

Annual report



Indian Ocean Islands

Appeal No. MAA64002

17 May 2011

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2010

In brief

Programme outcome: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC) Indian Oceans Islands programmes aim to ensure that National Societies in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles have strengthened capacities to respond to disasters and crises and that communities are resilient to disasters and public health emergencies and promote healthy and safe living, as well as social inclusion, non-violence and peace. This is in line with the strategic aims of IFRC's [Strategy 2020](#).

Programme summary: Through improved policies, procedures and strategies, the programmes have aimed to strengthen National Societies to be well-functioning organizations, delivering quality programmes, with positive impact on communities, while making the National Society a strong humanitarian actor in the respective countries. With a focus on community-based activities in disaster management and health and care, specifically in areas of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA), the programmes have also aimed to achieve Strategy 2020's objective of greater community resilience to disasters and health emergencies affecting the Indian Ocean Islands (IOI) region. Activities in 2010 have particularly aimed to strengthen National Society capacity (especially in terms of human resources) to respond to emergencies within the region.

Financial situation: The original 2010 budget was CHF 602,225 of which CHF 260,308 was available during the year (43 per cent), including opening balance. Expenditure in the year totalled CHF 167,117, corresponding to 64 per cent of available funds and 28 per cent of the original budgeted amount.

Incomplete coverage of the appeal meant that some activities were not carried out, or were supported through alternative partnerships. Low expenditure levels were due to unspent funds under the global malaria programme.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

See also;

- Madagascar: Cyclone Hubert: [MDRMG006](#)
- Madagascar: Chikungunya Epidemic: [MDRMG005](#)

Number of people we help: Excluding the DREF Operations and the global malaria campaign in Madagascar, approximately 256 Red Cross and Red Crescent staff members and volunteers directly benefited from IFRC support, whilst six communities benefitted from community-based activities. In Seychelles, 45 youth members benefitted from an induction course organized by the National Society. No additional information was available from other National Societies in the region.

Our partners: The IOI National Societies work closely with Partner National Societies (PNS) namely French (through its Plateforme d'Intervention Regionale de L'Océan Indien - PIROI), Canadian, German, Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross societies. The National Society of Netherlands supported the global malaria activities in Madagascar. NS also work closely with local agencies especially in emergency response and disaster preparedness activities. More recently, the Commission de L'Océan Indien started working closely with humanitarian actors (including National Societies) in the region in developing disaster response strategies for the IOI Region.

IFRC and the IOI National Societies wish to thank partners for their support to this appeal and for their collaboration during 2010.

Context

During the reporting period, Madagascar was affected by Chikungunya epidemic. Before the end of the response operation by the Malagasy Red Cross, cyclone Hubert hit the east coast of Madagascar (including the area affected by Chikungunya), affecting over 97,000 people. Comoros was affected by a dengue epidemic, which lasted for three months. The NS conducted global sensitization campaign, and although many people were affected by the vector-borne disease, no deaths were recorded. A referendum to extend the presidential mandate for an additional year was held in Comoros. This caused political tension and ensuing violence, which resulted in injury and destruction to property. Following support from the international community, a convention was signed during the period for presidential elections to be held at a later date.

During 2009 the Seychelles Rupee devaluated by 100 per cent following economic reforms. This severely affected resource mobilization and devalued available funding for the construction of the Seychelles Red Cross warehouse. Unfortunately, the NS has not benefitted from the steady revaluation of the rupee over the last six months and fundraising efforts have had to concentrate on meeting construction needs rather than other planned activities. The Malagasy Red Cross as one of the key humanitarian actors, with support from the IFRC and PIROI, carried out a sensitization and clean-up campaign in response to the Chikungunya epidemic. The Malagasy Red Cross again assisted people affected by cyclone Hubert with support from the IFRC DREF operation and technical support from PIROI.

Although the emergencies caused delays in the implementation of some long-term programmes, the cyclone Hubert response operation facilitated the deployment of IOI regional disaster response team (RDRT) members for the first time. The emergency operation strengthened the cooperation between the IFRC, PIROI and the NS in the region.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme Component 1: Organisational Preparedness

Outcome 1: The National Societies in the region are better prepared and coordinated for disasters through the development of national DM strategies and contingency plans in thematic areas to guide the National Societies during emergencies

Achievements

The National Societies in IOI Region developed a DM Strategy at national level, and disseminated the document among its staff, members and volunteers at all levels of the organization. In addition, the National Societies developed individual contingency plans in at least two thematic areas relevant to their country's vulnerabilities. The contingency plans will be reference in guiding emergency operations. The plans have also been cascaded to all structures of the National Societies.

With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and in line with the NS priorities, the Comoros Red Crescent developed a contingency plan in times of conflict and 110 volunteers were trained in access to affected population in times of conflict. The Mauritius RC has developed a global contingency plan for emergencies, and has taken initial steps to develop contingency plans for specific thematic areas. The Malagasy Red Cross developed a strategic plan in DRR with support from the Global Alliance on DRR and the Canadian Red Cross.

Programme Component 2: Disaster Response

Outcome 1: The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities is reduced through adequate and timely emergency response measures

Achievements

With support from the IFRC's DREF, the Madagascar Red Cross was able to carry out two emergency operations during the period. Cyclone Hubert (DREF MDRMG006) operations supported approximately 5,500 families with non-food items (NFIs) and improved access to safe water sources, as well as basic support services to approximately 1,010 families with emergency shelters. Chikungunya Operation (DREF MDRMG005) supported a hygiene campaign targeting approximately 44,000 families, for the prevention of this vector borne disease.

Programme Component 3: Community Preparedness

Outcome 1: Community capacities are improved to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

Achievements

With support from the Global Alliance on DRR, the Malagasy Red Cross (with technical support from the IFRC and financial support from the Canadian Red Cross) implemented a training of trainers (ToT) in vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA). Regional coordinators and volunteers (22 in total) from all 22 regions were represented. Their objectives being:

- Improve risk reduction capacities at community level in their regions through VCA activities;
- Develop a DRR Strategy for the Malagasy Red Cross.

The objectives were attained by ensuring that sufficient staff and volunteers in all regions were capable of carrying out effective VCA activities in vulnerable communities in their region, by reactivating community disaster management teams, and by developing a DRR Strategy for the Malagasy Red Cross. VCAs were undertaken in two communities.

With support from the Canadian Red Cross, the Mauritius Red Cross carried out VCAs in 23 communities during 2009, where micro projects developed were under implementation during the first half of 2010. The Mauritius Red Cross also established community disaster response teams in two coastal communities as part of a pilot project. A total of 20 persons were trained and form part of the branch disaster response team (BDRT) within these two communities. In 2009, the Comoros Red Crescent successfully carried out VCAs in vulnerable communities and is currently seeking funds to implement micro projects developed with these communities. With support from the IFRC and as part of their Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) plan, the Seychelles Red Cross conducted VCA training. Twelve volunteers were trained and VCAs carried out in two communities.

Constraints or Challenges

The simultaneous occurrence of emergencies (Chikungunya outbreak followed by flooding from cyclone Hubert) increased the complexity of the two operations, as flooding from Hubert increased the chances of Chikungunya expansion. With support from PIROI and IFRC deployed RDRT, detailed assessments and operation plans were developed.

Health and Care

Programme Component 2: Emergency Health

Outcome 1: The Indian Ocean Island RDRT and all NS NDRT teams have a strong health team, able to respond to regional public health emergencies.

Achievements

With support from the IFRC, two members of the Comoros Red Crescent attended CBHFA training in Cameroon. Subsequently, and with support from the Spanish Red Cross, 35 volunteers were trained in CBHFA at the branch level.

Constraints or Challenges

Low coverage in terms of funding support to the 2010 plan meant that NS have to find alternative sources of resources to carry out planned activities. Resources available for DRR programmes within the region are limited.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme Component 1: NS Systems, procedures and staff sustainability

Outcome 1: Develop the governance teams of the NS to ensure that guidance and direction being disseminated at all levels is informed, clear and in conformity with Red Cross and Red Crescent standards.

Outcome 2: Financial systems and procedures are developed and implemented to ensure proper recording and reporting, thus increasing accountability and credibility.

Outcome 3: Salaries of management team in Mauritius Red Cross are maintained at a nationally competitive level, to ensure sustainability of programmes.

Outcome 4: NS premises and Warehouse are adequately refurbished to facilitate the development and implementation of programmes.

Achievements

During the period, the Comoros Red Crescent governance approved and adopted the following OD tools previously developed with the support of the Canadian Red Cross and the IFRC:

- Finance and Administration procedures manual;
- Human Resource Management manual;
- Code of Conduct;
- Child Protection Policy.

The Mauritius, Red Cross Statutes were revised. With support from the Canadian Red Cross and IFRC, a new director general was recruited. With support from IFRC, French, Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross, a finance development delegate was posted to support Madagascar Red Cross. The finance development delegate has worked with the NS to implement new accounting software, to assess its current finance and administration procedures and make recommendations where necessary, to support the NS in developing finance and procedures manual, as well as to make recommendations on how to improve aspects of its finance department.

The Malagasy Red Cross experienced a major crisis during the period, partly related to unclear roles and responsibilities in the Statutes. Two missions by the IFRC Regional Representative supported the NS in organizing an extraordinary session of the governing board. The governing board constructively resolved the crisis and in the process, initiated a review of the Statutes and internal rules to avoid similar problems in the future. What was initially a severe crisis, which received a lot of attention from the press and the wider public, thus severely affecting the image of the Society has since been turned into a real opportunity for development

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| Programme Component 2: NS grassroots units and services development |
| Outcome 1: volunteer and youth management policies are developed and successfully implemented, increasing the capacity of volunteers and youth clubs to implement NS programmes. |

Achievements

A Volunteer Management Policy was adopted by the governing board of the Comoros Red Crescent, clarifying expectations for branches and volunteers.

Constraints or Challenges

Internal management Issues within some of the NS have prevented the successful adoption and implementation of management tools. As part of the OD process supported by the IFRC and the Canadian Red Cross, partners are supporting the NS to become well-functioning NS, able to support the implementation of management tools.

Principles and Values

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| Programme Component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values |
| Outcome 1: Comprehensive communication strategies and two-year action plans exist and are implemented. |
| Outcome 2: Induction courses for new staff, members and volunteers are strong and provide good guidance on Red Cross Red Crescent principles, objectives and mandates. |
| Outcome 3: The public is more aware of the Principles and Values of the Movement, as well as the role of the NS in their respective countries. |

Achievements

The Comoros Red Crescent developed a communications strategy with the support of the ICRC and the Canadian Red Cross. The Seychelles Red Cross conducted a working session in Information Diffusion concentrating on “Understanding the use and misuse of the Red Cross Emblem” with ten members of their youth group. A total of 45 youth members benefitted from an induction course by the Seychelles Red Cross. In addition, with support from ICRC and as part of a continuing campaign with the Ministry of Education, the NS developed and presented over 1,000 copies of different communication material (DVDs, cartoon strips, glossary and books) on “Story of an Idea” translated in Creole, which will help promote IHL and principles and values at schools.

The Seychelles Red Cross also finalized its website, which is now fully operational. During the period, the Malagasy Red Cross developed an induction course for new members, but has

expressed the need for further development of the course. The NS continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, which is disseminated to all partners and from time to time, publishes its activities in local newspapers as a communication tool.

Constraints or Challenges

Low coverage of the planned activities for 2010 has curtailed the support that the IFRC IOI Regional Representation Office can offer to the NS in implementing these activities.

Working in partnership

All four NS of the IOI Region are members of the French Red Cross-led Plateforme d'Intervention Regional de L'Océan Indien. With direct support from PIROI, the National Societies have increased their capacities in disaster response by building up the skills and knowledge of their staff, members and volunteers as well as pre-positioning of disaster response stock. RDRT members, as well as prepositioned WatSan equipment were mobilized during cyclone Hubert operation with coordinated support from the PIROI and the IFRC.

The Canadian Red Cross supports three of the four National Societies in OD and DM, according to their needs. Along with the Spanish and German Red Cross, all the National Societies have benefitted from strengthened and scaled up community-based activities, through improved infrastructures, equipment, training and community based programme implementation.

All of the National Societies in IOI Region sit on their respective national disaster response/management committees and are often solicited in activities led by the authorities. With support from IFRC and ICRC, National Societies are improving in carrying out their role as auxiliaries to their public authorities. The ICRC continues to provide support to the National Societies in information and dissemination of the Movement's principles and values, as well as international humanitarian law (IHL).

Contributing to longer-term impact

While all of the IOI National Societies have shown good improvement in reporting on their activities, intensive technical support is needed from IFRC and other partners to develop effective monitoring and evaluation tools and strategies.

With an improved network of National Societies in the region (through PIROI and IOI RDRT), there has been increased knowledge sharing in the region. The development of IOI RDRT has also contributed to improved standards in relief operations, with all National Societies now having staff and volunteers who are aware of SPHERE standards and who are also able to train NDRTs.

Increased community-based activities supported by IFRC and PNS have also contributed to an increased awareness of the need to deliver effective and efficient programmes at community level. National Societies are conscious of the fact that their activities are to be developmental in order to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction strategies through livelihood and health activities among others, as well as increased gender equity through greater participation of women and women led programmes.

Looking ahead

Low coverage of the 2010 plan is indicative of a great need for National Societies to explore ways of ensuring that their programmes are sustainable. There is a need to support the National Societies in Resource Mobilization. Some of the National Societies in the region have already taken the initiative to seek IFRC support in the development of resource mobilization strategies and committees. The National Societies have shown interest for support in the development of programmes and project proposal. While most of the National Societies in the IOI Region have

increased their community-based activities, support is needed in developing project proposals to increase the chances for funding support, as well as to ensure long-term impact on vulnerable communities.

Although ICRC continues supporting the National Societies with information and dissemination of IHL as well as principles and values, National Societies with a communications department are more able to reach a greater number of their population. A comprehensive communication strategy and action plan, as programmed in the 2010/2011 Plan will support the National Societies in increasing the number of people reached, and strengthen the impact of programmes.

| How we work | |
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| <p>All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</p> | |
| <p>The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p> | <p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. |
| Contact information | |
| <p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Johannesburg, South Africa ,Dr Asha Mohammed, Head of Operations, IFRC Africa Zone Office, Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org, Phone: +27.11.303.9700, Fax: + 27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230 <p><i>For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting) enquiries:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Johannesburg, South Africa Robert Ondrusek; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Delegate, Johannesburg; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9744; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230 <p><i>For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Johannesburg, South Africa: Ed Cooper; Resource Mobilization, Performance and Accountability Coordinator, Africa Zone Office Email ed.cooper@ifrc.org; Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230 | |