

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Indian Ocean Islands Sub Zone

Appeal No. MAA64002

29/08/2008

This report covers the period 01/01/08 to
30/06/08.



Red Cross volunteers on route to isolated villages in Madagascar during the Malaria and Measles campaign. Source: Malagasy RCS

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 organizational development and disaster management.

Programme(s) summary: Low coverage (18%) of the required budget severely slowed down the implementation of planned activities, in particular in Comoros and Madagascar. Yet despite lack of funds, Statutes revisions are currently being finalized in Mauritius and Madagascar. The Mauritius Red Cross Society is undergoing a restructuring process as part of its organizational development programme. Work is advanced on the construction of the headquarters and warehouse of the Seychelles Red Cross Society. The National Society also held its General Assembly. The Intensified Capacity Building application in Comoros was not approved and no additional funding has been received to date to support existing or additional programmes. The Canadian Red Cross took up office in Mauritius in March, in order to implement its Indian Ocean Islands regional programme.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 1,548,471 (USD 1,474,734 or EUR 947,077), of which 20 per cent covered. The initial budget was 1,538,548 (USD 1,465,284 or EUR 940,008) changes were due to revision of the capacity development programme budget. Expenditure overall was 12 per cent of the budget.

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

Related Appeal; Cyclone Ivan: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRMG003EA.pdf>

No. of people we help: 112 governance and management representatives have participated in Federation-led activities. As programme implementation proceeds, additional staff, members and volunteers will be reached, particularly in Comoros and Mauritius. In Madagascar, approximately 50,000 beneficiaries have been reached by the National Society, in response to the Cyclone Ivan.

Our partners: The National Societies of Canada, Spain, Germany, and France through the Plate-forme d'intervention régionale pour L'Océan Indien (PIROI¹), have been operating predominantly through bi-lateral partnerships with the National Societies in the Sub zone. The National Societies in the region are all represented on the National Disaster Committee of their respective countries. The Seychelles Red Cross Society has worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Indian Ocean Consortium in Disaster Management.

In Madagascar, the National Society works closely with UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in disaster preparedness and response. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to support dissemination activities in all the four National Societies.

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 the deaths of 44 people and leaving over 10,000 families homeless. The mobilization of resources for the emergency response to Ivan, has prevented the National Society to fully apply its resources to the original organizational development and disaster management plans. In addition, some of the National Societies are going through a restructuring process. Across the sub-zone, the National Societies are faced with the challenge to clearly define and disseminate the role of the National Societies as an auxiliary to government.

Progress towards outcomes

MADAGASCAR

Disaster management

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

Programme component 1. Disaster Preparedness

Outcome:

- Improved MRCS capacity in emergency response to cyclones

Achievements: A disaster management delegate was recruited to support the National Society in disaster management activities following Cyclone Ivan.

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:

- Increased community awareness concerning HIV/AIDS

¹ In English: Indian Ocean Region. Intervention Unit (PIROI)

Achievements: The Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) is a member of the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS. For more information on the planned activities in the programme, kindly refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA64006.pdf>

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. Capacity development (Branches and National Headquarters)

Outcome:

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

Achievements: The finance and administration delegate continues to support the National Society in developing its recording and reporting responsibilities. Staff recruitment at the headquarters as well as the recruitment of programme coordinators in all 22 regions of the country is improving capacity for community level response as well as visibility.

Consolidation of the National Society structures has helped the MRCS to be more visible and increase partnership bases nationally and internationally.

Principles and values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1. Humanitarian Principles and Values

Outcome:

- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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:

- Increased awareness by communities of disaster hazards (including cyclones) and increased skills to mitigate the effects of disasters
- Improved capacity of the MRC to respond to disasters (including cyclones)

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Disaster Response/ Recovery

Outcome:

- Reduced vulnerability of the community to disasters

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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:

- Increased community awareness concerning HIV/AIDS

Programme component 2. Emergency Health and Psychological Support

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Outcomes:

- Morbidity and mortality due to health emergencies reduced
- Increased CRC preparedness (including Avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and CRC staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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. Branches and National Headquarters

Outcomes:

- Increased number of vulnerable communities reached by Mauritius RC programmes
- Increased human, financial and material resources capacities of MRCS to implement programmes

Achievements: The National Society is taking steps to professionalize its staff through more targeted recruitment and training. More sound management systems and procedures are being implemented.

Programme component 2. Governance

Outcome:

- Governance of Mauritius Red Cross Society is strengthened

Achievements: The Mauritius Red Cross Society has begun a restructuring process. Statutes are currently being revised and the National Society is compiling its strategic plan for 2008-2011. The process has highlighted the importance of greater community-based programmes.

Principles and values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1. Humanitarian Principles and Values

Outcome:

- Reduced stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

COMORES

Disaster management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.**Programme component 1. Disaster preparedness****Outcomes:**

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

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Health and care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**Programme component 1. CBFA and Hygiene Promotion****Outcome:**

- Capacity of CRC strengthened in prevention and control of the top 5 killer diseases in the country

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Emergency Health and Psychological Support**Outcomes:**

- Morbidity and mortality due to health emergencies reduced
- Increased CRC preparedness (including Avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and CRC staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 3. Maternal and Child Health**Outcome:**

- Increased immunization coverage through routine campaigns for children under five years and pregnant women

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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: Capacity Development (Branches and National Headquarters)

Outcome:

- HQ and branches are strengthened in the organisational, technical, managerial, financial and material areas

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Governance

Outcome:

- Governance of Comoros Red Crescent is strengthened

Achievements: The organisational development delegate is continuing to support Statute revisions and branch development in Comoros. At a partnership meeting held in February 2008, partners expressed their commitment to support an Extraordinary General Assembly later in 2008 for the approval of the revised Comoros Red Crescent Statutes. The National Society confirmed the composition of its management team. Governance and management roles have been better defined in the new Statutes and will help the National Society overcome institutional challenges.

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:

- SRCS is more efficient and effective at reaching vulnerable communities

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Disaster Response/Recovery

Outcomes:

- SRCS skills in Operational Life Guard services are strengthened
- Increased awareness on DRR for communities living in coastal villages

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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:

- Increased volunteer blood donations through community mobilisation

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Emergency Health and Psychological Support

Outcomes:

- Morbidity and mortality due to health emergencies reduced
- Increased CRC preparedness (including Avian flu pandemic preparedness) and response to health emergencies
- The mental and psychological wellbeing of the community and CRC staff and volunteers enhanced during disasters

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

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. Capacity Development (Volunteers and Youth Clubs)

Outcomes:

- Increased volunteer and youth base at SRCS branch levels

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 2. Capacity Development (Resource Mobilization)

Outcome:

- Increased resource base for SRCS

Achievements:

- No update during this reporting period

Programme component 3. Capacity Development (Human Resource)

Outcome:

- More efficient delivery of SRCS activities

Achievements: A General Assembly was held in the Seychelles Red Cross Society, 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 audit report is expected to be more favourable than in previous years due to improved management systems and procedures. Construction of the new headquarters and warehouse continued although serious delays were encountered.

Challenges facing the Indian Ocean sub-zone and the National Societies :

Partners are increasingly opting to fund programmes bi-laterally with National Societies in the sub zone. Lack of funding (especially for the Comoros Red Crescent) has prevented the implementation of community level based activities. This has also restricted the participation of the Federation in National Society activities. Inadequate response to the Appeal is preventing the Federation from providing core “membership services”.

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.

In Madagascar, most of the National Society's resources have been directed towards the Cyclone Ivan operation, affecting the implementation of planned programme activities. The political situation in Comoros has had a similar effect on National Society programming.

Working in partnership

Discussions regarding a Cooperation Agreement between Movement partners within the sub-zone are still at a preliminary stage. The Canadian Red Cross has recently set up office in Mauritius, and an Integration Agreement with the Federation is being finalized.

Partnership meetings were held in Madagascar and Comoros and partners confirmed their commitment towards these respective National Societies. Most of the partnerships in the region are bi-lateral. Currently, the Spanish, German, Canadian and French Red Cross Societies are implementing activities in organizational development and disaster management in the region (through the PIROI). The ICRC continues to support dissemination activities in the sub-zone.

National Societies in the sub-zone have indicated their willingness to increase their participation in Red Cross and Red Crescent alliances. Madagascar has already submitted its Global Alliance for HIV and AIDS plan which has been posted on the Federation website.

Following the revision of the St Denis Agreement in November 2007, this was used as the basis for coordinating all disaster response initiatives within the Sub zone. All National Societies continue to be active members of the national disaster committee of their respective countries, but the challenges of clearly defining auxiliary role remains an issue.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Recruitment and professionalization of staff will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of National Societies' programmes in the sub-zone in the longer-term. The continuous development of a human resource policy will continue to guide the National Societies in the region in recruitment, remuneration, training and motivation of staff. The implementation of proper Codes of Conduct will help the National Societies to maintain integrity vis a vis stakeholders. But on-going development is needed to ensure the continuous relevance of programmes to Strategic goals. In some cases, greater dissemination on issues such as diversity and the integration of gender within programmes will be important.

National Societies in the sub Zone are committed to improving their standards. The Seychelles Red Cross Society is currently looking at mechanisms to implement quality standards. The Malagasy Red Cross Society is planning to conduct comprehensive financial and management audits. The PIROI and Canadian Red Cross as an on-going activity are monitoring the application of SPHERE standards within the National Societies in the sub-zone.

Looking ahead

With greater professionalization, the National Societies in the sub-zone will attract more national and international partners. In line with the Federation's 2010 Strategy, the National Societies in the region continue to build working partnerships. This development is encouraged and facilitated by the sub-zone office. In particular, the National Societies have called upon corporate partners to work in collaboration for disaster preparedness and response. Through disaster management campaigns, the National Societies will continue to disseminate awareness of the need for partnerships in response.

National Societies in the region are enthusiastic about integrating community-based first aid (CBFA) as part of their programmes. Greater emphasis will need to be put on the need for community level partnerships and the need to empower vulnerable groups to address risks.

Volunteer management has become a priority for National Societies in the sub-zone. The Federation will need to provide greater support to the National Societies to facilitate the implementation of volunteer management policies and procedures.

How we work	
<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>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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