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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Seychelles / Flood

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRSC003; Glide n° FL-2014-000014-SYC
Date of issue: 07 February 2014	Date of disaster: 24th January 2014
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Charlie Musoka, Programme Coordinator, IFRC Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Region	Point of contact (name and title): Mrs. Colette Servina, Secretary General, Red Cross Society of Seychelles
Operation start date: 6 February 2014	Expected timeframe: 2 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 69,342	
Number of people affected: 887 households (approximately 4,435 people)	Number of people to be assisted: 4,435
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Seychelles Red Cross Society 6 staff at Headquarters, 3 branches (Mahe, Praslin, La Digue) with Branch Coordinators, 32 trained Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) members and over 100 registered volunteers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: RCSS, PIROI (French Red Cross Indian Ocean Platform) and IFRC.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Seychelles' Ministry of Health, Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) and governmental emergency services (such as the Fire Services).	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Heavy rains and strong winds in the early hours of 24th January 2014 resulted in flooding on the islands of Praslin, La Digue and northern parts of Mahe in the Seychelles. In the following days, ongoing rainfall and strong winds continued to affect the three islands. The districts of Baie St Anne and Marie Jeanne Estate on Praslin, and most of the low land and coastal areas on La Digue Island were particularly affected.

The main damage and effects reported are stagnant flood water in the lowland areas on La Digue and several landslides after the collapse of terraced fields/riverbanks. The local authority on Praslin reported a number of landslides, which resulted in the main road connecting the two main districts being completely blocked and unable to be accessed for a period of 3 days. Consequently, the main secondary school was closed as students were unable to access the educational facility. A total of 300 households (1,500 people) in Marie Jeanne Estate on Praslin, and 500 households on La Digue (2,500 people) have been affected. La Pass district in La Digue is the most severely affected.

Local authorities on Mahe reported a landslide in the northern part of the island, in Bel Ombre district on the night of February 1st. This landslide also caused road access to be cut. Furthermore, a river bank in Bel Ombre district collapsed and caused flooding of approximately 20 houses.

The rainy season normally lasts until the end of February. Occasional heavy rainfall during this period is a regular occurrence in the affected areas. According to Seychelles Meteorological Services reoccurring heavy rains are expected in the coming week due to the ideal low pressure condition over Seychelles such weather systems. It is expected that such conditions can result in more flooding and potentially increasing landslides.

During a similar period in 2013, the La Digue population experienced the same weather conditions and some people are still traumatized as a result of last year's events. Some of the most vulnerable families have exhausted most of their existing coping mechanisms.

The Seychelles Public Utility Corporation has reported contamination of water in some areas on Praslin, caused by the flooding of the water sources. Water supply is mostly reticulated in the Seychelles. In the ongoing events, the water supply was not disrupted however the Ministry of Health (MoH) issued a precautionary notice to minimize the risk of any waterborne disease.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles (RCSS) has gained significant experience in emergency response, in particularly following the devastating Tsunami floods in 2004 and Tropical Storm Felleng in 2013. The RCSS has responded regularly to disasters and emergencies in recent years, being auxiliary to the Government of Seychelles in emergency response and preparedness.

The RCSS has been responding to the emergency on Praslin, La Digue and Mahe through their local branches, alongside with local authorities. RCSS national headquarters, with support from IFRC and PIROI, conducted a joint assessment on 28th and 29th January 2014 in the affected areas on Praslin and La Digue. This included an interagency assessment with the local authority on Praslin (see table 1 in the need analysis section below). Furthermore, a post disaster health related needs assessment was carried out by the RCSS and MoH both of these islands.

A total of 58 volunteers have been deployed on the three main islands from January 24th and are still engaged in assisting affected communities. Many of these volunteers have been mobilized during the previous response to floods caused by Tropical Storm Felleng in 2013, and 40 were trained in hygiene and health promotion by two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members at that time. Also, RCSS volunteers were involved in a disaster risk reduction (DRR) project supported by PIROI following last year's floods to raise awareness on natural disasters in primary schools.

RCSS has some limited prepositioned stocks in Mahe (PIROI warehouse), including WatSan equipment and NFIs.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

RCSS is the sole Red Cross Red Crescent movement component with a presence in the Seychelles. RCSS is supported closely by the French Red Cross Platform for Disaster Response in the Indian Ocean (PIROI) and IFRC Regional office, in line with the agreed mandate.

RCSS is in close communication on a daily basis with both PIROI and IFRC. PIROI is providing technical support in this disaster response operation and is liaising closely with IFRC Regional and Zone offices to share regular updates.

IFRC has provided technical support in planning the operation, and will ensure support throughout the operation, including undertaking beneficiary satisfactory surveys and evaluate the intervention. Close financial monitoring and follow up will be done.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

In Seychelles, the Government (GoS) leads the overall coordination of disaster response, through the Department of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM). RCSS are active participants in the interagency coordination meetings which are a key part of monitoring and information sharing at national and district levels.

Most of the Governmental emergency first responders (Fire and Rescue Agency, Public Utility Corporation, Ministry of Local Government, Seychelles Police Force, Seychelles Defense Force, MoH) are on the ground assisting with road clearing and pumping flooded areas and assessing the situation. The MoH has issued an advisory precautionary measure to the general public with regard to post disaster health related issues.

RCSS currently participates in the daily interagency coordination meetings hosted by DRDM in Mahe. This ensures effective support for Government-led coordination mechanisms.

The Government authorities and the Red Cross Society of Seychelles are the only emergency responders in the country, and are the only agencies that are mandated to and involved in disaster management and disaster response. There are several other non-governmental organizations in the Seychelles; however their focus is on other areas (for example, HIV or environmental awareness).

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

RCSS quickly deployed 10 Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) members on Praslin and 22 BDRT members on La Digue, to assist local emergency services agencies in pumping of stagnant water and providing sandbags (75 units) to prevent water from entering 25 houses. In La Digue, RCSS volunteers continued to sensitize school-children

during morning assembly on post-disaster health related issues (facilitated by teachers who are members of the local branch).

RCSS Mahe branch deployed 26 volunteers to assist Bel Ombre district local authority as part of the response team to address the flooding and landslides. In Bel Ombre, actions to date include pumping water from flooded houses, providing sandbags to household to prevent further flooding and unblocking drainage in affected houses. Mahe branch also supplied tarpaulins to local authorities in response to the landslides. A family of four people has been temporarily relocated to a nearby sports complex where they are provided with food and shelter.

The Government of Seychelles Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM), shares regular updates from the interagency coordination meetings that it chairs.

Table 1: Affected Population registered on 1st February 2014.

District	POPULATION		HOUSES		
	People	Families	Partially destroyed	Totally destroyed	Flooded
La Digue	2,500	500	0	0	250
Praslin	1,500	300	1	0	187
Bel Ombre	435	87	2	2	87

Source: Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM), Government of Seychelles.

Table 2: Case Log at Command Centre at 16:18, 2nd February 2014.

Types of Cases	Number	Acted upon	Referred	Outstanding
Embankment	33	9	24	1
Road block	3	3	-	-
Utilities	6	5	1	-
Flooding	46	11	27	1
Fallen rocks	4	1	3	-
Fallen Trees	9	9	-	-
Infrastructure damage	2	2	-	-
Total Cases	103	-	-	-

Source: Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM), Government of Seychelles.

Since the rain gradually decreased as of Sunday February 2nd, the MoH in La Digue has been conducting household visits registering complaints and prioritizing areas seriously affected by events.

A health needs assessment has been carried out by RCSS and the Ministry of Health (MOH) both on Praslin and La Digue. Findings include seepage from septic tanks in flood affected areas of La Digue. It has been noted that a septic tank in the Marie-Jeanne Estate (Praslin) has leaked, however inspection has shown it is not caused by the recent flood event but rather lack of maintenance. The MoH is monitoring the situation in order to take appropriate action as soon as the area has dried off, and is monitoring the area since the onset of the rainy season in November 2013. It has been noted that larvacides have been applied in several areas with pockets of stagnant water and mosquito larvae have been sampled. Stagnant water provides a breeding ground for mosquito larvae, and given previous experiences where standing water remained for 4 – 6 weeks, this is a concern. A local clinic in the affected area has reported 7 cases of suspected water and sanitation related disease (vomiting and diarrhea).

Risk Assessment

Now that roads have been cleared by local authorities, RCSS can access the affected areas and cater to the needs of the affected. In the event of continued and/or worsening rain which makes the circumstances deteriorate significantly, RCSS will re-assess their interventions and plan additional assessments in collaboration with the DRDM and local authorities.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective of this operation is to assist the affected populations on Mahe, La Digue and Praslin with essential vector control and hygiene/environmental sanitation promotion activities, to reduce the risk of diarrheal and/or mosquito borne diseases (specifically dengue and chikungunya – malaria is not a threat in the Seychelles).

Proposed strategy

The target population for this operation is 887 households (or approximately 4,435 people), which is the total affected population on La Digue, Praslin and Mahe (Bel Ombre district).

The key activities planned as part of this operation are:

- Dissemination of key hygiene and environmental sanitation messages in English and Creole (local languages) through print media, television and through house to house visits by volunteers.
- Continuation of hygiene promotion, community mobilization and household visits by RCSS volunteers.
- Distribution of mosquito repellents and coils to 887 affected households.
- Support to local authorities for removal of stagnant water from flooded areas, through the procurement of three water pumps (2 for La Digue, 1 for Praslin) and ongoing support by volunteers during their operation.

The key hygiene and environmental sanitation messages will be developed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and with the technical guidance and input from IFRC and PIROI. This will ensure that the correct messages for prevention of dengue, chikungunya and diarrhea in the Seychelles context are disseminated.

Mosquito repellants and coils will be distributed to 887 affected households in Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. One tube of mosquito repellant specifically for children, and one tube for adults will be distributed per month to each affected household. During distribution, volunteers will explain the correct use of mosquito repellant, to minimize the risk of adverse effects on health. Although a spike in mosquito numbers has not been confirmed yet, there is potential (due to stagnant water acting as a breeding ground for mosquito larvae) and repellants and coils are appropriate measures for personal protection against mosquito bites in the Seychelles context. Distribution of repellants and coils at an early stage also provides a good entry point for volunteers to discuss key environmental sanitation and hygiene messages (e.g. clearing standing water in flower pots or gardens etc.) with target households.

A total of 40 volunteers were trained on hygiene promotion in La Digue and Mahe by one health and one water and sanitation Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member, in early 2013 under a DREF operation at that time. Many of these trained volunteers are still active within RCSS and will be utilised for distribution, house to house visits, community sensitization and hygiene promotion. However, there is a need to train an additional 20 volunteers in hygiene and environmental sanitation from Praslin island (where they were not trained previously).

Local authorities and agencies will be supported to remove stagnant water from affected parts of La Digue and Praslin. Three high horsepower water pumps are required (2 on La Digue and 1 on Praslin). RCSS branches and volunteers will continue to work closely with local authorities in community mobilisation and sensitization around water pumping and drainage.

The RCSS Programme Manager and/or the Secretary General will continue to attend the regular (currently daily) interagency coordination meetings hosted by DRDM in Mahe. This close cooperation will assist with ensuring activities are relevant, coordinated and complement Government of Seychelles plans.

Regular monitoring of beneficiary satisfaction is planned, particularly following distribution of items, which may initiate a review or revision of activities.

Operational support services

Human resources

RCSS will engage existing Headquarter and Branch staff, as well as trained BDRT members and volunteers to implement this operation. At Headquarter level, the DM Manager/Programme Coordination will be responsible for the overall implementation in close coordination with logistics, communications and finance departments as well as the Branch Coordinators. A DM officer will be assigned to support the operation.

In Mahe, La Digue and Praslin, the Branch Coordinators will be responsible for the field level implementation of activities. 58 volunteers will be engaged across the three islands to assist with clearing stagnant water, assessment, installing sand bags etc., and for the distribution of items and hygiene/environmental sanitation promotion. Out of these 58 volunteers, 32 are trained BDRT members.

An RDRT is not required in the present situation, however close technical support will continue to be provided throughout the operation from PIROI and the IFRC Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Regional office. Technical support will particularly be provided for key hygiene/health message development, brochure development, distribution of items and monitoring of use, acceptability and satisfaction, and evaluation of the operation.

Logistics and supply chain

Procurement will be supported/facilitated by PIROI, with stocks being purchased and shipped from Reunion. This is because sufficient quantities of the items to be distributed (mosquito nets and coils) are not available locally in the Seychelles. Payment will be made directly to supplier(s) using the Federation procedures and guidelines. The RCSS Logistics Officer (based in Mahe) will ensure that goods clearance, storage and dispatching in-country (inter-island and to beneficiaries) is completed in a timely manner, in coordination with the RCSS DM Manager. The RCSS have a warehouse in Mahe (same location as Headquarters) with sufficient storage capacity for the items, before they are dispatched and distributed.

Communications

The RCSS will communicate regularly with PIROI and the IFRC Regional Office, to share updates on progress along with any interest stories which could be used to raise awareness among potential donors and stakeholders.

Local media in the Seychelles will be utilised as a channel to inform the community of the operations activities and is a key medium for disseminating hygiene and health messages (television advertisement/slot).

Volunteers, through their activities in the affected communities, will raise awareness of the role of RCSS in emergency response and the principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The RCSS will also take the opportunity to share updates, stories and photos on its website (as well as on the IFRC Africa website), and will utilize its monthly newsletter to disseminate information related to the programme.

Security

There are no security concerns in the area of intervention. The political situation in the Seychelles is stable and no security incidents were reported during implementation of previous or ongoing activities.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Mahe, Praslin and La Digue branches will ensure adequate and regular monitoring of the activities through the Branch Coordinators, under the direct supervision and guidance of the RCSS Programme Manager and other RCSS Headquarters staff (Finance, Logistics etc.).

The RCSS Programme Manager will regularly visit the branches and affected communities to conduct monitoring visits and provide support (this is possible in a short operation due to the relatively short distances between the islands). The operation will receive technical support from the HQ whenever necessary, in close coordination with PIROI and IFRC.

Monitoring and evaluation will follow standard RCSS procedures and formats, established for the implementation of this plan of action and based on lessons learned from previous operations (particularly a DREF operation for floods response in 2012). Activity level monitoring will be done at the implementing level at each of the three islands (Mahe, La Digue and Praslin).

IFRC will support the operation, including monitoring and evaluation. IFRC will provide technical assistance and support in undertaking beneficiary satisfactory surveys. Financial monitoring will be done as part of the follow up.

Administration and Finance

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles is on a cash transfer system. The RCSS Finance Coordinator and Programme Manager at Headquarters will be responsible for financial monitoring and reporting, with continued communication with the IFRC Operations Manager in the event of a change or revision of activities (if required). The IFRC office in Madagascar will provide back up for administrative and financial issues that might need immediate support.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis:

Stagnant water in public areas as well as around private homes (gardens, flower pots etc.) provides a potential breeding ground for mosquito larvae. There is also reported septic tank leakage into the flood water and surrounding areas, which increases the risk of water and sanitation related diseases such as diarrhea. Water supply systems are operated and maintained by local authorities, and there is no disruption to the water supply.

There is a need to implement a multi-faceted approach to vector control, focusing on reducing the risk of dengue fever and chikungunya through removal of stagnant water (using water pumps) and also distributing personal protection methods that are relevant to the Seychelles context (mosquito repellent and coils).

Continued and intensified hygiene and environmental sanitation promotion activities will complement these activities. Brochures, a television advertisement and house to house visits by the volunteers will be utilised to sensitize the community on key messages and prevention of disease. RCSS volunteers will conduct the campaign twice a week in the emergency phase (for the first month) and each fortnight during the second phase (second month). Regular monitoring of needs and satisfaction will be carried out by RCSS volunteers, and a beneficiary satisfaction survey is planned upon completion of the operation as part of the DREF review process.

In 2013 as part of the response to Tropical Storm Felleng, two RDRTs (one health and one water and sanitation) trained volunteers on Mahe and La Digue on health and hygiene promotion. There is a need to train 20 additional volunteers on Praslin island, who will be carrying out hygiene promotion activities as part of this operation.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 887 households (or approximately 4,435 people) will be assisted as part of this operation:

- La Digue – 500 households (approximately 2,500 people)
- Praslin – 300 households (approximately 1,500 people)
- Mahe (Bel Ombre district) – 87 households (approximately 435 people)

In terms of beneficiary selection, all households in the affected areas in the three islands (Mahe, La Digue and Praslin) are targeted for mosquito repellent and coil distribution, as well as the hygiene and environmental sanitation campaign. Because one method to be used is a television advert, it is likely that a wider audience will be exposed to these key messages. Affected communities in La Digue and Praslin are targeted for the stagnant water removal.

Through the RCSS local branches and community-based volunteers, RCSS will pay particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable households in the affected areas (such as the elderly living alone, disabled etc.).

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of water and sanitation related (including mosquito borne) diseases for up to 887 affected households (approximately 4,435 people) in targeted communities on La Digue, Praslin and Mahe (Bel Ombre district).

Output 1.1

The targeted population of 887 households is supported with appropriate preventative vector control measures over a period of 2 months.

Activities planned

Week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Three water pumps are procured and transported to La Digue and Praslin (2 for La Digue and 1 for Praslin).	X	X												
Stagnant water removal using pumps, in close collaboration with Government in two islands (La Digue and Praslin) is undertaken.	X	X	X	X										
Distribution of mosquito repellents and mosquito coils to 887 affected households. • Repellent: 1 adult lotion + 1 child lotion per month, for 2 months • Coils : 1 box per household, per month, for 2 months		X	X	X										
Training and sensitization on correct use of repellents and coils to targeted population, by existing trained volunteers.		X	X	X										
Output 1.2 Appropriate hygiene and environmental sanitation promotion activities are provided to the targeted population of 887 household over a period of 2 months.														
Activities planned	Week		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Assessment of key hygiene and environmental sanitation needs, in collaboration with Ministry of Health and local authorities.	X	X												
Training of 20 volunteers on Praslin island in hygiene and environmental sanitation promotion (1 day training, facilitated by HQ staff member).	X													
Development and distribution of 1000 brochures with key messages in English and Creole.	X	X	X	X										
Development of TV advertisement/slot in collaboration with MoH.	X	X	X											
Airing of TV advert on the Seychelles national broadcasting station (aim to screen 24 slots over a 6 week period, at peak times – <i>note: this is still to be agreed with broadcasting authority</i>).			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.														
Output 1.1 Monitoring information informs revisions of the plan of action where appropriate.														
Activities planned	Week		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Post-distribution monitoring of the use of items, as well as					X	X	X	X						

Budget

See attached.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

BUDGET SUMMARY

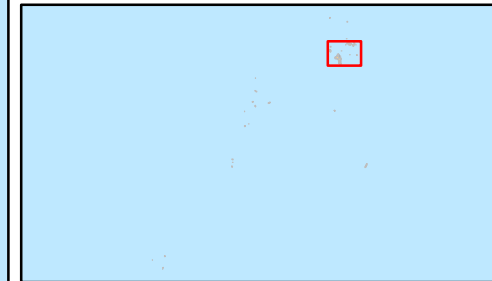
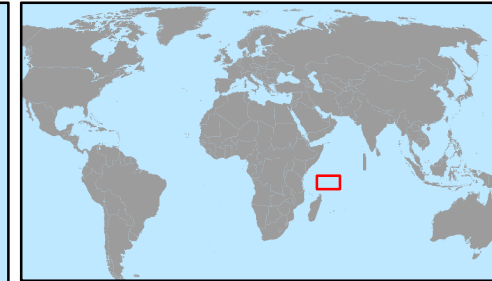
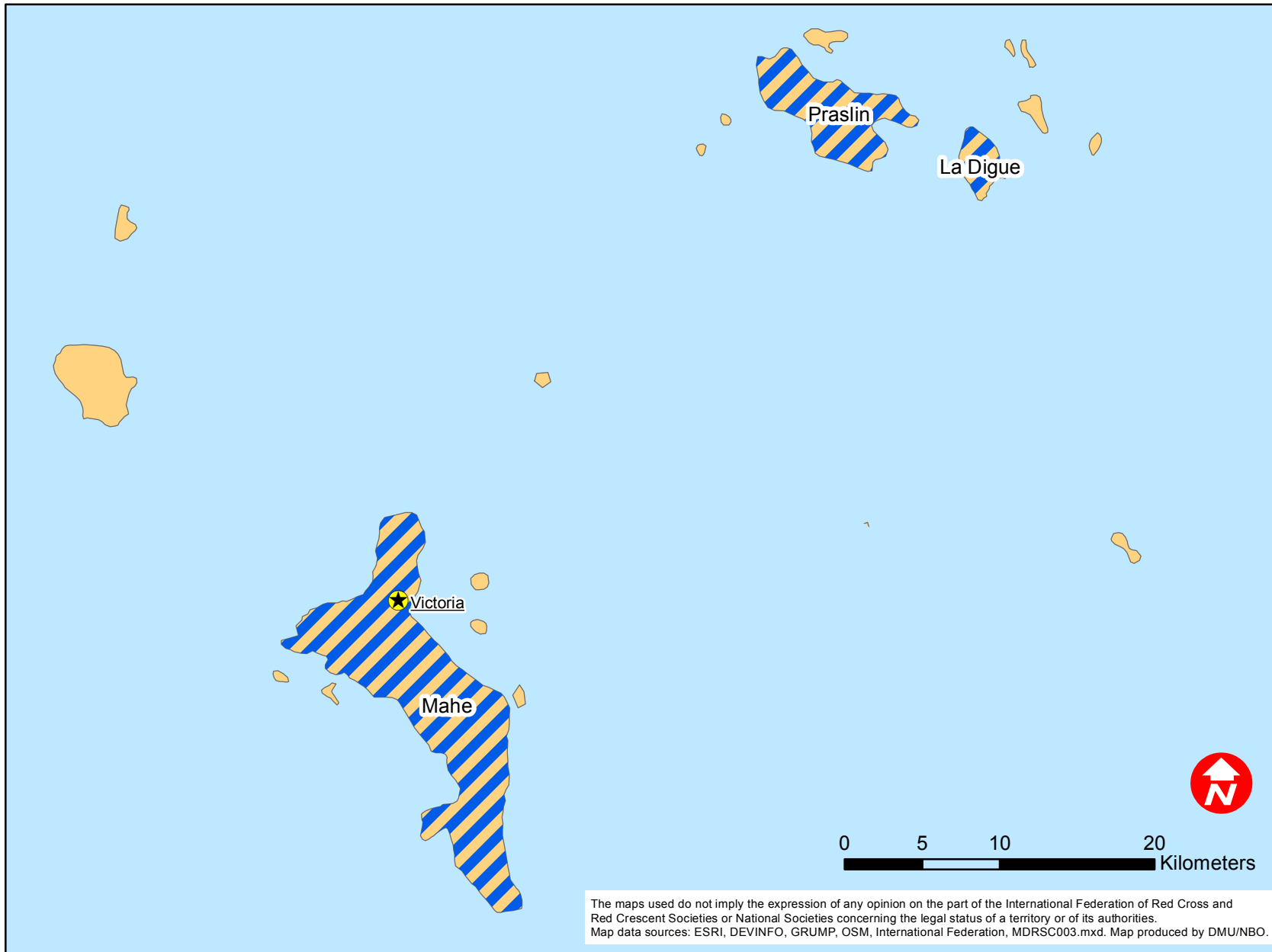
07/02/2014

DREF operation - Seychelles: Floods (MDRSC003)

Budget Group	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42,068
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	42,068
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	8,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,500
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,500
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	1,692
Total PERSONNEL	1,692
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	4,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,000
Travel	4,000
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	850
Communications	1,000
Financial Charges	1,000
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,850
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,232
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,232
TOTAL BUDGET	69,342
Available Resources	
Multilateral Contributions	0
Bilateral Contributions	0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	69,342



Seychelles: Floods



 Affected Areas

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GRUMP, OSM, International Federation, MDRSC003.mxd. Map produced by DMU/NBO.