


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Indian Ocean Islands Region Mid-Year Report 2012

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA64002
24 September 2012

**This report covers the
period 01/01/2012 to
30/06/2012**

Trained volunteers from
Malagasy Red Cross
rescue families affected by
Tropical Cyclone Giovana
in Sabotsy Namehana, in
Antananarivo/ Photo
MRCS.



Overview

Prone as they are to natural disasters the Indian Ocean Islands are yet again experiencing both cyclones and flash floods. During the reporting period both Madagascar and the Comoros were hit by disasters, as heavy storms hit Madagascar and heavy rains flooded parts of the Comoros.

Since mid-February, Madagascar has been affected consecutively by the Intense Tropical Cyclone (ITC) Giovanna, followed by the severe Tropical Storm (TS) Irina and soon after by an active Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) that brought additional heavy rains. While ITC Giovanna caused significant damage to houses as a result of very strong winds of up to 230 km/h in the eastern and central part of the island. TS Irina and the ITCZ resulted in massive floods and landslides in the south-eastern area. According to the authorities, a total of 112 people died, 299 were wounded, 54,000 were displaced. In total more than 300,000 people were affected. The Tropical Storm Irina

killed at least 65 people and affected more than 70,000 residents of the Ifanadiana District in the south eastern part of Madagascar.

Heavy rains inundated the Comoros Islands from 20 April 2012, causing the worst flooding in decades. As of 26 April, over 64,987 people were affected and more than 9,000 displaced on the islands of Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan. At the request of the Comoros Red Crescent Society (CRCS) and with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC), an emergency appeal was launched to assist up to 20,000 affected beneficiaries (4,000 households) through relief distribution of non-food items, water and sanitation hygiene (WASH) kits, hygiene promotion activities, as well as health and care interventions, including first aid and psychosocial support.

Programme purpose:

During the first half of 2012, The IFRC Indian Ocean Islands (IOI) focused on disaster management, health and organizational development. In Disaster Management, IOI Regional Office has been providing support to the Comoros Red Crescent Society in response to flash floods as well as to Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) in response to the tropical cyclones. In Organizational Development, IOI office has been providing support to National Societies during governance and management meetings, training of governing board members, programme coordinators as well as staff to improve their capacities in delivering humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable.

Working in partnership

In Madagascar, the cluster approach with UN agencies helped to improve coordination of the actions among the different NGOs and other stakeholders. The MRCS is a member of three (3) clusters: WASH, shelter and health. As MRCS is the only entity that can reach the 120 districts of Madagascar, BNGRC¹ (National Bureau for Risk and Disaster Management) is requesting special collaboration with MRCS in terms of data collection, and it is agreed that MRCS and BNGRC meet before each coordination meeting in order to compare data, correct them and prepare the meeting together.

In WatSan, cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on wells rehabilitation has been initiated. A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member from Comoros supported MRCS in WatSan activities in Vatomandry for a period of one month.

In Comoros, one coordination meeting has been held, facilitated by the Government's General Direction of Civil Protection (COSEP). Stakeholders include Comoros Red Crescent, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and a representative from each of the relevant government ministries.

The Director General-European Commission Humanitarian Office (DG ECHO) has made a multi donor contribution to the emergency appeal. The agreement is for a contribution of EUR 200,000 to the overall appeal. The contract will run for six months from May to November 2012.

All four NSs of the IOI Region are members of the French Red Cross-led Plateforme d'Intervention Regionale de L'Océan Indien (PIROI). 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. All the National Societies in IOI Region also 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. ICRC continues to provide support to National Societies in information and dissemination of the Movement's principles and values, as well as International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

¹ Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes

Partners ²	Agreement
DFID Partnership grant	Funding in Coordination
Japanese Red Cross Society	Funding in Coordination
Mauritius Red Cross Society	Funding in Coordination
Seychelles Red Cross Society	Funding in Coordination
The Canadian Red Cross Society	

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: To raise humanitarian standards

Outcomes :

- Comprehensive communication strategies and two year action plans exist and are implemented.
- Induction courses for new staff, members and volunteers are strong and provide good guidance on RCRC principles, objectives and mandates as well as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).
- The general public is more aware of the principles and values of the Movement, as well as the role of the NS in their respective countries
- The professional qualifications and competences of staff and volunteers at countries levels are strengthened through an international academic network

Measurement			
Outputs	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Publication bulletins, newsletters and reports providing contextual analysis on relevant humanitarian trends			
Support provided to National Societies is improved in identified humanitarian diplomacy needs and plans			
The Federation-wide Reporting System and Databank is established in National Societies			
The Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process of peer review in certified NS is implemented			
Professional qualifications and competences of National Society staff and volunteers are strengthened			
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>During the NSs Presidents and Secretary Generals' (SGs') meeting, it was agreed to develop good practices in governing and decentralizing operations from headquarters to branch level for local development and mobilization. The quality of the supporting documents in NSs is improved and followed the IFRC procedures due to the technical and financial support from IFRC Africa Zone and IOI Delegation through field visits or by emails and phone calls.</p> <p>Between 3-15 March 2012, the Secretary General of Comoros Red Crescent was trained in</p>			

² For more information on funding support for this LTPF refer to the donor response table on the IFRC website

resource mobilization techniques by Burundi Red Cross. On 4 April 2012, the Secretary General of Seychelles Red Cross participated in a 2 weeks training at Chinese Red Cross on programming so as to improve her skills on programme management.

The SG of Malagasy Red Cross, Project Manager of Seychelles Red Cross and the IFRC regional finance officer participated in a Tsunami Programme Workshop in Nairobi on 18 June 2012. The aim of the meeting was to discuss expenditure of the Tsunami Residual funds. The Tsunami Programme will be implemented between 2012-2015 in Madagascar and Seychelles.

From 16-30 March 2012, the Human Resources focal person in Malagasy Red Cross was trained by Senegalese Red Cross and IFRC in Dakar on techniques and tools for Human Resources management. In addition, MRCS staff were trained on quality of reporting and project management between 23 - 26 April 2012.

A training on safe driving for Ambulance and minibus drivers from Seychelles Red Cross was held on 7 March 2012 in Mahe and in Praslin on 18 April 2012.

Business line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent Services for Vulnerable People

Outcomes :

- The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities is reduced through adequate and timely emergency response measures
- The NSs in the IOI region are better prepared and coordinated for disasters through the development of National DM strategies and contingency plans in thematic areas to guide the NS during emergencies.
- Community capacities are improved to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

Measurement			
Outputs	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Effective and trained regional RDRTs and national NDRTs are tooled, resourced and on stand-by for immediate deployment			
NS is assisted to develop contingency plans for the most recurrent hazards (including shelter, recovery issues and related capacity building)			
Targeted NS is trained in using telecommunications for real time needs assessments			
The nationwide psychosocial support services to victims of disasters are provided			
capacity of NS staff and volunteers to effectively respond to disasters is improved			
Community is well prepared to response crises and emergencies			
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
The National Societies of Comoros and Madagascar responded rapidly to the Floods and Tropical emergencies respectively. This was done through a network of trained volunteers. The Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) activated its contingency plan and mobilized 300 volunteers to provide			

first aid for wounded people and evacuate them as necessary. For more information on these emergencies, kindly refer to <http://ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/>

National Societies in IOI region plan to participate in a RDRT Training that will be held in La Réunion in November 2012. This will in turn enhance the skills of staff and volunteers in disaster response

In Comoros, disaster risk reduction activities are planned for July 2012. Contacts have been established with the World Bank on how these activities will be coordinated and how the available resources will be utilized to promote synergies.

Comoros Red Crescent also plans to train 50 volunteers on Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA). The volunteers will, in turn, conduct VCAs with communities in targeted districts. Community hazard maps, contingency plans and community based early warning systems for each of the communities will be developed. The NS also plans to start mitigation projects in targeted communities based on VCA findings. Public awareness and public education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities will be conducted.

Challenges:

- Malagasy Red Cross and Comoros Red Crescent societies responded to the emergency responses. However more technical support is required to ensure quality services are delivered to the most vulnerable. This includes Disaster Management (DM), health and PMER support.

Business line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development

Outcomes :

- Good governance practices among Presidents and SGs are improved
- Financial systems and procedures are developed and implemented to ensure proper recording and reporting, thus increasing accountability and credibility
- The human resource management systems are developed and maintained at a nationally competitive level
- NS premises and warehouse are adequately refurbished to facilitate the development and implementation of programme.

Measurement			
Outputs	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
NS auxiliary role is promoted through the revision and updating of NS statutes and/or adoption of RC law			
AFOM and Regional Workshop is organized			
Stake holders and NGOs are involved in response to emergencies at national and international level			
Financial statements, reports are clear and transparent,			
Audit procedures are respected			
Warehouse is rehabilitated and program well implemented			
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
Comoros Red Crescent has been receiving financial, technical and operational support during the Floods operation. Some of the partners included the World Health Organization, DG ECHO,			

OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, Canadian Government, Voluntary Emergency Relief and representatives from relevant government ministries. Movement partners included the British, Canadian, French, Japanese, Monaco, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross societies.

Partners to MRCS during the ITC Giovani include BNGRC, the Civil Protection Corp (CPC), CARE International, International Office for Migration (IOM), World Bank, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Oxfam, Medecins du Monde (MDM), Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), the World Food Programme (WFP), Regio Terzio Mundo (RTM), Land o`Lake, the ministries of Agriculture and Health as well as UN Agencies WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA. Movement partners included the Canadian, Japanese, Monaco, Netherlands and Swedish Red Cross societies. These partners provided funds, personnel, NFIs and other support. For more information on these partnerships, kindly refer to the Emergency Appeal updates on the IFRC website

A financial audit using the Financial System-Sage 100 was conducted on 25 April 2012 to evaluate the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the financial software used by Malagasy Red Cross. Only 30% of the system applications is used. In addition, an organizational audit of Malagasy Red Cross funded by German Red Cross was held from 2-3 May 2012. The purpose of this audit was to identify the existing gaps and address them accordingly.

According to a cooperation agreement between PIROI/MRCS, it was decided to transfer the warehouse in Reunion Islands to Madagascar, on a field purchased with funds from the French Development Agency (AFD-Agence Française de Development). This warehouse will ensure strategic pre positioning of non food items (NFIs) prepositioning.

Business line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

Outcomes :

- Resource mobilization capacities of NS are scaled up, diversifying income sources and expanding partnerships
- Increased Youth structure building in the 4 countries in the region.
- Improved National Societies capacity building

Measurement			
Outputs	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
DFID project is implemented			
Youth regional Forum held			
Youth international camp held			
Finance, RH staff are trained			
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>During the meeting of Presidents and Secretary Generals organized by IFRC Africa Zone and IOI Delegation, each of the 4 National Societies agreed to plan for Resource Mobilization activities. So far, Malagasy Red Cross has trained communities and the public on Commercial First Aid as well as distributing first aid kits and offering first aid services. This has provided additional income to the NS. This was made possible through funding by Japanese Red Cross.</p> <p>On 28-29 January and 3-4 March 2012, all unit leaders of the Youth Section of the Mauritius Red Cross Society in Mauritius and Rodrigues were trained in leadership and being more proactive in providing services to their communities (funded by DFID/IFRC).</p> <p>Volunteer/members of Mauritius Red Cross Society of the Youth sector were selected and trained</p>			

as National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members on 1-4 February 2012 (funded by DFID/IFRC).

Creation of youth networks in IOI Region was agreed upon during the NSs Presidents and Secretary Generals meeting in Mauritius held on 4-6 April 2012. Seychelles Red Cross organized a forum for youth in Praslin on 17 April 2012. The aim of the meeting was for the youth to network. In addition, the National Society conducted refresher a training on youth policies as well as team building.

Challenge

- Low implementation of development projects at National Societies due to insufficient strategies of fund raising and resource mobilization, thus projects under this outcome are inadequately funded.

Business line 5: Deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

Outcome:

- National Societies are supported to develop competences and skills in promoting humanitarian diplomacy

Measurement			
Outputs	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
NSs PMER and Youth policy and strategy are improved			
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
As mentioned earlier, MRCS staff were trained on quality of reporting and project management. This will go a long way to improve the NS PMER and programme implementation skills. Also, Seychelles Red Cross Society conducted a refresher training on youth policies to remind them of their roles and responsibilities in delivery of services to the most vulnerable.			

Stakeholder participation

BNGRC coordinates activities of humanitarian actors (including ministries, NGOs, UN agencies and the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS)).

Meetings between stakeholders are held regularly in the district office to coordinate activities at district level. These meetings are attended by local and regional authorities as well as NGOs, agencies and organizations involved in emergency relief (UNICEF, CARE, Medair, St Gabriel, Médecins du Monde, MRC, CRS, Shelter Box).

Comoros Red Crescent Society has been the implementing partner for WFP (distribution of energy biscuits) and UNICEF (distribution of WASH kits) as well as being a partner during the flash floods emergency operation (including distribution of NFIs).

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The implementation of projects stipulated and agreed in “Engagement des Sociétés Nationales” contributes to the long term development of four National Societies which are NSs good practices on governing and management, resource mobilization activities as well as youth policies and strategies. Three key staff in IOI Region have been trained in management and human resources to improve their humanitarian activities. The National Societies in IOI Region have staff and volunteers who are aware of SPHERE standards and who are also able to train NDRTs.

During the second half of 2012, IFRC in IOI region plan to hold a Youth meeting in Comoros in and Resource Mobilization workshop in Seychelles. The IFRC IOI Regional Finance Officer will attend a ZFU workshop in August. The IOI Regional office will participate in a budget holders Workshop in September. This will be hosted by the IFRC Africa Zone office. The IOI Regional Logistics Officer will participate in a logistics training in Dakar (funded by DFID projects).

Now that the initial emergency phase of the operation is over, coordination meetings will be scaled back to once per month. However stakeholders will continue to share regular information. A three day workshop will be organized for sector groups (including WatSan, education, shelter, health, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure and food security) on 17-19 July to develop early recovery plans for the affected communities. These plans are now in the process of being finalized and will be prioritized in coordination with OCHA and the UN Resident Coordinator.

Financial situation

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

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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Comoros:** Said Hassani, Secretary General, Comoros Red Crescent, phone: + 269 33 33 744; email: saidhassani89@yahoo.fr
- **In Madagascar:** Ratsimbazafy Fanja, Secretary General, Malagasy Red Cross Society, phone: + 261 34 14 221 01; email: secgen.crm@gmail.com
- **In Mauritius:** Navin Mahadoo, Programme Coordinator, Mauritius Red Cross, phone: + 261 676 36 04; email: dm@mauritiusredcross.com
- **In Seychelles Red Cross:** Colette Servina, Secretary General, Seychelles Red Cross, phone: + 248 32 4646; email: sgredcross@seychelles.sc

- **In Madagascar:** Coffi Boko Jean; National Societies development delegate, Indian Ocean Islands Region, phone: + 261 33 15 163 29 or + 35 05 229 05; email: bokojean.coffi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyvaara, Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone + 971 50 4584872, Fax + 971.4.883.22.12, email: ari.mantyvaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; phone: + 251 93 003 4013; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA, phone: + 254 73 106 7277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org