



## SEYCHELLES: CHIKUNGUNYA EPIDEMIC FINAL REPORT

DREF Bulletin no.  
MDRSC001

24 May 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 11 March to 11 July 2006

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 35,518 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 10 March 2006 to respond to the needs in this operation (refer to [DREF Bulletin no. MDRSC001](#)).

[<Click here to go directly to the attached financial report>](#)

This operation was aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

### Background and summary

In early 2006, cases of Chikungunya<sup>1</sup> fever – which is transmitted to human beings by the bite of an infected mosquito – were reported in the Indian Ocean islands of Mayotte (Comoros), Mauritius and Seychelles. In Seychelles, the people most affected by the fever were women aged between 15 and 54 years. Local health authorities and the Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS) sounded the first warning through the local media and urged the public to take precautionary measures by eliminating mosquitoes.

The SRCS was a member of the National Chikungunya Task Force, established by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The task force identified several strategies for intervention, including vector control (through destruction of larva using appropriate insecticides and larvicide). Others were social mobilization (for communities to clean up the environment) and reducing/eliminating exposure to mosquito bites (by encourage use of appropriate mosquito repellents, sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long trousers).

<sup>1</sup> Chikungunya fever is a viral disease transmitted to humans by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Infection by the virus can cause a debilitating illness, most often characterized by fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, rash, and joint pain. According to CDC, no deaths, neuroinvasive cases, or hemorrhagic cases related to chikungunya infection have been conclusively documented in the scientific literature – refer to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/Chikungunya/chikyfact.htm>

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As a member of the task force, the Seychelles Red Cross Society was tasked to assist in conducting door-to-door sensitizations as well as distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets, targeting children and homes of the elderly. In support of the National Society's intervention, the Federation allocated CHF 35,518 (USD 26,887 or EUR 22,695) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) – on 10 March 2006. The allocation was to support the emergency response for four months through the purchase of equipment and repellents for vector control response.

The National Society distributed 700 units of mosquito repellents to beneficiaries and extended support to local authorities during various site-cleaning initiatives. An assortment of protective gear – including gumboots, goggles, masks and helmets – was given to the teams carrying out the environmental clean-up exercise. These protective materials were part of the consignment that was handed over to the National Society by the Federation. The SRCS has preserved the remaining essential assortment of protective gear as part of its disaster preparedness stock for the purpose of rapid response in the event of future potential Chikungunya epidemics.

### Coordination

The Federation, the French Red Cross (through PIROI<sup>2</sup>) and the German Red Cross supported the Seychelles Red Cross Society's intervention. They provided a consignment of mosquito repellents, helmets, protective clothing and breathing apparatus; the National Society put the items at the disposal of Red Cross volunteers and local authorities. The French Red Cross/PIROI also supported the SRCS by providing transportation means. The National Society also availed one four-wheel drive vehicle and a driver for the environmental clean-up teams.

**Table 1: Support received for SRCS response to the Chikungunya epidemic**

Partners	Items	Quantity (pieces)
Federation	Insecticide-treated mosquito nets	1,500
	Gumboots	400
	Goggles	400
	Nose and mouth masks	400
	Helmets	400
	Spraying gloves	400
	Spraying suits	400
	Mijex repellents	700
French Red Cross/PIROI	ITNs	2,000
	Flyers (in English)	10,000
	Flyers (in Creole)	15,000
	English posters	1,500
	Creole posters	1,500
German Red Cross	Leaflets	1,500

### Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

**Objective: To contribute towards the reduction of the Chikungunya epidemic in Seychelles.**

#### Achievements

The SRCS distributed 200 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) to elderly people living in homes and 400 to children living in orphanages. The National Society also distributed ITNs to mothers with newborn babies and other elderly people in the communities. The best way of avoiding contracting chikungunya is by using physical prevention tools like clothes (by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long trousers) and staying under mosquito nets, as there is no vaccine or preventive drug.

Since some mosquitoes are daytime biters, vector control actions had to be taken day and night. The most efficient medium and long-term procedure is to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites by ensuring that there is no stagnant water in and around houses. Consequently, the Red Cross extended support to local authorities during various environmental and site cleaning initiatives.

<sup>2</sup> In French: Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Océan Indien (PIROI).

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The spread of the chikungunya infection is facilitated by poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, particularly since stagnant water, refuse and wastewater provide ready mosquito breeding sites. The SRCS carried out an awareness and education campaign; it distributed information, education and communication (IEC) leaflets to homes and institutions. Members of the public were also educated and sensitized on preventive measures.

### Impact

The Red Cross intervention contributed towards the reduction and ultimate control of the chikungunya epidemic in Seychelles. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources cited the National Society as an active member of the National Platform for Disaster Reduction, in media reports, during the Commonwealth Conference on Disaster Management held in early October 2006. This helped to increase the recognition of the SRCS locally and internationally.

### Constraints

As most of the Seychelles Red Cross Society volunteers were engaged in full-time jobs elsewhere, they could not fully participate in the clean-up, distribution and awareness creation activities.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for National Society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSC001 - SEYCHELLES - CHIKUNGUNYA EPIDEMIC

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/5
Appeal	MDRSC001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		35,518				35,518
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
DREF		-698				-698
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		-698				-698
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF		35,518				35,518
<b>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</b>		35,518				35,518
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>		34,820				34,820
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		34,820				34,820

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		34,820				34,820
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-34,820				-34,820
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

## III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		35,518					35,518	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	24,282							24,282
Medical & First Aid	6,585							6,585
Other Supplies & Services			32,555				32,555	-32,555
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>30,867</b>		<b>32,555</b>				<b>32,555</b>	<b>-1,688</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,343							2,343
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,343</b>							<b>2,343</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Communications			2				2	-2
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>			<b>2</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	2,309		2,263				2,263	45
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>2,309</b>		<b>2,263</b>				<b>2,263</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>35,518</b>		<b>34,820</b>				<b>34,820</b>	<b>698</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>698</b>				<b>698</b>	