

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDIAN OCEAN SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

21 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.09.2004; Programme Update no. 01; Period covered: January to May 2004; Appeal coverage: 37.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 345,513 (USD 273,250 or EUR 226,000).
[\(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 555,579 (USD 417,258 or EUR 357,631).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Madagascar: Cyclone Gafilo, Emergency Appeal no. 08/2004](#)

Programme summary: This Appeal covers support to health and capacity building activities of the four national societies in the Indian Ocean sub-region: [Comoros Red Crescent](#), [Malagasy Red Cross Society](#), [Mauritius Red Cross Society](#) and [Seychelles Red Cross Society](#). Activities in response to the Cyclone Gafilo Operation in Madagascar are covered under a separate Emergency Appeal no. 08/2004.

While it was hoped that the implementation of the Federation's change strategy would allow for the opening of a sub-regional office for the Indian Ocean, based in Antananarivo by end June 2004, lack of funding prevented this from happening. Support to the sub-region continued to be coordinated by the Regional Organizational Development Delegate based at the Federation Regional Delegation in Nairobi who is also the focal point for the sub-region.

During this reporting period, the Comoros Red Crescent succeeded in attracting significant new funding for its health programmes. Relations were developed with the Movement's Arab Secretariat with a view to entering into a longer term capacity building partnership.

In Madagascar, the national society developed its profile with other local actors; Malagasy Red Cross is becoming more recognized as a key partner in response to cyclones, as well as in immunization sensitization campaigns as it prepares for a mass measles campaign later in the year.

Staff and volunteers from the national societies in Mauritius and Seychelles acted as resources within the sub-region and beyond among them supporting first aid training in Djibouti as well as the assessments and response to Cyclone Gafilo in Madagascar in March.

Contact information follows on page 2. [Click here](#) to access directly the country-specific sections of this Update.

[Comoros](#)

[Madagascar](#)

[Mauritius](#)

[Seychelles](#)

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents).

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Comoros

Health and care

Goal: The health status of the most vulnerable communities in Comoros is improved.

Objective: Vulnerable communities are supported to address their public health needs (malaria, cholera, HIV/AIDS) in a sustainable manner using the ARCHI strategy; volunteer management structures are developed to rapidly and effectively address public health needs in emergencies (preparedness and response).

Progress

The Health Coordinator devoted most of the time during this period on resource mobilization to support the implementation of the national society's integrated health programme that was developed in 2003 with the support of the Federation Regional Delegation.

The national society has adopted the [ARCHI 2010](#) framework and plans to establish a large scale coach system. HIV/AIDS awareness activities continued but plans for scaling up have been postponed until a vision and a fundraising plan for implementation is drawn up. The cholera programme continued during the period as well as preparations for a malaria prevention programme.

The French Red Cross pledged a grant of EUR 80,000 (approx. CHF 120,000) to support the overall health plan of the Comoros Red Crescent. Discussions are also underway with the French Red Cross to develop a comprehensive community based first aid programme encompassing disaster preparedness and response, first aid, life saving skills and priority health problems.

With the support of the regional health and care unit, the national society has designed its strategic health plan incorporating other stakeholders. The Global Fund for Tuberculosis Malaria and HIV/AIDS has confirmed part allocation of Euro 500,000 to Comoros over a five year period to implement the national society's Strategic Health

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Plan. The funding will be shared between the local International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) office and the Comoros Red Crescent.

The Programme Coordinator secured a 50,000 Euro grant from the Mayotte French Regional Council to extend the school health programme for one more year

Impact

Not one case of cholera was reported this year despite the heavy rainy season owing to the social mobilization activities of the national society.

Seventeen schools and a total of 8,500 children will benefit from the one year extension of the school health programme. The allocation from the Global Fund means that the Comoros Red Crescent has the possibility to plan and implement a long term health programme focussing specifically on sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV/AIDS and youth peer education.

Constraints

Scaling up of health interventions requires the support of governance and senior management of the national society to ensure the accompanying capacity building activities such as branch development, volunteer management and financial reporting. However, progress in this respect is very slow and may jeopardise the credibility of the national society in the area of health and care particularly with the Global Fund which requires very stringent administration and financial reporting.

Stigma and discrimination in Comoros is very high; no single person has gone public about their status and neither has any support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS been established. This hinders the establishment of a programme to provide access to treatment for staff and volunteers of the national society.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Comoros Red Crescent maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable at community level

Objective: The national society's institutional capacity and its progress towards operating as a well functioning national society is enhanced through Secretariat support.

Progress

Apart from a request to make some minor changes to the document, the Movement's Joint Commission on Statute Revision approved the revised Statutes presented by Comoros Red Crescent in April. A letter setting out the procedures which the national society will need to follow to make these minor amendments and to move the recognition process forward was sent to the national society by the Secretariat in Geneva in June. The Regional Organizational Development Delegate in cooperation with ICRC is available to support any initiative taken by the National Executive Committee in this regard.

Comoros Red Crescent drew up an action plan 2004 to implement its strategic plan. While steps were taken to implement the disaster preparedness, health and care and information/dissemination activities, very little activity can be reported in the area of organizational development.

The national society made a lot of efforts to attract new partners from within the Movement during the reporting period. A visit from the Secretary General of the Arab Secretariat to discuss organizational development resulted in a donation of USD 50,000 (approx. CHF 63,000) via the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Dar-Es-Salaam towards the renovation of the headquarters and other activities.

The provision of regular information on activities greatly improved during the period, resulting in frequent features on the national society in the regional bi-weekly news bulletins. Comoros Red Crescent was also one of the first national societies to send a report of its activities to mark the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day to the Federation Regional Delegation

Impact

The national society continued to have a high visibility on all three islands, particularly in the field of disaster response where it was involved in an important rescue operation of passengers on board a ferry that caught fire off the shores of the main island Grande Comore. The national society's activities to celebrate the World Red Cross Day were attended by state dignitaries on all three islands.

Constraints

The inability of the national society to appoint an Executive Secretary (Secretary General) owing in part to funding constraints as well as a lack of clarity on the division of roles between the President and the three Vice-Presidents has resulted in the lack of a clear plan of action for the implementation of organizational development activities. Particularly affected has been the training of the national committee and strengthening of regional committees. This has resulted in a lack of leadership to programme officers and regional committees and to the loss of lesson learning opportunities in the implementation of activities.

Madagascar

Health and care

Goal: The health status of the most vulnerable communities is improved.

Objective: Vulnerable communities are supported to address their public health needs (malaria, cholera HIV/AIDS) in a sustainable manner using the ARCHI strategy to rapidly and effectively address public health needs in emergencies (preparedness and response).

Progress

Following a visit from the Africa Malaria Advisor and the subsequent meetings between the Ministry of Health, UN Agencies and the Malagasy Red Cross, a joint commitment has been made to work together on a measles social Mobilization campaign later in the year. Once funding is secured, the national society will conduct house-to-house social mobilization activities targeting children between the ages of nine months and 14 years using its teams of volunteers. Red Cross Volunteers will also distribute insecticide treated nets (ITN) during the campaign to promote malaria prevention. The national society also plans to distribute ITN to some districts in the Toliara Province that are still suffering the after effects of Cyclone Gafilo.

The final version of the national society's HIV/AIDS strategic plan is still awaited.

Impact

The collaboration between Malagasy Red Cross and the Ministry of Health and WHO in the measles campaign is the beginning of further partnerships. All parties are committed to work closely together in all relevant areas of malaria control in future.

Constraints

Lack of regular communication between the Federation Regional Delegation and the national society's health focal person has prevented sharing of knowledge of ongoing activities and information on areas of assistance.

Organizational Development

Goal: The Malagasy Red Cross maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Objective: The Malagasy Red Cross has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs.

Progress

It remained unclear throughout the reporting period whether the full-time Secretary General position would be re-opened. The function continued to be carried out by a volunteer.

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The national society held an extraordinary General Assembly in May to debate the minor modifications proposed by the Movement's Joint Commission to their revised Statutes. The final version of the document will be available shortly.

The timetable and budgets for the provincial and general assemblies have been finalized. The first assembly was held in the Province of Tuléar in April where a new Provincial Branch President was elected. The remaining assemblies will be held from August while the National Assembly is scheduled for October 2004.

Plans to implement a new finance procedures manual at both central and provincial levels have been drawn up and will be implemented in the second half of the year.

The ICRC, Federation and French Red Cross held a joint meeting with the Malagasy Red Cross in January to co-ordinate commitments to the national society's action plan 2004 particularly in the area of support to the national coordinator and six provincial programme co-ordinators appointed in January 2004.

The national society was a very active member of the Government's National Disaster Committee which led the relief response following Cyclone Gafilo in March. A donation of relief supplies was made directly to the national society from the UNICEF office in Antananarivo. A donation was also received via the French Embassy following the passage of Cyclone Elita in late January/early February. The Programme Coordinators played a key role in ensuring the national society's presence in the provinces affected by the two cyclones.

Impact

The active role of the national society in the National Disaster Committee as well as contributions received locally is pointers that it is being seen as a serious actor in the humanitarian field; the Government has expressed its eagerness to see the national society being even more active. The presence of Programme Coordinators in each of the provinces means that there is a better structure in to implement programmes.

The implementation of the financial procedure manual is a major step towards applying the recommendations of the external audit report presented in 2002 and will see more transparent systems being put in place.

Constraints

There is still an unclear distinction between the roles of governance and management resulting in governance members taking on activities which would normally be carried out by management. This was evident during Cyclone Gafilo where staff members trained in disaster relief activities were under-utilized.

There has been a lack of guidance from the headquarters to the Provincial Programme Coordinators regarding their roles and responsibilities with the provincial structures. This has led to frustrations and a slowing down in the implementation of activities. The economic and political developments in the country have led to an increased interest from external donors and opportunities for the national societies to enter into new partnerships. However, the lack of a formal management structure means that the national society does not have the capacity to manage relations with potential new partners.

Mauritius

Organizational Development

Goal: The Mauritius Red Cross maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Objective: The Mauritius Red Cross has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified community needs.

Progress

The Mauritius Red Cross continued to implement and monitor its activities in conformity with the strategic plan. In recognition of the national society's proficiency in first aid, a very qualified instructor was selected for a seven week exchange programme to undertake First Aid training in all districts of the Djibouti Red Crescent.

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Although the national society's revised Statutes were in final draft at the beginning of the reporting period, no document has yet been presented to the Movement's Joint Commission.

Impact

The national society continued to be highly regarded amongst the community for its first aid activities. There are opportunities to enter into new local initiatives but the 'Council' (Board) continues to adopt a cautious approach towards moving away from the national society's traditional mandate.

Constraints

The national society carries out its activities effectively but as mentioned above is missing out on opportunities to diversify its activities and to become an even greater resource for exchange of experience within the region.

Seychelles

Organizational Development

Goal: Seychelles Red Cross maintains a high profile in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Objective: The Seychelles Red Cross has the necessary structures and systems in place to respond to clearly identified needs.

Progress

The Programme Coordinator continued to set up systems and structures at the headquarters for better monitoring and reporting on activities under the national society's strategic plan. The branches on Praslin and La Digue islands became much more active due to regular follow up from the Programme Coordinator and have designed their 2004 Plans of action.

Seychelles Red Cross continued to be a major sub-regional resource. It released its Programme Coordinator, a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and recipient of [FACT](#) training, to carry out the initial assessment in Madagascar following Cyclone Gafilo that led to the launch of a Federation Appeal.

A new Information/Dissemination Officer who is a former employee of the National Broadcasting Company recruited during the period has succeeded in having regular air time on the radio to disseminate information about the national society and the Movement.

Impact

The fact that there is a full-time Programme Coordinator in the national society has reduced the workload of volunteers and committee members. Regular support to volunteers has led to an increased participation in community activities and consequently an increase in volunteer recruitment. Good communication between branches now exists. The national society has a high profile in the community due to the visibility of its activities and its exposure in the media.

Constraints

The national society operates from a very small office. Despite numerous efforts to find a new building to accommodate its three full-time personnel, nothing has yet materialized. The lease agreement with the current landlord expires in July and will not be renewed. The lack of a vehicle on the main island of Mahé obliges the Programme Coordinator to use taxis leading to high transport costs. This has also slowed down plans to set up some new branches.

Delegation Management

Goal: The Federation structure is streamlined to effectively support the implementation of the decentralization process.

Objective: To maintain an efficient, flexible and service oriented infrastructure coordinated with all partners.

Progress

The Federation Regional Delegation carried out a number of consultative meetings with the national societies in the sub-region as well as their Movement partners with a view to outlining a strategy paper for the operating and financing of an Indian Ocean sub-regional office to be based in Antananarivo. This was circulated to interested Movement partners towards the end of the first half of 2004. Efforts to attract new local and international actors who have expressed interest in the area of disaster response and preparedness in the sub-region will continue during the second half of the year.

Constraints

Apart from response to cyclone operations, there has traditionally been great difficulty in attracting Movement partners to support national societies' activities in this region. Achievement of the objective of opening of the Indian Ocean sub-regional office will require new and innovative funding strategies which will quite likely take more time than anticipated.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.09/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				555,580		37.8%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				130,066		
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				80,000	03.03.04	
<p>Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.</p>						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				210,066	CHF	37.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<p>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</p>						
				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<p>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</p>						
				0	CHF	