

COUNTRY FOCUS - PERU 2004



1. Introduction

Peru went through a process of transition to representative democracy in 2001, which culminated in the election of Alejandro Toledo as President in June 2001. However, confidence in the country's battered democratic institutions has not recovered and Toledo's approval rating has been of 12% over the last year. Corruption is one of the main problems; discontent is demonstrated through constant social clashes across the national territory.

During the 1990s, Peru experienced a significant reduction in internal violence and an improvement in its economic situation. However, the country's economic stability was achieved through a tough economic programme which has had harsh effects on the most vulnerable, accentuated by cuts in public spending on social services, health, education and utilities. Young people are especially affected by unemployment, violence and a lack of opportunities. The frequency of natural disasters including the El Niño phenomenon and the poor living conditions of large sectors of the population have made Peru one of the most vulnerable countries in the region.

2. National Context

Human Development Indicators 2003

Country Ranking - HDI	82
Total population (millions)	26.7
Life expectancy at birth	69.8
Annual population growth rate %	1.4
% population under 15 yrs of age	34.1
% population aged 65 and above	4.9
% urban population	73.1
% of the population living below \$1/day	15.5
% of the population living below \$2/day	41.4
GDP per capita (US \$)	4,570
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	30
Under 5 mortality per 1,000 live births	39
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	190
% of births attended by skilled health staff	59
% of population using improved water sources	80
% of population using adequate sanitation facilities	71
% of population with access to essential drugs	50-79
% of adults living with HIV/AIDS	0.35
Women living with HIV/AIDS	13,000
Children living with HIV/AIDS	1,500
Net primary school enrolment ratio %	104
Adult literacy rate % MALE age 15 yrs +	94.8
Adult literacy rate % FEMALE age 15 yrs +	85.7

(UNDP 2003, World Bank 2003)

3. Priorities of the National Society

Foundation PRC	1879
Recognized by ICRC	1880
Number of branches	43
Staff	24

Active volunteers (estimated)	3,500
Volunteers in Educational Centers (teachers and students)	30,000

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) has two important disadvantages which prevent it from attracting professionals or keeping its younger employees: the low salaries it is able to offer; and its generally weak public image resulting from the lack of motivating programmes. However, the National Society has benefited both internally and externally from the success of the 2001 earthquake operation. The PRC has improved the organization of volunteers and branches, and now enjoys greater respect amongst the Peruvian population.

The PRC was affected by a serious crisis in its governance structures for several years, characterized by conflicts, abuse of power and irregularities. Significant efforts were made in recent years to improve the situation, but further work is required to ensure an effective management system. The Peruvian Red Cross is undergoing reorganization. This will address weaknesses in the regulatory framework, the need for better training of board members regarding the Fundamental Principles, the creation of management structures based on transparency and efficiency, the recovery of an image that has been lost for many years, and the boosting of the capacity of volunteers especially in the areas of disaster response and disaster preparedness.

The National Society has a decentralized structure. The branches' respective geographical spheres of activity are established according to the administrative divisions of the country but without uniform criteria. This is changing so there will be provincial branches, with district units in the respective jurisdictions. Territorial coverage is sparse.

At the headquarters level of PRC there are four management divisions of volunteers: youth, community health, relief and volunteer auxiliaries. Youth has its own national management. Women participate at all levels (70% of human resources), although there is a marked predominance of men at the national decision-making level.

There is no integrated financial administration at national level as headquarters and branches are managed separately. The main source of income is rent from property the National Society owns in Lima. The PRC is undertaking a detailed analysis and systematization process of its priorities, specifically in the areas of disaster management and community development projects.

Health and Care

- Promotion of health and hygiene education.
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Water and sanitation.
- ICMI.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

- Community based disaster preparedness.
- Strengthening of branch response capacity. This includes training of trainers, courses on the management of temporary shelters, community workshops, disaster simulation exercises, regional courses focusing on disaster relief.
- Training of instructors and volunteers in first aid.

Organizational Development

- Revision of Statutes and regulations.

- National Development Plan.
- Governance training.
- Volunteering.

Humanitarian Values

- Youth programmes.

AT A GLANCE

PRC	COMMENT
Statutes	In process
National Development Plan	In process
Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS)	To be drawn up in 2004
Self Assessment	2002
Last Elections	2001
Next Elections	2005
Yearly audit	2002
Youth representative in the National Society governance	Yes
Disaster response plan within the National Society plan	Yes
Disaster response plan integrated with the government plan	In process

Main strengths

- Ÿ Improved image following the 2001 earthquake.
- Ÿ Active volunteers.
- Ÿ Strategic alliances: CARE, Civil Defence and private sector.
- Ÿ At local level, good relations with partners.

Main challenges

- Ÿ Weak governance and management.
- Ÿ Some branches are inactive.
- Ÿ Dependent on external assistance to maintain core activities.
- Ÿ Weak communication between headquarters and branches.
- Ÿ Poor internal regulations.
- Ÿ Centralized decision making.
- Ÿ No reporting and information culture.
- Ÿ Need to strengthen alliances.

4. Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

Peru is one of the countries within the region which receives most support from the Movement. The American, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies ensure support to the National Society. As a consequence of the 2001 earthquake, the Mesa Redonda fire and snowstorms in the south, the volume of funding has increased considerably and several projects are under continued implementation.

The following lists the programmes supported by PNSs and the ICRC.

American Red Cross

- Ÿ ICMI.

German Red Cross:

- Ÿ Disaster preparedness.

Norwegian Red Cross:

- HIV/AIDS.
- Non-violence.
-

Spanish Red Cross:

- Ÿ Support to the development of the projects office and the financing of several community projects.
- Ÿ Community based disaster preparedness.

ICRC

- Ÿ Dissemination.
- Ÿ Support to branches.
- Ÿ Programmes outlined in the tripartite agreement PRC/Federation/ICRC.

Partner	Health	Relief	DPP	Humanitarian values	Organizational Development
ICRC				Yes	Yes
Federation	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
American Red Cross	Yes (ICMI)				
German Red Cross		Yes	Yes		
Spanish Red Cross	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Norwegian Red Cross				Yes	

5. Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

Health and Care

- Ÿ Amazonico Programme.
- Ÿ HIV/AIDS.
- Ÿ IMCI.

Disaster Management

- Ÿ Community based disaster preparedness.
- Ÿ Strengthening of the Relief Department
- Ÿ Activate the El Niño contingency plan.

Organizational Development

In 2002, the PRC, the Federation and the ICRC signed a tripartite letter of intent which includes three lines of action:

- Ÿ Legal basis and Statutes: revision of Statutes and the creation of an ad hoc commission.
- Regulations and internal procedures: development of general regulations that address fundamental internal matters such as organization, volunteering and branch development.
- Ÿ National Development Plan: launch of the NDP process.
- Ÿ Training of national leaders.

Humanitarian Values

- Ÿ Education for non-violence

Coordination

- Initiate the CAS process
- Continue work related to the harmonization process.