The Indian Ocean Islands and Djibouti (IOI&D) IFRC cluster have been put in place in April 2018 by reducing the size of East Africa and IOI Cluster to better service the specific needs of islands and Djibouti to improve national society capacity, reduce the impact of climate change related hazards including environmental risks. In general, the Indian Ocean region is particularly vulnerable to cyclones, floods and droughts. Those natural hazards are becoming more and more intense causing severe impacts affecting more people every year, especially the most vulnerable.

For 2019, activities will be focused on fostering the capacity of National societies to respond to disasters and support the local capacities to be able to engage and assist vulnerable communities, improve their resilience and empower them in anticipating existing and emerging risks at local level. Capacity building of the National societies will be supported to reach the agreed planned priorities and will take in consideration branches as centres of resilience in program approach. Specific attention will be given to take in account and respond to women and young girls’ specific needs as well as youth in general. Risk reduction and resilience programme include health risk, epidemic response and community-based activities for creating healthy living environment. Specific attention will be given to risk anticipation by bridging humanitarian intervention to climate science and by developing operational early warning-early action framework. Preparedness for volcano eruption in Comoros will be appropriately targeted.

Some National societies covered by the IOI&D cluster will y will be supported to become accountable, transparent to be able to fulfil their role and mandate in a credible manner.

The cluster will play a leadership role for movement coordination in the region, ensure the dialogue between PNSs and National Societies is well facilitated and will create enabling environment for complementarity and synergy between programmes to ensure coordinated support to National Societies in the region. Specifically, movement cooperation will be focused on 3 main areas:

1. joint planning and joint support to National Societies,
2. operational coordination mainly during disasters or conflicts to ensure appropriate information sharing and coordinated support/actions,
3. facilitation platform to ensure dialogue between movement partners and National societies to support some priorities thematic areas like localization and grand bargain.

The Plan 2019 objective is to ensure that National societies have appropriate capacities to respond to disasters and to conduct community resilience program to prevent shocks including epidemics and public health emergencies. Programs will also include promotion social inclusion as well as non-violence and peace.
Humanitarian Challenges

With 5 countries under his responsibilities, the new IO&D cluster addresses, one the one hand countries with relatively high Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as it is the case of Mauritius and Seychelles, and which have specific needs for small islands; and on the other hand developing countries facing enormous challenges at national but also local level, with a large number of vulnerabilities, especially to support their communities.

The Indian Ocean region is known to be particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts. Those natural hazards intensify further making severe impacts affecting more people every year, especially those who are already vulnerable. But some of them are also dealing with health issue, as Comoros with water borne diseases epidemic due to floods or Madagascar with plague outbreak and food insecurity in the big south.

Areas of Focus

Disaster Risk Reduction

Activities will target capacity building of the National Societies through training of volunteers, such as the BDRT, CDBRT and NDRT, and preparedness to manage disaster risks and support community resilience to climate change shocks. Early warning early action framework will be fostered to improve the community engagement:

- 40,000 people are reached with public awareness and education campaigns using harmonized messages to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks,
- 5 community early warning systems, linked with meteorological forecast are established or improved
- 40,000 people are reached by climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability awareness campaigns

SHELTER

In 2019, the IFRC will ensure within the activities the continuum of preparedness, response, recovery and development to reduce response. Disaster preparedness and response actions will be done in close coordination with the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI) and other interested partners, particularly through the newly established sub-regional shelter and settlements support based in Madagascar. Thus, the IFRC will promote prepositioning buffer stocks as well as cash assistance and target identified branches and local teams’ capacity building for a timely and effective response.

- 10,000 households are provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance,
- 10,000 households are provided with technical support and guidance

Health

Focus will be given to first aid in normal context, which will be targeting capacity building of the National Society to reinforce the first aid internal structure; and first aid in emergency operations, especially during epidemic. Preparedness for plague epidemic in Madagascar and other disease with epidemic potential will be supported.

- 30,000 people are reached through direct health service provision,
- 200 volunteers are trained in epidemic control

WASH

The 2019 plan will support hygiene and sanitation promotion messages to prevention of water-born diseases. Activities related to water hygiene information and education, including community awareness on vector-borne diseases will be supported. These activities will take in account children and young people as well as implementing washing hands campaign in schools in collaboration with local actors and partners. Community will also be involved and will be empowered with appropriate technical skills and knowledge for sustainable interventions.

- 70% of targeted communities are using appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services,
- 5,000 households are reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene

Statistics

Estimated population in the sub region is over 28 million,

- 3 developing countries in the sub region
- 5 tropical cyclones in the sub region in 2017-2018
- 3 intense tropical storms in the region in 2017-2018.
- 400 endemic plague cases per year in Madagascar

Strategies for Implementation

Strengthen National Society Capacity

For 2019, the main purpose of the cluster is to support National Society to become accountable and sustainable organization, with a strong identity, role and mandate, especially knowing that some of them are dealing with governance and management crisis.

- 3 National Societies will be producing audited financial statements
- 3 National Societies have a self-development plan in follow up to OCAC
- 3 National Societies have long-term programme that has CEA

Ensure Effective International Disaster Management

The Indian Ocean islands are concerned every year by lots of natural hazards, public health issues, and the consequences in the communities, especially in the most vulnerable, are catastrophic. IFRC will be focused on the One billion coalition principle to create an exchanges platform for local and national actors and will support the National Society to new cooperation and collaboration investment. Also, efforts will be done to facilitate communication and cooperation between all the internal actors of the movement through annual or bi-annual meeting gathering all the concerned actors.

- 5 National Societies are ensured to deliver effective disaster management programmes
- 100% operations comply to IFRC Principles and rules for Humanitarian Assistance

Ensure A Strong IFRC

IFRC is well recognized by the partners as the most effective community-based organization mainly due to its volunteers’ networks. The works of the volunteers at community level should be well translated at national and international level as a coordinated result by the IFRC. Financial resources as well as mastering knowledges on community programs and humanitarian actions should be the cornerstone of an effective IFRC. At least 1 sub-regional campaign is conducted by the communication network.

- 90% of large-scale IFRC emergency appeals for which audits of financial statements are conducted in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards