



Comoros Red Crescent Volunteers administering first aid to a wounded demonstrator in Moroni.

Appeal: <b>MDRKM010</b>	Country: <b>Comoros</b>	Hazard: <b>Civil Unrest</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 66,310</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>10,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>1,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2024-01-25</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>1 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>29-02-2024</b>	DREF Published: <b>26-01-2024</b>

Targeted Areas: **Grande Comore (Njazidja), Anjouan (Nzwani), Moheli (Mwali)**

# Description of the Event

## Date of event / Date when the trigger was met

2024-01-17

## What happened, where and when?

After the elections organized on 14th January 2024 in the Union of Comoros, the provisional results of the elections for the President of the Union of the Comoros and the 3 Governors were announced at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 16th January 2024. The outgoing President and his 3 Governors of the 3 islands won the elections from the first round with a percentage of more than 50% for the Governors and 62,97% for the President, but there was only 16.30% turnout, according to the official figures announced by the Electoral Commission (Céni). This victory should enable him the President to run for a third consecutive term and remain in power until 2029. The opposition, which is calling for the election to be annulled, has denounced gross fraud" and "ballot box stuffing, calling the population to protest.

Due to that situation, the population began demonstrating, blocking the roads with stones and burning the vehicles and some administrative buildings. The national police and army reacted by spreading the population, using tear gas. On Wednesday 17 January, around 30 people were admitted to El-Maarouf national hospital. Road blockages and clashes between the population and the police/army continued on Thursday 18 January, affecting more injured people who have been assisted by Comoros Red Crescent volunteers. Some of them have been transferred to the hospitals.

Most businesses kept their curtains down, schools and markets stayed closed, internet was cut and has been very unstable since then. Buildings were vandalized and set on fire, a rice warehouse was looted, and roads blocked by piles of stones and sticks. A night-time curfew has been in place since Wednesday until an unspecified date. A number of arrests have been made, but no figures have been released. However, there have been protests every day.

On 24 January, the supreme court announced of final results of the election confirming the re-election of the previous president and 3 governors. A 5-day curfew has been put in place in the country and a big number of army is deployed in many areas to control and ensure security as more demonstrations are expected to happen since the opposition is contesting the results and all their appeals have been rejected.



Comoros Red Crescent volunteers transporting a wounded person for first-aid

## Scope and Scale

Since announcement of the provisional election results, the population became more agitated and the situation is likely to persist, as the opposition says it will continue until the elected President cancels the results and organizes transparent elections. Defeated candidates had until Friday 19 January 2024 to submit their appeals.



On the day of the elections for the President of the Union of the Comoros and the Governors of the islands, the French Red Cross provided financial support for the volunteers who were deployed to intervene in the 3 regional branches and the national office. These team consisted of 6 volunteers, as the funding available did not allow for more volunteers.

As soon as the clashes between the population and the military began in Moroni, 30 volunteers were mobilized at the regional Red Crescent office in Greater Comoros. As of 17 January 2024, they assisted 15 people affected by tear gas or injured by the crowd and some were evacuated to hospital.

On the morning of 18 January 2024, volunteers were called to the El Maarouf national hospital to donate blood, a total of 10 volunteers gave blood. The volunteers also took charge of transferring 2 seriously ill patients to the National Hospital. 1 death was reported after these events, and there were demonstrations every day, though less important.

As the final results have been proclaimed on 24 January 2024, it is feared that there will a new conflagration of the situation in the 3 islands as the opposition's appeals have not been taken into account, and they called the population to protest.

The NS volunteers that have been deployed as part of this election since the 14 January 2024, but more must be deployed on the 2 other islands, Anjouan and Mohéli, as the situation could also flare up at any moment in these 2 other islands. In Anjouan, the roads around the town of Ada are barricaded.

The National Society forecasts generalized riots across the country and from their analysis, two scenarios are possible:

- Scenario #1 (probable; low impact): Limited demonstrations are organized by the population between the announcement of the preliminary results and the official/final results. Demonstrations and disturbances continue after the proclamation of the final results, but limited to few areas in the capital city and under the control of the government's armed forces. Less than a hundred of people would be affected. No major disorder would be expected, and media coverage would not be disrupted.

- Scenario #2 (probable; high impact): There would be numerous demonstrations and incidents that could affect the lives of many citizens across the country and the police and army would intervene to control the situation. Communication networks would be cut off to prevent the situation from escalating to national, regional and international levels. Buildings and businesses would be destroyed, thus affecting the economy of the country and the capacity of people to meet their basic needs. Schools might stay closed too. The lives and livelihoods of hundreds of people would be in danger due to the fight between demonstrators and forces of order. Fights that might end up with more arrestations, many injured people and displacements.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

**Lessons learned:** No similar event has been reported previously.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

2024-01-16

<b>Health</b>	The National Society has well trained and stand-by first aid teams in all 3 main islands. The NS has also an operational ambulance and first aid equipment used for evacuating
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	and transporting the victims to the hospitals and health centers. A total of 75 volunteers have been mobilised for the 3 islands since the elections day. Since the demonstrations started, the volunteers assisted 20 people and the ambulance transported 3 severe cases to the hospital. Those volunteer provide first aid and PSS to the affected population. In addition, 10 volunteers donated blood.
<b>Coordination</b>	The Comoros Red Crescent works in close coordination with the army, the fire brigade and the population. They inform the Red Crescent if the situation is safe before the volunteers intervene. They also indicate whether there are any patients to be evacuated.
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	The NS mobilised fund from French Red Cross to cover the volunteers' intervention on the election day. However, the fund was so limited and could not cover the additional interventions that happened after the announcement of the preliminary results.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	The Comoros Red Crescent is supported by the IFRC through the IFRC CCD based in Antananarivo, which provides coordination, guidance and technical and financial support. Several meetings and telephone exchanges have been organised with the IFRC Delegation based in Madagascar and Nairobi.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	French Red Cross (PIROI) is based in Comoros and is supported by the HNS to cover the volunteers' expenses on the interventions organized on the election day.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC is not present in Comoros, but the IFRC regional office will liaise with ICRC( Nairobi office) for update.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	The National authorities have invited the population to stay calm and act no harm actions.
<b>UN or other actors</b>	All humanitarian partners have been displaying messages on peace and encouraging negotiations.

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**  
The Comorian Red Crescent works in close coordination with the military, fire brigade, the population and health systems (hospitals and health centers). The Ministry of Health coordinates the overall initiatives.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



The highest need is providing first aid to people who participate to demonstration and get injured. During demonstrations, there are tear gas, people get squeezed in the crowd when they are fleeing to protect themselves from the assaults. Apart from first aid, the presence of volunteers is also needed to provide psychosocial support. Also, in case of health emergency, the victims will need to be transferred to the hospital by the NS ambulance.





Pregnant women, elders, handicapped and other people showing any sign of weakness or vulnerability are monitored during the demonstrations. Though schools are closed, the volunteers are sensitizing children to avoid joining the areas of demonstrations.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The aim of this operation is to meet the needs of the population affected by post-election violence, by providing support in the health/first aid, evacuations, promoting protection and gender inclusion, PSEA and MHPSS in the target risky areas for those being affected by the riots taking place now after the announcement of the preliminary results (9 zones are at high risk of conflict: Moroni, Iconi, Ntsoudjini, Mbeni, Mitsamiouli and Foubouni from Grandes Comores, Mutsamudu and Ada from Anjouan and Fomboni from Mohéli).

## Operation strategy rationale

To reach its objectives, Comoros Red Crescent is deploying its capacity, coordinating with hospital, army/police and the population.

Before the proclamation of the results, 30 volunteers were mobilized at the regional Red Crescent office in Grande-Comoros and 5 responsible for coordination at national level will continue monitoring the situation and intervene as needed. Along with those, 20 additional volunteers will also be mobilized in Anjouan and 20 in Mohéli for a period of 20 days, taking into account the proclamation of the final results on 24 January 2024. Volunteers will only be deployed at the high risky zones to ensure all victims are assisted.

The following is the estimated requirements for this DREF operation:

- 70 volunteers to be deployed to provide assistance (first aid, PSEA, MHPSS, evacuations, etc).
- 5 volunteers coordinators.
- 5 first-aid kits per island.
- Fuel for the 2 cars and the ambulance in Grande Comoros.
- Cost for vehicle rental in Anjouan and Mohéli.
- Communication (internet, phone calls).

The NS will not organize training, hence briefing sessions for the volunteers before deployment will be organized. They will be reminded on Safer Access, Code of conduct and fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement.

Concerning the first aid kits, the NS will not procure kits to be used within this operation, however, as many first aid activities are underway since 16th January, the NS borrowed the kits from PIROI stock, and the procurement will aim for replenishment.

# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

The target will be people from the 9 zones at high risk of conflict: Moroni, Iconi, Ntsoudjini, Mbeni, Mitsamiouli, Foubouni, Mutsamudu, Ada and Fomboni. This operational plan will focus on the worrying scenario to support 1,000 people among 10,000 at risk, with the significant caseload being people from the identified hotspot areas where violence risk is higher. However, in the event of the worst-case scenario, the operation will be revised, and the needs will grow necessitating a bigger humanitarian intervention. The figure of 10,000 people represents 10% of the people who are supposed to demonstrate. According to the preliminary results, around 100,000 people voted for opposition. In addition, people located in the demonstration's areas are also concerned. In all aspect, PGI will be considered.

Demonstrators are likely to reach 10'000 people (around 10% of the opposition voters).

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Referring to geographical selection criteria, the highest hotspots zones are Moroni, Iconi, Ntsoudjini, Mbeni, Mitsamiouli, Foubouni, Mutsamudu, Ada and Fomboni.

- Individuals attending demonstrations, misbehaving acts, roads users, etc.
- This will further endanger the most vulnerable people (pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, people with disabilities, minority groups, the sick people, the injured people, etc).



- Much attention will be put on detecting sexual gender-based violence, children protection by coordinating with experienced structures to provide necessary support.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	300	Rural	20%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	80%
Men	700	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	1,000		

## 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.	<p>Safer access training will be given to volunteers and staff. This will give volunteers and staff all the tools they need to facilitate their access to and acceptance by the community.</p> <p>Key messages will be disseminated to security forces (police, army, etc) and city government representatives as well.</p> <p>Strong coordination with the police, army and population.</p> <p>Involve local contacts and local volunteers.</p> <p>Advocacy sessions among the key authorities.</p>
Increased demand of intervention vis-à-vis the affected areas	<p>Close monitoring of the situation across the country.</p> <p>Comoros Red Crescent will revise the Plan of action, train and equip more volunteers according to the new affected zones.</p>

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In the normal periods, Comoros is recognised to be a peaceful country. However, in this electoral period, security has become a big concern. This is particularly the case in urban areas, where the situation can escalate to violence and crash among the population and army/police. Security threats can include demonstrations, spontaneous or planned riots, burning of vehicles and infrastructures, roads blockages, etc.

The security situation will be assessed regularly among the Red Cross Partners (IFRC and French Red Cross) for exchanges of information on security and necessary measures that need to be taken. The NS will also communicate with the branches of the high-risk localities targeted in collaboration with the community authorities and will provide regular updates on the situation. As usual, the NS representatives (SG and President) will coordinate with city government officials, regarding NS role and operations.

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

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



# Planned Intervention



**DREF Allocation:** CHF 66,310

**Budget:** CHF 58,202

**Targeted Persons:** 1,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers mobilised and deployed: (first aiders, stretcher-bearers, logisticians, PSS, GBV/PSEA, data managers, etc.)	75
# of first aid kits provided in the branches	15
# of people assisted by Red Cross staff/volunteers	1,000

## Priority Actions

- Purchase and preposition 15 first aid kits and 75 PPE for 3 islands.
- Preposition a monitoring vehicle and an ambulance to transfer the affected people to the hospital and health centers.
- Mobilise 75 volunteers (first aiders, stretcher-bearers, logisticians, PSS, GBV/PSEA, data managers, etc.) and ensure they are ready to respond.
- Train/refresher 75 volunteers on basic first Psychological first aid and deploy them to support the response.
- Provide first Aid support to victims of violence after elections in collaboration with stakeholders, hospitals, population, etc.
- Provide MHPSS to people affected by elections violence and to staff and volunteers.
- Establish referrals for complex or severe cases.



## Secretariat Services

**DREF Allocation:** CHF 66,310

**Budget:** CHF 3,195

**Targeted Persons:** 75

## Indicators

Title	Target
Provide technical support in whole operation and especially in lessons learnt workshop	75

## Priority Actions

- Monitoring and provision of technical support.
- Conduct a lesson learnt workshop.



## National Society Strengthening

**DREF Allocation:** CHF 66,310

**Budget:** CHF 4,912



Targeted Persons: 75

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of monitoring missions	3
# of lesson learnt workshop	1
# of vehicle (including ambulances) involved	2

## Priority Actions

- Organize monitoring mission in all the zones of operations (at least 1 mission per island).
- Bi-weekly coordination meetings with other stakeholders in the country and IFRC Cluster Delegation.
- Provision of vehicles and ambulances with fuel and maintenance for the operations.
- Organize a lesson learnt workshop at the end of the operation in coordination with IFRC Cluster delegation and French RC.

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 75 volunteers (including 5 supervisors) are mobilized and deployed in the identified zones of intervention. In addition, 8 NS staff will be mobilized to support and coordinate the operation. At the Cluster delegation level, staff will also be available to support the operation (operations team, communication, PMER, Logs and Finance).

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The NS will not procure kits to be used within this operation, however, as many first aid activities are underway since 16th January, the NS borrowed the kits, and the procurement will aim to replenish.

The National Society will carry out the purchasing procedures with the support of IFRC. Items fulfilling the quality and available in country will be locally purchased to save time.

### How will this operation be monitored?

The Comoros Red Crescent will closely monitor the operation through the executive, led by the Secretary General. Moreover, the Cluster delegation keeps close contact with the NS to make sure that the operation is going on smoothly, depending on the context. Moreover, weekly meetings will continue to be organized on-line to monitor the situation with the NS. The monitoring tools will also be applied. At the end of the operation, a lesson learnt workshop will be conducted with support from the Cluster Delegation.

### Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

An appropriate communication strategy will be implemented prior to the operation, with four main objectives:

- Establish trust in the Red Cross to facilitate its actions and the care of victims.
- Enhance the visibility of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by communicating its actions, mandate, and initiatives.
- Ensure effective and regular transmission of information among Red Cross and Red Crescent actors and relevant humanitarian partner.
- Communicate the role of Comoros Red Crescent on the respect of the principle of neutrality and impartiality.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRKM010 - Comoros Red Crescent Society Post-Election Unrest

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>58 202</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	58 202
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>8 107</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	3 195
National Society Strengthening	4 912
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>66 310</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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