

PREPARING FOR NATURAL HAZARDS : ESSENTIAL FOR ALL

ÉDITO

November 15th marks the start of the cyclone season in the south-west Indian Ocean. Hurricane Irma - the most powerful ever recorded in the Caribbean - recently reminded us of the destructive potential of these weather phenomena and the need to prepare for them.

Our region is highly vulnerable to natural hazards and is no exception to this requirement. It is with this in mind that PIROI has been working for 17 years on the entire disaster management cycle: through prepositioning of emergency supplies to training specialised teams who can be deployed immediately following a natural disaster. PIROI is also working to reduce Indian Ocean populations' vulnerability by implementing disaster risk reduction programmes.

While climate change raises fears of an increase in the number, frequency, intensity and especially unpredictability of natural disasters, the insular-specific context of the Indian Ocean region makes it necessary to further improve our means of anticipating these events.

After conducting 51 emergency response operations benefiting more than 1.6 million people, PIROI must continue to adapt to these new challenges.

In order to do this PIROI intends to become a Regional Centre for Expertise, Training and Innovation dedicated to risk management and climate change in the region: [the PIROI Center](#). In addition to PIROI's established activities, this Regional Centre - which could be operational by 2020 - will help us develop the areas of research, training, and innovation applied to risk management through the creation of numerous external partnerships.

Simulation exercise

From 8th to 11th December PIROI carried out its annual simulation exercise in preparation for the cyclone season. Together with all of Reunion's Red Cross units, PIROI teams implemented its Operational Response System using the scenario of an intense tropical cyclone sweeping over Mauritius and then Reunion Island.





FIGHTING PLAGUE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

This year's plague season in Madagascar, which started last August, is notable for the large number of cases of pulmonary plague (the most serious form), mainly occurring in urban centres and the capital Antananarivo. At the end of September the WHO reported a high risk of the epidemic spreading across the whole country, and a moderate risk of spread in the region.

In conjunction with the authorities, Malagasy Red Cross (CRM) mobilised a thousand volunteers in all affected districts to carry out community-based awareness raising and monitoring activities. In coordination with CRM, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies set up a plague treatment unit and deployed a specialised team that also includes members of the French Red Cross (FRC).

PIROI has also assisted the Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles National Societies in preparing for epidemic risk, in partnership with the IFRC and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

The latest official report on 13th November confirms 2,158 cases and 174 deaths in Madagascar. [More information.](#)

A SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (IDDR)



This year Mauritius Red Cross (CRMu) partnered with the island's MBC TV channel to advocate natural disaster prevention and preparedness. In partnership with the Mauritius National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre (NDRRMC), the CRMu recorded [a special programme](#), broadcast on 20th November. The show featuring CRMu was followed by a screening of 'Hurricane', a film which chronicles the

journey of one of our planet's most devastating climatic events: hurricanes, known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean.



More about cyclone Enawo

At the start of this cyclone season PIROI has been looking back at past operations. Last March, after category 4 cyclone Enawo hit Madagascar, it responded by deploying 100 tonnes of equipment. [Find out more.](#)





FOCUSING ON FLOOD RISK IN REUNION

Since May 2017 PIROI has conducted a flood [awareness project, 'Nout Kartié lé Paré'](#), aimed at strengthening the resilience of Reunion Island's inhabitants most vulnerable to flood risk. Preparedness and awareness-raising activities as well as thematic training courses have been organised in the six Major Flood Risk Areas (MFRA) of Saint-Denis/Sainte-Marie, Sainte-Suzanne/Saint-André, Saint-Benoît, Saint-Paul, Le Tampon/Saint-Pierre and Saint-Joseph.

In this context, the 'Behaviour to adopt in a flooded environment' training course held last August under real conditions at a watersports centre helped increase municipal employees' and inhabitants' awareness of the behaviour to adopt in the event of rising water levels.

Another key element of the project, the 'Nout kartié lé paré' caravan, also conducted outreach with inhabitants of the MFRA through fun workshops on flood risk throughout December 2017.



"This course helped us learn about what attitudes and procedures we should adopt if swept away by water, but also if we witness this type of incident, all without putting ourselves in danger. Literally jumping into the water made us realise the danger and become ambassadors for this much-needed public outreach, which was also a wonderful challenge and adventure".

Natacha Zettor, Legal, Election and Administrative Police Department of St-Denis municipality



Unlocking funds based on weather forecasts

Last October the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) dialogue platform, organised by the German Red Cross and IFRC, was held in Berlin. PIROI would like to develop this concept, which promotes implementing anticipated actions on the basis of forecasts, as part of its regional programme. [Find out more.](#)



Strengthening water treatment capacity in Mayotte



In November 2017 PIROI and the association [Aquassistance](#) held a training course on water treatment in emergency situations in Mayotte. The 13 participants learned how to put together water treatment lines under real conditions. [Find out more.](#)





2ND NOVEMBER

Members of Parliament **David Lorion** and **Daniel Fasquelle**



6TH NOVEMBER

Prefect of Reunion Island, **Amaury de Saint Quentin**, accompanied by **Colonel Pharisien**



10TH NOVEMBER

Mozambican Government Delegation, accompanied by **Gilles Rolland**, Correspondent for non-governmental cooperation at the French Embassy in Mozambique



7TH DECEMBER

General Vidaud, new commanding officer of the French Armed Forces of the Southern Indian Ocean



A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR RODRIGUES

Mauritius Red Cross now has an operational contingency plan for the island of Rodrigues. Drawn up in August 2017 by a dozen team members of the local branch, it was tested and validated during a simulation exercise held on 13th and 14th October.

In the event of a disaster this plan will help strengthen coordination and emergency response mechanisms provided by the local Red Cross branch of this outcrop, which has 42,000 inhabitants and is located almost 600 km from the nearest inhabited land. At the same time, with the support of the Australian Embassy in Mauritius, PIROI has begun to build a warehouse on the island. It will increase regional emergency storage capacities.

RAISING DISASTER RISK AWARENESS IN REUNION

For the past four months Seychelles Red Cross (CRSeY) has been implementing the first phase of a project aimed at reducing local vulnerability to disasters. Financed by PIROI's regional programme, Interreg V funds, and Reunion Island's Regional Council, this project aims to establish outreach activities in partnership with all local risk management stakeholders (weather services, Ministry of Health, Fire and Rescue Services, UNDP, community workers, etc.). CRSeY is now working on the creation of outreach tools, organisation of public awareness days, and the update of its contingency plan for emergencies.



INCREASING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN SEYCHELLES

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IN BRIEF

JUNE

20 - 22 JUNE

Serious games trainer training on climate change issues



27 - 28 JUNE

Regional Natural Risks Symposium

AUG.

AUGUST

Re-provisioning of PIROI stock

15TH JULY - 5TH AUGUST

Timoun's Caravan 2017



24TH - 26TH AUGUST

'Behaviour to adopt in a flooded environment' training course



28TH AUG. - 1^{RST} SEPT.

'Logistics capacity building' training course

SEPT.

SEPTEMBER

Bioforce Institute and PIROI sign a partnership agreement



11TH - 16TH SEPTEMBER

'Vector control' training course in the Comoros

25TH - 26TH SEPTEMBER

22nd Indian Ocean Cyclone Committee meeting, Seychelles

OCT.

8TH OCTOBER

Election of Avelino Mondlhane and Alfredo Tomas as new President and Secretary General respectively of the Mozambique Red Cross

25TH - 26TH OCTOBER

PIROI Partners Meeting

NOV.

14TH - 20TH NOVEMBER

'Strengthening Water Treatment Capacities in Emergencies' training course in Mayotte

27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER

Regional 'Resource Mobilisation' training course



29 NOV.-15 DÉCEMBRE

'Nout kartié lé paré' flood awareness caravan

Indian Ocean Regional Intervention platform

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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).

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