

# COMOROS

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 1.9M**

Appeal number **MAAKM002**

## In support of the Comoros Red Crescent



**3**

National Society branches



**34**

National Society staff



**6,000**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**40,000**

Climate and environment



**40,000**

Disasters and crises



**40,000**

Health and wellbeing



**200**

Migration and displacement



**200**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multiyear focus

### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
  - Anticipatory action
- Climate change adaptation
  - Health and care

### Capacity development

- Volunteering
- Youth engagement
- Digital transformation
- Financial sustainability

## Key country data

**Population** 888,000

**Long-term Climate Risk Index** 97

**Human Development Index rank** 156

**Population below poverty level** 42.4%

## Hazards



Cyclones



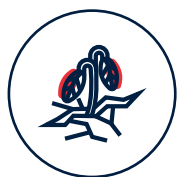
Floods



Volcanic eruptions



Earthquakes



Drought



Landslides

## Funding requirements

**Total 1.9M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**1.7M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **98,000** CHF

Host National Society

→ **120,000** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**70,000** CHF  
Climate and environment

**550,000** CHF  
Disasters and crises

**550,000** CHF  
Health and wellbeing

**80,000** CHF  
Migration and displacement

**50,000** CHF  
Values, power and inclusion

**380,000** CHF  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

French Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

---

**The Comoros Red Crescent**, established in 1982, was recognized by ministerial order as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field in 1985. It was admitted into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2005. Many natural hazards mean that disasters are frequent in Comoros, and the Comoros Red Crescent is at the forefront of response alongside the Civil Protection Agency. Through the volume of its interventions and its capacity to respond, the National Society has become a leading actor in emergency and disaster situations.

The Comoros Red Crescent has its national headquarters in the city of Moroni, with three regional branches located on the islands of Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Ndzwani (Anjouan) and Mwali (Mohéli). These regional branches coordinate interventions and supervise local committees at an island level, and there are also intervention units within villages at a peripheral level. In all, the Comoros Red Crescent has 210 local committees: 101 in Ngazidja, 23 in Mwali and 86 in Ndzwani. It relies on about 6,000 volunteers in villages across the country for its operations and implementation of activities locally. It has trained multi-disciplinary disaster preparedness and response teams at community, branch and national level.

The Comoros Red Crescent warehouse was built in 2013 with the support of the French Agency for Development, and it has a storage capacity of 80 tonnes of relief equipment.

The National Society's priorities are:

- Building its capacity
- Improving the health of vulnerable populations, particularly by establishing community-based health programmes
- Carrying out risk and disaster management
- Promotion and dissemination of information on international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles and values

The Comoros Red Crescent is active in the fields of community-based health and first aid, which includes encouraging communities to adopt hygiene measures that can help prevent epidemics, as part of the malaria and cholera control programme alongside the health authorities. As part of disaster risk management, it carries out vulnerability and capacity assessments at community level, to help strengthen community resilience.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

---

### Joint situational analysis

Located in the Indian Ocean at the northern entrance to the Mozambique Channel, the Union of the Comoros sits between northwestern Madagascar and the south-eastern coast of the African continent. It has three main islands: Mwali (Mohéli, 290 km<sup>2</sup>), Ndzwani (Anjouan, 374 km<sup>2</sup>) and Ngazidja (Grande Comore, 1,148 km<sup>2</sup>). The main cities are Moroni (Ngazidja), Mutsamudu (Ndzwani) and Fomboni (Mwali).

In 2020, the World Bank estimated the population of Comoros at 870,000 people, with an average density of 477 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. This places it among the most densely populated countries in the world. The average age is 21, and an estimated 53 per cent of people are aged under 20. The majority of the population live in

rural areas (72.1 per cent), but the growth rate in urban areas is rapid at more than five per cent each year. High population density puts intense pressure on natural resources and on the environment. Around 300,000 Comorians are estimated to live abroad, mainly in France where they often have nationality, or on Réunion Island.

Nearly 25 per cent of the population is extremely poor and unable to buy enough food to meet the minimum nutrition requirements of 2,200 kilocalories per person per day. According to the World Bank in 2022, a quarter of the population lives just below the national poverty line, and 10 per cent risk falling below that line in the event of unexpected economic shocks.

The Comorian population is culturally united, with Islam being the main religion and Shikomori providing a common language. French and Arabic remain the official languages in the archipelago and Shikomori, the national language, has been recognized in the constitution as an official language since 2002. Apart from political and institutional organization, the Comorian population organizes itself through traditional structures such as steering committees and village associations, which work on peace-building activities and mobilize resources to develop their locality.

The climate of Comoros is humid and tropical, with low variations in temperature (between 26°C and 32°C) during the two main seasons of the year. These two seasons are characterized by the Kashkazi (monsoon) wind from November to April, and the Kusi (trade wind) from May to October. The islands receive abundant rainfall, with up to 3,000mm per year, and the average sea water temperature is 25°C. Comoros's location and topography mean it is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, and 54.2 per cent of the population live in at-risk areas. Volcanic eruptions and seismic activity are also prevalent. All these risks have direct consequences on the health of the population, and the health system faces difficulties with medical and paramedical human resources, institutional capacities and public funding, which all affect its capacity to respond.

Comoros is home to several endemic animal and plant species, including the green turtle, the Livingstone bat, the coelacanth (fossil marine mammal), and species of gecko, maki, dolphins and birds. There are 17 species of birds that live and reproduce exclusively in the Comorian territory.

Comoros has plentiful potential and opportunities, including its geographical location, geostrategic position, rich marine, coastal and terrestrial biodiversity, fisheries resources, vast potential for agricultural production, potential for unexploited natural resources, and rich and varied tourist heritage.

The first 25 years of independence for Comoros, from 1975 to 2000, were marked by several coups d'état and secessionist attempts. These events undermined national unity, which had already been weakened by island identity, and by weak and unequal economic and social development. This difficult socio-political situation had dramatic consequences, weakening the state, leading to low-quality public services, a culture

of impunity, a serious deterioration in the management of public finances, large budgetary deficits, high public debt, worsening poverty and gender disparities.

Overall, the processes of democratization and peace-building appear to be making progress. Following the 2001 Peace Agreement, the adoption of a new constitution and the election of the first President of the Union of the Comoros, successive democratic transitions took place in 2006, 2011 and 2016. However, the separatist crisis of 2007–8 and attempts at destabilization in 2011 and 2013 show that this newfound political stability is fragile.

The 2018 National Conferences resulted in revisions to the constitution and allowed for a review of national policy in general. The 2019 elections returned the current President to power for a second term, testifying to the political class's adherence to the global vision of Comoros Emergent Horizon 2030.

The economy is heavily based on imports, with the country's main suppliers being China, the United Arab Emirates, Madagascar and France. According to French customs figures for 2018, Comoros imported the equivalent of 34 million euros from France that year. Despite having made political developments, economic and social development efforts are held back in Comoros by a combination of factors:

- Low competitiveness of the productive sector
- Poor-quality infrastructure and development support services
- Low level of human capital development
- A business climate that is not conducive to private sector development
- Unemployment, with an overall rate of 24 per cent in 2014, mainly affecting young people

In recent years, Comoros faced successive shocks from Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, these led to a decline in growth rate from a 3.7 per cent average in 2017 and 2018, to 1.8 per cent in 2019 (Tropical Cyclone Kenneth) and -0.3 per cent in 2020 (COVID-19). The economy has recovered slightly in 2021, growing by 2.2 per cent, but a further slowdown to 1.4 per cent has been projected for 2022. This slow recovery reflects high global inflation, which has also hit Comoros, despite the Government's efforts to control it.

---

## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

The direct consequences of climate change are alarming in Comoros. The sea level is rising about 4mm per year and this is having a considerable impact on water resources, the economy and the well-being of the population. Climate change is also making hydrometeorological hazards more frequent and intense, leading to extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, cyclones and droughts.

There are also environmental problems relating to the rapid degradation of ecosystems, including forests, marine and coastal resources, as well as over-exploitation of natural resources, and poor waste management.

In the Comoros, greenhouse gas emissions emanate mostly from fossil fuels and firewood, which account for 78 per cent of energy consumed by households.

Through the Emerging Comoros Plan 2030, the Government aims to achieve sustainable, strong, inclusive and equitable economic growth. The plan recommends urgent measures to promote, preserve, restore and improve the coverage and representativeness of biodiversity, and to ensure the sustainable management of protected areas on a national scale.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Comoros Red Crescent is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Comoros Red Crescent is also part of the IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative, which aims to contribute to Africa-wide climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through the planting and care of five billion multi-purpose trees aligned to continental, sub-continental and national plans and strategies.

The Comoros Red Crescent will strengthen its partnership with the Government and other stakeholders, leveraging its auxiliary role to address climate and environmental crises. It will build its capacity for climate change adaptation, which will cover staff, volunteers and the local branches closest to communities. Capacity building will include transferring knowledge at a local level to foster resilience in communities, as well as strategically preparing communities in high-risk areas to prepare for and respond to disasters caused by climate change. Staff and volunteers will take urgent steps to adapt to the increasing and changing risks of climate and environmental crises, as well as to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Develop and validate mapping of communities at risk of the effects of climate or environmental changes
- Establish and strengthen early warning systems according to identified risks
- Plant and maintain at least 3,000 fruit trees and anti-erosion trees
- Organize training workshops on local climate change and adaptation strategies for nine communities
- Sensitize 40 coastal villages to act against artisanal fishing, sand extraction, uncontrolled dumping of household waste on beaches and coastal erosion
- Strengthen the capacity of communities of the three islands through training on adapting to the effects of climate change and by providing basic tools
- Support climate change awareness by organizing workshops and conferences in 10 locations
- Produce and disseminate information, education and communication materials on climate change and climate adaptation to 20 communities and 20 middle and high schools on the three islands
- Popularize information, education and communication tools on disaster risk reduction and other materials previously produced on climate change and environmental protection
- Sensitize 20 communities and 20 schools to addressing deforestation, wildfire and environmental protection

- Create 20 youth clubs focusing on environmental protection and climate change adaptation in schools
- Organize three training sessions for 60 volunteers and National Society staff on adapting to the effects of climate change and adaptation strategies
- Organize three training sessions for 20 volunteers and Comoros Red Crescent staff on developing climate change and adaptation strategies at a local level

## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Comoros](#)

Comoros is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Africa, and is highly affected by natural hazards including cyclones, flooding, volcanic eruptions, drought and landslides. In April 2019, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth passed through the archipelago, mainly affecting the island of Ngazidja but also causing flooding on the islands of Ndzواني and Mwali. The heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Kenneth caused widespread flooding, loss of life, displacement of people, and the destruction of houses, public infrastructure and crops. Other cyclones such as Belna and Jobo have been reported in Comoros in 2020 and 2021, but had less impact than previous ones. Each year, Comoros records two to three cyclones that affect the population.

Mount Karthala is an active volcano that affects the surrounding population from time to time. It poses significant risks to the community and a threat to the country. The volcano is located on the island of Ngazidja, and is the southernmost and largest of the two shield volcanoes that form the island. It contains a 3km by 4km summit caldera generated by repeated collapses. Historical eruptions have changed the morphology of the caldera, making it irregular in shape. More than 20 eruptions have been recorded since the 19th century, coming from the caldera and vents on the northern and southern flanks. Many lava flows have reached the sea on both sides of the island. In 1860, a lava flow from the caldera travelled about 13km northwest, reaching the west coast north of the capital Moroni. The last known eruption was in 2007, and was a magmatic eruption. The distance and the direction of the eruptions over the years is one of the parameters analyzed in the vulnerability analysis.

On 15 July 2022, abnormal volcanic activity was recorded at Mount Karthala by the Karthala Volcano Observatory,

manifesting as persistent microseisms on the western flank of the island. The observatory has initiated regular checks on the volcano's activities, which report continued seismic activity. In light of this and according to the National Emergency Plan, the Minister of Interior in charge of security launched the yellow alert on 17 August 2022, starting a phase of volcanic vigilance. Worryingly, on 5 September, the Karthala Volcano Observatory showed that seismic movements had decreased and the magma pockets had gone from 12km to just 1.5km deep. It insisted on vigilance, as the magma could move quickly and unexpectedly to the surface, especially as the volcano is known to be unpredictable. According to the observatory's analysis, there was very little certainty over whether the orange or red phase would be triggered. The level of volcanic alert might therefore last for days, weeks or even a year, but could also return to normal. The nature of the eruption was not known in advance, but several risks were already identified by the Karthala Volcano Observatory, based on current observations and historical data:

- Risk of eruption through lava flows that require people living in at-risk areas to be evacuated
- Volcanic ash, which could spread depending on the wind direction, polluting water
- Gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) which are potentially deadly to people living near or approaching the volcano
- Seismic tremors which would threaten infrastructures
- Mudflows

According to the Karthala Volcanic Observatory, four regions of the island of Ngazidja were at risk: Mbadjini in the south, and Hambou, Bambao and Itsandra in the centre. These areas cover an estimated 294,000 inhabitants and an estimated displaced population of 44,000 people. A total of 115 villages were in the risk zones. Previous volcanic eruptions have also shown the water supply system to be vulnerable, regardless of the nature of the eruption.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Comoros Red Crescent has been responding to multiple disasters affecting the archipelago over the past decades, including flooding, tropical cyclones and volcanic eruptions. The National Society is involved in responding to the recent volcanic activity of Mount Karthala, with support from an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [allocation](#).

Thanks to its volunteers, who cover all areas of the country, the Comoros Red Crescent has unparalleled reach. It also has extensive experience in responding, especially in shelter and camp set-up, first aid and health, water and sanitation, and livelihoods. With its network of volunteers across the country, the National Society intends to develop large-scale actions alongside other organizations, ensuring the population is protected through disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

The Comoros Red Crescent also supports vulnerable communities to overcome crises and to become more resilient. It does this by implementing its medium- and long-term development projects, which focus on disaster risk reduction, climate change and adaptation. The organization is well recognized and has a good reputation throughout the country due to its emergency operations and its information campaigns. The National Society will prioritize capacity building, revision of contingency plans, familiarization with emergency tools, robust preparedness and immediate response needs.

The Comoros Red Crescent will ensure that local communities understand and apply the principles of humanitarian action, risk reduction and preparedness. It will support communities to take steps that increase their resilience to disasters. In this way, local branches will develop their capacities and remain important actors in preparedness, anticipatory action and response interventions.

The Comoros Red Crescent will ensure that it remains a potential responder and that people affected by disasters are supported effectively and in a timely way. To properly deliver assistance in a dignified manner, it will implement cash and voucher assistance programmes. These were tested successfully during the 2022 flooding response. The National Society will also continue to build capacity, promote preparedness and implement quality cash transfer programmes.

The Comoros Red Crescent will work to strengthen its leadership in the field of humanitarian law.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Conduct community vulnerability and capacity assessments in four communities, guided by the [IFRC toolkit](#)
- Train 50 members of the four communities in capacity building around resilience and climate-smart disaster risk reduction

- Develop early warning systems in four communities
- Build community capacity by constructing hazard mitigation structures in 12 communities
- Establish 40 village resilience management committees and build the capacity of these committees through training, as well as coordinating and communicating between local, regional and national levels
- Strengthen the livelihoods of 1,000 vulnerable households by distributing in-kind or cash transfers equivalent to the value of their livestock, agricultural, fishing or other supplies (food, feeders, waterers, perches) to improve their socio-economic activities
- Assist 900 disaster-affected households by distributing food, non-food items and cash
- Sensitize 100 producers to join the Centre Rural de Développement Économique agricultural cooperatives and protect their livelihoods
- Support the Ministry of Education to scale up school risk education programmes and the creation of tools adapted to local specifications, in collaboration with local community risk management actors
- Implement early warning systems and emergency plans in schools, including first aid and life-saving techniques
- Revise, disseminate and implement National Society and branch contingency plans
- Replenish three National Society contingency stocks on the three islands
- Participate in coordination meetings with the General Directorate of Civil Security
- Carry out a workshop on tools to [rapidly assess](#) situations and needs
- Set up ultra-high frequency, very high frequency and satellite emergency communication networks to ensure fixed or mobile links in remote areas in case of disasters
- Organize disaster response team training for National Society volunteers at community, branch and national level
- With the support of the IFRC, provide technical assistance to the Government in drafting Comoros's first disaster risk management bill, ensuring it incorporates climate change adaptation and is based on [IFRC best practices and recommendations](#).

- With the support of the IFRC and the French Red Cross, participate in consultations, meetings and workshops to develop the draft law
- Advocate with authorities at different levels on humanitarian principles and values, norms and standards for disaster preparedness and response

## Health and wellbeing

Comoros has a fragile health care system. Infant mortality rates are largely dependent on causes such as diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition, with 36 and 50 deaths per 1,000 respectively. Neonatal mortality is estimated at 24 per 1,000, and the main causes of death relate to asphyxia, neonatal infections and prematurity. Over the past 10 years, the maternal mortality ratio has decreased from 380 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2003 to 172 per 100,000 in 2012.

This poor quality of care can be explained by infrastructure that is poor, insufficient and outdated, as well as a lack of human resources. Access to care is problematic, particularly in rural areas. Despite efforts and encouraging results in recent years, the epidemiological situation in Comoros remains worrying. There is a high prevalence of diseases relating to water and hygiene, as well as infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis, parasitic diseases including malaria, respiratory infections (especially among young children), malnutrition and cardiovascular diseases.

### Main actions and areas of support

Since 2016, the Comoros Red Crescent and the French Red Cross have been implementing a programme to support and strengthen the public and community health system for the care of Comorian patients across the three main islands. As part of this project, the two National Societies support the Ministry of Health to revitalize 16 health structures by training staff, improving hospital hygiene and supporting supplies. Volunteers from the Comoros Red Crescent also raise awareness of good health practices with the public, encouraging lasting improvements to their health.

The National Society plans to invest in partnerships with other actors and to focus on key main areas of intervention, including:

- Malaria
- Reproductive health among young people aged 12 to 30
- Hygiene and diarrhoeal diseases

- Malnutrition among children aged up to five years
- Vaccination among children aged up to nine months

The National Society also considers health situations relating to disasters, epidemics and pandemics, and intends to implement a strategy aimed at strengthening its capacity at all levels and to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other actors in the health sector.

The Comoros Red Crescent is planning to develop a strategy for health, water, sanitation and hygiene, with reference to the Government's own strategy. It will disseminate information about this strategy and implement it through community-level workshops, establishing multi-hazard micro-plans and promoting hygiene in communities and schools. It will prioritize coastal ocean areas as the highest priority for preventing diseases related to poor hygiene and access to safe water. With UNICEF, which is the Comoros Red Crescent's partner in this area, the National Society will ensure that other partnerships are developed to achieve these objectives.

A continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention will reinforce the fight against COVID-19 by investing in building resilient public health security infrastructures in Africa. Through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by the Mastercard Foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme that aims to ensure that 60 per cent of African people are vaccinated against COVID-19. The programme supports the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines to hasten economic recovery. Under this programme, the Comoros Red Crescent will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities in vulnerable communities, supporting vaccine uptake and making sure that vaccination activities are community-led and well trusted. Other partners in the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative will provide procurement and logistics to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (World Food Programme), management of COVID-19 vaccination centres (AMREF, GHSS) and safety surveillance (AKROS).

The Comoros Red Crescent will continue to contribute to COVID-19 emergencies to support activities to ensure response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will support the Ministry of Health to achieve and maintain national immunization targets and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines, including future COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility.

The National Society will also consider the mental and psychosocial health of volunteers and the community to ensure their health and well-being throughout the rounds of immunization.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Participate in the health platform to contribute to the development of health strategy and policy documents
- Participate in meetings and coordinate with health, water, sanitation and hygiene stakeholders
- Finalize and disseminate the National Society standard operating procedures for community health
- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers in health behaviour change communication by prioritizing the major intervention areas based on the incidence of certain diseases
- Evaluate available tools and, based on the choice of intervention areas (essential family practices, reproductive health, integrated management of childhood illnesses at community level), update or design and disseminate appropriate tools to raise awareness among the population
- Support primary health care facilities to improve quality of care, including patient intake
- Develop community mobilization activities to address maternal and infant mortality
- Contribute to establishing a structured referral and counter-referral system
- Develop and disseminate a communication strategy on preventing diseases with epidemic potential
- Organize social mobilization action at community level to prevent diseases
- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers to identify and refer cases of acute malnutrition
- Organize training for volunteers on identifying cardiovascular diseases
- Set up a mobile clinic at national level
- Organize community sensitization on the use of local health centres
- Organize follow-ups, education and home care for older people and people with reduced mobility
- Conduct regular sensitization on preventive measures relating to endemic, pandemic and epidemic diseases at community level

- Develop community-based health and first aid according to international standards and recognition
- Establish a non-remunerated blood donation club
- Conduct psychosocial follow-up at community level
- Provide nutritional education to pregnant and lactating women
- Provide non-viral health and hygiene supplies in case of emergencies
- Train three teams of 60 volunteers in the three islands on chlorine production, waste management, public hygiene, sanitation and more
- Train staff and hygienists on health structures to manage medical waste
- Promote and enhance the use of active chlorine for home water treatment
- Acquire mass water treatment lines and Del Agua laboratories in all three branches
- Support public primary schools, health facilities and prison services on personal hygiene
- Organize community sensitization on water, hygiene and sanitation
- Provide water, sanitation and hygiene kits to 900 people affected by emergencies

## Migration and displacement

In recent years, Comoros has faced clandestine migration flows from the African continent, with people trying to reach Maore. In 2021, the Comorian authorities intercepted about 50 people who were trying to reach Maore from the island of Ndzwani. Their maritime journey began on the east coast of Africa where they had been picked up by smugglers on a boat to Ndzwani before continuing to Maore. The entire internal security service of Comoros has been mobilized to assist with this largely irregular form of migration, particularly by trying to prevent departures. In December, the coastguard recorded unprecedented results. The International Organization for Migration is also involved in this issue.

Although the number of reported cases is still low, Comoros remains a migratory crossroads and a corridor for migrants wanting to go to Maore.



Mustapha Diallo / IFRC

## Main actions and areas of support

As a humanitarian organization auxiliary to the public authorities, the Comoros Red Crescent has mobilized urgent technical support for the health care of migrants on the island of Ndzwani for two months. It will also continue to provide its humanitarian contribution to these situations, helping to ensure that migrants and displaced people have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as durable solutions where appropriate.

The Comoros Red Crescent is planning to set up a minimum emergency mechanism, accompanied by advocacy at national level to ratify laws and establish contingency plans in collaboration with the appropriate structures. At the request of the Government, the National Society will engage in the entire process of assisting migrants by setting up reception structures on three islands and pre-positioning strategic stocks of emergency supplies.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Establish a minimum emergency service
- Advocate at national level for laws to be ratified
- Advocate for a contingency plan to be established in collaboration with the General Directorate of Disaster Management in case of an influx of migrants
- Set up reception structures (camps) for migrants on the three islands

- Pre-position stocks of emergency supplies for 200 migrants and displaced people (tents and picot beds, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, blankets, drinking water)
- Provide volunteers to the migrants' accommodation sites
- Train 40 volunteers (15 on Ndzwani, 15 on Ngazidja, 10 on Mwali) to care for migrants
- Ensure proper management of assistance to migrants
- Train volunteers on Sphere standards
- Appoint a focal point for the migrant programme
- Provide the necessary equipment for the coordination of activities

## Values, power and inclusion

Since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993, Comoros has taken several actions to improve and strengthen its child protection system. It has developed several legal texts, improved its institutional framework, set up at national and island levels, set up services for protecting child victims of violence, and established a juvenile morality police and juvenile judges.

Surveys conducted by UNICEF from 20 to 25 March 2022 in Comoros (Ndzwani, Mwali and Ngazidja) found a total of 164 cases of violence (all types combined) during the first quarter of 2022. Of these, 129 (79 per cent) involved female victims. Thirty-five cases (21 per cent) of cases involved male victims of all ages.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Comoros Red Crescent supports the Government in its protection activities by focusing on capacity-building activities for staff and volunteers, local authorities and communities. It also carries out awareness-raising sessions and provides psychosocial support.

The National Society contributes to positive change in communities by encouraging the broader understanding, ownership and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, with a focus on the knowledge, skills and behaviour of young people.

The Comoros Red Crescent will also promote and support equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls affected by disasters, crises or population movement. It will ensure that the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities are at the heart of its priorities and that the most vulnerable people and communities remain at the centre of its actions, empowered to influence decisions that affect them to maintain their confidence and better serve their interests.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Train youth leaders from the four communities on humanitarian values and core principles
- Conduct a protection, gender and inclusion organizational assessment
- Develop recommended action plans based on the results of the organizational assessment
- Sensitize parents to enroll their children in peripheral schools
- Provide school supplies and clothing kits to children affected by disasters
- Provide psychosocial support at home for people in distress in disasters
- Establish and provide mandatory briefings for all staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion in emergency situations, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence
- Train National Society staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion
- Improve collaboration with other external actors and National Society participation in relevant national and sub-national forums, including coordination and partnership with the sexual and gender-based violence working group, and disability and women's rights organizations at national level
- Organize community engagement and accountability training for 30 National Society staff and volunteers
- Encourage all sectors to integrate community engagement and accountability approaches in all programmes
- Strengthen community feedback mechanisms, with an emphasis on analysis and use of qualitative community data

---

## Enabling local actors

The Comoros Red Crescent is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening. It is engaged in the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is currently at the orientation phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately to take the actions necessary to improve it. The National Society also plans to embark into the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. The self-assessment part of this process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The IFRC supports the the Comoros Red Crescent in identifying its priorities, and provides support across its National Society development objectives.

### Engaged

The Comoros Red Crescent will ensure that it is respected and recognized as a neutral and impartial humanitarian actor that can effectively promote the principles, values, policies and legislation that support humanitarian action. It will ensure that it mobilizes support to meet the needs and aspirations of vulnerable communities.

To meet the priority strategies cited above, the Comoros Red Crescent must innovate, adapt and fully deploy digital technologies, as well as strengthening its auxiliary role to become the partner of choice for the Comorian authorities. The National Society will place greater emphasis on improving collaboration as a network and with other organizations, thinking beyond its borders to address the most important humanitarian challenges facing Comoros.

The Comoros Red Crescent will increase its visibility and public confidence through communications and public advocacy, strengthen its auxiliary role with other organizations, and work more effectively in a coordinated manner.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Organize an annual meeting for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and external partners
- Strengthen the partnership with key ministries, including health, education and interior ministries
- Organize two experience-sharing trips with sister National Societies between the Burundi Red Cross, French Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross Society, Malagasy Red Cross Society and Senegalese Red Cross Society
- Update and disseminate its resource mobilization strategy
- Organize a national fundraising campaign
- Implement an innovative project with a high social impact
- Incorporate the resources necessary for digital transformation
- Implement a digital information system in the three branches
- Train facilitators and volunteers to use and understand the digital information system
- Set up an information management and technical support service
- Train staff on connected office tools and the cloud
- Set up a digital infrastructure related to the National Society's offices
- Manage the maintenance of the computer centre and logistics

## Accountable

The Comoros Red Crescent will focus on and adapt its management and organizational approaches, in order to operate as a country-wide organization.

To achieve this, it will place greater emphasis on eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy and duplication in its own systems. It will create the conditions needed to expand its collective ambitions to increase financial resources and reach more people in need, while transforming regional and local branches to be more efficient,

accountable and effective, so they are the partner of choice at all times.

The Comoros Red Crescent plans to develop a resource mobilization policy that will enable it to create the conditions for increased financial resources through a newly developed financial architecture. It will also develop the talents of its staff and volunteers, and manage its financial resources more effectively. To guard against reputational risk, the Comoros Red Crescent will adopt guidelines, tools and mechanisms on issues such as fraud, corruption and child protection.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Strengthen the knowledge of its staff and volunteers on the use of IFRC tools such as DREF, including for [anticipatory action](#), and Emergency Appeals
- Strengthen the knowledge of its staff and volunteers on fraud and corruption, gender and protection, sexual harassment and abuse, protection of minors, and the code of conduct
- Update its administrative and financial procedures manual
- Organize capacity building sessions on internal financial controls
- Organize an internal audit for each regional office and an external audit for the National Society
- Implement a financial system with appropriate software to improve financial reporting
- Train finance departments on financial tools
- Popularize internal financial procedures to staff and volunteers and branches
- Develop and implement one income-generating project such as commercial first aid, eco-bag making or water first aid
- Develop an indirect cost recovery procedure to enable it to obtain unrestricted funding for its operations

## Trusted

The Comoros Red Crescent positions itself as a principled and trusted organization that is owned and supported by its members, and strives to establish mutually respectful cooperation and coordination within the branches and between internal and external partners.

The National Society will increase the participation of youth and volunteers, promoting gender equality and inclusion, and empowering people and communities affected by crises to influence decisions about their lives and livelihoods.

To achieve this, the Comoros Red Crescent will listen to the needs of its members and respond accordingly, recognizing the singularities and universality of the Movement. The National Society's confidence will be proportionately linked to the level of organizational growth at local and headquarters level, as well as to its ability to address humanitarian and development issues with the right people and with appropriate coordination and cooperation. The National Society will strengthen its visibility, communications and volunteer loyalty.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Organize a workshop to revise its constitution and bylaws

- Disseminate its statutes and regulations to all branches and partners
- Organize a workshop to update the national policy on youth and volunteerism
- Establish and energize youth clubs at branch level
- Promote the spirit and policy of volunteerism to all members of society
- Include volunteer insurance in all operational plans
- Strengthen the capacities of the three branches on good governance
- Organize a BOCA and OCAC evaluation session
- Update the volunteer database
- Recruit 2,000 members and volunteers based on community diversity, paying attention to gender, local languages and cultures, marginalized groups and also influential community members, as well as professional and academic institutions

## THE IFRC NETWORK

---

### The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Comoros Red Crescent from its presence in Antananarivo, Madagascar. It also has a headquarters agreement in Comoros.

The IFRC's support to the Comoros Red Crescent focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including reinforcing the National Society's auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports coordination of the membership, and relations with UN organizations, international non-governmental organizations and government disaster management authorities.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Comoros Red Crescent through several DREF operations relating to tropical cyclones, plague preparedness and volcanic eruption alert. One DREF operation which was launched in 2022 will cross over to 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, has supported the Comoros Red Crescent in its COVID-19 response, through its global Emergency Appeal.

### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to:

- Assess humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs, and agree common priorities
- Co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, and mobilizing funding and other resources
- Clarify consistent public messaging
- Monitor progress
- Ensure that strategies and programmes supporting people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action and development assistance, and that efforts are made to reinforce the auxiliary role of the Comoros Red Crescent

The Comoros Red Crescent is part of three IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Red Ready and National Society development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
French Red Cross	CHF 0.10M		●	●					
Japanese Red Cross							●	●	●

0.10M

The Comoros Red Crescent works closely with the **French Red Cross**, which has been present in the country since 2000. It supports the Comoros Red Crescent through programmes in the areas of prevention, preparation and response to emergencies caused by natural disasters and health crises. The Comoros Red Crescent is also supported by the French Red Cross's Indian Ocean Platform for Regional Intervention (PIROI). When the PIROI platform was established in 2000, the Comoros Red Crescent became a full member. The French Red Cross has supported the Comoros Red Crescent during disasters such as the cholera epidemics in 2002 and 2007, the air crash in 2009, the floods in 2003 and 2012, and Cyclone Hellen in 2014. The French

Red Cross has signed a framework agreement with the Comoros Red Crescent which specifies the technical support it provides for disaster management and health system strengthening activities carried out by the Comoros Red Crescent. Since 2016, the French Red Cross has been developing a programme to strengthen the health system and the capacities of the Ministry of Health. The French Red Cross has an emergency fund that can be bilaterally allocated to the Comoros Red Crescent to support response, ensuring there is no duplication with activities included in DREF operations.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** also supports the Comoros Red Crescent with organizational development.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, The Comoros Red Crescent works closely with ministries and government agencies. During emergencies, it is part of emergency platforms such as the cyclonic crisis management coordination, and sectoral coordination meetings organized by the Civil Protection Directorate. At a local level, the local committees of the Comoros Red Crescent participate in humanitarian stakeholder meetings organized by the Government.

During emergencies, the National Society and IFRC emergency personnel communicate with the United Nations (UN) at country level to ensure coordination. International humanitarian organizations present in Comoros include UNICEF, UNDP, World Health Organization, World Food Programme, Caritas and the African Development Bank. The Comoros Red Crescent also has a partnership with UNICEF to support hygiene and sanitation in schools.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

---

## Contact Information

### **Maria Martinez**

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for  
Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros  
& Seychelles, based in Antananarivo  
**T** +261 321132624  
[maria.martinez@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.martinez@ifrc.org)

### **Louise Daintrey**

Head of Strategic Engagement  
& Partnerships  
IFRC Regional Office for Africa,  
Nairobi  
**T** +254 110 843978  
[louise.daintry@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintry@ifrc.org)

### **The Comoros Red Crescent**

**W** [cr-comores.org](http://cr-comores.org)

---