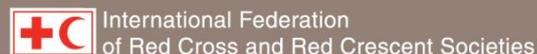


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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Solomon Islands: Dengue outbreak



<b>DREF Operation MDRSB005</b>	
<b>Date of issue: 2 November 2016</b>	<b>Date of disaster: 24 October 2016<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Manager responsible for this operation:</b> Stephanie Zoll, disaster risk management coordinator IFRC Suva country cluster support team (CCST)	<b>Point of contact:</b> Joanne Zoleveke, secretary general Solomon Islands Red Cross Society
<b>Start of the operation: 1 November 2016</b>	<b>Expected timeframe: 3 months (to 31 January 2017)</b>
<b>DREF operation budget: CHF 78,771</b>	
<b>Total number of people affected: 372,000</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 69,000</b>
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC) is one of the leading humanitarian actors in Solomon Islands. SIRC works through six branches in Guadalcanal (including Honiara where the headquarters of SIRC is located) and in five other provinces (Malaita, Makira, Renbell, Western Province and Temotu). It has at least 35 staff, and 200 volunteers across the branches. There are 60 Emergency Response Team trained staff and volunteers across the six provinces. Currently, SIRC is mobilizing 50 volunteers for the support of this operation.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The SIRC works with the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation. As in-country partners, French Red Cross and Australian Red Cross are engaged and provide support through the existing long-term programmes.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of the Solomon Islands, and especially the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) as the lead agency. Most of the dengue cases have been reported in the area of responsibility of the Honiara City Council. WHO, UNICEF, World Vision and Save the Children participate in the Risk Communication Committee convened and coordinated by MoHMS.	

## A. Situation analysis

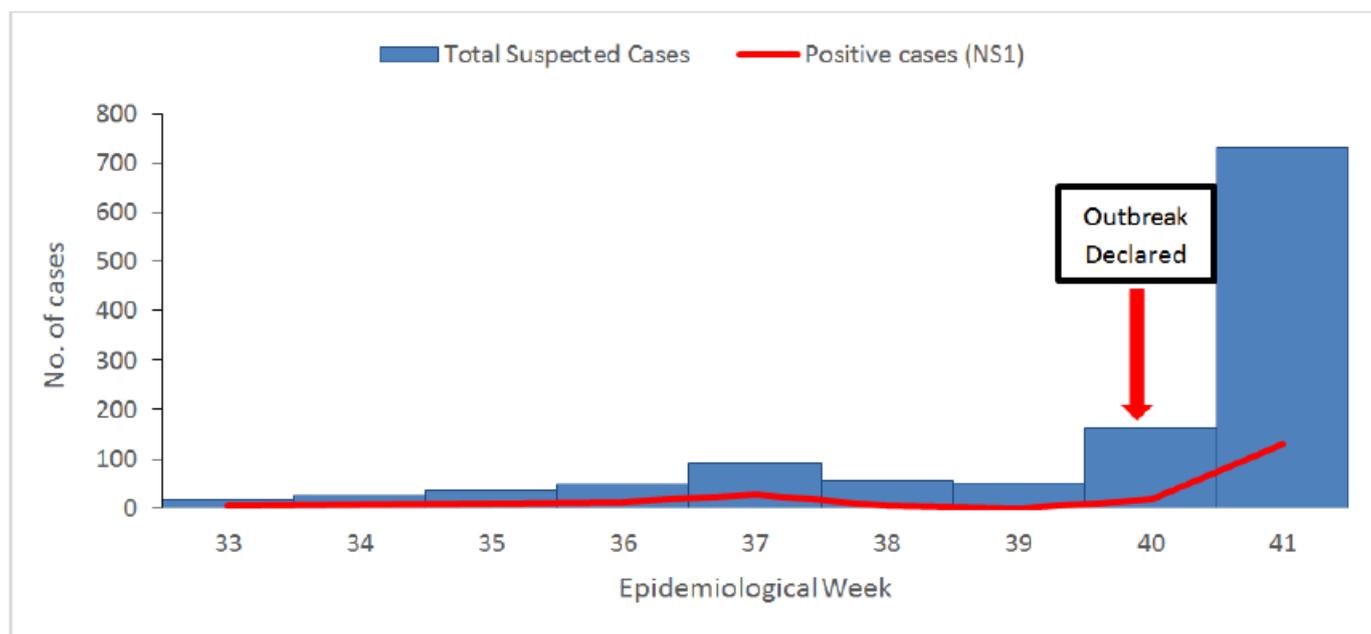
### Description of the disaster

Since August 2016, an unusual increase in dengue-like illness, including the number of NS1 positive cases, has been observed through the National Syndromic Surveillance System of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS). An outbreak of dengue was declared by the Government of Solomon Islands for Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands, and other parts of Guadalcanal province on 8 October 2016 and expanded to other provinces on 19 October. Surveillance for dengue has been enhanced in Honiara City Council and expanded to other private practitioners and Guadalcanal province.

Between 15 August and 16 October 2016, a total of 1,212 suspected dengue cases have been reported in Guadalcanal (including Honiara), Malaita and Isabel provinces (798 additional cases reported in situation report #3 of MoHMS for the week of 10-16 October 2016) and at least 3 dengue-like illness cases reported for Gizo City in Western Province. The upward trend shown in figure 1 below is also partly due to the enhanced surveillance sites in the country.

<sup>1</sup> An outbreak of dengue was declared for Honiara City/Guadalcanal province on 8 October 2016 and expanded to include other provinces on 19 October. During the week of 24 October MoHMS released situation report #3 with data and information on the significant increase in the number of suspected dengue cases, especially in Honiara/Guadalcanal province but also in other provinces.

Figure 1: Total number of suspected dengue cases by week in Solomon Islands (n=1212), 15 August to 16 October, 2016



Source: Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Government of Solomon Islands.

Nine hundred and eighty-three (81.1%) cases were reported in Honiara and 161 cases (13.3%) in Guadalcanal province, 67 cases (5.5%) in Malaita province and one case (0.1%) in Isabel province. Cases are widespread in all areas of Honiara including the positive NS1 cases where the population daily movement is dynamic across all areas of observation. East Honiara (37.2%) and Central Honiara (18.8%) were identified as the main areas where active transmission of dengue cases is occurring. A proportion (31.1%) of the cases in Honiara have incomplete address information thus it was difficult to identify which areas they were from. In Guadalcanal, 82% of the dengue cases that were reported within the central part of Guadalcanal (zone 6). There is no significant difference between the number of male and female dengue-like illness cases. The highest number of cases are those below 15 years old and those between 25 and 49 years old.

Historical evidence has shown that both dengue virus 1 and 2 had circulated in Solomon Islands in the past and re-introduction of both serotypes will likely spread in populated areas like Honiara and urban centres in other provinces (specifically Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western). DENV1 was documented to have circulated in Solomon Islands 14 years ago in 2002. This means those who are aged below 15 years are susceptible to this dengue strain which is somewhat consistent with the current surveillance findings that the largest number of cases is in this age group. It is likely that DENV1 is causing the current dengue outbreak. Also historical data have indicated DENV2 had circulated in Solomon Islands most recently in 1994. This may also mean that those who were born after 1994 or aged below 23 are likely susceptible to DENV2 infection. A sample of test negative dengue-like illness cases is also being tested for Chikungunya and Zika viruses.

Below are two key recommendations for public risk communication from MoHMS:

- Public is advised to enhance personal protection against dengue and continue cleaning up of their home environment to reduce the breeding sites of mosquitoes transmitting this disease.
- Public is also advised to seek health services if having dengue like signs and symptoms such as fever, rashes, muscles pain and red eyes.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

Technical staff from SIRC have been attending meetings of the Communication Task Force Committee, which is chaired by the MoHMS and was activated on 17 October 2016. The taskforce focuses on coordination and effective risk information communication to the general public. The senior management of the SIRC met with the MoHMS on 18 October and agreed to support the response to the dengue outbreak. SIRC continues to attend meetings called by the government and other stakeholders. Past SIRC responses to rotavirus outbreak in 2015 with the financial support of

UNICEF and to dengue outbreak in 2014 with the financial support of the Ministry of Health and Australian Red Cross provide relevant information and experiences for the management of this operation.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

The SIRC works with IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through their regional structures, as well as with SIRC's in-country partners Australian Red Cross (ARC) and French Red Cross (FRC). The operations coordinator of IFRC Asia Pacific regional office (APRO) based in Kuala Lumpur and the disaster risk management (DRM) coordinator of the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) based in Suva were in country during the last week of October to support facilitation of a pre-disaster meeting organized by SIRC with in-country partner National Societies (PNS) and external partners. Both staff attended the MoHMS Communication Task Force Committee meeting held on 24 October and continued to support SIRC to develop an operational strategy and plan of action for the response to the dengue outbreak.

### **Movement Coordination**

In-country PNS, ARC and FRC, were briefed on the situation and they joined to work together with SIRC and IFRC on the planning for the response to the dengue outbreak. IFRC supports SIRC on coordination relating to this DREF operation with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

WHO is working closely with the MoHMS and is providing technical advice and support in surveillance. World Vision through their community-based work have volunteers in some provinces and these could be mobilized and assist in awareness raising campaigns at community level. Save the Children is working in five communities in Honiara and could assist with awareness raising campaigns.

### **Coordinating with the authorities**

As auxiliary to the public authorities, SIRC maintains a strong working relationship or collaboration with the MoHMS at national and provincial levels. MoHMS requested a meeting with SIRC on 18 October to discuss the response to the dengue outbreak and seek support from SIRC in the same, particularly in the community reach of messaging and awareness campaigns. Environment and Health Promotion division and Honiara City Council are organizing clean up campaigns in Honiara to get rid of mosquito breeding sites. One of the major challenges is the solid waste disposal and transport following the clean-up campaigns.

The MoHMS has further enhanced their surveillance and are collecting data from the provinces. The MoHMS is planning to increase house to house awareness campaigns in the hot spots around Honiara and Guadalcanal. WHO is supporting MoHMS to develop a communication plan in response to the dengue outbreak, including technical expertise on risk communication and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. The MoHMS is planning a national clean-up campaign day with the Ministry of Home Affairs (dates yet to be confirmed). Two radio spots have been broadcasted to inform the public about warning signs of dengue and information on the current outbreak. An ongoing radio health program further provides information on dengue prevention. Press conferences, press releases and also awareness posters have been distributed to the provincial hospitals (Western and Malaita Provinces).

### **Inter-agency coordination**

At country level, SIRC participates in inter-agency Communication Task Force Committee meetings convened under the MoHMS, both during disasters and non-emergency times. Meetings have convened on 17 and 24 October 2016. Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) has been activated.

## **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

An outbreak of dengue was declared for Honiara City and Guadalcanal Province on 8 October 2016 and expanded to include other provinces on 19 October. A significant increase in number of cases has been reported comparing MoHMS situation report #2 (18 October) and situation report #3 (24 October), the latter including an increase of cases especially in Guadalcanal (including Honiara City), Malaita and Western Province are considered as at-high-risk provinces for further increases of cases due to their existing vulnerabilities and past outbreak trends especially in urban centres, such as Gizo City.

Based on the enhanced surveillance, assessments and coordination conducted by the government, SIRC has been requested to support awareness and cleaning campaigns in the affected and high-risk areas, where SIRC have trained branch volunteers ready to be mobilized to support community-based activities. The government situation reports provide data and information and updates on the evolving situation. Firstly, Guadalcanal (including Honiara) provinces, and secondly in Malaita and Western provinces have been identified as priority geographical areas, where SIRC is complementing the other on-going efforts to contain the outbreak.

Under this DREF operation, SIRC activities aim at reducing the spread of dengue outbreak and will reach approximately 69,000 people from all levels of the community and in schools. SIRC activities will target 40 communities and 30 schools in Guadalcanal (including Honiara), Malaita and Western provinces. The operation will focus on the 'hot spots' identified in coordination with MoHMS in Honiara City and in the rest of Guadalcanal province (at least 30 communities and 20 schools or approximately 49,000 people), but also start dengue prevention awareness raising and cleaning campaigns in Malaita and Western provinces (at least five communities and five schools in each or approximately 20,000 people). This DREF allocation will enable SIRC to mobilize its volunteers in support of the action coordinated by MoHMS that aim at containing the outbreak.

### **Beneficiary selection**

The vulnerabilities of the affected population are usually layered and multi-faceted. In its response, SIRC will ensure that response strategies and plan are aligned with its own as well as IFRC's commitment to take into account gender and diversity, for example by targeting women and children during their visits to clinics, and girls and boys in the schools. SIRC will reach affected and at-risk populations through activities in public areas, markets, clinics and household visits.

### **Risk Assessment**

November marks the start of the cyclone season in the Solomon Islands and South Pacific. SIRC conducted a pre-disaster meeting with its in-country partners, Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross, National Disaster Management Office, National Meteorological Services and other stakeholders in the last week of October.

The outbreak currently presents an upward trend in number of cases as well as expansion in terms of geographical distribution, and therefore the SIRC has activated its branch network beyond the central capital areas. After the school exams in November, people start their travel to their home provinces for the end-of year festivities. These movements increase the risk of the outbreak spreading wider.

## **B. Operational strategy and plan**

### **Overall objective**

Following the recommendations and request of MoHMS, this DREF operation aims to support to contain the dengue outbreak through the mobilization of SIRC volunteers to raise community awareness and mobilize community members for cleaning campaigns in close coordination with the MoHMS with the technical and funding support from IFRC. SIRC will mobilize volunteers for dengue awareness raising activities and clean-up campaigns initiated specifically for dengue fever prevention over a period of up to three months through the rainy season targeting at least 40 communities and 30 schools (or 69,000 people), namely Guadalcanal (including Honiara), Malaita and Western provinces that have an approximate population of 372,000.

### **Proposed strategy**

Following the recommendations and request of MoHMS, with the technical and funding support from IFRC, SIRC will mobilize volunteers for dengue awareness raising activities and clean-up campaigns initiated specifically for dengue fever prevention over a period of up to three months through the rainy season in the agreed target areas. Ministry of Education has also approached and also extended request to SIRC for support for schools.

SIRC will manage, implement, and adjust if needed, the operation in close coordination and collaboration throughout the operation with the MoHMS based on continuous assessment and analysis of surveillance data and information as well as based on beneficiary feedback received through implementation of activities and monitoring visits.

To ensure the coverage and effectiveness of the campaign, SIRC will use its community and school based approach. SIRC is mobilizing 50 trained volunteers from SIRC Guadalcanal (including Honiara), Malaita and Western Branches to roll out the awareness raising activities and cleaning campaigns in coordination with the Ministry of Health's vector control activities five days a week for five weeks each over the three-month operation with a special focus on Honiara and other 'hotspots' identified with MoHMS. The volunteers have been trained in emergency response, logistics and WASH in Emergencies. Refresher trainings in dengue and behaviour change communication is planned to ensure the knowledge and skills of all the volunteers being used in this campaign are optimized prior to the planned field activities in schools and communities.

The volunteers will conduct awareness raising sessions in public areas, markets, clinics and through household visits to share the basic knowledge on dengue as well as work together with target communities on elimination of mosquito breeding places in surrounding areas through cleaning campaigns. In addition, SIRC will conduct dengue awareness

sessions for its staff in NHQ and branch offices. Staff and volunteers will also be trained to make use of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) Toolkit and/or Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya (ZDC) Prevention Toolkit in this operation, especially targeting 'hotspots' in Honiara through implementing activities with selected clinics, schools and communities.

The IFRC CCST in Suva and APRO in Kuala Lumpur will provide technical support as well as maintain coordination with relevant organizations at regional level, including routine monitoring, coaching support and feedback to SIRC staff and volunteers to ensure that the operation is conducted effectively. A workshop will be held at the conclusion of the campaign to capture lessons learned so that these can be incorporated into any future outbreak response or planned interventions.

## **Operational support services**

### **Human resources**

SIRC branches in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces are leading the operation with the support of SIRC HQ and, at the field level, they mobilize their volunteers to raise awareness on dengue and engage community members at affected and at-high-risk communities. A total of **50 volunteers** have been identified for the support of the operation. Two SIRC volunteers will be temporarily hired for three months to support the activities of Honiara and Guadalcanal branches in the absence of hired branch officers. SIRC is a small National Society with about 35 staff and 200 volunteers serving a wide geographically scattered area, and has limited experience in managing emergency health operations. With the cyclone season starting November, SIRC's capacity will be stretched. IFRC CCST and APRO are supporting SIRC throughout the operation as needed while, over November-January, regional surge will be deployed to Solomon Islands for two months to support this emergency health focused operation, including a review of the use and roll-out of toolkits such as the new ZDC Prevention. A short-term regional disaster response team (RDRT) surge support will be deployed to provide technical support in building the capacity of the branches and volunteers to use in this operation the ECV Toolkit that has been introduced to SIRC in the past through the IFRC support, and the ZDC Prevention Toolkit. IFRC CCST will also deploy a short term surge support for finance and reporting.

The DREF will cover the costs of volunteers mobilized for the operation, including insurance, travel costs and per diem. The costs of NS staff supporting this operation and regional surge support will be covered by this DREF, including either travel costs for permanent staff or costs incurred due to hire of temporary staff to support the operation.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

Procurement of equipment/tools for environmental cleaning, personal protective equipment and IEC materials will be done by SIRC at local level. The SIRC procurement process will follow IFRC standard procurement procedures. Where relevant, technical support could be sought from the IFRC CCST logistics coordinator in Suva and/or IFRC regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Information technologies (IT)**

The cost of telephone communications has been included in the operational support budget. The branches do not have access to internet.

### **Communications**

During the initial stage of the operation, IFRC CCST Pacific has supported in enhancing SIRC's visibility in disaster response through internet articles and other media. SIRC and IFRC staff in the field are collecting photos and materials for communication purposes. The SIRC communications officer will visit at least two of the target areas to promote the operation.

### **Community engagement and accountability (CEA)**

Building on community engagement good practices of earlier SIRC operations, this operation also incorporates community feedback mechanism through beneficiary satisfaction surveys. In the target areas, SIRC will use IEC materials developed and/or approved by MoHMS for the dengue, referral and environmental sanitation awareness raising. The operation also supports MoHMS with radio spots campaign.

### **Gender, diversity and protection**

All activities will be implemented in line with SIRC and IFRC commitment to take into account gender and diversity. This will be done in accordance with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming.

**Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

Monitoring templates will be established for this operation. SIRC HQ staff will conduct monitoring visits both during and at the end of the operation in the target areas. Beneficiary satisfaction surveys will be rolled out to inform coordination and implementation decision. Lessons-learned workshops will be organized at the branch level to also help inform future operations. Reporting on the operation will be done in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. A final report will be available within three months after the end of this operation.

**Administration and Finance**

The IFRC, through its finance units, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to National Society on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. The IFRC finance and administration team of CCST Suva will provide the needful technical support in line of DREF guidelines. Financial charges related to this operation are included in the operational budget.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

<b>Outcome 1: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system</b>				
<b>Output 1.1 Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate</b>				
Activities planned	Months	1	2	3
1.1.1. Monitor and assess implementation of activities				
1.1.2. Conduct lessons learned workshops with branches				
1.1.3 Provide training to SIRC volunteers on conducting beneficiary satisfaction surveys				
<b>Output 1.2 Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure accountability to affected and at-high-risk people.</b>				
Activities planned	Months	1	2	3
1.2.1. Field communication actions of the operation are conducted by SIRC communication officer				
1.2.2. Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys				
1.2.3 Support MoHMS with radio spot campaign				

### Health & care

**Needs analysis:** An increasing trend in dengue cases reported in second half of October 2016 requires effective response measures from MoHMS and its partners. The planned response aims to contain the increase of cases in the current hot-spots and expansion of the outbreak to those provinces currently with relatively low number of suspected cases. MoHMS has requested support from SIRC and other civil society organizations (CSOs). The SIRC will activate its branch structures and mobilize 50 volunteers to raise community awareness on dengue, referrals and environmental sanitation as well as further mobilize community members for cleaning campaigns in close coordination with MoHMS and other CSOs.

**Population to be assisted:** The SIRC will mobilize volunteers for dengue awareness raising activities and clean-up campaigns initiated specifically for dengue outbreak prevention over a period of up to three months through the rainy season targeting at least 40 communities and 30 schools (or 69,000 people) in 3 provinces, namely Guadalcanal (including Honiara City), Malaita and Western provinces.

<b>Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.</b>	
<b>Output 2.1 Community-based epidemic prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>n° of people reached by community-based health activities (<i>dengue awareness raising sessions in communities</i>)</li> <li>n° of students reached by school-based health activities (<i>dengue awareness raising sessions in schools</i>)</li> </ul>	

Activities planned	Months	1	2	3
2.1.1. In close coordination with Ministry of Education and MoHMS, conduct a refresher training in dengue awareness raising and behaviour change communication knowledge and practices for 50 volunteers for <b>school</b> sessions.				
2.1.2. In close coordination with MoHMS, conduct refresher training in dengue awareness raising and behaviour change communication knowledge and practices for 50 volunteers for <b>community</b> sessions.				
2.1.3. Print dengue awareness information, education and communication (IEC) materials				
2.1.4. Conduct school awareness raising sessions on dengue and environmental sanitation in target schools.				
2.1.5. Conduct community awareness raising sessions on dengue, referral and environmental sanitation for 69,000 people in target areas, public areas, markets, clinics (mothers and children) and households.				
<b>Output 2.2 Epidemic prevention and control measures carried out.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>n° of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities (cleaning campaigns and other tailored activities/events conducted with specific target groups and areas)</li> </ul>				
Activities planned	Months	1	2	3
2.2.1. Procure equipment/tools <sup>2</sup> (including PPE <sup>3</sup> for SIRC staff and volunteers) for environmental cleaning for target areas.				
2.2.2. In coordination with MoHMS, mobilize community members with the support of SIRC volunteers for cleaning campaigns in target areas.				
2.2.3. Conduct cleaning campaigns in surrounding areas of SIRC NHQ and branch offices.				
2.2.4. Meetings with MoHMS, Honiara City Council, WHO, other stakeholders on barriers to epidemic prevention and control measures, among other related issues, as per need.				
2.2.5. Train selected staff, including branch officers and volunteers to make use of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) toolkit and/or Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya (ZDC) Prevention Toolkit in this operation, especially targeting Honiara and other hotspots				

<sup>2</sup> The cleaning tools consist of brooms, wheel barrows, machete, brush knife, digging bars, rake, and garbage bags.

<sup>3</sup> The PPE consists of gloves, facemasks, and repellent.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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- Joanne Zoleveke, secretary general, [secgen@redcross.org.sb](mailto:secgen@redcross.org.sb)
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**Click here**

1. **DREF budget [below](#)**
2. **[Map](#) of the affected area and areas targeted by this operation**
3. **Click [here](#) to return to the title page**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to **inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the **maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world**.

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**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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## Budget

### DREF OPERATION

01/11/2016

MDRSB005:Solomon Islands - Dengue outbreak

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,898
Teaching Materials	7,595
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>9,493</b>
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,013
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>12,013</b>
National Society Staff	4,658
Volunteers	18,821
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>23,479</b>
Workshops & Training	6,756
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>6,756</b>
Travel	20,318
Office Costs	1,266
Communications	570
Financial Charges	68
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>22,222</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	4,808
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>4,808</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>78,771</b>



# Solomon Islands: Dengue outbreak

