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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) El Salvador: Dengue

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRSV005
GLIDE n° [EP-2012-000145-SLV](#)
24 August 2012

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.

CHF 112,417 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 24,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 17 August, the General Directorate of Civil Protection declared a National Dengue Alert in El Salvador. By the epidemiological week 33 of 2012, El Salvador had 20,068 suspected cases registered, of which 5,390 were confirmed and 292 cases were grave, figures significantly higher than those of the previous year.

In support of the national plan launched by the National Civil Protection System, SRCS will complete educational talks and cleaning campaigns in 60 schools and communities, will distribute informative materials in shopping centres, will carry out a mass media campaign, and will support the referral of suspected cases.



Communities in El Salvador are reached through health care days carried out by Red Cross volunteer. Source: Salvadorian Red Cross Society

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by November 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by February 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Although the El Salvadorian government has been implementing an integrated plan of action to contain dengue outbreaks since 2010, this year cases have incremented in the last months prompting the declaration of a national alert on 17 August. By the epidemiological week 33 of 2012, El Salvador had 20,068 suspected cases registered, of which 5,390 were confirmed and 292 cases were considered serious. The number of positive laboratory testing was 33 per cent on the epidemiological week 25, however, that increase to 50 per cent in the last two weeks. These figures are above the average from previous years.

Nevertheless, it must be noticed that the mortality rate has decreased, indicating a more effective clinical treatment.

At the moment, 43 per cent of the cases are of children under 5 and 38 per cent of young persons of 10 to 19 years of age. In other words, 81 per cent of the cases are of persons under 20 years. The highest risk factor in El Salvador continues to be the presence of the vector, mosquito *Aedes Aegypti*, with as much as 50 per cent of the homes infested with the larvae as is the case of the San Salvador municipality.

The following table illustrates the current situation with the dengue outbreak compared with previous years (from epidemiological week 1 to 33):

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Suspected cases	4,231	5,306	18,505	7,326	20,068
Cases hospitalized	716	979	2,716	1,066	2,448
Confirmed cases	931	1,799	7,705	3,123	5,390
Dengue	907	1,762	7,556	3,088	5,098
With serious symptoms	24	37	149	35	292

Source: Sistema Nacional de Vigilancia Epidemiológica (VIGIPES)

Coordination and partnerships

The institutions forming the Multi-sector Health Commission (Comisión Intersectorial de Salud, CISALUD), the Technical Health Sectors Commission (Comisión Técnica Sectorial de Salud, CTSS), with the involvement of communities, have been implementing the Dengue Integral Attention Plan (Plan Integral de Atención del Dengue) since 2010 and a similar plan has been developed to contain the current outbreak. In its auxiliary role to the government, the National Society is coordinating with municipal and civil protection authorities to support the national efforts outlined in the plan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: with 81 per cent of registered cases being children and youth under 20, the branches of the National Society located in the areas under national alert will select and target 60 schools within those with the highest levels of affectation and larvae infestation.

The National Alert declared by the General Directorate of Civil Protection (Dirección General de Protección Civil) included 14 departments as follow:

Orange Alert	Yellow Alert	Green Alert
Priority level 1	Priority level 2	Priority level 3
Departments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Ana • San Salvador • Chalatenango • Cuscatlán • Cabañas 	Departments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonsonate • La Libertad • La Paz • San Vicente • San Miguel • La Unión 	Departments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahuachapán • Usulután • Morazán
32 municipalities	138 municipalities	92 municipalities

Some of the needs identified are:

- Cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds
- Better understanding of dengue among communities
- Strengthening coordination among institutions
- Lack of cleaning and fumigation materials
- Better monitoring and reporting of actions completed

The proposed operation

In coordination with governmental authorities and other organizations, the SRCS will support the national plan for dengue prevention through educational talks and cleaning campaigns in schools and communities, distribution of informative materials in shopping centres, a mass media campaign, and referral of suspected cases.

Emergency health

Outcome: The risk of dengue-related morbidity and mortality is reduced through a comprehensive approach of increased awareness, community mobilization and vector control activities.

Output 1: 60 branches of the National Society are prepared and involved in community-based dengue prevention.

Output 2: 60 schools (some 24,000 students) within areas under alert are reached with information on dengue prevention and vector control.

Output 3: dengue awareness information campaign is implemented through mass media and in nine shopping centres.

Activities planned:

- Coordinate with local authorities the design and implementation of activities.
- Conduct three training for volunteers on dengue control and prevention measures.
- Procure and distribute cleaning kits to schools.
- Complete cleaning campaigns targeting mosquito-breeding grounds with the participation of the community.
- Complete cleaning campaigns targeting mosquito-breeding grounds in 60 branches of the National Society.
- Rent two fumigation trucks.
- Assist the local government authorities in community fumigation activities.
- Identify and refer suspected cases to health centres.
- Distribute some 4,500 informative brochures.
- Develop press releases, informative ads and other formats to be use in written and social media.
- Weekly monitoring and reporting on health activities.

For security reasons, the National Society will not complete house to house visits and will support the government's efforts with public campaigns in school and through the mass media. SRCS estimates that their efforts will directly benefit 24,000 students and 4,500 persons in shopping centres. Additionally, there will be some 60,000 persons indirectly reached through the students (with 50 per cent of the students reaching an average of five family members), and 25,000 persons reached indirectly through the media campaign.

The contents of the kits that will be procured to support the cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds in communities are:

Quantity	Description
8 pairs	Leather gloves
2 units	Machetes
1 unit	wheelbarrow
2 units	Shovels
2 units	Rakes
2 units	Rake handles

In addition, 60 National Society branches will receive kits to be used by the volunteers supporting the community cleaning campaigns:

Quantity	Description
2 pairs	Leather gloves
2 pairs	Rubber gloves
2 units	brooms
2 units	buckets

1 gallon	Bleach
1 unit	Long knife
1 unit	Machete
1 unit	Rake
1 unit	Hose
1 unit	lamp
4 units	Batteries
2 packages	Garbage bags
120 units	sponges
1 unit	Wheelbarrow

Additionally, a coordinator and a technician will be hired for a period of two months, in order to assist the National Society with the weekly monitoring and reporting of the health activities proposed through this DREF funded operation.

Contact information

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

- **In the Salvadorean Red Cross Society:** Roy Venegas, disaster management and risk reduction national director; phone: +503 778.72238; email: roy.venegas@cruzrojasal.org.sv
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Click here

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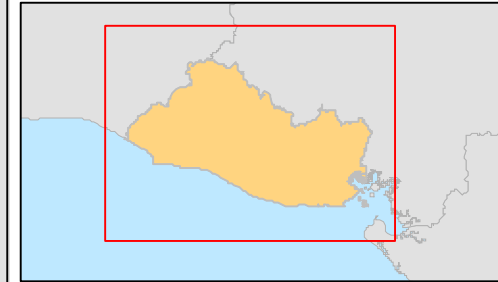
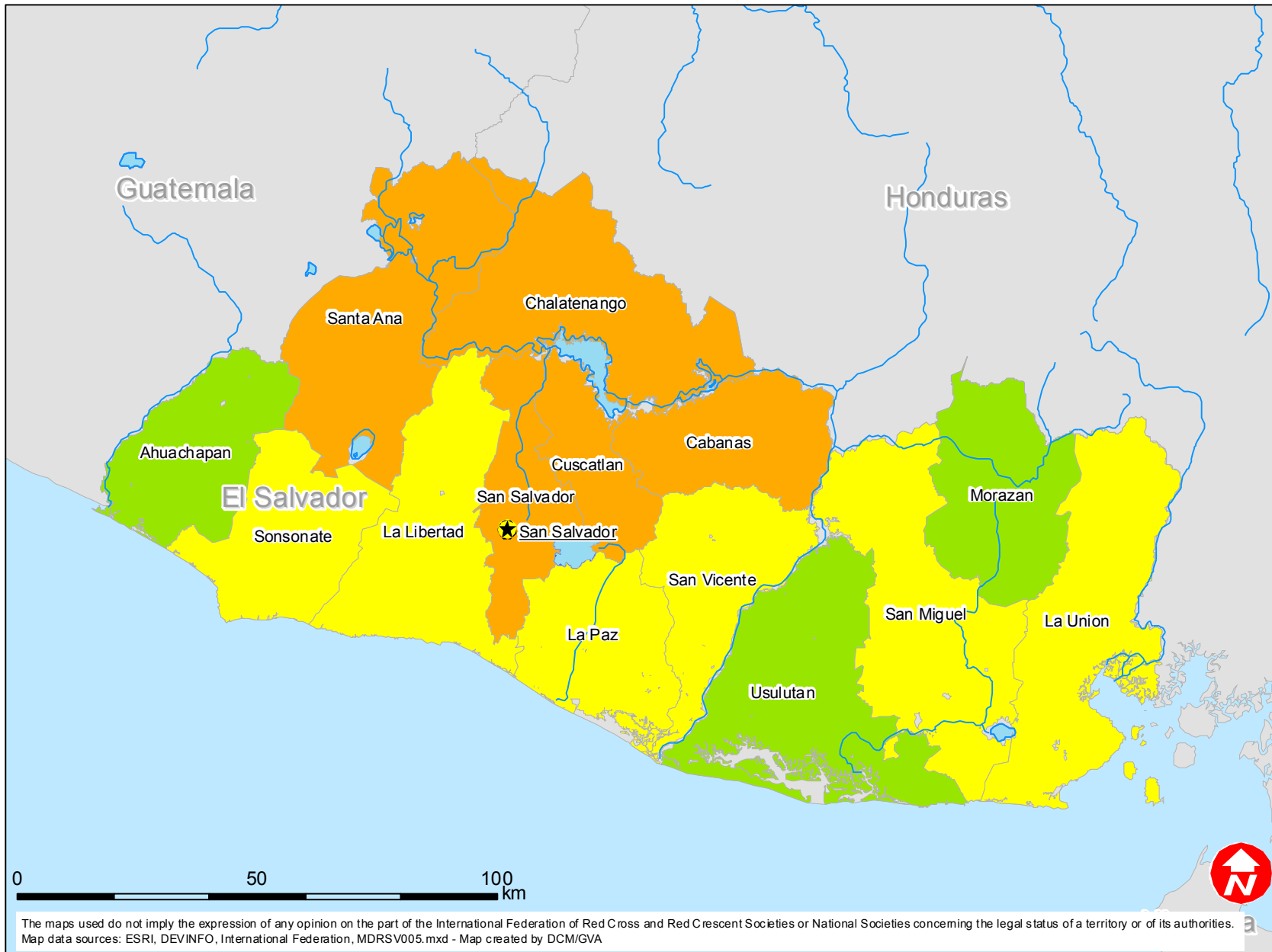
The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	14,644
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	17,280
Utensils & Tools	23,431
Other Supplies & Services	11,715
Regional Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	67,071
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	1,562
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,268
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	7,830
National Society Staff	2,929
Volunteers	9,665
Total PERSONNEL	12,594
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	4,784
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,784
Travel	1,953
Information & Public Relations	9,763
Office Costs	976
Communications	586
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	13,278
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,861
Total INDIRECT COSTS	6,861
TOTAL BUDGET	112,417



El Salvador: Epidemic - Dengue



National Alert

- Orange Alert
- Yellow Alert
- Green Alert