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# DREF Operation Update no. 1

## Dominican Republic: Dengue Outbreak

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRD0012</b> <b>Operation Update no. 1</b>	<b>GLIDE n°:</b> <a href="#">EP-2019-000106-DOM</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 04 December 2019	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 5 months (the operation has been extended by 2 months).
<b>Operation start date:</b> 12 September 2019	<b>New operation end date:</b> 12 February 2020
<b>DREF allocated:</b> 205,657 Swiss francs (CHF)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 16,907 affected people by epidemiological week 45. <sup>1</sup>	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 12,500 people.
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has 20,000 volunteers, one headquarters, 32 provincial branches and 96 municipal branches.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, Emergency Operations Centre, Ministry of Defence, City Halls, Pan-American Health Organization.	
The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) extended this operation two months due to delays in accessing the target communities caused by the electoral process during September-October 2019. No changes have been made to budget, results, or activities. The new operation end date is <b>12 February 2020</b> .	

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## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

On 5 July 2019, the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Public Health (MOH) issued an epidemiological alert due to a sustained increase in dengue cases in the country. The MOH report for epidemiological week (EW) 42 showed 542 probable cases of dengue reported, for a cumulative 2,470 cases in the last four EW. From EW 1 to 42, 14,731 cases (probable and confirmed) have been reported, including 34 deaths (0.2% morbidity). Dengue cases are on the rise, and the province of San José De Ocoa remains on red alert. The National District and Santo Domingo continue to report high numbers of cases. This data correlates with the multiple environmental, geographical and educational traits that generate the successful reproduction of arboviruses in these areas.



Photo 1: Dominican Red Cross (DRC) volunteers giving school awareness and prevention talks about Dengue prevention in Sabana Larga Public School, San José de Ocoa. Source: DRC. November 2019.

<sup>1</sup> [Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. Ministry of Public Health. Epidemiological week 45 \(from 3 to 9 November 2019\).](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Americas Regional Office of the International Federation is closely supporting National Societies that respond to dengue outbreaks through a personalised approach based on the level of the outbreak in each country, the existing NS capacities to respond and the ongoing response from national authorities. Thus far, DREF-financed operations have been launched in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The International Federation continues to monitor outbreaks in case further expansion is needed.

Four dengue serotypes are present in the Dominican Republic. According to laboratory tests, the predominant serotypes identified during the current outbreak are D1 and D3, and the presence of the four serotypes increases the risk of severe cases. This has resulted in other vector-borne diseases such as malaria. During EW 42, 29 confirmed native cases of malaria were reported, for a total of 88 cases reported in the last four weeks. During the most recent period, the focus of infection is in Los Tres Brazos (National District), with high transmission. The cumulative incidence (CI) of this disease is 7.92 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with a 58% rate increase, compared to 2018. From EW 1 to 41, 647 cases have been reported, which is almost double than reported during EW 1 to 45 of 2018. The malaria outbreak is present in two communities of Santo Domingo and National District where dengue-response actions are being implemented through this emergency operation. During implementation meetings, the MOH has requested support from DRC to face the malaria outbreak, highlighting its concern because there was no incidence in the National District.

### Epidemiologic indicators for Epidemiologic Week 45<sup>3</sup>

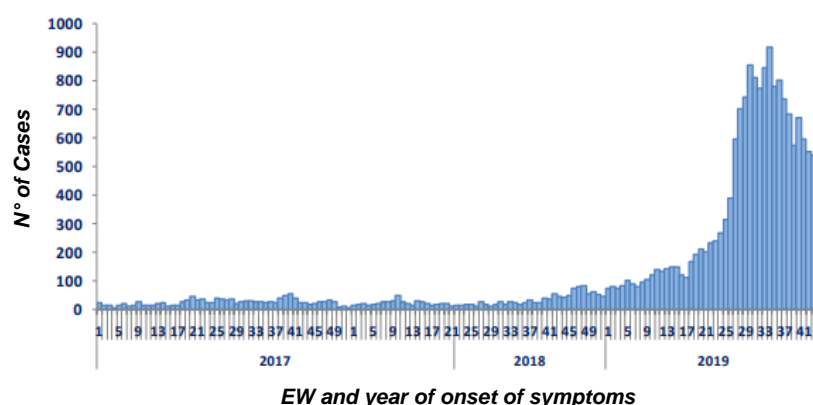
During epidemiological week (EW) 45, 448 probable cases of dengue were reported, for an accumulated 2,026 cases in the last four epidemiological weeks (EW 42 to EW 45). The total number of cases reported as of EW 45 total 16,907, including 39 deaths in which the audit committee determined that the cause of death was the dengue virus. Graphic 1 shows the distribution of cases per week of onset of symptoms compared to previous years.

The Dr. Defilló National Laboratory of Public Health has detected the virus in 75% (148/198) of the processed samples in the last four weeks.

In EW 45, 35 confirmed indigenous malaria cases were reported, of which eighteen are men, thirteen women, seven girls and six boys, aged between 1 and 80 years of age. 60% of the confirmed cases up to EW 45 originated in the infection focus of Los Tres Brazos. The cumulative incidence of malaria is 9.17 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, twice as many than reported in the same period of 2018.

The Ministry of Health continues to actively monitor febrile persons and treat and investigate the cases identified in the communities. Furthermore, the population is urged to approach health services if they have visited one of the locations that show malaria transmission and develop a fever.

**Graphic 1: Dengue curve by EW of onset of symptoms. EW 1 - EW 44 from 2017 to 2019.**



Source: [Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. Ministry of Public Health. Epidemiological week 45 \(from 3 to 9 November 2019\).](#)

Illness/event	Epidemiologic Indicators													Alert and incidence		
	Number of cases (1)						Number of deaths						Incidence rate		Rate variation %	
	EW 45		EW 42-45		EW 1-45		EW 45		EW 42-45		EW 1-45		2018			2019
2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019					
Cholera	0	0	3	0	117	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	1.32	0.13	-90%	Down
Dengue	46	448	187	2026	1115	16907	0	0	0	0	1	39	12.55	188.61	1403%	Up
Malaria	15	35	33	169	440	822	0	0	0	0	0	3	4.95	9.17	85%	Up

The country's 32 provinces are currently affected by dengue. The province of San José de Ocoa has 681.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Epidemiological bulletin (EW 45) of the MOH reports that 26 of 32 provinces are on yellow alert. The highest cumulative incidence rates are observed in the provinces of San José de Ocoa (681.2), Barahona (499.1), Independencia (367.3), Montecristi (275.5), Valverde (308.7), Peravia (239.6) and Santo Domingo (222.2).

From 2013 to 2015 the Dominican Republic received an award as "Champion in the fight against malaria in the Americas". However, until last 18 August, MOH authorities confirmed 49 cases, three of them imported - a girl and a woman of 13 and 28 years and a man of 50, from Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname.

In early July, malaria was not considered as an epidemic outbreak because of the low rainfall in the country at the time. Therefore, only epidemiological surveillance was indicated, which, while continuous, did not foresee atypical behaviour since everything was according to the expected annual epidemic index. However, Epidemiological week

<sup>3</sup> [Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. Ministry of Public Health. Epidemiological week 45 \(from 3 to 9 November 2019\).](#)

number 45 shows that malaria is currently affecting 6 of the 32 provinces of the country. In light of this, the MOH has issued a green alert. The province of Santo Domingo shows the highest incidence with 482 cases.

### Summary of current response

Through actions planned within this DREF operation, the Dominican Red Cross has worked in the 9 DRC Branches in the 3 provinces contemplated the Plan of Action. Activities have included daily field training activities by volunteers such as:

- Community psychosocial support/group therapy for people who have lost family members to dengue, or are going through the emotional stress of having relatives admitted to hospitals (children, parents, brother, etc.)
- Delivery of information to symptomatic patients who are treated as a suspected dengue case. Information delivered included prevention measures to prevent the disease.

The National Society has a community-based health programme with strong health in emergencies response capacity, and its staff is trained in epidemic control for volunteers, participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation, psychosocial support and health in emergencies.

### Volunteers trained in health in emergencies

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

Source: Dominican Red Cross, 2019.

Volunteers involved in these teams strengthened their arbovirus prevention and control skills thanks to their work with the Community Action Against Zika (CAZ) project during the previous three years, which has been implemented in 18 communities of nine provinces. This project has included activities such as vector control, community surveillance, psychosocial support and community mobilisation.

Following the declaration of the outbreak by the MOH, the DRC immediately initiated response activities. Implemented community approaches consist of conducting home visits to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites, educational sessions to convey dengue prevention messages, and delivery of chlorine for application in water tanks. These activities are carried out in seven provinces: Azua, Dajabón, Barahona, National District, Duarte El Seibo, Higüey, Hato Mayor, La Romana, La Vega, Monsignor Nouel, Monte Plata, San Cristóbal, San José de Ocoa, San Pedro de Macorís, Santiago, Santo Domingo, Peravia and Puerto Plata.

Activities related to this emergency operation are implemented by 136 DRC volunteers in San José de Ocoa, Santo Domingo and the National District.

Transportation expenses are significant, as a great number of volunteers were mobilised to remote communities. At the start of implementation, people displaced from nearby areas or countries (Haiti for instance), were not yet accounted for. The current presence of this population forced the DRC to immediately expand the range of actions to communities with difficult access. Safe mobilisation actions (minibus rental) have been implemented for the transfer of volunteers to those areas. Red Cross and IFRC vehicles have been used for this purpose.

A foreseeable increase in dengue cases has required the establishment of strategic alliances with community-based and social mobilisation institutions, aimed at involving and empowering the most affected communities. This will facilitate 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, through its regional delegation in Panama, supports the National Society in Restoring Family Links (RFL)/migration and capacity building and works with the penitentiary authorities and the International Humanitarian Law Commission.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Ministry of Public Health called on governmental and non-governmental organisations to join social mobilization efforts in several areas of Greater Santo Domingo, with the purpose of informing the population about dengue and other vector-borne diseases. This task force was integrated by the Ministry of Education (MINERD), Ministry of Public Works (MOPC), the National District Council (ADN), Save the Children, community and civil society organizations. The Ministry of Health continues to recommend the upholding of measures contained in the Dengue Epidemiological Alert of July 5, 2019, with the aim of controlling the current outbreak.

In addition, authorities are carrying out a national social mobilisation campaign to reinforce dengue control and prevention measures through the elimination of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito breeding sites, a vector for this and other diseases. The Ministry of Health said in its statement that it continues with the active and community search for febrile individuals, and treatment and investigation of identified cases. Similarly, the MOH urged the population to approach health services after visiting a location where malaria cases have been reported, in addition to removing tires and adding chlorine to containers of fresh water, among other measures.

Government campaigns remain uninterrupted, even with public officials volunteering their time to clean places that serve as breeding sites for the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito.

As for the Americas region, the Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reports that between EW 1 and EW 42 of 2019, 2,733,635 cases of dengue were reported, with an incidence of 280 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, including 1,206 deaths.<sup>4</sup>

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

The different interventions of the DREF Dengue 2019 operation in the provinces of Gran Santo Domingo, National District and a large portion of San José de Ocoa have managed to strengthen community and school awareness campaigns, as well as to identify and eliminate of breeding sites in school and community areas, showing the following progress:

- Unification of activities with the municipalities of each region or area, with a double purpose first to train the municipal staff on health promotion and education measures in solid waste management and water storage, which were an active part of the project planning and activities, starting at the initial talks and in some awareness workshops for all volunteers.
- The staff and volunteers of both entities participate in scrapping and breeding sites elimination activities, so that they are responsible for the final disposition of mosquito breeding sites, and the municipal staff can move these scraps with heavy machinery and deliver to the respective landfills. This strategy has resulted in a possible agreement between the Dominican Red Cross and the Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) to establish the necessary links directly for upcoming activities of similar nature.

The health situation in the provinces affected by dengue is delicate, given that the incidence rate is higher than in the 2016 epidemic. Considering this, the DRC focuses its work on complementing the activities of the Ministry of Health at the community level. There are several social determinants that increase the risk of a greater incidence of dengue in the Dominican territory:

- a) Increased rainfall from 1 June to 30 November due to the cyclone season.
- b) Most hospitals in the province that treat dengue cases are being remodelled, hindering access to adequate health services and treatments.
- c) Some areas of the country are experiencing droughts. This means that there is a greater accumulation of water in homes, which in turn increases the risk of creating vector breeding sites.
- d) There is no continuous supply of safe water through pipelines at the community level, forcing people to store water in containers in their homes. This increases the risk that these containers will eventually become breeding sites.
- e) The current interventions of the Ministry of Health are mainly based on hospital care, since the institution does not have enough trained personnel to carry out a prevention program at the community level.
- f) It has been found that communities in provinces with active dengue outbreaks have inappropriate hygiene practices, little knowledge about dengue prevention and a low perception of risk with respect to the negative consequences of dengue.

<sup>4</sup> [PAHO. Epidemiological Update Dengue. 11 November 2019.](#)

Currently, beneficiary registration is complete, community meetings were carried out and the project should be implemented normally in coming weeks, since the population has high expectations regarding the delivery of school kits, which will continue to help improve the health of the population, and in general lower the high incidence rates of dengue in the targeted areas.

### Targeting

- ✓ Human resources to carry out education activities.
- ✓ Printed material and radio spots regarding
  - Signs and symptoms of illness;
  - Prevention and control measures;
  - Encouragement to approach health services
- ✓ Materials for community and school mapping

The targeted provinces for the operation, selected in coordination with the Ministry of Health, are those that have a higher incidence of cases nationwide (San José de Ocoa), or provinces with a high risk of an increase in dengue cases in the coming weeks due to the presence of negative social determinants and high population density (National District and Great Santo Domingo). DRC aims to reach 2,500 families through this DREF.

It is crucial to maintain periodic interventions in these areas because of their difficult access to essential services such as water, solid waste collection, health, education, among others. Promotion/disease prevention activities, as well as campaigns against vector and disease prevention and dengue complications, have been strengthened in communities and schools. The application of simple tools and technical and tactical orientations of providing resources for mosquito control has made a positive balance in reducing the incidence rates of dengue, as demonstrated by community-based surveillance.

Special attention is given to people who live alone and to families with elderly members with non-communicable diseases, children under 15, children under five, pregnant and disabled women, warnings and the characteristics of the epidemic at the regional level indicate that they are at greater risk of developing severe dengue.

### Scenario planning

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

Scenario	Description
<b>Scenario A (Best case scenario)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities are carried out in at-risk communities in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>- Sensitized communities initiate vector control activities</li> <li>- Breteau index<sup>5</sup> falls in at-risk communities</li> <li>- Stabilization and reduction of the number of new dengue cases</li> <li>- Sensitized communities identify signs and symptoms of severe dengue and make the corresponding referrals to hospital centres</li> </ul>
<b>Scenario B (Likely scenario)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Isolated health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities at the community level</li> <li>- Population has no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak</li> <li>- Breteau index remains the same/increases in at-risk communities</li> <li>- Increased incidence of dengue cases</li> <li>- Increase in the number of severe dengue cases</li> <li>- Saturation of emergency and hospitalization services in Ministry of Health hospitals</li> </ul>
<b>Scenario C (Worst case scenario)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Few health promotion and dengue prevention activities at the community level</li> <li>- Population has no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak</li> <li>- Increase in the number of severe dengue cases</li> <li>- Collapse of emergency and hospitalization services in Ministry of Health hospitals</li> <li>- Increase in the number of deaths</li> </ul>

In the course of community interventions, a fourth and unexpected scenario has been found which contemplates:

- Low levels of health education of the population reached
- Total lack of knowledge of the presence of the vector in urban areas and in schools little (almost null) knowledge about the presence of symptoms related to dengue
- Sub-registration of the fleeting population and immigrant areas that are installed in very short-term

<sup>5</sup> The Breteau index measures the number of water containers containing the vector, per 100 houses inspected.

communities without the acquisition of an organised housing system or basic services.

## Operation Risk Assessment

**Safe Access:** Access to affected communities does not require extraordinary efforts, as these are 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 out 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.

The current status of arbovirolosis in the Dominican Republic has exhibited an atypical behaviour, which is reflected in the statistics recorded in the epidemiological bulletin of week 45, issued by the Ministry of Public Health, according to which 60 percent of people confirmed with malaria were infected in the Los Tres Brazos sector, in Eastern Santo Domingo. In the EW 45, 35 cases of malaria were confirmed among people aged 6 to 89. In 2019, a total of 822 cases of malaria have been reported. The cumulative incidence during 2019 is 9.17 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, twice that reported during the same period in 2018.<sup>6</sup>

## B. Operational Strategy

### Proposed Strategy

The Dominican Red Cross through the DREF dengue 2019 operation has carried out the following activities to strengthen the response capacity of volunteers in the Branches of the provinces selected due to high incidence of suspected and confirmed dengue cases:

- Two (2) "Vector Control Toolbox" workshops were held at the DRC Headquarters for volunteers from Santo Domingo and the National District with a total of 37 volunteers (19 men and 18 women).
- In San José de Ocoa, the capacities of 47 volunteers (28 men and 19 women) were strengthened.
- Workshops were replicated in four (4) Branches, District, Santo Domingo Northwest, San José de Ocoa, Santo Domingo Northeast. This corresponds to the selected communities with a total of 209 trained volunteers.
- Nine (9) workshops on awareness raising and identification of breeding sites were carried out for 174 community volunteers, who are now part of the cleaning teams for the campaign activities in the selected communities.

In the communities, coordination meetings were held with the different health areas in order to select the communities in which the Ministry needed support. The presence of DRC Branches allowed for a community approach.

Eight meetings were held with the institutions involved in the health sector in the Dominican Republic:

- Office for the Coordination of the Decentralized Management of the Dean of the Ministry of Public Health
- Department of Tropical Disease Control and Zoonoses
- Ministry of Education
- Technical Coordinator of the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU).
- San José de Ocoa Mayor's Office
- San José de Ocoa Educational District
- San José Hospital
- Provincial Red Cross of San José de Ocoa

Current status of activities:

<sup>6</sup> [Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. Ministry of Public Health. Epidemiological week 45 \(from 3 to 9 November 2019\).](#)

Description	Identified needs	Current status
<b>Chemical control for the elimination of adult vectors (mosquitoes)</b>	Thermo-nebulisation machines	Ready for use
	Deltametrin / Vectorcide 2.5 / 4.5 (40 litres)	Purchasing process
	Fuel / diesel / gasoline	Acquired
	Mixing oil for 2-setting engines / automatic lubrication	Acquired
	Repair kit for nebulisation machine	Ready
	Personal protection equipment (gloves, glasses, masks and filters)	Purchasing process
<b>Physical control to eliminate breeding sites</b>	Human resources to carry out health promotion actions in communities and schools.	Trained volunteer brigades
	Human resources for home visits.	Trained volunteer brigades
	Educational materials	In print
	Personal protection equipment	Purchasing process
	Work tools (gloves, wheelbarrows, hammers, ladders, shovels, hoes, rakes and bags)	Acquired

### Human Resources

The Dominican Red Cross hired an Operations Coordinator (for three months), a PMER Officer (for three months part-time), two Health Officers (for three months) and a driver (for three months). In addition, the Dominican Red Cross has made available 200 volunteers for the operation in specific areas.

### Logistics and supply chain

Dominican Red Cross has acquired and initiated the assembly of the “*untadita kits*” (chlorine, detergent and sponge for the application of chlorine in the walls of the tank), covers for tanks, educational material and material for activities meant to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

#### Content of the *Untadita Kit* (Cleaning kit)

<b><i>Untadita kit</i></b>
One sponge
Two 120ml chlorine bottles
One tank cover
One ziplock bag
One information flyer

} Materials in procurement process

#### **Visibility equipment for volunteers:**

Polo shirt, caps and vests with identification are in purchasing process.

#### **Cost of telecommunications:**

Airtime recharges.

#### **Vehicle:**

Hired through IFRC's VRP programme.

The insecticide is being purchased, and it will be used for fumigation in line with technical specifications of the Ministry of Public Health.

### Communications

The DRC Communications Officer will be deployed as necessary to support activities in the field. The Communications Unit of the International Federation is collaborating with the DRC Communications Unit, provide technical assistance

and help with the Communications Strategy. The communications officer will be deployed as necessary to support activities.

Press releases will be issued for national, regional and global media and uploaded to social networks and the 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 the Communications Officer of the International Federation.

### **Security**

DRC 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.

Despite the issue of a RIT PMER alert, the IFRC could not find a candidate to mobilize in the Dominican Republic due to the lack of applications. The IFRC continues to support the National Society at the PMER level through the staff of the County Cluster Support Team office in Santo Domingo. A lessons learned workshop will be carried out at the end of the operation.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Health

People reached: 4,372<sup>7</sup>

Male: 2,404

Female: 1,968

**Health Outcome 1: Morbidity and mortality of dengue are reduced in affected at-risk provinces through effective management of health emergency risks.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Families reached	2,500	1,437

**Health Output 1.1: Populations living in areas with high incidence of dengue have increased access to information regarding the identification of dengue signs and symptoms and dengue prevention and control measures**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained	200	209
# of community leaders trained	80	174
# of awareness-raising sessions at the community level	54	27
# of awareness-raising sessions in schools	54	9

#### Progress towards outcomes

Within the Dengue 2019 DREF Operation, the Dominican Red Cross has carried out the following activities to reach the target families in each of the provinces:

- Carried out a survey to determine the number of people and identify the number of breeding sites in the home.
- Perform a timely intervention for breeding sites elimination.

For the strengthening of the response capacities of volunteers from Branches within the jurisdiction of the selected provinces:

- Two (2) “Vector Control Toolbox” workshops were held at the DRC Headquarters for volunteers from Santo Domingo and the National District, with a total of 37 volunteers (19 men and 18 women) trained.
- In San José de Ocoa, 47 volunteers (28 men and 19 women) strengthened their capacities.
- This training was replicated in four (4) subsidiaries, District, Northwestern Santo Domingo, San José de Ocoa, Northeastern Santo Domingo, which corresponds to the selected communities with a total of 209 trained volunteers (including the volunteers trained in the first workshops).
- Nine (9) awareness raising and identification of breeding sites workshops were held for 174 community members who are part of the cleaning campaign activities in the selected communities.

#### Statistics of Dominican Red Cross volunteers who received training in the Vector Control Toolbox

Provinces	Municipalities	Communities	Trained members of the community		
			Men	Women	Total
Santo Domingo	Northern Santo Domingo	Paraíso Escondido	5	7	12
	Western Santo Domingo	El Café De Herrera	13	18	31
	Western Santo Domingo	Sector Pueblo Nuevo	8	7	15

<sup>7</sup> Number of people reached based on the survey conducted by the DRC in households.

National District	National District	Villa Francisca	14	9	23
	Cristo Rey	La 70	12	9	21
	Cristo Rey	Pablo Sexto	11	10	21
San José de Ocoa	San José de Ocoa	San Antonio	7	10	17
	Sabana Larga	El Limonal	10	7	17
	La Ciénaga	La Ciénaga	5	12	17
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>85</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>174</b>

- Reproduction and dissemination materials were socialized and approved by the General Directorate of Health Promotion. Materials are currently in print, to be used in the *untadita kit* delivery.
- Awareness raising sessions were held in the 7 communities, household visits were conducted with an aim to gather information for the survey, while at the same time raising awareness in the communities on how to identify mosquito breeding sites and how to identify and report suspected cases of dengue
- In selected schools, simultaneous coordination meetings took place to start raising awareness among teachers and students and to carry out cleaning campaigns and delivery of cleaning kits.



Photo 2: DRC volunteers giving school awareness and prevention talks about Dengue prevention in Mamá Tingó de Villa Mella, Santo Domingo Oeste. Source: DRC. November 2019.



### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

**People reached: 4,372<sup>8</sup>**

Male: 2,404

Female: 1,968

#### **WASH Outcome 1: The incidence of dengue is reduced through chemical and physical control and prevention and awareness actions at the community and school level**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Families reached	2500	1,437
<b>WASH Output 1.1: Communities have additional capabilities to limit the incidence of dengue through vector control actions</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained	200	209 <sup>9</sup>
# of home visits conducted	2,500	Planned
# of cleaning kits distributed	2,500	Planned
# of homes fumigated	2,500	Planned
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		

<sup>8</sup> Number of people reached based on the survey conducted by the DRC in these homes.

<sup>9</sup> These 209 volunteers include the 37 and 47 trained in the first workshops.

4,372 beneficiaries were reached through reported community activities in the health area, since these activities encompass both sectors.

The National Society has adopted an innovative Community-Based Surveillance tool which has established the application of a protocol. Said protocol was socialised with the Ministry of Health (MOH) the National Epidemiology Program (DIGEPI).



*Photo 2: DRC volunteers carrying out community breeding sites elimination campaigns in El Paraíso Community, Villa Mella, Santo Domingo Oeste. Source: DRC, November 2019.*

- Two (2) workshops were held at Headquarters for volunteers from Santo Domingo and the National District for a total of 37 volunteers, of which 19 were men and 18 were women. This was replicated in the province of San José de Ocoa for a total of 47 volunteers, of which 28 were men and 19 women.
- In targeted schools, coordination is taking place to carry out the awareness raising and identification of breeding sites workshops. The 9 schools have been visited.
- 9 breeding site identification campaigns (one per community) were carried out. As a result, a total of 5,941 breeding sites were identified, of which 497 were positive. The community assessed this campaign as valuable because it has strengthened community resilience. Community-based surveillance brigades have been formed and being able to identify breeding sites and report suspected cases of dengue, malaria and Chikungunya is an added value for staff and volunteers.
- 209 volunteers trained in case identification were deployed in the provinces of Santo Domingo, National District and San José de Ocoa to replicate trainings.

Province	Municipality	Community	Mosquito Breeding Sites	
			Identified	Positive
San Jose de Ocoa	San Antonio	San Antonio	792	26
San Jose de Ocoa	San Antonio	El Limonal	1,610	56
San Jose de Ocoa	San Antonio	La Cienega	847	26
National District	Cristo Rey	La 70	732	108
National District	Cristo Rey	Pablo Sexto	425	148
National District	Villa Francisca	Villa Francisca	676	81
Western Santo Domingo	Herrera	El Café de Herrera	833	52
		<b>Total</b>	<b>5,915</b>	<b>497</b>

- Cleaning and fumigation activities are in the process of being programmed, the kits are pre-positioned, and the fogging machines are suitable for use.
- 2,500 cleaning kits and tank covers are in stock for use in scheduled fumigation campaign activities and household visits.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

**Outcome 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 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

<i>Indicators:</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<i>Number of insured volunteers</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>Planned</i>

#### **Progress towards outcomes**

- Volunteers are clearly identified while implementing awareness raising and identification of breeding sites activities. They were given t-shirts with the emblem of the Dominican Red Cross. A purchase order for caps and vests is currently with the emblem are being processed.
- The operation has a vehicle and a driver assigned only for activities programmed under DREF operations.
- Volunteers have received airtime on their mobile phones to facilitate communication

### **International disaster response**

**Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured**

**Output 1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained**

<i>Indicators:</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<i># of IFRC monitoring visits</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i># lesson learned workshop is held</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Planned</i>

#### **Progress towards outcomes**

- *IFRC monitoring visits:* The IFRC carried out a DREF monitoring mission between 1-4 November 2019
- *Deployment of a PMER RIT:* Due to the lack of available candidates, the IFRC cancelled the RIT alert published for the position. CCST staff will directly support the NS with issues related to PMER.
- *Lessons learned workshop:* planned

## Contact Information

### Reference Documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action](#)

**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**.