

# Appeal 2008-2009



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Indian Ocean sub-zone programmes

Appeal MAA64002

21 December 2007

This appeal seeks CHF 2,361,000 (USD 2,112,000 or EUR 1,431,000) to fund programmes to be implemented in 2008 and 2009.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Madagascar continues to recover from a series of cyclones – and the Malagasy Red Cross continues to prepare for the next season.

## Current context

Seasonal cyclones are a recurrent threat in the Indian Ocean Islands. During the summer of 2006 and 2007, the Indian Ocean Islands countries of Madagascar and Mauritius were hit by frequent cyclones which caused numerous deaths and considerable damage to infrastructure and crops. As a result of its many years of economic and political instability, Comoros has very low human development indicators. As per the most recent statistics, 44,8% of the population lives under the poverty line, the rate of infant mortality is 59% and the maternal death rates for every 100,000 births is 381. In addition, the Karthala volcano is one of the most active in the world and has been very active in recent years.

In Madagascar, an estimated 349,000 people lost their homes in the seasonal cyclones of Bondo, Clovis, Favio and Indlala, and up to 80% of crops were destroyed in some areas including rice, the staple diet in Madagascar, as well as one of the country's main exports, vanilla. Food insecurity is further exacerbated by the country's arid southern region, where a drought has affected 582,000 people.

As Seychelles is made up of many smaller islands and relies heavily on tourism and water sports, there is a need to review the nature of the risks that exists in the country. Despite a growing economy, there are many marginalised communities who are vulnerable to disasters. In this respect, there is a need to raise public awareness on disasters such as flooding and tidal waves.

## Programme summary

The priority for the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles National Societies in 2008-09 is to strengthen governance and management structures in order to facilitate the NS efforts of contributing towards the achievement of the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals. The 4 NS will strengthen their disaster preparedness as well as disaster response capacities, including public health emergencies, so as to ensure quality delivery of assistance to the vulnerable populations.

Due to traditional cultural values, women are under-represented in key functions of the Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius National Societies. To address this issue, efforts will be undertaken to sensitize women on how to contribute positively to the governance of the NS and encourage them to apply for Management positions. In this regard, an electoral code will be developed to ensure a gender balance among the governance teams. In addition, efforts will be invested in the recruitment of qualified women as members and volunteers by targeting various socio-professional sectors, private companies and schools. The NS will continue to encourage women and girls to be active participants in RC programmes.

Gender equity and diversity is well represented in the Seychelles Red Cross Society. The posts of President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the National Committee are currently filled by women, and HQ staff is currently composed of 4 women and 3 men. Both men and women volunteers are active participants in the NS Programmes. The NS will continue to encourage the active participation of women in its activities.

## Disaster management

The purpose of the Comoros Red Crescent's programmes in 2008-2009 is to increase the NS capacity to deliver effective and relevant humanitarian aid in emergencies, while implementing disaster preparedness for vulnerable groups, both at community and national level. The Malagasy Red Cross Society staff and volunteers' capacities to better respond to emergencies will be developed through its disaster preparedness programme.

Cyclone Gamede demonstrated that the Mauritius Red Cross Society needed to improve its disaster preparedness capacity for disaster response efforts. Successful implementation of the disaster management programme will ensure the creation of disaster recovery stock and a disaster fund to meet immediate needs of the affected population. Eleven communities (in Mauritius and Rodrigues) will be better prepared to respond to disasters.

At the time of the 2004 Tsunami, the Seychelles Red Cross Society was a small but active community based organisation. Despite its limited capacity, the NS responded quickly to the Tsunami. Since then, the NS has grown steadily, both in terms of technical staff and volunteer base. In 2008-2009, SRCS will expand the coverage of its network of branches in order to support delivery on its disaster management programme.

## Health and care

The Comoros Red Crescent's health and care programme in 2008-2009 includes CBFA and hygiene promotion, emergency health and psychological support, and maternal and child health targeting vulnerable groups, both at community and national level. The Malagasy Red Cross Society health and care programme is designed to contribute to the prevention of further HIV infection within the NS as well as at community level. The Mauritius Red Cross Society will attempt to overcome the limited activities in Red Cross Movement areas such as HIV and AIDS, by creating funding opportunities. The Seychelles Red Cross Society health and care programme include blood donation and emergency health and psychological support components, which will be implemented on the different islands.

## Capacity development

Being relatively young, recognized in September 2005, the Comoros Red Crescent's first priority is to strengthen its governance and management capacities. Malagasy Red Cross Society programmes aim to strengthen the capacity of the NS in relation to the development of governance and management structures and the development of local branches. All NS capacities to manage their own development, including through improved external partnerships and networks will be encouraged. Increased capacity of the NS will allow it to be a part of an improved national and regional network, which will enable the sharing of knowledge, resources and technical expertise. The capacity development programme is designed to enhance the Seychelles Red Cross Society capacity to raise funds to meet the financial requirements of its projects in disasters, and health and care.

## Principles and values

The Malagasy and Mauritius NS HIV and AIDS programmes will address the reduction of stigma and discrimination within the NS as well as at the community level.

## Needs

Programmes	2008 budget (CHF)	2009 budget (CHF)	Total budget (CHF)
Disaster Management	90,909	10,695	101,604
Capacity Development	1,411,765	775,968	2,187,733
Coordination	35,874	35,874	71,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,538,548</b>	<b>822,537</b>	<b>2,361,085</b>

## Working in partnership

The Comoros Red Crescent Society has a defined role in the National Disaster Plan of the Union of Comoros to intervene in areas of water and sanitation, health and safety, and disaster relief. Because of its wide volunteer base, the NS is at the forefront of State and UN led Disaster relief in the country.

The cooperation between the NS and PNS is predominantly implemented on a bilateral basis. The NS have collaborated with the following partners, in the implementation of their activities:

- ICRC: dissemination of Humanitarian, Values and Principle, first aid programme
- The Federation: Organizational development/capacity building. Currently, the Federation OD delegate is providing technical support to the NS in developing a new Strategic Plan which will be adopted during the next General Assembly to be held in July 2007.
- French Red Cross: disaster management through PIROI (Plateforme d'Intervention Rapide pour l'Océan Indien), health programme (hygiene and sanitation in schools);
- Spanish Red Cross: health and disaster management, regional branch development;
- Arabic National Societies: office rehabilitation and equipment, vehicles, part of running costs; and
- Canadian Red Cross: disaster management in collaboration with the PIROI; capacity building/OD and DP;
- German Red Cross - Health programmes and branch development.

Non-state actors such as UN agencies, CARE and other NGOs are active in the Island countries and have worked in partnership with the NS in past emergencies. The successful implementation

of DP and health programmes is dependent upon the NS working in partnership with these other actors. In addition, in the health programmes, the Ministry of Health will be involved at various stages.

The establishment of the IOI sub-zonal office in Mauritius (with an office in Madagascar) ensures greater coordination of Movement partners within the country. The various disaster and health campaigns such as those following Cyclone Indlala and the Malaria, Measles and Polio campaign in Madagascar, have underlined the importance of Red Cross/Red Crescent collaboration.

## How we work

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 \(Sphere\)](#) 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 <http://www.ifrc.org>

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".

### 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.

## Contact information

### For further information, contact:

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*Click here for the [Budget summary](#);*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Comoros Red Crescent **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Malagasy Red Cross Society **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Mauritius Red Cross Society **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*

*Click here to access the detailed [2008-2009 programme support plan](#) for the Seychelles Red Cross **and** here for the [planning and resource summary matrix](#)*