

DREF Operation Update no. 1

Saint Lucia: Dengue Outbreak

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| DREF n°: MDRLC004 | | | |
| Date of issue: 15 February 2021 | | Timeframe covered by this update: 2 November 2020 – 31 January 2021. | |
| Operation start date: 2 November 2020 | | Operation timeframe: 4 months (one-month extension) New end date: 31 March 2021. | |
| Funding requirements: 131,125 Swiss francs (CHF) | | IFRC Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow | |
| Total number of people affected: | 1,816 cases of dengue officially reported as of epidemiological week 52. | N° of people to be directly assisted: | 1,000 families (3,000 people) ¹ |
| Provinces affected: | All health districts, but most cases have been reported as occurring in persons who live in the Gros Islet, Castries, Vieux Fort, Castries B, Micoud, and Dennery districts. | Provinces/Regions targeted: | Castries, Gros Islet, Babonneau Proper, Anse-la-raye, Vieux Fort, et. al |
| Host National Society Presence: Saint Lucia Red Cross (SLRC) has 100 active volunteers and 1 headquarters with 11 full time staff members. | | | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the French Red Cross (PIRAC). | | | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health and Wellness, Daher Broadcasting Service, Gros Islet Town Council, Ministry of Youth & Sports | | | |

[<Click here for the financial report and here for the contact information.>](#)

The operation timeframe was initially three months, mainly to provide relief to persons and communities affected by the Dengue outbreak. However, the scenario has become increasingly complex due mostly to the government's additional restrictions to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Such measures have resulted in the National Society having to pause in executing some activities.

The St. Lucia Red Cross, in line with its humanitarian mandate, has revised and updated the approved plan of action to focus efforts on providing relief to the population. This proposal includes the following activities:

- To provide 100 households with safer barrels.
- To complete the distribution of mosquito nets and repellents to households; and
- To conduct a lessons-learned workshop.

The St. Lucia Red Cross will extend the operation by one month. The **new operation end date is 31 March 2021.**

¹ The average number of members per family of the communities to be reached is 3. Targets have been adjusted accordingly.

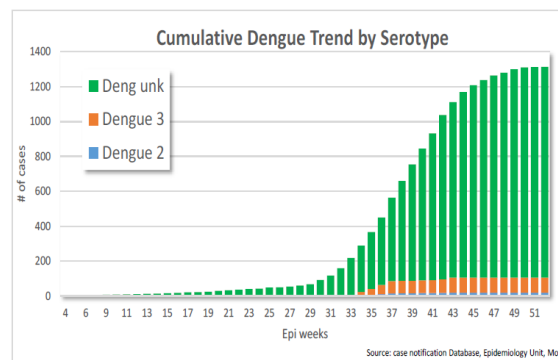
A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

1. Description of the Disaster

Context

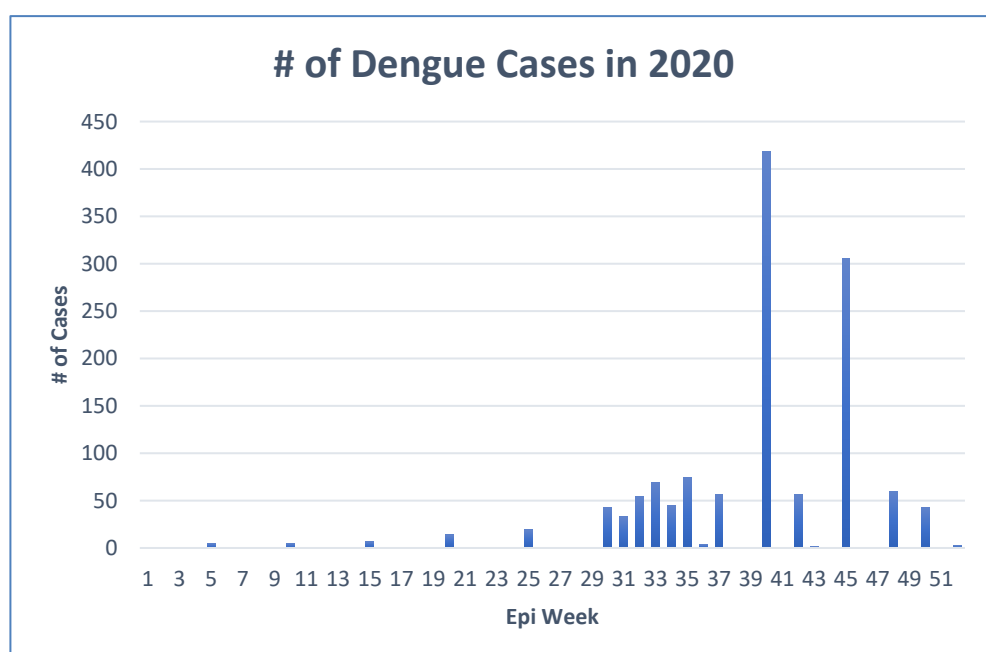
On 26 August 2020, St. Lucia's Ministry of Health and Wellness declared an outbreak of dengue fever. The Syndromic Surveillance report for epidemiological week 42 (dated 22 October 2020) indicated 801 confirmed cases on the island with a further 333 suspected cases. Dengue serotypes 2 and 3 circulate in St. Lucia, with a third unknown serotype to be confirmed. 20% of cases require hospitalisation. 17 October 2020 saw 3 confirmed dengue-related deaths.

According to the latest Surveillance Report for epidemiological week 52 (dated 7 January 2021) there were a total of 1,316 confirmed cases of Dengue, with 500 suspected cases. This represents a 127-percentage increase in the number of cases since 22 October 2020.



Data on the Confirmed Cases:

The graph to the right shows the cumulative counts of confirmed cases as they occurred by weeks². September was the peak month with 32% of new cases, followed by October with 28%. November and December reported fewer cases (9% and 2% respectively) suggesting a decline and a move toward the end of the epidemic curve. Both Dengue serotypes 2 and 3 continue to be prevalent in confirmed cases.



Breakdown of Confirmed Cases:

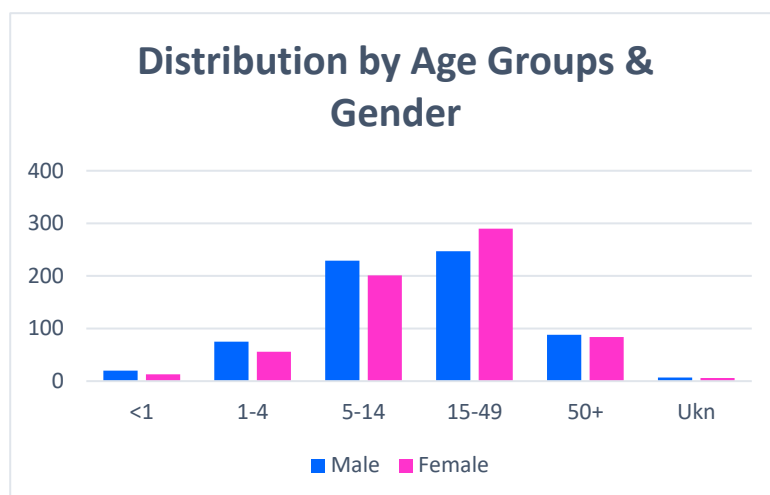
- As of Epi week 52, a total of 1,816 dengue cases (1,316 confirmed, 500 suspect) have been reported.
- Serotype Analysis shows the presence of DENV-3 (88 cases) and DENV-2 (20 cases)
- Currently the hospitalization rate is at 20%.
- 3 deaths attributed to Dengue infection have been reported for 2020 (Case fatality = 0.2%)

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of confirmed cases by age and gender.

| Dengue | Sex | <1 | 1-4 | 5-14 | 15-49 | 50+ | ukn | Total |
|--------------|--------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Male | 20 | 75 | 229 | 247 | 88 | 7 | 666 |
| | Female | 13 | 56 | 201 | 290 | 84 | 6 | 650 |
| Total | | 33 | 131 | 430 | 537 | 172 | 13 | 1,316 |

² Source: PAHO Health Information Platform of the Americas (PLISA), data reported by Ministries and Institutes of Health -

- The Mean [SD] age for the dengue cases is 24 [21], with an age range of 3 weeks to 96 years
- Fifty-one percent of the cases are male, indicating a continued slightly higher occurrence in males
- The 15-49 years age group accounts for approximately 41% of cases, of which 54% are female.
- Following this is the 5-14 year and 50+ age groups each accounted for approx. 33% and 13% of cases, 53% of which are male whereas 47% are female, respectively.



Affected Communities:

- The Districts with the highest number of cases include Gros Islet, Castries, Vieux Fort, Castries B, Micoud, and Dennery
- The cases per 10,000 per District are outlined below with Gros Islet having the highest case count of 100.6 per 10,000

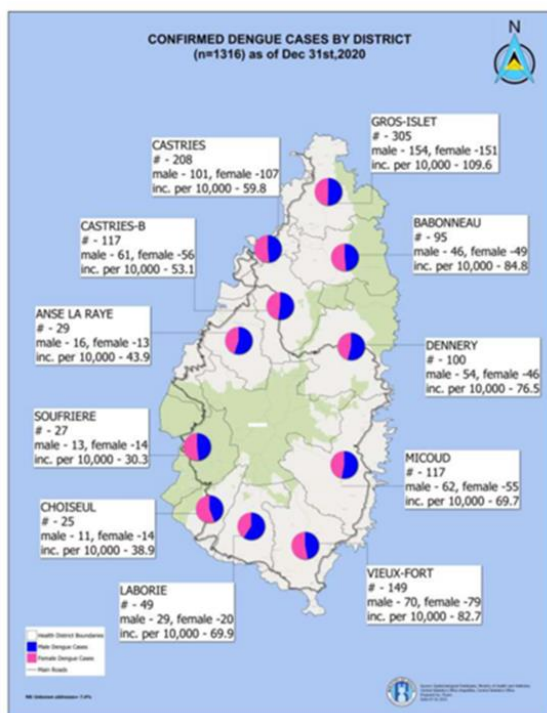


Figure 1: Updated Confirmed cases of Dengue by District as at Epi Week 52, Source: Ministry of Health St. Lucia

| Districts | # of cases per 10,000 |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Gros Islet | 109.6 |
| Vieux Fort | 82.7 |
| Babonneau | 84.8 |
| Dennery | 76.5 |
| Micoud | 69.7 |
| Laborie | 69.9 |
| Castries | 59.8 |
| Castries - B | 53.1 |
| Anse La Raye | 43.9 |
| Choiseul | 38.9 |
| Soufriere | 30.3 |

2. Summary of Current Response

Overview of Host National Society

The National Society, building on the legacy of the Zika Response and Response project has retained the human resources to conduct activities under the DREF project aimed at reducing the risk of dengue transmission in St. Lucia. The NS continues to operate within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to adhere to COVID-19 protocols and guidelines by ensuring that staff and volunteers are provided with the necessary PPEs when going into the field to conduct distributions or other such activities.

The following is an outline of actions already taken by the National Society to respond to the disaster:

- Continued coordination with the Ministry of Health & Wellness
- Conducted 5 Community Clean-ups with the assistance of CDRT Teams in Bexon, Fond Assou, Gros Islet, Marc and Anse La Raye. There is also collaboration with the Ministry of Health and community groups in conducting clean-ups.
- Risk communication of key messages on dengue prevention is done during the time of the community clean-up
- Installation of “stop the bite” disease prevention messaging on vehicle banner completed for six public passenger vehicles.
- Installed a signboard at the St. Lucia Red Cross headquarters as a reminder to visitors and passersby of the need to reduce and eliminate breeding sites in the country.
- Have conducted distribution of 762 mosquito nets in Vieux Fort, Jacmel, Anse La Raye, Babonneau
- Have reached 416 families with mosquito repellents in Mon Repos, Dennery, Aux Lyons, Marc, Vieux Fort and Gros Islet.
- Procurement of items needed to commence drum proofing exercise which is scheduled to take place in December and January with the assistance of CRDT Teams



Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Country

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Port-of-Spain (POS CCD) continues to monitor and provide technical support throughout the entire Dengue DREF Operations in St. Lucia.

IFRC Actions

- IFRC Programme Manager from the POS CCD is providing support to the National Society.
- Health Focal Point continue to provide information used to guide the NS interventions.
- Coordinated shipping of 1,400 treated mosquito nets by PIRAC from Guadeloupe to St. Lucia
- ARO RLU has shipped additional 1,600 treated mosquito nets from Panama to St. Lucia
- Information messages will continue to provide information on national context, National Society Actions and IFRC actions.

Overview of non-RCRC Actors in Country

The Ministry of Health and Wellness continues to coordinate the emergency response at the national level through the inclusion of various stakeholders. Emphasis continues to be placed on risk communication, information dissemination using media and other educational materials. Surveillance reports continue to be made available to relevant agencies including the Saint Lucia Red Cross. The Ministry hopes to conduct clean-ups in additional communities island- wide in 2021.

3. Needs Analysis and Scenario Planning

Needs Analysis

- While there is evidence to suggest a decline in the number of dengue cases based on surveillance reports, it is possible for there to be a resurgence. As a result, our needs analysis confirms the need for mosquito repellents, clean-up activities and other vector control activities continue to remain essential.
- Engagement programmes and information dissemination for educational material remain relevant for the successful implementation of the program.
- As of Epi Week 52, a total of 1,816 dengue cases (1,316 confirmed, 500 suspected) have been reported.

Operation Risk Assessment

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major threat to the work to be carried out by the SLURC. As such the National Society has put measures in place to protect staff and volunteers who may be at risk of catching the virus while conducting activities. Already we are seeing where an increase in the number of cases since November 2020 has led to Government interventions to curtail the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 pandemic is also a major threat to the work carried out by SLRC volunteers and staff, so protection measures are being maximized to reduce the risks of contagion. An increase in cases has led to the St. Lucian Government to roll out a series of prevention and control protocols, tremendously reducing non-essential movement. These include work from home, reduced business hours, prohibition of social gatherings, and a combination of physical and virtual church services, restrictions on alcohol purchases and in-house dining, closure of gyms and the prohibition of face-to-face classroom activity. These measures will be reviewed by the Prime Minister and his committee on 2 February 2021.

A potential risk during the operation may be the threat of strike action by public buses over revenue losses because of reduced passenger intake as per COVID-19 social distancing protocols. A three-day strike which affected several bus routes took place on 4 December 2020 leaving commuters stranded in various locations island wide. While this activity may not immediately affect the Dengue DREF Operation it may become a greater risk if this results in high levels of social unrest.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

4. Proposed Strategy

Continuous assessment is being conducted and aided by Surveillance Reports provided by the Ministry of Health, which updates the National Society on the numbers of affected persons and their locations. This is crucial to help the National Society conduct a targeted response throughout the project. Further assessments have been carried out to confirm the current needs of the communities and informs the decision relating to where additional distributions are conducted.

Throughout the process of beneficiary selection, the National Society continues to show special consideration to the most vulnerable: pregnant and lactating mothers; the elderly; single parents with little or no income; persons living with chronic illnesses; and the disabled. This information is confirmed by CDRT group members who live in the communities and can confirm the status of the beneficiary.

The National Society continues to encourage equal participation of both men and women in keeping with the Sphere standards. In addition, the project adheres to the recommendations for vector control which include the community clean-up campaigns and drum proofing activities. Actions taken throughout the programmed activities are guided by entomological assessments and expertise from the respective Government Ministries.

The National Society notes that traditional channels of community participation such as community meetings are no longer feasible due to concerns regarding the spread of the Coronavirus. As a result, the National Society encourages community participation through the transmission of updates and inquiries via our local CDRT groups and through social media platforms such as WhatsApp, email and community notice boards and radio and television.

Feedback on beneficiary satisfaction is being provided through consultation with community leaders and through Red Cross CDRT teams. We are currently finalizing an online survey which will serve as part of our feedback mechanism.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: 2,412 (804 families)³

Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| # of families reached | 1,000 | 804 |

Health Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of assessments carried out jointly with the government | 2 | 2 |

Health Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| # of families reached | 1,000 | 804 |

Health Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of awareness-raising sessions at the community level | 5 | 7 |

Health Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|---------|
| # of long-lasting insecticidal net distributed (3 per family) | 3,000 | 1,254 |
| # of community cleaning kits distributed | 5 | 2 |
| # of families receiving repellent (3 repellents per family) | 1,000 | 908 |
| # of community-based clean-up campaigns carry out | 5 | 5 |
| # of water storage containers made safer ⁴ | 100 | Planned |

Health Output 4.6: Improved knowledge about public health issues among the identified target population and areas

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--|
| # of awareness-raising sessions at the community level | 5 | 7 |
| # of awareness-raising sessions in schools (families) | 1,000 | Schools are closed due to community transmission of COVID-19 |

Progress Towards Outcomes

Despite the challenges of procuring the much-needed items for distribution, the National Society has made strides and is well on its way to reaching 1,000 families with its distribution of kits containing mosquito repellents and insecticidal nets. Note that the average size per household according to the 2010 population census is 2.8 persons. This however varies for each district ranging from 3.0 persons in Choiseul to 2.6 persons reported in the district of Gros Islet.⁵ Therefore, 3 members per family are being considered for this operation.

Community clean-ups continue to be the main activity geared towards the elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

³ The average number of members per family of the communities to be reached is 3.

⁴ The indicator was added per the change in planning mentioned above.

⁵ This information is taken from page 8 of publication by the Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia [2010 Population and Housing Census - Preliminary Report](#)

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the National Society has completed five community clean-ups to date and distributed cleaning kits to two of the five communities. Community awareness sessions are usually done before a during community clean-ups. The National Society has also reached a larger audience with advertisements on radio, television, and social media. One key element of the risk communication has been the branding of 6 public vehicles with the “Stop the bite” messaging.

The National Society also plans on making 100 water storage drums less susceptible to becoming breeding sites for the vector with the installation of special drum covers. This activity will be carried out throughout this project.

Strategies for Implementation

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, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # PPE kits distributed to volunteers | 100 | 55 |

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|------------|
| # of community feedback mechanisms in place | 1 | In process |
| # of lessons learnt workshops/exercise conducted | 1 | Pending |

Progress Towards Outcomes

To date a total of 55 PPE kits have been distributed to volunteers. The National Society has not been able to conduct any interventions in schools as they remain closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

D. Financial Report

See Annex attached.

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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.

Annex – Additional photos

Community Clean-up in Marc





Dengue preventative measures signboard installed at Red Cross headquarters



Distribution of Kits containing the Mosquito Repellents and Nets at the National Society Headquarters





Distribution of Kits containing the Mosquito Repellents and Nets in the Communities



Kit distribution in Vieux Fort



Kit distribution at Aux Lyons



Kit distribution at Aux Lyons



Kit distribution Aux Lyons

Clean – up in Gros Islet



Some of the waste collected at Gros Islet cleanup



Community members assist with cleanup at Gros Islet



Project Manager, Annie Ellis shares Dengue prevention messaging with vendor at Gros Islet Market



Volunteers issue IEC materials and mounts a dengue poster in Gros Islet community

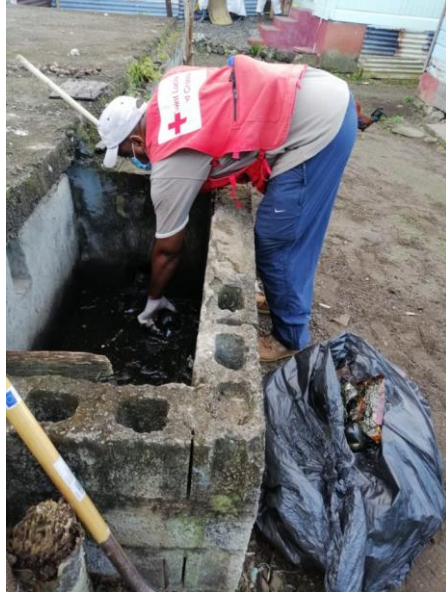


Gros Islet shop owner receives dengue poster

Anse La Raye Cleanup



Anse La Raye cleanup



DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRLC004 - Saint Lucia - Dengue 2020

Operating Timeframe: 02 Nov 2020 to 28 Feb 2021

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2020/11-2021/01 | Operation | MDRLC004 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2020/11-2021/02 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 15/Feb/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Opening Balance | 0 |
| Funds & Other Income | 131,125 |
| DREF Allocations | 131,125 |
| Expenditure | -75,473 |
| Closing Balance | 55,652 |

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction | | | 0 |
| AOF2 - Shelter | | | 0 |
| AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs | | | 0 |
| AOF4 - Health | 100,482 | 10,881 | 89,601 |
| AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene | 14,934 | 1,761 | 13,174 |
| AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion | | | 0 |
| AOF7 - Migration | | | 0 |
| Area of focus Total | 115,416 | 12,641 | 102,775 |
| SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies | | | 0 |
| SFI2 - Effective international disaster management | 15,709 | 62,831 | -47,122 |
| SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners | | | 0 |
| SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC | | | 0 |
| Strategy for implementation Total | 15,709 | 62,831 | -47,122 |
| Grand Total | 131,125 | 75,473 | 55,652 |

DREF Operation

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2020/11-2021/01 | Operation | MDRLC004 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2020/11-2021/02 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 15/Feb/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRLC004 - Saint Lucia - Dengue 2020

Operating Timeframe: 02 Nov 2020 to 28 Feb 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Relief items, Construction, Supplies | 76,950 | 4,894 | 72,056 |
| Clothing & Textiles | 18,000 | 2,896 | 15,104 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 15,750 | 1,887 | 13,863 |
| Medical & First Aid | 2,000 | | 2,000 |
| Teaching Materials | 5,200 | 111 | 5,089 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 36,000 | | 36,000 |
| Logistics, Transport & Storage | 16,399 | 4,753 | 11,646 |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 7,699 | 4,013 | 3,686 |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | 1,500 | 21 | 1,479 |
| Logistics Services | 7,200 | 719 | 6,481 |
| Personnel | 11,523 | 1,653 | 9,870 |
| National Society Staff | 8,373 | 1,653 | 6,720 |
| Volunteers | 3,150 | | 3,150 |
| Workshops & Training | 2,200 | | 2,200 |
| Workshops & Training | 2,200 | | 2,200 |
| General Expenditure | 16,050 | 1,075 | 14,975 |
| Travel | 7,000 | | 7,000 |
| Information & Public Relations | 3,000 | 957 | 2,043 |
| Office Costs | 1,000 | 12 | 988 |
| Communications | 4,050 | 49 | 4,001 |
| Financial Charges | 1,000 | 57 | 943 |
| Operational Provisions | | 58,839 | -58,839 |
| Operational Provisions | | 58,839 | -58,839 |
| Indirect Costs | 8,003 | 4,258 | 3,745 |
| Programme & Services Support Recover | 8,003 | 4,258 | 3,745 |
| Grand Total | 131,125 | 75,473 | 55,652 |