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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Seychelles: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRSC002
FL-2013-000012-SYC
7 February, 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 106,551 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 27 and 28 January 2013, the Seychelles main island of Mahe was devastated by the Tropical depression Feleng and the island La Digue was severely affected.

The districts lying on the eastern coasts of Mahe, including Pointe Larue, Au Cap, Anse Aux Pins and Cascade have been the worst hit. Severe floods and landslides from the heavy rains have devastated these districts. The government issued a Code Red warning on 28 January and lifted it on the same day in the evening, although the country remained on alert.



**Aerial photo of a flooded area in Seychelles.
Photo/SRCS**

Initial assessments indicate that approximately 1,000 families have been affected, with 246 families currently registered as having been displaced after their houses were either totally destroyed or partially damaged. Currently, 208 displaced families (out of the 246) are sheltered in temporary accommodation centres, while 38 are staying with family or friends. Approximately 400 households are living under insanitary conditions surrounded by stagnant and contaminated water.

To date SRCS has worked closely with the civil protection authorities and supported evacuation activities, clearing of debris, pumping water as well as distribution of food and relief support. Additionally, the National Society has also provided psychosocial support to the persons affected by the flooding.

With this DREF, the National Society will provide basic household and hygiene items to 165 vulnerable families displaced by the floods currently staying at temporary accommodation centres who have lost all their belongings. Furthermore, 600 families will be targeted with health education and interventions to decrease the risk for waterborne and water related diseases, in particular cholera, diarrheal diseases, malaria, and dengue fever, among others. Psychosocial support will be provided to affected families on the two affected islands. In relation to water, sanitation and hygiene activities, focus will be on disinfection of houses and affected areas, as well as hygiene promotion for the families exposed to

health risks. The operation is designed to be complementary to government efforts.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 7 May 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 7 August, 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

On 27 and 28 January 2013, the Seychelles main island of Mahe was devastated by the Tropical depression Feleng and the island La Digue was severely affected. The devastation was reminiscent of what happened after the tsunami of 26, December 2004 and the torrential rains in December 2009, which affected many households on the islands.

The districts lying on the eastern coasts of Mahe, including Pointe Larue, Au Cap, Anse Aux Pins and Cascade have been the worst hit. Severe floods and landslides from the heavy rains have devastated these districts, sometimes sending huge boulders crashing into houses at Anse Aux Pins and Cascade. Water flooding the areas has paralysed these districts, rendering them inaccessible to vehicles and making it extremely difficult to administer humanitarian assistance. The government issued a Code Red warning on 28 January and lifted it on the same day in the evening, although the country remained on alert.

Assessments indicate that approximately 1,000 families have been affected by the floods and landslides. In total 246 families have been registered as having been displaced after their houses were either totally destroyed or partially damaged. All of the displaced families come from the island of Mahe and most of the families are currently sheltered in temporary accommodations set up by the government with 38 families being hosted by their relatives or friends.

Many of the families have difficulties coping with the stressful situation of having lost their homes and belongings, and being displaced without any means to provide for themselves. For many it was a traumatic experience of being evacuated and now facing displacement. Among those displaced are most vulnerable households, including children, elderly, single parents, persons with disabilities, and low income families. The families that have been able to return home have had difficult experiences as well as difficulties coping with the situation and many people are reported to be seeking assistance at health centres as they are in need of psycho social assistance (PSS).

An initial assessment conducted by SRCS indicates the following:

In Mahe

- A total of 246 families are displaced – 208 stay in accommodation centers while 38 stay with host families.
- A total of 400 households affected (including the displaced households)
- There is stagnant water in some residential places in Anse Aux Pins and Au Cap districts, causing sanitary problems and increasing risks for waterborne and water related diseases.
- Burst sewage pipes in Anse Aux Pin, Au Cap and Pointe Laure district are mixing with stagnant water.
- Households that have lost all their belongings also lost all their sanitation material
- Some houses were flooded with flood waters and debris
- Water supply to the affected areas has not been affected
- The households in Mahe can still use tap water as supply
- Some households that had flood waters and debris in their homes only cleaned the surfaces
- In Anse Aux Pins district a few areas were seen with dead animals floating in flood waters.

La Digue

- About 75 percent of the flat land close to the ocean which hosts 600 households out of a total of 800 households in La Digue is covered in stagnant water.
- 400 families live in the affected area that is covered by stagnant water, thus at heightened risk for waterborne/water related diseases.

- La Digue clinic is overwhelmed by patients with health problems, in particular many persons have developed skin rashes and bed space is limited as a result. The community centre is currently being used as temporary clinic
- There is one confirmed and one suspected case of dengue fever.
- The flood waters have flooded septic tanks causing sewage to mix with flood waters
- Stagnant water is covering about 75 percent of the flat habitable area
- Households that have lost all their belongings also lost all their sanitation material
- Some houses were flooded with flood waters and debris
- Water supply to the affected areas has not been affected
- Households can use tap water as supply
- Some households that had flood waters and debris in their homes only cleaned the surfaces

The leakage of sewage water, floating debris, and stagnant water are causing concerns for increased sanitary and health risks in the area, including risk for waterborne/water related diseases such as cholera, other diarrheal diseases, malaria, dengue fever and chikungunya (disease similar to dengue fever).

Mahe seems out of danger now, however the inner islands like Praslin and La Digue have recorded strong winds and torrential rains, and will remain on alert for longer time.

The government is talking the lead in responding to the needs of the population and has requested the SRCS to complement their activities and support, in particular in relief distribution, health promotion and prevention of diseases, psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society is participating in National Disaster Committee meetings, ensuring that Red Cross response is coordinated with the government interventions and supplements the efforts of the civil protection authorities. The National Society remains one of the most important partners for the government in terms of disaster response in the country.

The government has taken the lead in the emergency response, providing support for the affected households and has requested support from the SRCS in terms of providing technical assistance, and complementing the activities carried out by the government in relief, health promotion and prevention of diseases, psychosocial support, and water sanitation and hygiene.

The Government has evacuated displaced families to temporary accommodation centres where the families are provided with NFIs and food support. The government is also conducting damage assessments to determine the exact numbers of households affected and infrastructural damage for rehabilitation. The government through the Minister of Local Government is providing temporary shelter for 208 displaced families. Plans are underway to assist people who lost their houses with permanent structures in government built houses.

In terms of health interventions, the disease surveillance done by the government has been stepped up due to the heightened risks for disease outbreaks such as malaria, dengue fever and diarrheal diseases. The government has started giving psychosocial support (PSS) to school children and people living in the temporary shelters. There is need to expand the programme to other affected people who are living with host families or who went back to their homes and the government has requested the National Society to assist with this.

In terms of addressing the problems with stagnant water and sanitary situation, the government is pumping the stagnant water from the affected houses and areas. The work with this is immense, and there is a need for additional water pumps, thus the SRCS will assist in this area and is currently discussing with the French Red Cross Plate-forme d'intervention Régionale de l'Océan Indien (PIROI) to assist with the necessary material (outside the DREF). The government is also spraying and disinfecting the affected areas to prevent diseases, and is clearing roads, and has asked the National Society for additional assistance to disinfect and clean houses and spray for mosquitos.

The government has also requested SRCS to mobilize its volunteers and assist in relief distribution, emergency health, psychosocial support, and water sanitation and hygiene activities. Specifically, the government has asked the National Society to cater for some of the needs of 165 displaced families staying at the accommodation centres. Additionally, the SRCS has been requested to provide technical support in the area of health and watsan and thus SRCS intends to deploy two regional disaster response teams (RDRTs).

So far, the SRCS has worked closely with the civil protection authorities, and supported evacuation activities, clearing of debris, distributed some food support, relief and sanitation items to vulnerable and displaced families staying at the temporary accommodation centres (upon the request by the government). The National Society has also provided some psycho social support, in particular to a group of elderly that was evacuated from an elderly home.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Seychelles Red Cross Society was the first non governmental organization (NGO) on the ground after the onset of flooding. The Mahe branch has initiated response to the immediate effects of the floods in cooperation with the district authorities of the three worst affected districts.

As part of the initial response, 40 volunteers were deployed to provide support with evacuation of the elderly at the old people's home at Au Cap, provide Psycho-social support to them and to the displaced population, and distribute food and non-food items such as blankets and clothing. A team of three volunteers were deployed to assist with pumping of water from flooded houses.

The National Society has carried out an initial assessment in order to get a better understanding of the situation and needs. This DREF operation is based on the findings from this, as well as discussions with the government on where the National Society could best assist with its trained volunteers as auxiliary to the government in disaster response.

A total of 75 volunteers have been mobilized and currently engaged in the emergency response. Focus has been to ensure that all displaced and vulnerable families have received some basic relief assistance in order to improve their current situation. The government has requested the National Society to cater for some of the needs of 165 displaced and vulnerable families. Basic household and hygiene items have been provided to these families, which are intended to be replenished by this DREF operation.

The National Society has expertise in camp management, health and relief, and NFI distribution in response to flood having had responded to similar situation in December 2004 during the Tsunami response operation.

The IFRC have provided technical assistance in the operation planning and will also support the deployment of two RDRTs; 1 emergency health and 1 water, sanitation and hygiene for a month, upon request from the National Society and the government. Additionally, IFRC will monitor and evaluate the operation.

The French Red Cross PIROI office have also contributed with technical support in planning the operation, and will contribute with funding for complementary NFI needs, gas burners for displaced families and water pumps as requested by the government for support from the National Society.

The needs

A total of 1,000 families, mainly on the two islands Mahe (400 families) and La Digue (600 families), have been affected by the floods and landslides caused by the heavy rains. Out of the 400 families on Mahe, 246 find themselves displaced due to floods and landslides. A total of 208 of these families are currently staying at accommodation centres provided by the government, while 38 families stay with relatives and friends. Out of the 600 affected families at La Digue, around 400 continue to live in the affected areas surrounded by contaminated and stagnant water. As a result, the families need assistance to pump out the water, clean and disinfect their houses and contaminated areas, in order to be able to move back.

Many of the displaced families had to urgently escape the flooding and landslides thus leaving behind their belongings. Therefore the needs of the displaced families includes basic relief items such as food support while displaced, basic household items including mattresses, bed sheets, clothing, mosquito nets, hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, sanitary pads for women) and diapers for children.

A total of 400 families from La Digue at heightened risk for water borne/ related diseases are in need of health prevention activities, including health education and hygiene awareness raising.

There is a need for extending the psychosocial support to reach affected households outside the accommodation centres, since many families have expressed great stress related to their experiences during the flooding and landslides.

The government is catering for shelter, provision of food and NFI support to displaced and affected families persons. The Seychelles Red Cross have been asked to complement certain relief distribution for 165

displaced and vulnerable families staying at the temporary accommodation centres, as well as to assist in reduction of health risks related to the water, sanitation and hygiene situation.

Beneficiary selection:

The SRCS was requested by the government to provide some basic household items and hygiene kits to 165 displaced and vulnerable families staying at the temporary accommodation centres to complement the government assistance. Relief distribution has been done to these families, that include children, elderly, single parents, persons with disabilities and low income families.

The 165 displaced families will also receive support to clean and disinfect their houses when the flood waters have receded or been pumped out enabling them to move back when the situation has improved.

Furthermore, the National Society will target 3,000 persons (600 families- around 200 families at the temporary accommodation centres and 400 families from La Digue) with health education and hygiene awareness to reduce risks for waterborne and water related diseases, including cholera, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and dengue.

The proposed operation

The proposed DREF operation will have the following components:

1. Rapid situation and needs assessment to inform on the situations and needs that will inform the plan of action. (This has been carried and the data used to inform this plan of action)
2. Replenishment of relief distributions carried out to 165 displaced households (826 persons) that received basic household items to improve on their current situation. Relief items distributed include mattresses, bed sheets, pillow sets and hygiene kits (soap, toothbrush, tooth paste, sanitary pads for women, and diapers for children).
3. Emergency health: A total of 600 households at risk for waterborne/related will be provided with health education and hygiene awareness to reduce the health risks identified in the area. Mosquito nets will be provided to the families at risk and psychosocial support will be provided to the families in need from the flood and landslide affected areas.
4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: A total of 165 households will be assisted with disinfection of their houses and provided with household cleaning kit/ materials. Furthermore, disinfection, spraying against mosquitos and community cleaning activities will be performed at La Digue to reduce the health risks for 400 families.

Eight staff members will be involved in supporting the operation through administrative duties, coordination and monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the operation.

A total of 75 volunteers have been mobilized and are already carrying out some emergency assistance. Volunteers who participated in the recent Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) training in Reunion organized by the PIROI will apply their skills acquired from the training. A total of 20 volunteers will be trained in basic psychosocial support, while 15 social workers and counsellors, and 5 volunteers will be trained in advanced psychosocial support.

Two RDRTs with expertise in emergency health and water, sanitation and hygiene, will be deployed for one month upon request from the government and the National Society, to assist with technical expertise in the response and prevention activities, training volunteers, set up structures for the operation, implementation and monitoring.

The beneficiaries have been involved and consulted during assessments mission in regards to their situation, needs and support required. The beneficiaries will be involved in assisting identification of persons with particular needs, for example PSS. A participatory approach will be used when implementing the operation, in particular in the water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

The DREF operation has taken specific consideration to the needs of women and children, through prioritizing them in the assistance, and the content of hygiene relief assistance to respond to their expresses needs.

A lesson learned workshop and final evaluation of the operation will be carried out, involving input from beneficiaries.

The operation will be carried out under the lead of the government, providing support to the overall emergency intervention. The activities by the National Society is coordinated and requested by the government, and the relief items provided are complementary and coherent with the items provided by the government.

Situation and needs assessment	
Outcome: Detailed information on the situation and emergency needs in affected areas is available and used for planning of continued intervention.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Society has conducted an in-depth assessment of the situation and emergency needs in affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a detailed assessment of the situation and emergency needs in Mahe and La Digue. Use the data for planning the emergency operation.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Outcome: 165 households (825 beneficiaries) have benefitted from basic non-food items.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 165 displaced households (825 beneficiaries) in temporary accommodation centres have received complementary basic non-food items to improve their situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and register beneficiaries in coordination with local authorities Train volunteers to support and assist in relief distributions Replenish the relief items distributed, including 100 mattresses, 550 bed sheets, 550 pillow set, and hygiene materials (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary towels for women, diapers and baby wipes for babies). Monitor, evaluate and report on activities

Emergency health	
Outcome 1: Immediate risks to health caused by floods and landslides reduced for 600 affected families by providing health education and mosquito nets.	
Outcome 2: Psycho-social support provided to affected families affected by floods and landslides.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The affected families of Mahe and La Digue know how to protect themselves from health risks due to water borne/ related diseases, including cholera, other diarrheal diseases, malaria and dengue fever. The targeted families use mosquito nets to protect themselves from health risks. Affected families in Mahe and La Digue received psychosocial support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct assessment of health needs of the affected population Train 35 volunteers in community based health education and hygiene promotion. Provide 600 families with mosquito nets (2 mosquito nets per family-200 families in accommodation centres and 400 families in La Digue). Health education for 600 affected families to promote safe health practices and inform about the health risks relating to waterborne/related diseases, including cholera, other diarrheal diseases, malaria, and dengue (This component will be performed coordinated with hygiene awareness mentioned under WATSAN and hygiene) Train 15 social workers and counselors, and five volunteers in advanced PSS Train 25 volunteers in basic PSS Psychosocial support provided to the affected families in need of support from the two targeted areas (Mahe and La Digue)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close cooperation and coordination with health authorities. • Monitor the situation and ensure adequate reporting
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Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: To reduce the risk of waterborne diseases for 600 floods affected households (3,000 persons) by improving sanitation conditions and undertaking hygiene promotion.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 households (3,000 persons) are targeted with sanitation activities and hygiene promotion activities at community level on two islands (Mahe and La Digue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessment of water and sanitation facilities in the affected area. • Provision of protective material to 40 volunteers who are helping with the cleaning efforts • Support 165 families to disinfect their houses. • Distribute household cleaning materials for 165 families.(Cleaning kit per family include 1l bleach, 1l washing liquid, 1 toilet cleaner, 1l disinfectant, 1 mop and bucket, 1 broom, plastic brushes). • Spray stagnant water for mosquitoes, and water contaminated by sewage and other debris and vectors that might carry diseases, in the affected areas in Mahe and La Digue, reaching 600 families. • Organize hygiene promotion activities among the affected population to prevent waterborne disease outbreak. This will be done jointly with the health education activities described under emergency health. Around 200 families reached at the temporary accommodation centres, and 400 families reached at La Digue Island. • Monitor the situation and ensure adequate reporting

Logistics

All overseas procurement will be made according to the Federation standard with assistance from IFRC Regional Logistic officer and PIROI. All items will be stored at the local warehouse prior to distribution. One competent logistician will be assigned for warehouse management. Transport of the items will be facilitated through the logistic support for timely delivery to beneficiaries.

Communication

Press releases will be sent to all local media for information of the operation. For visibility, the National Society logo will be visible throughout the operation together with the Federation and PIROI logo.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is on-going in the field, with monthly monitoring from the headquarters. The National Society intends to carry out a lessons learned workshop and an evaluation. The evaluation will be done with the technical support of IFRC and PIROI. Beneficiaries will provide input to monitoring and evaluation exercises.

Additionally, the IFRC will monitor the operation including financial monitoring, through its presence of RDRTs and from the regional and Zone office, in close cooperation with PIROI.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Seychelles Red Cross Society:** Collete Servina, Secretary General; phone: +248 437 4543 / 437 4544 ; email: servinac@ymail.com
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 20 283 5000; email: finnjarle.rode@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyvaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4 584 872, Fax +971 4 883 22 12, email: ari.mantyvaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251 93 003 4013; fax: +251 11 557 0799; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 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.

DREF OPERATION

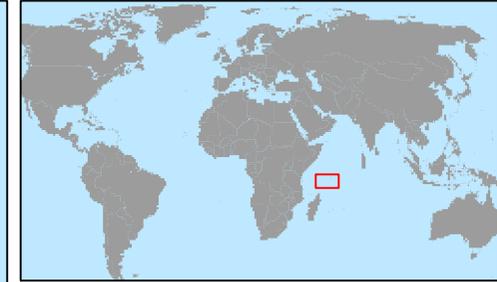
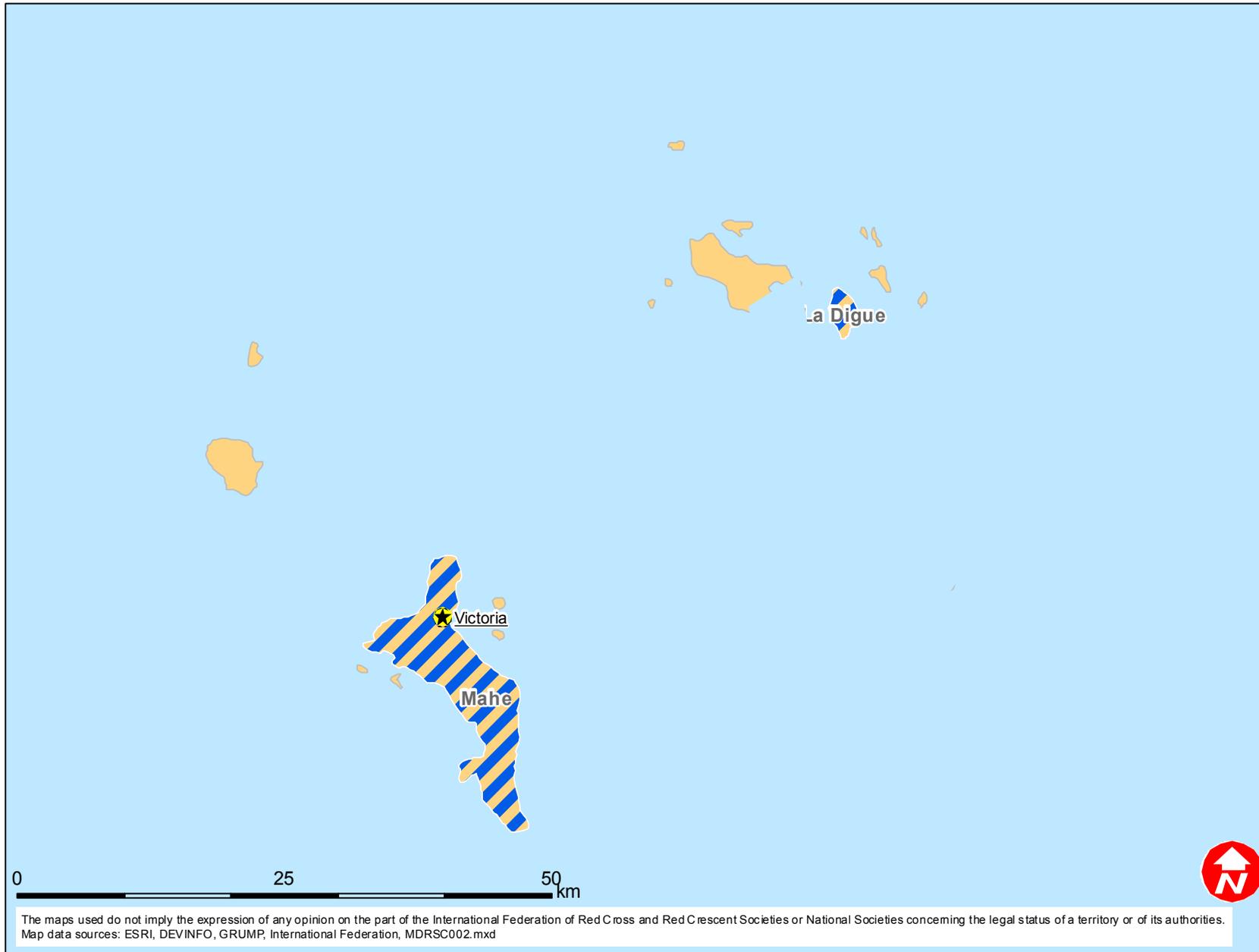
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Seychelles Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	38,050
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13,202
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	1,850
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	53,102
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,000
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,000
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	6,920
Total PERSONNEL	6,920
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	7,675
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	7,675
Travel	14,202
Information & Public Relations	6,399
Office Costs	4,750
Communications	
Financial Charges	1,000
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	26,351
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,503
Total INDIRECT COSTS	6,503
TOTAL BUDGET	106,551



Seychelles: Floods



 Affected islands