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DREF final report

Comoros: Shipwreck

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRKM003

24 December 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 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 39,396 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 August, 2011 to support the Comoros Red Crescent (CRC) in delivering assistance to some 910 beneficiaries (130 families).

Immediately after the shipwreck, Comoros Red Crescent (CRC) deployed its trained volunteers to provide First Aid and support search and rescue operations. The National Society provided relief goods that included clothes and hygiene products. Psychological assistance was provided to the affected people in need of the service.

As a result of the immediate response from CRC and local authorities, the people with minor injuries were able to return to their homes with no major complications. The families who lost their loved ones were assisted in burial preparations (paying for the caskets and other funeral expenses) as well as receiving counselling.

Due to the nature of the disaster, proper identification of survivors as well as the affected families was a challenge. This is because some people had used fake identity cards to get on the boat or used nicknames. Some had resold their tickets to other people that didn't have their names on the boarding list. This resulted in difficulties in provision of relief items and related support to the right families. This has been a lessons learned for the National Society and volunteers need to be trained and coached on this to ensure that the registration process of target populations is done correctly in future.

Another challenge was that the rescue materials provided by the military were not effective and this compromised response activities during the search of bodies in the ocean. In addition, the ocean waves were too strong for the rescuers and the materials. Finally, the hospital where the injured were taken lacked necessary equipment to effectively provide treatment. Medical personnel had to do with the available equipment and make the best use of what was available. There is need to support the institutions dealing with search and rescue operations as well as those treating injuries. This can be in form of providing basic equipment necessary for rescue operations and treating the injured.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG-ECHO, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors.



CRC volunteers during search and rescue operations. Photo: CRC

The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, thanks all for their generous contributions.

Details of contributions to DREF are found at: www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2010.pdf for 2010, and at: www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf for 2011.

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

The situation

On 9 August 2011, a shipwreck was experienced on the south-east coast of Ngazidja Island. The ship "MADJRIHA" was ferrying 194 passengers and crew members from Moroni, the country's capital on Ngazidja Island to Mutsamudu on Anjouan Island. Reports indicated that the ship was overloaded (recommended capacity of 90 passengers only) and that the engine broke down just offshore near Dzahadjou Ya Badjini Village, a rocky area with limited access. A total of 54 people were reported dead, 66 missing, while 74 survived.



Bystanders watching the ship MADJRIHA overturned Photo: CRC

In response, the Comoros Red Crescent (CRC) immediately deployed volunteers to provide First Aid and support search and rescue operations led by local authorities and COSEP. CRC volunteers took part in identification and management of human remains as well as distribution of relief goods and provision of psychological assistance to injured and affected families in hospitals as well as in their homes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Out of an estimated 194 affected families (estimated number of passengers and crew), the National Society targeted 130 families, or 910 beneficiaries. This was done through 92 volunteers who assisted in First Aid, sea search and rescue, body remains management, identification and funeral preparation as well as psychological support to the affected families.

During the rescue operations, CRC provided body bags and gloves to all people involved in the operation, including the military and civil societies and people from neighboring communities. The Qatar Red Crescent and French Red Cross delegations in Moroni also facilitated logistics by providing vehicles.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Textile and medicals are provided to 74 survivors and refreshments are provided to 130 affected families (or 910 beneficiaries) for one week.

Activities planned:

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

Achievements:

A total of 130 affected families received refreshments for one week as they tended to their loved ones in the hospitals as well as during the burial preparations/services for those who lost their lives. 65 of the 74 survivors (88%) were provided with non food items which included clothes, hygiene products (e.g. soap) as well as basic medical supplies. This was done in collaboration with the hospital(s) they were admitted.

Emergency health

Outcome: 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 ensure that good medical treatment is provided autonomously
- Provide psychosocial support to affected families:

Achievements:

A total of 45 volunteers (25 in Ngazidja and additional 20 in Anjouan) were trained in therapeutic education and psychosocial support. In turn, the trained volunteers provided psychosocial support to the affected families in the hospital or in their homes. This was done in hospitals (for the injured) or homes (for those who lost someone or those reported missing).

The trained volunteers also provided First Aid to 65 of the 74 survivors (88%). It should be noted that 9 of the survivors went home without receiving proper First Aid/treatment. The First Aid services provided by the volunteers contributed to saving the lives of the survivors as the gravity of injuries was minimized.

Challenges:

The hospital that most of the injured people were taken to - El- Maarouf National Hospital – lacked necessary equipments for effective treatments. However, the medical personnel did their best to use what was available.

Human Remains Management

Outcome: 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 body's remains to their respective villages for burial.

Achievements:

A total of 92 volunteers participated in sea search and rescue, body remains management, identification and funeral preparation respecting the culture of the people regarding burial rites. Some of the body remains were transported to their villages for burial and 24 tombs were built with volunteers' participation.

Challenges

It was very difficult to rescue and to search the body remains in the sea due to ineffective materials used by the military and to the heavy waves.

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

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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.
-



Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/11
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/9
Appeal	MDRKM003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	39,396					39,396
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	37,222					37,222
C4. Other Income	37,222					37,222
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	37,222					37,222
D. Total Funding = B + C	37,222					37,222
Appeal Coverage	94%					94%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	37,222					37,222
E. Expenditure	-37,222					-37,222
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKM003 - Comores - Shipwreck

Appeal Launch Date: 18 aug 11

Appeal Timeframe: 18 aug 11 to 18 sep 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/11
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/9
Appeal	MDRKM003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		39,396					39,396	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	1,913	1,956				1,956	-43	
Food	10,884	5,349				5,349	5,534	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		2,454				2,454	-2,454	
Medical & First Aid	7,251	4,542				4,542	2,709	
Utensils & Tools	275	3,857				3,857	-3,582	
Other Supplies & Services	939						939	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	21,261	18,158				18,158	3,103	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,112	2,059				2,059	53	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,112	2,059				2,059	53	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,418	1,186				1,186	1,232	
Total Workshops & Training	2,418	1,186				1,186	1,232	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,675	6,451				6,451	1,224	
Office Costs	1,228	1,174				1,174	54	
Communications	2,093	2,093				2,093	0	
Financial Charges	48	3,829				3,829	-3,781	
Total General Expenditure	11,044	13,547				13,547	-2,503	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	2,561	2,272				2,272	289	
Total Indirect Costs	2,561	2,272				2,272	289	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	39,396	37,222				37,222	2,174	
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,174				2,174		