

**RESILIENCE IN THE AMERICAS PROGRAM(RITA)
Panamian Red Cross**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The resilience in the Americas Program (RITA), has been structured considering the achievements, advances and identified difficulties during the intervention in 2013. An implemental strategy was developed to consider the key factor of 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.

In result of the analysis of actions reviewed vs. time and necessary resources to advance toward the achievement of the project objectives, regard the priorities identified in the community plan of actions, during the first months of the fiscal year 2015, **an extension of 3 months** was requested in order to the Panamanian Red Cross could complete the acquired compromises , before the second phase of intervention. For that reason RITA II execution began on October 2014, with a period of 9 months of hard work, to intensify efforts in the strengthening of their capacities, mainly for the auxiliaries committees and in this way manage projects with a bigger community impact.

The implementation of RITA II, have been reduced to four communities. This decision took place from the difficulties faced by the NS, accomplishing the actions during the first phase, related to problems of coordination with the mobilizers, apart communities and lack of motivation on communities , however , it have been considered resources within the budget on follow -up visits and awareness in the communities of Quebro , La Victoria, Majagual , White Bridge and Finca 51, in order to continue with the started process.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

The RITA II project placed emphasis on activities addressed on the strengthening of the NS, this includes the executors team, the auxiliaries committees, whom are the main responsible to assure the transformation processes, local development and, project sustainability and impact.

In this sense, the NS have worked on the strengthening of the response organizations at community level, through training addressed to the brigades of risk management, health committees, basic first aid, preparedness of the community on emergency plans, water and sanity, good practices of hygiene, solid waste management, support to the water committee on audit.

As reference, the activities used methodologies developed by the International Federation of Red Cross, as "Mejor es Prevenir serie", participative transformation for health, hygiene and sanitation (PHAST), health and community first aid (SPAC)

Activities on community education, community organization and capacity building were conducted to reinforce the awareness processes and commitment. In addition, the follow-up of processes that were mentioned on the first phase, were expected to consolidate the Red Cross presence in communities, strengthening links with local partners (state entities, community organizations, no governmental organizations)

KEY ACTORS/PARTENERS

The four communities involved on the implemental process of the program (community leaders and community members), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Civil Protection.



AIDS Workshop in Changuinola



Home visits with key messages

Strategy of intervention:

Application of the methodologies as reference (PHAST, SPAC, (es mejor prevenir serie) focused-tools on communities, activities development, and sensibilization campaigns.

The evaluation will made through baseline, endline, checklists, home visits, focus groups, interviews and others.

Priorization of this areas:

- Strengthened the National Society capacity on 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

EXPECTED RESULTS

Objective 1: To increase the National Societies on services.

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

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

- Improve the NS capacity on response of disasters.

PROJECT ADVANCES (from October 2014 to June 2015)

During the program execution, a follow-up of actions on the strengthening of the National Society and the community, followed the detailed plan of work, conducted on efforts toward development of management capacity at all levels, National Society, local Red Cross committees and community groups.

- A socialization of the strategic plan was made at national level.
- The community close by Puente Blanco, "Puente Medio", was added to receive training in this community. This started as own initiative of the Puente Medio community.
- Brochures and informative material were translated to a (Nobore) dialect.
- Counted with 20 minutes of radial program "Rita en acción" in Changuinola region.

Achievements from October 2014 to June 2015:

- 1,559 registered beneficiaries.
- Eight (8) workshops on organizational development and networking.
- 386 beneficiaries participated on community workshop.
- Four (4) beneficiary communities have annual work plans for their organized groups.
- 529 members of organized groups strengthened their skills on community management (health committees, water committees and community response brigades)
- Four (4) communities have organized groups on RRD, Health, water and sanitation.
- Four (4) communities received basic equipment for (RRD, Health community, water and sanitation)
- Four (4) communities have community plans.

development.

Project lifetime:

From October 31, 2014 to June 30th, 2015.

Direct Beneficiaries:

1,559 Direct beneficiaries

Location:

4 communities of Bocas del Toro Province: Puente Blanco ,Guabito and 2 communities of Panama Oeste Province: Mastranto Final y Playa Leona.

Funds:

\$49,909.00USD

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Mastranto Final community members in Panama Oeste.