

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Argentina

Appeal No. MAAAR001

6 October 2011

This report covers the period 01 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.



The Argentine Red Cross conducted public education on issues of road safety. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

In brief

Programme outcome: The Argentine Red Cross programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of *Strategy 2020* to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programmes summary: The Argentine Red Cross (ARC) has worked consistently to implement its country support plan during the first half of 2011. In the midst of relative calm at the national level, the National Society has been able to make considerable progress towards meeting its annual goals. The creation of a new Strategic Plan, aligned with *Strategy 2020* and the recommendations of the Inter-American Conference, has been one of the most important achievements during this reporting period. The National Society also elected a governing body. The new authorities are committed to ensuring continuity and stability for the implementation of the strategic plan.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' secretariat, through the regional representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil, which provides consistent accompaniment to the ARC, is equally committed to continuing this multi-faceted support. Close and regular coordination between the regional representation and the National Society guarantees that the ARC leadership, staff and volunteers have the appropriate skills and tools to meet the objectives established in its new strategic plan, as well as the 2011 country support plan for the Argentine Red Cross.

Lastly, the ARC alliances and partnerships established at the national and international level have also provided solid foundations for the National Society's current and future institutional

constancy.

The progress made during the first six months of this year in strategic issues related to organizational development, as well as in health and disaster risk management, demonstrate that the Argentine Red Cross is taking firm steps to fulfil its institutional plans and create the conditions to become a well-functioning National Society.

Financial situation: The total revised 2011 budget is 530,010 Swiss francs, of which 298,564 Swiss francs (56 per cent) has been covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 184,859 Swiss francs (35 per cent) of the budget. The budget has been revised from 362,730 Swiss francs to 530,010 Swiss francs.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: As the National Society's actions during this period have been focused on organizational development, the estimated number of people reached is the total number of volunteers, leadership and staff in the ARC's 71 branches and national headquarters. ARC actions, however, indirectly impact all of the Argentine population in current and future activities which respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations and communities.

Global Alliance on HIV: As of mid-2011, 721,251 direct beneficiaries were reached of the expected three-year total of 776,832. According to the outcomes, 421,470 were in prevention; 1,736 in treatment and care to people living with HIV (PLHIV) or family members of people living with HIV (FPLHIV); 296,411 in reduction of stigma and discrimination; and skill strengthening for the 1,096 participating volunteers.

Our partners: The Argentine Red Cross is engaged in amplifying its partnerships with International Movement actors, State entities and the private sector. Additionally, specialized partnerships and alliances have been created and promoted in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management and health.

Within the Movement, the ARC has a tripartite agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross- ICRC and the International Federation, based on a memorandum of understanding signed in 2009. It also has good relationship, and has received support from the National Societies of Finland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

The ARC maintains a working relationship with the National Directorate of Planning and Civil Protection and is cultivating its relations with non-traditional allies and donors from the private sector.

On behalf of Argentine Red Cross, the IFRC would like to thank all partners and contributors for their response to this plan.

Context

Although the Argentine population of 40 million people live in 23 provinces and the autonomous capital city of Buenos Aires, 91 per cent of them are located in urban areas. Approximately one million people self-identify as members of the country's 38 indigenous groups and generally live in high vulnerability. Official figures indicate that 23 per cent of the population lives in poverty, with higher ratios, and more extreme poverty, in metropolitan Buenos Aires and the Northern provinces.

Argentina boasts an economic resurgence in the midst of the ongoing and cyclical global economic crisis. In 2010, the country experienced an 8.5 per cent growth in its GDP, which is forecast to fall to 5 per cent this year. However, income distribution is unequal, poorer households are more affected by inflation, and credit remains scarce for productive investments. State modernization efforts, including the adoption of public policies that favour the majority of the population and marginalized social sectors, remain on the national government's agenda. Measures to decrease

poverty, increase basic services, promote citizens' safety are key issues, and even more so during this period when presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for October 2011.

The Argentine Red Cross adapts well to the changing national context. Whilst not overlooking the recurrent risks of floods in the La Plata basin and its tributaries, particularly affecting the provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Ríos, as well as risks of earthquakes and industrial disasters, the National Society has dedicated time and effort to its organizational development. The creation of its Strategic Plan for the 2011–2015 period, aligned with *Strategy 2020* and the recommendations of the Inter-American Conference, has been one of the most important achievements during this reporting period. The National Society also elected a governing body, another significant accomplishment, which bodes well for guaranteeing institutional continuity and stability and the implementation of the Strategic Plan. However, there are many more opportunities. The strengthening of its branch network, including skills at this level, as well as further work in programmatic and geographic areas with noticeable social impact have the potential to solidify the impressive organizational strengthening already underway.

Disaster Management

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impacts of disasters.

Over the last six months, the Argentine Red Cross' actions in the area of disaster management have generated a positive image at the national level and have enabled the National Society to contribute to disaster risk reduction.

Programme component 1: Institutional capacity-building for community risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Argentine Red Cross is encouraged and receives support for strengthening capacities to work with communities to be better prepared and organized to reduce, respond to and recover from the impacts of disasters, contributing to building safer and more resilient communities.

The Argentine Red Cross has been strengthening its community-based disaster risk reduction skills and is implementing actions that promote the construction of safer and more resilient communities.

As was projected in the annual country support plan for this year, the ARC is implementing actions towards the development of common minimum components for human resources training on community risk reduction. During this reporting period, these actions have been framed within the DIPECHO VII project under implementation by the ARC in collaboration with the Finnish Red Cross. The Reference Centre for Community Based Education in Disaster Preparedness supported the ARC to organize and facilitate a training of trainers in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology. A staff person from the Centre of Reference jointly with two National Society members, who had previously been trained by the IFRC in 2009 and 2010, wrote the terms of reference, planned the agenda and produced the didactic materials for this workshop which took place in Tartagal in the Salta province. A total of 21 facilitators were trained during this workshop.

In February 2011, the National Society concluded its climate change project, "Actors, not spectators, for Change". This project which had been financed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre (based in The Hague) enabled the ARC to share the products and tools developed with other National Societies which resulted in a continental-wide report on the issue.

The IFRC continues to share opportunities for more growth in this area. The regional representation has facilitated access to a virtual forum on urban risk on the DesAprender online learning platform. Additionally, the National Society presented a proposal to the regional representation to work on urban risk in two neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires.

Programme component 2: Institutional capacity-building for disaster preparedness**Component outcome 1: The secretariat encourages and supports the strengthening of Argentine Red Cross capacities to effectively support communities to plan, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies.**

Part of the multi-faceted support which the regional representation provides to the Argentine Red Cross is focused on institutional capacity building in disaster preparedness. Over the past six months, the ARC with support from the regional representation, has worked to draft a preliminary four-year work plan focused on this objective.

This plan includes information on the types and content of training opportunities, the ARC National Response Plan, and skill-transfer to targeted communities. The regional representation assisted the National Society to present a related proposal, essential for further development in this area, to an international donor. The ARC still awaited a response at the time this report was produced.

With regard to the National Response Plan, the ARC is currently finalizing this, following which the document will be disseminated at headquarters and branch level.

Programme component 3: Disaster risk reduction coordination and advocacy**Component outcome 1: The participation and coordination processes between Argentine Red Cross and local and national authorities; other national and local organizations and regional platforms to develop disaster risk reduction, response and recovery initiatives resulted in key partnership and strategic alliances.**

The National Society alliance and partnership building with State and non-State institutions contributes to improving its ability to implement effective disaster risk reduction and response and recovery initiatives.

Starting early in the year, the ARC has participated in different inter-institutional meetings to reach agreements and plan disaster risk reduction strategies. The National Society currently maintains coordination with the following State actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies: the National Civilian Protection Directorate, the White Helmets Commission (*Comisión de Cascos Blancos*), Caritas Argentina, Argentine Scouts, Adventist Agency for Development and Relief Assistance (ADRA¹), Andreani Foundation (*Fundación Adreani*) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Whilst this coordination effort contributed to the launching of the DIPECHO VII project under implementation with the Finnish Red Cross, this inter-institutional work builds upon previously established partnerships. The National Society, alongside the above mentioned actors, has been engaged in a collective process to establish common protocols for logistics in emergency situations. This process, initially started in 2010 with the IFRC-supported international seminar on the issue, is contributing to more effective and efficient national response in emergencies. Lastly, these actors have taken the steps to establish the Argentine Humanitarian Network which will focus on emergency response and risk reduction.

During the reporting period, the Argentine Red Cross benefited from peer support from the Paraguayan Red Cross for implementation of the VCA methodology.

Programme component 4: International Disaster Response Law**Component outcome 1: Interested National Societies and humanitarian partners are empowered to use legal tools and advocate for strengthened legal frameworks for disaster response.**

The IFRC International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) programme supports National Societies to

¹ ADRA: Agencia Adventista para el Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales.

develop and resource their own technical assistance project to advise their government on ways to enhance legal preparedness for international disaster assistance and make optimal use of the IDRL Guidelines in their national context.

In Argentina, a new technical assistance project is under development for the Argentine Red Cross to be undertaken in the second half of 2011. This technical support is provided by the IFRC IDRL coordinator based in the Americas zone office.

Constraints or Challenges

The Argentine Red Cross has taken important strides towards having the skills to implement community-based risk reduction initiatives, building a national emergency response plan and ensuring alliance-building focused on disaster management. However, the National Society is constrained by limited funding received for its growth in this area. Whilst it has made efforts to acquire needed funds to develop a long-term four-year plan in this area, it will be unable to finalize this until financial resources are obtained.

Health and Care

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The National Society has aligned its actions with the programme purpose to increase health activities and mobilize volunteers, civil society and governments for greater equity in health and a wider impact on public health issues. The ARC health and care programme has focused on work in HIV and AIDS, community health and health in emergencies.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS
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Outcome 1: National Societies have been strengthened to apply the Global Alliance in HIV and AIDS through prevention, care, treatment and support reducing HIV stigma and discrimination and strengthening their capacities.

During the reporting period, the IFRC health and care programme supported the Argentine Red Cross in the implementation of the Global Alliance on HIV at the national level (2008-2011). With this assistance, the ARC created support and monitoring plans for the four Global Alliance outcomes of prevention, treatment and care, stigma and discrimination and skill strengthening.

As of mid-2011, 721,251 direct beneficiaries were reached out of the expected three-year total of 776,832. According to the outcomes, 421,470 were in prevention; 1,736 in treatment and care to people living with HIV (PLHIV) or family members of people living with HIV (FPLHIV); 296,411 in reduction of stigma and discrimination; and skill strengthening for the 1,096 participating volunteers. A total of 364,157 Swiss francs were employed to reach these goals.

During the reporting period, the ARC has applied IFRC strategies and methodologies (including the Code of Good Practices, peer education, prevention, and HIV in the work place). See details in the achievements section below.

Achievements:

The Argentine Red Cross has been actively engaged in work on HIV and AIDS and the reduction of stigma and discrimination. The following list details the National Society's varied actions conducted during this reporting period to meet this goal:

- The ARC participated in the Change in Behaviour workshop, held in Jamaica. The workshop provided participants with a set of tools to help foster internal changes in communities, based on an analysis of their goals and objectives.

- The National Society trained 1,096 volunteers in HIV and AIDS using the peer education methodology, as well as provided regular educational updates.
- The ARC established eight new condom distribution centres, based on an agreement between the ARC and the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Office. Furthermore, the National Society maintained the existing 37 condom distribution centres in branches in 21 national provinces, reaching a total of 13,510 people from the general population and 848 PLHIV.
- The ARC trained 27 local coordinators in the HIV programme and volunteers from 12 branches in issues related to prevention, treatment, assistance and support for people living with HIV.
- The National Society implemented 21 work plans using peer methodology in 19 provinces, reaching a total of 21,438 direct beneficiaries, predominantly females in the groups of young people in situations of vulnerability (YSV), incarcerated people, sex workers (SW), men who have sex with men (MSM), and transsexuals. The strategy included raising awareness of 871 health staff about stigma, discrimination and PLHIV's right to health.
- The ARC continued the implementation of 243 local campaigns to prevent and raise awareness on stigma and discrimination, with a focus on information, education and communication (IEC) in 48 branches (68 per cent of its branches) in 20 provinces (of 23 provinces in the country). During the 30 months of work, including this reporting period, the ARC has reached 531,024 beneficiaries.
- The ARC conducted a national campaign to eliminate all forms of violence against women, which involved 10 branches from the northeast, Patagonia and Buenos Aires and reached an estimated 1,230 beneficiaries from the general public.
- The National Society incorporated issues related to HIV, gender, stigma and discrimination into courses at eight ARC nursing schools for prospective paramedics and nurses.
- The National Society strengthened coordination with primary care centres, making it possible to hold informative workshops and promote testing among 1,096 pregnant women.
- Eight reflection groups were created, regularly attended by 595 PLHIV and families of PLHIV and 38 children with HIV. The first reflection group for PLHIV in the women's prison in Batán, Mar del Plata, was formed and is attended regularly by seven women inmates; this achievement motivates further work with this sector of the population.
- The ARC administered nutritional support for 301 PLHIV and acquired microcredit for 7 PLHIV.
- The ARC established the Integral Testing Centre in the Concordia and Entre Ríos branches. A total of 91 people – mostly sex workers, MSM, and transsexuals – were tested and received pre- and post-counselling.
- The National Society distributed Argentine Red Cross HIV policies to 1,224 people, including staff and volunteers, raised awareness about the Code of Good Practices with 54 people from board at the branch level.

In the framework of the policy on harm reduction, an agreement was signed with the Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight against Narcotrafficking (SEDRONAR) which opened a broad scope of opportunities for preventive work with substance users in 10 branches of the country. The objectives of the project are to reduce risk in behaviours and practices associated with the use of psychoactive drugs; ensure non-discriminatory or non-stigmatizing behaviour and strengthen the capacity of communities so that they are better able to prevent and reduce risks, as well as to ensure improved access to comprehensive assistance for the users of psychoactive drugs.

Programme component 2: Public Health in the Community

Component outcome 1: Argentine Red Cross has strengthened its management capacities and scaled up actions related to Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) within an integrated community health strategy.

Following the November 2010 **Latin American Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) meeting**, the ARC committed to scaling up its community-based health actions. The Argentine Red Cross has started work towards the first national meeting on the issue to be held in September 2011. With DIPECHO support, the National Society is incorporating a community-based approach into a platform for action and mobilizing resources through risk management initiatives. Training in CBHFA will take place in September in northern Argentina.

In the area of road safety, the ARC jointly with the National Road Safety Agency organized a public campaign in June 2011. With the motto "Don't Kill Me" (*No Me Mates*), the campaign which distributed printed material and gave talks on first aid, was held at 60 of the country's principal intersections. The ARC has added road safety to the health area in its strategic national plan.

Furthermore, the Argentine Red Cross has been actively engaged in work in community-based health initiatives. The following list summarizes the National Society's achievements during this reporting period to meet the community health goal:

- The CBHFA methodology was adopted in a platform for action and resource mobilization, and planning for national events with regard to CBHFA is taking place.
- A road safety component was included in the ARC strategic plan, as well as the promotion of a partnership with the State institution responsible for this topic.

Programme component 2: Public Health in Emergencies

Component outcome 1: Argentine Red Cross has strengthened its capacities to prepare, respond and recover from health emergencies related to epidemics/pandemics and disasters.

Over the last months of the reporting period, the ARC has been working with the Chilean Red Cross to develop a psychosocial support training module and standards to be incorporated in the National Intervention Team (NIT) training. This process started in 2010 and was completed in the first six months of 2011. The NIT curriculum for psychosocial support will contribute to better preparation for emergency health issues for several National Societies in the region. The ARC will participate in the pilot workshop to be held in Chile and Colombia in the second half of the year.

In addition, the ARC participated in a regional emergency health workshop "*Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas: Lessons Learnt and innovative approaches*" in April 2011 organized by the IFRC emergency health coordinator. The objective of this workshop was to share the different experiences of emergencies caused by epidemic diseases in the Americas in reference to community-based approach and integrating prevention and preparedness activities. In this regard, further planning for ARC work in the area of communicable diseases is taking place.

Constraints or Challenges

- The ARC, although dedicated to furthering its health programme, is challenged to identify and obtain needed resources for project follow-up and evaluation of the impact of its actions. Increased support for resource mobilization is essential.
- The ARC is challenged to ensure that its administration, particularly the finance department, has the skills to meet reporting requirements in a timely manner. Despite its pressing need for funds, the delay in financial reports only further postpones the disbursement of funds which are available. These processes need to be reviewed and modified in order to strengthen the National Society's administrative capacities.

Organizational Development

The plan and activities of the organizational development area, similar to the other programme areas, is based on the needs identified during the monitoring of the country support plan conducted in late 2010.

Programme purpose

Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross/Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
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Programme component 1: Strengthening of the Organizational Development Capacities
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Component outcome 1: Promote the strengthening of the territorial network in Argentine Red Cross

Achievements

For several years, the ARC has dedicated time and effort to develop its organizational skills, particularly focusing on volunteers, staff and leadership at the branch level. In 2002, the ARC started an institutional modernization and strengthening plan for branches and the national headquarters, which has continued to the present day.

The ARC has special interest in promoting and developing volunteers' skills and providing the needed attention to this vital part of the National Society. Though financial support from the IFRC Americas zone, the ARC is implementing an innovative online game which introduces volunteers to the National Society. The online game is composed of exercises, questions and challenges on the basic issues that everyone who joins the ARC should know. Amongst these topics are: basic institutional knowledge regarding ARC programmes, services, volunteering, registry and membership forms, spaces for participation and conflict resolution, as well as how to formally resign from the National Society.

The project aims to create a standardized tool to be used nationally for the induction of new volunteers. In addition, it will teach new volunteers basic institutional knowledge in a simple and fun manner. The project, which began during the first half of 2011, is currently in the design and programming phase.

Constraints or Challenges

Although the online didactic game has the potential of reaching some of the new and young ARC volunteers, not all age groups are as comfortable with computers and the internet. It is also important that the volunteer coordinators ensure that people who do not have access to this technology have spaces within the branches to be able to use this tool.

Component outcome 2: Provide technical support to the Argentina Red Cross for the creation and implementation of a National Resources Mobilization and Development Plan
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Achievements

The Argentine Red Cross has a resource mobilization department with technical staff. A resource mobilization and development plan, with IFRC support, was created some years ago. Due to various management changes, the plan was deferred and has not been implemented. During the first half of 2011, the ARC has prioritized resource mobilization on its agenda. The IFRC will support the National Society on this issue during the last half of this year.

Constraints or Challenges

The ARC faces the challenge of strengthening its resource mobilization area, revising and adapting its plan to the country's new demands and needs.

Component outcome 3: Promote legal bases and structures and updates management tools that guarantee the base for the well functioning of National Society
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The National Society has finished the creation of its new Strategic Plan. The plan, fully aligned with *Strategy 2020*, has the following objective, strategic lines of action and areas of work:

- I. **"Working for healthier and strengthened communities"**: aims to help communities improve their health conditions and reduce the risk and impact of disasters and crises by strengthening resilience through community development initiatives and promoting positive social action to end discrimination and promote respect for individual and collective diversity. The planned lines of action and work areas cover health promotion (community health, HIV and AIDS, psychosocial support, community first aid, road safety, substance abuse prevention and reduction) as well as disasters and crises risk management (community-based disaster risk reduction, emergency and disaster management).
- II. **"Health Education"**: aims to consolidate the Argentine Red Cross educational opportunities available at a national level aligning them to the established educational and community service management standards. Its lines of action are educational services and training centres.
- III. **"Closer to the People"**: provides appropriate services to target populations by strengthening management and quality performance. Its lines of action are emergency telephone assistance, first aid during public events and restoring family links.
- IV. **"Increased and improved team work"**: aims to strengthen the ARC's presence and institutional capacities and increase its territorial coverage, developing the personnel and volunteers' skills to take up more effective roles at the organizational level. Its lines of action are territorial development, human resources, communication and financial resources.

Constraints or Challenges

Amongst the ARC's greatest challenge is the need to secure the necessary resources to implement its new plan and ensure its sustainability.

Component outcome 4: Stimulation of dynamic communication processes adapted to new technology in the National Society of Argentina

Although the ARC has requested support to develop policies, strategies and communication plans, different circumstances have made it difficult to ensure provision of this support.

Communication has special importance within the new Strategic Plan of the National Society. During the second half of 2011, the National Society will promote South-South cooperation, and thus contribute to external support for the ARC.

Constraints or Challenges

The IFRC, as well as the National Society, is challenged to identify appropriate technical and financial support for this area within the ARC. This support is essential to strengthen the National Society's organizational development. As it is one of the pillars of the National Society's mission and actions, more efforts are immediately required.

Component outcome 5: Technical support for Human Resources strengthening to improve National Society response to new humanitarian challenges

During the first half of 2011, the Regional Representation has made a concerted effort to include Argentine Red Cross staff in the different training courses organized by the Americas zone, on the IFRC E-Learning platform or in other opportunities organized by sister National Societies or the secretariat. Similar to most of the objectives in the country support plan, this effort is contingent on identifying and obtaining the needed funds and the appropriateness of training courses for the National Society's current needs.

The Americas zone has funded the project: "Creating a Volunteer Policy and Strengthening Programme for the Argentine Red Cross" which is providing needed support to the National Society's volunteering area. This project, which is being implemented throughout this year, aims to

contribute to institutional strengthening through improving organizational skills and better use of its human resources.

The National Society staff and leadership in consultation with its volunteers, jointly with the regional representation, will collectively write essential guidance documents including an ARC volunteer policy as well as a National Programme for Volunteering. To this end, consultation with ARC members and volunteers via individual surveys as well as an internet discussion forum have begun. For the second semester of 2011, the ARC has planned a national meeting for branch-level volunteer management leadership with national headquarters staff.

Lastly, the regional representation has continued to foster and encourage cooperation between the ARC and other sister National Societies, particularly those in the region. This networking support will continue throughout the year.

Constraints or Challenges

The ARC considers educational opportunities and human resource training as priorities. However, it remains challenged to identify coordination mechanisms to increase these actions with other National Societies, the IFRC and other institutions outside of the Movement.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose
Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.
Reduce discrimination, promote diversity and prevent violence through influencing community behaviour
Component Outcome 1: Argentine Red Cross strengthens advocacy capacities in promoting non-discrimination and violence reduction

Despite the significance of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values for all the actions of the National Society, funding for a particular principles and values focus is not available at the regional level. Since early 2010, the regional representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil, as well as the regional representation for the Andean countries, has not had the funds to cover the human resources needed for this area. As funding sources continue to be reduced, the secretariat continues to provide accompaniment to the region's National Societies for the incorporation of principles and values in its actions. However legitimate the efforts to make principles and values a cross-cutting issue in all National Societies, the programmatic areas will continue to show little progress until earmarked funds for the appropriate human resources and activities are identified and obtained.

Understanding the financial challenges which are reflected in programmatic strategy, the regional representation, side-by-side with the National Society, continue to include principles and values issues into their work. This has been most successful in their actions with youth, women, PLHIV, indigenous people and others groups living in situations of vulnerability.

During this reporting period, the ARC has taken strides towards its annual objective of creating a national gender policy. ARC representatives participated in a regional workshop, organized by the Americas zone in Panama on incorporating a gender focus in the project cycle and the 10 steps methodology created by the Canadian Red Cross in violence prevention. And as mentioned above in the health section, the ARC also participated in the IFRC workshop held in the Bahamas on "Designing Behavioural Change" which focused on HIV and AIDS and other STI.

With regards to the annual objective of sponsoring awareness-raising activities which highlight the International Movement's principles and values, the ARC organized a travelling exhibition on gender violence in San Juan. This exhibition which was designed and loaned to the National

Society brings attention to the pervasiveness, as well as the causes and impacts, of gender-based violence.

The National Society also has taken advantage of symbolic days to highlight and raise awareness of principles and values. On 8 March, International Women's Day, the ARC held several events in ARC branches and boosted its campaign work on gender-based violence.

In addition to gender-based violence, the National Society also addresses the issues of homophobia and stigma. On 17 May, the international day of the struggle against homophobia, the ARC participated in a national meeting of diverse institutions held in Salta. On 28 June, the international day for sexual diversity, the Argentine Red Cross participated in a national meeting on the issue held in Buenos Aires. At the branch level, 32 branches remain active in the promotion of non-discrimination and the reduction of gender-based violence.

Constraints or Challenges

The human resource and financial restraints mentioned above decrease the effectiveness of the National Society's actions to promote the International Movement's principles and values. Whilst cross-cutting actions continue to be undertaken, it is vital to earmark a part of the National Society budget, as well as that of the regional representation, for this vital area which is the backbone of the Movement's humanitarian action.

Working in partnership

The Argentine Red Cross has a history of establishing useful partnerships to achieve its projected institutional goals. Over the years, the ARC has developed strong partnerships with national organizations focused on risk reduction and disaster management. The National Society has an important role to play in this issue, which recently continues to be strengthened through its closer coordination with the National Secretariat for Civil Protection and the private sector interested in supporting these issues. Furthermore, the regional representation has supported, when possible, the building of these partnerships and strategic alliances.

The National Society has productive alliances on health issues, particularly encouraging a non-discriminatory humanitarian approach on issues such as HIV and AIDS.

During this period, the relations and alliances with other Movement actors have continued. The ARC has a functional and useful working alliance with the Finnish Red Cross. The Spanish Red Cross remains a consistent ARC partner. Similarly, the National Societies of Italy, Norway and Sweden have provided support during the first half of the year. The ICRC and the IFRC, based on the signed tripartite agreement, are permanent partners of the Argentine Red Cross.

International institutions, particularly UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and UNAIDS) and the public-private Global Fund on HIV, continue to be strategic and valuable allies. The ARC also acknowledges the generous support which DIPECHO has provided for disaster risk management and response.

Contributing to longer-term impact

All of the ARC activities during this period have been framed within its new Strategic Plan. Thus, these actions have medium to long-term impact. The regional representation is committed to extending its monitoring and support measures for the National Society's sustainability and enduring impacts. Additionally, the regional representation maintains close dialogue with the ARC so as to ensure that appropriate modifications to the country support plan are made in a timely manner.

The commitment to gender equity and equality and the respect for diversity contribute to long-term impacts which reach beyond the National Society. The ARC, as mentioned above, is incorporating principles and values, particularly non-discrimination, into its work. In addition, in its community work, the National Society frames its actions as development with sustainability, thus strengthening

the stakeholders' ability to continue activities and employing learned knowledge after particular projects end.

The implementation of actions aimed to raise awareness on the part of the general public and men in particular regarding gender-based violence and femicides which have cost the lives of 260 women in Argentina over the last year, has taken place through the organization of campaigns with the participation of journalists and members of organizations involved in the issue; the campaigns have reached a total of 1,230 direct beneficiaries and some 2,500 indirect beneficiaries. It is important to mention that this initiative does not only seek to raise awareness of the issue, but also to ensure the inclusion in the public agenda of policies for the prevention of and elimination of violence, such as the creation of shelters/homes, an increase in the national budget for this work and effective implementation of the recently approved law in accordance with the commitments undertaken in the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

243 local campaigns to raise awareness and promote prevention of stigma and discrimination with a focus on information, education and communication (IEC) took place in 48 branches in 20 Provinces and reached some 531,024 beneficiaries over a period of 30 months.

Training using the peer education methodology has taken place in key populations of transgender, men who have sex with men and transsexuals in the framework of joint training meetings lead by three branches and held in ARC branches in San Juan, Salta and Santiago del Estero. In addition, training workshops in gender and diversity have taken place for 935 participants including volunteers and partners as well as 2,570 adolescents attending public schools, and public awareness-raising campaigns on stigma and discrimination have taken place, reaching 203,131 beneficiaries from the general public.

Looking ahead

Whilst the Argentine Red Cross has conducted a great number of activities in the areas of health and organizational development during this reporting period, other strategic areas have received less attention. The National Society is challenged to identify and obtain funding sources which support its ability to expand activities, better respond to locally-defined needs and priorities, and report on its achievements and challenges in a timely manner.

Alongside the support provided, the regional representation maintains a fluid and respectful dialogue with the Argentine Red Cross. It is not expected that the last half of 2011 will bring substantial changes to the programmes and actions currently underway, although minor adjustments could be made to further strengthen the proposed plans. There are currently no significant changes proposed to the country support plan.

How we work	
<p><i>All Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAR001 - Argentina

MID YEAR REPORT 2011

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/01-2011/06
Budget Timeframe	2011/01-2011/12
Appeal	MAAAR001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	89,526	127,977	33,284		279,223	530,010
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0		0	0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Italian Red Cross</i>		32,250				32,250
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	985	5,130				6,115
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>	23,635	46,168				69,802
C1. Cash contributions	24,619	83,547				108,167
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>					54,600	54,600
C3. Inkind Personnel					54,600	54,600
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Balance Reallocation</i>		2,221			133,577	135,798
C4. Other Income		2,221			133,577	135,798
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	24,619	85,768	0		188,177	298,564
D. Total Funding = B + C	24,619	85,768	0		188,177	298,564
Appeal Coverage	27%	67%	0%		67%	56%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0		0	0
C. Income	24,619	85,768	0		188,177	298,564
E. Expenditure	-1	-55,272	19		-129,606	-184,859
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	24,619	30,496	19		58,571	113,705

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MAAAR001 - Argentina

MID YEAR REPORT 2011

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		89,526	127,977	33,284		279,223	530,010	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs						137	137	-137
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage						137	137	-137
Personnel								
International Staff	177,792					70,629	70,629	107,163
National Staff	2,001					1,694	1,694	307
National Society Staff	7,940	2,758	4,364			482	7,604	336
Total Personnel	187,732	2,758	4,364			72,804	79,926	107,806
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	1,275							1,275
Professional Fees						234	234	-234
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	1,275					234	234	1,041
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	211,435	1,712		1,176		393	3,282	208,153
Total Workshops & Training	211,435	1,712		1,176		393	3,282	208,153
General Expenditure								
Travel	25,921	1,287		218		24,877	26,382	-461
Information & Public Relations	6,011	2,045		1,578		478	4,101	1,910
Office Costs	9,899	1,433		1,912		55	3,400	6,499
Communications	209	139		116		439	694	-485
Financial Charges	12,307	366	8,700	-263		2,675	11,478	829
Other General Expenses						421	421	-421
Shared Office and Services Costs	42,374					22,611	22,611	19,763
Total General Expenditure	96,722	5,270	8,700	3,560		51,556	69,087	27,635
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-9,739	38,361	-4,754		-119	23,748	-23,748
Total Operational Provisions		-9,739	38,361	-4,754		-119	23,748	-23,748
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	32,348	0	3,363	-1		4,600	7,961	24,387
Total Indirect Costs	32,348	0	3,363	-1		4,600	7,961	24,387
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee	498		484				484	14
Total Pledge Specific Costs	498		484				484	14
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	530,010	1	55,272	-19		129,606	184,859	345,151
VARIANCE (C - D)		89,525	72,705	33,303		149,617	345,151	