



Paraguayan Red Cross Annual Report 2014

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAPY001
30/APR/2015

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

*Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers
organized a community-based
distribution. Source: Paraguayan Red
Cross*



Overview

The secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through its Coordination Office for Chile and Paraguay has provided a diversity of support to the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in 2014. These actions to support the humanitarian mission of the National Society were undertaken in line with International Movement strategies and standards, including *Strategy 2020* and the Inter-American Framework for Action 2012-2016. This annual report provides information on the progress towards reaching the planned outputs for the 2012-2015 period as expressed in the Long Term Planning Framework.

Particular reinforcement was given to the PRC in the areas of organizational development and disaster response.

During 2014, the Paraguayan Red Cross implemented two emergency operations. On 9 October 2013 an Emergency appeal (MDRPY015) was issued to respond to the drought that affected the Chaco region since May of that year and following the State's declaration of emergency in September. This 11-month operation aimed to respond to the water needs for human consumption, food security and livelihoods activities in 16 communities. Additionally, a national intervention team (NIT) training session and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to assist the PRC. The revised appeal indicated that 4,500 people would be targeted with Paraguayan Red Cross humanitarian assistance. For the Six-month Summary Update on the Drought operation, click [here](#).

On 20 June 2014, a DREF operation (MDRPY016) was launched to respond to the flooding that followed heavy precipitation in Paraguay. Due to the magnitude of the disaster, on 11 July 2014, this DREF operation was expanded to an emergency operation with an appeal that would cover 12 months. Faced with the reduced funding for the operation, the PRC reduced the appeal in November, modifying the budget and making it a 10-month operation. The PRC focused on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, psychosocial support, shelter and livelihoods in three areas in the city of the capital city of Asunción for 3,000 households (15,000 people). For the Revised Appeal on the Flood operation, click [here](#).

The Paraguayan Red Cross is currently involved in an extended process to recover from its internal crisis. In mid-2014, the case of the PRC was brought to the attention of the IFRC Governing Board and the Compliance and Mediation Committee (CMC) was activated. The establishment of more transparent and modern management structures are central to the recovery from this crisis. In 2014, the secretariat has provided direct support for this effort. The International Movement components in country, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), collectively determined that an embedded IFRC senior staff person as the PRC Executive Director would contribute to this objective. It is expected that once the professional is selected and the exact Terms of Reference are defined, s/he will start in this position in early 2015. The Paraguayan Red Cross has the task of taking decisive actions that show its willingness to address these needed changes and comply with the recovery and development plan collectively created with the IFRC with the ICRC and partner National Societies.

Working in partnership

The Paraguayan Red Cross has operational partners within the International Movement. These National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross support the PRC to undertake its humanitarian actions. In 2014, the Paraguayan Red Cross received support from the American Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross. As part of the DIPECHO project, the National Society received support from ECHO. In 2014, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) were other strategic partners.

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 1: Raise humanitarian standards

Outcome: Uplifted thinking that inspires and underpins our services to maintain their relevance in a changing world, along with increased magnitude, quality, and impact.

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
The PRC has received support to disseminate the Fundamental Principles	1	1	In progress
The PRC has received support through regional and sub-regional initiatives related to disaster law	0	1	In progress

Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the PRC received support to work on a proposed law, from the Red Cross, that incorporates international standards in disaster law. Meetings were held with parliamentarians towards this end. However, the revision of the laws by State authorities has not taken place. The PRC participates in National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) meetings on a regular basis.

Output 1.1.2: External trends are better understood and promoted with the National Society.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC has participated in regional or national platforms in related to key trends	1	3 by 2015	1
The PRC has incorporated at least 2 key humanitarian trends in its plans	0	2 by 2015	0
The PRC is responding to effects of the trends in its country	0	3 by 2015	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC held a workshop on urban risk in which other organizations participated. No further activities were reported and the National Society has not yet incorporated these trends into their institutional plans, but does include them in specific plans (i.e. the national DIPECHO project).

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 (FDRS) is established in the National Societies of the Americas

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC provides one or more of the following through FDRS: strategic plans, financial statements, and annual reports.	0	3	0

The PRC provides data on all seven FDRS indicators	0	7	0
--	---	---	---

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC does not have the human resources with the capacities to take on this task. The secretariat has mentioned this topic, but the focus on the crisis in the National Society was prioritized over reporting requirements.

Output 1.3: National Societies in the Americas assess their 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 PRC has participated in the OCAC self-assessment	0	1	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Although the OCAC process is useful for providing attention to the National Society's weaknesses, this process has not been prioritized. During 2014, the secretariat has been dedicated to working with the National Society to address some of the most pressing institutional issues that have created a situation that puts the PRC integrity at risk.

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 National Society's capacity to provide professional skills and competencies to its volunteers and staff at all levels is strengthened.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of PRC personnel who are receiving advanced training through academic alliances	n/a	Not quantified	0
# courses taken on the e-learning platform	35	200 by 2015	317 completed courses
# courses/events/activities that incorporate the learning platform as a tool	0	3 by 2015	Not quantified

Comments on progress towards outcomes

To date, 232 users have registered for 677 courses and have completed 317 (47%). Important progress has been made, but follow-up is needed to ensure that courses are completed and more new users employ this resource.

Business Line II: Grow Red Cross Red Crescent Services for vulnerable people

Outcome: Increased share of consistent and reliable Red Cross Red Crescent action in support of communities affected by disasters and crises.

Outcome 2.1: National Societies, through their network of branches, adopt integrated sectorial 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: The humanitarian key trends are integrated to plans and programmes of crisis and disasters.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC implements response and recovery programmes that take into account the relevant key trends.	n/a	Undefined target	1
The PRC will strengthen capacities in risk reduction management at the community level	n/a	Undefined target	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC is using tools such as cash transfer and Mega V in its emergency response operations. The PRC has a plan for emergencies that was disseminated to PRC branches in 2014. Community-based work is one of the National Society's strongest points.

Outcome 2.2: An efficient and effective national Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in Paraguay.

Output 2.2.1: Humanitarian access is guaranteed as part of the preparation for the response and early action within an increasing activity context of military forces and corporative interests.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC participates in spaces for coordination and peer-to-peer learning on readiness for response and early action	n/a	Not quantified	Participates in networks

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During 2014, the PRC participated in different national platforms related to disaster risk reduction (DRR): the National DRR network and the DIPECHO consortium. These platforms are multi-sectoral and often engage with private and public stakeholders.

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

Indicators	BL	Annual	Year to Date
------------	----	--------	--------------

		Target	Actual
The PRC uses innovative tools for disaster response (SMS, Mega V).	n/a	Not quantified	2
The PRC has operations supported by DREF	n/a	Not quantified	2

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As stated in 2.1.1, the PRC is using tools such as cash transfer and Mega V in its emergency response operations. And as mentioned in the introduction, the PRC implemented two emergency operations in 2014 for drought (MDRPY015) and flooding (MDRPY015).

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

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC incorporates the new trends into their plans of action with an integrated planning focus.	n/a	not quantified	0
The PRC take into account gender-based violence in disaster and crisis operations	n/a	not quantified	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The National Society, as mentioned above, implemented two emergency operations in 2014 and a DIPECHO-funded project. Combined with the National Society's internal challenges, the PRC has been unable to dedicate human resources to overhaul the organizational structure and implement an integrated planning focus. Gender-based violence, while an important issue, was not addressed in this period.

Business Line III: Strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development

Outcome: Appropriate capacities built to address the upheavals created by global economic, social, and demographic transitions that create gaps and vulnerabilities, and challenge the values of our common humanity.

Outcome 3.1: The National Society, through its network of branches, demonstrates leadership in promoting the Red Cross Red Crescent model of sustainable development.

Output 3.1.1: National Society leadership and institutional capacity for partnership exist in order to improve integrated programme delivery.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC participates in peer-to-peer cooperation exchanges that contribute to the improvement of internal systems and capacity for community-based	n/a	Not quantified	0

development programming			
-------------------------	--	--	--

Comments on progress towards outcomes

This output was unable to be addressed in 2014 due to other priorities for the National Society taking precedence.

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	Year to Date Actual
The PRC incorporates the new trends into their plans of action with an integrated planning focus	n/a	Not quantified	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

While these key humanitarian trends have yet to be integrated into PRC planning, during the first quarter of the year the National Society organized a training on urban risk reduction and community resilience.

Output 3.2.1: The key humanitarian trends (urban risk, climate change, migration and violence prevention) are integrated into community-based development programme.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
# of branches of the PRC are implementing integrating community development programming and projects in cooperation with other key stakeholders that address key humanitarian trends.	n/a	Not quantified	0
# of branches of the PRC are working with community and government authorities on integrated violence prevention.	n/a	Not quantified	0
Promote and support the development of annual branch operations plans	n/a	Not quantified	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC organized a training on urban risk reduction and community resilience in early 2014. Other actions to support the branch-level capacities to address key humanitarian trends have not been undertaken.

Outcome 3.3: The Paraguayan Red Cross National Society has forward-thinking leadership with the skills and capacity to deliver services to vulnerable people in a sustainable manner.

Output 3.3.1: The leadership of the Paraguayan Red Cross is recognized by government and other key stakeholders.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC participates in national platforms	n/a	Not quantified	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As stated in 2.2.1 above, the PRC participated in different national platforms related to disaster risk reduction: the National DRR network and the DIPECHO consortium.

Outcome 3.4: Volunteers of the PRC, 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.

Output 3.4.1: The National Society improves its volunteer service, formalizing status, rights and duties of the volunteers within its statutes and constitution and strengthening and diversifying its volunteer base.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC has a volunteering policy	0	1 by 2015	0
The PRC has an effective volunteer management systems in place	0	1 by 2015	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Due to the institutional challenges mentioned above, the PRC has been unable to address the strengthening of its volunteer base. However, this action is understood to be part of the resolution of the crisis, and the secretariat is supporting a multi-pronged approach that will cover volunteering. In mid-2014, actions were initiated to register the existing volunteers, having the plan to include them in an insurance plan for volunteers. This will be followed-up on in 2015.

Outcome 3.5: Youth, as agents of change in the Red Cross network, are a leading voice for joint actions with different sector of society for inclusion, peace and innovation.

Output 3.5.1: Red Cross Youth will be provided opportunities to learn, innovate and develop leadership skills, contributing to generational change within the Red Cross network.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC will develop this capacity in the country	0	1	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

As stated in 3.4.1 above, the Paraguayan Red Cross has been unable to prioritize work in this area in 2014. Furthermore, there are not financial resources available for this end.

Business Line IV: Heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

Outcome: Evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy conducted to draw attention to the causes and consequences of vulnerability, giving voice to vulnerable people, and demonstrating the value of Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian work and leadership.

Outcome 4.1: National Society leadership capacities are enhanced to use their auxiliary role to influence public policies and ensure they are 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 and vulnerability reduction.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC promotes and disseminates the World Disaster Report.	0	1	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During the latter part of the year, the PRC prioritized other issues. The National Society was unable to present the World Disaster Report in 2014.

Output 4.1.2: The Secretariat and the National Society actively use social networks capacities.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC uses different types of social media	n/a	Unidentified target	3
The PRC is actively participating in the Americas communicators' network through the communities of practice.	0	1	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

During 2014, the PRC used Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and kept its web page updated. The National Society began to publish a weekly newsletter, which is published on its updated web page. While the Twitter account does not have many followers, the PRC aims to publicize its actions.

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

Outcome 4.2.1: The National Society has a higher profile as auxiliary to the government.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC receives direct support for enhancing or leveraging their auxiliary role	n/a	Not quantified	Regular contact underway
The PRC has initiatives with parliamentarians	2	4 by 2015	1

The PRC follows up on international conference resolutions through letters, meetings, etc.	n/a	Not quantified	0
--	-----	----------------	---

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC maintains high-level contacts with State officials (central government and parliamentarians). Humanitarian diplomacy was an area in which the PRC placed attention in 2014. Furthermore, the work towards a proposed law on DRR contributed to increasing the relations with State institutions and officials.

Outcome 4.2.2: The Federation plays an influential role in inter-agency and inter-governmental fora.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC participates in international fora/ platforms	n/a	Not quantified	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC participated in the regional DIPECHO-funded project event, Sub-regional dialogue on DRR, in Buenos Aires- Argentina in December. This international event allowed representatives from the National Society to share information regarding DRR and interculturality and communication.

Outcome 4.3: The PRC and donors invest in increasing financial and human resources to improve the National Society's ability to deliver services and programmes.

Output 4.3.1: Resource mobilization and accountability capacities of the National Society are enhanced to attract more reliable contributions to the Red Cross Red Crescent in an effort to ensure a higher level of sustainability.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC is actively engaged in the RM network	n/a	Not quantified	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

An initiative in early 2014 to develop the sale of services (first aid training) was started. However, during the year, there was no specific human resource available to further this development. As resource mobilization is essential to any National Society, the secretariat will support the continuation of this initiative in 2015.

Business Line V: Deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

Outcome: More effective work among National Societies through modernised cooperation mechanisms and tools, and a greater sense of belonging, ownership, and trust in our International Federation.

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

Output 5.1.1: Red Cross National Societies facilitate greater peer-to-peer support, horizontal initiatives, regional exchange, and shared learning.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC has a plan aligned with Strategy 2020 and IAFA	0	1	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The PRC participated in the XIX Inter-American Conference in 2012, but it was unable to formally integrate the guidelines from this conference into its operational plan. However, it should be noted that the PRC is using FedNet and Illuminate to receive information from other National Societies and share its achievements.

Output 5.1.* The National Society participates in the Federation-wide communications strategy.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC participates and supports the Federation-wide communications strategy	0	1	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

This output was created for the PRC in order to ensure that its communication actions were duly recognized. The PRC maintains fluid contact with the communications specialists in the Americas Zone Office (AZO). This contact has been fundamental in the communications work done as part of the two emergency operations implemented in 2014.

** This output was tailor-made for the Paraguayan Red Cross.*

Output 5.1.*

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC will use and promote peer initiatives in the region	1	2 by 2015	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Due to the internal challenges previously mentioned, the PRC was unable to promote peer-to-peer work with Sister National Societies in 2014.

** This output was tailor-made for the Paraguayan Red Cross.*

Outcome 5.3: Federation policies and best practices on support services are increasingly adopted and implemented by National Societies.

Output 5.3.1: International Federation policies on cooperation and services (finance, administration, human resources, resource mobilization and accountability, information technology) are disseminated among National Societies.

Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
The PRC will actively disseminate all the	n/a	Not quantified	The PRC has received

policies of relevance for the NS development			relevant policies.
--	--	--	--------------------

Comments on progress towards outcomes

While the PRC has received relevant policies, it has not been able to address them in a systematic manner or disseminate them throughout the National Society.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

To guide its support for the National Society in 2014, the secretariat used the recovery and development plan alongside the Development Operational Plan 2014. As mentioned in the Overview section, the former was collectively created by the International Movement components in country. The country support office for Chile and Paraguay consulted with the National Society for the latter. Emphasis was given to areas in which the National Society needed to improve its compliance with IFRC standards combined with an effort to support the continued humanitarian actions of the Paraguayan Red Cross. Despite the awareness of the need to assist the PRC to recover from its serious internal challenges, certain activities independent of this process that had been planned for 2014 were unable to be implemented. In 2015, the secretariat will continue to attempt to reach some of the central outcomes established in the Long Term Planning Framework for the 2012 – 2015 period.

In general, the secretariat promotes a horizontal relation with the National Society leadership and staff, which is based on dialogue, monitoring and jointly-decided adjustments. In addition to the missions undertaken by the country representative for Chile and Paraguay during 2014, regular communication was maintained in order to agree upon the required changes to the internal structure of the Paraguayan Red Cross.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key risks or positive factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended action
The PRC continues to have integrity issues that require swift and decisive changes.	H	The secretariat and the National Society have agreed upon the hiring of a new Executive Director, who is an embedded IFRC representative in the country. This new personnel will contribute to ensuring the compliance with the established recovery and development plan.
The PRC has responded with professionalism to two recent emergency situations in the country. However, the National Society has yet to fully comply with the financial and management	H	The secretariat, through its Delegation in Lima, will provide technical guidance and oversight that will allow the PRC to formally finish these operations with the transparent and

accountability requirements.		orderly accountability standards required in IFRC emergency operations.
------------------------------	--	---

Lessons learned and looking ahead

As has been mentioned throughout this report, the Paraguayan Red Cross is involved in a sustained process to create more transparent and modern management structures. This is a central component of its recovery from its crisis. While the secretariat has provided direct support in this effort, the National Society should demonstrate willingness to address these needed changes and closely follow the recovery and development plan collectively created with the IFRC with the ICRC and partner National Societies.

While not all of the projected outputs were fulfilled in 2014, many will be extended through 2015. As the Long Term Planning Framework suggests, some 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 key objectives established in the LTPF 2012-2015. Rather than a strict sense of fulfilment, the IFRC's support for the Paraguayan Red Cross aims to strengthen its institutionalism, by ensuring that its statutes, organizational structures and financial practices reflect and comply with International Movement standards.

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 Americas Zone Office in Panama, through the National Society development and country cluster coordinator, alongside the constant technical support and guidance provided by the embedded Executive Director, will provide the Paraguayan Red Cross with organizational development assistance. The focus for 2015 will continue to be on National Society integrity. The support services for the PRC will be provided by the Delegation in Lima - Peru. 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 Paraguayan 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.

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 Paraguayan Red Cross

- Dr. Luis Fernando Díaz de Bedoya, president; email: presidencia@cruzroja.org.py; phone: 595 21 200 004.

In the Americas Zone

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, National Societies development and country cluster regional coordinator; email: alexandre.claudon@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.