



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius



Mauritius Red Cross Society
Curepipe, Mauritius

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Embassy Donates two vehicles to Mauritius Red Cross

Wednesday, October 27, 2021: The U.S. Embassy in Mauritius, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), donated one ambulance and one utility vehicle worth half a million dollars to the Mauritius Red Cross. This donation is part of the ongoing U.S. assistance to support Mauritius' response to the COVID-19 and strengthen its public health capacity through a USAID grant of \$500,000 (Rs20million).

U.S. Embassy Chargée d'Affaires Judes E. DeBaere handed over the keys to the vehicles to Mauritius Red Cross President Samoorgum (Siven) Tirvassen during a ceremony at the Hennessy Park Hotel in Ebene this morning.

With this financial assistance and the hard work of its team, the Mauritius Red Cross Society (MRCS) has offered 24 hours ambulance service during the two lockdowns, provided personal protective equipment for the safety of all its volunteers and trained volunteers on community surveillance and psychosocial support. Mauritius Red Cross will also install sanitizers dispensers in all primary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

During her remarks at the key handing ceremony, U.S. Embassy Chargée d'Affaires Judes E. DeBaere said, "The U.S. government has worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world for decades and it is a trusted and capable partner. As we continue to face a deadly pandemic that has killed millions, it is vital to support partners like the Red Cross."

Mauritius Red Cross President Samoorgum Tirvassen said, "The financial support from USAID through the IFRC has enhanced the capacities for the Mauritius Red Cross Society to fulfill its auxiliary role and assist communities in Mauritius and Rodrigues during these difficult days of the pandemic."

The United States is committed to leading the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over and above the financial support extended to the Mauritius Red Cross, on the September 23, 2021 a shipment of 76,050 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was also made to the Republic of Mauritius. This is currently the only vaccine authorized for individuals under the age of 18.

As President Biden said, "*From the beginning of my presidency, we have been clear-eyed that we need to attack this virus globally as well. This is about our responsibility — our humanitarian obligation to save as many lives as we can — and our responsibility to our values. We're going to help lead the world out of this pandemic, working alongside our global partners.*"

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