

News

Malagasy Red Cross assists affected populations of Cyclone Enawo



On 7 March Intense Tropical Cyclone Enawo hit Madagascar, killing 81 people and affecting more than 434,000. Malagasy Red Cross (CRM) acted quickly to support the local population both before and after the cyclone struck. Working with PIROI and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), it developed an eight-month action plan to meet the immediate needs of 25,000 people. This plan focuses on response in terms of water, hygiene and sanitation, as well as emergency shelters in the worst affected regions of Sava, Analanjirofo, Atsinanana and Analamanga.



This assistance was made possible through support from the Armed Forces of the Southern Indian Ocean, the French Embassy in Madagascar, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the European Union, Reunion Island's Regional Council, the Ile-de-France Regional Council, and the Municipality of Le Port in Reunion Island.

Roussel – Malagasy Red Cross volunteer

“ Before the cyclone I helped spread early warnings that gave many families time to evacuate to safe places. After Enawo hit we conducted detailed assessments, and I was in charge of distributing reconstruction kits in the rural districts of Antalaha.

Many families had nothing left and were distraught: everything had been flooded, everything had been destroyed. I know that thanks to the information I collected, CRM will be able to defend the cause of these affected populations.”



To support CRM's emergency response, PIROI deployed 60 tons of housing reconstruction material from its Reunion Island warehouse. It also dispatched 40 tons of emergency supplies including hygiene kits and cooking sets from its pre-positioned stocks in Antananarivo and Tamatave.

Cyclone in Mozambique

On 15 February Cyclone Dineo struck the south of the country in the Inhambane province, affecting 750,000 people. Prior to the cyclone, Mozambique Red Cross (CRMz) had deployed 1,000 volunteers to carry out preventive activities, reducing the disaster's impact on the population. With

support from the IFRC, CRMz established a 4-month action plan to assist 7,500 affected people. As part of this plan it is carrying out actions to restore housing, hygiene and sanitation, to distribute food supplies, and to strengthen livelihoods in the most affected districts.

Water crisis in Mayotte

Since the beginning of the year Mayotte has suffered from a shortage of drinking water due to the lack of rainfall. Consumption of untreated water raised fears about health risks for the population. Faced with this situation, the government conducted an assessment mission in January, during which PIROI shared its expertise.

Disaster risk reduction

6th Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

PIROI attended the 6th Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) which was held in Mauritius, 22-25 November 2016. PIROI, as a stakeholder in disaster risk management, participated in the session as part of its regional cooperation program. The meeting helped speed up the implementation of the Sendai Framework for the region, as well as agreement on a common position to be presented at the 5th Global

Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held 22-26 May 2017 at Cancún in Mexico.

For PIROI-member National Societies it is essential to intervene with local populations prior to crises in order to build their resilience. This precautionary approach can save lives and protect development gains.

Updating educational awareness-raising tools

Educational outreach tools on awareness of natural risks in the Indian Ocean region are currently being brought up to date. For example in Reunion the *Paré pas Paré* project brought together all the partners (technical and institutional) to update the awareness messages contained in the booklets handed out in schools. Youngsters aged 8 to 12 will now have an entertaining educational resource with updated graphics that will include the topic of climate change.



children. By playing an internet-based educational video game set in Reunion, young people will have the chance to rise up to the challenges caused by natural hazards on the island.

A complementary digital tool will also be developed in order to transcend classroom interventions and raise awareness with a greater number of

Mauritius Red Cross Society also took advantage of this opportunity to update the school booklets for its *Zenness Pren Kont* project.



Reunion Island: raising public awareness of flood risks

The French Ministry for the Environment is introducing an aid for Major Flood Risk Areas, aimed at developing key awareness-raising measures for vulnerable populations.

Following a request from the Department for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Housing, from May 2017 onwards PIROI will take a declination of the *Paré pas Paré* project to the districts of Saint-Denis, Sainte-Suzanne, Saint-Benoit, Saint-Paul, Le Tampon and Saint-Joseph.

Disaster preparedness

Training of a regional disaster response team to respond to epidemics

The Indian Ocean region is particularly vulnerable to risks of epidemics (dengue, malaria, cholera, Zika, etc.). Recognizing the importance of anticipating this health issue and incorporating it into disaster risk management activities, in November 2016 PIROI, IFRC and the IOC's Epidemiological Surveillance and Alert Management (SEGA) network organized in Reunion Island the first training course for a regional team specialized in emergency health .

During 8 days team members alternated theoretical lessons with mock sessions, thus addressing all aspects of health crisis response including carrying out rapid assessments, coordinating with local authorities, drawing up action plans to raise awareness with local populations, and collecting health data.

The 25 participants were either from Indian Ocean and central or western African Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, or from the SEGA network. The course was an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and experience-sharing.

A pre-positioned warehouse in Rodrigues

The island of Rodrigues, located more than 500km away from Mauritius, is vulnerable to cyclones and flooding. With assistance from the Australian embassy, the local branch of the Red Cross will soon have a warehouse in which to pre-position relief supplies, thus reducing the effects of Rodrigues' isolation and improving emergency response to disasters.

Construction of the building, coordinated by PIROI and Mauritius Red Cross, will start in May 2017.

First regional training course for Cash Transfer Programs

As disasters affect each individual differently, humanitarian organizations are increasingly turning towards Cash Transfer Programs. These initiatives complement traditional emergency response by assisting disaster-stricken populations through work-for-pay projects, or by distributing money or vouchers.

The training course organized in April by PIROI and IFRC allowed the Indian Ocean National Societies to improve their skills in assessing and implementing these new programs.

This first session is falling within the Platform's development strategy towards the PIROI Center.



Key Events

25 - 27 January

Training of Paré pas Paré project facilitators



21 February

Paré pas Paré project activities for Creole language day



2 March

Training of WATSAN (water and sanitation) volunteers in the Comoros



24 - 25 April

Annual coordination meeting of disaster risk management activities



26 - 29 April

Cash transfer program training course



14 - 16 May

Storytellers' training for the Paré pas Paré project



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3 April

Inès Ladraa took up office as PIROI's Training Officer



5 April

Steering Committee of the Paré pas Paré project



10 - 16 April

Dood's Caravan in Mauritius



22 - 26 May

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at Cancún in Mexico

May

19 - 21 June

Training of trainers on the topic of climate change as part of the Paré pas Paré project

June

15 July

Launch of the 3rd edition of Timoun's caravan in Reunion Island

July

26 - 30 July

Vector control training course in the Comoros

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PIROI consists of different members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Comoros Red Crescent, French Red Cross, Malagasy Red Cross, Mauritius Red Cross, Mozambique Red Cross, Seychelles Red Cross, Tanzania Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).