

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Comoros: Air Accident

DREF operation n° MDRKM002

GLIDE n° AC-2009-000126-COM

25 November 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 24,652 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 8 July 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 994 beneficiaries.

On 30 June 2009, Yemenia Airways Flight 626 crashed off the coast of the island of Grande Comore (the main island of the Comoros Union) while attempting to land at Moroni Prince Said Ibrahim Airport. A 14 year girl was the only survivor out of the 153 people on board the aircraft.

The Comoros Red Crescent (CRC) governance, staff and volunteers were mobilized as part of the emergency response. Approximately 100 staff and volunteers were deployed to different sites organized by the CRC; Mitsamiouli region closest to the scene of the crash, El-Maarouf hospital, Moroni Port and at the Centre for Emergency operations in the Civil Protection building (COSEP¹).

This DREF assisted the National Society in coordinating its emergency response activities. The National Society assisted approximately 994 beneficiaries by managing sites to welcome families of the victims of the plane crash, providing psycho-social support and basic First Aid services. Although the National Society had planned to carry out search and rescue and corpse management activities, this was not possible as the only bodies recovered during the operation timeframe were found off the Tanzania's coast.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report or here to view contact details>](#)



Welcome sites were set up and managed by Comoros Red Crescent, to welcome families of affected.

¹ Centre des Opérations de Secours et de la Protection

The situation

At approximately 01:30 hours on 30 June 2009, Yemenia Airways Flight 626 crashed 30 to 50 kilometres off the coast of the island of Grande Comore while attempting to land at Moroni Prince Said Ibrahim Airport. On board the aircraft were 153 people, including 142 passengers and 11 crew members. Following news of the plane crash, the National Society staff and volunteers were mobilized at all levels. National Society volunteers were deployed to provide assistance and support to the injured, transport of bodies to the mortuary, corpse management and to provide psycho-social support to the families of the affected. In its role as auxiliary to the Government, and with the support of the French Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the National Society worked in collaboration with the National Disaster Committee, COSEP, and El-Maarouf hospital. Teams were deployed with emergency response equipment, in particular First Aid kits, masks, gloves, tents and an ambulance.

On 30 June 2009, one survivor (a 14 year old girl) was rescued at around midday. The Government solicited international support to strengthen search and rescue missions and in investigating the cause of the crash. Teams from France, United States of America, Yemen and Comores, among others, participated in the emergency operation. Search and rescue activities were difficult due to the harsh sea and weather conditions. Two weeks after the crash, a total of 22 bodies were found off the Tanzania coast. Identification teams from France, United States, Tanzania and Comores, are currently undertaking DNA tests to identify these bodies. This process is expected to take 3 to 4 months as eight different nationalities are amongst the victims of the plane crash. Should the bodies be repatriated to the Comores, it is expected that the National Society will be using its ambulance to transfer the bodies to the hospitals and onwards to their respective villages for burial.

Approximately two weeks after the end of this DREF operation, the United States of America specialist teams were able to access the wreckage of the plane with the bodies trapped. The authorities requested the assistance of the National Society in recovering the bodies. Eight volunteers from the CRC have been working with medical personnel in recovering the bodies of the affected persons.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

After the announcement of the plane crash, approximately 100 CRC volunteers were mobilized. The number of volunteers tripled as news of the crash spread across the country. The CRC established four sites: Mitsamihouli with 40 volunteers, the airport with 20 volunteers, Moroni Port with 20 volunteers and Hospital El Maarouf with 20 volunteers. Coordination meetings were held with the authorities and other actors, the outcome of these meetings led to reduction of the number of sites by the CRC to three: National Hospital (El-Maarouf), the University of Comores and COSEP; where bodies of the affected were held and their families received. Over 45 volunteers were permanently deployed on rotation in the three sites during the operation.

With the support of the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI²), Canadian and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the CRC set sites to welcome the families of the affected who would be in need of information and counselling, as well as the recovery and management of bodies from the crash sites, transport to the hospital and finally to their respective villages for burial. This DREF helped to ensure proper logistical support, providing volunteers and staff with the necessary equipment and facilities for the smooth running of the operation. The National Society was unable to procure some basic medical items (such as gloves and antiseptic gels) and blankets for volunteers, as these were not available in country. Despite this, camp sites were set up and successfully managed during the said period.

With the DREF, the National Society was able to set up 3 permanent welcome sites, where volunteers were based to welcome the families of the affected. These family members were distraught and the volunteers were able to support them through psycho-social support and basic First Aid. It was noted that many of the affected families were angry due to the lack of information from the authorities and the support of the National Society volunteers was vital to calm matters. Bodies of affected were found off the coast of Tanzania and in the wreckage of the plane (after the end of the operation), so volunteers did not have to carry out any corpse management activities.

² In French: **Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Ocean Indien**

Achievements against objectives

Emergency Health

Objective: Up to one thousand people (family and friends of the affected) mourning their loss are provided with psycho-social support to help them come to terms with their loss.

Activities planned

- Train 45 volunteers (1 day training) in psycho-social support to families and friends of the affected.
- Provide psycho-social support to families affected by the loss of family or friends.
- Provide families with basic First Aid if required.

Impact

Planned training in psycho-social support for 45 volunteers by doctors from the nearby French Island of La Réunion was not carried out due to the unavailability of the doctors, who returned to La Réunion shortly after the crash. However, four National Society volunteers who were trained in psycho-social support guided and supported the rest of the volunteers in supporting families and friends of the affected who made their way to the site.

Approximately 994 family members and friends of the affected were welcomed in the sites maintained by the National Society. They suffered greatly from shock, fatigue and anxiety. Many spent the entire day at the sites for information regarding the people affected by the crash, and often were unable to eat and take care of themselves due to extreme fatigue. They received refreshment, psycho-social support and basic First Aid. Six people suffered extreme fatigue and were taken to hospital by the volunteers. It was noted that young volunteers were particularly good at welcoming members of the public, and helped reduce stress levels of upset families.

Human Remains Management

Objective: Victims of the plane crash are appropriately transferred from the accident scene to their village for burial.

Activities planned

- Ensure bodies and remains found are transferred to COSEP operation site (mortuary).
- Bodies of affected persons are cleaned (as per cultural norms) and volunteers help in their identification.
- Volunteers accompany bodies of the victims to their respective villages for burial.

Impact

Due to bad weather conditions, search and rescue missions were affected, two weeks after the crash, a total of 20 bodies were found off the coast of Tanzania. These bodies are currently being identified. The remains of the plane have now been found, and approximately 6 weeks after the plane crash, volunteers of the National Society are being solicited in recovering the bodies. The National Society will be involved in the transport of these bodies to the hospital as well as onward transport to the respective villages for burial.

Logistics

Objective: Ensure that staff and volunteers are provided with the necessary items and tools to facilitate effective services to beneficiaries.

Activities planned

- Ensure proper communication between volunteers and staff on sites by provision of phone cards.
- Provide meals for volunteers for the duration of the operation.
- Facilitate logistical deployment of equipment and personnel.
- Provide affected families of victims with refreshments at the site managed by CRC.

Impact

Approximately 350 volunteers were involved in this DREF operation working in rotation at the 3 welcoming sites managed by the National Society. A minimum of 45 volunteers were present at the welcoming sites

daily. Volunteers at the site were provided with tents, beds, sleeping bags which enabled them to sleep at the sites and assure a constant presence. Volunteers were also provided with meals and telephone cards to allow them to maintain communication with each other and the National Society Headquarter as well as the costs of their transport to and from their respective villages. The National Society ambulance facilitated the transfer of 6 people suffering from extreme fatigue from the camp sites to the hospital.

How we work

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

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.

Contact information

- For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKM002 - Comores - Air Accident

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/7-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/7-2009/10
Appeal	MDRKM002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	24,654					24,654
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	24,652					24,652
C5. Other Income	24,652					24,652
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	24,652					24,652
D. Total Funding = B + C	24,652					24,652
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	24,652					24,652
E. Expenditure	-22,716					-22,716
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,936					1,936

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		24,654					24,654	
Supplies								
Food	12,402	10,245				10,245	2,157	
Medical & First Aid		462				462	-462	
Utensils & Tools	1,033	499				499	534	
Total Supplies	13,435	11,206				11,206	2,229	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	833						833	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	833						833	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring		589				589	-589	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,667	1,556				1,556	111	
Total Transport & Storage	1,667	2,145				2,145	-478	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	450						450	
Total Workshops & Training	450						450	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,000	3,328				3,328	-328	
Office Costs	750	1,273				1,273	-523	
Communications	2,750	3,155				3,155	-405	
Financial Charges	167	132				132	35	
Total General Expenditure	6,667	7,888				7,888	-1,221	
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,603	1,477				1,477	126	
Total Programme Support	1,603	1,477				1,477	126	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	24,654	22,716				22,716	1,939	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,939				1,939		