

# COUNTRY FOCUS - CHILE 2004



## 1. Introduction

The Chilean economy is healthy and growing at a moderate pace. This would help job creation thus provoking some decrease in unemployment, which remains the main problem of the Chilean economy in the short run. Chile's social indicators are at the top end of the region's scale.

Chile's health policies in the last decades have been largely successful, raising life expectancy and decreasing infant mortality rates. The improvement in general health was achieved by focusing on disease prevention, rather than curative medicine and the main priority was to extend water and sewage networks. Regular free vaccination campaigns played a major role in the eradication of infectious diseases. Mother and child health programmes for the poor were improved and extended. Chilean educational standards are among the highest in Latin America. Still, despite the good indicators, Chile is subject to disasters such as floods, earthquakes and droughts.

## 2. National Context

### Human Development Indicators 2003

Country Ranking - HDI	43
Total population (millions)	15.6
Life expectancy at birth	76.1
Annual population growth rate %	1.1
% population under 15 yrs of age	28.1
% population aged 65 and above	7.4
% urban population	86
% of the population living below \$1/day	<2
% of the population living below \$2/day	8.7
GDP per capita (US \$)	4,314
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	10
Under 5 mortality per 1,000 live births	12
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	23
% of births attended by skilled health staff	100
% of population using improved water sources	93
% of population using adequate sanitation facilities	96
% of population with access to essential drugs	80-94
% of adults living with HIV/AIDS	0.3
Women living with HIV/AIDS	4,300
Children living with HIV/AIDS	<500
Net primary school enrolment ratio %	89
Adult literacy rate % MALE age 15 yrs +	96.1
Adult literacy rate % FEMALE age 15 yrs +	95.7

(UNDP 2003 and World Bank 2003)

## 3. Priorities of the National Society

Foundation CRC	1903
Recognized by ICRC	1909
Admitted to the Federation	1920
Number of branches	187
Staff	24
Active volunteers (estimated)	16,266

The Chilean Red Cross (CRC) is growing rapidly, has significant prestige in the country and is highly respected by public authorities from which it maintains absolute autonomy. During recent years the National Society has made a particular effort towards modernization through training programmes in branches. Given the expanse of the country, the National Society has a large number of Red Cross branches which provide good coordination. It is divided in nine regions which the branches manage in relation to geographical areas. *Strategy 2010* and the National Development Plan set the working criteria of the CRC. In 2003 the Chilean Red Cross hosted the Inter American Conference, the success of which demonstrated effective management and coordination capacities.

The CRC has a large number of volunteers of whom 90% are women and one third are over 55 years of age. Traditionally, the National Society has received its funds from private sources and from the government. The main sources are presidential grants, charity raffles, membership fees from volunteers, legacies, inheritances, shares and proceeds from film previews, fashion shows and raffles. The CRC has placed special emphasis on improving communications systems by incorporating new technologies and equipping its branches with audio-visual equipment, fax and internet.

The National Society's priorities are:

#### **Health and care**

The Chilean Red Cross has a focus on health, with a large number of clinics throughout the country. However, these are currently being converted into community centres.

- ÿ National community health programme.
- ÿ HIV/AIDS focusing on youth: prevention approach adopted.
- ÿ Non remunerated voluntary blood donations and donation of organs.
- ÿ Clinics (to become community centre).
- ÿ First Aid: volunteers provide training to the community (schools, businesses and neighbourhood groups).

#### **Relief and DPP**

- ÿ CBDP.
- ÿ Systematization of the disaster response system.
- ÿ Improvement of the telecommunications and warehouse systems.
- ÿ Establishment of volunteer teams.

#### **Organizational Development**

- ÿ Consolidation of branch development.
- ÿ Training of branch leaders.
- ÿ Modernization of administrative and financial procedures.
- ÿ Volunteer programme.
- ÿ Communications and fund raising.
- ÿ Red Cross youth.

#### **AT A GLANCE**

CRC	COMMENT
<b>Statutes</b>	Finalized in 2001
<b>National Development Plan</b>	NDP: 2001-2005
<b>Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS)</b>	To be developed
<b>Self Assessment</b>	2000
<b>Last Elections</b>	2000
<b>Next Elections</b>	2004
<b>Yearly audit</b>	2002
<b>Youth representative in National Society governance</b>	Yes

<b>Disaster response plan within National Society plan</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster response plan integrated with the government plan</b>	Yes

### Main strengths

- Y Good internal coordination.
- Y National Development Plan in place.
- Y Efficient management.
- Y Social recognition (public and private).

### Main challenges

- Y Few young volunteers.
- Y Review of health activities.
- Y Slow modernization of the branches.
- Y Increased Red Cross presence in order to respond to vulnerable groups.
- Y Integration of youth members in the National Society.
- Y Strategic partnerships.

## 4. Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

The Chilean Red Cross benefits little from international cooperation. The National Society receives some support from Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation.

Partner	Health	Relief	DPP	Humanitarian values	Organizational Development	Other
ICRC		First Aid Training School		Dissemination	Communication	National Society magazine, Human resources, Volunteer training
Federation					Regional leadership training	VCA training
Spanish Red Cross	Dental health, Health promotion project				Fund raising	

## 5. Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

### Health and Care

- Y Technical support for the review of health activities.
- Y HIV/AIDS.
- Y Technical support for voluntary blood donation programme.

### Disaster Management

- Y Training of national response teams (NITs).
- Y Technical support for CBDP.

### Organizational Development

- Y Participation in regional activities.
- Y Technical support in general.

### International Representation

- Y Support to strengthen collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC, based in Santiago de Chile.