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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Dominican Republic: Dengue outbreak

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRD0012	Glide n° EP-2019-000106-DOM
DREF Date of issue: 12 September 2019	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 12 December 2019
DREF requested: 205,657 CHF	
Total number of people affected: 8,855 cases of dengue officially reported as of epidemiological week 33. ¹	Number of people to be assisted: 12,500
Host National Society presence: Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has 20,000 volunteers, one headquarters, 32 province branches and 96 municipal branches.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). ²	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, Emergency Operations Centre, Ministry of Defence, City Halls, Pan-American Health Organization.	

<Click [here](#) for the DREF budget, [here](#) for the map of affected areas and [here](#) for the contact information >

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 5 July 2019, the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Public Health declared an epidemiological alert due to the sustained increase in dengue cases in the country³.

During the last 4 weeks there have been a progressive and concerning number of cases of dengue from 5,548 cases reported as of EW29 to 8,855 as of EW33, meaning that 37% of the total cases have been reported just during the last 4 weeks. These figures show that there has been a peak of the outbreak during the last weeks that has triggered the need for a response.

The Ministry of Public Health has reported a total of 8,855 cases of dengue as of Epidemiological Week (EW) 33 (11 to 17 August)⁴, there is an increase that looks quite significant compared to the number of cases reported for the dengue epidemic in 2018 (711 cases as of EW 33)⁵.



Dominican Red Cross volunteers conducting home visits to eliminate vector breeding sites. Source: Dominican Red Cross

¹ Additionally, 189 cases of severe dengue have been officially reported and 12 people killed. It is likely that during the last four weeks the numbers have gone up, however the latest official figures are from epidemiological week 33.

² The IFRC's Americas Regional Office is closely supporting National Societies responding to dengue outbreaks through a tailored approach based on the level of the outbreak in each country, existing capacities of NS to respond and ongoing response by national authorities. Thus far, DREF-funded operations have been launched in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. IFRC continues monitoring the outbreaks in case further scale up is needed.

³ <http://digepisalud.gob.do/docs/Vigilancia%20Epidemiologica/Alertas%20epidemiologica/Dengue/Nacional/Alerta%20Dengue%20Julio%202019.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.paho.org/data/index.php/en/mnu-topics/indicadores-dengue-en/dengue-nacional-en/252-dengue-pais-ano-en.html>

⁵ <https://www.paho.org/data/index.php/en/mnu-topics/indicadores-dengue-en/dengue-nacional-en/252-dengue-pais-ano-en.html>

The incidence rate for EW 32-2019 is 126.66 cases per 100,000 inhabitants whereas the incidence rate in 2016 was 54.20. According to authorities, 12 people have died of dengue as of EW 32.

Four dengue serotypes are present in the Dominican Republic. According to laboratories, the predominant serotypes identified during the current outbreak are D1 and D3, and the presence of all four serotypes increases the risk of severe cases.

ID	Illness/event	Epidemiological Indicators													
		Number of cases (1)						Number of deaths (1)				Incidence Rate (2)		% Var. of rates or cases	Warning and trend (3)
		EW 29-33		EW 1- 33		EW 33		EW 29- 33		EW 1- 33		2018	2019		
		2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019				
2	Dengue	84	5548	711	8855	0	0	0	0	1	12	10.94	126.66	12%	→
	Malaria	56	114	248	455	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.93	7.14	82%	→

Epidemiological indicators for Epidemiological Week 33. Source: Ministry of Public Health - Dominican Republic

This current epidemic event is affecting 29 of 32 provinces in the country. The province of San Jose de Ocoa is under a Red Alert (more than 10 cases/1000 inhabitants while remaining provinces are under Yellow Alert. The highest incidence rate is seen in the provinces of Barahona (485.4) and Independencia (457.6), and Santo Domingo reports the highest number of cases (2614 cases) due to its large population⁶.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society.

Dominican Red Cross (DRC) published a [GO report](#) on 13 August 2019 regarding the dengue outbreak. DRC has strong capacity for organizing humanitarian response interventions from both its Headquarters and its 32 province branches and 96 municipal branches. DRC has some 20,000 volunteers nationwide.

The National Society has a Community-Based Health programme with solid response capacity in terms of health in emergencies, and has trained personnel in Epidemic Control for Volunteers, Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, Psychosocial Support and Health in Emergencies.

Participatory Hygiene Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)	and	Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV)	Basic Psychosocial Support (PSS)	Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA)
1,509		20,000	8,109	1,933

Volunteers with Health in Emergencies training. *Source: Dominican Red Cross*

The volunteers who are part of these teams have reinforced their arbovirus prevention and control skills thanks to their work with the Community Action against Zika (CAZ) project during the last three years in 18 communities in nine provinces. This project has included activities such as vector control, community-based surveillance, psychosocial support and community mobilization.

For four weeks now, DRC branches have been carrying out activities to respond to the dengue outbreak. These activities are based on community approaches that consist of conducting home visits to identify and eliminate breeding grounds, educational sessions to deliver dengue prevention messages and delivery of chlorine for application to water tanks. These activities are being conducted in seven provinces: San Cristóbal, San Pedro de Macorís, Puerto Plata, Monseñor Nouel, Barahona, as well as in the National District and Santo Domingo Metropolitan Area. Some 123 DRC volunteers have been engaging in these activities.

⁶http://digeprisalud.gob.do/documentos/?drawer=Boletines%20epidemiologicos*Boletines%20semanales*2019

The foreseeable increase in dengue cases over the next few weeks requires establishing social mobilization strategies aimed at involving and empowering the most affected communities. This will facilitate the implementation of activities to promote key messages and identify and eliminate breeding sites.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC is represented in Dominican Republic through its Country Cluster Support Team office; which provides direct support to the National Society.

The Americas Regional Office has also been supporting the Dominican Red Cross with the implementation of health project linked with Zika disease and vector control activities. Spanish Red Cross and Italian Red Cross are present in country.

The ICRC from its regional delegation in Panama supports the National Society in RFL/migration and capacity building and works with the penitentiary authorities and the IHL commission.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Ministry of Public Health, with support from the Dominican Armed Forces and municipal town halls in affected areas, has undertaken activities to eliminate breeding sites and socialize dengue prevention messages. It has also allocated greater resources (financial, human, equipment and medical supplies) at the hospital level to respond to the increase in demand caused by the dengue outbreak.

Government institutions, such as the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education, have mobilized resources and personnel to work door-to-door to promote dengue prevention and elimination of vector breeding sites, as well as to hold health fairs. These activities have been carried out in the municipality of Santo Domingo Este. All proposed activities included in this operation are complementing efforts from national and local authorities with regards to the dengue outbreak response.

The national Emergency Operation Centre health sector working group has been activated, in which Dominican Red Cross has continuous participation. There have been a fluent and collaborative coordination with PAHO

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The health situation in dengue-affected provinces is delicate given that the incidence rate is greater than in the 2016 epidemic. There are a number of social determinants that increase the risk of higher dengue incidence in Dominican territory:

- a) Increased rainfall, given that this is the most active phase of the cyclonic season (1 June to 30 November)
- b) Most of the province hospitals that treat dengue cases are being remodelled, which makes it difficult to access adequate health services and treatment.
- c) Some areas in the country are experiencing droughts. This means that there is greater accumulation of water in homes, which in turn increases the risk of creating vector breeding sites.
- d) There is no continuous safe water supply delivered through pipes at the community level, which forces people to store water in containers in their homes. This increases the risk that these containers will eventually become breeding sites
- e) Current interventions by the Ministry of Health are mainly based on hospital care, since the institution does not have enough trained personnel to carry out a prevention programme at the community level.
- f) It has been found that communities in provinces with active dengue outbreaks have inappropriate hygiene practices, poor knowledge about dengue prevention and a low perception of the risk regarding the negative consequences of dengue

Given this situation, DRC decided to focus its work on complementing Ministry of Health activities at the community level. Based on said activities, the following needs have been identified:

Description	Needs
Chemical control for elimination of adult vectors (mosquito)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fogging machines - Deltamethrin / Vectorcide 2.5/4.5 (40 litres) - Fuel/diesel/gasoline. - Oil for mix for 2-setting/auto-lube motors - Fog machine repair kit - Personal protection equipment (gloves, goggles, masks and filters)

Physical control to eliminate breeding sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human resources to carry out health promotion actions in communities and schools - Human resources for home visits - Educational materials - Personal protection equipment - Work tools (gloves, wheelbarrows, hammers, ladders, spades, hoes, rakes and bags)
Community mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human resources to carry out educational actions - Printed material and radio spots on 1) signs and symptoms of the disease; 2) prevention and control measures; and 3) to encourage seeking health services - Materials for community and school mappings

The areas targeted by the operation can be accessed by road, which will facilitate planned activities.

Targeting

Provinces to be targeted by the operation were selected in coordination with the Ministry of Health. These are provinces that have a higher incidence of cases at the national level (San Jose de Ocoa) or provinces that are at high risk of seeing an increase in dengue cases in the coming weeks due to the presence of negative social determinants and high population density (National District and Gran Santo Domingo)

Activities will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health in order to contribute to the national dengue outbreak response strategy led by this government institution, which will allow optimal use of available resources.

DRC intends to work with 2,500 families through this DREF.

Province	Communities	Population to be reached
San Jose de Ocoa	3 communities 3 schools	834 families
National District	3 communities 3 schools	833 families
Gran Santo Domingo	3 communities 3 schools	833 families

Special attention will be given to people who live alone and families with members who are elderly, suffer from noncommunicable diseases, are under the age of 15, children under the age of five, pregnant women and with disabilities, as the literature and features of the epidemic at the regional level indicate that they are at greater risk of contracting severe dengue.

Scenario planning

Three scenarios are possible, which will depend on the implementation of vector control activities, community mobilization through socialization of key messages and strengthening of activities being conducted by the Ministry of Public Health

Scenarios	Description
Scenario A (Best case scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities are carried out in at-risk communities in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health - Sensitized communities initiate vector control activities - Breteau index⁷ falls in at-risk communities - Stabilization and reduction of the number of new dengue cases - Sensitized communities identify signs and symptoms of severe dengue and make the corresponding referrals to hospital centres
Scenario B (Likely scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isolated health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities at the community level - Population has no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak - Breteau index remains the same/increases in at-risk communities - Increased incidence of dengue cases - Increase in the number of severe dengue cases - Saturation of emergency and hospitalization services in Ministry of Health hospitals
Scenario C (Worst case scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few health promotion and dengue prevention activities at the community level - Population has no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak - Increase in the number of severe dengue cases - Collapse of emergency and hospitalization services in Ministry of Health hospitals - Increase in the number of deaths

Operation Risk Assessment

⁷ The Breteau index measures the number of water containers containing the vector, per 100 houses inspected.

Safe access:

Access to affected communities does not require extraordinary efforts, as these are located in urban areas. Normal development of community activities is expected.

DRC personnel conducting activities in these neighbourhoods might be vulnerable to situations of violence, mainly related to small-scale drug trafficking. To minimize this risk, volunteers must carry National Society visibility materials, be accompanied by a community leader, work in pairs and avoid openly carrying valuables.

It is very important for all coordination and field work to be carried out during the day so as not to expose members to additional risks. Teams deployed to these sectors will be equipped with a first aid kit.

Telephone and radio communications in targeted communities will be assessed in order to determine the effectiveness of communication systems.

Evolution: The intervention will be carried during the months in which strong hydro-meteorological phenomena (hurricanes and tropical storms) are most likely to occur. This situation might hinder teams' ability to fulfil activities, and in addition increase the incidence of the disease. In this case, it will be necessary to adapt the DREF based on a new situation and needs assessment.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

Contribute to Ministry of Health efforts to reduce the dengue outbreak in the communities of San José de Ocoa, National District and Gran Santo Domingo

Proposed Strategy:

Dominican Red Cross, in coordination with Ministry of Public Health's national and local authorities and community organizations, will deploy volunteers and resources as follows:

- a) Community Mobilization
 - Identification of key messages, in coordination and alignment with the Ministry of Health
 - Preparation of printed material (leaflets, flyers), radio spots and others, to carry out community activities
 - Education sessions to deliver key messages on: 1) dengue prevention measures; 2) health promotion measures; and 3) identification of signs and symptoms of severe dengue. These activities will be carried out at the community level and in schools (9)
- b) Vector control
 - Home-to-home visits to identify and eliminate breeding sites (one visit per family to 2,500 families)
 - Home delivery of water container cleaning kits (2,500 kits)
 - Delivery of mosquito-net lids to cover water tanks (2,500 lids)
 - Cleaning days in communities to eliminate mosquito breeding sites (9)
 - Cleaning days in schools to eliminate mosquito breeding sites (9)
- c) Strengthening of Ministry of Public Health activities
 - Fogging machine maintenance (the National Society has six)
 - Purchase of insecticide (50 litres of Delmatrin)

These actions will benefit some 2,500 families.

Remaining affected provinces

DRC volunteers, communities and students will be trained to identify signs and symptoms of severe dengue in order to promote change care-seeking behaviours to lessen the impact of the disease.

2,500 tank covers will be acquired and distributed to an equal number of families in communities affected by the outbreak in order to prevent water sources from becoming breeding sites. The tanks covers will be distributed in the targeted 9 communities from San Jose de Ocoa, National District and Gran Santo Domingo.

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

The DREF operation will hire:

- One operation coordinator, for three months
- One administrator, to ensure a streamlined and quality process.
- One PMER technician
- Two health technicians, to act as focal points
- One driver

Dominican Red Cross will make available to the operation:

- 200 volunteers in targeted areas.

One PMER RIT will be deployed for two months to assist Dominican Red Cross with monitoring and reporting of operation activities.

Logistics and Supply chain

Dominican Red Cross must proceed with the acquisition and assembly of the *untadita* kits (chlorine, detergent, and sponge to apply chlorine to tank walls), tank covers, educational material and material for activities aimed at eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

<i>Untadita</i> Kit
One sponge
Two 120-ml bottle of chlorine
One tank cover
One zip-lock bag
One informational flyer

Delmatrin, an insecticide, will be acquired to fumigate per Ministry of Public Health technical specifications. The National Society has fogging machines, so the operation will be responsible for providing maintenance to the equipment and purchasing the supplies necessary for operation.

National Society's vehicles will be made available to assist with distributions and assessments and transport to targeted communities.

Communications

DRC's Communications Officer will be deployed as necessary to support activities in the field. IFRC's Communications Unit will collaborate with DRC's Communications Unit, provide technical assistance, and assist with the Communications Strategy. Its Communications Officer will be deployed as necessary to support activities.

Press releases will be issued to national, regional and global media and uploaded to social networks and institutional website as events unfold. At the country level, the National Society will use social networks, its own website and local media to disseminate information about the operation and will also coordinate with IFRC's Communications Officer.

Security

Dominican Red Cross volunteers who will be providing support in the provinces of San José de Ocoa, Santo Domingo and the National District have been trained in safety standards (based on the Stay Safe manual). They will have the necessary visibility material (uniforms according to DRC regulations) and will be provided accident insurance made available by the Movement.

Personnel conducting vector control activities will also be provided personal protection equipment and will use chemical substances in compliance with Ministry of Public Health regulations.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Reporting on the operation will be conducted in accordance with the IFRC's minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months of the operation's completion. There will a PMER RIT deployed for 2 months. PMER is an area that the NS has strongly identified to be strengthened. The PMER technician will work closely with

the volunteers + data collection and the RIT will set up the monitoring systems among tasks related to PMER. Lessons learned workshop will be carried out at the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Dominican Red Cross will assign a specific administrator (part-time) as quickly as possible to manage the operation.

IFRC provides the necessary operational support for budget review and validation and bank transfers, as well as technical assistance to National Societies on expense justification procedures including invoice review and validation.

AP029	Vector control workshop for volunteers																		
AP029	Mosquito breeding site identification and elimination sessions in nine schools																		
AP029	Mosquito breeding site identification and elimination sessions in nine communities																		
AP029	Purchase of vector control supplies for xxx? (cover for water tanks, insecticide, etc.)																		
AP029	Distribution of 2500 community cleaning kits																		
AP029	Home visits to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, 2500 water tank covers and <i>Untadita</i> kits																		
AP029	Fumigation in targeted communities																		
AP029	Maintenance to fogging machines																		

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 49,008

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform																		
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected											<i># of volunteers insured</i> Target: 200							
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP042	Volunteers involved in activities have the visibility and operational material required to implement awareness-raising, training and vector control actions																		
AP042	Volunteers involved in activities are insured																		
AP042	The National Society has sufficient operational capabilities to implement activities (office, telecommunications and transportation costs)																		
AP042	The National Society has a team that conducts DREF activities																		
P&B Output Code	OutcomeS2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured																		
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained											<i># of IFRC monitoring visits</i> Target:1 <i># lesson learned workshop is held</i> Target:1							
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

AP046	Operation quality and monitoring control by IFRC ARO																
AP046	Monitoring visits by IFRC																
AP046	Deployment of PMER RIT																
AP046	Lessons learned workshop																

Budget

Please see budget for this operation [below](#).

Contact Information

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

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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 (NGO's) 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



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**.

DREF OPERATION

MDRDO012 - Dominican Republic Dengue Outbreak

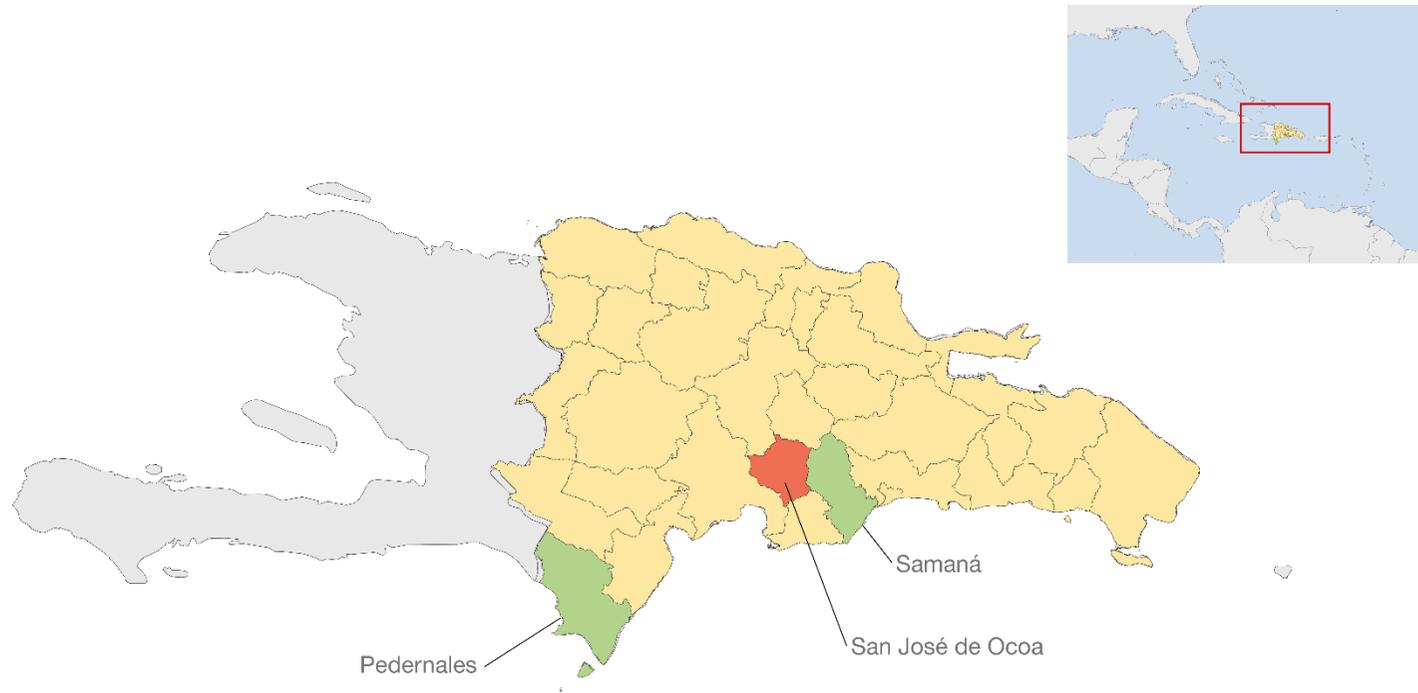
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Output code in financial system	Name in financial system (TBC)	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Budget CHF
					0
AP005	Shelter assistance to households				0
AP006	Shelter tech. support and awareness				0
	Total Shelter	-	0	0	0
AP007	Improvement of income sources				0
AP008	Livelihoods assistance				0
AP009	Food production & income generation				0
AP081	Multipurpose cash grants				0
AP010	Livelihoods awareness				0
	Total Livelihoods & basic needs	-	0	0	0
AP018	Avian and human influenza pandemic	-			0
AP019	Malaria	-			0
AP020	Tuberculosis	-			0
AP021	Other infectious diseases	70,823			70,823
AP022	Health in emergency	-			0
AP082	Search and rescue	-			0
	Total Health	70,823	0	0	70,823
AP026	Access to safe water	-			0
AP027	Treatment/reuse of wastewater	-			0
AP028	Reduction of open defecation	-			0
AP029	WASH knowledge and best practice	73,274			73,274
AP030	Hygiene promotion	-			0
	Total WASH	73,274	0	0	73,274
AP031	Equitable access to services	-			0
AP032	Social inclusion-equitable status	-			0
AP033	Interpersonal violence prev/response	-			0
AP034	Response to SGBV in emergencies	-			0
AP035	NVP-education and advocacy programs	-			0
	Total Protection, Gender and Inclusion	-	0	0	0
AP036	Migration assistance and protection	-			0
AP037	Migration awareness and advocacy	-			0
	Total Migration	-	0	0	0
AP001	Preparedness at community level	-			0
AP002	Response and risk red. at NS level	-			0
AP003	Green solutions	-			0
AP004	Climate change awareness	-			0
	Total Disaster Risk Reduction	-	0	0	0
AP039	NS organisational capacity assessm.	-			0
AP040	NS volunteering deveelopment	-			0
AP042	NS corporate /organisational systems	26,283			26,283
	Total Strengthening National Societies	26,283	0	0	26,283
AP046	IFRC surge capacity	22,725			22,725
AP047	Humanitarian principles and Rules				0
AP048	Integrated services for NS				0
AP049	IFRC coord. in humanitarian system				0
AP050	Supply chain and fleet services				0
AP051	Movement coordination				0
AP052	Movement shared services				0
	Total Influence others as leading strategic partner	22,725	0	0	22,725
	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	12,552			12,552
	Total INDIRECT COSTS	12,552	0	0	12,552
					0
	TOTAL BUDGET	205,657	0	0	205,657



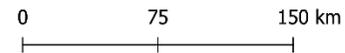
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: DENGUE OUTBREAK

Updated on September 11th 2019



LEGEND

- Yellow Alert
- Red Alert
- Green Alert



The maps used do not imply the expression or any opinion on part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: Boletín Epidemiológico Semanal #33 2019 del MSP, IFRC., Natural Earth, GADM - Produced by IM Americas.