

**RESILIENCE IN THE AMERICAS (RITA)
Nicaraguan Red Cross**

General Objective:

The American Red Cross in collaborative work with the Nicaraguan Red Cross started with an Integral Participative Diagnostic in 5 communities, located in Managua area, Sebaco and Tipitapa.

From the priorities identified in the Community Action Plans, activities were designed in order to be developed with the community, through analysis of the organizational situation. Were defined the main actions addressed to the strengthened of the National Society.

For the execution of the second year of RITA program, it was developed a strategy of implementation, that it was considered key on strengthening the National Societies and their organizational capacity on planning and management, to ensure a successful process of joining and follow-up that will develop communities more awareness and resilient.

The main activities are focused on community education, organizational community and capacity building addressed to reinforce the sensibilisation process and the commitment of the beneficiaries, in addition of following-up processes that were mentioned during the first phase (RITA I). In this way, it was expected to unify the presence of the Red Cross in the community, strengthening links with local partners (government entities, community organizations, no governmental organizations), with the purpose of creating a space to allow efforts between key actors to promote the advances and achievements in the communities.

Activities Description:

During the first year of RITA program, the interest of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, was developing actions and strengthening community capacity to meet the identified priorities during the diagnostic stage in five (5) communities selected. For the second phase (RITA II year), emphasis was placed on the strengthened of the National Society capacity and Red Cross committees, in order to give a better support to the local organizations, response brigades and the rest of the committees to strengthen the community actions to face an event.

In this sense, we have worked on the strengthen of response at community level, training the brigades on risk management, health committees and basic first aid, elaboration of community Emergency Plans, Water Management, Good Practices of Hygiene, solid waste management and support on audits of the Water committees.

During this period, actions of community cohesion have been developed with cleaning campaigns and contest of the cleanest house. This has generated an important change at community level and have promoted correct manage of trash, vector control and collaborative work in the community.

For activities were used as reference, methodologies developed by the FICR, of "Es Mejor Prevenir", Participative Health transformation, hygiene and sanitation (PHAST), Health and community first aid (SPAC). In addition, support from other ONG's (Swiss Red Cross) were received, where volunteers were trained on making crafts with recycle material. This have allowed some families of the beneficiary communities on taking advantage of material available around the area and sell their crafts to generate an income.

Resilience in the Americas is an integral proposal that promotes the strengthening on communities, valuing the community experience and promoting the support and compromise of the Red Cross volunteers. The implemented strategy involves coordinated work between the national societies, Red Cross branches, community leaders and representatives of local entities. It generates the opportunity of providing sustainability of the processes initiated.

PARTERS-KEY ACTORS

The five (5) communities involved on the implementation of the program process (community leaders, community members in general, politics secretaries, Ministry of Health, Municipality of Sebaco and Tipitapa, Ministry of Education and National Police.)



Strategy of intervention:

Aplication of the methodologies as reference (PHAST, SPAC, es mejor prevenir serie) focused-tools on communities, activities development, as sensibilization campaigns. The evaluation will be made through baseline, endline, checklists, home visits, focus groups, interviews and more.

Priorization of this areas:

Strenghtening on the NS capacity of services (project management, plans of response, volunteer management)
 -Risk reduction and response to disasters.
 -Water management and hygiene (PHAST)
 -Community Health (SPAC)
 -Community empowerment.
 -Community organization and local development.

Project lifetime:

From August 26, 2014 to June 30th, 2015.

Direct Beneficiaries:

2,233 Direct beneficiaries

Location:

Two (2) communities of Sebaco
 Municipally: Carreta Quebrada and Paso Real.
 Two (2) communities of Tipitapa
 Municipally: El Madroño and la campana,
 One (1) urban community of Managua:
 Julio Buitrago.

Objective 1: To increase the NS capacity on services.

- Improve the NS capacity on program management.
- Improve the NS capacity on response of disaster.

Objective 2: To create opportunities in vulnerable communities to improve the resilience.

- Improve the NS capacity on response of disaster.

Project advances (March 2014-March 2015)

The program has accomplished a work plan adjusted on needs of strengthening the National Society, in order to manage program, develop strategies, operative and define plans to process planning at institutional level and volunteer management. At community level, the job training and skills development has been intensified with groups already created or strengthened with the project support, through training addressed to the water committees, response brigades, health committees and community organizations. Home visits with key messages have been developed, cleaning campaigns and contest to promote the collaborative work and the community cohesion.

- The Nicaraguan Red Cross and the Red Cross branches at national level, have strengthened their skills on project management, in addition links have been strengthened with local entities and municipality.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross, have strengthened their management on disaster and have a stronger presence and participation, as a key actor of the national Civil protection system.
- The national society, have shared their strategic plan. It have been socialized and validated with the program support.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross has prepared their national strategy on volunteer management to support the program.
- The communities are able to organized themselves and manage their needs facing the local entities.
- The community group and response brigades have strengthened their capacity on organization, preparedness and response to disasters.
- The community capacity has increased, managing actions between local leaders, local entities and key actors.
- The community capacity has been strengthened on the development of actions and plans to promote the self-management and local development.

Achievements from September 2014 to March 2015:

- 2,233 registered beneficiaries.
- Forty (40) workshops on organizational development and networking.
- 585 beneficiaries participate on community workshop.
- Five (5) beneficiary communities have annual work plans for their organized groups.
- 341 beneficiaries attended to meetings organized by the Project.
- 150 members of organized groups strengthened their skills on community management (health committees, water committees and community response brigades)
- Two (2) branches involved on the project developing businesses plan (Sebaco and Tipitapa)
- Two contest of the cleanest house were made.
- Five (5) communities have organized groups on RRD, Health, water and sanitation.
- Five (5) communities have community plans.

Funds:

\$108,700.00 USD

Contact:

Roberto Brito
Regional Representative for Latinamerican
American Red Cross
E-Mail: roberto.brito@amcross.org
Mobile: +507-6670-8015

Jóse Medrano
National Program Coordinator
E-mail: jose.medrano@amcross.org
Tel.: (+505)8100-3995

FOTOS CUATRO