

# 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

16 December 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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.09/2004; Programme Update no. 3; Period covered: June to November 2004; Appeal coverage: 46.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 295,514 (USD 261,100 or EUR 191,500).**  
[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: Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA006 – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA006.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA006.pdf)**

#### **Programme summary:**

In Madagascar, the Cyclone Gafilo Operation closed in September 2004; the remaining funds were allocated to capacity building/cyclone preparedness programme under this sub-regional programmes Appeal. The Malagasy Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> was a key actor in a mass measles campaign in September and received high commendations from a number of humanitarian actors for its contribution to the success of the campaign. This together with the impact of the Cyclone Gafilo Operation enhanced the profile of the national society both nationally and internationally. A General Assembly was held at the end of October at which the outgoing President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected. The Secretary General who had been acting in a voluntary capacity was formally appointed to the position.

Considerable progress was made in developing branch capacity in Seychelles Red Cross Society.<sup>2</sup> A renewed allocation from the Capacity Building Fund in September 2004 will allow this programme continue for a further one year.

In the Comoros Red Crescent<sup>3</sup> a new Secrétaire Exécutif (Secretary General) was appointed, filling a vacancy created over two years ago.

<sup>1</sup> Malagasy Red Cross Society – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=109>

<sup>2</sup> Seychelles Red Cross Society – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=151>

<sup>3</sup> Comoros Red Crescent – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=186>

## Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes; Annual Appeal no. 01.09/2004; Programme Update no .3

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

- *In Comoros: Mohibaca Baco, President, Comoros Red Crescent, Moroni; Email [crco@snpt.km](mailto:crco@snpt.km); Phone 269.733.516; Fax 269.730.664*
- *In Mauritius: Gaëtan Roland Lagesse, Director General, Mauritius Red Cross Society, Curepipe; Email [redcross@intnet.mu](mailto:redcross@intnet.mu); Phone 230.676.36.04; Fax 230483.66.80*
- *In Madagascar: Mariette Pindray D'ambelle, President, Malagasy Red Cross Society, Antananarivo; Email [crm@ds.mg](mailto:crm@ds.mg); Phone 261.20.222.21.11; Fax 261.320.775.505.56*
- *In Seychelles: Colette Servina, President, Seychelles Red Cross Society, Victoria; Email [redcross@seychelles.net](mailto:redcross@seychelles.net); Phone 248.324.646; Fax 248.321.663*
- *In Kenya: Susanna Cunningham, Federation Regional Focal Person, Eastern Africa Regional Delegation, Nairobi; Email [ifrcke43@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcke43@ifrc.org); Phone 254.20.271.42.55; Fax 254.20.271.84.15*
- *In Geneva: Josse Gillijns, Federation Regional Officer for Eastern Africa, Africa Dept.; Email [josse.gillijns@ifrc.org](mailto:josse.gillijns@ifrc.org); Phone 41.22.730.42.24 ; Fax 41.22.733.03.95*

*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>*

## **Operational developments**

Following the General Assembly held in Madagascar at the end of October, the Government issued a Decree on November 10 dissolving the newly elected governance and appointing a 'Délégation Spéciale' to convene new elections within a ten month period. The ICRC and the International Federation sent a joint letter to the Madagascar Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressing their grave concern about this development. A high level visit to Madagascar by Geneva based representatives of both organisations is expected to take place in mid-January 2005 at which meetings with representatives of the five ministries who are member of the Malagasy Red Cross Board will be held. A decision regarding the extent of cooperation with the national society in 2005 will be taken following this visit.

**Editor's note: narrative text for Comoros appears on the next page, followed by Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.**

## 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/Achievements

No activities under this objective were implemented due to lack of funding

### Organisational 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/Achievements

The post of Executive Secretary (Secretary General), that has been vacant for over two years, was finally filled in June 2004 after the incumbent was seconded from the Ministry of Health. Following this appointment, the Regional Organisational Development Delegate provided ongoing coaching to the Executive Secretary on the International Federation's policies and procedures throughout the reporting period.

The Comoros Red Crescent completed and forwarded to the Movement's Joint Commission on Statutes a number of key documents necessary to move the recognition process forward. Efforts at strengthening the Regional Committees on each of the three islands were stepped up with training in project planning, design and monitoring. Following this, the Regional Committees drew up their action plans for the last quarter of 2004 and first quarter of 2005.

The national society received a donation of two ambulances from the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society. However, no funding was provided to cover the running costs; the national society also lacks sufficient human resource capacity to effectively manage the vehicles. It remains unclear how the Comoros Red Crescent will manage this donation.

#### Impact

The appointment of the Executive Secretary who manages the national society's affairs on a daily basis has increased the level of professionalism and frequency of communication with partners. His exposure to the wider International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement during the Algiers Conference enhanced his knowledge and stimulated him to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and Governance. The Executive Secretary is in the process of setting up new office procedures; a detailed Job Description for his position has been drafted and it is intended to prepare Job Descriptions for other national society officers.

#### Constraints

The President of the Comoros Red Crescent resides on the island of Mohéli and is therefore prevented from regularly attending national society events and meetings. Although there are three Vice-Presidents who act by rotation, the final decisions are made by the President. This has led to certain delays in decision making and blockages in some cases.

**Editor's note: narrative text for Madagascar appears on the next page, followed by Mauritius and Seychelles.**

## 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/Achievements

The national society participated in the national mass measles campaign in Madagascar that target 7 million children for immunization. The immunization managed to reach 97% coverage, thanks to the active social mobilization of Red Cross volunteers especially in the remote areas. The regional delegation provided support to the national society for this activity through training of staff, community coaches and volunteers on social mobilization.

#### Impact

The 97% coverage in Malagasy of 7 million children targeted for measles immunization will ensure a reduction in the incidence and mortality as a complication of measles. In assisting to access the communities in the remote areas, the national society volunteers have contributed to highlighting the condition of children in disadvantaged families and have shown the national society's capacity to provide outreach services.

The success of the Malagasy Red Cross in the national measles campaign has built the capacity of the national society to take up other community health initiatives in partnerships with other implementers on the ground. Other community health interventions are also envisaged in partnerships with the national society.

### 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

**Expected result 1: National society statutes have been revised and applied in conformity with Federation guidelines by 2007.**

The Malagasy Red Cross held assemblies in all six provinces during the reporting period. The national general assembly at which the outgoing President and Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected was held on 29-30 October. The meeting, including elections, at which both audited accounts and an outline of the Strategic Plan 2005-2009 were presented and approved, proceeded in conformity with the national society's Statutes.

However, the five ministries who are members of the Malagasy Red Cross Board issued a governmental decree on 10 November dismissing the newly elected leadership and appointing a 'Délégation Spéciale' to convene another General Assembly to elect new leadership. This is the third time the government has taken such a step since the national society gained its independence. The ICRC and the International Federation, who attended the October meeting issued a joint letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressing their concern at such a violation of the independence of a national society. The dialogue with the government will continue during a planned high level mission with representatives from ICRC and the Federation visiting Madagascar in January 2005.

**Expected result 2: The capacity of the Malagasy Red Cross in disaster preparedness planning, logistics and information management has been strengthened.**

#### Progress

A Disaster Preparedness/Logistics Officer was recruited and inducted into the position during the annual disaster management meeting in Nairobi.

### **Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes; Annual Appeal no. 01.09/2004; Programme Update no .3**

A disaster preparedness planning workshop was held in November in Madagascar with the support of the Regional Disaster Management Coordinator and attended by the national society's Secretary General, DP/Logistician, Health Coordinator, National Coordinator, Information Dissemination Officer, the National Disaster Response Team members and Coordinators from 6 provinces. A draft DP plan was developed during the exercise that sets out the role of the Malagasy Red Cross in preparedness and response, defines the national society's DP policy and DP programme for 2004 - 2008 and outlines disaster response procedures.

The national society needs to do more work to incorporate the Government's DP policy plan that has been drafted by the Comité National de Secours (National Disaster Committee) but not yet approved, and on the comprehensive risk mapping done by CARE. It also needs to strengthen logistics procedures and to do more on information management in emergencies. It was agreed that the plan would be completed before December and then shared with the regional delegation in Nairobi and ICRC Pretoria for their input before approval by the national society's Governance and Management early in 2005.

Twenty five bales out of a donation of 45 bales of used clothing from the Swedish Red Cross for Gafilo operation had been distributed by end of November to a total of 2828 families (11017 beneficiaries) in Betroka, Vangaindrano, Vondrozo and Fianarantoa. The remaining 20 bales will be distributed in Midongy; however, the distribution will cost more due to the considerable distance of Midongy from Antananarivo. This second distribution is estimated to cost USD 2,100 compared to USD 863 for the first distribution.

A case study of the national society's response to Cyclone Gafilo has been produced for presentation at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe in January 2005.

The Malagasy Red Cross Information and Dissemination Officer attended the annual PIROI training in Reunion Island and benefited from technical support from the regional information delegate.

#### **Impact**

The Malagasy Red Cross has made a lot of progress in developing its image during the reporting period. Its response to the Gafilo Cyclone and its role in the Measles Vaccination campaign was much appreciated by both community and government. All Assemblies were carried out in conformity with Statutes and Internal Procedures were followed for the first time in many years. The International Federation commended the national society on the progress it had made at the October Assembly while other Movement partners, particularly the French Red Cross, succeeded in sourcing new funding for the national society on the strength of its performance during the Gafilo Operation.

#### **Constraints**

The appointment of a third 'Direction Spéciale' to govern the national society runs the risk of reversing all the progress that has been made over the past four years. At the time of writing this report, a response from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the joint ICRC/International Federation letter had not been received. It is not yet clear what impact the appointment will have on the programming plans of the Movement Partners for the next few months.

There will be difficulties to conduct the information visit and logistics assessment due to the change of leadership of the national society. As a result, some of the disaster preparedness funding may not be spent before the end of the year.

<b>Editor's note: narrative text for Mauritius appears on the next page, followed by Seychelles.</b>
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## 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 Society<sup>4</sup> continuously monitored the implementation of its Strategic Plan during the reporting period. Most activities are running on schedule. The revised Statutes were finalised and sent to the Movement's Joint Commission for comment. The national society has decided to upgrade its financial accounting system; the International Federation released funds to purchase a laptop to facilitate this.

The national society completed a proposal to the Capacity Building Fund for support to the Rodrigues Branch (a small island more than 500 km away from Mauritius) to develop the branch capacity to reach isolated elderly people.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director General of the Mauritius Red Cross was elected as the Indian Ocean Island representative to the RC-NET committee during the regional partnership meeting held in Nairobi in June.

#### Impact

The national society participated in a number of regional and international events over the reporting period. This more frequent interaction with other Movement partners has helped to broaden the horizons of members of the leadership. The increased attention given to the development of the Rodrigues Branch means that it is becoming less isolated and participating more regularly in national society decision making.

#### Constraints

The national society has made considerable progress in adapting recent Movement policies to the reality of the country. This has been driven by a committed leadership. Once the new Statutes have been approved it will be important that new people come on board to drive these policies further. This will require a change in the manner in which Annual General Meetings are run and elections are held, something which may take some time to implement.

**Editor's note:** narrative text for Seychelles appears on the next page.

<sup>4</sup> Mauritius Red Cross Society – refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=115>

## 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**

Funding to support the national society's Programme Coordinator implement the Strategic Plan was granted in June for a period of two years. Branch Committees on the islands of Praslin and La Digue were restructured during the reporting period, their terms of reference revised and roles and responsibilities clarified. New communication, reporting and programme management systems were put in place. Thirty new volunteers were recruited and inducted into various activities, bringing the total number of active volunteers to 75.

The national society submitted two proposals to the Capacity Building Fund in early November in the hope of securing funding for continued branch and youth development.

#### **Impact**

The restructuring of the committees on Praslin and La Digue has strengthened their capacity to deliver services to vulnerable people. The increased level of activity has raised the profile of the national society. The human resource pool has been strengthened through the recruitment and motivation of larger numbers of volunteers. Planning and organisation of activities has become more focussed. Relationships with government and other partners have improved as a consequence of positive programme results.

#### **Constraints**

The considerable progress made by the Seychelles Red Cross has been due to the presence of a full-time Programme Coordinator, supported by the Capacity Building Fund for a two year period. It is essential that an alternative source of funding is found once this two year period expires. While the national society may be in a position to secure some funding locally, there will be a considerable shortfall if other international partners do not intervene.

### **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/Achievements**

It was not feasible to open the sub-regional office for the Indian Ocean Islands in 2004 as planned due to lack of funding. A number of donors have however expressed interest in contributing to such an initiative in 2005; discussions are ongoing and a decision will be taken early next year regarding this office. The recent developments in Madagascar have raised doubts amongst the other national societies in the sub-region in particular regarding the justification for basing the office in Antananarivo. The Mauritius Red Cross has offered to host the sub-office should a decision be made to change its location.

[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

11/01/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

				<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>		
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>555,580</b>		<b>46.8%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				130,066		
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				80,000	03.03.04	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				50,000	06.09.04	SEYCHELLES
<p>Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.</p>						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				260,066	CHF	46.8%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

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

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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