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Emergency appeal Comoro Islands: Flash floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRKM004
GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000066-COM](#)
4 May 2012

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 801,629 in cash, kind or services to support the Comoro Red Crescent Society to assist 20,000 beneficiaries for six months and will be completed by the 31 October 2012. A final report will be made available by 30 January 2013. CHF 100,000 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rains have inundated the Comoro islands since 20 April 2012, causing the worst flooding in decades. As of 26 April, over 46,000 people are affected and more than 9,000 displaced on the islands of Grande Comore, Moheli and Anjouan. At the request of the Comoros Red Crescent Society (CRCO) and with support from IFRC, this emergency appeal details plans to assist up to 20,000 affected beneficiaries (4,000 households) through relief distributions of non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene kits, hygiene promotion activities as well as health and care interventions including first aid and psychosocial support. Additional technical support is also being provided by the French Red Cross through its Rapid Intervention Platform for the Indian Ocean islands (PIROI).

Further assessments are underway and these will serve as the basis for further updates and any appeal revisions or adjustments in the coming weeks.

<click [here](#) for the emergency appeal budget; [here](#) for contact details; [here](#) to view the map of the affected areas>



Comoros Red Crescent volunteers quickly responded to the floods and helped to evacuate affected communities. Photo: CRCO

The situation

In an already intense rainy season, heavy rains have inundated the Comoros islands since 20 April 2012, causing the worst flooding in decades. The heavy downpours have also resulted in landslides, collapsed bridges, loss of livestock and contamination of rain water tanks, isolating many areas and impeding the evacuation of affected communities.

A joint rapid assessment was conducted by the government, UN agencies and CRCO, with its findings released on 26 April. The assessment indicated that up to 46,139 persons have been affected, among them 23,116 women, 2,307 pregnant women and 8,305 children under 5 years. In addition, 9,228 people were displaced on the islands of Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Moheli and Anjouan, in the regions of Bambao, Hambou, Mbadjini East and Dimani in Ngazidja, Sima and Domoni in Anjouan, and the entire of Moheli. In the midst of the assessment, the severity of the impact of the floods led the government to declare the situation a state of natural disaster for the affected regions and launched an appeal for international aid on 25 April.

The main water pumping station in Vouvouni, which provides water for the capital city of Moroni, was flooded on 26 April and water distribution has been interrupted since then in the most populated area of the country. Authorities and the national water company estimate that it could take up to a month to restore and resume normal operations. An estimated 80,000 habitants are currently without access to safe water.

The government's capacities are very limited, as is the presence of humanitarian organizations in-country, with CRCO being the main actor. More rain is forecast for the coming days, raising fears of epidemic outbreaks. Cholera, malaria, dengue fever and chikungunya are all endemic diseases in the Comoro islands.

Coordination and partnerships

The Directorate General of Civil Security (Direction Générale de Sécurité Civile – DGSC, more known under its former name COSEP) activated its crisis centre on 25 April and is coordinating assessments and emergency operations at national level, with support from the UN system and CRCO. The authorities are assisting in evacuations and clearing road access to communities, with support from Red Crescent volunteers.

On 26 April, the government officially requested to the National Society to undertake any action possible to assist the population, including the activation of the French Red Cross's Indian Ocean Intervention Platform (PIROI) to mobilize additional support from the region. PIROI, in coordination with IFRC's Africa zone office and CRCO, deployed its disaster management coordinator on 29 April to support the National Society at country level.

On 27 April, the UN country representative requested assistance from the Southern Africa Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) regional office to support assessment and coordination in country. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team composed of 16 members has been mobilized.

The UNDAC mission has taken on the responsibility to conduct a rapid assessment to verify the secondary data. In addition, the UNDAC team will also collect fresh information so that concrete data will be made available for resource mobilization and response coordination. To date, approximately 10,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are reported in Grande Comore alone, hosted by local communities.

As of 1 May, the UNDAC team has visited two villages in Ngazidja, while CRCO has collected detailed information from 14 villages in Ngazidja, 2 villages in Moheli, and 2 regions in Anjouan, through assessments conducted by local branches there. The CRCO has a member incorporated on the UNDAC mission supporting the assessments.

On 2 May, the UNDAC team split into three sub-teams to simultaneously assess all three affected islands. A CRCO representative is a part of each team.

A Luxembourg emergencies non-governmental organization is providing telecommunications support to DGSC and partners in the affected areas. In addition, MapAction, which is part of the UNDAC team, is providing support to DGSC to produce maps on the current situation.

Meanwhile, MSF France has sent a team of two evaluators from Madagascar, and Islamic Relief France plans to deploy evaluator as well from Paris.

Other local NGOs are providing food and non-food items in small quantities to support hosting families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CRCO has deployed volunteers from its three regional branches to support affected communities through various actions including first aid and rescue, evacuation, psychosocial support, rapid assessment, sanitation, restoring family links and cleaning affected roads when possible.

A total of 200 volunteers, 20 who are national disaster response team (NDRT) members, have been mobilized on the three islands, under the supervision of CRCO headquarters: 100 volunteers (10 NDRT members) in Grande Comore, 50 (4 NDRT) in Moheli and 50 (6 NDRT) in Anjouan.

In Ngazidja, CRCO volunteers have provided first aid to 72 wounded persons in Hambou region. Volunteers also took part in cleaning and disinfecting the health centre in Mitsoudje and assisted the community in cleaning houses and schools in Vouvouni. Volunteers also disinfected a house in Hantsambou where a case of diarrhoea was reported by the community. The identification of affected rain water tanks has also begun. CRCO also conducted restoring family links (RFL) activities and supported DGSC in the distribution of food items.

In Anjouan, the regional branch is distributing food parcels donated locally, along with prepositioned mosquito nets, to 400 families, in coordination with local authorities.

In Moheli, CRCO's regional branch provided six tents to affected families who had lost their homes. Most of the affected families have been hosted by relatives since the onset of the floods.

Meanwhile, in coordination with the IFRC Africa zone office, prepositioned stocks from PIROI warehouses in Reunion and Mayotte are being deployed by air, with possible support by the French government, in addition to PIROI stocks prepositioned in Moroni.

Additional support is also being made available to CRCO by Iranian Red Crescent and Qatar Red Crescent who have delegates in-country. Qatar Red Crescent has allocated CHF 36,000 (EUR 30,000) to the National Society for its initial intervention, mainly for food, non-food items and hygiene kits.

Since 2006, Canadian Red Cross has been supporting CRCO in capacity building activities as well as disaster risk reduction programming. A Canadian Red Cross regional organizational development delegate is based in Mauritius and may provide additional support to CRCO if needed.

The needs

The main affected sectors include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, non-food items and education. There is also a serious risk of cholera outbreaks given the current level of water everywhere, which makes WASH a critical priority.

There is an urgent need for food and non-food items for the affected population. In this region, people collect rain water for use, but access to safe water remains critical, as the water systems are damaged on all three islands.

On Ngazidja, there are a number of private rain water collection tanks, and CRCO will assist communities in treating these tanks when required. Sanitation activities to prevent waterborne disease have started and CRCO volunteers are assisting where able, despite a lack of adequate equipment.

In the southern region of Ngazidja, health authorities have established a medical post in Mdjoeizi where CRCO volunteers are supporting in referrals and minor treatment of patients. In particular, pregnant women are given priority for assistance.

To be included: latest table of number of family affected by region (CRCO assessment). Being consolidated.

The proposed operation

Based on a rapid assessment by CRCO and available data as of 2 May, the National Society will focus its emergency activities on distributing non-food items to displaced families, providing potable water and conducting hygiene and health promotion campaigns. CRCO will assist affected people in the three affected islands, as follows:

- 2,450 households (12,250 beneficiaries) in Grande Comore (Ngazidja)
- 650 households (3,250 beneficiaries) in Moheli
- 900 households (4,500 beneficiaries) in Anjouan

In particular, CRCO will prioritize hygiene promotion and distribution of water treatment as sets such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits at household level.

Along with relief activities (distribution of non-food items), CRCO will conduct hygiene sensitization campaigns to ensure proper use of the non-food items and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. CRCO volunteers will also assist communities in disinfecting houses on the three islands and rain water harvesting tanks in Ngazidja which is the only island with such tanks.

Water and sanitation activities will be conducted in an integrated manner with health activities, with focus on health education and epidemic control at community level using the epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) tool.

Finally, community based disaster risk reduction projects will be implemented in the most affected villages to lessen the impact of future hazards.

Technical support is provided by PIROI in-country and from Reunion in coordination with the Africa zone office. A regional disaster response team (RDRT) members specializing in water and sanitation will be deployed to assist the National Society.

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Outcome: 20,000 displaced persons (4,000 households) in Ngazidja, Moheli and Anjouan are provided with emergency assistance for a period of one month	
Outputs	Activities planned
4,000 households are provided with appropriate non-food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance Purchase and distribute non-food items (kitchen sets, sleeping pad, lantern, stove) to 4,000 households (2,450 in Grande Comore, 650 in Moheli and 900 in Anjouan) Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions Conduct a lessons learnt workshop

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases is reduced through the provision of drinking water and hygiene promotion to 4,000 households for one month	
Outputs	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 4,000 households as damaged systems are restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train volunteers on water and sanitation activities Procurement and distribution of WASH kits consisting of 1 bucket, 1 Jerry can, 2 soap bars, 50 chlorine tablets and 50 water purification sachets to 4,000 households: 2,450 in Ngazidja, 650 in Moheli, and 900 in Anjouan
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake community awareness campaigns of prevention of communicable and water borne disease in the three islands Hygiene promotion and information dissemination on the safe use of water treatment chemicals
Sanitation activities are undertaken within affected communities, including disinfection of habitats and water storage facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and disinfection of houses in the three islands Identification and cleaning of 300 rain water collection tanks in Ngazidja
The risk of water tanks being damaged by floods is reduced for targeted 30 households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of 30 most damaged rain water collection tanks in Ngazidja Protection of these tanks by either elevating the structure or covering the tank

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The risk of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases is reduced among affected communities through the provision of preventive measures at community-level	
Outputs	Activities planned
First aid and rescue provided to those affected by the disaster.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the first aid and rescue and refer those affected to the health facilities Provide psychological support to affected people

Health services are supported on the primary and possibly secondary levels to meet the health needs and fill the health service gaps resulting from the emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support health authorities in health centres to treat and refer patients
The scope and quality of the Comoro Red Crescent health and care services are improved and the risk of epidemic outbreaks reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure and distribute mosquito nets to 4,000 households (2 per household) in Ngazidja, Moheli and Anjouan Conduct 3 trainings on ECV for 100 volunteers already trained in CBHFA in Ngazidja, Moheli and Anjouan Monitor epidemics for six months Health education

Disaster risk reduction

Outcome: Floods and landslide risk is reduced for targeted communities in Ngazidja and Moheli and Anjouan.

Outputs	Activities planned
Flood and landslide affected communities are better prepared to predict, respond and recover to disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 50 volunteers on Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) guidelines and tools. Conduct VCA with communities in targeted districts. Develop community hazard maps for each of the communities Development community contingency plans and community based early warning systems Develop mitigation micro projects in targeted communities based on VCA findings Public awareness and public education for DRR activities

Logistics

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. Comoros Red Crescent Society will be supported by the regional logistics unit (RLU) based in Dubai, UAE, will carry out the following activities (if and when necessary):

- Coordinate for timely and cost-efficient sourcing options for the items required for the operation
- Coordinate mobilization of goods and receipt of incoming shipments
- Utilize existing, and where needed, source additional, warehousing capacity, facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient dispatch of goods to distribution points
- Ensure that local procurement of goods and transport follows IFRC standards
- Liaise and coordinate actions with other key actors to enhance efficiency and effectiveness
- If required, a mobilization table will be set up in the coming few days and will be made available on IFRC's disaster management information system (DMIS).
- If mobilization table is set-up, IFRC will work on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. As such, donors should coordinate with the RLU regarding outstanding needs. The RLU will provide shipping instructions and issue a consignment tracking number before any goods are shipped to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through RLU.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The aim will be to maintain a regular flow of reliable information, between the field and other key stakeholders. This will be vital for fundraising, awareness of the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent and to maintain a strong profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communication between affected populations and structures of the Red Cross Red Crescent, media and donors is an essential mechanism to ensure greater quality operation, accountability and transparency. Communications activities described here are

intended to support the national society to improve their communication skills and develop appropriate communication tools. Activities include:

- Written updates to the IFRC communications team, for further dissemination to media and through IFRC channels such as the website
- Photographs to illustrate the continuing work of the Red Cross Red Crescent – sent to the IFRC communications team
- Regular liaison with local and national media to maintain communications about the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent

Capacity of the National Society

Founded in 1982, and recognized as an auxiliary of public authorities in the humanitarian domain by the Comoros state in September 1985 and internationally in September 2005 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Comoros Red Crescent is the youngest National Society in the Indian Ocean islands. The National Society enjoys a good reputation following its rapid interventions conducted to assist the most vulnerable even when faced by challenges including limited resources. The National Society has up to 3,500 volunteers in its three regional branches, with women volunteers representing approximately 65 percent of the total. The majority of the volunteers are students and youth who are easier to mobilize in preparedness and response to disasters facilitated by their closer group ties in the society.

Capacity of IFRC

IFRC has a regional OD representative based in Madagascar. The representative receives technical support from IFRC's East Africa regional office, Africa zone office and the Secretariat in Geneva. Technical capacities available include disaster management, health and care, water and sanitation, finance and administration as well as resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). In addition, the Africa zone office's disaster management unit maintains close cooperation with the French Red Cross through PIROI, who provide technical and human resources in support to the National Society.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

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Contact information

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Click here

1. Emergency appeal budget and map **below**
2. Click **here** to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.
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EMERGENCY APPEAL

04-05-12

MDRKM004 Comoros Islands: Flash Floods

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	55,429			55,429
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	136,546			136,546
Teaching Materials	14,286			14,286
Utensils & Tools	129,143			129,143
Other Supplies & Services	90,000			90,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	425,403	0	0	425,403
Storage, Warehousing	1,143			1,143
Distribution & Monitoring	51,429			51,429
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,871			30,871
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	83,443	0	0	83,443
International Staff	82,000			82,000
National Society Staff	2,143			2,143
Volunteers	110,200			110,200
Total PERSONNEL	194,343	0	0	194,343
Consultants	7,143			7,143
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	7,143	0	0	7,143
Workshops & Training	11,429			11,429
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	11,429	0	0	11,429
Travel	15,086			15,086
Information & Public Relations	5,071			5,071
Office Costs	6,000			6,000
Communications	3,157			3,157
Financial Charges	1,629			1,629
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	30,943	0	0	30,943
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	48,926	0	0	48,926
Total INDIRECT COSTS	48,926	0	0	48,926
TOTAL BUDGET	801,629	0	0	801,629
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	801,629	0	0	801,629



Comoros: Floods

