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Annual report IOI Region

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA64002
24 May, 2012

**This report covers the
period 01/01/2011 to
31/12/2011**

*Distribution NFIs by Malagasy
Red Cross in response to the
Cyclone Bingiza. Photo: MRCS*



In brief

Programme outcome

Guided by Strategy 2020, the IFRC India Ocean Islands (IOI) Regional Representation focussed on building the capacities of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles National Societies. Specifically, support was provided in emergency preparedness and response as well as governance and management. IFRC IOI Regional Representation also assists the National Societies to develop integrated programmes such as Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) that contribute to the reduction of negative impact of natural disasters, disease and public health emergencies.

Programme summary

In **Disaster Management**, Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was allocated through IFRC's IOI Regional Representation to Malagasy Red Cross in response to Cyclone Bingiza and to Comoros Red Crescent in response to a Shipwreck. The Regional Representation supported Malagasy Red Cross in disaster preparedness, specifically by purchasing and/or repairing emergency equipment.

No major **Health and Care** activities were carried out within the 2011 Plans. However, the National Societies implemented small-scale initiatives that needed no or minimal funds through bilateral support. This contributed to strengthening NS capacity in responding to public health emergencies. The initiatives included scaling-up the community-based programmes such as Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) training in Madagascar and Comoros with the assistance of Spanish Red Cross and malaria hang-up project with the American Red Cross. Continuously, the NS raise public awareness on prevention, health and care for more than one million beneficiaries in the region. In relation to First Aid, the NS will continue covering main events that require medical aid stations providing First Aid and road safety services. The IFRC

will support the NS in vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs) and will facilitate greater community-based activities.

Regarding **Organizational Development**, the IOI Regional Representation provided technical and financial support in governance and management, youth policy development and promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. This was done through field visits, workshops and meetings. The Malagasy Red Cross and Comoros Red Crescent have organized youth groups who have participated in several activities such as promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, promotion of community services and youth public health as well as exchange programmes among youth groups. Seychelles and Mauritius Red Cross societies need additional support in volunteer recruitment and management as well as project management.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 605,540, of which CHF 117,461 (19%) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 106,304, corresponding to 18% of the budgeted amount and 91% of the available funding.

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

Number of people we have reached

Operation/Programme	Activity	People Reached
Disaster Management	Cyclone Bingiza (Madagascar)	20,000 people
	Shipwreck (Comoros)	910 people
	Regional Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training in IOI Region	20 staff members
	National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) refresher training in Malagasy RC	14 members
	Relief distribution and needs assessment training in Madagascar	163 volunteers
	First Aid training in Comoros RC	15 people
	Therapeutic education and psychosocial support training in Comoros	45 volunteers
Health and care	CBHFA	1,590,340 people
Humanitarian Values	Training in promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (Comoros and Madagascar)	48 youth members and 42 volunteers

Our partners

The National Societies in Indian Ocean Islands Region are the only humanitarian structures having local branches and volunteer networks. They are constantly called upon to assist the government in emergency activities. Through the National Societies, IFRC IOI Regional Representation has good relationships with the relevant governments, NGOs and other humanitarian organizations active in the region.

At national level, partners to Malagasy RC include the national disaster management office BNGRC (*Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes*), the CPC (civil protection), the local committee of Disaster management (CDGRC). Other international agencies and organizations include the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Partner National Societies working together with the region include Canadian,

French, Japanese and Spanish Red Cross societies, among others. IFRC and the National Societies thank partners for their collaboration during the year,

Context

The Indian Ocean Islands, due to their geographical location are heavily exposed to tropical cyclones, which bring torrential rains, destructive floods and water related diseases. This is coupled with a relatively high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, malaria and malnutrition. These disasters contribute to weakening community resilience and coping mechanisms.

Cyclone Bingiza hit Madagascar on February 14 2011 in Mananara District, then traversed Mandritsara district, and exited at Soalala District. It re-entered at Manja District and re-traversed the middle-south and south-east part of Madagascar. At the same time, the south-east area experienced significant rainfall and flooding in the districts of Vohipeno, Farafangana, and Vangaindrano. Several houses in Mananara were destroyed and the towns of Mandritsara, Befandriana and Soalala were flooded. A total of 14 deaths, 8 missing, 64 wounded and about 80,000 affected persons were reported.

In Comoros, a shipwreck was experienced on the south-east coast of Ngazidja Island on 9 August 2011. The ship was ferrying 194 passengers and crew members from Moroni, the country's capital on Ngazidja Island to Mutsamudu on Anjouan Island. Reports indicated that the ship was overloaded (recommended capacity of 90 passengers only) and that the engine broke down just offshore near Dzahadjou ya Badjini Village, a rocky area with limited access. A total of 54 people were counted dead and 66 missing, while 74 survived.

Madagascar and Comoros have experienced political conflicts over the past two years. Socio political strife is increasing joblessness and poverty levels in Madagascar. Despite international intervention and the signed agreement between the different political groups in the country, the situation is still delicate. In addition, the economical situation remains a challenge as the purchasing power of the population has decreased due to lack of or inadequate income.

Based on the above, the four Indian Ocean Island countries need consistent and sustainable support to alleviate suffering and vulnerability. This is especially so in disaster management, institutional capacity building for humanitarian agencies and government departments, as well as community empowerment to mitigate the impacts of the disaster and to scale up preventive health programmes. The IFRC IOI Regional Representation Office was established to support the four National Societies in development, capacity building and resource mobilization.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme Purpose: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.	
Programme component 1: Organisational Preparedness	<p>Outcome 1: The NS in the IOI region are better prepared and coordinated for disasters through the development of National DM strategies and contingency plans in thematic areas to guide the NS during emergencies.</p> <p>Achievements Malagasy Red Cross has 3 contingency plans which are updated every year they include a contingency plan for cyclones, floods as well as a contingency plan for violence and internal crises.</p> <p>The National Societies of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are technically prepared to respond to disasters. The Movement's <i>Plateforme d'Intervention Regional Ocean Indien</i> (PIROI) led by French Red Cross has been supporting the rehabilitation of office premises and</p>

	<p>warehouses to facilitate the prepositioning of relief items. PIROI and the Canadian Red Cross jointly with the NS trained over 20 staff members and volunteers as regional disaster response team (RDRT) members, ready for deployment to assist during emergency operations.</p> <p>In Malagasy Red Cross, a total of 163 volunteers were trained in relief distribution and conducting needs assessments. This was in preparation for response to Cyclone Bingiza that hit Madagascar on 14 February 2011. The trained volunteers mobilized an additional 455 volunteers to conduct assessments and distribution. The distributions ensured that the affected families had the basic items necessary to prepare food and maintain proper hygiene, as well as for children to continue their studies without interruption. For more information on this operation, kindly refer to http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRMG007dfr.pdf</p> <p>In Comoros Red Crescent Society, a total of 45 volunteers (25 in Ngazidja and 20 in Anjouan) were trained in therapeutic education and psychosocial support. In turn, the trained volunteers provided psychosocial support to families who were affected during the shipwreck that occurred on 9 August 2011, on the south-east coast of Ngazidja Island. This was done in hospitals (for the injured) or homes (for those who lost someone or those reported missing). The trained volunteers also provided First Aid to 65 of the 74 survivors. The First Aid services provided by the trained volunteers contributed to saving the lives of the survivors through treatment of their injuries. For more information on this operation, kindly refer to http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRKM003dfr.pdf</p>
<p>Programme component 2: Disaster response</p>	<p>Outcome 1: The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities is reduced through adequate and timely emergency response measures.</p> <p>Achievements Malagasy Red Cross has pre-positioned non-food items in 5 targeted areas which are close to beneficiaries in areas prone to disasters. Every year, during cyclone season, those prepositioned non-food items are used to respond to emergencies. MRCS also has 2 RDRT members and 14 NDRT members who are ready to be deployed in case of a potential disaster. Funds allowing, the NS plans to train BDRTs at branch level. This would result to real time and effective response to disasters.</p> <p>Malagasy Red Cross has disaster and recovery strategies which are generally used during every cyclone season (November to April). As such, the National Society was able to respond timely to cyclone Bingiza that hit the east coast of the country. In addition, trained volunteers from Comoros Red Crescent were able to respond to the shipwreck disaster and provide First Aid as well as support in the search and rescue operation</p>
<p>Programme component 3: Community Preparedness</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Community capacities are improved to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.</p> <p>Outcome 2: DRR projects including the mitigation of impact of natural hazards projects are effectively conducted in selected communities and documented.</p> <p>Achievements MRCS National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) regularly conduct awareness sessions on risk and disaster to mitigate their effects. Together with community members, they have developed a communication system to update risk and disaster information.</p>



Comoros Red Crescent volunteers during search and rescue operations after the Shipwreck disaster. Photo: CRC

Health and Care

<p>Programme Purpose: To reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</p>	
<p>Programme component 1: Emergency health</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Each NS has developed an approved emergency health strategic and contingency plan.</p> <p>Outcome 2: The IOI RDRT and all NS NDRT teams have a strong health team, able to respond to regional public health emergencies.</p> <p>Achievements As mentioned under the Disaster Management Programme, MRCS has 2 RDRT members and 14 NDRT members who are ready to be deployed in case of a potential disaster, whether it is health related or another type of disaster.</p>
<p>Programme component 2: Community Based Health and First Aid</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Community Resilience is strengthened through a CBHFA programme, which increases community knowledge on good health practices to reduce the impact on the affected communities.</p> <p>Progress A total of 32 Vulnerability Capacity assessments (VCA) were conducted in 32 communes of 8 regions through the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme financed bilaterally by the Spanish Red Cross. These exercises reached a total of 1,590,340 directly and indirectly. This</p>

	<p>programme ended in September 2011. It aimed at increasing awareness in the community in order to reduce their vulnerability to public health emergencies.</p> <p>The National Societies of Madagascar and Comoros are implementing a malaria hang-up project with bilateral support from American Red Cross.</p> <p>Continuously, the NSs in the region raise public awareness on prevention, health and care for more than one million beneficiaries. This is done during public gatherings in churches, meetings or in the markets.</p> <p>In addition, the Indian Ocean Regional Representation engaged youth from all the four National Societies and supported them in establishing HIV and AIDS initiative geared towards prevention.</p>
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Organizational Development

Programme Purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.	
Programme component 1: Well-functioning National Society	<p>Outcome 1: Develop the governance teams of the NS to ensure that guidance and direction being disseminated at all levels is informed, clear and in conformity with RCRC standards.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Financial systems and procedures are developed and implemented to ensure proper recording and reporting, thus increasing accountability and credibility</p> <p>Outcome 3: The human resource management systems are developed and maintained at a nationally competitive level.</p> <p>Outcome 4: NS premises and warehouse are adequately refurbished to facilitate the development and implementation of programmes.</p> <p>Achievements The Malagasy RC renewed the contract of the elected governance through internal elections that were held throughout the whole country. The National President was re-elected for a term of 4 years. In addition, the new heads are now part of the National Committee and governance. During the General Assembly, the status of MRCS was amended in order to cut down expenses. Amendments included decreasing the number of members of the National Committee and frequency of meetings.</p> <p>The Malagasy Red Cross held a partnership meeting in May 2011. Participating organizations included the Canadian, Norwegian, French and Italian red Cross as well as IFRC and ICRC.</p> <p>Since the arrival of National Societies Development Delegate in May 2011, the four NS in the IOI region developed their Organizational Management strategies as well as governing and youth policies.</p> <p>The IOI Regional Development Delegate facilitated in a governance good practices workshop in Seychelles. The delegate also supported the Seychelles RC to elaborate their Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and finalize its Statutes. In Comoros, the delegate assisted the National Society in organizing its 2011-2012 General Assembly and finalizing its Statutes.</p>

	<p>The Malagasy Red Cross developed its finance and administration management through the IFRC Finance Development Delegate. The IFRC Indian Ocean Regional Representation office was supported to improve the skills of its staff. The Africa Zone Finance manager and IT Manager conducted technical missions in the regional office.</p> <p>In addition, IFRC organized several planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting (PMER) workshops, with participation from Indian Ocean Islands national societies, and from the Regional Representation. Workshops in Nairobi, Kenya in September and in Douala, Cameroon in December involved staff from Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, focusing on essential planning skills as well as introducing new tools for detailed project monitoring and a framework for evaluation. It is hoped that the IOI region will cascade this knowledge to staff and volunteers from headquarters to branch level. This will in turn lead to improvement in quality of reports.</p>
<p>Programme component 2: Branch Development</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Volunteer and youth management policies are developed and successfully implemented, increasing the capacity of volunteers and youth clubs to implement NS programmes.</p> <p>Achievements The IOI Regional Representation supported the training of 48 youth members and 42 broadcasters.</p> <p>All of IOI National Societies established youth groups by end of 2011. In fact, there are youth representatives in the NS governing boards. The Youth Management project is being supported bilaterally by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) project.</p> <p>The IOI Regional Development Delegate supported Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its 're-dynamisation' process. The delegate also supported the NS of Gabon during their restructuring process.</p>



Participants during PMER Training held in Nairobi (Kenya)

Principles and Values

Programme Purpose: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.	
Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values	<p>Outcome 1: Comprehensive communication strategies and two year action plans exist and are implemented.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Induction courses for new staff, members and volunteers are strong and provide good guidance on RCRC principles, objectives and mandates.</p> <p>Outcome 3: The general public is more aware of the principles and values of the Movement, as well as the role of the NS in their respective countries.</p> <p>Achievements The Malagasy Red Cross, through its trained volunteers was able to organize activities on the World Red Cross Day (8 May 2011). These activities included visits to hospitals or prisons where they distributed food and NFIs, rehabilitation of hospitals or other public places, blood donation, awareness sessions on mitigation of fire disasters as well as promotion of principles and humanitarian values</p>

Constraints or Challenges

Meeting reporting deadlines as well as producing quality reports has been a challenge for the National Societies in the region. This is due to language challenges, and to the difference in templates used by the National Societies themselves, and those required by IFRC. The IOI Regional Representation also faces challenges in getting information from the four NS. This is a time consuming process that interferes with timeliness and quality of reports.

To overcome the above challenges, the IFRC IOI Regional Representation will prioritize PMER and Financial Management trainings for National Societies' staff and volunteers. Several IFRC and NS representatives were trained and have the capacity to cascade the knowledge acquired. This will improve the quality of reports received from the National Society

Working in partnership

In February 2011, the IOI Regional office in Mauritius was closed and moved to Madagascar. The Regional Representation is in good partnership with the four National Societies. To foster this partnership, a Presidents and Secretary Generals meeting will be held during the first half of 2012. This will be an opportunity for the NS to share their priorities and map how best to work in partnership. The NS will also share lessons and good practices in governance and management of programmes.

The IOI Regional Office is in constant communication with representatives from Canadian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross; ICRC and other NGOs. For instance, the French Red Cross delegation in Moroni assisted the Comoros RCS during the shipwreck by providing vehicles for transporting relief

Contributing to longer-term impact

The technical and financial support from IFRC in 2011 contributed to the development and sustainability of the four National Societies in the Region, in turn furthering the achievement of development impacts over the long term. In disaster management, the IFRC IOI Regional Representation funded the purchasing and repairing of emergency equipment and the Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) training that prepared the National Societies to respond to

disasters (Comoros and Madagascar). The National Society will continue receiving this kind of support necessary to prepare them to respond to disasters.

National Societies, through youth volunteers and with support of IFRC, will continue implementing prevention programmes that have contributed to reducing risk of diseases such as malaria, cholera, TB and HIV/AIDS. The NS have youth trained in governance, management, youth policy development and implementation as well Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. As the volunteers are the backbone of the National Societies, they will be supported in every way to ensure that they assist their community members in matters relating to disaster risk reduction, preparation and response.

Looking ahead

Guided by Strategy 2020 and its 2012-2015 long term planning framework (LTPF), the IOI IFRC Regional Representation will continue to prioritize the development of each National Society. In 2012, IFRC will focus more on HIV/AIDS programmes, disaster management, youth and volunteer management, resource mobilization, improving governance and management, human resources development, communication strategies, PMER as well as finance and administration procedures, fighting HIV/AIDS, international youth camp and providing emergency equipment.

The **disaster management** programme focus will be on disaster risk reduction, organizational and community preparedness and emergency response. With support of the IFRC, the NS will strengthen institutional capacity in disaster response through improving planning, training regional disaster response teams (RDRT) and national disaster response teams (NDRTs) and mobilizing resources.

The **health and care** programme seeks to strengthen NS capacity in responding to public health emergencies and scaling-up the community-based programmes such as CBHFA. In relation to First Aid, the NS will continue covering main events that require medical aid stations providing First Aid and road safety services. The IFRC will support the NS in vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs) and will facilitate greater community-based activities.

A new approach to **NS development** has been created and will be deployed through the regional and country representations, which have closer relationships with the membership. The approach entails integration into the NS structure with streamlined reporting lines, thereby increasing IFRC responsiveness to the NS needs and priorities. Priority areas for NS development include: strengthening capacity in programming; governance and leadership development; accountability and programme management; resource mobilization; encouraging cooperation; strategic partnerships; operational alliances and knowledge sharing.

The Youth programme to NSs was supported bilaterally through DFID and country representations in the four countries (Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles). The approach to the Youth programme is to increase youth responsibilities and communication abilities to be able to interact with community members and encourage other Youth to join their groups. This will in turn contribute to protecting the youth from engaging in risky behaviour that can negatively affect their health and livelihoods

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.



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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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