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Indian Ocean Islands Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers the
period 1 January to 31
December, 2014.**

*Malagasy Red Cross Volunteers and IFRC
staffs in IOI Region explained the
mandates of the 3 components of the
movement*



Overview

The countries in the Indian Ocean Islands (IOI) region namely; Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are prone to frequent disasters especially cyclones, floods, health epidemics, droughts, food insecurity and climate change challenges. They are also at risk of high prevalence of HIV AIDS, urban risks (manmade disasters due to the urbanization) and high level of tidal waves increasing levels of seawater leading to cyclones and ocean tsunami. Consequently, the mandates for the 4 National Societies in Indian Ocean Islands Region revolve around preparing the communities to effectively respond to disasters while reducing the impacts of these disasters to the most vulnerable populations. The National Societies in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles have a large volunteer base working at the community level to strengthen community resilience to disasters and are always available and ready for mobilization in case of disasters and emergencies.

The IFRC IOI representation office is based in Madagascar under East Africa Regional Representation Office and has the mandate to coordinate and facilitate the National Society development projects including; organizational development, disaster management, health and care, reduction of risk and catastrophes, health in emergencies, youth and volunteers development and resource mobilization. All these efforts are geared towards strengthening the capacities of the National Societies in delivering their humanitarian missions. In 2014, the main programme activities accomplished by the 4 National Societies included projects in reduction of risk and catastrophes, youth and volunteer management, organizational development, resource mobilization, communication and planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting.

Through the support of the country office, all 4 NSs celebrated the world Red Cross/Crescent day with “My Red Cross/Crescent Story”. In Comoros Red Crescent, newly recruited volunteers were inducted and trained in basic first aid skills. The information and public relations strategies for Malagasy RC were developed during the reporting period and informed their participation in public and radio shows, dissemination through the television spots as well as updating of the NS website with relevant information including branch activities. This has seen the internal and external communications capacities of the NS improved. The Mauritius Red Cross new governing board was inducted with the support of the country office regional development delegate. In Seychelles, newly recruited volunteers were inducted and introduced to the RC movements’ principles and values, structure and functions of the NS.

Through the support of the Tsunami Legacy Funds project, the Malagasy RC has enhanced and improved the capacity building initiatives in reduction of risk and catastrophes as well as awareness creation activities, Seychelles RC conducted an awareness survey and did contingency planning activities while Malagasy RC and Seychelles RC purchased IT tools and equipment. Through the support of the ICRC, all 4 NSs throughout the year carried out activities to promote Humanitarian Value and Principles. Malagasy and Seychelles resource mobilization activities focused on commercial First Aid kits, ambulance services and First Aid training to companies NGOs. In Mauritius, the Government is more involved and supported the National Society in its resource mobilization activities. The Comoros RC, resource mobilization policy was developed and ready for implementation with support from partners.

The country office conducted organization development technical supports visits to support the NSs in implementation of their strategies to improve NS governance and management capacities as well as strengthen their understanding of the roles of NSs as auxiliary to public authorities. Additionally, the country office conducted a finance training workshops in Madagascar and Seychelles. Mauritius RC, Malagasy RC and Seychelles RC conducted the 2013 audits as well as additional audits to specific projects as per donor requirements. National Society staff drawn from all 4 NSs benefited in various trainings in organization development, finance management, disaster management, health and care, community resilience, resource mobilization and First Aid in order to improve and enhance their skills and capacities in the various fields.

The major challenge that the country office faced in the year was inadequate funding. The office however supported the National Societies to initiate projects which had stalled due to the lack of partner support especially in Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Sector
Canadian Red Cross	Resource mobilisation
Norwegian Red Cross	Disaster Risk Reduction / Organizational Development / Community Resilience
German Red Cross	Disaster Risk Reduction
Danish Red Cross	Water and Sanitation
Spanish Red Cross	Water and Sanitation
Italian Red Cross	Health and Care
PIROI / French Red Cross	Disaster Management: pre-positioning of stocks.

Progress towards outcomes

Business line I: To raise Humanitarian Standards

- **Outcome 1:** Comprehensive communications strategies and two-year action plans exist and are implemented.
- **Outcome 2:** Induction courses for new staff, members and volunteers are strong and provide good guidance on Red Cross / Red Crescent principles, objectives and mandates as well as Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)
- **Outcome 3:** The general public is more aware of the principles and values of the Movement, as well as the role of the National Societies in their respective countries
- **Outcome 4:** The professional qualifications and competences of staff and volunteers at countries levels are strengthened through an international academic network

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
No. of trained and refreshed communication officers	4	4	6
No. of RC/RC bulletins , newsletters and reports produced	1,000	36,400	58,400
No. of trained volunteers and staff for Induction courses	108	2,484	9,223
Regional training for humanitarian diplomacy	1	1	0
No. of staff and volunteers connected to IFRC website	16,950	16,950	22,000
No. of people reached by newsletters, bulletins and movies	20,000	270,000	408,800
No. of trained staff and volunteers in audit	50	119	119
No. of professionalised and trained staff / volunteers	16,950	19,369	22,000
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>A communication workshop was organized by the EA Regional Office in Nairobi and staff from all 4 NSs participated. Additionally, a communication agency was engaged to work on improving the design, content and promotion of the Malagasy RC website. Malagasy RC successfully organized a GALA for its 50th anniversary celebrations in May 2014. The 3 components of movement in Madagascar namely; Malagasy Red Cross, ICRC, IFRC participated in the Solidarity show in June 2014 where they had the opportunity during two days to explain to the public the mandates of the movement.</p> <p>In Seychelles, an awareness survey was carried out to find out the number of local community who know RC activities as well as the extent to which the RC activities are known by the communities. Additionally the NS inducted its newly recruited volunteers. An induction for the new Mauritius RC governing board was organized by and facilitated by IOI IFRC Regional Development Delegate in June 2014.</p> <p>The use of social networks among the staff, volunteers and public increased in 2014 resulting in increased general public involvement and awareness of Red Cross and Crescent activities and mandates. The PMER quality of work improved and all 4 NSs PMER focal points are part of the Eastern Africa PMER Networking group where peer to peer learning and support takes place. The NSs also completed the OCAC phase I self-assessment and a process of peer review was done except for Comoros due to insufficient funding.</p>			

Business Line II: To grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people

- **Outcome 1:** The impact of disasters on vulnerable communities is reduced through adequate and timely emergency response measures
- **Outcome 2:** The NSs in the IOI region are better prepared and coordinated for disasters through the development of National DM strategies and contingency plans in thematic areas to guide the NS during emergencies.
- **Outcome 3:** Community capacities are improved to reduce their vulnerabilities to public health emergencies and disasters.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
No. of affected families who received assistance to improve their livelihoods (recovery after disasters)	10,000	26,000	51,071
No. of RDRT members trained and refreshed in tools and resources for immediate deployment	28	28	136
No. of RDRT members mobilized during emergencies	28	28	136
% of strategies and technics in contingency plans conducted during emergency operations	100	100	100
No. of staff trained and refreshed in using IT for assessments	28	28	136
No. of affected families who received psychosocial assistance	10,000	26,000	51,071
No. of volunteers trained in contingency planning	5,000	19,250	9,223
No. of volunteers and staff trained in emergency response	2,050	19,250	9,223
No. of communities with improved capacities in DRR	50	50	124
No. of communities well prepared to respond to emergencies	50	50	124
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>Contingency planning was done during emergency responses in all 4 National Societies. A community resilience workshop was organized by EAI/OI IFRC Regional Office and the NS participated. In Seychelles a contingency planning workshop was organized by RCCSA, health and hygiene promotion workshops conducted. The NS also responded to climate change challenges in communities and dissemination of key health and hygiene messages in English and Creole (local languages) through print media (brochure) and television adverts, in collaboration with the MoH done.</p> <p>In Malagasy Red Cross, a disaster management operations platform was created, 144 radio shows on climate change sensitization and health done and 14 VCAs on climate change, impacts on the sphere of life conducted. Additionally, 9 disaster management committees were established in 9 communities and trained in early warning, evacuation of population in danger, search and rescues as well as First Aid. Up to 43 existing disaster management committees were strengthened through being equipped and 4 simulation exercises in disaster management conducted. Accountability to Beneficiaries (AtB) project pilot and a disaster law was held in December 2014. Dissemination of key information, education and communication in cyclones, floods, drought, impacts of climate change and reduction of risk through production and distribution of 3,200</p>			

brochures in close collaboration with MoH was done.

Business Line III: To Strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to Development

- **Outcome 1:** Good governance practices among Presidents and SGs are improved
- **Outcome 2 :** Develop the governance teams of the NS to ensure that guidance and direction being disseminated at all levels is informed, clear and in conformity with RCRC standards
- **Outcome 3 :** Financial systems and procedures are developed and implemented to ensure proper recording and reporting, thus increasing accountability and credibility
- **Outcome 4:** The human resource management systems are developed and maintained at a nationally competitive level
- **Outcome 5:** NS premises and warehouse are adequately refurbished to facilitate the development and implementation of programmes.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
No. of NSs with clear guidance of RCRC standards	4	4	4
No. of NSs improving their resource mobilisation strategies.	4	4	3
% of resource mobilisation strategies implemented at NSs level.	100	100	75
No. of youth in IOI region	3,006	4,003	3,004
Youth forum held	1	1	0
% of narrative and financial reports that adequately to the donor requirement	100	100	100
IT tools and equipment developed	100	100	60
No. of staff trained and improved their capacities	50	50	112
No. of resource mobilization workshop organized by IFRC	1	1	0
No. of warehouses adequately refurbished/ constructed	9	9	4

Comments on progress towards outcomes

The Promoting of Humanitarian Value and principles activities continued in the 4 NSs during 2014 for the Governance members, staffs and volunteers to maintain the respect of RCRC Standards. The Malagasy RC recruited a PHVP Coordinator and 132 volunteers were trained in PHVP. In Madagascar, 200 booklets of practices and guidelines for the governance members were reproduced and distributed.

Resource mobilization policies were developed and in Madagascar resource mobilization activities implemented included commercial First Aid Kits, first aid post and training as well as ambulance services. Training in basic First Aid and a refresher course for Community based First Aid was implemented in Seychelles as well as other resource mobilization activities including ambulance driver trainings.

Mauritius RC, Malagasy RC and Red Cross of Seychelles participated at the volunteering day held in Thailand in 2014 and were admitted to the international youth networking. Trainings aimed at improving volunteer management for Malagasy RC were done at the branch and headquarters targeting the volunteer

management coordinators. The youth policy was approved by the governance members and a total of 15 youth volunteers trained in peer to peer education in YABC. Inter school club quiz competitions around RCRC Knowledge were organized by Malagasy RC. A 2 day leadership training was conducted for volunteers by Seychelles Red Cross and volunteer meetings held at branch level to evaluate the performances of branches and to review their activity plans. One inter school club quiz competition was held in May 2014, youth promotion activities and recruitments conducted and 17 students from schools visited the Praslin Branch office in March 2014. Youth volunteers showed great enthusiasm in their involvement in the RC work.

Furthermore, Seychelles Red Cross held sensitization and mobilization sessions in 13 communities on the project objectives and planned activities conducted by Seychelles RC and PMER workshop at the branch level conducted. NS programme managers, logistic officers and finance officers received a logistic, financial and disaster response training in la Reunion from PIROI.

In Madagascar, a workshop was conducted where 7 actions plans in OD for regional coordination and branch development were developed. Another OD workshop was also conducted in RC Tuléar branch/West-South and an international exchange visit to Burundi facilitated. Up to 6 pilot branches received internet Connection in 2014 in Madagascar including acquisition of VHF radios, rechargeable portable lamps, generators, water pump and megaphone in Seychelles Red Cross.

Five warehouses were constructed in 2014 for IOI Region by PIROI; 2 in Madagascar, 2 in Comoros and 1 in Seychelles.

Business Line IV: To heighten RCRC influence and support for our work

- **Outcome 1:** Resource mobilisation capacities of NS are scaled up, diversifying income sources and expanding partnerships.
- **Outcome 2:** Increasing Youth structure building in the 4 countries in the region.
- **Outcome 3:** National Societies are supported to develop competences and skills in promoting humanitarian diplomacy.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
No. of governing board members trained	60	60	60
% of auxiliary role promotion.	100	100	75
No. of strategic plans reviewed	100	100	100
% of involvement of other stakeholders in RC work	40	60	80
% financial systems and procedures developed/improved	100	100	75
No. of finance officers trained	12	8	7
No. of HR management systems developed/improved	100	100	75

No. of HR staff trained	4	4	0
Comments on progress towards outcomes			
<p>The national societies in the region conducted the statutory meetings including the General Assembly, National and Branch committee meetings to evaluate the NS performance, prepare and approve plans and budgets as well as evaluate programme implementation and identify challenges and mitigating measures.</p> <p>Through the DFID funding, the IOI IFRC Delegate OD provided technical field support visits to Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar Branches and Seychelles focusing on improving NSs capacities in following up the implementation of their strategic plans. The IFRC Regional Finance Officer with the Regional Development Delegate support conducted a 1 day finance workshop for Malagasy Red Cross in May 2014, to refresh on IFRC financial procedures with full participation of NSs staffs involved in IFRC projects. In addition, the Regional Finance Officer also conducted a field support visit to train the newly recruited finance officer on the IFRC financial procedures in Seychelles.</p> <p>Training workshops around the IFRC strategy 2020, NS communication strategies and audit were also conducted in the 4 NSs.</p>			

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The National Societies introduced a beneficiary satisfaction survey to the beneficiaries for many projects in 2014 with the support of technical teams from the EAIOI Regional Office. The results of the beneficiary satisfaction were positive and identified that the beneficiaries' principal needs were largely met during the disaster response operations. The mandates and missions of NSs in each country are now well known by the public.

The ICRC in the region is one of the key partners for the 4 NSs in term of the promotion of principles and values, distribution of RC magazine and dissemination of the NS activities through the websites.

Through the Tsunami Legacy Funds, Malagasy Red Cross and Red Cross of Seychelles engaged vigorously in numerous information and public relations activities thus improving their image to the beneficiaries and positive opportunities in term of credibility and potential partnership for the following years.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority	Recommended Action
	High Medium Low	
Low implementation rate due to the lack of funding and partners especially for Comoros Red Crescent	H	IFRC support to the National Society to implement their Resource Mobilization policy / Partnership Meeting
The PMER at branches have low capacities in Planning, Monitoring and Reporting where the projects are implemented	H	IFRC support to disseminate the PMER knowledge and skills at branch level
Low implementation rate due to the quality of the supporting documents in the field and low understanding regarding IFRC Financial procedures and systems (Working Advance to	H	IFRC support to train the new NSs finances coordinators, to refresh the NSs coordinators and involve the NS management and PMER in IFRC

National Societies) for the new recruited NSs Finances Coordinators.		financial procedures and systems refresher trainings.
Delay in delivering final financial and narrative reports	H	Update the NSs PMER focal points on the donor requirements and involve the NS leadership and finance counterparts in PMER.
Delay in implementation of project due to the lack of items in local market	M	IFRC Support to NSs logistic management

Lessons learned and looking ahead

During 2014, Comoros Red Crescent developed project plans but were not implemented due to lack of funding and partners. The needs in the communities are very high in Watsan, health and Care, Youth and volunteer management and in the National Society including staff salaries, organizational development, governance, resource mobilization and PMER capacities.

The EAI/OI IFRC office will continue to support the 4 NSs in community resilience, organizational development, PHVP, resource mobilization, youth and volunteer management and PMER in order to be in a position to implement their 2015 operational strategy and plan.

Potential partnerships exist in IOI region including the African Development Bank, Indian Ocean Commission, United Nations, DG ECHO as well as private companies. The regional office will continue to facilitate and advocate for support to the 4 NSs as well as offer support in conducting a partnership meeting in the region to attract the partner National Societies and other the potential partners in accordance with their 2015 operational strategies, plans and priorities.

Malagasy RC will hold a General Assembly to electing new governance members in 2015 as well as continue to implement the capacity building project funded by the Tsunami Legacy Fund and the food security project funded by Spanish Government (March 2015 to February 2017). In addition the protection of the use of Red Cross emblem by law initiated in Malagasy RC and will also continue in 2015.

Mauritius RC continues to prepare to host the Pan African Conference in 2016. The NS is facilitating the PAC visit assessments and the meetings between the Mauritius Government and the PAC Assessment team.

The Red Cross of Seychelles will update its website by compiling NS information as well as will continue to implement the awareness activities funded by Tsunami Legacy funds project.

Financial situation

Click on these links to go directly to the financial reports.

[Madagascar](#) and [Seychelles](#)

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.



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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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