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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Comoros: Shipwreck

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## DREF operation n° MDRKM003 24 August, 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 39,396 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 910 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** At 4:00 AM on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011, the ship MADJRIHA, transporting some 194 passengers and crew, wrecked on the south-east coast of Comoros' Ngazidja Island, causing at least 54 deaths and 66 missing. Comoros Red Crescent (CRCo) immediately deployed volunteers to provide First Aid to the 74 survivors and to support search and rescue operations led by local authorities. Volunteers also took part in identification and management of human remains, while the National Society provided relief goods and psychological assistance to injured and affected families in hospitals and among attending authorities.



Comoros Red Crescent volunteers providing First Aid to victims of the Madjriha Shipwreck on 9th August 2011 (photo : CRCo).

This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will therefore be completed by September, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by December, 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

At approximately 4:00 AM on 9th August 2011, the ship MADJRIHA, transporting some 194 passengers and crew members from Moroni, the country's Capital on Ngazidja Island to Mutsamudu on Anjouan Island wrecked on the south-east coast of Ngazidja Island. Circumstances are still unclear, but it appears that the ship was overcrowded (official capacity of 90 passengers only) and that the engine broke down just offshore near Dzahadjou Ya Badjini village, in a rocky area with limited access by land.

As of 16th August, the official toll stands at 54 dead and 66 missing, while 74 have survived. The interior of the ship still has to be inspected and operations are still ongoing, with strong waves making it a difficult task.

Upon receiving the alert, the National Society immediately deployed volunteers to provide First Aid and support search and rescue operations led by local authorities. Volunteers also took part in identification and

management of human remains, while the National Society provided relief goods and psychological assistance to injured and affected families in hospitals and among attending authorities.

It is to be noted that due to very poor conditions at El-Maarouf National Hospital (the country's main hospital), most injured people went back home very quickly without getting appropriate treatment.

## Coordination and partnerships

Civil Protection (COSEP) coordinates rescue operations, supported by military and civil bodies. The national army has mobilized 4 zodiac boats for search and rescue, supported by National Society volunteers for body remains management and identification.

The Office of Sea activities has mobilized a trucking boat to try to release the ship from the rocks but the operation failed as strong waves made the maneuver very difficult.

Qatar Red Crescent and French Red Cross Delegations in Moroni have facilitated logistics by providing vehicles. French Red Cross has also provided VHF devices and technical assistance from PIROI in Reunion Island to set up relief activities and liaise with IFRC Zone in Johannesburg and Eastern Africa Regional office in Nairobi. Private companies also contributed by providing vehicles and refreshments to the National Society.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Upon receiving the alert, Comoros Red Crescent deployed 50 volunteers in the first hours of rescue operations. Teams were deployed in 3 sites near the accident: Chindini Beach, Dzahadjou village and at the Health Centre of Foubouni District. Additional volunteers were also deployed at El-Maarouf National Hospital and at COSEP Office in Moroni.

National Society volunteers were involved in all activities: First Aid to survivors, sea search and rescue, body remains management, identification and funeral preparation according to local habits, psychological support to affected and mourning families.

During rescue operations, CRCo provided body bags and gloves to all actors, including military and civil actors and people from neighbouring communities.

In total, CRCo has mobilized 92 volunteers, 62 in Ngazidja Island and additional 30 in Anjouan Island where the Branch assisted the Regional Office of Civil Protection (CROSEP) in 2 sites: at the regional airport to assist families returning from the Ngazidja Island; and at Mutsamudu Cemetery, where they helped military personnel to dig 24 tombs. An additional 25 volunteers were on stand-by.

## The needs

It is difficult to know the exact number of reported family members, relatives and friends on board the vessel. Moreover, it is known that some passengers used fake identity or nicknames, while other passengers had resold their tickets to other persons who wanted to join their family in Anjouan Island for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

It is estimated that 200 to 250 persons went to either El-Maarouf hospital or COSEP office to look for a relative and try to identify bodies.

Moreover, according to Health Authorities, out of the 74 who survived 65 had only minor injuries and didn't show psychological effects.

Hence, out of an estimated 194 affected families (estimated number of passengers and crew) the National Society is targeting 130 families, or 910 beneficiaries (in Comoros, the average number of persons per household is 7).

## The proposed operation

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<b>Objective: Textile and medicals are provided to 74 survivors and refreshments are provided to 130 affected families (or 910 beneficiaries) for one week</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b>

- Purchase and distribute non food items (clothes, hygiene products, medicals) to 74 survivors
- Provide refreshments to 130 affected families for one week in hospitals, Authorities offices and at funerals

### Emergency health

**Objective: First Aid, therapeutic education and psychosocial support are provided to 130 families (or 910 beneficiaries) in Ngazidja and Anjouan Islands for one month**

**Activities planned:**

- Provide first aid to survivors of the accident and to their families if necessary
- Train 45 volunteers (25 in Ngazidja and additional 20 in Anjouan) to therapeutic education and psychosocial support
- Provide necessary information to the injured and their families to insure that good medical treatment is provided autonomously
- Provide psychosocial support to affected families

### Human Remains Management

**Objective: Victims of the shipwreck 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.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Comoros: Comoros Red Crescent (Saïd Hassani, Secretary General), phone: +269 773 06 64; email: [crco@comorestelecom.km](mailto:crco@comorestelecom.km)
- In Kenya: IFRC East Africa Regional Representation; Alexander Matheou, Regional Representative, East Africa, Nairobi, phone: +254.20.283.5124; fax: 254.20.271.27.77; email: [alexander.matheou@ifrc.org](mailto:alexander.matheou@ifrc.org)
- In IFRC Africa Zone: Head of Operation; Dr. Asha Mohammed, Email: [Asha.mohammed@ifrc.org](mailto:Asha.mohammed@ifrc.org); Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- In Geneva: Christine South, Operations Coordinator for Southern Africa region; phone: Tel +41 22 730 4529; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: [Christine.South@ifrc.org](mailto:Christine.South@ifrc.org)

### Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):

**For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:**

- **In IFRC Africa Zone:** Ed Cooper, Resource Mobilization and Performance and Accountability Coordinator; Johannesburg; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Email: [ed.cooper@ifrc.org](mailto:ed.cooper@ifrc.org)

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

- **In IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Johannesburg; Phone: +27.11.303.9700; Email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)
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[Click here](#)

1. DREF budget [below](#)
  2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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## 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 (NGO's) 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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**DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

24-08-11

**COMOROS SHIPWRECK**

MDRKM003

**BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	1,913
Food	10,882
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	7,252
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	275
Other Supplies & Services	945
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>21,267</b>

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings  
Vehicles Purchase  
Computers & Telecom Equipment  
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.  
Medical Equipment  
Other Machinery & Equipment

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,105

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff  
Regionally Deployed Staff  
National Staff  
National Society Staff  
Consultants

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	2,418
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	7,677
Information & Public Relations	
Office running costs	1,228
Communication Costs	2,093
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	48
Other General Expenses	157

**SERVICE FEES**

Service Fees

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	2,404
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**Total Operational Needs** **18,129**

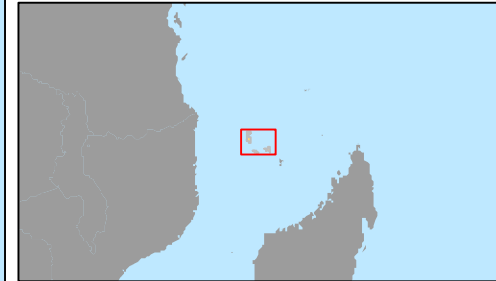
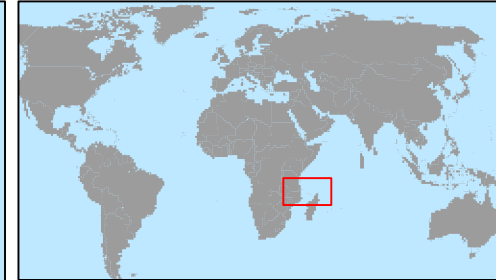
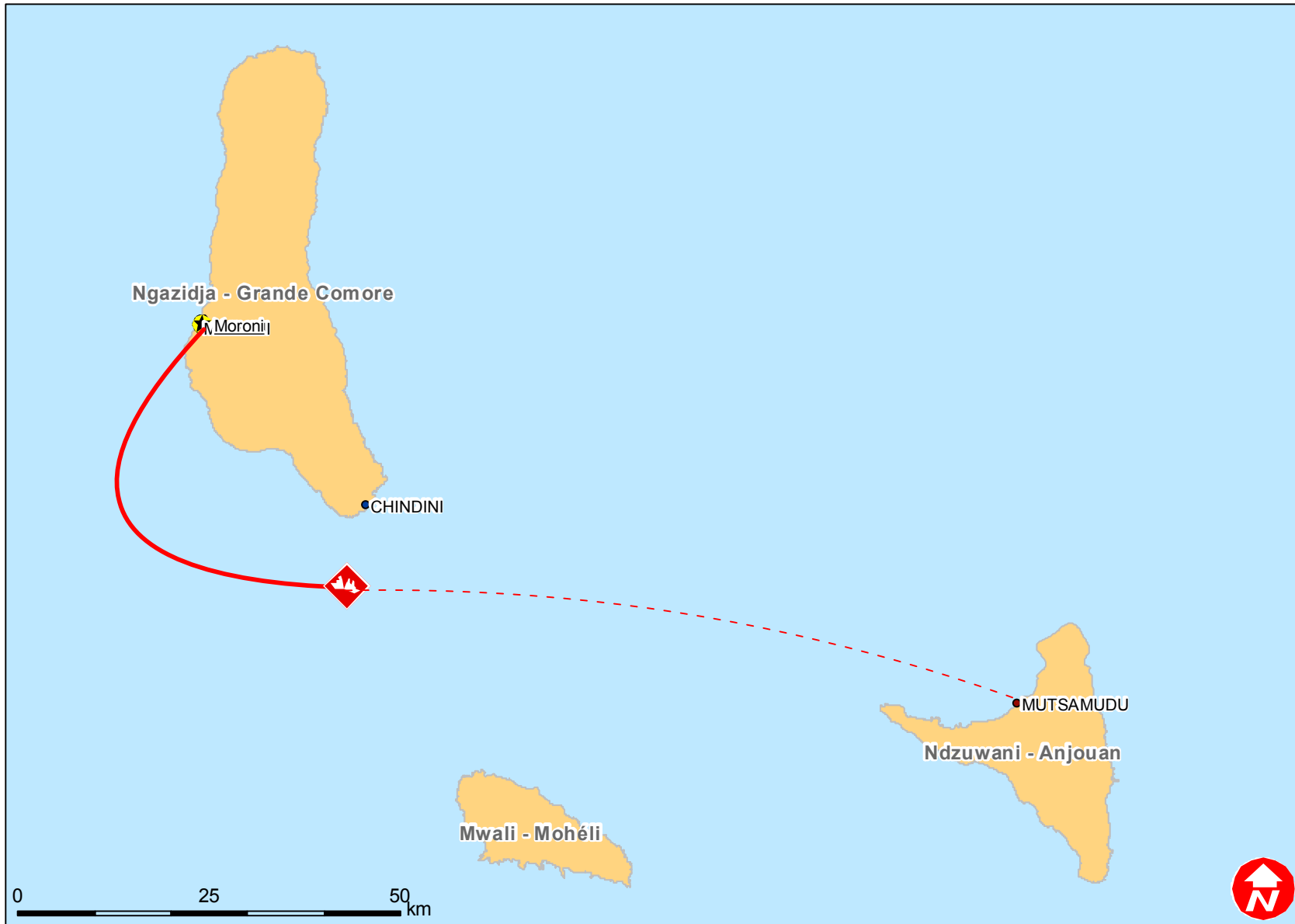
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**DREF ALLOCATION** **39,396**

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# Comoros: Ship accident



 Shipwreck area