

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Indian Ocean Islands

Appeal No. MAA64002

30/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008.



Prepositioning of disaster response stock following Cyclone Ivan. Source: IFRC

In brief

Programme purpose: The Programme is designed to improve the capacity of the National Societies of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, to reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities through Organisational Development and Disaster Management.

Programme(s) summary: Low coverage (31 percent) of the required budget severely slowed down the implementation of planned activities within the Sub-zone. A Disaster Management (DM) Delegate in Madagascar supported the NS in the development and implementation of Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) activities. Despite lack of funds, Statutes revisions have progressed significantly in Mauritius and Madagascar. Some of the National Societies (NS) are undergoing restructuring processes as part of organisational development programmes. Work advanced on the construction of the headquarters and warehouse of the Seychelles RC. The Seychelles NS also held its General Assembly and applied for intensified capacity building (ICB). The ICB application in Comoros was not approved and no additional funding has been received to date to support the NS's existing or additional programmes.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 1,318,091 (USD 1,150,166 or EUR 873,498), of which 31 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 88 per cent of funds received. The budget was revised after changes were made in Madagascar's disaster management programme, Mauritius' capacity building and the sub-office.

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

See also: Tropical Cyclone Ivan, MDRMG003

No. of people we help: 350 people benefited directly from secretariat-supported programme interventions during the reporting period. 700 people will benefit from activities planned for the following year.

Our partners: The National Societies of Canada, Spain, Germany, and France (through the PIROI (Plate-forme d'intervention régionale pour L'Océan Indien), have been operating predominantly through bi-lateral partnerships in the Sub-zone, but do rely on the Federation for coordination purposes. The Operating National Societies (ONS) in the regions are all represented on the National Disaster Committee of their respective countries. The Seychelles and Malagasy RC work closely with UN agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) in disaster preparedness and reduction. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) provided support to the Comoros RC during the political conflict and continues to support dissemination activities in all the four National Societies. Following floods in early 2008, which killed three people, the Mauritius RC held a workshop to increase corporate partnerships in disaster response. The Federation continues to encourage the NS to develop local corporate and community based partnerships.

Context

The political conflict in Comoros slowed the progress of branch development on the island of Anjouan. Madagascar was affected by a number of cyclones which included Cyclone Ivan, causing deaths of 44 people and leaving over 10,000 families homeless (please see the Cyclone Ivan appeal MDRMG003). The mobilisation of resources for the emergency response to Cyclone Ivan as well as the political tension in the country has prevented the NS to fully commit its resources to original organization development (OD) and disaster management (DM) activities. In addition, some of the NS are going through a restructuring process to help them meet the objectives of the Movement. Across the Sub-zone, the National Societies are faced with the challenge of clearly defining and disseminating their role as auxiliaries to their respective governments.

The severe devaluation of the Seychelles rupee and the rise in inflation continues to put a strain on businesses and the NS in the country. Local fundraising possibilities have been greatly minimised. Communities are becoming more vulnerable as unemployment levels increase.

Progress towards outcomes

MADAGASCAR

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Management

Outcome/Expected result

- Improved Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) capacity in emergency response and cyclones

Achievements

- A DM delegate was recruited to support the NS in disaster management activities following the passage of Cyclone Ivan. Disaster response stocks were pre-positioned in various high

risks regions. With the support of the PIROI and the Canadian RC, three members of the NS were trained and retained as part of the Indian Ocean Islands RDRT team.

- The NS hosted a regional vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training. The planning for the VCA implementation started in 2008 and will be finalised for 2009.

Health and Care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme Component 1: HIV and AIDS

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased awareness of prevention of HIV and AIDS among communities

Achievements

The NS is a member of the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS; its plan was incorporated in the regional appeal launched on the Federation website by the Zone in June 2008. For more information on the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS plan for Madagascar which still requires funding visit the Federation website on: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/anneal08/MAA64006.pdf>

Programme Component 2: Avian Flu

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased awareness of Avian Flu among the target communities

Achievements

The NS is an active member of the National Task force for the prevention of the human influenza virus (H2P) in Madagascar. The NS also submitted a proposal to the Avian and Human Influenza Unit of the Federation for the prevention of the spread of the H2P virus in Madagascar.

Capacity Development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme Component 1: Headquarters and branch development

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased human, financial and material resource capacities for programme implementation

Achievements

- During most of 2008, a Federation Finance and Administration Delegate supported the NS in developing recording and reporting practices, with the intention to help the NS establish necessary policies and procedures to improve its financial system. The independent management audit identified the need for a Finance Development Delegate to support the NS in improving its financial system.
- The recruitment of programme coordinators at the headquarters and branch levels has helped the NS increase the number of beneficiaries reached by their programmes in all 22 regions of the country. This has also increased the visibility of the NS in the country.

- The revised statutes and internal regulations were approved during an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- The NS would like to be more involved in New Partnership for African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NEPARC) initiatives, and began participation in NEPARC activities during 2008.

MAURITIUS

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Preparedness (Community and institutional levels)

Outcomes/Expected results

- Increased community awareness of disaster risks and mitigating factors
- improved MRCS capacity to respond to disasters

Achievements

- With the support of the PIROI and the Canadian RC, four members of the NS were trained and retained as part of the Indian Ocean Islands Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) team. Disaster response stock was prepositioned on the island of Rodrigues.
- With the support of the Canadian RC, three members of the NS were trained in VCA and the NS held VCA training for staff, members and volunteers during 2008 and is planning to carry out VCA activities during 2009.
- In collaboration with the climate change centre in The Hague, the NS held a climate change workshop with participation of national and international stakeholders. This workshop sensitised various stakeholders on the effects of climate change on vulnerable groups, and the need to work with vulnerable groups and communities to reduce associated risks. The NS presented VCA activities being carried out in collaboration with the Federation and the Canadian RC, which ensured community level disaster preparedness activities.

Capacity Development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme Component 1: Increased capacity at headquarters and branches

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased human, financial and material resource capacities of MRCS to implement programmes

Achievements

- The 2008-2012 strategic plan was finalised and will be disseminated to branches during 2009. With the support of the Federation, a Programme Coordinator was recruited for the NS's West branch. More sound management systems and procedures (including human resource management) are being designed to strengthen the capacity of the NS.

Programme Component 2: Strengthened Governance

Outcome/Expected results

- Governance of Mauritius RC is strengthened

Achievements

With the support of the Federation and the Canadian RC, the NS is implementing a restructuring process with the participation of the governance and management team. This included the completion of the NS's 2008 – 2012 Strategic Plan, *organogram* and job descriptions for all operational positions. Statutes which clearly define governance and management roles are being revised and almost ready for approval and adoption by the board.

COMOROS

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Preparedness

Outcomes/Expected results:

- More efficient communication between various levels of the NS.
- More communities sensitised on disaster hazards (volcanic eruptions, cholera epidemics, cyclones, torrential rains, tsunami and road accidents).

Achievements

- With the support of the PIROI and the Canadian RC, two members of the NS were trained and retained as part of the Indian Ocean Islands RDRT team.
- With the support of the Canadian RC, four members of the NS were trained in VCA and the NS is planning to implement VCA activities during 2009.

Capacity Development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme Component 1: Governance

Outcome/Expected result

- Governance of Comoros Red Crescent is strengthened.

Achievements

- Support from the OD delegate in the first half of the period, helped in the revision of Statutes and branch development. These activities were not fully developed because of the political conflict in Anjouan, and insufficient funds to continue the delegate's support to the NS.
- The OD delegate also supported the NS through continued coaching of the leadership team, as well as in the recruitment of staff.

SEYCHELLES

Disaster Management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Preparedness (Institutional level)

Outcome/Expected result

- SRCS is more efficient and effective in reaching vulnerable communities.

Achievements

- With the support of the PIROI and the Canadian RC, one member of the NS was retained as part of the Indian Ocean Islands RDRT.
- Work has commenced on the construction of the NS premises, which includes the NS warehouse. This will allow for greater prepositioning of emergency stock, which and enable the NS reach more vulnerable communities with greater efficiency. During 2008, the following activities (among others) took place:
 - The design and redesign of the NS premises and a project manager hired to facilitate the construction;
 - A confirmation of additional funding was received to meet the increase in the costs of construction; and
 - A draft of the contract with the builder was drawn up for signature in early 2009.
- The Federation continued its support of the DM coordinator's salary, to assist the NS in improving community-based risk reduction (CBRR) activities.

Health and Care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme Component 1: Blood Donation

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased volunteer blood donations through community mobilisation.

Achievements

- A total of 20 blood donor recruitment officers are currently being trained, in the final aspects of the blood donation programme. The NS recruited over 50 blood donors during the period in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Capacity Building

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme Component 2: Capacity Development (Resource Mobilisation)

Outcome/Expected result

- Increased resource base for Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS)

Achievements

- The Finance Coordinator attended the advanced skills-sharing training in London. At the same time, a member of the Mahe branch attended the same basic training in London.

Programme Component 3: Capacity Development (Human Resource)

Outcome/Expected result

- More efficient delivery of SRCS activities

Achievements

- A General Assembly was held in the Seychelles RC where a new national committee was elected. A Finance and Risk Commission was elected to act in an advisory role to the National Committee on financial matters. The unqualified audit report for the 2007 financial statements shows the improvement that the NS has made in implementing management systems and procedures.
- The Federation continues to support salary costs for the Secretary General to ensure effective management of the NS.
- The Federation is currently supporting the NS in documenting and implementing a Finance and Admin Procedures Manual.
- The NS completed its application for ICB funds, for branch and volunteer development.

Constraints and Challenges facing the Indian Ocean Sub-zone and the National Societies

- Partners are increasingly opting to fund programmes bi-laterally with NS in the Sub-zone. Lack of funding (especially for the Comoros NS) has prevented the implementation of community level based activities, and also restricted the full participation of the Federation in regional activities.
- Change management, particularly issues relating to governance and management roles and responsibilities, remains an on-going issue in the Sub-zone and is having varying degrees of impact on programme implementation.
- A continuing challenge for NS in the Sub-zone is the dissemination of their status as auxiliaries to the public authorities.
- Lack of visibility and understanding of the role of the Movement within the Sub-zone NS, means that planned NS activities are not always in line with the Movement's objectives.
- In Madagascar, most of the NS' resources have been directed towards the cyclone Ivan operation, affecting the implementation of planned programme activities, such as the development of a finance and administration system. The political situation in Comoros has had a similar effect on NS programming.
- An OD workshop held in Mauritius revealed that the NS needs to meet certain requirements for effective OD developments.
- In Seychelles, the opportunity for the NS to apply new skills for fundraising was severely restricted by the economic downturn hitting the country.

Working in partnership

- The Canadian RC continues to provide OD support to Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius RC and is exploring the possibility of supporting Seychelles RC. The Integration Agreement with the Federation is being finalised.
- Partnership meetings were held in Madagascar and Comoros and Partners confirmed their commitment towards these respective NS. Partnerships within the region have tended towards bilateralism. In particular the Spanish, German, Canadian and French Red Cross Societies (through the PIROI) are implementing activities in OD and DM in the region.
- The ICRC and the Federation continue to work in close collaboration in cases of political instability such as those experienced in Comoros and Madagascar.

- The St Denis Agreement was revised in November 2007, and continues to be used as the basis for coordinating all disaster response initiatives within the Sub-zone. With the support of the French Red Cross (through the PIROI), the Canadian RC and the Federation, disaster response in the Sub-zone has been strengthened through the establishment of an RDRT for the Indian Ocean region. The Federation coordinated the preparation of the RDRT training with the PIROI and the ONS in the zone.
- NS in the Sub-zone have indicated their willingness to increase their participation in Red Cross and Red Crescent alliances. Madagascar has become an active member of the Global Alliance for HIV and AIDS and is a target NS for the Global Alliance on DRR.
- All NS continue to be active members of the National Disaster Committee of their respective country.

Contributing to longer-term impact

- The continuous development of a human resource policy will continue to guide the NS in the region in recruitment, remuneration, training, integrity and motivation of staff. In some cases, greater dissemination on issues such as diversity and the integration of gender within programmes will be important. The Federation continues to support the NS in these areas of development. But lack of funds to the Appeal is hampering this initiative.
- The implementation of VCA activities will ensure that NS programmes are more relevant to the needs of beneficiaries. It will ensure greater visibility for the Movement within the Sub-zone, and will increase the number of beneficiaries reached.
- NS in the Sub-zone are committed to improving their standards. The Seychelles RC is currently looking at mechanisms to implement quality standards. The Madagascar RC has conducted comprehensive financial and management audits and is looking into the recommendations accordingly. The PIROI and Canadian RC as an on-going activity are monitoring the application of SPHERE standards within the NS in the Sub-zone.
- The NS in the Sub-zone have taken up the initiative of strengthening their capacities in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). During the month of October, the Zone PMER department undertook training of the Comoros RC staff and volunteers in project cycle management. Similar trainings will be undertaken for other NS in the Zone in 2009 on a need basis.

Looking ahead

- With greater professionalization and visibility, the NS in the Sub-zone will attract and create more national and international partners in line with the Federation's 2010 Strategy. Partners will have greater confidence in the Malagasy NS when the recommendations of the management audit are implemented.
- Greater emphasis will need to be put on the need for community level partnerships and the need to empower vulnerable groups to address risks. The introduction of VCA as a tool to develop relevant and effective capacity building programmes will ensure greater visibility and partnerships at the community level.
- Volunteer management has become a priority for NS in the Sub-zone. The Federation will need to provide greater support to the NS to facilitate the implementation of volunteer management policies and procedures.
- A fully functional office in Seychelles is creating more visibility for the NS. The future for the NS in Mauritius is looking favourable as they undertake their restructuring. New developments will ensure that these NS become a major contributor to DPR in their respective countries.
- Funding for the NS programmes within the region has changed considerably, with PNS preferring to take on bi-lateral partnerships. This has restricted the participation of the Federation in ONS activities. Lack of response to the Appeal is preventing the Federation from providing core "membership services".

How we work

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.

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