

FRENCH FUND MAURICE DE MADRE – info

(FFMM)

ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAST WISHES OF COUNT MAURICE DE MADRE USING THE PROPERTY HE BEQUEATHED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ON HIS DEATH IN 1970 FOR:



STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS
WHO HAVE SUFFERED INJURY IN THE COURSE OF
THEIR WORK WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS
SUFFERING FROM AN ILLNESS RELATED TO
THEIR WORK WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

FAMILIES OF STAFF MEMBERS AND
VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN
THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK WITHIN THE
MOVEMENT

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

It seemed very presumptuous of me to consider taking over from Jacques Moreillon as Chairman of the Board of the French Fund Maurice de Madre. However, he was very positive about the Board's way of working, not to mention Jacqueline Hugentobler's expertise and flexibility. Her case management is indeed exceptional: thanks to her remarkable efficiency, requests for assistance are processed very quickly. These always concern personal or family tragedies, and they are invariably urgent.

I was therefore keen to meet all the Board members and delighted to be part of this conscientious approach (which results in a thorough assessment of requests and a swift response).

I would like to thank Jacques Moreillon for everything that was accomplished during his years as Chairman of the Board.

At its last meeting, the Board expressed concerns about the need to build up the Fund's financial resources, in order to be able to continue providing such valuable assistance to those working for the Movement and their families in situations which are not covered by social security or insurance (as is so often the case in countries afflicted by conflict and poverty). Fundraising is therefore an ongoing task for the Board, and presents a real challenge.

Since early January 2010, the Board has allocated a total of 42,457 Swiss francs to eight cases. Here are two examples of requests which were swiftly handled: the 10 children of a nurse who was killed were able to return to school, while a volunteer who had suffered a penetrating injury to his jaw was able to have an operation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to real humanitarian action in aid of indirect and often forgotten victims. These colleagues show great dedication, working behind the scenes for the Movement for many years.

As a Member of the ICRC, I have also not forgotten the importance of talking to cooperation delegates and to the delegations whenever possible, in particular during missions.

I trust this newsletter will make interesting reading and send warm regards to all.

Christiane Augsburger
Chairman of the Board of the FFMM
Member of the ICRC

HELP THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Mohammad* was a volunteer and leader of a team of community first aiders at a National Society working in a conflict area. **On 17 June 2006**, while returning from a meeting for trainers, he was caught in the crossfire between two fighting parties. He died instantly.

Mohammad, a 39-year-old agricultural worker, was married with four children aged between 10 and 15. His death left the family with no income or insurance.

Following discussions between senior staff at the ICRC delegation and the deceased's family, it was suggested that the FFMM grant Mohammad's family a sum of money to buy a car and start up a local taxi service. Thanks to the FFMM, and the delegation's support, the deceased's father now runs a business with his eldest grandchild, which enables him to feed the whole family.

On 3 July 2008, Raj*, a driver for the Red Cross in his country, sustained a serious knee injury at work and had to undergo an operation. His insurance only covered a tiny part of the final bill. The only way he could pay the rest (a considerable sum compared to his salary) was by borrowing money from family and friends.

This was clearly a case which met all the Fund's criteria. When a request was submitted, the Fund paid the bill Raj had received.

(*) not their real names

NEWSLETTER No 10 - 2010

THE FUND

In light of the financial crisis and the ever-increasing number of requests submitted, the FFMM Board had to apply the regulations more strictly in 2009. Article 2.3 (see box 1), which allows the Fund to accept cases that do not meet all the criteria, was temporarily put on hold as a result.

This means that the financial commitments for the year do not correspond to the amount actually paid out. To ensure that aid continues over time, payments are usually spread over several years and depend on various factors (conditions, accessibility of beneficiaries, availability of delegates, etc). Therefore, although in 2009 commitments amounted to 154,333 CHF, the amount actually paid out was only 68,357 CHF.

Most of the requests received in 2009 (see box 2) concerned accidents (6 deaths, 5 injuries) or an act of violence (4 deaths, 2 injuries). In accordance with instructions, there was a marked decrease in the number of requests submitted for illness or death following an illness. However, thanks in particular to the **Fondation Helene Arnold** which has been supporting the work of the FFMM since December 2008 (US\$ 11,885), several of these requests received a favourable response. The **Ousseimi Foundation** also agreed to the transfer of unused funds to another case.

After eight years as Chairman of the Board, Jacques Moreillon retired at the end of 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him profoundly for his considerable dedication, the vital work he carried out for the FFMM, and above all for developing assistance tailored to the needs of those he sought to help.

FRENCH FUND MAURICE DE MADRE	
Contact: FFMM Secretariat at the ICRC 19, Avenue de la Paix 1202 Geneva - Switzerland Secretary: Ms J. Hugentobler TEL (0041) 22 730 26 96 FAX (0041) 22 730 20 57 e-mail jhugentobler.gva@icrc.org With the support of the following ICRC staff members: - Ms J. Lugrin and Ms P. Breitenstein, responsible for keeping the FFMM accounts; - the delegates responsible for cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the field, and their field officers; - the delegation administrators	Board Members: Ms C. Augsburg, Chairman, ICRC member Ms M.-C. de Navacelle, representative of the family of the Comte de Madre Ms J. Hugentobler, Secretary, ICRC Ms T. Baglione, Federation representative Ms B. Diop, Executive Director, "Femmes Africa Solidarité" Former member, adviser: Mr A. Chavan

BOX 1)

Extract REGULATIONS FOR THE FRENCH FUND MAURICE DE MADRE

(Adopted by the ICRC Assembly on 9 September 1974 and amended on 9 April 1981 and 13 December 1995)

ARTICLE 1

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ARTICLE 2

1. In accordance with the deceased's last wishes, the income of the Fund and, depending on the circumstances, the capital shall be used to provide assistance for persons of the permanent or temporary staff of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, such as first-aid workers, delegates or nurses who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and have thereby found themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health.

2. If persons specified under paragraph 1. ...

3. The Board may, exceptionally, provide assistance for the training and professional reintegration of:

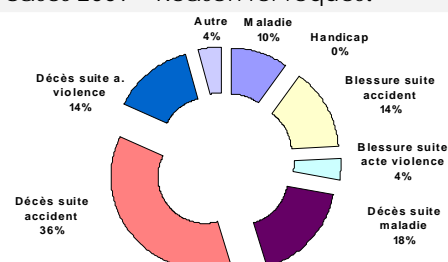
- staff members seriously reduced in health; and may come to the aid of:
- close relatives of staff members;
- members of families of deceased staff members, even if their death was due to illness, accident or other causes not directly linked to their work within the Movement.

...

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BOX 2)

New cases 2009 – Reason for request



FROM 1975 TO 2009, THE FFMM HANDLED:

Ä 425 requests

Ä 720 individual cases

Ä 1917 beneficiaries

Ä grants totalling CHF 3,387,422