



SEYCHELLES: CHIKUNGUNYA EPIDEMIC

MDRSC001
13 November 2006

INTERIM FINAL REPORT

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 of this operation – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRSC001.pdf>.
- This operation was expected to be implemented in 4 months and to be completed by 11 July 2006.

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

From the beginning of January 2006, some parts of the Indian Ocean Islands reported cases of Chikungunya virus. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), up to 157,000 people may have been affected by the virus in La Réunion since March 2005. The local health authority and the Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS) sounded the first warning in the local media urging the general public to take precautionary measures to eliminate mosquitoes. According to the WHO, such measures would require the mobilization of the affected communities to carry out critical, well-identified healthy behaviour.

Coordination

The SRCS received a consignment of mosquito repellents, helmets, protective clothing and breathing apparatus from the Federation, the French Red Cross and the German Red Cross to be used by volunteers. These were also put at the disposal of the local authorities. The national society also availed one four-wheel drive vehicle and a driver for the environmental clean-up teams. The table below outlines the support received from the Federation and partner national societies (PNSs) during this operation.



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

Partners	Items	Quantity (pieces)
Federation	Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs)	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/ Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI ¹)	ITNs	2,000
	Fliers (in English)	10,000
	Fliers (in Creole)	15,000
	English posters	1,500
	Creole posters	1,500
German Red Cross	Leaflets	1,500

The French Red Cross/PIROI also supported the SRCS by providing transport.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

The Seychelles Red Cross Society received CHF 35,518 (USD 26,887 or EUR 22,695) from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 March 2006 to support its response to the emergency for four months through the purchasing of equipment and repellents for vector control response. The national society was also part of the national Chikungunya Task Force set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, tasked with assistance in door-to-door visits and distribution of mosquito nets targeting children and homes of the elderly. 700 mosquito repellents were also distributed to beneficiaries.



The SRCS receiving a consignment of protective gear from the Federation.

The SRCS also extended its support to the local authorities during various site cleaning initiatives through the assistance offered by its volunteers and staff. An assortment of protective gear including gumboots, goggles, masks and helmets were 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 national society will preserve this 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 threats.

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

Achievements

The SRCS distributed 200 ITNs to elderly people living in homes and 400 to children living in orphanages. The national society also distributed ITNs to mothers with new born babies and other elderly people in the communities.

An awareness and education campaign was carried out in the three Indian Ocean islands (Seychelles, Comoros and Mauritius) with information, education and communication (IEC) leaflets being distributed to homes and

¹In French: Plate-forme d’Intervention Regionale pour l’Ocean Indien (PIROI).

Seychelles: Chikungunya Epidemic; DREF Bulletin no. MDRSC001; Interim Final Report

institutions. Members of the public were also educated and sensitized on preventive measures for the Chikungunya disease. These activities have contributed towards the reduction of the Chikungunya epidemic cases in Seychelles.

The national society was cited by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources as an active member of the National Platform on Disaster Reduction in the media reports during the Commonwealth Conference on Disaster Management held in early October 2006. This helped in increasing recognition of the SRCS.

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.

Special note: This Interim Final Report is being issued without an interim financial report. A Final Report, comprising of the final financial report and this narrative, will be issued in due course.

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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.

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