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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Mauritius: Plague Preparedness

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRMU001</b>	
<b>Date of issue:</b> 23 October 2017	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 03 months
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> Yellow / Orange / Red	
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 39,650	
<b>Operations Manager (responsible for this EPoA):</b> Marshal Mukuware DM Delegate, Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Cluster	<b>Point of Contact in National Society:</b> Navin Mahadoo, Acting Secretary General/DM Coordinator, Mauritius Red Cross Society (MRCS)
<b>Total number of people affected:</b> 1,263,000 (Population of Mauritius)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 315,750 (25% of the population)
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> The National Society has 6 branches on two Islands with 300 active volunteers and 15 staff members. Some 120 volunteers will be mobilized to support the preparedness activities.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> IFRC, French Red Cross, PIROI – Regional Intervention Platform for Indian Ocean, and ICRC.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> World Health Organisation and Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.	

### A. Situation analysis

#### Description of the disaster

A plague outbreak in Madagascar has raised concern in neighbouring countries. As of 12 October, a total of 684 cases (suspected, probable and confirmed) including 57 deaths (CFR 8.3%) have been reported from 35 out of 114 districts. Of these 474 were clinically classified as pneumonic plague.

The Madagascar MoH reported caseload on 16 October was 805 (confirmed and suspected) with 74 deaths. While Madagascar is accustomed to seasonal bubonic plague outbreaks characterised by a combination of pneumonic and bubonic plague; pneumonic plague, which currently counts 65% of the caseload, is transmitted from person-to-person and the fact that the majority of the cases are occurring in urban areas, make this year's outbreak a serious concern not only for Madagascar but for the region.

Consequently, the WHO has classified the current outbreak in Madagascar as a grade 2 emergency. WHO liaison officer expressed concern of the outbreak and considered Mauritius as a priority country, emphasized on preparedness and stated that support can be provided.

Plague can be a very severe disease in people, particularly in its septicemic and pneumonic forms, with a case-fatality ratio of 30-100% if left untreated. The pneumonic form is invariably fatal unless treated early, is especially contagious and can trigger severe epidemics through person-to-person contact via droplets in the air.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/plague/en/>

MRCS seeks CHF 57,755 for preparedness on plague for 315,7450 (25% of the caseload) people at risk for 03 months through provision of training of volunteers on the plague, prepositioning of PPE and IEC materials to be used in time of need.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

The MRCS is a humanitarian institution working in the areas of Health and Care including first aid, promotion of humanitarian principles and values, disaster risk management, and vulnerability and capacity assessment at community level. The MRCS has six local branches and committees (including Rodrigues, an outer island). It has a strong community presence through its volunteers' network with its volunteers integrated into the community. The National Society (NS) enjoys strong recognition from both the local population and local authorities.

The MRCS through its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities and at the request of these authorities, is engaged in the monitoring of situations and mobilized from the first monitoring meetings on the risk of spread of the epidemic. The experience gained during previous epidemics (H1N1, chikungunya) makes MRCS a privileged intervener in the management of this situation.

The MRCS is involved in national level preparedness of epidemics, including through participation in coordination meetings and drafting of the national contingency plan.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC supports MRCS through its Eastern Africa and Indian Islands Cluster office in Nairobi. The IFRC provides technical support to MRCS through trainings to staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response. PIROI supports the Indian Ocean Islands in disaster preparedness and response through the PIROI programme which is a partnership of the Indian Oceans Islands, Tanzania and Mozambique National Societies. The MRCS has just signed an MoU with the Italian Red Cross in view of upgrading its ambulance service and increase the capacity of its volunteers.

The ICRC's Regional Delegation for the Indian Ocean Islands is based in Mauritius and provides support to MRCS.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

At government level, a plague preparedness plan has been developed. Restricted technical meetings (Ministry of Health / WHO) were held where public messages were published on local newspapers.

The public Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Quality of life increased vigilance at airport and port (point of entry), concerned department increase rodent control in port area and airport (cargo and passenger entry).

At regional level, the Indian Ocean Commission's Health Surveillance Unit has set up a mechanism for preparing IOC Member States at risk: supplying the competent administrations of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles via the Institut Pasteur of Madagascar with rapid diagnosis kits in case of suspected plague in a returning Madagascar traveler.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

Moderate risk of importation of the plague is present due to the persistent evolution of the epidemic in Madagascar and that the maritime and air movements are still maintained by the authorities of the Republic of Mauritius. Due to the incubation period of the disease, an infected person may develop symptoms after his or her trip. Merchandise boats also represent a high risk with the potential to transport vector animals. This risk is more important because of the clandestine nature of many boats docking in informal places. Mauritius including Rodrigues, are tourist industry as one among its pillars of the economy but are also the gateways of travelers, thus exposed to the risk of contamination.

Nine countries and overseas territories have been identified as high risk for plague outbreak by virtue of having trade and travel links to Madagascar. These priority countries include Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa, and Tanzania.

There is limited knowledge on the plague in Mauritius which might affect early detection and reporting of the outbreak which would limit the capacity to contain the outbreak.

### Targeting

The DREF operation will target 120 volunteers and staff of MRCS through capacity building on the Plague disease. The DREF will also enable and support MRCS to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Quality of life, government departments and WHO in planning the response to the potential outbreak of plague.

### Operation Risk Assessment

There is no anticipated operational risk in the implementation of the preparedness activities. However, detection of cases might bring temporary travel ban from to Mauritius.

## B. Operational strategy<sup>2</sup>

### Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of the operation is to contribute to the preparation of the Republic of Mauritius to a potential outbreak of the plague. This will be achieved through training of MCRCS volunteers and dissemination of key messages developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to improve the population's knowledge about the Plague.

This will be achieved through:

- Coordination meeting with MoH and MRCS branches about preparedness planning
- Training of volunteers on the plague
- Training of volunteers in contact tracing and social mobilization
- Procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Development and dissemination of key messages on the plague

<sup>2</sup> The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Health

People targeted: 315,750

Requirements: CHF 39,650

Needs analysis:

The situation in Madagascar including the death of a Seychelles citizen and one confirmed case recorded in Seychelles after a person travelling from Madagascar tested positive to the plague show there is a moderate risk of the plague affecting Mauritius. The country has been identified as high risk for plague outbreak, WHO is encouraging preparedness activities. Preparedness and readiness in neighboring regions and countries, including at the points of entry, should be enhanced. Therefore, there is a need to train staff and volunteers of the NS on the Plague, contact tracing and social mobilization. Through this operation the NS will procure and preposition protective equipment and antibiotics. Through the operation the IFRC will support MRCS to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, government departments and other actors in putting in place preparedness plans.

Population to be assisted:

The operation will target the staff and 120 volunteers of the NS with trainings while the population at risk will be reached through social mobilization activities.

Programme standards/benchmarks: *The operation will be informed by the on-going response in Madagascar.*

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 1: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.	# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities															
	Health Output 1.1: Communities are supported by NS to effectively detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks	# of volunteers trained by NS in epidemic control															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP021	Planning and Coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health																
AP021	Planning and Coordination meetings with MRCS branches																
AP021	Training of volunteers on contact tracing and social mobilization																
AP021	Training of volunteers on the plague																
P&B Output	Health Output 1.2: Communities are provided by NS with services to identify and reduce health risks	# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors															



## D. Budget

Madagascar Plague  
MDRMG013

Budget Group		Multilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
500	Shelter - Relief	0	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0	0
520	Food	0	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	0	0
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	0	0
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	0	0
594	Logistics Services	0	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
600	International Staff	5,000	5,000
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	0	0
667	Volunteers	180	180
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>5,180</b>	<b>5,180</b>
670	Consultants	0	0
750	Professional Fees	0	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	7,850	7,850
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>7,850</b>	<b>7,850</b>
700	Travel	3,000	3,000
710	Information & Public Relations	19,850	19,850
730	Office Costs	150	150
740	Communications	1,200	1,200

760	Financial Charges	0	0
790	Other General Expenses	0	0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0
	<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>24,200</b>
		0	0
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
	<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>		<b>0</b>
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	2,420	2,420
	<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>2,420</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>39,650</b>	<b>39,650</b>
	<b>Available Resources</b>		
	Multilateral Contributions		0
	Bilateral Contributions		0
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS</b>	<b>39,650</b>	<b>39,650</b>

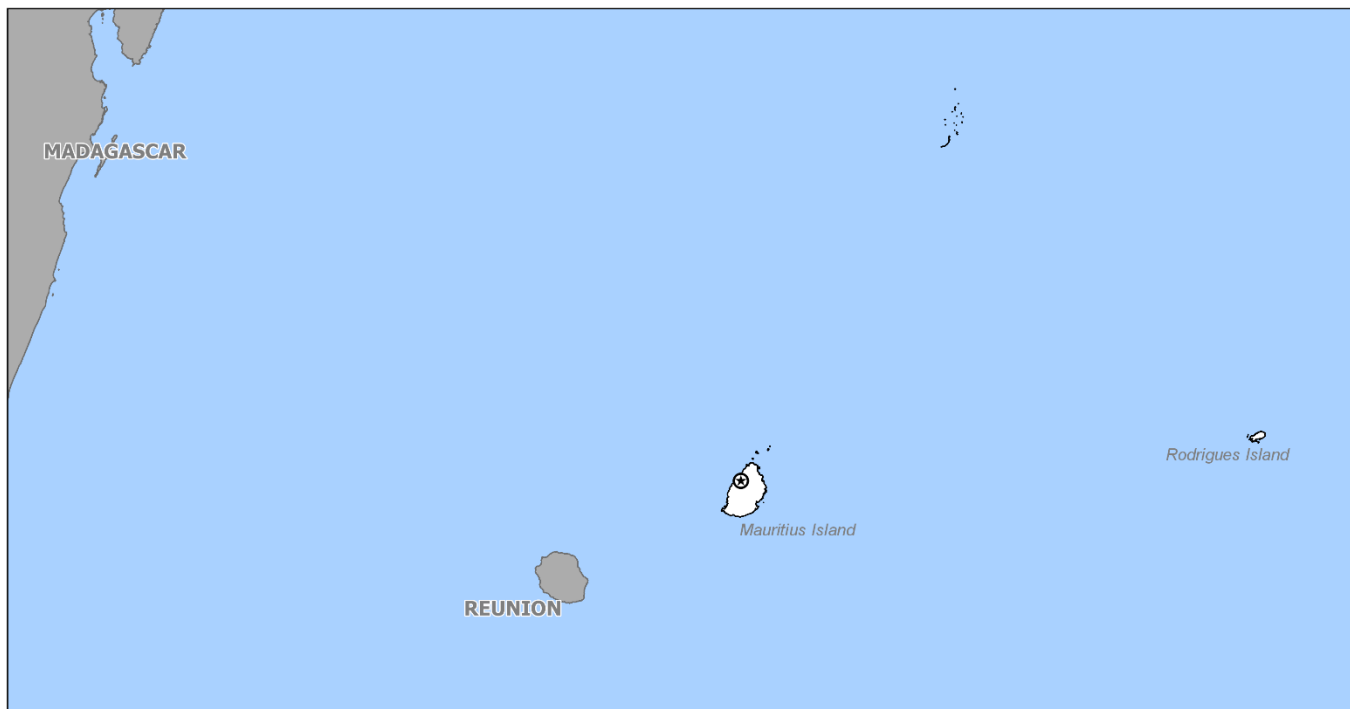


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



## Mauritius: Plague Preparedness

18 October 2016



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: IFRC, GADM. Map produced by IFRC Africa Regional Office, Nairobi.



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

#### In the National Society

- **Mauritius Red Cross Society:** Navin Mahadoo, Secretary General; phone: +230 579 70 095; email: [navin.dmc.mrcs@outlook.com](mailto:navin.dmc.mrcs@outlook.com)

#### In the IFRC

- **IFRC Country Cluster Support Team office:** Andreas Sandin, Operations Coordinator, Nairobi, phone: +254 732508060, email: [andreas.sandin@ifrc.org](mailto:andreas.sandin@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Operational Manager for Seychelles:** Marshal Mukuware, DM Delegate, Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Cluster, Email [marshal.mukuware@ifrc.org](mailto:marshal.mukuware@ifrc.org) | Phone: +254 780 930 280

#### Regional Office for Africa

- Florent DelPinto, Acting Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +254 731067489; email: [florent.delpinto@ifrc.org](mailto:florent.delpinto@ifrc.org)

#### In IFRC Geneva

- Eszter Matyeka, Senior officer, DREF; phone +41-2-2730-4566; email: [eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org](mailto:eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org)
- Cristina Estrada, Response and recovery lead; phone: +41-22734260; email: [cristina.estrada@ifrc.org](mailto:cristina.estrada@ifrc.org)

#### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

**In IFRC Africa Region:** Kentaro Nagazumi, Coordinator Partnerships and Resource Development; Nairobi; phone: +254 731984117; email: [kentaro.nagazumi@ifrc.org](mailto:kentaro.nagazumi@ifrc.org)

#### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Region Logistics Unit; phone: +254 733888022 / Fax +254 202712777; email: [rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org](mailto:rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org)

#### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Fiona Gatere, PMER Coordinator, phone: +254 20 283 5185; email: [fiona.gatere@ifrc.org](mailto:fiona.gatere@ifrc.org)

## 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.