



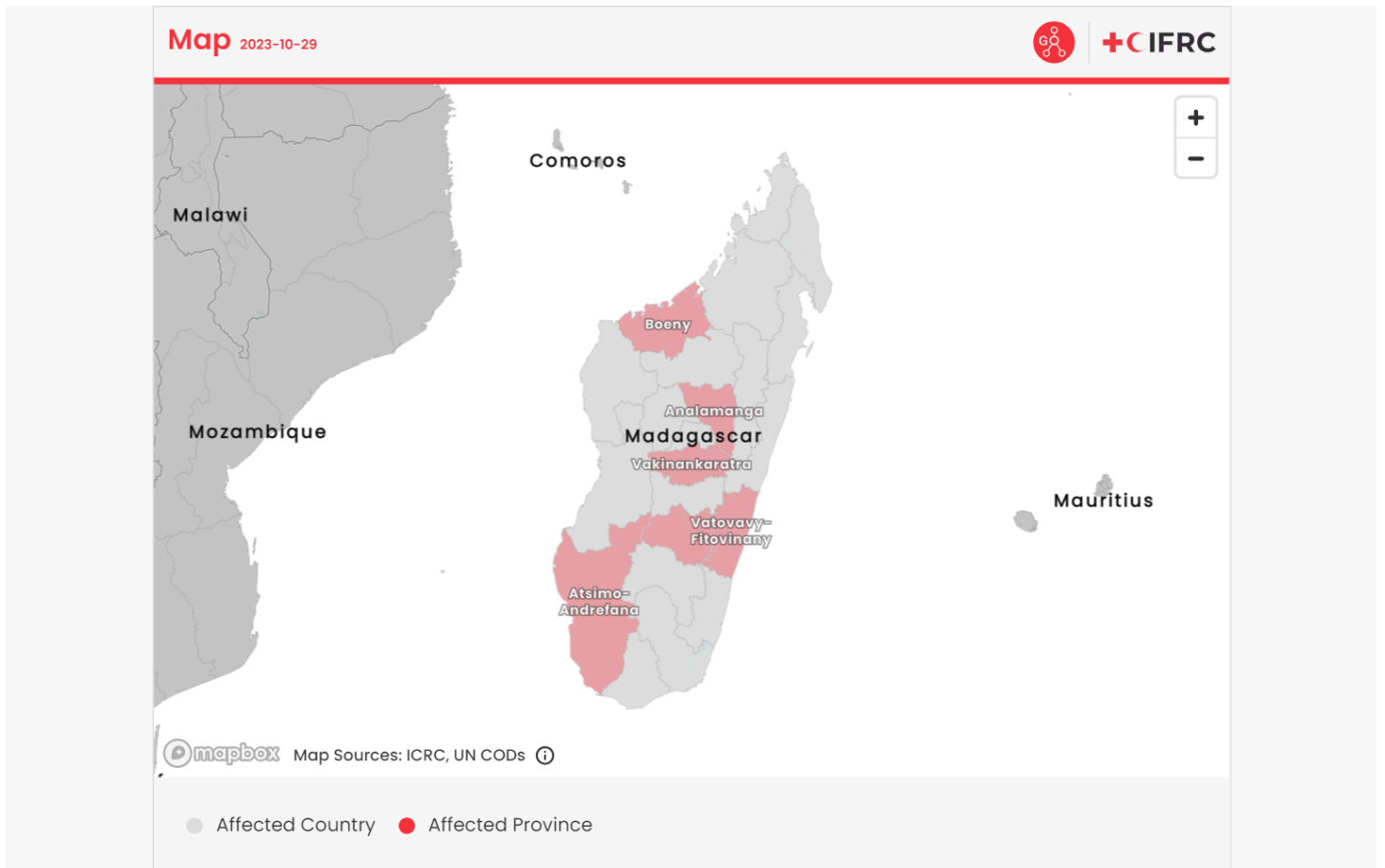
Malagasy RC volunteers procured first aid for injured person and transport them to hospital by its ambulance

Appeal: MDRMG021	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 144,361	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 90,000 people	People Targeted: 9,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 26-10-2023	Operational End Date: 31-01-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months

Targeted Areas: **Analamanga, Atsimo-Andrefana, Boeny, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, Vatovavy-Fitovinany**

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Approximate date of impact

Madagascar's presidential elections were scheduled for 9 November 2023, but were postponed until 16 November. As the election had already been delayed once before, the Malagasy RC set the period from 09/11/2023 to 19/11/2023 as being highly likely for an escalation of the situation. However, an alert period of 3 months (until January 2024) is necessary due to the possibility of post-election violence throughout the country.

Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

The presidential election in Madagascar was held in 2023. The last elections were relatively calm, however, since independence in 1960, the presidential election process has always been characterized by violence and demonstrations, with several people injured or killed. Between 1991 and 2018, all elections were marked by minor or major troubles, sometimes leading to electoral disputes, protests and violence against property and people. During the previous election, several alliances were formed within the National Assembly to challenge the electoral code, depending on the interests of each party, particularly their MPs. The 2018 presidential election was the starting point for a new pre-election crisis. Two main political parties, supported by other minor parties, succeeded in mobilizing the population in the capital and the country's major cities for a demonstration. An initial violent confrontation between protesters and police took place on 21 April 2018, leaving 2 people dead and 17 injured. The protest movement continued peacefully after this confrontation, when the forces of law and order decided to stop intervening to prevent demonstrations. Political negotiations lasted around two months, at the end of which a political agreement was reached to set up a consensus government made up essentially of 3 major alliances to organize the presidential election; and the President of the Republic was kept in his post.

The country has also experienced periods of political instability. The 2009 crisis was the biggest political crisis to hit the country since its independence in 1960. The crisis resulted in the unconstitutional change of regime of former President after three months of intense popular movement. Supported by the army, the leader of this movement succeeded to head a political transition that lasted 5 years. The 2009 crisis was distinguished from other political crises by the high number of deaths, hundreds of injuries, job losses, its protracted nature, the increase in violence and looting, and the army's heavy intervention.

Since the last elections, the accumulation and multiplication of natural disasters (cyclones, floods, drought, epidemics, etc.), as well as difficult economic and social conditions, have significantly affected Madagascar. These various crises have weighed heavily on the country's socio-economic life and are compounded by various governance problems in a number of areas. The current government is facing unprecedented socio-political and economic tensions as it approaches the end of its mandate, on the eve of the 2023 presidential election.

Demonstrations took place since 2 October, with over 10,000 people demonstrating in Antananarivo (towards Ankazomanga, Anjanahary, Ampasapito, Behoririka), Tulear, Majunga, Antsirabe, Mananara nord, Mananjary, and Fianarantsoa. The demonstrations, which began peacefully, gradually turned violent after the gatherings began. The official number of people injured and affected is still unknown for the last two weeks of demonstrations, but the Red Cross assisted 11 people and 146 volunteers/employees were mobilized. The data reported here only relates to areas where the Malagasy Red Cross was able to intervene (in total, 5 injured people received first aid from the Malagasy Red Cross when the demonstrations began on 2 October). The total number is probably higher than that reported by the Red Cross because it does not have access to other data from all the demonstration points.

Generally, despite localized violence and riots, the entire electoral process was fairly calm, both on election day and when the results were announced. Propaganda days remain the only period when the threat of disorder was at its highest. However, the MRC teams were on standby, ready to be deployed whereas manifestations occur in every outskirts or in the heart of the cities. When waiting for the results' proclamation, the risk of political demonstrations getting out of hand was also high. But at the end, no critical contestations have been noticed, and the normal life has quickly regained.



MRCs Ambulance in action during rally in Ambohitovo



Malagasy RC first aid station providing healthcare

Scope and Scale

Electoral processes had the potential to pose a threat in the pre- and post-election periods. This election period in Madagascar was also marked by several socio-economic problems, including the food crisis in the southern part of the country, the high cost of living, and so on. Conflicts linked to the elections could increase the vulnerability of people already in need. During demonstrations and violence, markets, supermarkets, schools, and other sources of income remain closed, creating food insecurity and socio-economic concerns. Ethnic conflicts were threatened to occur in rural areas. Young people and the poor might be manipulated into becoming involved in violence, creating a precarious situation, particularly for the poorest people, pregnant, breastfeeding women, and the elderly. During the previous crisis, the main victims were young people and the unemployed who went out to demonstrate. Sexual violence occurred, particularly in isolated areas.

Overall estimated people at risk:

- People that were part of the demonstrations thus being exposed to harm following expected violence: vary from 10,000 (based on the number of people that have been demonstrating since 2nd October) to up to 45,000 (based on experience of 2009 contestation gathering 30,000 people). The number of 20,000 has been considered in the likely scenario.
- People indirectly exposed, that were voters or people willing to register themselves for the votes are likely to be caught in violence during the rallies, and on voting days. This was concerning all age groups. High vulnerability to the scenario of violence has been for young people, elderly, and women. MRC estimated at least 1% of the voters to be at risk. Given the electoral timetable, the current situation, recent events and the opposition's declaration not to campaign, the three months of this process was likely to remain a sensitive period. However, for scenario planning purposes, a likely period of localized but highly repetitive demonstrations and violence were considered, which was:
 - 02 days from rounds 1 and 2 (one day each).
 - 14 days (about 2 weeks) from the submission of the second-round results.
 - The week of the final results, sense to happen in January 2024.
- It has been noted that weekends and public holidays are the days when demonstrations and violence are most frequent. The planned scenario had to be reviewed if the timetable is changed, particularly for the announcement of the results.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Indian Ocean Cluster Delegation is based in Madagascar and regularly provides technical and financial support to Malagasy RC. During the DREF election's preparedness, IFRC was part of team in charge of revising the elections' contingency plan from UN, and daily alerts were shared with IFRC from UNDSS. The IFRC CCD has supported the NS in reviewing the contingency plan and development of a plan of action and was ready to deploy the necessary human resources to support with the preparedness and response.
Participating National Societies	PNSs in country are French RC, German RC and Luxembourg RC. They are supporting the NS in various project in different areas of the country. Membership coordination has been organized to share useful information for PNS decision makers.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

There is no ICRC office in the country.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Although there has been a disagreement on who should lead in the absence of the President of Republic, the constitution of Madagascar states that the President of the



Senate is the one who takes over as acting president. However, this role has been granted to the Prime Minister. The disregard of the Constitution ruling constitutes one of the sources of discomfort from the population and the opposition. The electoral process was managed by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) which is in charge of the creation of the Elections Centres, revision of the electoral list and printing the voter's cards. The High Court of Justice deals with the publication of the electoral calendar.

UN or other actors

The UN agencies were active in coordination and identification of needs and capacities of humanitarian actors. The UN Resident Coordinator has initiated and approved the revision of the contingency planning for elections. UN OCHA has also activated the humanitarian crisis team where IFRC is part of.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

There is an active Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), associated by the sectorial working groups to support the Government. The NS took part into all the sectoral groups. IFRC is part of HCT representing all Red Cross Movement.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

Election campaign rallies, demonstrations, voting days, period of results in hotspot areas may lead to violence which could result in injuries, separation of family members, and significant psychological effects. As such, the population in these high-risk areas needed support in terms of first aid care, medical evacuations, and referral to hospitals in the event of serious cases. In addition, volunteers and staff involved in activities was exposed to any potential tensions/ fights which could result in injuries and deaths if health and safety recommendations were not respected. Prepositioning of first aid kits and other equipment was needed in order to ensure the full capacity of MRCS in the event of an escalation of tensions. Volunteers needed to be trained or refreshed on basic first aid and psychological first aid as one of the requirements during this operation.

Prepositioning of Protective and Visibility Materials: The materials needed to be distributed to the identified hotspot zones during the electoral campaigns. This has assisted branches in providing first aid services during campaign rallies. In addition, visibility materials (vests, ID cards, bibs, stickers, and flags) needed to be made available to the branches for security and visibility purposes, both playing an essential role in this type of intervention.

Additionally, arrangements were made at headquarters level and in the various branches to provide a place where NS staff and volunteers can regroup and rest if they cannot go back to their homes during operations. Emergency operations centres have been set up at the headquarters and branches of the 8 high-risk targeted zones: Antananarivo CUA, Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, Mahajanga, Toliara, Mananjary and Manakara.

The National Society continued to provide one emergency ambulance and first aid services to wounded casualty. There was an apparent need to maintain and scale up this service, ensuring maintenance and running of the ambulance services. Mental health and psychosocial needs were also a concern for those affected by the clashes, including staff and volunteers in the response.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the event of conflict, people already in vulnerable situations could find themselves in worse situations and have their rights trampled on. People with specific needs include (pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, and the elderly). Volunteers have been trained on the code of conduct and PGI issues, especially on the prevention of gender-based violence, in order to protect themselves, and to better assist the most vulnerable. This operation aimed at reducing the risk factors for an increase in gender-based violence, identify GVB and PSEA cases and treat/refer them.





Community Engagement And Accountability

At all times, but especially during elections, it is important to sensitize communities and all political forces on the mandate, role, mission, and principles of the Red Cross, but also on the mechanism to put in place, while laying emphasis the principles of neutrality and impartiality. This guarantees the staff and volunteers' access to the field and avoid any confusion with other intervention actors and avoid any reputational risk for the NS. To this effect, the volunteers has been re-briefed on RC movement mandate, role and principles to better approach the community, how to disseminate and provide information or feedback. Besides, MRC has already disseminated key messages on its Facebook page with regards to the respect of the principle of neutrality and impartiality and has highlighted that the NS has provided first aid services to anyone in need, without distinction of political parties.

During emergency preparedness, MRC worked closely with community through multiple channel (field working, social networks) to improve its visibility and mandate, and making sure that the communities were well aware of the services rendered. MRC worked to strengthen the basic communication mechanisms for communities to access the services, including awareness raising. MRC strengthened the community access on emergency situation with the emergency free number line where communities can call and share feedback and complaints.

On summary, gaps related to CEA were on next:

Community sensitization and raising awareness on Red cross mandate;

Strengthening staff and volunteers in Analamanga level on CEA activities during crisis situation.

Strengthen the community access on emergency situation with the toll-free line.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The aim of this operation was to prepare the Malagasy Red Cross to be ready to respond to the humanitarian needs of the population in the event of pre- and/or post-election violence, by providing support in the health/ first aid, promoting protection and gender inclusion, CEA and PSEA in the target cities of Antananarivo CUA, Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, Mahajanga, Toliara, Mananjary and Manakara. This has been done in coordination with other actors and partners present in the country.

Operation strategy rationale

Malagasy Red Cross was mobilizing this operation to respond to pre- and post-effects of electoral period in country, by deploying its capacity, conducting preparedness activities, and coordinating with other humanization organizations.

As part of that, and in order to better address the needs of the target population, the following activities was implemented before election on 16/11/23:

Mobilization and training of staff and volunteers for psychosocial first aid, PGI, PSEA activities.

Preposition and distribution of emergency first aid kits in hotspots zones.

Mobilization of staff and volunteers for RC Movement role, mission, mandate and principles.

Coordination with local, and national level government institution as well as other partners.

It is important to note that based upon historic experience and day to day change of situations, it was expected that the response would be scaled up in order to cover increased needs of the affected population. Finally, the anticipated scenario did not occur, and the situation has begun to stabilize.

This operation has contributed to mitigating the risk of violence through community engagement by sharing messages on the promotion of peace, Red Cross mandate and principles. This activity has also contributed to promoting tolerance and acceptance of the actions carried out by the Malagasy Red Cross throughout the operation.

During post-election, the MRC maintained its efforts on monitoring the evolution of situations both in Antananarivo and other districts,



increasing the communications with the community about the main roles of the RC during complex situation. Volunteer mobilization was maintained when a key trigger appeared (e.g. rapid contestation of the election results following potential manifestations with violent repression). PGI and PSEA activities focused on how to mitigate violence risk during electoral period.

In this sensitive context where the threat of violence may impede access to people in need and put the lives of staff and volunteers at risk, Malagasy RC ensured volunteers safety by training them on trained safer access. Besides, a security risk analysis and global safety framework has been set up before commencing the operation. This process contributed to mitigating or preventing safety /risk of volunteers before any initiative or field mobilization.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The target was people from the highest hotspots districts known by experience for potential violence before, during and later after the elections (Antananarivo CUA, Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, Mahajanga, Toliara, Mananjary and Manakara). In general, 9 million people over 18 years old are expected to vote. However, it has been observed that those who are at risk are the ones attending the demonstrations, or those who are actively involved in their political parties' activities. These groups represent almost 1% of the voters, (90,000) in the worst scenario. The operational plan focused on 9,000 people, that is 1% of the 90,000 people at risk that would most likely be affected. However, in the event of the worst-case scenario, where the needs grow necessitating a bigger humanitarian intervention, the operation was to be revised.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Referring to geographical selection criteria, the highest hotspots districts known by experience for potential violence before, during and later after the elections are (Antananarivo CUA, Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, Mahajanga, Toliara, Mananjary and Manakara).

Individuals attending demonstrations, campaigns, misbehaving at the polling stations, voters and all other stakeholders involved in the voting process, parties' activities, candidates themselves and their families, etc.

Most vulnerable people (pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, people with disabilities, minority groups, the sick people, the injured people, etc.

Much attention was put on detecting sexual gender-based violence, children protection and Malagasy RC coordinated with experienced structures to provide necessary support.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,590	Rural	30%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	70%
Men	4,410	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	9,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Difficulty accessing to targeted people due to the presence of violence and lack of security.	Safer access training was given to volunteers and staff. This has given volunteers and staff all the tools they need to facilitate their access to the community.



	Key messages have been disseminated. Involved local contacts and local volunteers. Advocacy sessions among the key authorities.
Other natural disasters or outbreaks (cyclones, plague, drought)	In Madagascar, November and December are the beginning of the cyclone season which might lead to population displacements, damages of infrastructures such as building roads. This might affect people movements during the campaigns or voting day. In addition, Madagascar is currently facing a prolonged drought and food insecurity crisis in its southern part. This is also the period of plague outbreak in some communities. If this coincides with an electoral period, the spread may be very speedy, and victims might increase. In addition to advocacy, the Malagasy RC and partners worked on preparedness and anticipatory actions and closely monitored potential events and its impacts.
Increased demand of intervention vis-à-vis the affected areas	Close monitoring of the situation across the country. The plan of actions was revised and adapted to the moving situation as new areas were concerned. The Malagasy RC has managed the volunteers' mobilization as the situation evolved. MRCS continuously gathered information on potential areas of riots and has consequently posted aid station which provides healthcare and psychological supports to affected people.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

During normal periods, Madagascar is recognized to be a peaceful country. However, during times of electoral or political crisis, security becomes a big concern. This is particularly the case in urban areas, where the situation can escalate to violence. Security threats can include demonstrations, spontaneous or planned riots, robbery and vandalism, followed by severe violence, roadblocks by demonstrators or security forces, attacks among parties' members, etc.

The security situation was assessed regularly among the Red Cross Partners (IFRC and PNSs) for exchanges of information on security and necessary measures that need to be taken. MRCS also communicated with the branches of the high-risk localities targeted in collaboration with the community authorities and provided regular updates on the situation.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence, active risk mitigation measures were adopted. Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment was also undertaken to ensure the safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity, and an overall code of conduct was put in place. Minimum security requirements were strictly maintained and applied to all NS staff and volunteers throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Budget: CHF 48,138

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Assisted Persons: 129



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers mobilised: (medical corps, first aiders, stretcher-bearers, logisticians, PSS, GBV/PSEA, data managers, etc.)	500	312
# of volunteers/staff trained in basic first aid and Psychological first aid	350	200
# of people assisted by Red Cross staff/volunteers	9,000	129

Narrative description of achievements

The effectiveness of the response efforts demonstrated the Malagasy Red Cross adaptability and preparedness in facing uncertain situations. The organization successfully utilized its resources and trained volunteers to address the health needs of affected individuals. The Malagasy Red Cross initially identified 500 volunteers across eight districts where riots were anticipated. From the identified volunteers, 320 were selected based on their skills and background to be ready for deployment if needed. A gradual mobilization approach was adopted to respond efficiently to the evolving situation. As manifestations occurred in specific areas, the Malagasy Red Cross provided training to 45 volunteers in Antananarivo and additional volunteers in other districts where manifestations were expected (Antsohihy, Toamasina, Fianarantsoa, Tulear, Majunga). A total of 200 volunteers received refresher training in community-based health, first aid, and psychological support. As the demonstrations did not escalate and spread to other regions, it was no longer necessary to mobilize and train more volunteers.

Under the Red Ready initiative, 21 aid stations were established in Antananarivo, equipped with essential medical supplies. A total of 50 bottles of one liter of alcohol, 50 bottles of betadine, 100 surgical gloves, 20 blood pressure monitors, 20 stethoscopes, 100 "vicryls", 90 foldable beds, 20 stretchers and 124 first aid kits were purchased. The number of kits initially planned for was found to be insufficient in relation to the number of people to be cared for. With regard to this matter, Malagasy RC had anticipated the purchase of 124 kits (30 first aid bags and 94 first aid kits trousers) instead of the 40 originally planned in order to enhance the response in the event of a deterioration in the situation, and for preparedness for future elections (legislative and municipal elections). The first-aid bags were dispatched into eight targeted areas to equip Malagasy RC branches at regional level, while 94 were distributed to trained volunteers who were mobilized to support the wounded people during the demonstration. Some of these unused kits were dispatched to the regional branches during and after the DREF as a pre-positioning for the future elections.

Additionally, MRC procured and allocated 246 vests and 200 caps with MRC logo and suits to sensitive branches to enhance the visibility and protection, particularly for vehicles and volunteers during movements.

In Antananarivo, a response team comprising medical personnel, a medical logistics focal point, stretcher-bearers, first-aid workers, and a coordinator was established, drawing on members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT). Due to the unexpected calm during the post-election period, the identified volunteers were not deployed, and further expansion of the operation to other districts and branches was ultimately unnecessary.

Despite anticipating a more severe situation, the political protests resulted in fewer injured individuals than initially expected. The MRCS' aid stations delivered first aid assistance and psychological support to 129 injured people; this is the highest figure for people assisted in electoral period history. However, the number of wounded people were expected to be higher than the people assisted by MRCS. Despite of massive communication in social networks and radio in the eight regions, manifestants hesitated to be cared by the MRCS volunteers for fear of retribution, as they considered that MRCS is a public organization which could register their personal information and share it to the authorities. Also, the manifestants did not consult the aid station for psychological supports unless they are wounded.

Moreover, the Malagasy RC ensured high-quality service delivery by providing regular supervision to aid station volunteers, who also received essential psychological support when facing injured individuals.

In addition to providing aid, the MRC conducted workshops to set up an information watch committee. This structure was established to closely monitor the political situation and make timely decisions regarding appropriate actions to implement during the evolving political environment. MRC coordinated the security alerts with ambulance services when deployed.

Lessons Learnt

The importance of adequate preparation in terms of training, equipment, and advance planning is crucial for responding effectively to emergencies at rescue stations. Although the Analamanga region was the hotspot of the demonstrations, the MRCS anticipated the



possibility of the situation extending to other districts. By establishing the information watch committee, the Malagasy Red Cross has showcased its ability to adapt and respond effectively to evolving situations.

Clear and precise communication between members of the rescue team is essential for coordinating efforts and making rapid, informed decisions. To achieve this, on-site teams were provided with communication credits to ensure coherent coordination between field operations and headquarters.

Rapid assessment: The ability to quickly assess the situation, victims' needs, and available resources is fundamental to providing effective care and organizing an appropriate response. Mapping of resources in terms of violent troubles is key to anticipate volunteers and staff mobilization on time.

Challenges

- Despite a well-coordinated intervention, key challenges have been noticed:

Supplies like first aid kits were not available on time due to the cumbersome of certain purchasing procedures: the aid station was also not adequately equipped on time with the necessary medical supplies.

Accessibility: Ensuring that the aid station is easily accessible for people who may need help has been a challenge, especially during violent demonstrations, as both volunteers and those seeking help are placed in danger when the crowd becomes uncontrollable.

Rapid intervention: the potential riots were not always located in advance because the assembly point was communicated one hour before movement. MRC could not anticipate its mobilization before the troubles.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 18,531

Targeted Persons: 9,000

Assisted Persons: 5,275

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of media spots (audio, video) produced per month and broadcast 3 times a week in prime time.	2	2
# of media outlets briefed on Red Cross mission, role and fundamental principles.	30	28
# of volunteers briefed on the mission, role and fundamental principles of the Red Cross, code of conduct and signed the code of conduct.	350	200
# of people reached with awareness-raising on fundamental principles	5,000	5,275

Narrative description of achievements

Orienting and deployed/mobilized volunteers and personnel before, during and after movements: communication based on relying on information through social networks and volunteers in fields to the HQ and coordination with staff and deployed volunteers before riot.

The organization provided training on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and humanitarian principles and values to 200 volunteers, ensuring they were well-equipped to represent the Red Cross and engage effectively with the community.

Following this, 27 community leaders from 9 at-risk regions were also trained and became trainers, enabling them to further disseminate information about the Red Cross's work within their respective communities.



The Malagasy Red Cross conducted several initiatives to spread awareness about its roles and responsibilities during the 2023 post-election period.

In order to engage with local media and enhance their understanding of the Red Cross's mandate and its role during conflicts, a media briefing workshop was organized with the participation of 28 journalists from 6 media outlets. The workshop provided a platform for the Red Cross to communicate its responsibilities during times of crisis and to establish a strong relationship with the media to ensure accurate and effective reporting.

To further amplify its message and reach a wider audience, the Red Cross developed a range of materials, including video spots and informational brochures. Two video spots were created, highlighting the Red Cross's green line and its mandate, which were then shared on social media platforms, the Malagasy Red Cross website, and through radio and TV programs in Antananarivo, Antsirabe,

Fianarantsoa, Tuléar, Diégo, Toamasina, and Mahajanga. These efforts resulted in an estimated 5,275 people being informed about the Red Cross's activities during the crisis. Additionally, 1,800 brochures and 400 posters about the Red Cross emblems and seven principles were produced and distributed in the targeted response regions, reinforcing the organization's commitment to upholding humanitarian values and principles. A total of 2,200 brochures and posters were produced and were distributed in the affected regions.

Finally, the Red Cross ensured continuous communication with the community by assigning one volunteer to manage the green line.

This initiative provided an avenue for individuals to reach out to the organization, as demonstrated by the 118 calls received in January 2024.

MRC procured and allocated 246 vests and 200 caps with MRC logo and suits to sensitive branches to enhance the visibility and protection, particularly for vehicles and volunteers during movements.

MRC has produced two audio and video pieces to explain its mandate and main roles in Madagascar. The advertisements were broadcast three times a week in prime time across eight regions.

Lessons Learnt

The establishment of an ongoing lesson learned mechanism was useful to reinforce Malagasy RC public image. Indeed, a lesson learned mechanism has been activated which enabled a rapid sharing of information on what was ongoing, what aspects of the CEA has resulted in good outcomes and what raised challenges.

It is crucial to engage the community in relief efforts, particularly in raising public awareness about Red Cross interventions.

Challenges

Community engagement posed a significant challenge. In the context of political crises, standard approaches to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) may not always be applicable. The Malagasy Red Cross (RC) lacks experience in managing political crises and violence, and the community engagement approach of setting up community committees is not suited to the current situation. Therefore, the Malagasy RC has emphasized its communication strategy to ensure that its mandate is well known by the population.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 24,495

Targeted Persons: 2

Assisted Persons: 2

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of IFRC monitoring missions	2	2



# of surge deployed	1	0
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Narrative description of achievements

One of the successes of this operation was the consistent sharing of field information and valuable feedback with all stakeholders which contributed to the continuous improvement of operational strategies.

Regular meetings held with various stakeholders, such as the police force and other humanitarian actors, allowed the Malagasy RC to gather crucial information to effectively coordinate its on-eld operations. During these meetings, the organization advocated for humanitarian principles among all actors involved in the crisis. Overall, coordination among stakeholders played a pivotal role in ensuring adaptive management during the operation. As the situation evolved rapidly, open communication, collaboration, and strategic adjustments contributed to the success of the Malagasy RC's efforts and their ability to address the needs of those affected by the political crisis.

Within the movement, Malagasy RC organized a periodic and internal reunion for the Red Cross Movement from the start. This took place either at its headquarters or online and involved, PNS and the IFRC and contributed to operational success. The Malagasy RC addressed on- field operational constraints, and all participants collaboratively adjusted the operational strategy to ensure assistance reached the affected people while prioritizing the safety of staff and volunteers. This open communication and collaborative problem solving allowed for a flexible and adaptive management strategy that accommodated the rapidly evolving situation.

While the surge deployment was not required, it had been a part of the contingency planning process to provide additional support in case the situation became uncontrollable, and the NS became overwhelmed. However, due to the successful management of the operation by the NS and the support provided through coordination meetings with IFRC and PNS, this proved unnecessary.

Lessons Learnt

- The implementation of information watch committees proved to be a highly successful operational strategy. These committees were tasked with collecting, analyzing, verifying, and communicating information in a timely manner. By operationalizing these committees, the Malagasy RC received relevant and reliable data, enabling rapid, evidence-based decision-making. The system not only ensured the security of staff and volunteers by facilitating the adoption of appropriate measures, but also helped stakeholders anticipate and address the needs of affected people more effectively. Overall, the information watch committees played a crucial role in enhancing the responsiveness and adaptability of the organization during the crisis.

Challenges

The rapidly evolving situation necessitated continuous adjustments to the operational strategy to manage risks for volunteers while delivering essential services to those affected. The decision to mobilize volunteers was made as a last resort, with a strong emphasis on ensuring their safety.

Accurate information was crucial; however, on field volunteers faced challenges in collecting relevant data amidst a sea of misinformation.

The lack of communication regarding rally points and activities further complicated on field coordination efforts.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 31,897

Targeted Persons: 500

Assisted Persons: 200

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of volunteers insured	100	100



Narrative description of achievements

The operation, though not extended, proved to be a valuable experience for the Malagasy RC in managing a decade-long cyclic political crisis in Madagascar and greatly contributed to the overall preparedness towards these elections and the potential threats that were foreseen for the communities. The organization demonstrated resilience by strengthening its human resources, training staff and volunteers to provide health assistance.

The insurance covered 500 volunteers on a year. Malagasy RC has selected the non-nominative insurance type to guarantee that all volunteers who should be mobilized for all operations over the course of a year are covered. However, as the demonstrations did not escalate and spread to other regions as per anticipated, it was no longer necessary to mobilize and train more volunteers. NS maintain a team of 200 volunteers for the readiness and other activities.

Periodic coordination meetings were held bi-weekly: Monday: planning and Friday with responders. These meetings aimed at maintaining the information flow and focused on how to improve the coordination between MRC stakeholders. Activity and financial Operations were discussed, mainly to clear misunderstanding during operations and reflect on how to overcome the obstacle that arose.

A WhatsApp group was created to improve the discussion and information exchange with all stakeholders before taking crucial decisions. MRC had the lead in terms of coordination before operations. This engagement showed that MRCS staff had experience on how to mobilize resources on time before riots and take advantage of information concerning the manifestation aspects for being proactive. IFRC support was also valuable all through the intervention.

The IFRC has planned to conduct on-site monitoring in the districts where the demonstrations are taking place. Antananarivo was the most affected city, with monitoring focused on it. According to the branches, no demonstrations were identified in the other districts.

The head office has conducted regular online meetings with staff in the regions where demonstrations were anticipated. Furthermore, in districts where demonstrations were anticipated, monitoring committees were either established or restructured. The committee was established to facilitate the sharing of information among stakeholders and to coordinate intervention measures during demonstrations and violence. The objective of this coordination is to provide all mobilized volunteers with accurate information on field monitoring processes and communication chains, in order to facilitate the sharing of information and feedback.

Peer-to-peer exchange with other NSs and partners (UNOCHA and PNUD) were conducted on a bi-weekly basis by the humanitarian country team. Timely sharing of precise information related to security management has been ensured. This kind of exchange enabled MRCS staff to verify their information before acting on it in the field.

Lessons Learnt

- Effective membership coordination was essential for enhancing the MRCS intervention during demonstrations. This coordination aimed to anticipate and address potential challenges faced by MRCS staff and volunteers on the ground, and to integrate all necessary services, including operations, financial, and logistics.

MRCS has provided insurance coverage for all volunteers involved in the operation. Based on the findings of the previous operation, MRCS has identified the non-nominative contract as an effective means of insuring volunteers. This contract allows for the coverage of a greater number of volunteers over a longer period of time.

Challenges

- It was difficult to steer the NS from behind due to the unavailability of staff between January and February due to cyclonic response (Alvaro) as they are mobilized in fields alongside the operation.

Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023-2024/4	Operation	MDRMG021
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024/1	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/May/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMG021 - Madagascar - Election Preparedness

Operating Timeframe: 26 Oct 2023 to 31 Jan 2024

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	144,361
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	144,361
Expenditure	-74,693
Closing Balance	69,668

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	48,138	37,477	10,661
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	21,300	17,550	3,750
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	18,531	11,669	6,862
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	87,969	66,696	21,273
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	24,495	-733	25,228
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	31,897	8,730	23,166
Enabling Approaches Total	56,392	7,997	48,395
Grand Total	144,361	74,693	69,668

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

The DREF allocation to this operation was CHF 144,361 and expenditure CHF 74,693. Closing Balance CHF 69,668.

- The important unspent balance and positive variances are justified in general by the adjustment of the activities following the evolvement of the situation. Hence, as the projected civil unrest or humanitarian needs did not escalate as anticipated, NS revised the scope of the deployed resources to match the real needs.
- Following the scope of the context in the election period, NS did not find anymore necessary to deploy a surge, which is the second main variance situation.
- Financial adjustment were also done in terms of budget allocation to priority activities following the context. 10,100 CHF was reallocated

from volunteers costs to first aid procurement cost categories to ensure procurement of 124 first aid kits instead of the 40 planned.
-The unused items were used to equip the eight branches in anticipation of the future elections (legislative and municipal elections) planned this year (2024).



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)



DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
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Budget Timeframe	2023-2024/1	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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MDRMG021 - Madagascar - Election Preparedness

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MDRMG021 - Madagascar - Election Preparedness

Operating Timeframe: 26 Oct 2023 to 31 Jan 2024

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	13,900	16,019	-2,119
Medical & First Aid	13,900	16,019	-2,119
Logistics, Transport & Storage	4,500	4,678	-178
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,500	4,678	-178
Personnel	86,350	24,830	61,520
International Staff	23,000		23,000
National Staff		417	-417
National Society Staff		5,154	-5,154
Volunteers	63,350	19,259	44,091
Workshops & Training	11,100	8,826	2,274
Workshops & Training	11,100	8,826	2,274
General Expenditure	19,700	15,780	3,920
Information & Public Relations	16,500	12,905	3,595
Office Costs		178	-178
Communications	3,200	3,631	-431
Financial Charges		-934	934
Indirect Costs	8,811	4,559	4,252
Programme & Services Support Recover	8,811	4,559	4,252
Grand Total	144,361	74,693	69,668