions from 4 countries (9 from Ecuador; 3 from Colombia; 3 from Peru; and 2 from Bolivia).

Outcome 1.2: A collective understanding of the capacities, resources and services of the National Society has been improved.

Output 1.2.1: Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System is established in the National Society.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The Ecuadorian Red Cross reports data on one or more FDRS key performance indicators.	100%	Not quantified	100%

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The ERC is one of the National Societies in the region that has uploaded all the available data to the FDRS.

Outcome 1.3: The National Society in Ecuador assesses its own capacity and performance to provide better services.

Output 1.3.1: Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification- OCAC process established.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The Ecuadorian Red Cross has applied the information gathered by OCAC to change/ update internal processes.	0	Not quantified	100%

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The ERC established its own updated and adapted OCAC process and implemented this in selected branches, in addition to that already completed at the national level. The ERC will continue to implement its Local Organisational Capacities Assessment (ECOL for its acronym in Spanish) and the Minimum Assessment in which ERC branches evaluate and ensure that each branch complies with the ERC statutes and regulations, as well as with national legislation. The ERC tool will be the basis for an internal assessment that will be presented in the next National Assembly in 2015.

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

Output 1.4.1: Educational and knowledge-sharing platforms are mainstreamed in the National Society, increasing the learning opportunities for staff and volunteers.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of ERC volunteers (self-registered & licensed) of the IFRC learning platform/ learning passport.	Not quantified	Not quantified	6,134 users

Comments on progress towards outcomes

To date, 6,134 users have registered for 14,314 courses and have completed 7,686 (54%). While the ERC is one of the most consistent users of the learning platform; it appears that the follow through for completion is not as consistent. Follow-up is needed to ensure that courses are completed and more new users employ this resource.

Business Line II: Disaster and Crisis Management

Outcome 2.1: Red Cross National Societies, through their network of branches, adopt integrated sectoral approaches that strengthen essential Red Cross preparedness, response and recovery systems, and enable communities to better understand trends that increase the impact of disasters and crisis in their lives.

Output 2.1.1: Community-based tools/ approaches to address emerging trends are adopted in disaster and crisis management.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of tools and methodologies for response and recovery that have integrated the key humanitarian trends.	2 tools (ODK and Mega V)	Dissemination of tools at national level	5 tools

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As part of the regional DIPECHO project, the secretariat has provided three guides (end-users' study and systematization of DRR tools; communication strategy; and communication guidelines) to the National Society. A sub-regional Andean dialogue on DRR and communication was held in December, with the participation of 50 people (State and non-State actors, including the National Societies from Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia).

Outcome 2.2: An efficient and effective regional Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in Ecuador.

Output 2.2.3: The Ecuadorian Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in Ecuador is able to address increased vulnerability associated with key humanitarian trends (urban risk, migration, violence and climate change).

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
Incorporation of new trends into the NS plan of action with an integrated planning focus.	The ERC implements at least one annual project in urban settings	The NS incorporates at least 2 new humanitarian trends (climate change and violence prevention) into initiatives in urban settings.	1 in 2014 (total 2)

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As has been mentioned, these trends are projected to be included in the upcoming strategic plan and the ERC will be responsible to later incorporate these into its plan of action.

During 2014, the secretariat did not follow up on the use of the TERA system, which entails coordination with a communications company.

However, another new tool—the VCA incorporating climate change and urban contexts—was presented in a national workshop in November, attended by 24 people (19 from the ERC; 1 representative from the Ministry of Education, 1 representative from the State secretariat on disabilities; and 3 members of the Venezuela Red Cross). This activity was part of the DIPECHO regional project and employed the updated AVC that incorporates climate change and urban risk.

Furthermore, the Global Logistics Support Americas Zone (GLSAMZ) signed an agreement with the ERC to preposition relief items in Ecuador, following a request by the State's Secretariat for Risk Reduction in July. This plan has begun the implementation process in late 2014, with contact underway with the Secretary of Risk Management. This action will continue in 2015.

Business Line III: Sustainable Development

Outcome 3.1: Red Cross National Societies, through their network of branches, demonstrate leadership in promoting the Red Cross Red Crescent model of sustainable development.

Output 3.1.3: The key humanitarian trends (urban risk, climate change, migration and violence prevention) are integrated into National Society programming.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Implementation to date
# of NS activities that implement programming, addressing key humanitarian trends.	1	Not quantified	5

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, there were three different activities that incorporated these humanitarian trends. The first was the issue of climate change in the Yasuni National Park, located in the Amazon in the South of Ecuador. In the last half of the year, the ERC was supported to integrated climate change and urban risk into AVC.

As the year came to a close, the DEVCO project, financed by the European Union, to work with Colombia migrants was approved for implementation for work in the border region of Ecuador. This global project to support migrant's integral rights will continue in 2015.

Furthermore, the ERC shared its work on urban risk and disaster risk reduction with State and non-State actors in the country and in the sub-region. The national communication meeting in September, part of the DIPECHO project, had 13 of the 29 participants from State institutions, including the Secretariat for Risk Management- SGR, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Education, the National Meteorological and Hydrology Institute and the Technical Secretariat for Disabled people.

The regional dialogue on DRR held in December was attended by 50 people, of whom 17 were representatives from State institutions from 4 countries (9 from Ecuador; 3 from Colombia; 3 from Peru; and 2 from Bolivia).

Business Line IV: Humanitarian Diplomacy

Outcome 4.1: The National Society leadership capacities are enhanced to use their auxiliary role to influence public policies and ensure it is seen as a credible and preferred source of information on humanitarian issues by the general public, media and other actors.

Output 4.1.1: The National Society becomes a source of reference information for humanitarian issues.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of non-Movement institutional actors using the NS Training Institute.	Not quantified	Not quantified	20

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The secretariat has worked with the Ecuadorian Red Cross Technical Institute (ISTCRE), and signed an agreement, for the creation of a lesson plan on communication in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the implementation for the November training of regional decision makers in the course "Risk Reduction and Local Development" (an adaptation of a DELNET module) for 20 people from 5 countries (14 from Ecuador; 3 from Paraguay; 1 from Colombia; 1 from Peru; and 1 from Argentina).

Outcome 4.2: Strong links are fostered with governments (including especially opinion leaders), academia, private sector, and other partners of the Red Cross who work at local and national levels, particularly as a representative in key forums addressing humanitarian challenges and trends.

Output 4.2.1: The ERC has a higher profile as auxiliary to the government.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of National Society initiatives with government exercising its auxiliary roles	ERC participate in 5 out of 7 working groups on pre-emergency issues	State institutions at a national level demonstrate increased recognition of ERC tools	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

This area need to more close support and monitoring for the National Society in order to capture and showcase the extent of the NS auxiliary role to the government more clearly.

Business Line V: Effective Joint Working and Accountability

Outcome 5.1: Movement components have strengthened relationships, common aims and improved access to knowledge and shared learning.

Output 5.1.1: The ERC facilitates greater peer-to-peer support, horizontal initiatives, regional exchange, and shared learning.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of peer-to-peer/ horizontal initiatives that have been carried out by the ERC by the end of 2014.	1	2	3

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the ERC established the resources to offer peer-to-peer initiatives with its new reference centre. On 11 December, the secretariat and the ERC have inaugurated a Regional Reference Centre in Medical Emergency and Pre-hospital Attention (CREAP for its acronym in Spanish), based on the experience of the ISTCRE. The learning innovation technical coordinator from the AZO attended this event.

As mentioned in 4.1.1, in November the ISTCRE held a course on DRR and local development, which included a communication component. Twenty people from 5 countries (14 from Ecuador; 3 from Paraguay; 1 from Colombia; 1 from Peru; and 1 from Argentina) participated in this course. The ISTCRE is interested in continuing to provide this course in 2015 but will require financial support for the secretariat.

Outcome 5.3: Federation policies and best practices on support services are increasingly adopted by the ERC.

Output 5.3.1: International Federation policies on cooperation and services (finance, administration, human resources, resource mobilization and accountability) are disseminated in the National Society.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of events where key policies are mainstreamed and followed-up.	Not quantified	Not quantified	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The regional representation and the AZO have worked with the ERC to implement an internal institutional cash transfer system that replaces the working advances issued from the secretariat for specific funding support. The first use of this system is planned for 2015 and will entail monitoring of the system's effective implementation throughout next year.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

In order to better guide its support for the National Society, the secretariat employed the Development Operational Plan 2014, which was created in coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The country support office balanced the areas prioritized by the National Society with those deemed significant by the secretariat in the Americas.

Efforts are made to maintain a horizontal relation between the secretariat support positions and the National Society leadership and staff, which is based on dialogue, monitoring and jointly-decided adjustments. Additionally, the secretariat aims to foster peer-to-peer exchanges with other National Societies so lessons learned can be shared and capitalized. The National Society is in a strong position to host peer-to-peer opportunities through its Ecuadorian Red Cross Technical Institute. Feedback provided in 2014 indicates that the National Society is interested in receiving more support to disseminate the experience, as well as knowledge imparted, with sister National Societies in the Americas.

During 2014, the regional representation for the Andean countries conducted regular missions to Ecuador. The secretariat was also present in the National Society through the IFRC staff from the regional DIPECHO project office and the IFRC disaster law decentralized technical unit.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
The ERC is currently involved in a renovation process of its organizational structure, which includes the updating of its statutes.	H	This process must continue in 2015, particularly with the aim of reaching all the established goals for this renovation of the organizational structure. The secretariat support for the recruitment of the next Executive Director is part of this process and is expected to be completed with the hiring of this position by mid-2015.
The secretariat has scarce financial resources to offer the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The secretariat is providing technical support and guidance, as requested by the National Society.	M	While the ERC has its own funding sources, particularly through its successful Technical Institute (ISTCRE), the secretariat is challenged to demonstrate the added value of its technical support to the National Society. Efforts are required to establish shared understandings of the strengths of each party. In 2015, increased energy is needed to share Federation tools and methodologies and identify funding sources for peer-to-peer training, particularly building on the ISTCRE experiences and know-how.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Reviewing the past year's progress and challenges of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, the secretariat notes that many of the National Societies in the region are in similar situations. While not all of the projected outputs were fulfilled in 2014, several of these have been extended through 2015. As the Long Term Planning Framework suggests, many of the desired changes and advancements are extended processes that surpass simple one year plans. However, the secretariat, through its technical support and strategic guidance, continues to be committed to reaching the objectives established in the LTPF 2012-2015. Rather than a strict sense of fulfilment, the IFRC's support at the regional level aims to strengthen the institutionalism of the National Societies of the Red Cross in South America, by ensuring that their statutes, organizational structures and financial practices reflect and comply with International Movement standards, supporting their monitoring and evaluation in order to provide feedback that allows for adapting and changing actions as needed, and lastly, by guaranteeing that all the National Societies have the capacities to serve as a leading humanitarian actor in their countries.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is in a moment of organizational change, which could signify the emergence of new challenges; its new strategic plan and its hiring of a new Executive Director will catalyse opportunities for its continued strengthening. The National Society's institutional training skills are a strong contribution to this process; through its ISTCRE, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has a wealth of acquired knowledge within the country and at the Americas level with regards to resource mobilization and training in humanitarian issues. The ERC Technical Institute is a leading Red Cross entity in the Americas and its experience in 2014, particularly in training regional actors working on DRR at a local level, are valuable and should be capitalized on in 2015 and beyond. The DIPECHO-supported training course on local development and DRR was designed so that the ISTCRE could continue to impart trainings in South America. While this action is dependent on identifying the needed funds, the Ecuadorian Red Cross continually has demonstrated a willingness to share its knowledge with sister National Societies.

The groundwork laid in 2014 to establish a Reference Centre for Emergency and Pre-Hospital Care (CREAP for its acronym in Spanish) will be expanded in 2015. This entails continued secretariat support, but again building upon the installed capacities of the National Society, particularly the ISTCRE.

In light of the ongoing changes in the secretariat in the Americas, the services provided by the IFRC to its members will reflect some changes in 2015. While the nature of the support has not changed, starting in 2015 the IFRC regional representation for the Andean countries will be made a Delegation in Lima- Peru. This Delegation will provide the Ecuadorian Red Cross with organizational development assistance and support services. Recognizing the emerging challenges due to the reduction in the secretariat staff with expanded responsibilities, the IFRC reiterates its willingness to receive feedback from the National Society regarding the manners to better respond to the existing needs of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

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](#) (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

Contact information

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

In the **Ecuadorian Red Cross**:

- Juan Cueva, president, Ecuadorian Red Cross; email: presidencia@cruzroja.org.ec ; phone +5932 2582480.

In the **IFRC Delegation in Lima**:

- Michele Detomaso, Head of the Delegation in Lima; email: michele.detomaso@ifrc.org ; phone: +511 221 8333; and fax: +511 441 3607.

In the **IFRC Americas Zone office**:

- Xavier Castellanos, director of zone; email: xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org ; phone: + 507 317 3050 and fax: + 507 317 1304.
- Resource Mobilization Team; email: zonerm.americas@ifrc.org; phone: + 507 317 3050; and fax: + 507 317 1304.