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DREF final report Timor-Leste: Dengue Outbreak

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MD RTP003 15 August 2014

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: from 24 January to 30 April 2014.

Summary: The IFRC allocated a total of CHF 32,204 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 January, 2014 to support the Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) in delivering a dengue outbreak response in Dili district. CVTL trained a total of 50 volunteers in dengue prevention; the one day training conducted in two rounds used the Epidemic Control for Volunteers Manual. The IFRC health-DRR delegate co-facilitated the training with representatives from WHO and Ministry of Health. A different group of volunteers carried out baseline and end-line



On 7 February 2014, the CVTL Dili Branch Volunteers conducted knowledge sharing during a household visit in Kampung Alor, Comoro sub district, Dili. **Photo: IFRC Timor-Leste.**

survey to compare community knowledge and pre and post intervention. Comparing the baseline and end line, households were able to improve their knowledge of dengue fever. . In the original plan, CVTL planned to cover two target districts; but to expand the coverage of dengue messages the MoH has requested CVTL to cover and additional two districts. Thus, CVTL ultimately covered a total of four districts.

To deliver dengue prevention messages, CVTL volunteers conducted household visits in two target sub districts. During the visits, the volunteer shared basic knowledge on dengue and how to prevent it. They also advised community members to immediately refer people with dengue-like symptoms to the hospital or nearest health facility. Some volunteers found suspected dengue cases in the houses they visited and reported those to the District Health Office for follow up action. CVTL also carried out joint campaigns with the Ministry of Health; CVTL volunteers shared prevention knowledge whilst MoH volunteers distributed abate pills. By the end of the operation, the volunteers successfully reached a

total of 45,013 beneficiaries (female: 22,363, male: 22,650). Number of household visited was 6,881. Total brochures distributed was 5,831 and total abate distributed was 2,345.

Beside the collaboration with MoH, CVTL also conducted a joint cleaning campaign with a total of 500 students from universities in Dili. Some cleaning tools as well as Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as banners and brochures were procured to support the operation.

This operation was implemented for three months, and completed by 23 April 2014. The balance fund of CHF 303 will be returned to the DREF pot.

The situation

A dengue fever outbreak¹ occurred in the Timor-Leste capital Dili in January 2014, with an escalation in the number of dengue cases, almost 70% higher than the number of cases compared to the same time in 2013, according to Ministry of Health (MoH) surveillance. In response to the outbreak, the government conducted a meeting with several humanitarian organizations operating in country, including CVTL. In recognition of its role as auxiliary to the government, CVTL was asked to support the response through awareness campaigns in two target areas. The MoH, with support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), had been focussing on case management and vector control through distribution to larvicides.

Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Health led the outbreak response; they carried out vector control activities i.e. fogged in the areas with dengue positive patients as well as distributed abate pills to eliminate mosquito larva in household water reservoirs.



A joint campaign was conducted in four target districts. CVTL in collaboration with a total of 500 students from five universities carried out a cleaning campaign in Dili. **Photo: IFRC Timor-Leste.**

CVTL conducted one day Epidemic Control refresher training for volunteers involved in the operation; a CVTL branch health staff who had received Epidemic Control Training at the end of last year was the lead facilitator for the event. During the training, the representatives from WHO and MoH also took part in facilitating some sessions. Two MoH staff shared different topics on dengue; one staff covered basic knowledge on infection and the Timor-Leste dengue national policy whilst the other staff covered the MoH vector control program including provision of training for health promoter volunteers for family to conduct the activity. During their sessions, the facilitators also shared the joint activities with CVTL in the upcoming campaigns.

The WHO staff shared the roles and responsibilities in assisting the government including the support during the epidemic response.

Following up on the significant increase of dengue cases in Dili District, the MoH conducted joint campaigns with CVTL two times a week. In each activity, CVTL volunteers carried out household visits whilst the MoH workers distributed the abate pills to the same houses.

To cover larger target communities, a bigger joint campaign with the Ministry of Health was conducted on 5 February. CVTL, Health Alliance, FTH and other NGOs conducted a mass campaign using cars to communicate dengue messages through megaphones. The public health students from Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ) participated in the campaign and distributed abate pills. Aside from supporting 28 volunteers to carry out house to house visits, CVTL also provided five cars to mobilize health promoters during the campaign.

To ensure the collaboration worked effectively, CVTL attended regular coordination meetings with MoH, WHO, and other organizations once a week. In the meetings, CVTL shared various activities they conducted, including feedback and number of dengue cases found in target areas.

¹ Some cases were reported in other districts; however the outbreak originated in Dili

The IFRC country delegation for Timor-Leste was in close coordination with WHO to avoid duplication of activities. A coordination meeting was conducted with the WHO Country Representative and team to share the Movement's response to the outbreak as well as exchange IEC materials. Furthermore, the representatives from WHO and Ministry of Health also participated in the lessons learnt workshop held on 21 April 2014.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency health

Outcome: The number of dengue cases in Dili District is reduced through health education, promotion activities and environmental cleaning among 17,000 beneficiaries in Becora and Formosa areas of Dili District during the three months operation.

Outputs and activities planned

- Conduct refresher training in dengue and behaviour change communication knowledge and practices for 28 volunteers of Dili Branch
- Print 5,000 dengue fever awareness brochures, 100 posters and other information, education and communication (IEC) materials
- Provide education on environmental sanitation and dengue for 4,250 families in target areas
- Conduct cleaning campaigns in target communities
- Conduct a cleaning campaign in CVTL national headquarters and Dili branch office
- Conduct dengue awareness campaigns through radio and other communication channels
- Conduct dengue awareness sessions for CVTL national headquarters and Dili branch staff once a month
- Monitor and evaluate activities
- Conduct a lesson learnt workshop
- Conduct short baseline and end-line survey in communities to measure impact of the activities

Impact:

A total of 50 volunteers (23 female and 27 male) participated in a one-day Epidemic Control for Volunteer refresher training. In the training, volunteers received various knowledge on basic dengue disease, effective communication and government strategy on vector control. Meanwhile, 5,831 brochures were distributed along with 2,345 abate pills CVTL volunteers carried out household visits to share basic knowledge on dengue infection and its prevention, as well as to refer sick people to the hospital and report new cases to the Ministry of Health. During the three-month operation, CVTL covered 6,881 households in four target districts with a total of 45,013 beneficiaries (female: 22,363, male: 22,650).



CVTL Secretary General delivering presentation on CVTL dengue outbreak response activities with the support from IFRC. **Photo: IFRC Timor-Leste.**

A cleaning campaign was conducted once weekly in CVTL NHQ and the district office. A routine dengue awareness session was carried out once a month for both staff and volunteers at NHQ and Dili branch office.

A baseline survey training was conducted for 20 volunteers (10 female and 10 male) from Dili branch. To avoid bias, these volunteers were not involved in the outbreak response. Baseline and end-line surveys were conducted in target area to capture the level of target community knowledge, resulting in the households expressed an increase knowledge on dengue fever causes and prevention.

The health staff of CVTL Dili branch as well as the Health Emergency Manager from the NHQ office have conducted regular monitoring visits to volunteer activities. Routine evaluation meetings were conducted once in a week at the branch office to receive feedback from the volunteers.

The IFRC country delegate provided technical support to the operation i.e. co-facilitated the dengue prevention training, baseline survey training, dengue session and basic field monitoring and provided

feedback on volunteers' activities. Coordination meetings with the CVTL management team at the headquarters level were conducted regularly.

Dengue information sharing through Public Service Announcements (PSA) aired in three radio stations in Dili. According to the information from the station, the messages covered twelve other districts throughout the country.

On 8 April 2014, CVTL together with IFRC participated in the commemoration of World Health Day 2014 with vector borne disease as the year theme. The Secretary General delivered a presentation on CVTL outbreak response activities to different Government Ministries, as well as representatives from WHO and universities. The IFRC dengue advocacy report was also launched during the event.



CVTL' booth in the commemoration of World Health Day exhibition conducted in Dili Community Centre on 8 April 2014. **Photo: IFRC Timor-Leste.**

To capture the lessons from the recent operation, CVTL conducted a half-day Lessons Learned workshop on April 21, 2014. Due to unforeseen national holiday for government staff, the workshop was conducted for internal participants. The workshop was attended by CVTL Secretary General, Coordinators and Managers from both Program and Support Department and IFRC. After the health staff presented the achievements, participants were divided in to four focus group discussions i.e. Program Management, Admin-Finance and Logistic Management, Volunteer Management and IEC Material. The detail report is in Annex 2.Slkj

CVTL and IFRC carried out a follow-up meeting and invited representatives from MoH as well as WHO. During the meeting, CVTL shared their achievements on the campaign including feedback from the lessons learned workshop. As the result from the meeting, it was agreed that the quality of the brochure and other promotional tools from MoH need some improvements. CVTL and WHO were willing to work together to revise them. Aside from revising IEC materials, it was also agreed that MoH should develop an outbreak response plan and share it with development partners in country.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste:**
 - Januario Ximenes, secretary general; mobile phone: +670 7725 1334;
email: JanuarioXimenes_cvtl@redcross.tl
- **IFRC Timor-Leste country office:**
 - Kathryn Clarkson, country representative; mobile phone: (+670) 7723 1434;
email: kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok:**
 - Anne Leclerc, head of regional office; office phone: +66 2 661 8201; fax: +66 2 661 9322;
email: anne.leclerc@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur:**
 - Christine Strater, Operations Coordinator; mobile phone: +601 2213 0149;

email: christine.strater@ifrc.org

- Peter Ophoff, Head of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER); phone: +603 9207 5775; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

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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 Disaster 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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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRTP003 - Timor Leste - Dengue Outbreak

Timeframe: 23 Jan 14 to 23 Apr 14

Appeal Launch Date: 23 Jan 14

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2014/1-2014/6	Programme	MDRTP003
Budget Timeframe	2014/1-2014/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		32,204				32,204	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		32,204				32,204	
C4. Other Income		32,204				32,204	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		32,204				32,204	
D. Total Funding = B + C		32,204				32,204	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		32,204				32,204	
E. Expenditure		-31,901				-31,901	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		303				303	

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Budget Timeframe	2014/1-2014/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			32,204			32,204		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,100		8,644			8,644	-2,544	
Other Supplies & Services	3,100		518			518	2,582	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	9,200		9,162			9,162	38	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,500		2,260			2,260	-760	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	1,500		2,260			2,260	-760	
Personnel								
Volunteers	13,776		14,852			14,852	-1,076	
Total Personnel	13,776		14,852			14,852	-1,076	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,000		277			277	723	
Total Workshops & Training	1,000		277			277	723	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relations	1,500		681			681	819	
Communications	225		209			209	16	
Financial Charges	100		5			5	95	
Other General Expenses	2,937		2,507			2,507	430	
Total General Expenditure	4,762		3,402			3,402	1,360	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	1,965		1,947			1,947	18	
Total Indirect Costs	1,965		1,947			1,947	18	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	32,204		31,901			31,901	302	
VARIANCE (C - D)			302			302		

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Budget Timeframe	2014/1-2014/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	32,204		32,204	32,204	31,901	303	
Subtotal BL2	32,204		32,204	32,204	31,901	303	
GRAND TOTAL	32,204		32,204	32,204	31,901	303	