

MAURITIUS SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

National Scouting & Humanitarian Action Policy

https://www.scoutsmauritius.org/

Selected hazards	Cyclone, flash floods, landslides, epidemic and associated risks
Period covered	2023-2025
Last update	
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Groups of humanitarian actors involved	

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Command
MSA	Mauritius Scouts Association / Association
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre
NDS	National Disaster Scheme
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Command
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
WOSM	World Organisation Scout Movement
DC	District Commissioner

Executive Summary

According to the World Risk Report 2021, the country has now become the 51st country with the highest disaster risk as compared to the 2020 ranking whereby the country was at the 53rd rank with the highest disaster risk.

The island is prone to man-induced disasters as well as natural disasters such as cyclones, storm, torrential rains, floods and flash floods, landslides, tsunami and epidemic which can occur without warning and can have significant humanitarian consequences.

The cyclonic season officially starts on 15 November and ends on 15 May. According to statistics, Mauritius is in the centre of a cyclone only every 5 years. Still, every year the island is hit by the remnants of 3 to 5 storms.

Furthermore, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, published, flooding that are caused by heavy/torrential rains account for more than 70 per cent of disaster event every year. Of the several flash floods experienced by the country, the one that occurred in Port-Louis on 30 March 2013 caused one of the highest fatalities. In addition, according to the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Framework and Action Plan (DRR Report 2013), it has been estimated that damages to buildings and infrastructures due to flooding in the next 50 years will cost around US \$ 2 billion for Mauritius.

Moreover, the average annual rainfall amount is about 2,000mm and almost 70% is concentrated during the rainy season (December - May). Many large-scale cyclones occur during the rainy season, causing most of the landslide disasters to occur during this season. Reconnaissance has been conducted for the 32 landslide hazard areas selected in the "Cyclone and Other Natural Disasters Scheme 2011-2012" and several of the 32 landslide hazard areas were divided, bringing the total to 37 areas. The 37 hazard areas are classified into nine (9) kinds of disasters: landslide, slope failure, rock fall, debris flow, stream erosion, damage of embankment, wall damage, house damage, and land subsidence (cave-in).

Furthermore, with large amount of accumulated water, it may lead to vector-borne and waterborne diseases.

Since the Scout Movement started in 1907, Scouts were encouraged by Robert Baden Powell to do a good deed every day, and thus millions of Scouts throughout history have committed to help other people at all times. Scouting is not a humanitarian agency, but humanitarian values are at the core of Scouting.

The 39th World Scout Conference approved resolution 17/11 that urges all National Scout Organisations to respond urgently to any national/international emergency. With our region's geographical location, it is a necessity that we must always be prepared for any disasters that may occur from time to time.

Hence the need to develop this National Scouting and Humanitarian Action Policy ('Policy') to assist the Mauritius Scouts Association ('MSA') to be better prepared for an immediate, well-coordinated response reduces human suffering and can shorten recovery time for affected communities.

(Source http://metservice.intnet.mu & https://nao.govmu.org | https://openjicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12231346_01.pdf)

Role and mandate of the MSA

The Mauritius Scouts Association was founded and became a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement ('WOSM') in 1971. It was then incorporated in 1976.

The MSA is a voluntary, non-political, educational movement for young people in accordance with the aim to encourage the physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society.

MSA participates in Disaster Risk Reduction activities organised by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and is envisaging to form part of the response framework of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre. Moreover, the Association is looking forward to work with all Ministries and other stakeholders of emergency to coordinate an efficient and adapted response to vulnerable communities affected by a natural disaster.

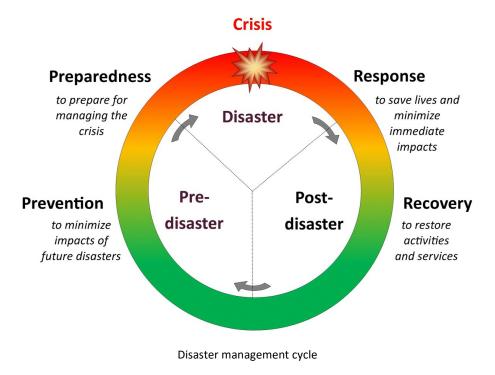
Legal context

As the principal legal document, the National Disaster Scheme 2015 ('NDS') of Mauritius provides the institutional framework for disaster management in the country.

The NDS has traditionally been used as the primary source of information for agencies and individuals working in preparation and response to identified threats. The NDS is intended to be a functional document to support agencies and stakeholders in understanding and undertaking their roles, responsibilities and actions in emergencies. The aim of the NDS is to enhance safety of citizens.

The National Disaster Scheme defines the specific responsibilities of NGOs for different hazards before during and after the event of a disaster. Thus, the MSA will act according to the defined General preparedness, Actions prior, Actions during and Aftermath mentioned.

(SOURCE: NDS)

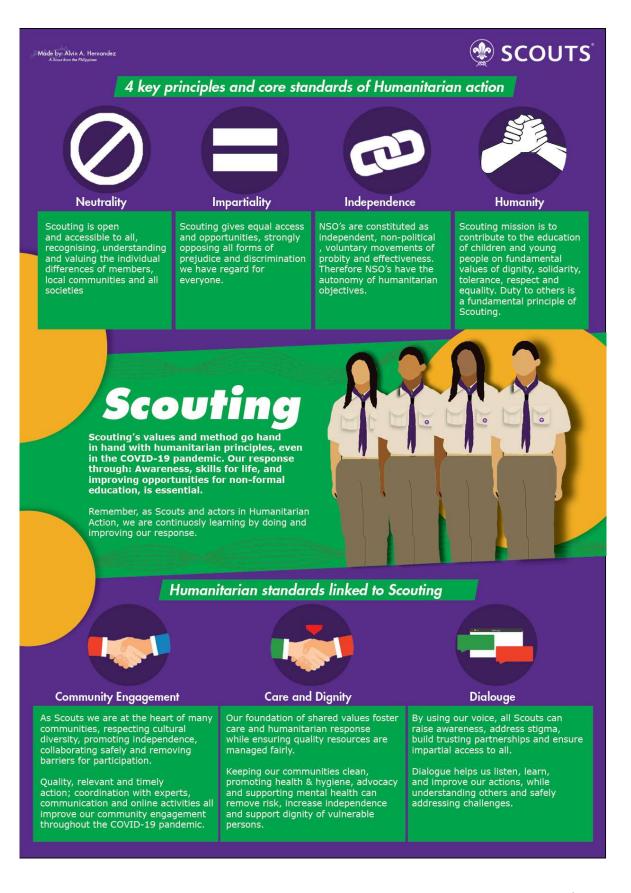


Source: Space-Based Earth Observations for Disaster Risk Management

To reduce the overall impact of sudden and unexpected natural disasters, through better preparation and more efficient and rapid response and recovery, this Policy is being made and developed. This plan shall empower the MSA to take after and follow certain arrangement of guidelines for the end goal of having sudden events. This Policy provides a detailed procedure of the MSA's response mechanism to the critical situation.

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- 1. Support the Programme/activities in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation for natural disasters; and
- 2. Assist Adults in Scouting to be better prepared in humanitarian disaster preparedness and rehabilitation.



Safe from Harm

The Scout Movement is a voluntary, non-political educational movement for children and young people which is open to all without distinction of gender, origin, race or creed. Scouting offers children and young people the opportunity to develop their full emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible global citizens, and as members of local, national and international communities.

The World Scout Safe from Harm Policy aims to keep Scouts safe from harm by supporting the development of national frameworks with local effectiveness. A commitment to protect children and young people regardless of their context is a responsibility shared by every individual involved in the Scout Movement. Child and youth protection in Scouting should encompass a full range of strategies, systems and procedures implemented at all levels of Scouting that work together to provide children and young people with a safe environment that enables them to develop their full potential.

WOSM is committed to maintaining a safe environment for the development of children and young people around the world and this also applies to situations where humanitarian action is crucial. Child and youth protection must be one of the priorities in humanitarian action in all the different stages of support. Proper training should be given to those individuals who will provide aid in emergency response cases so that the risk of harm is reduced to the greatest extent possible.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals inherently involve disaster risk reduction and management. Specific links between the Sustainable Development Goals and MSA Framework are summarised below



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Weather and climatic context

Mauritius enjoys a mild tropical maritime climate throughout the year. The country has two seasons: a warm humid summer extending from November to April and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September. The month of October and May are commonly known as the transition months.

Mean summer temperature is 24.7 degrees Celsius and mean winter temperature is 20.4 degrees Celsius. The temperature difference between the seasons is only 4.3 degrees Celsius.

The warmest months are January and February with average day maximum temperature reaching 29.2 degrees Celsius and the coolest months are July and August when average night minimum temperatures drop down to 16.4 degrees Celsius.

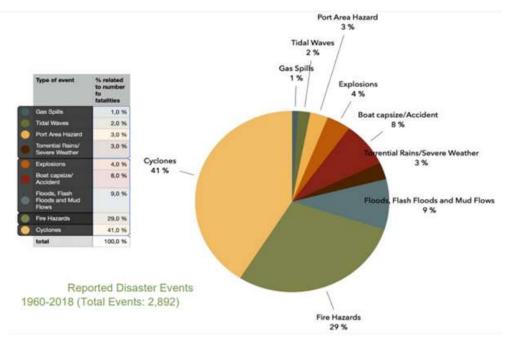
Long term means annual rainfall (1971-2000) over the Island is 2010 mm. The wettest months are February and March. The driest month is October.

Mean summer rainfall (1971-2000) is 1344 mm, which is 67% of the annual amount over the Island. Mean winter rainfall (1971-2000) is 666 mm. Although there is no marked rainy season, most of the rainfall occurs in summer months.

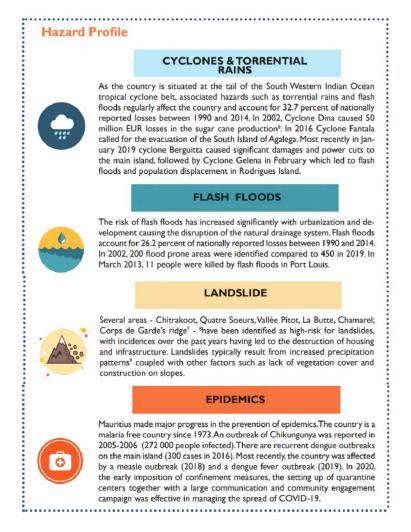
The Island receives 6.5 to above 8 hours of bright sunshine daily. In summer months around 6.0 hours of bright sunshine are received over the high grounds, whereas the coastal regions are exposed to 7.5 to over 8.0 hours of bright sunshine. In winter months, the Central Plateau receives around 5.0 hours of bright sunshine whereas the coast receives above 7.5 hours of bright sunshine. Source: http://metservice.intnet.mu/

Recent Disaster History

Mauritius is, unfortunately, disaster prone. The Preliminary Analysis of Disaster Data – 1960-2018 report used disaster-related data for the 1960-2018 period to identify the most significant disasters affecting the island in recent times. As indicated in Figure 1, below (from the Preliminary Analysis report), in terms of the number of disasters, weather-related events were the most common type of disaster, with cyclones, torrential rainfall and flooding the most common among these types of events.







Population Vulnerability to Hazards

It is estimated that around 12 percent of the population (World Bank 2020) still live below the relative poverty line. According to the Housing and Population Census (2011), there remain 152 pockets of poverty, mostly in urban slums. The poverty is more prevalent among specific groups, including people with low levels of education, the elderly, single parent households and families with three or more children.

People living in poverty tend to live in poor housing conditions, increasing their vulnerability to hazards such as flooding or contaminated water. Squatter settlements are concentrated in the periphery of the capital of Port Louis, as well as in the south-west coastal region. The authorities are considering relocating vulnerable families from areas prone to landslides and floods (Chitrakoot, Camp Manna, Tranquebar, Vallee Pitot and Residence La Cure). Similarly, housing in Rivière Noire (the EDC settlement), Barkly (the Tôle and Planète des Singes settlements) and Roche-Bois (the Karo Kalyptis and Enba Larivier settlements) is reported to be precarious. It is estimated that 4,000 additional homes are needed to address the issue of urban slums.

The Social Register of Mauritius (SRM), held by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, is the national database of beneficiaries of the country's social safety net programme. It uses proxy data from the Household Budget Survey (2017) and includes data disaggregated by gender and age. The register covers 11,222 families classed as living in extreme poverty. According to the Household Budget Survey (2017), poverty is higher among female-headed households (17 percent) than male-headed households (7 percent). As of March 2018, the SRM included 4,150 female-headed households, with a total of 15,346 beneficiaries. Furthermore, 50 percent of the poorest households in the register are headed by women.

Source ndrrmc.govmu.org/Documents/cadri.pdf?csf=1&e=31RNwn

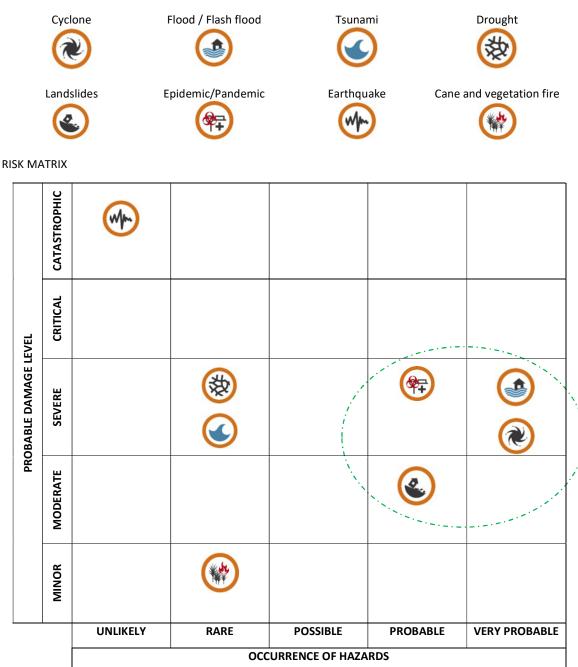
Climate change and disasters pose a significant risk to the country's economy and social development. The COVID-19 epidemic is a stark reminder that global epidemics, like climate change, know no borders. Despite its success in controlling the epidemic nationally, Mauritius was not spared by the global consequences on tourism and trade which negatively impacted the economy.

Overall, the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards (cyclones and torrential rains; consecutive flash floods and landslides; and epidemics and zoonotic diseases) are likely to increase.

Hazards and risks

A risk matrix is essentially a tool that can help you understand the risks your organisation faces, and their overall likelihood and severity, in a visual way.

Major natural and epidemics risks which are more known to appear in Mauritius are :



Conclusions of the risk analysis:

The four major natural risks for Mauritius are flash flood, cyclone, epidemic and landslide where the probability of occurring is relatively high and the damage level can be severe. These four natural hazards, which are the major causes of damage in Mauritius, are observed by the Mauritius Meteorological Services and Ministry of Health and Wellness. They are committed to improving preparedness, but an outbreak today could cause deaths and cross borders. Vulnerable communities are the most often affected by flash flood, cyclone, epidemic and landslide. Mauritius has work to prepare for the next natural disaster. With regards to tsunami, drought and cane and vegetation fire, their occurrence is possible, but the damage is relatively moderate.

Preparedness phase

The island experiences a range of hazards.

Natural hazards affect significant areas of the region due to seasonal but extreme weather patterns as a result of irregular and unpredictable paths of cyclones.

Cyclones, landslides and flash floods particularly near river basins is expected, as the effects of climate change continue to bring unusual and irregular weather patterns. Silted river basins, deforestation and the presence of illegal infrastructures will also affect the impact of the natural hazards. Vector disease and gastro are also to be expected.

In the preparedness phase, the MSA shall:

- Raise public awareness / sensitisation campaigns to support the country to become more resilient;
- Coordinated operational partnerships with humanitarian agencies and other actors-consistent with our Fundamental Principles to further increase operation reach, scale and effectiveness; and
- Take part in simulation exercises.

Recovery phase

The impact from any cyclone, epidemic, flooding or landslide event will vary based upon several factors: source of water; location of water flow; duration/intensity of rainfall or source release; topography; presence and/or effectiveness of flood control systems; changes in land use; vegetation; etc. In any event of cyclones, epidemic, floods or landslides, the following are the sectors which are likely to be affected: Human settlement and shelter, Health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, agriculture and food, infrastructure, and crosscutting issues.

Partnered with specialised NGOs in relief operations, the major intervention of the MSA, with the support of Leaders in different districts and donors would be to:

- 1. Distribute of food, clothing and cash vouchers;
- 2. Distribution of a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal and domestic hygiene;
- 3. Distribute shelter kits / tarpaulins / sanitary products;
- 4. Organise sensitisation campaigns in relation to vector borne disease and associated risks;
- 5. Cleaning of houses; and
- 6. Any actions or activities proposed by the NGO, after the authorisation of the Chief Commissioner.

Assessment and monitoring

Assessment and monitoring will be undertaken throughout the duration of this plan, thus ensuring informing the initial plan on the status or the stage of implementation or operation or strategic changes that must be implemented.

Before, during and after the crisis monitoring will be carried out by the District Commissioners with constant feedback to the Chief Commissioner.

Roles and duties

Chief Commissioner

- Appointed by the Chief Scout, the Chief Commissioner shall attend meetings scheduled by the NDRRMC or any national disaster instances. Falling him, the Chief Commissioner can appoint an alternate to represent the MSA;
- The Chief Commissioner shall chair the Humanitarian Action Committee;
- Initiate the activation plan as and when required; and
- Monitor the situation from District Commissioners and inform the Chief Scout accordingly.

Humanitarian Action Committee ('Committee')

- The Committee shall be chaired by the Chief Commissioner; and
- Assist District Commissioners in organising activities / events / trainings for the Humanitarian Team.

District Commissioner

- The District Commissioner shall mobilise members and define the roles and responsibilities of each member;
- With the support of the Humanitarian Team, the District Commissioner shall identify potential risks areas, monitors and gives feedback to the Chief Commissioner during and after any disaster;
- Update list and contact of Humanitarian Team ('Team') every three months;
- Organise meetings with the Humanitarian Team; and
- With the assistance of the Humanitarian Action Committee, organise activities/events/trainings for the Team.

Humanitarian Team

- The team is under the responsibility and supervision of the District Commissioner;
- Meets at least once every three months and especially before the cyclonic season or if necessary;
- An on-call duty (Roster) must be set up in the event of a disaster;
- This roster must be submitted to the Chief Commissioner soonest through the District Commissioner; and
- The team awaits and intervene/act upon guidelines/requests of the District Commissioner.

Administrative Secretary

- The Administrative Secretary shall be responsible to disseminate any information to District Commissioners;
- Send situation report to Regional Office, WOSM; and
- Prepare updates and situation report for Governance, Partners and stakeholders.

Operational coordination

Below is listed the activities of the MSA which are to be carried out before, during and after a natural disaster:

Before

Emergency's actions	Responsibility	Remarks
Monitor situation	Chief Commissioner	Liaise with District Commissioners
Inform any relevant information to Districts	Administrative Secretary	
Identification of potential risk areas	District Commissioner and Team	
Prepare roster	District Commissioner	
Attend coordination meeting at national level	Chief Commissioner	
Send situation report to WOSM	Administrative Secretary	
Activate MSA activation plan as and when required	Chief Commissioner	

During

Emergency's actions	Responsibility	Remarks
Monitor situation and liaison with	Chief Commissioner	In consultation with the Chief
NEOC		Scout
Mobilise members	District Commissioners	
Attend coordination meeting (NDRRMC)	Chief Commissioner	
Prepare updates and situation report for Governance, Partners and stakeholders	Administrative Secretary	

After

After the emergency	Responsibility		Rema	rks	
Assessment	District Commissioner and Team				
Prepare distribution plans with NGOs	District Commissioner	Approved Commissior	by ier	the	Chief
Organise sensitization campaigns	District Commissioner and Team	Approved Commissior	by ier	the	Chief
Prepare regular situation report and other reports	Administrative Secretary				

Timeline	Cyclone and associated risks	
Within 24 hours	Sensitisation on social media	
Within 48 hours	Sensitisation on social media	
Within 3 months	Education and public awareness	
	 Organise trainings for members (face to face / online) 	
	Educate the population (face to face)	
	• Develop training and information actions for citizens focused on self- protection	
	Simulation exercises	
	Promote humanitarian related activities	

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Activation Plan

General Preparedness	 Public awareness / sensitisation campaigns Partner with specialised NGOs for relief operations Take part in simulation exercises
Alert	•A disaster or any crisis is imminent. Alert is being given by the Chief Commissioner to districts
Activation by districts	•Members will be mobilised and/or activated by District Commissioner
Evaluation	•Districts evaluate the situation and give feedback to the Chief Commissioner
Definition and elaboration of response operation	•According to the evaluation report, the Chief Commissioner shall authorise districts to activate their response plan in order to respond to the needs of the victims through our Partners (MoU)
Possibility of requesting for members of other districts	•District Commissioner may, during this particular phase, request for support from members of other regions of the country
Emergency operation	• Districts handle their emergency operation
Evaluation of response	•The Emergency Operation is debriefed and lesson learnt are being earmarked
Reporting	•Report of the operation is being forwarded to the Chief Commissioner who will brief the National Scout Board, NEOC and Regional Scout Office

Implementation of the plan

The implementation of the plan depends not only on the approval, dissemination, and appropriation but also on the level of preparation of the Association.

Approval of the plan and dissemination

After the Policy is studied by National Executive Committee (NEC), National Scout Board (NSB) and World Organisation of The Scout Movement (WOSM) and verified by the government legal arm (as necessary), it will be modified accordingly to become - The National Humanitarian Action Policy of the MSA.

Therefore, the complete process of formulating and adapting the Policy will have several phases -

- Phase I Drafting Humanitarian Action Policy of the MSA
- Phase II Drafting detailed communication, incorporation, implementation, feedback and reaction (Humanitarian Action Committee)
- Phase III Make amendments
- Phase IV Consultations with NEC / NSB / WOSM experts & amendments
- Phase V Dry run of amended version (over possibly 3-6 months)
- Phase VI Formulation of definitive Humanitarian Action Policy of the MSA
- Phase VII Appropriate approvals and implementation of definitive National Humanitarian Action Policy at the General Assembly

We estimate that the entire process would be complete by the next General Assembly. Thereafter, we hope to run 2-3 - Plan, Do, Review, Revise Cycles for the Policy at yearly intervals after which we should have a sound, practical and easily understood document in place. Thereafter we would plan for reviews every 2 years.

Mobilisation of resources (logistics, financial and human resources)

The MSA has more than 600 adult members and around 100 of them have their First Aid Certificates.

Below are the needs in logistic and human resources of the MSA

To respond effectively and in a timely manner to the most vulnerable and affected people, the MSA should within the forthcoming years increase its capacity both human, logistics resources and financial.

Training of volunteers and members shall be done regularly to ensure quality service and for adequate participation / involvement / engagement in MSA's intervention fields. Equipment and materials shall be bought and stock at HQ for the meantime.

Action Plan

To ensure an effective implementation of the Policy, the MSA will develop a calendar of training for members and volunteers in first aid courses and regularly refreshers. Specialised training on disaster management shall also be convened and also simulation exercises.

The action plan also includes an annual revision mechanism and preparedness which will be performed by an exercise of simulation.

Financial resources

Funding to implement the National Action Plan will be drawn from domestic and international public and private sources. Funding requirements will be updated annually to reflect progress towards goals.

The WOSM assists Scouts Association in emergency fund post-disaster however in the event the MSA establishes an emergency fund post-disaster for a rapid response to beneficiaries, local financial partners will be approached.

Details	Estimated amount (MUR)	
DRR Trainings (30 pax)	50,000	
Safety Equipment (helmet, gloves, boots)	40,000	
Raincoat	5,000	
Protective equipment (gloves, mask, sanitiser)	3,000	
Banners	10,000	
Polo shirts	20,000	
Contingencies	5,000	

Evaluation

Implementation of the National Strategic Framework and the National Action Plan will be formally evaluated every three years under the direction of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre.

The first two years' evaluations will be used to assess progress towards overall goals and objectives and to adjust implementation plans for the implementation cycle.

The final evaluation, to begin in 2025, will be used to assess overall progress towards the National Strategic Framework and to identify further requirements to reduce disaster risk and manage disaster impacts in Mauritius.

Separate from these evaluations, specific projects implemented as part of the National Action Plan will be formally evaluated on completion. The results of these evaluations will be reported to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and used to:

- (1) identify further interventions; and
- (2) adjust current and future implementation plans to improve results in reducing disaster risk and managing disasters.

SITUATION REPORT DISTRICT: ALEA: NO:

GENERAL SITUATION – Date and time

Summary with pics and source

	MOBILLISATION		
	ACTION TAKEN		
 All trained members are in standby; Line of communication opened; and Awareness materials are being circulated in Social media mainly Facebook to the benefit of the vulnerable communities. 			
OTHER AGENCIES			
Mauritius Police Force			
Airport and port			
Other Ministries and Departments			
Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services			
LEOC			
	SUMMARY		
Deaths (+missing)			
Affected Population			
Affected District			
Reported Casualties			
Educational Institutions			
Affected health facilities			
Road & Transports Infrastructure			
Electrical Supply			
Water Supply			
Telecommunications			



VERSION CONTROL

Title	National Scouting and Humanitarian Action Policy
Version	V1.0
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Next review date	2025
Amendments	
Date	Details