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Emergency Plan Of Action update

Seychelles: Floods



DREF Operation n° MDRSC003	GLIDE n° FL-2014-000014-SYC
Update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 7 February to 24 March, 2014.
Operation start date: 7 February, 2014.	Operation timeframe: 4 months End date: 31 May, 2014.
Operation budget: CHF 69,342	DREF amount allocated: CHF 69,342
N° of people being assisted: 887 households (approximately 4,435 people).	
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, and branches): Seychelles Red Cross Society, 6 staff at Headquarters, 3 branches (Mahe, Praslin, La Digue) with Branch Coordinators, 32 trained Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) members and over 100 registered volunteers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently involved in the operation: Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, and branches): RCSS, PIROI (French Red Cross Indian Ocean Platform) and IFRC.	
Other partner organizations currently involved in the operation: Government of Seychelles' Ministry of Health, Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) and governmental emergency services (such as the Fire Services).	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

Due to a delay in procurement and custom clearance as well as obtaining items from local markets due to limited availability, implementation of certain activities, namely distribution of mosquito spray and coils, were delayed for three weeks. To date, one month's supply of coils and spray have been distributed in each of the three locations. This updated EPoA reflects the delay and extends the period of implementation until 31 May 2014 to allow for the distribution of the second portion of relief items, operations review and lesson workshop to be included as planned.

There has also been delay in the printing of IEC materials which has been sent to the printing company. The National Society has planned to conduct the hygiene promotion training and subsequent activities using the leaflet. As a result, the training will be conducted in the first week of April, followed by the activities thereafter.

The TV spot has already been put together and will be aired as from April because of slot time available by the Seychelles Broadcasting Cooperation (SBC). The messages will be aired in April and May since the chosen messages are considered to be still relevant.

RCSS will be supported with a two day contingency planning workshop with PIROI as a continuation of the review and lesson learned exercise planned for the end of the operations.

The budget has also been revised slightly to reflect actual expenditures to date. The logistics services line has been increased by CHF 500, with the same amount reduced from transportation. In addition, CHF 200 was reduced from stationery costs and moved to the printing line.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) and Tsunami Residual Funds have contributed towards replenishing the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

IFRC, on behalf of the Seychelles Red Cross Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

A. Situation Analysis

Description of the disaster

Heavy rains and strong winds in the early hours of 24 January, 2014 resulted in flooding on the islands of Praslin, La Digue and northern parts of Mahe in the Seychelles. In the following days, ongoing rainfall and strong winds continued to affect the three islands. The districts of Baie St Anne and Marie Jeanne Estate on Praslin, and most of the low land and coastal areas on La Digue Island were particularly affected.

The main damage and effects reported were stagnant flood water in the low land areas on La Digue and several landslides after the collapse of terraced fields/riverbanks. The local authority on Praslin reported a number of landslides, which resulted in the main road connecting the two main districts being completely blocked and unable to be accessed for a period of 3 days. Consequently, the main secondary school was closed as students were unable to access the educational facility. A total of 300 households (1,500 people) in Marie Jeanne Estate on Praslin, and 500 households on La Digue (2,500 people) have been affected. La Pass district in La Digue is the most severely affected.

During a similar period in 2013, the La Digue population experienced the same weather conditions and some people are still traumatized as a result of last year's events. Some of the most vulnerable families have exhausted most of their existing coping mechanisms. This is due to the retention of water in marshy areas where pockets of stagnated water remains longer than other locations.

In the ongoing events, the water supply was not disrupted however the Ministry of Health (MoH) issued a precautionary notice to minimize the risk of any waterborne disease. The measures were hygiene and health related to post disaster health risk including advice on avoiding contact with flooded water, prevention of mosquito bites. Ministry of Health took the lead role in supporting district clinics where as the Fire and Rescue Agency assisted in pumping stagnant water in collaboration with the RCSS.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The RCSS has been responding to the emergency on Praslin, La Digue and Mahe through their local branches, alongside with local authorities. RCSS national headquarters, with support from IFRC and PIROI, conducted a joint assessment on 28 and 29 January 2014 in the affected areas on Praslin and La Digue. This included an interagency assessment with the local authority on Praslin (*see table 1 in the need analysis section below*). Furthermore, a post disaster health related needs assessment was carried out by the RCSS and MoH both of these islands.

Key health needs and recommendations were:

- Educate the population on hygiene and health promotion
- Constant monitoring of community member reporting to clinic with diseases related to post disaster
- Ensure that stagnant water is pumped out (dry out)
- Additional water pump on Praslin and La Digue

The National Society procured water pumps with the assistance of PIROI and have been sent to Praslin (4) and La Digue (3) as planned. The branches have been assisting the government body under Ministry of Environment, namely the Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) in pumping out stagnant water in areas close to residential places. The operation has been proved to be effective as most of the flooded areas are now clear in Mahe and La Praslin. In La Digue, there are some places where sand was swept away and the holes are still open and rain water has collected in these holes and is stagnant and this is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The RCSS Praslin branch and the District Authority are working on a strategy to address the issue.

The operations were coordinated by the Fire Brigade and District Administrations through DRDM in all operational areas. During the early phase, coordination meetings were held on a weekly basis and hosted by DRDM. These have now reduced to monthly meetings and RCSS is reporting to attending partners on progress and implementations plans.

Assessment on key hygiene and environmental sanitation needs was conducted by RCSS Programme Manager in all operational areas with La Digue and Praslin being worst affected. The assessment of La Digue showed that some areas, especially in marsh lands and locations with open water storage still have stagnant water and RCSS will continue to assist local authorities with pumping water in these locations until the issue is resolved and latest until the end of the DREF Operations.

Praslin Branch has distributed on month's supply of vector control items (2200 mosquito coils, 590 adult lotion repellents, 590 children lotion repellent, 15 repellent electrical, 70 packets of repellent sticks and 150 mosquito nets one month's supply) to 300 households in Marie Jeanne Estate. Electrical repellents were distributed to households

whose family members have children under five years and also households who have family members with respiratory problems such as Asthma. Volunteers were trained on how to explain to the beneficiaries on the correct use of the coils and repellents. The distribution was done on a door to door basis.

Volunteers from Mahe branch in collaboration with the District Authority distributed one month's supply of 220 mosquito coils, 590 adult, 590 children lotion repellents, 15 electrical repellents and 70 packets of mosquito repellent (sticks) to 49 households in Bel Ombre district. The volunteers also sensitized recipients on the correct use of the items during the door to door distributions.

Since La Digue branch were not been able to complete planned distribution in one day on a door to door basis, remaining material was distributed at the secondary school allowing for youths to be familiarised with the material and share with their families. A total of 300 household has benefited with 2200 coils, 590 repellent adult, 550 repellent children, 15 electrical repellents and 70 packets mosquito repellent sticks for one month.

Brochures with key messages have been developed with support from IFRC communications department in Nairobi. These are being printed and distribution will start in first week of April after the sensitization training of volunteers. The NS have put together a TV advertisement on DRR and hygiene promotion. The airing of the spot will start during the first week of April because of the availability of slot time given to RCSS by the broadcasting authority.

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles (RCSS) has gained significant experience in emergency response, in particularly following the devastating Tsunami floods in 2004 and Tropical Storm Felleng in 2013. The RCSS has responded regularly to disasters and emergencies in recent years, being auxiliary to the Government of Seychelles in emergency response and preparedness.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

RCSS is the sole Red Cross Red Crescent movement component with a presence in the Seychelles. The NS is supported closely by the French Red Cross Platform for Disaster Response in the Indian Ocean (PIROI) and IFRC Regional office, in line with the agreed mandate.

RCSS is in close communication on a daily basis with both PIROI and IFRC. PIROI is providing technical support in this disaster response operation and is liaising closely with IFRC Regional and Zone offices to share regular updates.

IFRC has provided technical support in planning the operation, and will ensure support throughout the operation, including undertaking beneficiary satisfactory surveys and evaluate the intervention. Close financial monitoring and follow up will be done. IFRC is planning a review of the operations and a lessons workshop with RCSS within the time frame of the extension of the operations.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

In Seychelles, the Government (GoS) leads the overall coordination of disaster response, through the Department of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM). RCSS are active participants in the interagency coordination meetings which are a key part of monitoring and information sharing at national and district levels.

The Government authorities and the Red Cross Society of Seychelles are the only emergency responders in the country, and are the only agencies that are mandated to and involved in disaster management and disaster response. There are several other non-governmental organizations in the Seychelles; however their focus is on other areas (for example, HIV or environmental awareness).

Most of the governmental emergency first responders (Fire and Rescue Agency, Public Utility Corporation, Ministry of Local Government, Seychelles Police Force, Seychelles Defense Force, MoH) have been active on the ground assisting with road clearing and pumping flooded areas and assessing the situation. The RCSS as member of the National Disaster Committee have been attending regular coordination meeting at the DRDM office. Through the strong relationship and collaboration between RCSS and Government agencies, there has been open sharing of information between actors and consequently a good coordination has possible. A joint assessment was carried out by RCSS, MoH and MRDM looking at key hygiene and sanitation needs of affected communities on Praslin and La Digue. Findings concluded that no additional needs or changes from the disaster have occurred.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of this operation is to assist the affected populations on Mahe, La Digue and Praslin with essential vector control and hygiene/environmental sanitation promotion activities, to reduce the risk of diarrheal and/or mosquito borne diseases (specifically dengue and chikungunya – malaria is not a threat in the Seychelles).

Proposed strategy

The target population for this operation is 887 households (or approximately 4,435 people), which is the total affected population on La Digue, Praslin and Mahe (Bel Ombre district).

Main activities planned to reach these objectives are:

- Dissemination of key hygiene and environmental sanitation messages in English and Creole (local languages) through print media, television and through house to house visits by volunteers.
- Continuation of hygiene promotion, community mobilization and household visits by RCSS volunteers.
- Distribution of mosquito repellents and coils to 887 affected households.
- Support to local authorities for removal of stagnant water from flooded areas, through the procurement of three water pumps (2 for La Digue, 1 for Praslin) and ongoing support by volunteers during their operation.

Since the onset of the heavy rains and floods, there have been no additional circumstances to deteriorate the conditions for the beneficiaries planned to be supported by this operations.

A review and lesson learned workshop will be planned to assist the RCSS and IFCS in future cooperation. This will include considerations from the DREF Operation in 2013 and lessons learned by conducting a contingency planning workshop with RCSS. There is a need to support RCSS in this field given the annual reoccurrence of floods as well as the important role the NS has within the context of emergency response in Seychelles. PIROI supported a Contingency Planning workshop in 2013. IFRC is planning to further enhance the capacity of RCSS within this field in a two day workshop in May as part of the review and lessons learned visit from Nairobi.

Operational support services

No changes made.

Human resources

This operation has been implemented by RCSS with technical support from IFRC regional office in Nairobi and supported by PIROI. Unlike the 2013 DREF operations, this year there was no need to deploy RDRTs. Instead 20 volunteers were trained in hygiene promotion by RCSS locally.

Logistics and supply chain

Most of the procurement was done overseas with the support of PIROI although some coils and repellent was bought at local markets. Procurement of some coils and repellents was done locally but we have not been able yet to procure all the necessary items because of a shortage on local market. RCSS has pre ordered supplies for the last distribution sovereign the final month from a local provider.

Due to delays in obtaining the total amount of items for distribution, both locally and internationally, this Operations Update will extend the implementation period with 7 weeks.

Communications

RCSS have been using the national media to communicate with the general public on the programme activity. Volunteers were very visible using Red Cross identification logo during distribution. Federation logo has also been inserted in the promotion leaflet. An article on the DREF operations will appear in the national society's 2014 first quarter newsletter edition.

Security

As expected in the planning of the operations, there are no security concerns in the area of intervention. The political situation in the Seychelles is stable and no security incidents were reported during implementation of previous or ongoing activities.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

RCSS has conducted one monitoring visit on Praslin and La Digue since the operation upstart. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to assess the situation, identify possible gaps in the activities and address these in the plan of action.

In addition the following support to RCSS is planned with in the time of the operations extension and will take place in Seychelles for 5 days within the period of 21 April and 11 May 2014:

- Review of DREF operation and a new beneficiary survey taking into consideration the previous DREF operation final report and beneficiary satisfaction survey.
- Lesson-learned workshop.
- Two day contingency planning workshop for NS facilitated by IFRC Nairobi.

B. Detailed Operational Plan

Quality Programming / Areas Common to all Sectors

Needs assessment
There is a need to support RCSS in the monitoring and evaluation tools for DREF operations as well as support the NS in contingency planning.
Progress towards Outcomes
Outcome 1: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.
Output 1.1: Monitoring information informs revisions of the plan of action where appropriate. Post-distribution monitoring of the use of items, as well as the needs and satisfaction of the affected population is planned. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments: Activity has been delayed due to the delay in procurement and custom clearance which resulted in delayed distribution to beneficiaries.
Output 1.2: The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in on-going plans and future planning as appropriate. DREF lessons learned exercise is conducted, with feedback incorporated into ongoing RCSS strategic planning and initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments: Activity will be implemented after Output 1.1 has materialized. In addition dates for lesson learned and contingency planning workshop will be finalized when RCSS has confirmed dates of availability.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotions
The operation includes a multi-faceted approach to vector control (removal of stagnant water) and personal protection methods (coils and mosquito spray). It has also implemented intensified hygiene and environmental sanitation promotion activities through training and mobilizing volunteers and conducting TV campaigns.
Progress towards Outcomes
Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of water and sanitation related (including mosquito borne) diseases for up to 887 affected households (approximately 4,435 people) in targeted communities on La Digue, Praslin and Mahe (Bel Ombre district).
Output 1.1: The targeted population of 887 households is supported with appropriate preventative vector control measures over a period of 2 months. Pumping of stagnant water, distributions of mosquito coils and sprays plus sensitization campaigns to beneficiaries' activities planned. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments: Delays in custom clearance of intentionally procured items as well as limited availability at local markets have been the main challenges to adhering to timely implementation of activities. RCSS obtained one month's supplies on 15 March and these have been distributed. Second shipment in the first week of April followed by another distribution.• Pumping stagnant on Praslin and Mahe of water has been conducted but there is still a need to address to issue of stagnant water on La Digue. RCSS is working with other actors to identify who can deal with the needs in the longer run.
Output 1.2: Appropriate hygiene and environmental sanitation promotion activities are provided to the targeted population of 887 household over a period of 2 months. Cooperation with MoH on key messages, volunteer training, distribution of brochures and creation/airing of TV advert has been planned. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments: Posters have been designed and are in the printing process. Distributions are planned for the first week of April. Spots for TV advert have been prepared and will start airing on the national media during the first week of April. Delay in the airing of the advert has been due to lack of available slot time given to RCSS by the national broadcasting authority.

D. Budget

No changes will be made to the budget.

E. Challenges

The main challenge was that it has been difficult or not possible to procure some of the materials on local markets and have to be done overseas which have taken sometime before receiving and that has create some delays in the distribution of the materials especially mosquito coils and repellants. This is due to the sudden high demand, supplies were insufficient?

Another challenge was the identification of three sources for quotations as per IFRC procurement standard because of the limitation of business types related to the program activities such as the posters.

Whereas the implementation of planned activities were not complicated by further flooding nor heavy rains, main activities such as distribution of vector control items, were delayed due to problems with regards to procurement and availability of these items on local market.

Overarching is the human resources available for emergency response by RCSS. When responding to emergencies, the NS staffs are overstretched and it is challenging to address the operations as well as the daily responsibilities.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Seychelles Red Cross Society:** Collete Servina, Secretary General; phone: +248 437 4543 / 437 4544 ; Email: servinac@ymail.com
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; Nairobi; Phone: +254 20 283 5000; email: finnjarle.rode@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 45 29; Email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Zone Logistics Unit; phone: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Martine Zoethoutmaar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; phone: + 254 721 486 953; email: martine.zoethoutmaar@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067 277; email: robert.ondrusek@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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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

BUDGET SUMMARY

04/04/2014

DREF operation - Seychelles: Floods (MDRSC003)

Budget Group	Budget CHF	Variance	Revised Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0		0
Shelter - Transitional	0		0
Construction - Housing	0		0
Construction - Facilities	0		0
Construction - Materials	0		0
Clothing & Textiles	0		0
Food	0		0
Seeds & Plants	0		0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42,068		42,068
Medical & First Aid	0		0
Teaching Materials	0		0
Utensils & Tools	0		0
Other Supplies & Services	0		0
Emergency Response Units	0		0
Cash Disbursements	0		0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	42,068		42,068
Land & Buildings	0		0
Vehicles Purchase	0		0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0		0
Medical Equipment	0		0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0		0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0		0
Storage, Warehousing	0		0
Distribution & Monitoring	8,000		8,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,500	-500	2,000
Logistics Services	200	500	700
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,700		10,700
International Staff	0		0
National Staff	0		0
National Society Staff	0		0
Volunteers	1,692		1,692
Total PERSONNEL	1,692		1,692
Consultants	0		0
Professional Fees	0		0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0		0
Workshops & Training	4,000		4,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,000		4,000
Travel	3,800		3,800
Information & Public Relations	450	200	650
Office Costs	400	-200	200
Communications	1,000		1,000
Financial Charges	1,000		1,000
Other General Expenses	0		0
Shared Support Services			
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,650		6,650
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,232		4,232
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,232		4,232
TOTAL BUDGET	69,342		69,342
Available Resources			
Multilateral Contributions	0		0
Bilateral Contributions	0		0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0		0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	69,342		69,342