

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

COMOROS

10 July 2003

Appeal no 01.02/2003; Appeal target: CHF 189,886

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 01 January to 30 June 2003

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 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 40.8% See attached Contributions List on the Federation's website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap010203.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 112,438

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None

Programme Summary: The Comoros Appeal includes programmes in the area of Health and Care and Organisational Development. Funding for this Appeal comes mainly from the International Federation's Capacity Building Fund, from which a second allocation has been approved once first allocation funds have been spent. Funding for a Water and Sanitation Seed Project (CHF 78,754) is still being sought.

As the Comoros Red Crescent is one of two unrecognised national societies in Africa emphasis has been placed on assisting the national society to meet some of the milestones for recognition. Despite the political complexities in the country the national society succeeded in holding its General Assembly, in March at which revised Statutes, Internal Regulation and Development Plans were discussed in depth and approved.

Health and care

Goal: The capacity of the Comoros Red Crescent in Health Programme delivery is strengthened.

Objective: A sustainable impact upon targeted communities' general health is achieved through community based health programming focusing on HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation.

Progress

The Comoros Red Crescent continued to implement its malaria and cholera prevention programmes on all three islands in co-operation with French Red Cross.

With the support of the Regional Delegation, the national society launched an HIV/AIDS Awareness campaign. As a result, HIV/AIDS Coordinators from the three islands meet to design an HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan for the national society. 25 youth have been trained and have developed and performed a theatre play on HIV and AIDS stigma and discrimination in the twelve villages of the main island of 'Grande Comore'. The play has also been recorded on video in French and Comorien languages. Sixty youth (20 youth from each of the 3 islands) have also been trained as HIV and AIDS disseminators, and an address notebook containing preventive HIV and AIDS messages and targeting youth produced and distributed.

Impact

The visibility and recognition of the Comoros Red Crescent, which is already high as a result of its significant work in the areas of malaria and cholera prevention was further enhanced by the new initiatives taken in the area of HIV and AIDS prevention. There is now a greater openness amongst youth to discuss this very sensitive subject.

Constraints

The Comoros Red Crescent has been a major partner to the under-resourced Ministry of Health for many years and there is a potential for, and a willingness by the national society to become even more involved. However, the communication and infrastructure problems within the country reduce the possibilities for the National Health Coordinator to provide regular follow up support and guidance to branches on the other islands, thus preventing it from taking on some new initiatives.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Comoros Red Crescent meets the criteria for admission to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Objective: Comoros Red Crescent governance and committees are trained in Federation Policies, Project Cycle Management and drafting of Volunteer Policy and Statutes.

Progress

The regional committees on each of the three islands (Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli) held their Assemblies and elections in advance of the National Assembly at the end of March. During these meetings, preparatory work was done on the revised Statutes and Internal Regulation to ensure that all participants would be well prepared for the debate at the National Assembly which was attended by eleven persons as well as government representatives from each of the three islands.

At the Assembly, a new President and three Vice-Presidents (one outgoing) were elected while the outgoing Treasurer was also re-elected during the very transparent elections that were carried out by secret ballot. The meeting was co-financed by the ICRC and the International Federation and the Head of the International Federation's Delegation in Nairobi, the Regional Organizational Development Delegate, and the ICRC Cooperation Delegate attended and facilitated working group discussions on the national society's Development Plan, revised Statutes and Internal Regulation. All documents were discussed in detail, amended and approved by the meeting. The roles and responsibilities of governance and management are clearly defined in the new Statutes and are being integrated at central level.

Impact

The satisfactory organisation of the General Assembly on the island of Anjouan, traditionally a separatist island, gave the national society the opportunity to profile itself as a unified organisation. All government representatives in attendance undertook to promote the recognition of the national society by the International Movement with their political superiors.

The clear distinction between governance and management roles set out in the new Statutes will reduce some confusion which existed at national level regarding decision making.

Constraints

The prevailing electricity problems on all three islands became more acute over the March-June period with some islands being without power for periods of up to two weeks. This has slowed down many processes within the national society, as access to documents, telephone or e-mail was impossible for long periods. One consequence of this is that the final versions of the documents approved at the General Assembly have not yet emerged.

Working advances to the national society take up to six months to reach their account, further slowing down programme implementation.

The new President (who is also the former President of the Regional Committee of Mohéli) is new handling national issues, and requires some time to grow into his new position. A certain amount of coaching is needed, but has been quite challenging given the current electricity/communication problems with the islands. However the Regional organizational development delegate has managed to keep up a reasonably regular dialogue with him, and to provide advice in leading the National Committee in drawing up future strategies for the CRCS.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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APPEAL No. 01.02/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

10.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				189'886		40.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				77'448		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				77'448	CHF	40.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	