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Operation Update

Comoros: Tropical Cyclone Kenneth

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRKM007	GLIDE n° TC-2019-000039-COM
EPoA update n° 1 - June 2019 Covering operation's implementation for three months	Expected timeframe: 12 Months Expected end date: 31 May 2020
Operation start date: 26 th April 2019	Operation timeframe: 9 Months until December 2019
Overall operation budget: 2,400,000 CHF	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 127,474
N° of people being assisted: 20,000 people	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: French Red Cross in country, Indian Ocean Platform for Regional Intervention (PIROI-French Red Cross), IFRC and ICRC as regional partners	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: General Directorate of Civil Protection (COSEP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNPD, WHO, WFP CARITAS African Development Bank, and African Development Bank	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

In April 2019, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth went at its closest to the Comoros archipelago, mainly affecting the island of Grand Comore (crossing the island) and causing subsequent flooding in Grande Comore, Moheli and Anjouan islands of Union of Comoros.



Figure 1: Shelter and household destroyed by Cyclone Kenneth

There have been heavy rains pouring on all three islands of Comoros since April 2019, causing flooding. Comoros is a country prone to hydrological disasters which normally have severe impact on the country's population and infrastructure. Based on experience of other cyclones, it is estimated that at least 25,000 people have been affected by the cyclone in the at-risk areas across the Union of Comoros. Joint rapid assessments have been setup by

the government and partner agencies to ascertain the scale of the disaster.

The General Directorate of Civil Protection [COSEP] was activated in April. Three coordination meetings of actors (states, NGOs, UN) have been held. The meteorological alert level changed to orange on the 23rd at 4:30 pm and to red in the afternoon of 24th April 2019. The government declared a state of natural disaster.

The Government capacities are very limited and so is the humanitarian presence, with Comoros Red Crescent Society (CoRC) being the main actor. There were rains for 2 days that caused floods in the city of Bambao.

The funds allocated for the operation enabled the CoRC to initiate response activities to the flooding as well as to replenish materials that will be distributed to the affected families as part of their early actions. The Appeal will also ensure that the NS has resources to conduct detailed needs assessments in all three affected islands which will in turn inform any strategy changes in the operation.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Immediately after the alert was given Comoros Red Crescent (CoRC) mobilized volunteers to access the situation. There are 110 volunteers amongst them 55 volunteers trained in Evaluation, 30 volunteers trained in Shelter and 25 volunteers trained in WASH.

NS volunteers conducted sensitization activities targeting 5,070 vulnerable households, to help them strengthen the roofs of their homes and providing information to communities to take appropriate preventive measures as the Cyclone formed. CoRC will continue to focus on assessing community needs like Shelter, household items (HHI), WASH, and Health. The NS has prepositioned HHI in this sector to support a rapid response launch following the impact of the cyclone

CoRC has taken actions in response to the disaster which include:

- Rapid assessment
- Emergency aid
- Identification of Water Tanks damage
- Houses cleaning
- 1 Hospital cleaned
- Roads cleaned

CoRC has equipped themselves with 2 Red Crescent vehicles, 13 staff members and 320 volunteers to ensure continuation of the response.

CoRC has a Floods Contingency Plan which proposes the implementation of the following activities:

- First aid and evacuation assistance
- Shelter
- Health promotion and psychological support
- Food and non-food distribution
- Drinking water and sanitation / hygiene
- Restoring family links
- Participating in evaluations and coordination of activities

CoRC is active in the areas of youth, first aid, health, promotion of humanitarian principles and values, capacity building, water and sanitation, the disaster risk management, vulnerability and capacity assessment at community level.

The National Society is also a member of the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI) since 2000 and is supported through a regional disaster risk reduction programme by the French Red Cross.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC continues to provide support to Comoros Red Crescent (CoRC) through its Indian Ocean Islands and Djibouti Country Cluster Support Team (IOID CCST) office based in Antananarivo, Madagascar. IOID CCST and Africa region have been actively engaging the National Society for readiness actions including the development of the emergency plan of action to ease release funds through DREF. IFRC supports organizational development and

coordination between Movement partners, UN organizations, International NGOs and Government disaster management authorities.

There have been continuous discussions between the CoRC, PIROI and IFRC since the launch of the alert for cyclone Kenneth. PIROI has prepositioned stocks in the CoRC warehouse in Moroni and Grande Comore which has been utilized during the response and has been replenished through this DREF operation. PIROI has also taken part in distribution to 500 HH consisting of tarpaulin (2 per HH) and kitchen kits. They have also made a distribution for the benefit of 871 households in the 3 islands.

The CoRC continues to work closely with French Red Cross (FRC) in-country delegation which supports the CoRC on Primary Health programme held in the three islands.

ICRC in Comoros is supporting activities on international humanitarian law (IHL).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

- Several actors and the Government of Comoros are also active in the country, providing support to vulnerable populations. International humanitarian organizations present in Comoros include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNPD, WHO, WFP CARITAS and the African Development Bank.
- National workshop was organised for build back safer with UNDP, UN-HABITAT, Ministry of Land Development

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Preliminary information collected indicate that approximately 1,200 households, their homes and livelihoods have been affected in Grande Comore, Moheli, and Anjouan Islands have been impacted, with some flooded areas. So far, the immediate needs of affected communities can be summarized as follows:



Shelter

More than 5,070 households have been affected by winds or flooded in Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Moheli, and Anjouan. These households have been evacuated preventively and sheltered within host families in each affected villages of Grande Comoros.

Shelter needs are still a requirement, especially for families whose houses have been completely destroyed and those whose houses have been partially destroyed.

A workshop for sharing good practices was organized with the support of UNDP and which saw the participation of all actors involved in the construction, including the State, town halls, the populations, the CoRC. During this workshop, the CoRC was of a great contribution because having animated different themes among others, the sharing of international experiences, build back better, and more resilient houses. This has given UNDP confidence in entrusting constructor / Foundi training to CoRC. The creation of Foundi (community-based builders) thus contributes to both the approach and the implementation of providing the vulnerable population with accessible tools for a resilient habitat.



WASH and related HHI

Displaced families need to be supported with WASH needs to prevent any water borne disease outbreaks. The needs include the provision of soap for hand washing and other usage, the provision of buckets and jerry cans for safe storage of water and the provision of water purification tablets.



Health

Floods and cyclonic events can lead to injuries and increased health needs in affected communities. There is a need for the NS to provide first aid to reduce the loss of life, PSS services to the affected communities and carry out referral to nearest available health facilities. The fact that mosquitoes breed in areas with stagnant water, has equally revealed the need for mosquito nets to avoid the spread of Malaria. Indeed, Comoros is prone to Malaria and with the increase of stagnant water the risk of spread of the disease can be high.

Targeting

The CoRC will concentrate its initial efforts to assist 2,500 people (500 households) who include the affected population in Grand Comore, Moheli, and Anjouan.

Selected households will be distributed as follows: Grande Comore: 375 HHs, Moheli: 50 HHs and Anjouan: 75 HHs.

People to be assisted will be identified through rapid assessments by the CoRC, its local disaster management committees and partners with active participation of the communities, based on set selection criteria including:

- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Female-Headed Households and Pregnant Women
- Elderly People
- People with Disabilities
- Chronically ill people
- Children head households

Operation Risk Assessment

No.	Risks	Mitigation Measures
1.	The partnership between CoRC and DGSC is not very good hence some of CRCo's activities may take some time to be approved by government	Visit to the Manager of Directorate-General for Civil Security (DGSC), the colonel and discuss with him about CRC's actions/ activities
2.	Difficult in mobilizing funds for the implementation of activities which will lead to delay in implementing activities	Opening a bank account for a working advance
3.	Some areas are inaccessible due to cyclone Kenneth and consequent floods. This will affect the response as most areas could become inaccessible.	The CoRC will continue to closely monitor the situation and will provide appropriate interventions to scenarios as they unfold
4	Having a good exit strategy.	The IFRC will work with the CoRC and its partners to develop an appropriate exit strategy before the end of the operation. This will be done by building a strong coordination mechanism and links with the Ministry in charge, and any other relevant government bodies.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy relatively remains the same as highlighted in [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPOA\)](#)

Operational Support Services

Human resources

A total number of 110 volunteers selected within the affected communities to provide support in implementing activities as part of the operation. Amongst the 110, 55 volunteers are dedicated in Evaluation, 30 volunteers are dedicated in Shelter and 25 in WASH. A surge team of two (02) persons with WASH (RDRT), shelter (RDRT) profiles are deployed to support a rapid in-depth needs assessment.

Other Operational support services provided remains the same as indicated in the [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPOA\)](#)

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 4,355 people (871 households) Male: Female:</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and short-term recovery through emergency shelter and settlement solutions		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people/households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	1,750 people or 350 HH	871 HH
Output 1.1: Short-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% / # of people reached with RCRC	10% or 2,500	4,355
# of shelter related HHI procured and distributed	350 shelter kits, 700 tarpaulins, 1,000 sleeping mats, 500 lanterns, 350 cooking stoves	953 shelter tool kits which comprise of 2 taps, 700 tarpaulins, 500 sleeping mats, 500 lanterns, 500 cooking stoves
Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers providing recipient households with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they received	30 volunteers and 3 supervisors	50 volunteers and 5 supervisors
# households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they received	350 households or 1,750 people	871 HHs
Minimum percentage of volunteers and recipients who acknowledge the usefulness of the technical support provided on safe shelter construction	at least 80%	50%
Progress towards outcomes		



Figure 2: Volunteers training in Shelter

2,500 people (500 Households) were to be assisted (1,261 males and 1,239 females). Some 871 household have been assisted through different activities.

ECHO beneficiaries were 871 households, served with kits distribution. Among the 871 households, 448 households benefited from shelter toolkits and other items: jerry cans, bucket, soap, mosquito net and kitchen set (ECHO beneficiaries family kit).

USAID beneficiaries were 439 households, served with family kits. The Kits are composed of soap, mattress, kitchen set, petrol lamp and mat (USAID beneficiaries family kit).

Awareness raising/training of shelter volunteers was carried out. About 30 volunteers were trained in the use of shelter kit and BBS.

For 4 days, volunteers have been trained in modules on building better. Modules developed are: Disaster management, Bracing methods, Sphere standards, local constructive cultures, exercises, etc.



Health

People reached: 4,355 people (871 households)

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people/households reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	2,500 people or 500 households	4,355

Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito nets distributed	1,000	0
Minimum percentage of target population properly using distributed mosquito nets	80%	0%

Progress towards outcomes

The households benefited from sensitization from the activities done in shelter.
Monitoring of distribution of mosquito nets will be conducted later on.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 4,355 people

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households/people provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context	2,273	4,355
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Minimum percentage of water related HHI recipients practicing proper handling of water and storage container	2,273	4,355
# of post-distribution monitoring of water treatment and storage equipment conducted	2	0
Output 1.2: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of functional emergency latrines	50 latrines	0
% of target population properly using the emergency latrines and handwashing facilities	80%	0
Output 1.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households/people reached by hygiene promotion activities	136	136
# of hygiene awareness campaigns conducted	3	1
% of common water related diseases prevented due to change of behaviour after hygiene promotion activities	100%	6%
Progress towards outcomes		
The implementation of activities has enabled the population to cope and reduce the risks associated with the consumption of water in the tanks. The water of the sea or debris emanating from the cyclone contaminates this water, most of the time. Tank cleaning and water treatment, sensitization through home visits, have greatly contributed to the reduction of water-related risks as a whole.		

Strengthen National Society		
Requirements (CHF): 53,996		
Outcome 2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination meetings attended by NS	20	28
Output 2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge team members deployed to support the NS activities	3	2
Output 2.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted to inform programmatic changes	3	2
# of lessons learnt workshop conducted	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		
Currently only two surge members were requested. This is because the third surge member is for logistics		

D. Disaster Response Financial Report

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



**Enable healthy
and safe living.**



**Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.**

