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# Nicaraguan Red Cross 2014 Annual Report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAANI002**  
20 May 2015

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

*Livelihoods Workshop: Nicaraguan Red  
Cross*



## Working in partnership

In 2014, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) zone office, through the Nicaragua country coordination office, worked closely with the National Society to implement the results from the country plan in 2012.

One of the main results in 2014 was the National Society's election of a new Board of Directors in March 2014, who have been promoting a work plan for the comprehensive strengthening of the National Society since they were elected. This process includes the review and adjustment of its statutes and regulations, the training of leaders on issues of governance and management, the application of regulatory standards on all its branches and enhancing international cooperation and relations with the government of Nicaragua. In the humanitarian sphere the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) responded in a timely manner to people affected by the earthquake, it strengthened its relationship with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED is its acronym in Spanish), implementation of initiatives on climate change, the protection and recovery of livelihoods in the communities, and the promotion of voluntary blood donation and first aid services at recreational centres and beaches in the country.

In addition, the Nicaraguan Red Cross worked together with partners in several complementary actions. The cooperation agreement was elaborated and promoted as a means to channel efforts and support in the same direction and to strengthen the National Society in several areas.

Operational Partners	Agreement
IFRC	Support on volunteering and government, community first aid, HIV, disaster response and Club 25.
IFRC, American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.	Development of institutional capacities and risk reduction
Italian Red Cross	Climate change
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Financial support

## 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 1.1.2 External trends are better understood and promoted within National Societies**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC has established itself as a leader in at least one regional or national platform regarding key trends and emerging challenges.	0	In 2014, the National Society led climate change and livelihood recovery actions, and it positioned itself as a reference in Nicaragua.
2. The NRC has incorporated into its plans at least two humanitarian trends.	1	In 2014, the National Society continued to work with Nicaragua's blind and physically challenged population and on climate change, livelihood recovery and violence prevention initiatives, which began in 2013.

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014 the participating National Societies' actions in relation to humanitarian trends were characterized by high synergy and inter-organizational coordination, allowing the National Society to improve its positioning in different areas of action, such as climate change, urban risk, violence

prevention and fostering a culture of peace. All of these helped with the development of the forums, trade fairs, training, and youth, among others. The NRC had the opportunity to share the various experiences it had through its projects and the methodologies it applied to its speeches with other organizations and the government.

**Outcome 1.2. The collective understanding of the capacities, resources and services of the National Societies in the Americas has been improved.**

**Output 1.2.1.: Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System is established in the National Societies of the Americas**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
The NRC provide data on at least 3 FWRS key proxy indicators	0	No actions were developed in 2014.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Due to the institutional crisis, the revision and updating process for the statutes was put on hold. The National Society conducted two audits in 2012 and 2013, which were carried out by an external firm.

The elections of new National Society leaders were held after a critical period and under tense conditions due to the confrontation between two opposing internal forces that prevented the dialogue; this situation may have resulted from possible government intervention.

After this experience, the new National Society's government has managed to maintain a climate of governance abiding to the laws and under the framework of the fundamental principles and values of the organization. This prompted the formation of working committees for the revision of statutes, regulations and procedures in order to find lasting solutions to the problems mentioned above.

**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:** Educational and knowledge-sharing platforms are mainstreamed in the National Societies, increasing the learning opportunities for staff and volunteers

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
# of new members of the NRC participating in courses taken in the e-Learning Platform.	0	In 2014, the Learning Platform had 580 people registered in the different on-line courses.
# of courses completed vs. courses initiated	0	

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### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Online training has met a need of the volunteer technical staff and the National Society's director. In 2014, there was a 45 per cent increase in the number of users compared to 2013. This has allowed volunteers to have access to training in the absence of an institutional programme that meets their needs. The National Society makes an effort to notify people periodically about available workshops and to encourage volunteers to obtain more training in order to improve their capacities.

### Business Line II: Disaster and crisis management

**Outcome: 2.1: 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: Community-based tools/ approaches to address emerging trends are adopted in disaster and crisis management**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. At the end of 2015 NRC implements response and recovery programs taking into account the relevant key trends according to the strategic plan.	2	50 National Society members trained on the theme of Ebola in order to provide an effective response in the event of an outbreak in the country.  Through its food safety plan, the NRC trained 40 female family leaders on the agricultural issues for the establishment of orchards, as well as proper handling of food and water treatment.
2. Nicaraguan Red Cross has its contingency plan and disaster response updated and in place	1	With the technical and financial support of the Spanish Agency For International Cooperation For Development (AECID) and the Spanish Red Cross, the first course of national teams of intervention in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, was developed with the participation of 24 volunteers from 18 branches of which 40% were women.

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the National Society strengthened its technical capacity in different specific aspects such as water and sanitation, climate change, the making diagnoses in urban contexts with the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), livelihood in urban contexts, and training in Ebola, thanks to the support of the IFRC's Centres Of Reference's and the Partner National Societies (PNSs)'s (Canada, Italy, Netherlands and Spain) financial and technical support.

**Outcome 2.2 An efficient and effective Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in the Americas is en route.**

**Output 2.2.1.: Humanitarian access is ensured as part of readiness for response and early action within a context of greater coordination, including increased activity by military forces and corporate interests**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC implements response and recovery programs based on major relevant trends.	1	In 2014, the National Society started the DIPECHO national project, which is focused on earthquake that involve emergency responses with blind and/or physically challenged people.
2. The NRC has updated its contingency plan.	Plan	With Canadian Red Cross Society and IFRC support, the National Society developed its national contingency plan.
3. The NRC participates in learning opportunities for coordination and peer-to-peer/horizontal in response preparedness and early action.	1	During the earthquake in April 2014, the NRC received technical support from the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross on training of the volunteer staff.

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

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC uses innovative tools for disaster response (short message service [SMS], MEGA V).	1	In 2014, the Nicaraguan Red Cross used Open Data Kit (ODK) and MEGA V tools during the earthquake operation to support 1,000 families.
2. The NRC has operations supported by DREF.	1	35 blind people from the Maricela Toledo Organization participated in the anti-seismic preparedness training given by Nicaraguan Red

		<p>Cross members. During the activity, the NRC also conducted a drill that enabled it to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to safeguard the lives of blind people in the event of an earthquake.</p> <p>In collaboration with the National Engineering university, the NRC chaired a disaster risk management event with the theme: "resilience for life: the elderly and disaster risk reduction", with the aim of helping the attendees understand the importance of the inclusion of the elderly in disaster planning.</p> <p>The National Society conducted vulnerability and capacity (AVC) analysis basic national workshop with a total of 25 members from 11 branches and representatives of municipalities, members of the Civil Defence in the departments of Chinandega and León.</p>
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**Output 2.2.3.: The Red Cross disaster and crisis management system in the Americas is able to address increased vulnerability associated with key humanitarian trends (urban risk, migration, violence and climate change).**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC incorporates the new trends into their plans of action with an integrated planning focus.	1	In 2014, the National Society continued to support the blind population in Nicaragua, and work on novel approaches to climate change, livelihood recuperation and violence prevention, which were initiated in 2013.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

By the end of the 2014, the Nicaraguan Red Cross had been strengthened through the completion of various training events directed by both its volunteer and technical staff, with the participation of the government and non-governmental institutions. The NRC also contributed to the resilience of the border communities between Honduras and Nicaragua through the conservation of the Tapacali River basin and community drinking water systems.



**Business Line III: Sustainable development**

**Outcome 3.1 National Societies, through their network of branches, demonstrate 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	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC participates in peer-to-peer/horizontal cooperation exchanges that contribute to the improvement of internal systems and capacity for community-based development programming.	1	The National Society participated in regional workshops held in Panama on the experiences the strengthening of its national system of risk management experiential exchanges.

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

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC has included urban risk and community resilience in their strategic and operational plans.	1	At the end of 2014, the National Society implemented the systematization of the Honduran-Nicaraguan border project on climate change. In 2014, the Urban Risk project was developed in District V in Managua.
2. The NRC works in the most vulnerable communities most affected by the key humanitarian trends.	1	NRC's response to 3,000 families affected by the earthquake in 2014. The National Society developed violence prevention-oriented activities focused on bullying in schools in Managua. The project pilot was at the Modesto Bejarano school. In 2014, the National Society stayed informed about the evolution of the migrants crisis in the northern triangle of Central America, and it was ready to provide support if needed.

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the branch and youth leaders and volunteers received training in different fields of action in order to improve their knowledge and preparedness. The prevention of violence in schools that results from bullying is a new trend in working with children and adolescents; the National Society has initiated preventative actions with the development of a pilot project. The National Society has monitored the situation of migrants in neighbouring countries, offering its support if required.

**Outcome 3.2 The 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 and safety, as well as the environmental and socioeconomic conditions.**

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

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. # of branches of the NRC that are implementing integrating community development programming and projects in cooperation with other key stakeholders that address key humanitarian trends.	N/A	4 north-west zone branches implemented the climate change Project with the municipal authorities' and the Central American University's support.
2. # of branches of the NRC are working with community and government authorities on integrated violence prevention	0	The National Society developed violence prevention-oriented activities focused on bullying in schools in the Modesto Bejarano school in Managua.

### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In coordination with the Urban Risk And Community Resilience Unit and the IFRC the National Society increased its capacity to work with young people, support awareness-raising and provide training campaigns for different working groups. Additionally, support was provided to 5 blood banks and volunteer promotion mobile, helping them collect 367,976 donations during the year.

**Outcome 3.3 Red Cross National Societies have forward thinking leadership with the skills and capacity to deliver services to vulnerable people in a sustainable manner**

**Output 3.3.2 National Society leadership and managerial skills are improved.**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC participates in leadership/management trainings.	0	With the participation of 26 National Society leaders, the governance workshop, in which global initiatives



		were discussed, was held; in addition, a roadmap for the coming years was established.
2. Leaders of the NRC are trained on the trends or fundamentals.	0	Same as above

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the NRC achieved significant progress in its implementation of new initiatives, such as the resilience project for the reduction of risk in urban contexts developed in Managua. Similarly, it developed a project that addressed food security and food sovereignty project for 40 female heads of household, enabling them to establish family orchards in agricultural areas, to manage better their drinking water supply and produce and market their products.

**Outcome 3.4.: 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.**

**Output: 3.4.1 National Societies have improved their voluntary service, formalizing the status, rights and duties of volunteers within their statutes and constitutions, and strengthening and diversifying their volunteer base**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC has a volunteering policy	0	In accordance with its volunteering policy, the National Society implemented two important activities with youth and volunteers: the II National Forum of volunteering (180 participants) and the national youth camp (300 participants). Both activities served as a stage to contemplate the future of the volunteers in the organization and the main challenges to overcome.
2. # of NRC volunteers covered through insurance.	1,000	In 2014, the National Society covered 1,000 volunteers

**Outcome 3.5.: 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.**

**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	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. Nicaragua Red Cross Youth participation peer-to-peer exchanges and horizontally between National Societies	1	The National Society developed the national camp in which 300 National Society youth participated. The camp addressed the importance of young agents of change and promoted a culture of peace among them, among other issues.
2. Nicaragua Red Cross has its youth policies, strategies and operational plans.	0	The National Society has a youth operational plan.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

2014 was an important year for the strengthening of volunteering. The National Society trained the branches' leaders on volunteer management to have better control and documentation, database implementation and training on leadership skills for managers responsible for the management of volunteers.

At the end of the first quarter of 2014, the National Society successfully ended the internal crisis that arose from the dispute over the organization's presidency, electing a new government board that provided at year internal stability and initiated a rules, administrative procedures and corporate policies review process.

#### Business Line IV: Humanitarian Diplomacy

**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. National Societies become a source of reference information for humanitarian issues and vulnerability reduction.**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
The NRC launches the World Disaster Report	0	The National Society authorities launched the World Disaster Report during a press conference.

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

**Output 4.2.1.: National Societies have a higher profile as an auxiliary to the government.**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
The NRC is actively participating in the Americas communicators' network through the communities of practice.	0	Since 2014, the National Society has participated in the regional network meeting.

**Output 4.2.2: The Federation plays an influential role in inter-agency and inter-governmental bodies and fora**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
The National Society that participate in international for a/platforms.	0	In 2014, two members of the IFRC along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acted as representatives to National Society and the government.

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In 2014, the agreement between the IFRC and the National Society was strengthened through the accreditation of the by the Nicaraguan government. The National Society received support to mobilize the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) staff and humanitarian aid during the earthquake emergency in different departments throughout the country.

**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 (RM) capacities and efforts of the National Society are scaled up, in order to inspire more reliable contributions to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC actively engaged in the RM network through tailored support.	0	In 2014, the process of creating a cooperation agreement began and the signing of a three way agreement between the National

		Society, the ICRC and the IFRC. In 2015, the strategy will be further developed with the support of the IFRC and the Canadian Red Cross Society.
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### Comments on progress towards outcomes

With the participation of the ICRC, the IFRC and the PNS participation and under the leadership of the National Society, the development process for the cooperation agenda began. It is based on the cooperation framework document, which was developed at the annual workers meeting that was held in Panama from 2002 to 2014.

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

**Outcome 5.1 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 exchanges and shared learning.**

Indicators	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
1. The NRC has a plan aligned with Strategy 2020 and the Inter-American Framework for Action (IAFA).	1	Accomplished in 2012.
2. The NRC participates in the peer-to-peer/horizontal initiatives that have been carried out in the Americas zone.	1	The National Society participated in the regional meetings for the exchange of experiences on the progress of the First Response Initiative project, Risk management and community resilience. The National Society was supported by Costa Rica National Society (RIT) on its earthquake operation in May and June. The Spanish Red Cross supported the training of specialized volunteers through the provision of two psychosocial support facilitators. The National Society's young volunteers participated in the National Youth Camp in Costa Rica.

		Young members participated in the Regional Youth meeting in El Salvador.
3. The NRC participates in Federation Wide Resource Mobilization Strategy knowledge sharing networks (Communities of Practice, regional RM networks, global skill share, peer exchanges, etc.)	0	There were no activities in 2014.
<b>Comments on progress towards outcomes</b>		
In 2014, National Society volunteers actively participated in regional and national events in order to exchange experiences, methodologies and learning. The National Society received the support of the Costa Rican Red Cross on the earthquake operation and training of volunteers.		

**Outcome 5.3. 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	2012 Baseline	Implementation to date
The NRC participates in Communities of Practice, regional RM networks, global skill shares, peer exchanges, etc.	1	There were no activities in 2014.
<b>Comments on progress towards outcomes</b>		
There were no activities in 2014.		

### **Key Risks or Positive Factors**

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
In 2014 the major risk was the internal institutional crisis, which put ongoing projects in jeopardy due to the lack of decision making.	H	The IFRC, the PNSs and the ICRC provided support to the National Society during the crisis.

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

In 2014, the Nicaraguan Red Cross weathered a critical period that stemmed internal division within its leadership. An internal electoral process was presided over by the National Chairperson, and a new proactive board was elected. The board has provided institutional stability and implemented humanitarian programmes for vulnerable populations in the country ..

Going forward, the NRC will face institutional challenges such as:

- Adoption of a new institutional rules
- Upgrade of the National Society's management systems to allow for more effective and efficient control.
- Have a dynamic, up-to-date and committed government that promotes a model structure based on today's and tomorrow's challenges.
- Broadening the volunteering base
- Development and sustainability of its branches.

## 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

## Contact information

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

### In the Nicaraguan Red Cross National Society

- Manfredo Colindres, General manager; email: [direcciongeneral@humanidad.org.ni](mailto:direcciongeneral@humanidad.org.ni)

### In the Country Coordination Office for Honduras and Nicaragua

- Nelson Aly Rodriguez, IFRC country coordinator; email: [nelson.alyrodriguez.@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez.@ifrc.org)

### In the IFRC Americas region office in Panama,

- Alex Claudon, National Societies Development & Country Cluster Coordinator, phone: +507 317.3050; email. [alex.claudon@ifrc.org](mailto:alex.claudon@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- In IFRC Americas region office: Ursula Araya, Senior Resource Mobilization Officer; email: [ursula.araya@ifrc.org](mailto:ursula.araya@ifrc.org)