

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

INDIAN OCEAN SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

13 January 2006

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA006; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 76.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 120,155 (USD 91,582 or EUR 77,196).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website.](#)

For Programme Update no. 1 please refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/05AA00601.pdf>

Appeal target: CHF 507,714 (USD 403,300 or EUR 327,000).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: South/Southeast Asia and East Africa: Earthquake and Tsunamis; Appeal no. 28/2004; Revised Tsunami Plan of Action 2005-2010: Please refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/2804PlanofAction2005-2010-revised.pdf

Programme summary: The highlight during the reporting period was the election of Comoros Red Crescent to membership of the Federation, as the 182nd member, at the General Assembly held in Seoul, Korea in November 2005.

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the government of Madagascar and the Federation, a new transition committee, which was expected to be in place as of the end of 2005, has as its main priorities to prepare for an external audit of 2004 and 2005 accounts and to facilitate the implementation of the ensuing recommendations, to prepare a 2006 action plan, to initiate strategic planning and Statutes revision processes and to prepare committees at all levels for the next General Assembly.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society continued to raise its profile with partners inside and outside the Movement during the past six months, including the National Disaster Committee and the Meteorological Services who were involved in its disaster response strategy review. The national society also signed a two year co-operation agreement with the Spanish Red Cross.

As the Seychelles Red Cross Society branches on Praslin and La Digue continue to develop activities, the second half of the year focused on the preparation of branch assemblies in advance of the General Assembly which was held in August. The national society also launched a review process of its strategic plan during the reporting period.

The sub-regional disaster management programme made great strides towards refocusing the sub-regional disaster management strategy for 2005-2008, strengthening disaster prepared capacities of the four Indian Ocean national societies and promoting partnerships with key organisations.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Comoros Red Crescent Society was elected as the 182nd member at the Federation's General Assembly held in Seoul, Korea in November 2005. Towards the end of November 2005, the Karthala volcano erupted for the second time in the year. A disaster management information systems (DMIS) alert on the volcanic eruption was posted and an information bulletin was issued by the Federation.

A breakthrough was made with the government of Madagascar in August 2005 when a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the Federation and the 'directeurs de cabinet' of the five ministries who ousted the elected leadership of the national society. The MoU outlines the way forward in resolving the crisis, and is accompanied by a detailed plan of action. A new transition committee, which was expected to be in place as of the end of 2005, will prepare a General Assembly. The recruitment of an organizational development delegate to facilitate the process is currently on course and the selected candidate is expected to take up office, in Madagascar, in early January 2006.

In Seychelles, much of the support to the national society is covered under the Tsunami appeal (28/2004). However a branch and youth development programme, financed by the Capacity Building Fund is moving ahead. Formalities are being completed with the government regarding the allocation of a piece of land for the construction of a new headquarters office.

Comoros

Organizational development

Goal: The Comoros Red Crescent maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the vulnerable at community level.

Objective: The national society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well functioning national society is enhanced through Secretariat support.

Achievements:*Recognition milestones of the Movement*

- The Comoros Red Crescent Society was elected to membership of the Federation at the General Assembly in Seoul, in November 2005.

Impact:

- Increased exposure of national committee members to various Movement issues in the months preceding the recognition has motivated the national society to become more involved in various initiatives.
- The Federation priority in 2006 will be to assist in the development of systems and structures which will enable the national society to maintain its position in the community.

Constraints:

- The Comoros Red Crescent Society needs support in managing relationships with partners. As a newly elected member of the Federation, the national society has requested support in reviewing some of the challenges it is likely to face. Unfortunately the head of the sub-regional office had dedicated most time to the institutional crisis in Madagascar thus preventing these from being addressed before end 2005. This will now be a priority for 2006.

Madagascar**Organizational development**

Goal: The Malagasy Red Cross Society maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

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

Achievements:*Integrity issues addressed by 2006*

- The director of the Federation Africa department was accompanied by the Federation's special representative and the head of the regional delegation Nairobi to the country in July 2005 to discuss modalities for resolving the institutional crisis. The outcome of the visit was the drawing up of a memorandum of understanding which also included the terms of reference and a plan of action for a transition committee which would be recruited locally to prepare the next General Assembly. These documents were approved by the Malagasy government in August 2005. Since that date the special representative has made one further visit to the country while the head of the Indian Ocean sub-regional office has made several visits to facilitate recruitment of the transition committee members (programme coordinator, legal advisor and financial administrator). Selection of the candidates was by open recruitment with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Federation and a Ministry of Health counterpart participating in the interviews. The 'delegation speciale', appointed by the Government, in November 2004, was to hand over to the transition committee before the end of December 2005. The recruitment of an organisational development delegate to support the transition committee is being finalised. Reaching this stage in beginning to resolve the crisis in the national society has taken a considerable amount of time and energy from people at all levels of the organisation.
- The main priorities for the committee will be to prepare for an external audit of the 2004 and 2005 books of accounts and to facilitate the implementation of the ensuing recommendations, to prepare a 2006 plan of action, to initiate strategic planning and Statutes revision processes and to prepare committees at all levels for the next General Assembly.

Impact:

- An open and constructive dialogue has been created with the government. This is critical as the resolution of the problems and the prevention of such a situation ever occurring again will require radical reforms in both how the Malagasy Red Cross Society functions and the legal base (both law and Statutes) which directs its manner of operating.

Constraints:

- It is now more than one year since the Malagasy Red Cross Society partners provided it with constructive support. Consequently, the national society has not participated in regional events to the same degree as others.
- The cyclone season has arrived once again and there has not been sufficient preparedness.
- Members of the national society's staff are demoralized, especially those who rely on outside funding to support their salaries.
- The handover process from the 'delegation speciale' to the transition committee has taken longer than expected. However it is expected that all partners will meet with the transition committee in January 2006 to discuss their potential role in or contribution to the restructuring of the national society.

Mauritius**Organizational development**

Goal: The Mauritius Red Cross Society maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable.

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

Achievements:*Increased number of local partnerships by 2007*

- A review of the national society's disaster response strategy begun. Representatives of the National Disaster Committee and the Meteorological Services were involved in the first phases of this exercise in November 2005.
- The national society also signed a two year co-operation agreement with the Spanish Red Cross. The agreement focuses on general capacity building issues as well as disaster preparedness and provides for the recruitment of a programme coordinator, an important addition to the staff.
- The Mauritius Red Cross Society hosted a meeting of the Floods and Cyclones Working Group of the RC-Net in late November 2005. The national society also took over the chair of the Communications Forum of the RC-Net in October 2005 and will host the 2006 annual meeting of the Forum.

Impact:

- Within Mauritius, the national society is increasingly being seen as a key partner with other actors in the area of disaster preparedness. The recruitment of a programme coordinator will significantly increase capacity to maintain and develop these contacts. The newly recruited regional delegation's disaster management (francophone) delegate will also be a key resource in this respect.
- The recent signing of the Cooperation Agreement with the Spanish Red Cross has been a good learning experience for the national society and will, hopefully, pave way for entering into agreements with other partners.

Constraints:

- Finalizing the cooperation agreement with the Spanish Red Cross took considerable time and effort. This prevented the national society from coming forward with any concrete proposals to the Federation for the relatively significant amount of funding which could have been allocated from the Indian Ocean sub-regional tsunami funds in 2005.
- The fact that the Indian Ocean sub-regional office has not yet been established in Mauritius meant that there was no Federation representative in the country on a regular basis to follow the issues through.

Seychelles

Organizational development

Goal: The Seychelles Red Cross Society maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

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

Achievements:

Coordinated approach to support by ICRC and the Federation

- Much of the Federation's support to organisational development in the national society is covered under the tsunami appeal (28/2004). Support from the Annual Appeal relates mainly to branch and youth development as well as the costs of the programme coordinator.
- As the branches on Praslin and La Digue continue to develop activities, the second half of the year focused on the preparation of branch assemblies in advance of the General Assembly which was held in August 2005. Branch planning for 2006 is currently in process.
- As the headquarters relocated to temporary premises in advance of the construction of a new office, the former office was refurbished to accommodate the youth section. A youth committee was established in Praslin and La Digue islands. Members of the youth committees from the three islands were to meet before the end of the year to define a vision and mission. The Seychelles Red Cross Society participated in the youth camp exchange hosted by the Kenya Red Cross Society.
- The national society launched a review process of its strategic plan during the reporting period. National committee members, staff and volunteers participated. The recommendations from this process are currently being finalized and will allow the national society to move ahead, in early 2006, with the completion of its next four year plan.

Impact:

- Since the tsunami of 26 December 2004, the national society has made great strides in building up its capacity at both headquarters and branch levels. This has been largely due to the commitment of its staff and volunteers and the management of a very dedicated programme coordinator.
- The Seychelles Red Cross Society is increasingly being recognised nationally as a key actor in both the humanitarian and social spheres. The national society is moving into a critical stage of its development and continued support from the Federation in the next few years will be critical to ensure its success.

Constraints:

- The very swift transformation of the manner in which the national society operated in the last year (i.e. from being an organization managed by committed volunteers and one staff member to one with a more solid staff management base) has created some challenges. In 2006, some time will need to be spent in clarifying governance and management roles in order to ensure that the national society functions with optimal efficiency.

Sub-regional office

Disaster management

Goal: To support Indian Ocean Islands national societies' capacities in terms of human resources, materials, systems, procedures, information and partnerships at sub-regional, country and local levels to predict and prevent disasters, mitigate their impact and to respond and cope with their consequences.

Objective: To strengthen and support national societies' capacities to assist vulnerable communities against common disaster facing the region; cyclone and seasonal floods, droughts, volcanoes and the lack of disaster policies, preparedness plans and strategies.

Achievements:*Review of sub-regional strategy for disaster management*

- From 26 to 28 September 2005, the national societies of the Indian Ocean Islands and the Indian Ocean Regional Disaster Response Platform (PIROI¹) organized a joint planning meeting to review operational activities as scheduled in 2005-2010 plans. The meeting focused on the need for decentralisation and presented a great opportunity to continue discussions on collaboration between PIROI and the Federation.

Strengthened capacities for preparedness for seasonal floods/cyclones

- The training on vulnerability and capacity assessment and planning for emergencies, held in Mauritius from 20 to 25 November 2005, focused on floods and cyclones which are the recurrent hazards in the Indian Ocean Islands. Outlines of plans of action have been elaborated for all steps of a floods and cyclone disaster reduction programme.
- The regional delegation's disaster management department built a virtual network (email list server) of all disaster management focal points of the Indian Ocean Island, including PIROI, and organized regular tsunami and volcano related information exchanges as well as provided technical documents and tools by email.

Comoros Red Crescent Society has developed contingency plans

- Field missions were conducted to Mauritius and Comoros within the framework of elaborating a disaster preparedness strategy. This consisted of gathering information on major actors in the field of disaster preparedness and response as well as looking at their plans and capacities in order to have a global overview at country level which will lead to a disaster preparedness integrated strategy for the national societies.
- A disaster management information systems (DMIS) alert on the Karthala volcanic eruption in Comoros was posted and an information bulletin was issued by the Federation. PIROI, in collaboration with the Comoros Red Crescent, conducted an impact assessment and organized immediate interventions in the form of water distribution and cleaning of water reservoirs. The regional delegation in Nairobi supported field staff by providing technical information, satellite pictures and contributions from scientific institutions, including Capetown University and UNOSAT.

Partnerships with key organizations

- Strong relationships have been established between national societies and governments' disaster management structures as well as scientific institutions in charge of early warning systems. This process will continue during 2006.
- A project has been developed by the French Red Cross, in collaboration with the Federation, focusing on the development of early warning systems and improvement of public information in times of disasters. This project will be submitted to a meeting of donors and major actors in the sphere of disaster preparedness/response to be held in Bonn, Germany in March 2006.

Impact:

- The involvement of the Comoros Red Crescent volunteers in a second water tank cleaning operation, following another eruption of the Karthala volcano in November 2005, highlighted the important role that the Comoros Red Crescent plays at community level. Other humanitarian actors in the country see the national society as a key partner in times of disasters.
- The importance which the authorities in the country attached to the recognition of the national society as well as its role in assisting the people affected by the Karthala volcanic eruptions are indicators of the important role the national society plays in the country.
- A good working environment and collaboration within the Movement and with major partners outside the Movement resulted in exchange of technical documents and information leading to good and appropriate decisions. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction approaches were well promoted and shared with

¹ In French : Plate-forme d'intervention régionale pour l'océan Indien

national societies. Early warning systems are focusing, more and more, on the populations at risk rather than on technology.

Constraints:

- National societies' capacities to lead and develop ownership in disaster preparedness and coordinate disaster response interventions are not yet well reinforced.
- A framework for coordination of resources and activities related to tsunami funds must be discussed with national societies and partner national societies (PNS) to find the best way to use the funds complementarily and rationally.
- There is a lack of funding for disaster risk reduction while funding for relief seems to be the easiest to mobilize.

Coordination, co-operation and strategic partnerships

Goal: The Federation coordination role is accepted and respected by all partners in the Indian Ocean islands sub-region with a view to enhancing good cooperation and successful partnerships

Objective: Through constant dialogue, good coordination is achieved with the various partners with a view to building the capacity of the newly created sub-region for the Indian Ocean islands and the four national societies

Achievements:

Promotion of coordination between ICRC and PNS

- The head of the sub-regional office has worked closely with the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission in Madagascar to ensure that a common Movement approach to the Malagasy Red Cross Society situation is maintained.
- In the absence of an office in Madagascar, ICRC has put its facilities at the disposal of both the International Federation and the recently recruited members of the transition committee.
- Close cooperation between the Federation and the French Red Cross was maintained throughout the second half of the year, particularly following the Karthala volcanic eruption in the Comoros Islands.

Strengthened collaboration and working relations with all external partners

- The 'directeur de cabinet' in the Ministry of Health has had meetings with the head of sub-regional office during each of her visits to Madagascar in the past few months.

Impact:

- Constructive dialogue is being maintained with the Malagasy government which should facilitate the implementation of the transition committee's plan of action, once the committee has taken over the interim leadership of the national society.

Constraints:

- Progress in resolving the crisis in Madagascar has been slower than anticipated.

Effective representation and advocacy

Goal: The Federation has a high profile as a key humanitarian actor and advocate in the region with the added advantage of a network of national societies able to deliver services at community level.

Objective: The Federation is an effective and reliable partner in support of the four national societies of the Indian Ocean islands and in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable

Achievements:

Advocacy and sensitisation has been maintained with external partners

- The Mauritius government has underlined its willingness to sign a status agreement with the Federation. A number of meetings have been held between the head of the sub-regional office and the Prime Minister's

office. It is understood that the document has been approved by various government offices and that a formal response will be sent to the Federation's Secretary General early in 2006. One component of the memorandum of understanding signed with the government in Madagascar makes provision for the signing of a status agreement.

- Regular dialogue and exchange of information was maintained with the United Nations resident representative for Mauritius and Seychelles as well as with UN-OCHA representatives in Pretoria and Madagascar.

Impact:

- The governments of Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles increasingly see the importance and value of signing status agreements with the Federation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Indian Ocean Sub-Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA006

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				507,714	TOTAL COVERAGE 76.3%	
OPENING BALANCE				138,157		
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				26,894	07.03.05	SEYCHELLES
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS	178,200	CAD		167,508	12.04.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				332,559	CHF	65.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
IRELAND RC	DELEGATE(S)			55,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				55,000	CHF	10.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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