



COMOROS

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMOROS RED CRESCENT



3

National Society branches



34

National Society staff



6,000

National Society volunteers

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAAKM002**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Following a yellow alert warning on the Karthala Volcano, indicating that an eruption could occur in the coming months, the national coordination system was put in place by the Civil Security Department, of which the Comoros Red Crescent is a member. An allocation from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) was allocated to the Comoros Red Crescent, to carry out preparedness measures for six targeted regions (Mbadjini, Hambou, Bambao, Itsandra, Washilli and Dimani), to reduce the impact of the disaster on the lives and livelihoods of the community members.

Water tank cleaning operations were carried out in the villages of the six targeted regions by local volunteers under the supervision of the Comoros Red Crescent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) coordinator. This involved the identification of open water tanks by the volunteers in the community and cleaning of the surrounding areas in readiness for the tanks being covered with tarpaulins in the event of a volcanic eruption.

Key achievements

In the implementation of the **Comoros Red Crescent** Unified Plan, there were three areas of progress to be highlighted in particular:

- In June 2023, twenty-six community 'relay volunteers' ('volontaires relais' support the Comoros Red Crescent active volunteers) were trained in disaster risk reduction, enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA) and how to limit the effects of climate change on the three islands.
- Twenty volunteers were trained on Branch Disaster Response Teams in July 2023 in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI). The topics included presentations on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Comoros Red Crescent Code of Conduct, the Sphere standards, National Society response tools, first aid, community engagement and accountability, needs assessment, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), operational logistics, security, needs assessments and distributions.
- Training on reforestation: twenty-six volunteers were trained on soil preparation, monitoring, erosion prevention, plant production, seed techniques, the agricultural calendar, preparing seeds for planting, monitoring plants against pests, plant maintenance and fertiliser maintenance.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The Comoros Red Crescent undertook the following activities:

- Collaborative and coordination work sessions between the different sectors were held.
- 26 community relays and 3 community monitoring managers trained in disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change and improved vulnerability and capacity assessment in the 3 regions of the country.
- Awareness messages were sent to the project manager for validation.
- 29 people were trained on integration of risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities.
- Awareness tools on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change were designed and shared with colleagues from other sectors of intervention.

- Community monitoring managers started collecting data on the identification of 3 pilot localities benefiting from an EVCA.
- Training of 20 branch disaster response team volunteers in Ngazidja including 14 women.

Training for volunteers on climate change was carried out and tree planting activities will begin in October 2023. Training of volunteers on three islands was carried out on methods and techniques of soil preparation, plant production and maintenance. Twenty-six volunteers were trained, including 6 in Ngazidja, 8 in Mohéli and 12 in Anjouan. The training took place in Simboussa-Mbadjini, Walah and Pomoni respectively in Ngazidja, Mwali and Ndzuani.



Disasters and crises

Training on disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change and improved vulnerability and capacity assessments were conducted with community 'relays' and community monitoring managers.

Support of the Japanese Red Cross and Japanese Government

Project title: "food and nutritional insecurity associated with lack of access to water, hygiene and sanitation and aggravated by the effects of climate change."

The aim of the food security and livelihoods work was to prevent negative coping strategies of affected households in selected regions, providing support through community activities (agriculture, income generating activities and pastoral activities).

Food and nutrition activities are based on prevention of morbidity and mortality amongst children and pregnant women due to malnutrition through targeted community health interventions, as well as screening and management of malnourished children in targeted intervention areas.

Water, hygiene and sanitation activities involve improving the availability and quality of water as well as hygiene and sanitation for beneficiary households by providing access to drinking water and organizing activities aimed at modifying behaviours and promoting hygiene.

An assessment was carried out in May 2023, among 2,340 households in 26 localities on livelihoods according to defined vulnerability criteria. These assessments covered: household income resources, household food accessibility, food consumption scores and household coping mechanisms.

A total of 26 volunteers were trained to conduct the assessments. Each volunteer surveyed 30 households per day. After the assessments, the seeds, inputs and agricultural kits that will be distributed to the beneficiaries were quantified.

Each household will receive seeds (of the following crops: tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, cabbages, pechay, eggplants etc.), a tool kit (1 rake, 1 toothed hook, 1 watering can) and other agricultural input. These will be distributed once purchases are made.

Identification of 430 vulnerable households affected by food and nutritional insecurity to distribute seeds, agricultural kits and agricultural inputs that are grown locally as well as providing assistance with food and basic needs

This activity is split into two parts: 130 beneficiary households obtain seeds for market gardening and 300 households receive food and basic needs assistance:

- The identification took place at the level of the 3 islands (Mohéli, Anjouan and Ngazidja).
- The identification of beneficiary households was carried out in a general assembly at the community level using the criteria defined by the community management committee and validated by the targeting committee.
- With the collaboration of community management committees and directors of Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE's), a provisional list of households meeting these criteria are drawn up. The list is validated in the village assembly and becomes the final list.

Development and validation of the list of beneficiaries: In collaboration with mayors, community leaders, heads of target villages and directors of CRDEs, beneficiary household lists were developed and then validated after a door-to-door verification of pre-selected households.

Distributions have been carried out on the Island of Mohéli. For Anjouan and Ngazidja Islands, distribution has not yet been conducted but the items and quantities to be distributed per household are similar.



Health and wellbeing

Saving Lives and Livelihoods Project (SLL/CREC)

Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has implemented various programs with the aim of saving lives and livelihoods including the supply and delivery of Covid-19 vaccines across Africa. Among the pillars that Africa CDC has put in place, is not only to save lives and livelihoods, but also to accelerate the recovery of economies in Africa. The NGO, AMREF Health Africa was selected for the CVC pillar in the following 9 countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somali, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

A contract was signed between the Comorian Red Crescent and AMREF Health Africa to enable the Comorian Red Crescent to support the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender. Through this funding, the Comorian Red Crescent contributes to strengthening vaccination on the three islands with other actors such as COMPASS, UNICEF, GAVI, etc.

The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation (the “Foundation”) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of saving lives and livelihoods in Africa. The Mastercard Foundation awarded a US\$1.3 billion grant across Africa. Four National Societies were trained to supervise the other National Societies in their clusters. The Kenya Red Cross was selected to oversee East Africa. On this basis, the Comoros Red Crescent was selected for the CREC pillar, and the Kenya Red Cross remains its direct interlocutor in the management of the funds. The Kenya Red Cross signed a contract with Africa CDC and signed a sub-contract with the Comorian Red Crescent on 19 August 2022. The project will be launched in September 2023 with the first transfer of US\$232,990 or 65 per cent of the total project cost.

The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Health in mobilizing the population to achieve the 60 per cent target on vaccination coverage.

The three expected results include:

- Reducing vaccine hesitancy and 82 per cent of the activities planned in result 1 were carried out, notably the training of Community Health workers, organization of journalists’ workshops, establishment of community platforms
- Ensuring high demand for vaccines in the country
- Ensuring adequate systems and tools for effective communications

To date, 64 per cent of the project funds have been disbursed and covered 8 months of activity. The remaining activities will be conducted later.

Two health projects were funded by the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC and the Japanese government. These projects concern vaccination and malnutrition of children aged zero to 5 years old.

The project engaged volunteers to identify malnourished children in the 26 target villages. Height charts and scales were distributed for this purpose. The achievements were as follows:

- Ngazidja: 674 children identified
- Moili: 974 children identified
- Anjouan: 2,208 children in 14 villages identified

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The interventions in this programme focused on food and nutritional insecurity caused by lack of adequate access to water, hygiene and sanitation which has also been aggravated by the effects of climate change. The following activities took place:

- Training of 32 people at the national level including 26 volunteers on WASH on the three islands from 3 to 17 May 2023
- Assessment of 1,210 out of 2,340 households in 26 localities targeted on water, sanitation and hygiene. The assessment evaluated water sources and quality, accessibility of people to water and the quality of hygiene and sanitation. Overall, 713 households in Mohéli and 497 in Ngazidja were assessed, (314 male-headed and 896 women-headed households).
- Purchase of 360 hygiene kits
- Purchase of 308 storage kits (160-litre cans)
- Evaluation of WASH department equipment on the three islands
- Scoping meeting with the WASH manager to provide support during the project activities on the three islands



Migration and displacement

15 volunteers were mobilized by the Anjouan Branch and stationed at the port of Mutsamudu, to do an assessment on:

- The number of people returned: 4,788 people including 4,408 adults (3,124 male and 1,284 female) and 379 children
- The state of clothing and shoes (some arrived barefoot)
- Their islands of origin (Ngazidja, Moili, Ndzouani)



Values, power and inclusion

The following activities took place:

- Identification of 43 volunteers at the national level capable of mobilizing Comorian communities on changing behaviours related to gender-based violence
- Trained these volunteers on the identification of community-based prevention and response to gender-based violence
- Community awareness raising sessions on prevention and community-based response to gender-based violence at the national level including:
 - » A total of 4,721 people in Ngazidja; 1,390 men; 1,294 women; 1,068 girls and 969 boys
 - » A total of 7,657 in Anjouan; 1,514 men; 2,223 women; 2,284 girls and 1,636 boys
 - » A total of 1,821 in Mohéli; 492 men; 486 women; 407 girls and 436 boys
- Establishment of 12 mothers' clubs at the national level, 4 each in Ngazidja, Anjouan and Mohéli
- Training of members of mothers' clubs on community-based prevention and response to gender-based violence
- Support from the livelihoods, WASH and nutrition sector on protection, gender and inclusion
- Training of women mediators on community-based prevention and response to gender-based violence
- Training of civil society organizations on community-based prevention of gender-based violence

- Supported branch disaster response training on gender-based violence, including a total of 20 volunteers, 6 women and 14 men
- Monitoring of monthly technical platform service meetings for the care of gender-based violence survivors
- Monitoring community activities for community mobilizer volunteers
- Monitoring of monthly volunteer meetings
- Monitoring of monthly meetings of civil society organisations

The Comoros Red Crescent, through its 2023 action plan, raises awareness and training on these topics, however due to lack of funding not all activities have been carried out. Those that have been, were supported through the CRF project “improving the well-being of young people and women through the prevention and treatment of violence... in Comorian communities”.

Community awareness activities (volunteers) and events (mothers’ clubs) on gender-based violence prevention and community-based response have been held and these actions aim to inform, educate, and communicate with local communities to combat violence, offer support to survivors and promote a safe and protective environment for young people and women in Comoros.

Community engagement and accountability

The results included :

- 28 Comoros Red Crescent technical staff and volunteers benefited from capacity building on CEA and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), including feedback mechanisms, in February 2023
- A mission report including the highlights of the mission and the recommendations of the IFRC CEA representative in February 2023 is available in the National Society
- A support plan was developed for the National Society for the implementation of the SLL programme (capacity building, feedback system etc.)
- Up-to-date and available feedback collection and recording tools
- A draft communication plan was developed
- A RCCE strategic plan has been developed
- Key documents on CEA/RCCE have been shared in the National Society
- Identification of 3 CEA focal points at the level of the 3 regional branches
- Support from the WASH, health and livelihoods sector - 73 volunteers recruited: for WASH (32), health (8) and livelihoods (32) sectors on the food and nutritional insecurity programme. CEA activities were used to address topics associated with lack of water, hygiene and sanitation worsened by the effects of climate change. The CEA activities were conducted during distributions and community feedback mechanisms in May 2023
- Support for branch disaster response team training in 2023, on CEA which brought together 20 participants, including 14 men and 6 women
- Participation in the training of trainers on enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), in an epidemiological context organized by PIROI in Mauritius in April 2023.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

External coordination

The Ministry of Health through the National Vaccination Coordination (CNPEV) organizes a monthly coordination meeting with all partners working on COVID-19s and other vaccinations. The Comoros Red Crescent presents its activities in these meetings and organizes joint supervision missions in the field.

The Comoros Red Crescent is part of the health cluster set up by the Ministry of Health. This coordination takes place monthly. In the event of a health disaster, there are weekly coordination meetings.

The General Directorate of Civil Security has also established coordination on risk and disaster management and the Comoros Red Crescent is also part of this coordination. This coordination group met every 3 days during the period of the Karthala volcano alert.

Resource mobilization

The Comoros Red Crescent has set up a system for mobilizing funds from financial institutions (pharmacies, supermarkets, etc.) through slot boxes at the national level. On the international level, the National Society respond to Calls for Projects with the technical support of the IFRC for the mobilization of funds.

Coordination and partnerships

The Comoros Red Crescent and the FIU hold weekly meetings to review the progress of activities.

Coordination mechanisms

- Partnership with national/local actors (private sector, academic establishments, NGOs). working to combat violence, and awareness-raising at the community level.
- For university establishments, awareness campaigns on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are taking place to encourage students to join the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.



Humanitarian diplomacy

The Comoros Red Crescent met with the leaders of the line Ministries (Health, Agriculture) to present health and food and nutritional security projects.

The Ministries of Health and Agriculture have set up focal points in Comoros Red Crescent to work in collaboration. Meetings were also held with WHO, the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Civil Security, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Head of State of the Comoros by the IFRC Head of Country Cluster Delegation, and the President and Secretary General of Comoros Red Crescent. and the IFRC Programme Delegate.

Joint support from the IFRC network on external trips such as the Pan-African youth summit held in Madagascar, where the Comoros Red Crescent was represented by the youth coordinator.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Support from the Japanese Red Cross Development Project

The majority of the project activities were carried out in 2022, however, the following two activities were conducted in 2023.

- The production of visibility materials - 2,000 business cards and 30 professional badges printed
- Strengthening the management capacities of the National Society. An external audit for the Comoros Red Crescent's accounts for the 2022 financial year was carried out by the A2M audit company over a period of one month. The company will deliver two reports to the Comoros Red Crescent, a report of opinion in accordance with ISA 700 705 on financial statements, and an internal control assessment report.

Digital engagement project

The Comorian Red Crescent's digital engagement project was an important initiative aimed at equipping National Society staff with the digital tools necessary to increase their efficiency and optimize their working time. Despite some difficulties encountered throughout the process, these challenges provided valuable learning opportunities to guide the future of the project towards success.

The limited availability of certain products such as the Video Conferencing Kit required in-depth analysis and clear justification for the National Society's choices. There were also issues encountered due to the lack of backdated documents and the lack of accounting information communicated in a timely manner, which led to misunderstandings with suppliers and affected the process.

Despite these difficulties, the project was completed successfully, which demonstrates the commitment and determination of the team. The positive feedback from National Society staff on their mastery of digital tools and collaborative working methods connected to the internet are tangible testimonies of the positive impact of the project.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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