

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## CUBA

Appeal No. MAACU002

4 October 2011

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

### In brief

#### Programme outcome:

The work of the Cuban Red Cross is guided by *Strategy 2020* and the Inter American Plan 2007-2011 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 non-violence and peace.*

#### Programme(s) summary:

During the first half of 2011, most of the work of the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation (LCRR) which covers Cuba, was the re-establishment of a continuous dialogue with the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) and Cuban government authorities. As mentioned in the Latin Caribbean 2010 Annual Report (MAA49002), many of the Federation's programmatic activities in Cuba were temporarily halted after the earthquake in Haiti. Furthermore, given the low coverage of the support plan, 50 per cent of total funding required, many sectors of the plan were revised and reallocations of funding made from the 2008 hurricane season.

Part of the first semester was dedicated to securing funding for future activities through a European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) proposal as part of regional DIPECHO VIII (Disaster Preparedness) programme which was successfully achieved.

One of the main challenges that the CRC and LCRRO confronts during programme implementation relates to the restrictions that are in place in Cuba that can hinder cooperation projects.

#### Financial situation:

The total revised budget of 2011 is 459,678 Swiss francs, of which 166,950 Swiss francs (36 per cent) have been covered. During the period covered by this mid-year report, 15,960 Swiss francs (3.5 per cent) were spent. This low percentage of implementation is due to difficulties with the

flow of information and supplies into the island.

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

**No. of people we have reached:** The main beneficiary of the secretariat support is the Cuban Red Cross and its volunteers and staff. During the reporting period, within the Cuban Red Cross training has been offered to members from the municipalities' groups specialized in operations and relief (Grupos de Operaciones en Socorros Municipales – GEMOS), members from the water safety brigades, the VCA group and regional coordinators. Through DIPECHO projects some 1,000 families (4,000 persons) have been reached.

**Our partners:** In Cuba, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Latin Caribbean Regional Representation, works in close coordination with the Norwegian Red Cross which has representation in the country, with the German Red Cross' Regional Delegation based in the Dominican Republic, and with the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Mexico. Some actions are also coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with other humanitarian agencies.

## Context

The work of the Cuban Red Cross has a community focus and deals with diverse socio-cultural contexts, conflicts and emergencies.

The CRC has organized presence supported by infrastructure, equipment and active volunteers in 15 provinces and 85 of the 169 municipalities in the country. The network of 48,000 volunteers covers most of the country and represents the Cuban population, with youth and elderly people actively participating within the National Society. Due to its geographical location, the island of Cuba is particularly vulnerable to severe weather, mainly during the hurricane season. In 2008, the President of Cuba estimated that the hurricane season had a cost of 10,000 million US dollars, around 10 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The national policy on risk reduction, on strengthening local capacity and on the early warning system is based on previous experiences with hurricane related emergency management. Beyond its auxiliary role to the government, the CRC has a key role in the national system of civil defence and the goals of the National Society are established by the Civil Defence executive committee, in line with the legal framework determined by the highest national authorities.

The economic guidelines set by the government of Cuba had a noticeable influence on the first six months of implementation of the annual plan. All sectors in the country are currently adjusting to the new regulations which are having a direct and immediate impact on the population. After the last congress of the Cuban Communist Party, there is a will to allow for a controlled economic opening of certain sectors, as well as a gradual change of the administrative structure. The government recognizes that Cuba is going through a critical period with some deterioration of living standards. The administrative restructuring and government pay roll cuts had also created some apprehension in the general population.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

<b>Programme purpose:</b>
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<b>Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters</b>
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<b>Programme component 1: Community Preparedness/Risk Reduction</b>
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**Component outcome 1: Through community capacity-building reduce risks and impact related to climate change and disasters**

The first months of 2011 were dedicated to setting the basis for the second stage of the Cuban Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross risk reduction project. There has been strong coordination to complement the existing strategy with an ECHO proposal for 300,000 euro, as part of DIPECHO VIII. In addition, a high level meeting with the commander-in-chief of the Cuban Civil Defence was held to analyze possible ways to move forward after receiving permission to present the DIPECHO VIII proposal. The project is designed to procure storage capacity for relief goods for 1,000 families in the eastern part of the country, particularly vulnerable to seismic hazards. Purchases of the stock will be done at the end of 2011 and to be ready for deployment by spring 2012. The Norwegian PRECO project is targeting the central and western part of the country. The implementation of both projects will therefore ensure coverage of the entire territory.

**Programme component 2: Organizational Preparedness**

**Component outcome 1: The groups specialized in operations and relief are prepared and strengthened to maintain effective work at the three different levels (provincial, municipal and community) levels.**

Operational equipment for the GEMOS has been procured, including search and rescue / first aid materials and individual equipment for members of the water rescue teams. The procured materials will reach 27 cities that are prone to seismic hazards. The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation expects to deliver the equipment in the second semester of 2011, providing the importation permits are received.

**Component outcome 2: Improved capacity of the National Society to be better integrated in the regional and global Disaster Management system**

During the first semester of 2011 two regional coordination meetings were organized together with local authorities, in order to support the CRC internal capacity to connect with the global management system.

A VCA is programmed for September, with the participation of 28 people, focused on climate change. This will be supported through three instructors from the CREEC and will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment.

International cooperation activities in Cuba are supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Collaboration (Ministerio para la Inversión Extranjera y Colaboración Económica, MINVEC). All projects with the CRC are also coordinated with MINVEC. The Ministry's representatives have expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and their desire to increase the three-way cooperation.

## Health and Care

**Programme purpose:**

**Reduce the number of death, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health in emergencies**

**Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS**

**Component outcome 1: Contribute to the National HIV and AIDS response through behaviour change campaigns promoting HIV prevention and reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination.**

Unfortunately this component did not receive funding during the reporting period.

**Programme component 2: Community-based Health and First Aid****Component outcome 1: Contribute to preventing and reducing the impact of road and aquatic accidents and to 100 per cent voluntary blood donations through community health prevention and promotion campaigns.**

Unfortunately this component did not receive funding during the reporting period.

**Component outcome 2: To achieve a better social integration of special disabled persons.**

In late 2010 the CRC participated in the first Training of Trainers' course in the IFRC's revitalized community health methodology, *Community Based Health and First Aid in Action*, which was held in Lima, Peru. It is anticipated that the CRC will participate in a second trainer of facilitators' workshop in the second semester. The secretariat can also provide peer facilitator support as needed for national volunteer training.

**Programme component 3: Public Health in Emergencies****Component outcome 1: Contribute to the health in emergencies and pandemic influenza preparedness and response with community health promotion campaigns and institutional preparedness.**

The secretariat has promoted the Epidemic Control for Volunteers Manual and Toolkit in Spanish in an effort to increase the capacity of volunteers in case of emergencies and epidemics. These tools underwent a country validation and were distributed for the use of all Cuban Red Cross branches.

## Organisational Development/Capacity Building

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

**Programme purpose****Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross / Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability****Programme component 1: Volunteer Management****Component outcome 1: The volunteer management cycle is improved with the use of an informational database**

Since May 2011 the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation has a delegate supporting the development of the volunteer network in the region. Plans to replicate the volunteering database software of the Bolivian Red Cross have been discarded and a local solution will be used instead. The computers and equipment needed have been delayed, however the estimated date for this to arrive in the CRC is during October. Given the Bolivian Red Cross' experience in setting up volunteer management systems, the National Society is providing peer to peer support to assist the Cuban Red Cross in moving ahead in this process.

**Programme component 2: Branch Development****Component outcome 1: Empowered branches implement their branch development plan**

It was not possible to complete the planned training workshops with CRC branches or print the materials due to a lack of funds during the reporting period. However, a branch development workshop may take place in December 2011 with the participation of 14 different branches of the Cuban Red Cross.

## Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
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<b>To increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability</b>
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<b>Programme component 1: Promote humanitarian principles and values</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1: Influence the behaviour and attitude to reduce discrimination and promote respect for diversity.</b>
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<b>Component outcome 2: The principles and values are internally and externally promoted by the Cuban Red Cross.</b>
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In March 2011, the LCRR supported the CRC's "National School for CRC management" project. As part of the project, 18 secretaries participated in a basic course about the Red Cross Movement that included both the international and regional perspectives.

The LCRR is considering the possibility of replicating this strategy in the Dominican Republic, ensuring that the activity forms part of any capacity building project proposal. If successful, the National Society would fund the travel expenses of the provincial management staff.

## Working in partnership

International cooperation activities in Cuba are supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Collaboration (Ministerio para la Inversión Extranjera y Colaboración Económica, MINVEC), which follows up the implementation of some 1,300 projects representing the sum of 480 million US dollars per year. Cuba has on-going cooperation projects with 55 countries, although MINVEC clarifies that there are additional cooperation agreements with 130 countries. Therefore, all projects with the CRC are also coordinated with MINVEC. During previous discussions, the Ministry's representatives have expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and their desire to increase the three-way cooperation.

Some development goals are being complemented by other Movement actors. The Spanish Red Cross, for example, follows a decentralized model, working directly with provincial branches to carry out projects such as the rehabilitation of water systems or health centres. The German Red Cross also follows a similar method.

In the case of the Netherlands Red Cross, this is the only National society that has a delegate present in the country and has a bilateral cooperation agreement with the CRC. The main focus of their working agreement is in the areas of risk reduction and disaster preparedness. The "Preparing Communities" (Preparando Comunidades, PRECO) project has three main goals: risk reduction at the community level, support to the groups specialized in operations and relief (Grupos de Operación y Socorro, GOS), and institutional strengthening. As the first stage of the projects was deemed successful by both the Cuban Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, it was decided to continue with the same approach but with the addition of some pilot micro projects in water and sanitation, early warning and maintenance of a school in rural areas. These micro projects were identified by the communities after completing the Vulnerability and Capacities Assessment (VCA). Also, during the second stage of 2010-2011, the Norwegian Red Cross will increase its coordination with the Reference Centres in El Salvador and Costa Rica to better use the adapted tools of the IFRC.

Finally, the CRC also works alongside with the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in Mexico. They have a project focused on reinforcing the capacities of the CRC to disseminate international humanitarian law (IHL) with government offices and educational institutions.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Considering MINVEC's level of satisfaction with the work carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and their desire to increase the three-way cooperation, it may be possible to reach better cooperation agreements that could possibly ease the delivery of key items and resources, aiding the CRC in fulfilling this and future plans, improving cooperation with PNS working in the country and contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

## Looking ahead

- Delays in the arrival of some resources have set back compliance with some indicators. These, however, are expected to be received during the second semester of the year, which will boost achievements. This should be reflected in the annual report.

How we work	
<p><i>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> 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"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In the Cuban Red Cross:</b> Dr. Foyo, President of the Cuban Red Cross; email: <a href="mailto:crsn@infomed.sld.cu">crsn@infomed.sld.cu</a></li> <li>• <b>In the Regional Representation:</b> Alexandre Claudon, Regional Representative for the Latin Caribbean : +1.809.334.4545; email: <a href="mailto:alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org">alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org</a></li> <li>• <b>In the Americas Zone:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jan Gelfand; Head of Operations; phone: + 507 317 1304; email: <a href="mailto:jan.gelfand@ifrc.org">jan.gelfand@ifrc.org</a></li> <li>- Zuleyka Maynard; Resource Mobilization Senior Officer; phone: + 507 317 1304; email: <a href="mailto:zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org">zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACU002 - Cuba

Mid Year Report 2011

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAACU002
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	407,641	22,930	29,107	0		459,678
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>			3,273			3,273
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>			<b>3,273</b>			<b>3,273</b>
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Balance Reallocation</i>	121,278	29,200	13,200			163,678
<b>C4. Other Income</b>	<b>121,278</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>13,200</b>			<b>163,678</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>	<b>121,278</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>16,473</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>166,950</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>121,278</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>16,473</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>166,950</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	30%	127%	57%	#DIV/0		36%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0	0	0	0		0
<b>C. Income</b>	121,278	29,200	16,473	0		166,950
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-10,964	0	-4,996			-15,960
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>110,313</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>11,477</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>150,990</b>

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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	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>407,641</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>29,107</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>459,678</b>	
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	103,945							103,945
Clothing & textiles	77,120							77,120
Utensils & Tools	32,690							32,690
Other Supplies & Services	39,770							39,770
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>253,525</b>							<b>253,525</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	14,000							14,000
Medical Equipment	63,000							63,000
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>77,000</b>							<b>77,000</b>
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	3,871							3,871
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,073							8,073
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>11,944</b>							<b>11,944</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	1,115			112			112	1,003
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>1,115</b>			<b>112</b>			<b>112</b>	<b>1,003</b>
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>								
Consultants	2,000							2,000
<b>Total Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>2,000</b>							<b>2,000</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	55,280	309		4,516			4,825	50,455
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>55,280</b>	<b>309</b>		<b>4,516</b>			<b>4,825</b>	<b>50,455</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	13,000	4,032					4,032	8,968
Information & Public Relation	15,000							15,000
Office Costs	989	55					55	934
Financial Charges	1,030	553		63			616	414
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>30,019</b>	<b>4,640</b>		<b>63</b>			<b>4,704</b>	<b>25,315</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		5,346					5,346	-5,346
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>5,346</b>					<b>5,346</b>	<b>-5,346</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Service Support	28,796	669		305			974	27,822
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>28,796</b>	<b>669</b>		<b>305</b>			<b>974</b>	<b>27,822</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>459,678</b>	<b>10,964</b>		<b>4,996</b>			<b>15,960</b>	<b>443,718</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>396,677</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>24,111</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>443,718</b>	