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Final Report

Comoros: Tropical Cyclone Belna

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRKM008;
Date of Issue: 24 November 2020	Glide number: TC-2019-000166-COM
Operation start date: 08 December 2019	Operation end date: 8 January 2020
Host National Society(ies): Comoros Red Crescent	Operation budget: CHF 76,903
Number of people affected: 0 people affected across 3 islands	Number of people assisted: 50 people
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and French RC through PIROI	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Emergency Operations and Civil Protection Centre (COSEP), UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, WPF, Caritas, AfDB.	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) and DG ECHO contributed to replenishing the DREF for this operation. On behalf of the Comoros Red Crescent (CRC), the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.

<Please click [here](#) for the final financial report and click [here](#) for the contacts>

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 2 December 2019, a cyclone named "BELNA" was reported in the Indian Ocean and two islands of the Comoros: the island of Anjouan in the region of Pomoni and Sima, and the island of Mohéli in the region of Nioumachouwa. These islands were classified among those most at risk of being impacted by Tropical Cyclone Belna. Indeed, the populations of these three targeted regions had previously experienced strong winds and heavy rains.

Immediately after the alert of vigilance declared by the General Directorate of Public Security (DGSP), Comoros Red Crescent in collaboration with the French Red Cross and the IFRC immediately set up a coordination unit to ensure permanent follow up conducted the rapid assessments in Anjouan and Mohéli. This unit also participated in the various meetings held at the DGSP to present the approach adopted by the National Society to avoid duplication and above all to ensure consistency among the various disaster response actors. These meetings also served as a platform to orient and brief the National Society staff. The unit was funded by the French Red Cross (3-days on call from 8 am to 6 pm) at the headquarters of the National Society.

On the basis of weather alerts, a [DREF EPOA](#) was approved for CHF 76,903 on 8 December 2019 to carry out three main preparedness activities:

- Rapid assessments,

- Training on WASH, Shelter and Health in the three at risk areas, based on previous experiences from cyclone Kenneth,
- Preposition of NFIs for eventual assistance.

A mission led by an emergency relief and distribution manager of the NS was carried out on the two islands from 07 to 11 December. The objective of this mission was to:

- Setting up of internal and external coordination mechanisms for the operation of the Comoros Red Crescent relief system,
- Initiate the branch level intervention teams to the new procedures and the organizational mode,
- Identify with the branches, the potential resource persons to integrate into the emergency system,
- Brief volunteers on the actions to be undertaken during the cyclone alert phase.

The Anjouan and Mohéli branches conducted a rapid assessment in the mentioned areas but finally, Cyclone Belna did not have a significant impact in the area. Only a few preparedness activities such as trainings and assessments were conducted at a total cost of CHF 13,959. The balance of CHF62,944 will be returned to the DREF Fund.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

For dealing with this anticipated disaster, the National Society conducted a rapid assessment in the area to detect the damage caused by the cyclone. This evaluation was carried out by teams from the Anjouan branch on 08th December. The results of this assessment highlighted that there were no deaths, no displaced persons and no destruction of houses. Only the Nindri River (Pomoni Village) overflowed and washed away an 8m dam, damaging the water catchment (broken pipe), resulting in contamination of the water source. The population thus struggled to obtain drinking water. Following this, a training and simulation on the treatment of water in emergency situations was conducted with the population during a community awareness session.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country.

IFRC provided support to Comoros Red Crescent (CoRC) through the Indian Ocean Islands Country Cluster Support Team (IOI CCST) office based in Madagascar. In addition, during this disaster, there was an Operation Manager present in Comoros supporting the CoRC in the implementation of [Cyclone Kenneth Emergency Appeal](#) as well as supporting the National Society in capacity building.

IFRC supported organizational development and coordination between Movement partners, UN organizations, International NGOs and Government disaster management authorities. IFRC kept contacts with UN coordination country team at country level to ensure coordination and synergy. Discussions had been ongoing between the CoRC, PIROI and IFRC since the launch of the pre-alert for TC Belna. As such, stocks were prepositioned at the CoRC warehouse in Moroni and Grande Comore, thanks to PIROI, which were supposed to be utilized if needed and replenished through this DREF operation. The CoRC worked closely with French Red Cross (FRC) in-country delegation which was supporting (in that time) the CoRC on Primary Health programme held in the three islands. In addition, CoRC is also supported by the FRC-PIROI for contingency planning for floods. The French Red Cross had an emergency fund that can be bilaterally allocated to CoRC to support response, ensuring that there was no duplication of activities included in this DREF operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government activated a cyclone alert on 5th December 2019. Sectoral coordination meetings were organised at the Civil Protection Directorate. Several humanitarian actors were also active in the country, providing support to vulnerable population. International humanitarian organizations present in Comoros were UNICEF, UNPD, WHO, WFP, CARITAS and the African Development Bank.

In this specific action, the Government, Civil Defence Services, and the army participated in orientation and decision-making meetings on the launching or the lifting of alerts. These different parties capitalized on the rescue equipment available from the disaster response actors, particularly those of the DGSP and PIROI.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The Comoros Red Crescent had planned to set up an early warning system for the communities "at risk" and aid by delivering first aid and evacuating the most affected to safe shelters. It was also planned to preposition shelter items for immediate distribution. During the preparation phase, staff and volunteers stayed on standby. They also received training in assessment, distribution, health promotion and hygiene to ensure appropriate assistance in case of families were displaced because of Cyclone Belna. As per reference to previous cyclones, the displaced people would have needed access to shelter and clean water, as their household items were left behind. Floods and cyclones lead to injury and increase health needs in affected communities. That is why the National Society trained staff and volunteers to make sure that all the emergency needs were addressed.

Risk Analysis

The identified risk were floods (tides and river floods) caused by the Cyclone. This would have resulted in difficult access to the affected zones. To overcome this risk, the NS had mobilised volunteers from different areas to make sure that all affected zones were assisted.

To mitigate security risks, adequate measures were put in place. This included among other things, personnel monitoring (for example by phone or SMS), pre-deployment safety / hygiene briefings, situation monitoring (regular or ad hoc) and ensuring that the NS has updated the security, communication systems and protocols (in the field), contingency plans.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective

The overall objective of the DREF operation was to prepare NS teams to face impact of TC Belna by prepositioning immediate shelter and household items, as well as preparing to address the WASH and health needs of at least 200 households (1,000 people) affected by flooding in Moheli and Anjouan islands of Comoros.

Proposed strategy

As mentioned in the Emergency Plan of Action, this operation was launched to implement emergency activities in two islands (Moheli and Anjouan) for an initial period of one month and could continue if the cyclone had passed in Comoros.

The NS mobilised the volunteers from at risk areas: Pomoni, Sima and Nioumachouwa. Then followed reinforcing their capacity in terms of training in advanced Shelter management during emergencies. Other trainings conducted were on CBHFA and WASH (emergency water treatment and storage to prevent epidemics and water-borne diseases).

Details of the implemented activities include:

- Assessments carried out by the branch teams via field visits.
- Direct interviews and participatory observation within the at-risk community.
- Participation of beneficiaries in awareness sessions and simulation exercises on water treatment and on case study for a designed shelter which is resilient to cyclones.
- Ensuring community participation in the implementation of planned activities.

As Cyclone Belna did not affect Comoros Islands, the activities implemented in the DREF operation were limited to training and awareness-raising activities. As such, the targets set were not met, not due to underperformance, but because the anticipated disaster did not occur as can be seen in detailed operational plan below.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 50

Male: 40

Female: 10

Indicators	Target	Actual
Percentage of targeted people reached with lifesaving shelter support	100% or 1,000 people	0
Number of shelter and household items prepositioned in preparedness	200 shelter tool kits, 400 tarpaulins, 400 sleeping mats, 200 stoves, 200 lanterns & 200 kitchen kits	0
Number of volunteers mobilized for early warning and evacuations	42 volunteers	42
Number of needs assessment conducted	1 assessment	0
Number of volunteers trained to support relief items distribution	40 volunteers and 2 supervisors	42
Number of volunteers trained to support shelter construction/repairs activities	40 volunteers and 2 supervisors	42
Number of people reached by community sensitization conducted	1,000	50

Narrative description of achievements

The initial target for this activity was 200 households (1,000 people) to be assisted in shelter kits. Fortunately, the cyclone did not affect Comoros as had been anticipated. As such, only two activities were implemented:

Mobilisation and Training of 42 volunteers on shelter: To ensure an appropriate assistance to the affected population, a total of 42 volunteers have been mobilized and trained in shelter construction, early warning, and relief distribution. This training will remain useful for the volunteers for the next events.

Community sensitization on shelter to 50 out of 1,000 people from POMONI village: The trained volunteers, started community sensitization on shelter protection, types of shelter resistant to cyclone and evacuation techniques when the cyclone reaches their communities.

Challenges

- It was difficult to convince people on preparedness activities while the cyclone was not yet around.
- Regaining the communities' engagement during volunteer interventions
- It was not easy to identify the volunteers who possess shelter skills, and good command of written and oral French.

Lessons Learned

Shelter remains an important component for people affected by the Cyclone:

- Improve the training organization process: development of terms of reference and dissemination to those concerned well before the training is carried out.
- As many volunteers have limited skills in Shelter and logistics, it would be better to find appropriate time during the preparedness period to train the volunteers.



Health

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Percentage of targeted people reached with first aid support	100% or 1,000 people	0
Number of volunteers trained in FA and communicable diseases	40 volunteers and 2 supervisors	20
Number of IEC materials provided	200	0
Number of first aid kits procured	10 FA kits	0
Number of volunteers deployed to provide FA care and referrals	20 volunteers	
Narrative description of achievements		
As mentioned above for shelter, health planned activities were not implemented because the Cyclone did not impact the area.		
Training of volunteers on first aid, water borne diseases and respiratory diseases: A total of 20 volunteers were trained on Community-based health and first aid. The trained volunteers were ready to provide first aid, conduct community mobilization sessions on malaria prevention, Dengue, use of mosquito nets and PSS.		
Challenges		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of appropriate training materials (video, audio, pictures box) in local languages - It was not easy to identify the volunteers who have health skills and good command of written and oral French. 		
Lessons Learned		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning of trainings at all the NS levels (National, branches, etc.) - Volunteers learnt how to elaborate Terms of reference and share them on time 		



Water, sanitation, and hygiene

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Percentage population reached with HP activities	100% or 1000 people	0
Number of WASH items prepositioned in preparedness	400 buckets, 200 jerrycans, 1000 pieces of soap, 400 mosquito nets and 200 packs of water treatment	0
# of hygiene awareness campaigns conducted	4 sessions	0
Number of volunteers trained in water treatment during emergencies	40 volunteers and 2 supervisors	42
Number of people reached by Community sensitisation on hygiene promotion	1,000	0
Narrative description of achievements		
The initial rationale for this component was to ensure that WASH emergency effects are addressed by the trained volunteers. This would include the distribution of buckets, jerry cans, water treatment tablets as well as soaps to 200 most affected households.		

Training of volunteers in water treatment during emergencies: A total of 40 volunteers (20 volunteers per island) were trained in hygiene promotion (including waterborne and water related diseases), and items distribution.

Community sensitisation on hygiene promotion: After the training, the volunteers were ready to conduct hygiene promotion session in the community. However, this could not be implemented since the cyclone did not impact the islands as anticipated.

Challenges

No challenges encountered here.

Lessons Learned

The trained volunteers kept on providing awareness sessions even though the cyclone did not occur. It is important to maintain contact with the Direction of National Meteorological Services Centre to follow up the cyclone progress.

Strategies for Implementation

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers insured	86 volunteers	0
Number of monitoring missions conducted by IFRC	1 monitoring mission	0
Number of Lessons learned workshops held	1 LLW	0

Narrative description of achievements

These activities could not be implemented due to the fact that the cyclone has not affected Comoros as anticipated.

Challenges

No challenges as the activities have not been implemented.

Lessons Learned

It was good to anticipate the response. The volunteers were mobilised, trained and ready to intervene.

D. Financial Report

The overall amount allocated for this operation was CHF 76,903 of which CHF 13,959 (18.5%) were spent. The balance of CHF 62,944 will be returned to the DREF pot.

Explanation of variances:

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance	Observation
Shelter	49,160	0	49,160	The shelter and health activities (training and community sensitization) have been reported under WASH
Health	5,282	0	5,282	
WASH	16,827	13,959	2,868	These activities could not be implemented since the cyclone did not impact the country as anticipated.
Strengthen NS	916	0	916	
Effective International DM	4,717	0	4,717	
Strategy for implementation	5,633	0	5,633	
TOTAL	76,903	13,959	62,944	To be returned to DREF fund

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/12-2020/10	Operation	MDRKM008
Budget Timeframe	2019/12-2020/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/Nov/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRKM008 - Comoros - Tropical Cyclone Belna

Operating Timeframe: 08 Dec 2019 to 08 Jan 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	76,903
DREF Allocations	76,903
Expenditure	-13,959
Closing Balance	62,944

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	49,160		49,160
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	5,282		5,282
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	16,827	13,959	2,868
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	71,270	13,959	57,311
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	916		916
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	4,717		4,717
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	5,633		5,633
Grand Total	76,903	13,959	62,944

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/12-2020/10	Operation	MDRKM008
Budget Timeframe	2019/12-2020/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/Nov/2020

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MDRKM008 - Comoros - Tropical Cyclone Belna

Operating Timeframe: 08 Dec 2019 to 08 Jan 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	51,800		51,800
Shelter - Relief	11,800		11,800
Clothing & Textiles	12,800		12,800
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,000		10,000
Medical & First Aid	1,200		1,200
Utensils & Tools	15,000		15,000
Other Supplies & Services	1,000		1,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage	9,000	441	8,559
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,000	441	8,559
Personnel	2,109	10,032	-7,923
National Society Staff		2,791	-2,791
Volunteers	2,109	7,241	-5,132
Workshops & Training	6,600	2,233	4,367
Workshops & Training	6,600	2,233	4,367
General Expenditure	2,700	401	2,299
Travel	2,000		2,000
Information & Public Relations	400		400
Communications		119	-119
Financial Charges	300	282	18
Indirect Costs	4,694	852	3,842
Programme & Services Support Recover	4,694	852	3,842
Grand Total	76,903	13,959	62,944

Contact Information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace