

SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL FINAL REPORT

Comoros | Volcanic Ash

June 2026

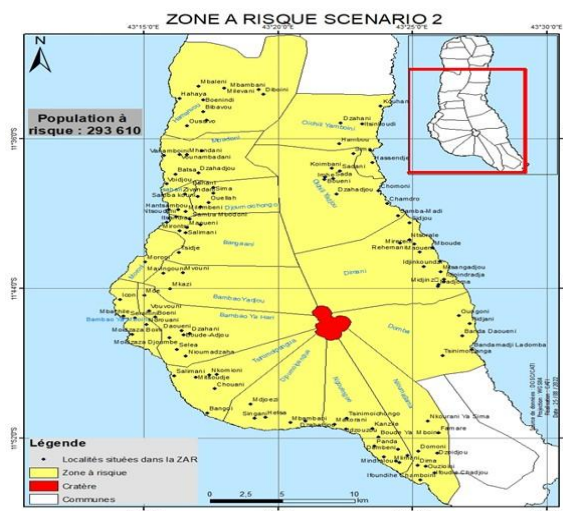


Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) training, including rescue simulation exercise for the volunteers in Mohéli – CoRC, September 2025

sEAP №: sEAP2023KM01	sEAP timeframe: 2 Years	Period covered by this final report:
sEAP approved: 23/04/2024	Operation №: MDRKM012	23/04/2024 to 30/04/2026

sEAP Budget: 210,958 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF 210,958 for the implementation of anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of volcanic ash in Comoros. This simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) includes an allocation of CHF 136,906 to preposition stock and undertake annual readiness activities in order to implement early actions, if and when the trigger is reached. The early actions to be conducted have been pre-agreed with the National Society and are described in the simplified Early Action Protocol [\[Link to the EAP summary on IFRC's appeals website\]](#).

This Final report summarizes the achievements, results, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the sEAP for Volcanic Ash in Comoros, implemented from April 2024 to April 2026. The operation aimed to strengthen anticipatory action capacities and preparedness for volcanic ash hazards associated with Mount Karthala through institutional capacity building, community engagement, institutional coordination, and the prepositioning of critical response supplies.

During the reporting period, the activation trigger threshold for the volcanic ash sEAP was not reached and, therefore, no early actions were activated.

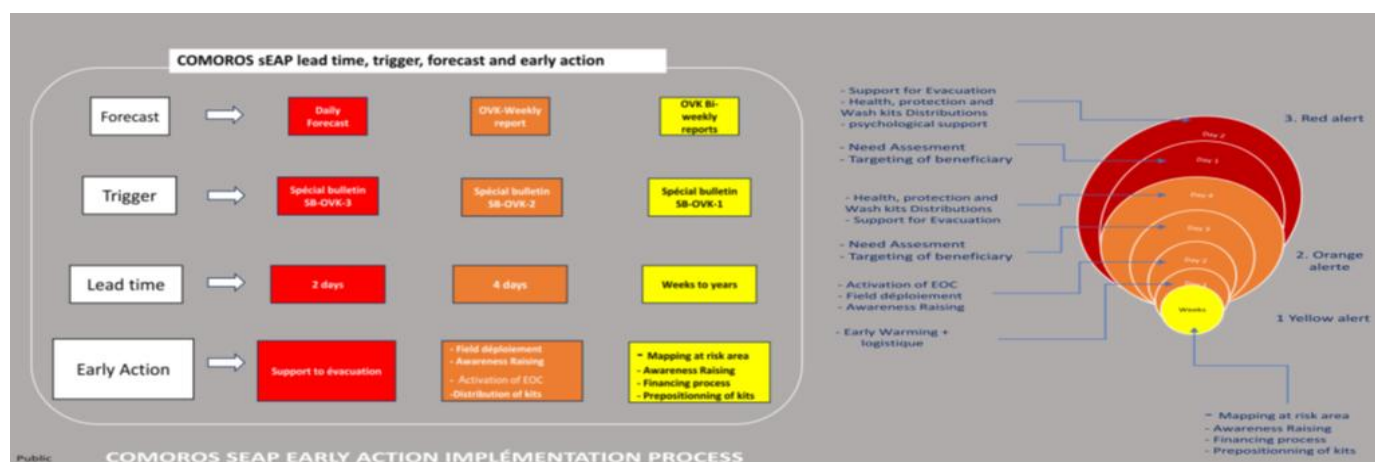


Figure 1: Comoros's sEAP monitoring and early action activation process

Nevertheless, the operation achieved its primary preparedness objectives by establishing the systems, capacities, partnerships, and prepositioned resources required for rapid activation should volcanic activity escalate in the future. Through the implementation of readiness activities, the Comoros Red Crescent (CoRC) directly reached **4,121 community members** with preparedness and risk awareness interventions, trained **160 volunteers** across Health, WASH, PGI and DRR/CCA sectors, strengthened community feedback and engagement mechanisms, and prepositioned essential protective, WASH, and dignity supplies in Ngazidja. The operating context continued to be shaped by the persistent threat posed by Mount Karthala, while implementation built on lessons learned from previous disruptions caused by the cholera outbreak and Tropical Cyclone Chido. CoRC further strengthened its institutional preparedness and operational capacity through enhanced coordination with key government partners, particularly the Directorate General for Civil Security (DGSC) and the Karthala Volcanological Observatory (OVK), ensuring alignment with the latest risk assessments and preparedness planning.

Collaboration with IFRC, the French Red Cross PIROI, and other technical and Movement partners also contributed to timely progress against planned objectives, strengthening logistics, stock management, anticipatory action systems, and overall readiness for a potential volcanic emergency.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

 Health & Care	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	43,585	42,465.15
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	3,508	4,341.94

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities:

1. Training/retraining of 30 volunteers on community-based epidemiological surveillance, first aid, and psychosocial care

Completed through a three-day training session conducted from 31 October to 3 November 2024 as part of a broader capacity-building programme that reached **52 volunteers**. The training strengthened participants' skills in community-based surveillance, first aid, psychosocial support, and health risk communication related to volcanic hazards.

Following the training, volunteers from communities located within volcanic risk zones were mobilized to support preparedness and community-based health activities. Working closely with WASH volunteers and Community Health Workers, they conducted community health risk assessments, supported the establishment and strengthening of the Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) system through the Nyss platform, and carried out awareness-raising activities on the potential health impacts of volcanic ash exposure.

These interventions contributed to improving community preparedness for volcanic hazards while strengthening coordination among local health actors. As trusted members of their communities, volunteers played a key role in promoting risk-informed behaviours and encouraging community ownership of preparedness measures.

The CBS system established under the sEAP significantly enhanced community-level public health monitoring and early warning capacities. While primarily designed to detect and report health events potentially associated with volcanic eruptions, the system also enabled the identification and reporting of priority diseases and public health threats affecting the country during the implementation period, including cholera, Mpox, and malaria. During the reporting period, a total of **279 health alerts** were reported through the community surveillance network. The most frequently reported alerts included cases of fever with skin rash (suspected measles, chickenpox, or Mpox), uncomplicated fever suggestive of malaria, acute diarrhoeal diseases, and acute respiratory distress symptoms. These alerts were promptly referred to the relevant health authorities for investigation and follow-up in line with national epidemiological surveillance protocols.

Through these combined efforts, including community-based surveillance, health promotion, and awareness-raising on the health risks associated with volcanic ash exposure, a total of **4,121 people** were reached with health promotion, prevention, and preparedness messages during the implementation period.

Prepositioning activities:

1. Purchase and prepositioning of 4,200 dust/gas masks

A total of **2,100 dust masks** were procured and prepositioned, representing 50 per cent of the planned quantity. The reduced quantity resulted from higher-than-anticipated market prices during procurement.

2. Purchase and prepositioning of 2,100 protective glasses

A total of **2,100 protective goggles** were procured and prepositioned. In addition, the National Society expanded the protective equipment package beyond the original plan and prepositioned 200 packs each of shoe covers and hair caps, 210 work overalls and pairs of safety shoes, and 160 units each of rubber boots, work gloves, safety helmets, and raincoats.

To strengthen operational readiness for a potential activation of the sEAP, the NS conducted an assessment of anticipated response needs and subsequently procured and prepositioned essential personal protective equipment (PPE) at its regional warehouse in Ngazidja. The procurement process led to adjustments in the original specifications and quantities to better reflect operational realities and ensure adequate protection for volunteers operating in volcanic ash conditions. This approach ensured that prepositioned stocks were immediately deployable, fit for purpose, and capable of supporting the full range of planned anticipatory and response activities.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	24,075	22,854.83
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	10,926	8,830.31

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities:

1- Volunteer Training and Capacity Strengthening

A total of **160 volunteers (55 women and 95 men)** from communities identified as vulnerable to the impacts of a potential volcanic eruption were trained on key Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) topics to strengthen community preparedness and response capacities. The training sessions were conducted between 14 and 22 April 2025 through four (two-day) workshops, each bringing together **40 volunteers** selected from priority intervention areas identified jointly by the Karthala Volcanological Observatory (OVK), the Directorate General for Civil Security (DGSC), and the Comoros Red Crescent Society (CoRC).

The training curriculum focused on enhancing volunteers' technical knowledge and practical skills in hygiene promotion and public health risk reduction. Topics covered included risks associated with unsafe water consumption, the water supply chain, water treatment and safe storage practices, personal and household hygiene, food hygiene, wastewater and solid waste management, and the maintenance of sanitation facilities. Participants were also introduced to the composition, purpose, and intended use of hygiene and dignity kits that would be distributed in the event of an EAP activation. The training contributed significantly to building a pool of community-based responders capable of supporting vulnerable populations before, during, and after a potential volcanic ash event.

2. Conduct an initial assessment of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in target communities

The assessment was carried out in-session, as part of the WASH volunteer training. The first part of each training session was dedicated to assessing the water, hygiene and sanitation situation in the target communities from which the participating volunteers came. This strategic and operational choice, combining volunteer training with the initial WASH assessment, was designed to make up time lost on certain activities during the first year of the operation, while fostering genuine ownership and a holistic implementation of the intervention by the volunteers themselves, who are the primary actors responsible for carrying out the planned actions at community level and who, moreover, are best placed to understand the specific challenges facing their respective communities. The data gathered through this assessment work – conducted through group exercises followed by plenary presentations – fed into and reinforced the topics covered during the training.

3- Development of communication and community engagement plans

Beyond strengthening technical capacities, the training sessions provided an opportunity to engage volunteers and community representatives in the development of community preparedness strategies. Through participatory discussions, stakeholders agreed upon community-validated vulnerability criteria to guide the selection of beneficiary households in the event of activation. In addition, communication plans and community sensitization schedules were developed, ensuring a harmonized and context-appropriate approach to risk communication and hygiene promotion across all target communities.

4- Community awareness and preparedness activities

Following the training, volunteers conducted a total of **44 community awareness sessions** across 20 villages located within the 5 target districts. These sessions combined participatory educational discussions, practical demonstrations on household water treatment methods – including boiling, chlorination, and the use of water treatment tablet (Aquatabs) – and community dialogues involving local leaders, community representatives, and village volunteers. The activities aimed to increase awareness of WASH-related risks associated with volcanic ash contamination and to promote preventive practices that could reduce public health impacts during a volcanic crisis.

By the end of the implementation period, **4,121 people** had been reached through these community-based preparedness and awareness activities across the five target districts, as detailed below:

District	Number of people reached
Hambou	623

Bambao	863
Oichili-Dimani	995
Itsandra	1,019
Mbadjini	621
Total	4,121

Of the total individuals reached, 1,772 were men, 2,349 were women, including 1,020 children under the age of 15, and 41 persons with disabilities.

These community awareness sessions also provided an opportunity to identify and map unprotected household water cisterns, particularly those lacking adequate covers, within the target communities. Households owning such cisterns were sensitized on the risks associated with volcanic ash contamination of drinking water sources and encouraged to implement appropriate protective measures where feasible. In parallel, an inventory of vulnerable water storage facilities was established to support preparedness planning and future targeting. This information will facilitate the prioritization of households eligible to receive the prepositioned tarpaulins intended for the protection of water cisterns and other water storage structures in the event of an activation of early actions, thereby contributing to the safeguarding of water quality and the reduction of public health risks associated with volcanic ash fallout.

Prepositioning activities:

1- Prepositioning of hygiene and sanitation supplies (1,000 WASH Kits)

A key achievement of the WASH component was the procurement and prepositioning of hygiene supplies to support rapid implementation of anticipatory actions following a trigger activation. While the procurement process was successfully completed, rising market prices and budgetary constraints necessitated adjustments to the quantities originally planned. As a result, 500 hygiene kits, sufficient to cover 500 households, were procured and prepositioned, compared to the initial target of 1,000 kits. Although this represented a reduction in planned coverage, the NS prioritized maintaining the quality and completeness of the kits to ensure that assistance would remain effective and aligned with humanitarian standards.

The following hygiene and sanitation items were successfully procured and prepositioned:

No.	Item	Unit	Quantity
1	Soap bars (Marseille)	Piece	500
2	Soap bars	Piece	1500
3	Plastic bucket	20L container	500
4	Jerry cans	Piece	500
5	Rubbish bag	Piece	500
6	Bleach	1L container	500

2- Prepositioning of 200 toilets and tank cover kits

During implementation, consultations were undertaken with the DGSC regarding the most appropriate materials for the protection of latrines and household water storage facilities from volcanic ash contamination. These discussions focused on identifying solutions that would provide the best balance between operational effectiveness, durability, and cost-efficiency within the Comorian context. Based on the outcomes of these consultations, 245 plastic tarpaulins (4m x 6m) were procured and prepositioned. These tarpaulins will be used primarily to cover household water cisterns and storage facilities belonging to vulnerable households. The prepositioning of these materials further strengthened the NS's preparedness capacity and complemented the broader package of WASH anticipatory actions planned under the sEAP.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

CHF preposition budget:

16,604

CHF preposition actual:

5,713.70

CHF readiness budget:

623

CHF readiness actual:

7,872.25

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities:

1. Training/refresher training of 160 volunteers on the consideration of PGI during targeting and distribution

To strengthen the integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) within the anticipatory action framework, a two-day training was conducted for **160 volunteers (95 men and 55 women)** from communities exposed to volcanic risks. The training aimed to equip volunteers, who are expected to serve as frontline responders during readiness activities and a potential activation, with the knowledge, skills, and practical tools required to ensure that preparedness and response activities are inclusive, safe, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable population groups. The training covered key thematic areas including the principles and practical application of the PGI approach in humanitarian action, factors contributing to vulnerability and exclusion, community engagement and facilitation techniques, and the composition and appropriate use of dignity kits. Emphasis was placed on preventing exclusion, discrimination, and unintended harm, while promoting the meaningful participation of affected communities throughout the implementation of anticipatory actions.

2. Sensitization of women of reproductive age on the use of dignity kits

Following the training, volunteers conducted community consultation and awareness-raising sessions across the targeted intervention areas. These activities contributed to the identification of **2,964 women of reproductive age** as potential recipients of dignity kits in the event of an sEAP activation. In addition, a total of **4,121 people** were reached through PGI and CEA sensitization activities, strengthening awareness of protection risks, inclusion principles, community participation, and available support mechanisms.

3. Identification of vulnerable persons (persons with disabilities, pregnant women, older persons, etc.)

A key outcome of the training was the development of a targeted community sensitization strategy focusing on groups with specific needs, including women of reproductive age, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable population groups. In parallel, community-based vulnerability criteria were developed and validated through consultations with local authorities, community representatives, and volunteers to ensure that future beneficiary selection processes are transparent, context-appropriate, and grounded in locally recognized vulnerability factors.

Preposition activities

1. Procurement of 2,000 dignity kits

Partially completed. To support future anticipatory actions, the Comoros Red Crescent Health Department, in collaboration with the Ngazidja Regional Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health, finalized the technical validation of the dignity kit composition. Following this validation process, the procurement, assembly, and prepositioning of dignity kits were completed.

Although the original target was **2,000 dignity kits**, rising procurement costs and budgetary constraints required an adjustment in the planned quantity. As a result, **500 dignity kits** were successfully procured, assembled, and prepositioned, ensuring immediate availability to support **500 women of reproductive age** in the targeted intervention areas upon activation of the sEAP. The reduction in quantity allowed the National Society to maintain the quality and completeness of the kits in line with approved standards and humanitarian requirements.

The validated dignity kit composition included:

No.	Item	Unit	Quantity
1	Underwear	Piece	1500
2	Toothpaste	Piece	1000
3	Toothbrush	Piece	2500
4	Disposable sanitary towel	Pack	2036

The decision to reduce the number of kits was financially justified and ensured that all prepositioned kits met approved quality and content standards without compromising their effectiveness or appropriateness for the intended beneficiaries. Financial compliance was maintained throughout the procurement process.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

CHF preposition budget:

14,943

CHF preposition actual:

17,725.48

CHF readiness budget:

208

CHF readiness actual:

238.07

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities

This component played a critical role in strengthening the anticipatory action architecture for volcanic ash hazards in Comoros.

1. Integrate early action activities into the Karthala National Emergency Plan

Throughout the implementation period, CoRC focused on reinforcing institutional preparedness, enhancing coordination mechanisms, and establishing the operational foundations required for

the effective activation of the protocol. Key achievements included the integration of risk analysis, contingency planning, operational procedures, and preparedness tools into the National Society's existing disaster management structures. Standardized operational procedures and response tools were also developed and incorporated into national preparedness mechanisms, contributing to the strengthening of the national volcanic eruption contingency planning framework.

The actions undertaken here mark a major step toward institutionalizing anticipatory action within the NS. They also represent a building block toward the national multi-hazard contingency plan (including volcanic risk) that CoRC intends to put in place as part of its institutional preparedness for the disasters and epidemics facing the country.

2. Simulation of early action and evacuation procedures with two potentially affected communities (high-risk communities)

Not completed within the operational timeframe, due to budgetary constraints and implementation delays resulting from competing operational priorities, including responses to other emergencies during the period. The NS will seek opportunities to complete this activity through future preparedness initiatives and complementary funding sources.

3. Assist in the mapping of safe places and site planning in coordination with civil security

A major accomplishment of the operation was the consolidation of collaboration between CoRC, the DGSC, and the OVK. Given that anticipatory action for volcanic hazards remains a relatively new approach in the country, sustained coordination among these actors was essential to building a common understanding of risk scenarios and ensuring that readiness investments were aligned with national preparedness priorities. This collaboration produced a joint risk-mapping exercise that identified **16 communities and localities** most exposed to the potential impacts of volcanic ash fall across the three islands: 8 in Ngazidja, 4 in Anjouan, and 4 in Mohéli. These locations were subsequently prioritized for preparedness and anticipatory action interventions, with particular focus on Ngazidja as the main at-risk region.

4. Design of communication materials (posters, leaflets, kakemonos and banners)

Not completed within the operational timeframe, for the same reasons mentioned above of budgetary constraints.

5. Design of 180 visibility kits (T-shirts, caps and key rings)

Not completed within the operational timeframe, for the same reasons mentioned above of budgetary constraints.

6. Signing of framework agreements with media partners

Significant progress was made in strengthening early warning dissemination capacities and communication partnerships. CoRC established a pre-disaster framework agreement with the DGSC, providing direct access to government communication channels, including the Office National de Radio et Télévision des Comores (ORTC) and the national newspaper Al-Watwan – an arrangement that streamlines future dissemination of early warning messages by eliminating the need for separate agreements with individual public media institutions. A two-year partnership agreement was also concluded with Facebook FM, a widely followed online media platform,

expanding CoRC's capacity to rapidly communicate risk information and anticipatory action messages to at-risk communities.

Preposition activities

1. Pre-position protection kits for 160 volunteers to mobilize (helmets, boots, gloves, masks, glasses, raincoats)

Following a review of anticipated operational requirements, the CoRC successfully procured, packaged, and prepositioned a comprehensive set of personal protective equipment (PPE) to support the safe deployment of volunteers during a potential activation of the sEAP. The prepositioned items were stored at the NS's warehouse in Ngazidja and are sufficient to support the mobilization of **160 volunteers**.

List of protection kit items:

No.	Item	Unit	Quantity
1	Shoe covers	Pack of 100	200
2	Surgical caps	Pack of 10	200
3	Safety goggles	Piece	2100
4	Dust masks	Piece	2100
5	Work overalls	Piece	210
6	Safety shoes	Piece	210
7	Boots	Piece	160
8	Work gloves	Piece	160
9	Hard hats	Piece	160
10	Raincoats	Piece	160



A photo of the prepositioned PPE items at the CoRC's national warehouse in Ngazidja



Community Engagement and Accountability

CHF preposition budget:

N/A

CHF preposition actual:

N/A

CHF readiness budget:

1,038

CHF readiness actual:

995.56

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities

1. Establishment of a community consultation and feedback mechanism

Building on the two-day Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) training delivered to **160 volunteers (95 men and 55 women)**, the Comoros Red Crescent (CoRC) strengthened community engagement structures and feedback mechanisms across the five target districts of Mbadjini, Oichili-Dimani, Bambao, Hambou, and Itsandra. These efforts aimed to enhance community participation in preparedness activities, strengthen

accountability to affected populations, and establish sustainable mechanisms for two-way communication between the National Society and communities exposed to volcanic risks.

A key achievement under this component was the revitalization and operationalization of **25 Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Committees** across the target areas. Committee members received orientation sessions on the Fundamental Principles and Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the importance of community feedback in humanitarian programming, and their roles in supporting community engagement, information sharing, and accountability processes. Through this initiative, **404 committee members (280 men and 124 women)** were mobilized and equipped to support preparedness activities within their respective communities. The strengthened committee network has significantly enhanced the CoRC's capacity to maintain regular dialogue with communities and promote local ownership of anticipatory action interventions.

In parallel, the CoRC conducted an assessment of existing community feedback and communication mechanisms to better understand community preferences and identify opportunities for strengthening accountability systems. The assessment found that the most widely used channels for information sharing and feedback collection include community meetings, awareness sessions led by village committee members, Red Crescent volunteers and Community Health Workers, as well as digital platforms, particularly the CoRC Facebook page. Based on the findings, these channels were formalized and integrated into the operation's community engagement approach, ensuring that communities could access information, provide feedback, and raise concerns throughout the implementation period.

The revitalized committee network also supported community consultations conducted alongside health, WASH, and PGI preparedness activities. These consultations helped strengthen community participation in the identification of vulnerable households, the validation of beneficiary selection criteria, and the development of preparedness and awareness-raising plans across the target communities. This contributed to a more inclusive and community-centred approach to anticipatory action implementation.

Community consultations further generated recommendations for strengthening accountability systems, including the establishment of community suggestion boxes and a toll-free hotline to broaden access to feedback and complaints mechanisms. While these systems were not established during the reporting period, they have been documented as priority actions for future preparedness and anticipatory action programming.



Overall, the CEA component contributed significantly to strengthening trust, participation, accountability, and community ownership of preparedness efforts. Through the combined awareness-raising and community engagement activities implemented across the operation, 4,121 people were reached with preparedness, risk reduction, health, WASH, PGI, and anticipatory action messages.

2. Training of volunteers on community engagement

To strengthen community participation, ownership, and the sustainability of planned interventions, a CEA training was conducted jointly with the PGI training for 160 volunteers (95 men and 65 women) from communities exposed to volcanic hazards.

The training aimed to enhance the capacity of volunteers who are expected to serve as first responders during preparedness activities and potential emergency deployments. It equipped participants with the knowledge, skills, and practical tools required to ensure that readiness and early response activities are participatory, inclusive, and responsive to community needs. Emphasis was placed on establishing accountability mechanisms to systematically collect, analyse, and address community feedback, thereby enabling interventions to be continuously adapted to the priorities and concerns of affected populations.

In addition to PGI-related topics, volunteers received training on community mobilization approaches, facilitation of community dialogue and awareness sessions, as well as feedback and complaints management mechanisms. This capacity-building initiative contributed to the effective establishment of CEA committees and supported the implementation of community awareness campaigns on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health-related issues.

The strengthened capacities of trained volunteers enhanced the quality of community engagement, facilitated the operationalization of accountability mechanisms at community level, and supported the delivery of inclusive and community-centered preparedness and awareness activities.

Preposition activities

No prepositioning activities were planned under this component.

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	N/A	N/A
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	1,660	1,623.28

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities

1. Establish a focal point for each stakeholder to strengthen communication and coordination

Effective coordination and partnership building were critical to the successful implementation of the sEAP. Throughout the reporting period, the CoRC maintained close collaboration with key government and technical partners, particularly the DGSC and the OVK, ensuring that preparedness activities remained aligned with national disaster risk management priorities and the evolving volcanic risk context.

To facilitate timely communication, coordination, and information sharing among stakeholders, dedicated focal points were maintained within both the DGSC and OVK. This coordination mechanism proved instrumental in supporting regular technical exchanges, monitoring volcanic activity, validating risk analyses, and ensuring coherence between CoRC preparedness interventions and national disaster management frameworks. The continuous engagement of these focal points contributed significantly to the operationalization of the anticipatory action system and strengthened inter-institutional collaboration for volcanic risk preparedness.

The coordination framework also supported the implementation of several key preparedness activities under the operation, including the identification and mapping of priority risk areas, the establishment of community-based preparedness mechanisms, the development of operational procedures, and the integration of anticipatory action concepts into national contingency planning processes. Regular exchanges between partners helped ensure a common understanding of risk scenarios and facilitated joint decision-making throughout implementation.

At the institutional level, coordination among CoRC's technical departments, including Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Health, WASH, PGI, and CEA, was maintained under the leadership of the Secretary General. This cross-sectoral approach facilitated integrated planning and implementation of readiness activities, promoted complementarities across sectors, and strengthened overall operational coherence. While significant progress was achieved in strengthening internal coordination processes, information management and data-sharing systems remain areas for continued improvement to support future anticipatory action programming.

2. Organize an annual workshop of the national FbF team to inform and exchange on the protocol

As part of efforts to promote learning and sustainability, CoRC organized an internal operational review meeting involving technical staff responsible for implementing the sEAP. The review provided an opportunity to assess achievements against planned objectives, analyse implementation challenges, and identify key lessons learned. Discussions also focused on sustaining the preparedness capacities established through the operation, including volunteer networks, coordination mechanisms, operational procedures, institutional partnerships, and prepositioned stocks. Participants highlighted the continued relevance of anticipatory action for

volcanic hazards in Comoros, given the persistent risk posed by Mount Karthala, and emphasized the importance of maintaining and further strengthening these capacities beyond the project period.

Preposition activities

No prepositioning activities were planned under this component.

 Secretariat Services	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	N/A	N/A
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	14,528	14,390.80

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities Xx

1. IFRC technical support mission

IFRC provided continuous technical, operational, and managerial support to CoRC to facilitate the implementation of the sEAP. This support was delivered through the in-country presence of a dedicated IFRC representative based in Moroni, complemented by technical backstopping from the IOI Cluster Delegation, ensuring regular engagement throughout the operation. IFRC provided guidance and quality assurance across key areas of implementation, including anticipatory action programming, operational planning, monitoring and reporting, financial management, procurement oversight, and coordination with Movement and external partners.

2. Monitoring the implementation of preparedness activities

Throughout the operation, IFRC supported the monitoring of activity implementation, facilitated coordination with key stakeholders, and provided technical advice on operational challenges and the adaptive management measures required to maintain progress in a context affected by competing humanitarian priorities. This support contributed to the successful delivery of the majority of planned readiness activities, despite the implementation delays experienced during the operation.

3. Training of National Society staff and volunteers on AA

Beyond operational support, IFRC's engagement helped strengthen CoRC's institutional capacity in anticipatory action, enhancing staff and volunteer understanding of forecast-based approaches, preparedness planning, operational readiness requirements, and reporting obligations. Regular technical exchanges and field-level support contributed to strengthening the NS's capacity to implement readiness and prepositioning activities in accordance with IFRC standards and anticipatory action frameworks.



National Society Strengthening

CHF preposition budget:

N/A

CHF preposition actual:

N/A

CHF readiness budget:

4,981

CHF readiness actual:

9,714.69

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Readiness activities

1. Training of National Society staff and volunteers on the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) mechanism

The implementation of the sEAP contributed significantly to strengthening the institutional, operational, and logistical capacities of the CRCo for anticipatory action and volcanic risk preparedness. Investments made under this component enhanced the NS's ability to plan, coordinate, and implement anticipatory actions in line with Forecast-based Financing (FbF) principles and IFRC standards.

A key achievement was the strengthening of human resource capacities through the training of 25 CoRC staff and volunteers on the FbF approach and its associated operational procedures. The training improved participants' understanding of anticipatory action concepts, trigger-based activation mechanisms, operational readiness requirements, and implementation responsibilities. These capacity-building efforts contributed to establishing a stronger institutional foundation for the sustained implementation of anticipatory action initiatives and increased the NS's internal expertise in preparedness programming.

In line with FbF requirements, the CoRC also developed a set of monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and planning tools to support the implementation and management of anticipatory action activities. These tools were designed to strengthen institutional accountability, facilitate performance monitoring, and improve data management during future activations. Their development represents an important step toward institutionalizing anticipatory action processes within the NS and reinforcing its Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) capacities.

2. Development of contingency planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and planning tools

The operation further contributed to strengthening contingency planning capacities. While the institutional contingency plan for volcanic eruptions was not finalized during the reporting period, substantial preparatory work was undertaken and significant progress was achieved through consultations, technical discussions, and the development of planning tools that will support its future completion.

3. Strengthening logistics and operational readiness capacities

Important gains were also recorded in the area of logistics and operational readiness. With support from PIROI, the NS strengthened the management, monitoring, and maintenance of prepositioned stocks across the three islands. In addition, efforts were initiated to update the supplier database and strengthen relationships with key service providers, laying the groundwork for future framework agreements that will facilitate rapid procurement and emergency response operations.

4. Establishment and support of an Anticipatory Action focal point

Although no annual coordination meeting dedicated exclusively to volcanic eruption preparedness was organized during the implementation period, regular technical exchanges were maintained with key partners, particularly the DGSC and the OVK. Furthermore, through the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, several coordination meetings and technical discussions were convened, contributing to stronger stakeholder collaboration and promoting anticipatory action approaches within broader disaster risk management and preparedness frameworks.

The operation also enabled improvements to the NS's infrastructure and operational support systems. Notably, the repair of the existing solar power converter restored a critical backup power source, enhancing the reliability of CoRC operational facilities and strengthening business continuity capacity during emergency situations.

5. Annual stakeholder coordination and institutional preparedness activities

Regarding the annual coordination meeting, no formal meeting specifically dedicated to volcanic eruption risk management was held during the implementation period. Nevertheless, regular coordination and information-sharing exchanges were maintained among key stakeholders, notably the DGSC and the OVK. In addition, through the Early Warnings for All project implemented by the CoRC in partnership with DGSC and OVK, several coordination meetings were convened. These platforms facilitated ongoing dialogue, joint planning, and collaboration on anticipatory action and disaster risk management, including preparedness and response measures related to volcanic hazards. As a result, coordination among stakeholders was sustained, contributing to enhanced preparedness and a shared operational understanding of volcanic risk management.

Preposition activities

1. Prepositioned backup power source

Following a technical assessment, the National Society opted to repair its existing solar power converter rather than procure a new system. The restoration of this backup energy source strengthened operational readiness and ensured greater continuity of communications, coordination, and warehouse management functions during potential volcanic emergencies and future anticipatory action activations.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

Implementation of the Volcanic Ash sEAP was completed in a complex operational environment characterized by competing humanitarian priorities, including the cholera outbreak and the response to Tropical Cyclone Chido,

which affected implementation timelines during the first phase of the operation. Although significant progress was achieved during the second year and most readiness objectives were ultimately delivered, the operation faced several challenges related to procurement, budgeting, and operational sequencing. The primary challenge was the increase in market prices for prepositioned items compared to original budget assumptions. As a result, the SN adjusted its procurement plan and reduce quantities of certain items, including hygiene kits and dignity kits, in order to maintain quality standards and remain within the available budget. Procurement processes were also prolonged by limited supplier availability and the logistical constraints typical of a small island context. Despite these constraints, the CoRC successfully prioritized the acquisition of quality, operationally appropriate supplies and ensured that key stocks were prepositioned and available for future activation.

Several important lessons emerged from the implementation experience. First, early and flexible procurement planning is essential for anticipatory action operations, particularly in remote and island settings where supply chains are constrained and market fluctuations can significantly affect purchasing power. Establishing framework agreements with suppliers before implementation begins would help reduce procurement lead times and improve cost predictability. Second, strong collaboration between the CoRC, the DGSC, and the OVK proved critical for maintaining a common understanding of risk scenarios, refining beneficiary targeting, and ensuring alignment between preparedness activities and evolving hazard assessments. Third, community-based volunteer and CEA committees demonstrated their value as highly effective channels for risk communication, awareness raising, and community engagement. The participation of volunteers drawn directly from at-risk communities helped strengthen community ownership of the programme and increased trust in preparedness messaging and planned anticipatory actions.

The operation also demonstrated the added value of integrating Health, WASH, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Disaster Risk Reduction approaches within a single anticipatory action framework. Training 160 volunteers across multiple sectors, revitalizing community committees, strengthening feedback mechanisms, and establishing prepositioned stocks created a solid foundation for future volcanic ash preparedness and response. Even though the EAP was not triggered, the investments made through the operation significantly strengthened the NS's readiness capacity and enhanced its ability to protect vulnerable populations from future volcanic hazards. Going forward, future anticipatory action initiatives should continue to invest in simulations, regular trigger reviews, contingency planning, and sustainable stock management to maintain and further strengthen the preparedness gains achieved through this operation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

By the end of the implementation period, the budget allocated to the Readiness and Prepositioning components had been almost fully utilized, in line with the original plan. The remaining balance corresponds to the budget earmarked for early actions, the disbursement of which was contingent upon activation of the trigger mechanism and therefore was not utilized during the reporting period.

Additionally, during the migration from the Business Object (old system) to ERP, all PSSR budget lines were consolidated and imported under a single budget line. As a result, the individual budget lines reflected in the ERP exclude their respective PSSR allocations, while one consolidated budget line contains the total PSSR budget for the entire project. Consequently, variances observed at the individual budget-line level are attributable to the budget migration and allocation methodology rather than actual overspending or underspending. A balance of CHF 74,192 will be returned to the DREF pot.

A detailed financial report is below.

MDRKM012 - Comoros - Volcanic Ash (EAP)

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 23-Apr-2024 End date: 30-Apr-2026*

Appeal launch date: *12-Jul-2024*

I. Summary

	Actual (CHF)
Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	210,958
DREF Response Pillar	0
Expenditure	-136,766
Closing Balance	74,192

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			
PO02 - Livelihoods			
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			
PO04 - Health	69,182	47,320	21,862
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	35,983	35,001	982
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	22,216	17,226	4,990
PO07 - Education			
PO08 - Migration			
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	43,471	15,646	27,825
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	2,728	1,037	1,691
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			
Planned Operations Total	173,580	116,231	57,350
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	1,559	1,660	-101
EA02 - Secretariat Services	19,683	13,894	5,789
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	16,136	4,981	11,155
Enabling Approaches Total	37,378	20,536	16,843
Total	210,958	136,766	74,193

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Prepared on 22-Jul-2026

Page 1 of 2



DREF Operation Final Report (CHF)

Date from: 6 Jan 2024 to 30 Jun 2026

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Operational Forecasting		0	0
Drugs Items	0		0
Housing Items	0		0
WatSan Items	0		0
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	0		0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	0		0
Logistics Services		1,256	-1,256
Logistics, Transport & Storage	0	1,256	-1,256
International Staff	13,642	9,288	4,354
National Staff	0	591	-591
National Society Staff	0		0
Volunteers	0		0
Personnel	13,642	9,879	3,763
Workshops & Training	0		0
Workshops & Training	0		0
Travel	4,872	1,158	3,714
Information & Public Relations	0		0
Communications	0	10	-10
Financial Charges		410	-410
Other General Expenditure	1,169		1,169
General Expenditure	6,041	1,579	4,463
National Society Expenditure	178,400	114,906	63,494
Contributions & Transfers	178,400	114,906	63,494
Programme & Services Support Recovery	12,875	8,347	4,528
Indirect Costs	12,875	8,347	4,528
Shared Office and Services Costs		800	-800
SOSC Allocations		800	-800
Total	210,958	136,766	74,192

Contact information

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

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Reference



Click here for:

- [Simplified EAP Summary](#)
- [2024 Annual report](#)
- [2025 Annual Report](#)