

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Indian Ocean Sub-Regional Programmes

Appeal No. MAA64002

4 April 2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process. (Arial 11/grey colour)



The Africa Health, Malaria and Measles Campaign: In partnership with the Canadian and the American RC, The Malagasy Red Cross reached over 2.8 million children in Madagascar. This included the distribution of mosquito nets, information dissemination on the Proper use of those nets, as well as measles Vaccinations. **Malagasy Red Cross Society**

### In brief

**Programme summary:** Several partners are committed to supporting the restructuring of the Malagasy Red Cross society. Implementation of activities was delayed due to the internal crisis and a hectic 2006/2007 cyclone season. Most of 2007 was spent on disaster response, although some aspects of disaster preparedness were thoroughly addressed in the second half of 2007. In Seychelles, the newly recruited Secretary General and Finance Coordinator of the National Society worked hard to finalize the preparation and audit of the 2005 and 2006 accounts. At a partnership meeting held in Comoros in February 2007, the Canadian and French Red Cross as well as the International Federation committed support to a community awareness project of the Karthala Volcano. The unstable political situation in the country, as well as the cholera epidemic in early 2007, delayed the launch of many National Society activities. The Indian Ocean Islands sub-Zonal Office in Mauritius consolidated its systems and structures to enable it to provide systematic support to National Societies as well as the Federation office in Madagascar, particularly in the area of financial management.

**For more detailed information on the 2006 activities, please refer to:**

Programme Update no. 1: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400201.pdf>

Programme Update no. 2: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400202.pdf>

Programme Update no. 3: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400203.pdf>

Report 2006-2007 (2006) <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA64002ar06.pdf>

**For more detailed information on the 2007 activities, please refer to:**

Programme Update no. 4: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual06/MAA6400204.pdf>

**Goal:** The National Societies in the sub-zone aim to maintain a high profile in responding to the needs of the vulnerable at community level

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 1,757,689 (USD xxx or EUR xxx) (out of which 56 per cent covered). Outstanding needs are CHF 770,833

[Click the links below to go directly to the financial reports:](#)

[Report 2006](#)

[Report 2007](#)

[Report 2006-2007](#)

**Related Emergency and other Appeals:**

Tsunami: [M04EA028](#); Cyclone Indlala: [MDRMG002](#); Africa Health Initiative (Malaria, Measles): [MAA60004](#). Cholera Epidemic: [MDRKM001](#)

**No. of people we help:** More than 10,000 families were assisted by the Malagasy Red Cross society following the passage of Cyclones Indlala and Clovis in Madagascar. The National Society, with the help of the Federation's Emergency Appeal, continued to prepare affected communities for the 2007/2008 cyclone seasons. A total of 2,835,000 children aged between nine months to five years old were reached through the Health initiative. Over 1,400 infected people were directly assisted by the National Society in Comores during the Cholera epidemic. Support is continuously given to the newly elected Secretaries General in Madagascar and Seychelles.

**Our partners:** Cooperation and coordination were maintained on a continuous basis with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office for the Coordination Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE international, as well as the national disaster response committee (BNGRC), during the cyclone season in Madagascar. The UN resident representative as well as the civil protection body in Comoros assisted in the designing of the Karthala community sensitization project. In Mauritius, contact was maintained with the UN resident representative who also covers Seychelles. Regular cooperation was maintained between the Zonal office in Nairobi and UN/International Strategy on Disaster Reduction concerning the Indian Ocean Consortium (formerly Bill Clinton Initiative) but due to lack of capacity, the National Societies in Seychelles and Mauritius were unable to directly capitalize on this available funding.

## Current context

Political instability in Comores continues to be a major hurdle for the National Society. By the end of December 2007, African Union interventions to resolve the issue of unconstitutional elections on Anjouan Island had not made any progress. During the second half of 2007, the Comores Red Crescent could not carry out any planned capacity building initiative on Anjouan Island. Along with the cholera epidemic, this created great delays in developing and implementing the Karthala project.

In Madagascar, the internal crisis hampered capacity building for most of 2006. As part of the plan to upgrade capacity, all existing technical posts were opened up and some additional ones were created. The length of the recruitment process caused delays in the development and implementation of planned strategies and core National Society initiatives. Gaps in National Society capacity, at branch level, have been identified and future plans to redress these have been drawn up.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society has been concentrating on revising its internal structures, including a revision of the Statutes which date from its admission to the Movement. The newly elected leadership has prioritized this, and an overall review of governance and management structures, for 2008.

## Progress towards objectives

### Disaster Management

## Madagascar

**Objective:** Increase capacity of 100 Malagasy Red Cross Society District Committees to train volunteers in community based-first aid and disaster preparedness.

**Achievements:** The 2006/2007 cyclone season was one of the most hectic since they began. This meant that the Malagasy Red Cross Society was on an emergency footing from mid-December 2006 until mid-June 2007, leaving little time for disaster capacity building activities. The second phase of the Cyclone Indlala operation addressed some of the lessons learned relating to capacity building in the affected region. It also built on reinforcing the capacities of local volunteers in community-based first aid (CBFA), as well as the pre-positioning of disaster preparedness stock, and the refurbishment of the volunteer's meeting place in the Sofia district. A Taskforce for the upcoming 2007/2008 cyclone season has been created.

**Constraints:** Even though the national coordinating body (BNGRC) worked hard to coordinate the activities and responsibilities of all actors in the country, the Cyclone/Tsunami simulation exercise held on 15-24 November 2007 demonstrated that there is still lack of coordination and synergy between disaster management actors in Madagascar. This will again be a challenge in the forthcoming cyclone season.

## Comores

**Objectives:** Increase community capacity to prepare and respond to the dangers represented by Karthala.

**Achievements:** With the help of the Canadian and French Red Cross societies, funding was secured for a community-based risk reduction programme for the sensitization of communities on the dangers associated with the frequent volcanic eruptions of Karthala.

**Constraints or challenges:** The political environment and the cholera epidemic have been constraints to the implementation of the Karthala Volcano project which was supposed to begin in August 2007. The project is well behind schedule.

## Mauritius

**Achievements:** Following the passage of Cyclone Gamede in February all National Society branches were involved in carrying out community assessments and providing assistance. The Federation contributed to a Tsunami simulation exercise in October 2007. An evaluation was carried out following the exercise. The objective was to identify shortcomings which could be addressed before a much larger exercise scheduled for 2008

**Constraints:** The National Society faces some challenges in profiling itself with other actors and to take advantage of potential partnerships in the disaster management field

## Organizational Development

### Comores

**Objectives:** The National Society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well functioning National Society is enhanced through secretariat support.

**Achievements:** An organizational development (OD) delegate was appointed to support the Comores Red Crescent in May 2007 and has provided coaching to National Society staff and the Board. As a result the quality and timeliness of National Society reports has increased. This helped the National Society to be short listed in participating in the Intensive Capacity Building (ICB) Appeal. A strategic ICB plan for the development of local branches on the islands of Grande Comore and Moheli was submitted in December 2007. If approved, the implementation of this plan will require the on-going support of a Federation delegate.

A General Assembly was held in October 2007, where most of the outgoing leadership was re-elected. A new Secretary General was appointed in December 2007.

**Constraints or challenges:** The political environment continues to place heavy constraints on the National Society's capacity to plan. This has also been reflected in some internal upheavals within the organization which are slowing down programme implementation.

## **Madagascar**

**Objective:** The Malagasy Red Cross Society has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs

**Achievements:** Following an expression of major confidence by all partners in the National Society at a partnership meeting that was held on February 2007, another period of internal turbulence prevailed over the April/May 2007 period. An ad hoc committee of the Board voted to cancel the contract of the newly recruited Secretary General. A subsequent meeting of the National Society's governing council resulted in his reinstatement. The events were followed by a resignation of a number of staff members who were implicated in the events. This created a gap at programme management level during a critical cyclone operation and the preparatory phase of the forthcoming malaria campaign. In addition to funding of the Secretary General post and that of the Financial Administrator, the Canadian Red Cross agreed to finance the new posts of programme coordinator and finance officer.

**Constraints or challenges:** The National Society is still prone to internal turbulence which seriously limits its capacity to implement programmes and risks deterring partners. While strides are being made to improve efficiency at headquarters level, there is, as yet no effective management structure at regional level, further reducing capacity. Plans to recruit qualified coordinators at regional level were being implemented by late 2007. Considerable participation from donors will be required to complete the exercise. Problems with obtaining financial records, following the malaria campaign, showed a weakness in programme management and reporting capacity.

## **Mauritius**

**Objective:** The Mauritius Red Cross Society has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs

**Achievements:** The National Society held its first elections for a new Chairman in early June 2007. This was in conformity with revised statutes currently under on-going dialogue with Geneva before finalization. A review of the roles and responsibilities of Governance and Management is expected in 2008.

**Constraints/Challenges:** The presence of more partners in the region has assisted the National Society in diversifying its activities. There are significant opportunities to engage with new partners nationally and internationally. However, lack of experience in project cycle management and a cautious approach to programming has prevented the National Society from taking advantage of this.

## **Seychelles**

**Objective:** The Seychelles Red Cross Society has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs

**Achievements:** Since the appointment of the new Secretary General, the National Society has put new management and financial procedures in place. The Organogram has been finalized and has been complemented by revised job descriptions, an appraisal system and salary scale. The accounts

for 2005 and 2006 have been audited, while the 2007 accounts are currently being audited. The recruitment of a Finance Coordinator has led to a significant improvement in the quality of reports. Progress has been made in the construction of a new headquarters, but the significant delays encountered means that costs have increased and that additional funding is now required.

**Constraints/Challenges:** The fact that the construction of the new headquarters will run significantly over budget and that the National Society will be obliged to continue renting a premises is putting a strain on financial resources. The National Society hopes to be able to raise additional funding through a targeted campaign. Assisting the National Society to put some order in its accounts was an unforeseen expense which benefited all partners, and further strained existing finances.

## Working in partnership

Close cooperation with UN based organizations, particularly WFP, in Madagascar led to a coordinated response to beneficiary needs following the passage of Cyclone Indlala. A current lack of capacity in the National Society is preventing an exploitation of potential new and longer-term local partnerships. The sub-Zonal Office continued to act as the focal point for Movement coordination in the sub-Zone, maintaining regular contact with the French Red Cross/Indian ocean regional intervention platform (PIROI<sup>1</sup>) in La Réunion, Canadian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross based in Mauritius, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Cooperation Delegate based in Pretoria.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Over 10,000 families were reached during the Cyclone Indlala operation. This was facilitated by the identification and training of volunteer teams to carry out community assessments. These teams continue to receive training to enable them to prepare for the next cyclone season. The Emergency Appeal also helped in setting up disaster preparedness stocks and improving regional infrastructures.

The involvement of the National Societies in social mobilization for the malaria campaign helped to further develop capacity to work with communities. However, problems that were encountered during this campaign identified a need for on-going programme and financial capacity building. The Karthala Volcano, still in its early stages, as well as the potential implementation of the ICB exercise, will contribute to community risk reduction on the island of Grande Comore. The improved financial and management procedures in the Seychelles Red Cross Society have reinforced donor confidence in the National Society

## Looking ahead

If the Malagasy Red Cross Society is to become a key actor in responding to the growing humanitarian challenges, capacity building will be the major priority in the coming years. However, partners will need to be assured that a harmonious relationship between governance and management will prevail. In Comores capacity building will also remain a priority for which additional funding will be required to carry on some of the activities which are being supported by the in country organizational development delegate. In Mauritius, the implementation of the revised statutes will require some structural changes in the National Society, leading to a significant upgrading of management capacity. Additional funding for the construction of a headquarters in Seychelles is essential if the National Society is to be ensured of a secure working environment in the longer-term.

Climate change is likely to generate a new pattern of disasters with more frequency, more severity, more complexities and unpredictability. Disaster preparedness activities for climate related hazards will be promoted within the four National Societies. Capacity building in the water and sanitation field

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<sup>1</sup> In French: Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Océan Indien (PIROI).

will continue to be a priority. Madagascar is already managing a project funded by the Climate Change Center in The Hague and more island countries will follow. In health, the National Societies will develop existing HIV and AIDS programmes (which are currently being carried out on a low scale), or develop new programmes on the same. National Societies will continue to participate in vaccination/sensitization campaigns and response to epidemics.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">http://www.ifrc.org</a></p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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