

ANNUAL REPORT



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 والقمر الأحمر

COMOROS

1 March 2004

In Brief

Appeal No.: 01.02/2003 ([Click here to access the 2003 Appeal](#))

Appeal target: CHF 189,885 (USD 128,886 or EUR 128,911)

Appeal coverage: 40.8% ([Click here to access the Final Financial Report](#))

Appeal 2004: Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes no. 01.09/2004 (this includes Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles) ([Click here to access the 2004 Appeal](#))

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning.

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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Overall analysis of the programme

[The Comoros Red Crescent](#) is one of the two unrecognized national societies in Africa. Emphasis has been placed on assisting the national society to meet the requirements for recognition. The national society held its general assembly in March 2003 despite political instability. During the general assembly, statutes, internal regulations and the strategic development plan were discussed in depth, revised and approved. The Comoros Red Crescent continued to provide essential back up to the Ministry of Health in responding to health crises.

Objectives, achievements/impact, and constraints

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.

Comoros; Appeal no. 01.02/2003; Annual Report

Achievements

Comoros Red Crescent continued to implement its malaria and cholera prevention programmes on all three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli. In addition, the national society implemented a school-based health programme supported by the French Red Cross which ended in October 2003. Twenty five youth were trained to develop a theatre play on HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. An address notebook containing preventive HIV/AIDS messages targeting the youth was also produced and distributed. The Federal Ministry of Social Welfare, WHO and UNICEF designed an integrated health strategic plan for 2004 to 2007. Twenty youth from the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli were then trained as disseminators of HIV/AIDS messages.

Impact

A cholera outbreak in the Capital in November 2003 was immediately contained through the deployment of trained and experienced Red Crescent volunteers who provided essential back up to the Ministry of Health.

A strategic planning workshop was held after which the national society prepared a comprehensive health plan in line with [Strategy 2010](#) focusing on:

- Reproductive health
- Sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS for youth in-and-out of school
- Community action for the prevention of malaria and diarrhea
- Integrated management of childhood illnesses at community level

WHO and UNICEF have committed to fund the health plan. In addition, the French Red Cross will support the cholera prevention programme up to April 2004.

Constraints

The Comoros Red Crescent has a weak human resource base. There is need to strengthen it by implementing the strategic health programme and having a health department at the headquarters. The unstable political situation and current restructuring of the government ministries under a federal entity have slowed down the pace of health reforms. Consequently, the work of the national society as an auxiliary to a newly created Ministry of Health which has minimal resources has slowed down.

No funding was secured for the implementation of an integrated health pilot project in WatSan¹, HIV/AIDS and health. However, provision has been made for the project in the 2004 Appeal budget.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Comoros Red Crescent meets the criteria for admittance 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

Achievements

The regional committees in the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli held their assemblies and elections ahead of the national assembly in March 2003. Eleven persons and government representatives from each of the three islands attended. A new President and three Vice-Presidents (one outgoing) were elected. Following extensive working group discussions during the meeting, the national society revised its strategic development plan, and amended its statutes and internal regulations which were approved. The roles and responsibilities of governance and management are clearly defined in the new statutes and are being integrated at central level.

The Comoros Red Crescent is in dialogue with the Government and is exploring the possibility of having an employee seconded to fill the position of Secretary General. The position has been vacant and there is no sustainable funding for the position.

¹ WatSan – Water and sanitation

Comoros; Appeal no. 01.02/2003; Annual Report

The Regional Organizational Development Delegate facilitated a meeting of the national board in October 2003 to draft a report of 2003 activities and a plan of action for the year 2004. The plan has a provision for the design of a volunteer management policy.

The national society used programme funds to produce quality brochures outlining its activities as well as its first ever membership cards. The new President, who is also the former President of the Regional Committee of Mohéli, has settled in his position and is beginning to see things from a national perspective.

Impact

The submission of the national society's statutes to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's joint commission is a major step towards the recognition process. The printing of quality brochures has enabled the national society increase its profile in the community. The use of membership cards ensures that proper records of volunteers are kept. The preparation of 2004 plans before the end of 2003 underscores the national society's commitment to systematic planning.

Constraints

The vacant position of Secretary General puts the two Programme Officers of the national society under a lot of pressure. In addition, members of governance are forced to take on management functions. A few board members tend to let inter-island politics influence their approach to national decision making. To avoid conflict, decisions are sometimes deferred.