

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Comoros: Air Accident

DREF operation n° MDRKM002

GLIDE n° AC-2009-000126-
COM

8 July 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 and 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.

CHF 24,652 (USD 21,215 or EUR 16,402) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 994 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: 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.

The Comoros Red Crescent (CRC) Governance, staff and volunteers were mobilised as part of the emergency response. Approximately 100 staff and volunteers were deployed to different sites organised 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 (COSEP).

This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will therefore be completed by 5 August 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 5 November 2009).

[<Click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Following news of the plane crash, members of the National Society were mobilised at all levels. The National Society volunteers were deployed to provide assistance and support to the injured, transport of bodies to the mortuary and to provide psychosocial support to the families of the victims. In its role as auxiliary to the public authorities, and with the support of the French Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the National Society has worked in collaboration with COSEP and El-Maarouf hospital. Teams were deployed with emergency response equipment, in particular First Aid kits, masks, gloves, tents and an ambulance.

During the early morning of 30 June 2009, some bodies of victims were found and one survivor (a 14 year old girl) was rescued at around midday. While she was extremely exhausted from having been at sea for so long, doctors stated that her condition was stable.

From the beginning of the event, the National Society informed and updated its Movement partners. Immediately, French authorities deployed a team of 28 people, made up of doctors, nurses, divers and a

logistician from Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI, French Red Cross) as well as a psychologist to provide psychosocial support to the families and any survivors. This team was flown in from La Réunion with emergency response equipment including 175 body bags and Zodiac speed boats. This equipment has also been deployed in the Mitsamiouli region in efforts to locate the aircraft flight data recorder, commonly referred to as the “black box”.

The National Society maintains its operations in the field and will strengthen the two sites in Mitsamiouli (where bodies are brought from the crash site before being transferred to COSEP) and the site at COSEP, where bodies of victims are kept. A minimal team will be maintained at the other two sites to answer queries from family members.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the announcement of the crash, a Crisis Committee comprising of members of the Government, Civil Society, the armed forces, United Nations representatives and the CRC has been set up. The CRC is represented on this committee by its Disaster Management Coordinator. The Government maintains three working sites with other partners: Hahaya airport (where the Chief of Operations sits), the COSEP and the Galawa. These sites comprise of approximately 600 people.

The French, Canadian and Spanish Red Cross have provided technical and financial support to the CRC since the crash occurred. Their delegates have actively participated with the CRC in meetings with the Crisis Committee. On the first day, the French Red Cross through its PIROI provided telephone cards to ensure communication. The French RC also made available all its vehicles in Comoros. The PIROI mobilised its emergency stock warehoused in Moroni: approximately 20 tents and generators. The PIROI has also deployed a logistician from its offices in La Réunion, as well as other emergency response equipment.

The United Nations activated its contingency plan and distributed 100 meals to volunteers on the first day, 500 litres of fuel, sheets to cover mortal remains, and made its vehicles available for the operation. The United Nations coordinates meetings to ensure a sharing of information to prevent duplication of activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Soon after the plane crash was announced, approximately 100 CRC volunteers were mobilised. An additional reinforcement of 100 volunteers has since been activated. The CRC established four sites: Mitsamiouli with 40 volunteers, the airport with 20 volunteers, Moroni Port with 20 volunteers and Hospital El Maarouf with 20 volunteers. A first coordination meeting with Partner National Societies (PNSs) was held at 07:30 hours on June 30 to identify needs and launch the operation. This allowed the PIROI to be activated. Subsequent meetings were held with the PNSs and United Nations agencies, after the arrival of the French team.

At 12:30 hours, after consultation with the public authorities, the Hahaya site was transferred to COSEP where refrigerated containers were positioned to store bodies of victims. Over 200 volunteers were used to set up the site which was maintained till the next day. The responders at the COSEP site were divided into two groups:

- A group of 15 volunteers to take charge of bodies received.
- A group to provide psychosocial support to the families of the victims.

On the following day, the CRC and PNSs met the leaders of the Crisis Committee to exchange information. Following which the CRC reduced its sites to two: 1) Mitsamiouli; where equipment had been deployed for intervention at sea and 25 volunteers and 2) COSEP; where bodies of victims are held and where their families are received, with 20 volunteers permanently deployed. Five volunteers remain on standby at the National Society Headquarters. In total, 45 volunteers were deployed for this operation (as well as 22 staff) which is estimated to last up to four weeks.

The needs

Beneficiary Selection

Comorian communities are a collective culture and with extended families likely to need support from the CRC, it is difficult to ascertain the exact number of beneficiaries. However, with an estimated seven people per family in Comoros, and 142 victims (excluding the crew) of the plane crash, it is estimated that the number of beneficiaries will be 994.

The proposed operation

The National Society volunteers deployed to the operational sites are tasked with the following duties: Receiving families of victims who have come to the sites to seek information, provision of psychosocial support to the distressed families, and to provide basic medical aid to the affected families if needed. With support from the Psychologist from La Réunion, the CRC volunteers capacity in providing psychosocial support will be strengthened.

Volunteers will also ensure that remains of victims recovered are properly transferred to COSEP, where they will be cleaned, identified and prepared for burial in line with local religious and cultural customs. The volunteers will then accompany the bodies to their respective village for burial.

Emergency Health

Objective: 1,000 people (family and friends of the affected persons) mourning the 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 psychosocial support.
- Provide psychosocial support to families affected by the loss of family or friends.
- Provide families with basic First Aid if required.

Human Remains Management

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

Activities planned

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

Logistics

Objective: 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 with refreshments at the site managed by CRC.

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:

- **In Comoros:** Comoros Red Crescent (Ibrahima Ahamada, Secretary General), phone: +269 773 06 64; email: crco@comorestelecom.km
- **In Mauritius:** Indian Ocean Islands Sub Zone Office (Susanna Cunningham, Head of IOI Sub Zone), phone: +230 252 0855; Fax: +230 454 7531; email: susanna.cunningham@ifrc.org
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- **In Kenya:** Eastern Africa Zone Office (Dr. Asha Mohammed, Head of Zone, Eastern Africa, Nairobi), phone: +254.20.283.5124; fax: 254.20.271.27.77; email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for Eastern Africa; phone: +41.22.730.43.81; fax: +41 22 733 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

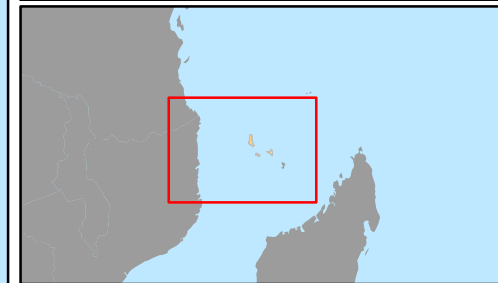
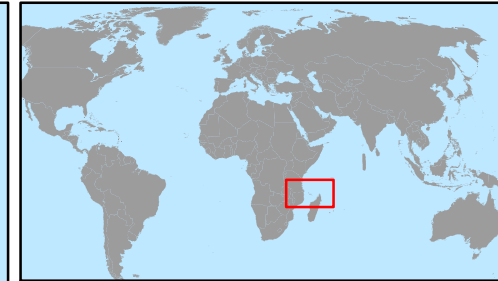
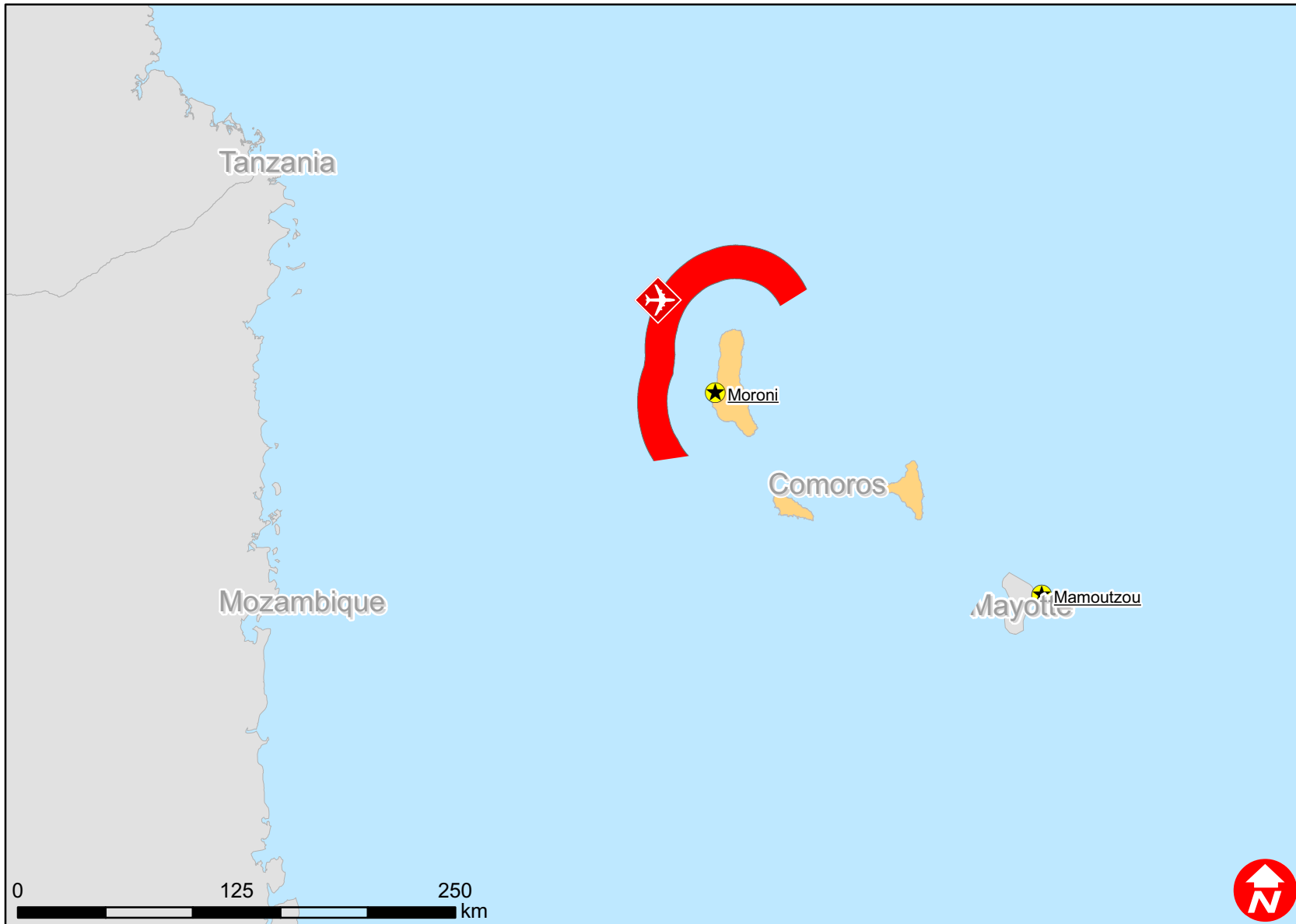
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)




	APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY	Annex 1
	APPEAL NAME Comoros Air Accident	Appeal Number MDRKM002
	RELIEF NEEDS	
500	Shelter	
505	Construction Materials	
510	Clothing and Textiles	
520	Food	12,400
523	Seeds and Plants	
530	Water and Sanitation	
540	Medical and First Aid	
550	Teaching Materials	
560	Utensils and Tools	1,033
570	Other Supplies & Services	
	Total Relief Needs	13,433
	CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	
580	Land and Buildings	
581	Vehicles Purchase	
582	Computers and Telecom Equipment	
584	Office/Household Furniture and Equipment	
587	Medical Equipment	833
589	Other Machinery and Equipment	
	TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND VEHICLES	
590	Storage - Warehouse	
592	Distribution and Monitoring	
593	Transport and Vehicles Costs	1,667
	PERSONNEL	
600	International Staff	
640	Regionally Deployed Staff	
661	National Staff	
662	National Society Staff	
670	Consultants	
	WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING	
680	Workshops and Training	450
	GENERAL EXPENSES	
700	Travel	3,000
710	Information and Public Relations	
730	Office running costs	750
740	Communication Costs	2,750
750	Professional Fees	
760	Financial Charges	167
790	Other General Expenses	

	<u>SERVICE FEES</u>	
	Service Fees	
	<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
599	Programme Support - PSR	1,602
	Total Operational Needs	11,219
	Total Appeal Budget (Cash and Kind)	24,652
	Net Request	24,652



Comoros: Air accident



-  Capitals
-  Air accident
-  Area of the crash (undefined)

At approximately 01:30 hours on Tuesday, 30 June 2009, Yemenia Airways Flight 626 crashed 30 to 50 kms 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.