

# Programme Update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Indian Ocean Islands Sub Zone

Appeal No. MAA64002

26/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to  
30/06/09.



Following the passage of intense tropical cyclone Fanele in January 2009, the Malagasy Red Cross reached approximately 5,000 families through the distribution of non food items. **International Federation**

### In brief

**Programme purpose:** The Indian Ocean Sub Zone provides support through capacity building of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in Organisational Development (OD) and Disaster Management (DM), in order to reduce the impact of emergencies on the lives of vulnerable communities in the region.

**Programme summary:** The DM delegate in Madagascar facilitated the completion of the cyclone Ivan operation, which included the pre-positioning of emergency stock for the next cyclone. These proved beneficial for immediate response activities with the passage of tropical storm Eric and intense tropical cyclone Fanele in March 2009. The Seychelles RC Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) proposal was approved, paving the way for future branch development as well as community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR). The construction of Seychelles RC office and warehouse premises is under way. The Mauritius RC continued its restructuring, including developing aspects of human resource policies and procedures and the recruitment of a new Director General. Partner National Societies (PNS) have increased their activities within the region, preferring to undertake activities bi-laterally. It is important to note that the low coverage of the plan (14 percent) down by 4 per cent from 2008, severely restricted implementation of planned activities.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget is CHF 924,418 (USD 871,264 or EUR 609,191), of which 16 per cent was covered during the reporting period. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 69,797. The implementation rate was low because 56 per cent of total income was received late during the reporting period.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also

[MDRMG002](#) Madagascar: Cyclones Emergency Appeal

[MDRMG003](#): Madagascar: Cyclone Ivan Final Report

[MDRMG00401](#): Madagascar: Tropical Cyclones (Operation Update no 1)

[The IOI Sub Zone plan 2009-2010](#))

**No. of people we have reached:** Governing Boards and management in all NS have benefitted from Federation support in capacity building. Approximately 5,000 families (representing approximately 46 per cent of affected populations), were reached by the NS in disaster response and approximately 19,060 people and 12 communities benefitted from risk reduction activities. Approximately 25,130 people benefitted from health and care activities and 11 communities benefitted from an improved water source. During the political violence in Madagascar, the Malagasy RC assisted 545 people with First Aid, and transported 143 people to hospital.

**Our partners:** The National Societies of Canada, Spain, Germany and France (through its Plateforme d'Intervention Régionale pour L'Océan Indien (PIROI) continue to operate predominantly through bi-lateral partnerships. These PNS have been providing OD, DM and Health and Care support to the Operating National Societies (ONS) in the Sub Zone. All the ONS are represented on their National Disaster Committees.

In Madagascar, the NS works closely with United Nations (UN) agencies such as World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in disaster preparedness and response, while the Comoros RC works closely with the Centre for Emergency Operations (COSEP). The Malagasy RC and the Comoros RC both worked in close collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in response to the political tensions experienced during the period.

## Context

During the reporting period, Madagascar was affected by intense tropical storm Eric and intense tropical cyclone Fanele, affecting over 50,000 people and leaving more than 4,000 homeless. A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was launched to meet the needs of approximately 5,000 beneficiaries with Non Food Items (NFIs) and the provision of clean water. But political conflicts which caused the deaths of over 130 people delayed the implementation of planned activities in response to the cyclones. The National Societies were at the forefront in providing First Aid to people injured during the political instability. PNS, along with the Federation, evacuated non essential staff from Madagascar. Comoros continued to face political tension and PNS staff had to be evacuated. Late in the period, a Yemenia Airlines plane crashed off the north coast of Comoros, with 152 people presumed dead. A DREF was launched to support the NS to provide support to the families of victims.

Official figures from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Health Organisation (WHO) show that rural communities in Madagascar and Comoros are particularly vulnerable to health emergencies, as a large portion of the population suffer from malnutrition, poor access to clean water and sanitation facilities. On the other hand, Mauritius is the second biggest consumer of heroine per capita in the world, making communities vulnerable to the spread of HIV. The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates the HIV prevalence rates in Mauritius to be over 1.7 per cent and local Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) believe that the real figure of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) is well over 2 per cent of the population according to the local media.

The worsening global economy is taking a heavy toll on the region. The devaluation of the Seychelles rupee by more than 100 per cent is increasing people's vulnerability to disasters and public health emergencies.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

#### **Programme Component: Organisational Preparedness**

##### **Outcome**

Improved capacity of National Societies within the region in emergency response

##### **Achievements**

- A DM delegate provided support to the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) in disaster management activities following the passage of cyclone Ivan. Disaster relief stocks were pre-positioned in various high risks regions and these NFIs (including kitchen sets, school kits and hygiene kits) were deployed along with 340 volunteers, during the tropical storm Eric and cyclone Fanele operations.
- The MRCS and the Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS) have successfully completed stage 1 of the climate change programme with the climate change centre in The Hague. Workshops were held and a programme proposal developed.
- The Federation has worked closely with the PIROI in the coordination of DM activities within the region. This includes the coordination and development of Indian Ocean Islands Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT).

#### **Programme Component: Disaster Management Planning**

##### **Outcome**

Disaster management capacities of volunteers and staff of the Malagasy RC are increased in 10 regions (including early recovery, disaster assessment among others)

##### **Achievements**

- The MRCS is part of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, and with support from the Federation, is planning a series of workshops to be held later during the year. These workshops will look at increasing NS capacity to deal with disasters common to the disaster prone regions (for example drought in the south of Madagascar and Floods in the north of Madagascar).
- During the emergency response to Eric and Fanele, a total of 340 volunteers were trained in needs assessment and beneficiary identification by three trained RDRT members of the Malagasy RC.

#### **Programme Component: Community Preparedness**

##### **Outcome**

Community based projects are set up in the regions to improve self reliance of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

##### **Achievements**

- With support from the Canadian RC, MRCS has undertaken Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) activities in 12 vulnerable communities. These VCA activities are being used to develop micro projects to meet needs as identified by the communities.

- The Seychelles Red Cross Society (SRCS) facilitated a workshop on climate change, attended by over 60 teachers. The aim of the workshop was to provide relevant information to teachers to help them integrate climate change in their school curriculum.
- With support from the French Red Cross and the Federation, the second phase of the risk reduction to the Karthala volcano programme was undertaken. An estimated 19,000 beneficiaries were reached through these sensitization campaigns.

## **Programme Component: Disaster Response**

### **Outcome**

The impact of disasters on people's life reduced through adequate and timely emergency response measures

### **Achievements**

- Following cyclone Ivan, seven containers containing emergency stock and relief items were prepositioned in areas prone to disasters, in particular, cyclones in Madagascar. Approximately 5000 families affected by the passage of tropical storm Eric and cyclone Fanele benefitted from these prepositioned relief items. The relief items helped the affected population in the preparation of food and to clean households and surrounding areas to prevent the spread of diseases.
- Following the passage of intense tropical storm Eric and intense tropical cyclone Fanele, the MRCS was able to respond with three validated RDRT team members and a DREF.
- The construction of the warehouse and premises of the SRCS is well under way. After completion which is expected in early 2010, the SRCS will be able to better stock emergency response items.

## **Health and Care**

### **Programme Component: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation**

#### **Outcome**

Increased and sustained country supplies of safe blood through functional blood donor's club and mobilisation campaign in communities.

#### **Achievements**

- The SRCS organised a blood donor recruitment campaign in line with the Ministry of Health's Safer Sex Campaign. A total of 130 blood donors were recruited over the three islands of Seychelles during this campaign.

### **Programme Component: Malaria**

#### **Outcome**

Vulnerable populations, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, PLHIV are protected from malaria. Community members have access to information related to malaria prevention and care.

#### **Achievements**

- As part of the response to intense tropical storm Eric and intense tropical cyclone Fanele, approximately 10,000 mosquito nets were distributed to approximately 5000 families. Volunteers also explained to beneficiaries on the proper use of these mosquito nets to ensure maximum protection against malaria.
- In partnership with the American Red Cross, the MRCS is continuing the monitoring of its "hang up" campaign.
- The MRCS is a key partner in the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

## **Programme Component: Avian Flu**

### **Outcome**

Increased awareness of Avian Flu among the target communities

### **Achievements**

- The MRCS is an active member of the national task force for the prevention of the human influenza virus (H2P) in Madagascar. During the period, the Federation supported a series of workshops and briefings for the development of an exchange concept paper on H2P.

## **Programme Component: Water and Sanitation**

### **Outcome**

Improved health of the Malagasy population with improved access to safe water and increased proper hygiene practices

### **Achievements**

- As part of the response to intense tropical storm Eric and intense tropical cyclone Fanele, approximately 11 community wells serving drinking water to locals were strengthened to prevent future contamination. The MRCS also worked with communities to establish local teams and procedures for the maintenance of these wells.

During the reporting period there were no achievements under the following programme components: community based health and First Aid; measles and polio and; maternal, newborn and child health. This was due to low appeal coverage.

In addition, there were no HIV and AIDS activities implemented due to lack of funding. The MRCS is a member of the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS, its plan was incorporated in the regional appeal launched on the Federation website in June 2008. For more information on the Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS plan for Madagascar which still requires funding visit the Federation website on: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual08/MAA64006.pdf>

## **Organizational Development/Capacity Building**

### **Programme Component: Well functioning National Society**

#### **Outcome**

All NS have a well functioning organization with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of managerial and technical competencies with improved coordination between management and governance.

#### **Achievements**

- The Federation has assisted the Mauritius RC in developing aspects of its human resource functions. This included developing organigrams and developing job descriptions, as well as the recruitment of a Director General, interviewed in June 2009.
- The Federation has also supported the Mauritius RC in statute revisions to clearly define roles and responsibilities of governance and management. The statutes were approved by the Joint Statutes Committee in Geneva.
- The Federation supported the Seychelles RC in developing a finance and administration procedures manual, expected to be implemented during the second half of 2009.
- A local branch of the Mauritius RC was established on the main island of Mahé in Seychelles.

## **Programme Component: Programme Management**

### **Outcome**

Improved planning, performance and accountability of NS programmes through reinforced capacities in project management areas

### **Achievement**

- The Malagasy Red Cross is engaging with more national and international partners, as it is increasingly seen as a reliable actor in the current political climate.

During the reporting period, as a result of low funding, no activities were conducted in one of the programme components of OD namely, ensuring financial sustainability.

## Principles and Values

## **Programme Component: Promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values**

### **Outcome**

Enhanced knowledge, understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (including non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance, and respect for diversity) within the Red Cross/Red Crescent and the general population

### **Achievements**

All NS in the region carried out different activities to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Solferino for example Mauritius RC organised a march followed by activities for the dissemination of the Geneva Convention, amongst other things to celebrate this event. The Seychelles RC used the anniversary of the battle of Solferino to launch a three year campaign to promote International Humanitarian Laws (IHL) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Seychelles. Publicity material (including videos of the “the Story of an Idea”) on IHL, the use of the emblem and the Principles and Values of the Red Cross were shared with the Seychelles People’s Defence force. The event was also attended by officials of the government, NGOs and Seychelles RC staff and volunteers.

## Working in partnership

United Nations agencies, CARE International and other NGOs actively collaborated with Madagascar and Comoros National Societies during emergencies. Many of the NS in the Sub Zone worked in close collaboration with different departments of their public authorities in disaster preparedness and response programmes.

The Federation continues to support the NS in ensuring that activities are carried out in conformity with the Movement’s principles and mandate. Federation provided support to the NS through coordination, capacity building and large scale disaster response. An integration agreement between the Federation and the Canadian RC was signed in Mauritius. Two partnership meetings were held in Madagascar and Comoros during the period to help improve the coordination of Movement partners’ activities within the region. The ICRC continues to work with the NS for the dissemination of Principles and Values of the Movement, as well as general advocacy. The ICRC provided support to the Malagasy RC and Comoros RC in light of the political tensions during the period.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Following the operation of cyclone Ivan in Madagascar, an independent evaluation of the operation was conducted, and was welcomed by the NS as a continuous learning and improvement tool. Procedures for the recruitment of a Finance Development delegate began

during the period. The Finance Development delegate will support the NS in recording and reporting and will help operationalize the recommendations of the 2006/2007 audit report.

The NS in the sub region prioritized community level disaster preparedness and response; community based First Aid as well as the establishment of community disaster response teams. The support of the Federation and the Canadian RC in developing VCA activities is helping the NS to increase and diversify their level of community based activities.

Through the support of PIROI, the Federation is coordinating the development of an Indian Ocean Islands RDRT. This will ensure that standards in emergency response meet internationally recognised standards.

## Looking ahead

The low response to the appeal means that most planned activities could not be implemented. During the second half of the year, the Federation's IOI Sub Zone office will continue to provide technical support to the NS to ensure better functioning societies, improved programme management and reporting, as well as improved standards in disaster preparedness and response. The restructuring process in Mauritius, and finance development in Madagascar will be priorities for the rest of the year 2009.

PNS are more and more opting for bi-lateral partnerships hence the Federation needs to continue its role and provide greater coordination support to ensure a smooth working relationship between ONS and their partners.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
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