

## DREF operation n° MDRGT005 20 August 2013

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.

**129,671 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Guatemalan Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 9,500 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged**

In 2013, Guatemala, as many other Central American countries, has experienced a significant increase in dengue cases in recent months. So far, two people have died from dengue and 4,376 cases of the disease have been confirmed, which represents an increase of 141% compared to the number of cases reported in 2012. The departments with the greatest dengue incidence rates are Retalhuleu, San Rosa, Guatemala Sur, Zacapa, Izabal, Jutipa, Quetzaltenango and Escuintla, which represent 77% of cases nationwide. DREF funds will support preventive actions for 9,500 people exposed to dengue fever in the departments of Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango and Suchetepequez.



**A Guatemalan Red Cross volunteer is supporting control measures in the community of Carrizales, department of Quetzaltenango. Source: Manolo Fernandez/Guatemalan Red Cross**

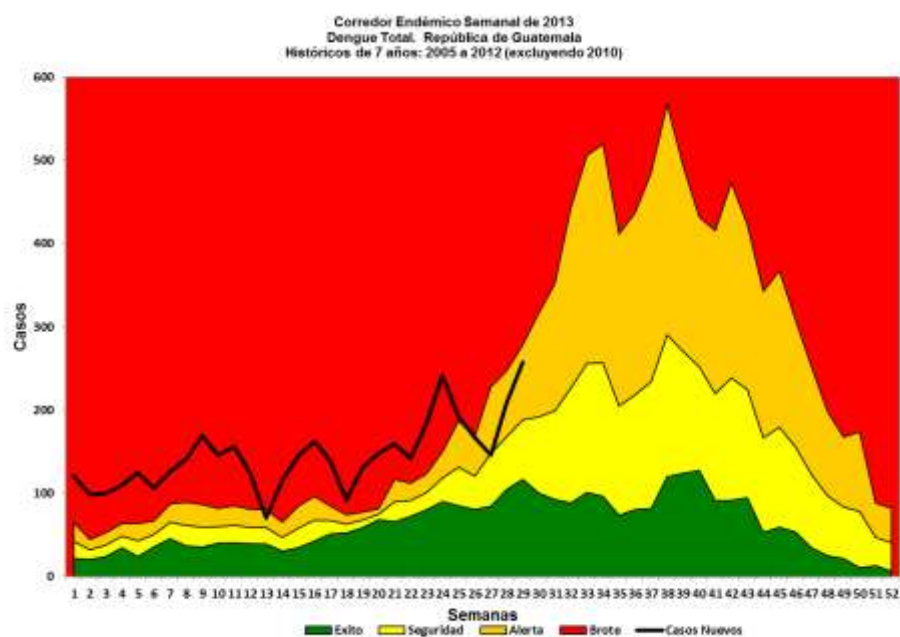
This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 20 November 2013; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 20 February, 2014).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)  
[or here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Currently, dengue cases have increased significantly in Central America, exceeding historic ranges of the past five years in countries such as Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In Guatemala, year after year dengue has been one of the diseases that puts at risk the health and lives of the population, specifically the most vulnerable. Living conditions such as lack of access to health services, poverty and malnutrition increase the people's vulnerability. Over the last month, the number of cases detected show an upward trend and exceeded safety ranges of the endemic corridor, achieving alert levels and approaching outbreak status.

According to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare's report from 1 August, 4,367 clinical cases of dengue fever had been reported by epidemiological week 30. This figure represents an increase of 141% in the number of cases compared to 2012 (3,103 cases); two dengue-related deaths have been confirmed, as well as six cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever<sup>1</sup>. Eight departments have been most affected: Retalhuleu, San Rosa, Guatemala Sur, Zacapa, Izabal, Jutipa, Quetzaltenango and Escuintla, which represent 77% of cases at the national level.



Epidemic report for dengue, with the evolution of the new cases (black). Source: the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and Welfare

Guatemala has four dengue serotypes in circulation: type 1 affecting 71% of the cases, type 2 affecting 17% of the cases, type 3 affecting 8% of the cases and type 4 affecting 5%. With several types of serotypes circulating, the possibility of someone with dengue developing a more severe form of the disease increases. Also, border communities are at greater risk of experiencing an emergence of a dengue fever epidemic due to their proximity to Honduras, which has declared a state of emergency, and to El Salvador, which has declared an orange alert due to the disease.

Health services have increased their waste and scrap removal efforts, as well as their fumigation and larvicide campaigns in endemic areas of the country. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare uses the Health Information Management System (SIGSA), the database of the Health Laboratory, and the Dengue Epidemiological Surveillance Records to monitor and track the evolution of dengue fever, which is carried out at the health post and health center levels.

<sup>1</sup> The government of Guatemala classifies the disease in two types: classic dengue and haemorrhagic dengue. The current report is following this classification.

**Dengue Cases in Guatemala 2012 – 2013**  
**Cases and rates accumulated per 100,000 inhabitants**  
**Epidemiological week 30\***

Department	2012		2013	
	Cases	Rates	Cases	Rates
Zacapa	369	163.91	559	244.32
Retalhuleu	96	30.85	294	92.37
Izabal	355	83.76	391	90.02
Jutiapa	227	51.08	394	86.91
Escuintla	609	85.03	553	75.62
Chiquimula	176	46.39	252	64.92
Santa Rosa	71	20.1	218	60.51
Quetzaltenango	307	38.02	373	45.15
Guatemala Sur	106	11.11	346	35.34
Baja Verapaz	75	27.04	95	33.39
El Progreso	104	64.7	49	29.96
Petén Norte	23	11.2	49	22.98
Suchitepéquez	151	28.54	119	21.95
Ixcán	12	12.18	20	19.53
Guatemala Nor Oriente	37	7.83	80	16.5
Petén Sur Oriental	25	11.14	32	13.81
Sacatepéquez	18	5.57	39	11.92
Guatemala Central	54	5.44	112	11.27
Petén Sur Occidental	22	9.44	23	9.49
Alta Verapaz	120	10.46	108	9.13
Guatemala Nor Occidente	12	1.52	68	8.5
Jalapa	1	0.31	27	8.02
Huehuetenango	9	0.77	74	6.14
San Marcos	87	8.33	63	5.89
Chimaltenango	14	2.22	19	2.94
Sololá	12	2.66	5	1.08
Ixil	1	0.6	1	0.58
El Quiche	10	1.39	4	0.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>20.59</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>28.29</b>

Source: Ministry of Public Health and Welfare

\* To Week 30, from 21 to 27 July 2013.

According to analyses and epidemiological projections from the health sector, dengue cases are likely to increase in the coming weeks, even more so because of the rainy season, higher temperatures, poor hygiene measures, inadequate water management, and increased number of cases in neighboring countries, all which favor disease transmission.

The national meteorological forecast for August-October indicates that there can be above-average rains on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and in the northern part of the country on the Pacific coast. In contrast, the Caribbean side will have average quantities of rain. In addition, forecasts expect that at least two tropical storms will influence the weather during this time.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Guatemalan Red Cross is an active member of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination (Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Riesgo a Desastres, CONRED), which centralizes multi-sectorial efforts in various parts of the country; it also coordinates the structures from the local to the national level. At the national level, CONRED works alongside the Ministry of Health on dengue prevention and control actions. At the local level, actions are being coordinated together with local authorities.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, with the support of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), has installed a technical dengue cluster. PAHO is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in order to facilitate training processes for medical personnel and production of technical materials.

Furthermore, to strengthen entomological surveillance and build capacity in the health sector, the Guatemalan government is receiving support from the Cuban Cooperation through five professional medical entomologists to study the vector behavior at national and local levels. They are engaged in designing and conducting quality control of local samplings, techniques and the identification of biological materials of different species by location. Their research has covered the areas of Escuintla, Izabal, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Jutiapa and Santa Rosa.

The Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the IFRC country coordinator are in close communication and coordination with the Guatemalan Red Cross. A disaster management delegate has been mobilized to support evaluation and coordination actions in the field to support the National Society. In addition, a member of the Regional Intervention Team with expertise in Health and Epidemics Control will be deployed to support the National Society for implementing and coordinating the operation, while one with expertise in communications will support the gathering of news stories and videos at national and regional levels.

The Norwegian Red Cross is providing support to the National Society's dengue plan of action, assisting 6,360 people (1,272 families) in the department of Izabal to promote community organization, cleaning campaigns, as well as providing access to information about the disease and support to the health sector's epidemiological surveillance actions.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Actions taken by the national headquarters

The Guatemalan Red Cross has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the national headquarters and 20 branches at the national level. The National Society has prepared an initial plan of action for dengue control measures that aims to provide assistance to 15,855 persons (3,171 families), prioritizing its intervention in municipalities with high incidence rates of dengue fever in the departments of Quetzaltenango, Izabal, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez. This plan of action is being implemented with the support of the DREF and Partner National Societies in the country. The established lines of intervention include community organization, prevention, cleaning campaigns, facilitating access to information about the disease and supporting the health sector's epidemiological surveillance actions.

From the national headquarters, field assessment missions have been deployed in the departments of Izabal, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango and Suchitepéquez. These teams were made up of experts from the National Society and the International Federation of the Red Cross.

### Actions taken by branches

The Guatemalan Red Cross branches have initiated preventive actions, promoting local coordination with the Municipal and Community Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination Platforms (COMRED, COLRED):

- **The delegation in San Tomas:** held a health fair, where they provided dengue prevention information to 4,200 people.
- **The delegation in El Estor:** held meetings to coordinate and prepare activities through the participation of COLRED and COMRED.

- **The delegation in Coatepeque:** held coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health at the local level to implement prevention activities.

## The Needs

According to assessments carried out in the field and interviews with health authorities and key actors, the Red Cross support is required mainly in the component for preparing community organization, education, and disease prevention.

Since no national alert or emergency has been declared, the local risk management coordination has not been activated; however, at the local level only the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare is conducting control actions through fumigation and larvicide campaigns according to the resources available in areas where cases have been detected.

It is also necessary to carry out mass educational campaigns and house visits activities using information material to promote prevention actions to eliminate breeding sites and promote timely care and referral to health services when household members show signs and symptoms of dengue fever.

### Selection of people to be reached:

The total number of beneficiaries covered by this operation is 1,900 families (9,500 people). Three departments are being prioritized for having municipalities with rising numbers of dengue cases and higher incidence rates. In addition, a selection has been done in coordination with the Ministry of Health, to take into account the areas which are difficult to access due to their remoteness. The following municipalities were selected:

Departments	Municipalities
Retalhuleu	San Andrés
	Retalhuleu
Quetzaltenango	Coatepeque
Suchitepéquez	Mazatenango

In the case of the Municipality of Mazatenango, in the department of Suchitepéquez, it was selected because it is the department's capital city and the place where the departments of Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango and Sololá converge. In addition, the National Society is conducting another project in the Izabal area with support of the Norwegian Red Cross.

The following criteria have been established in order to better identify vulnerable populations:

1. High incidence rates of dengue cases;
2. Area of high endemic risk and floods;
3. High poverty levels;
4. Limited access to health services;
5. Favorable conditions for formation of natural reservoirs for the vector;
6. Inadequate waste and residue management.

## The proposed operation

Provide care to 9,500 people (1,900 families) in four municipalities in the departments of Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango and Suchitepequez in order to reduce the impact of dengue in vulnerable, at-risk populations through education and dengue-prevention campaigns in communities.

### Emergency Health

**Outcome:** The risk of dengue fever has been reduced for 9,500 people through information and

awareness-raising campaigns on prevention measures and early detection of complication signs in four municipalities from the departments of Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Quetzaltenango and other areas prone to dengue fever.	
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Promote community organization for dengue prevention activities through Municipal and Local Risk Reduction Committees in four municipalities in the departments of Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold at least three coordination and monitoring meetings in four municipalities and their selected communities.</li> <li>• Preparation of four municipal action plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 2:</b> 1,900 families are reached with information about prevention and early detection of signs of complications from dengue in four municipalities in the departments of Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango and Suchitepéquez.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Conduct three workshops about dengue and its control for 75 community leaders, teachers, students and other institutions to facilitate promotion and dengue prevention.</li> <li>• 1,900 home visits for awareness on dengue prevention and epidemiological surveillance twice a month.</li> <li>• Develop one course on Epidemics Control for 24 Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 3:</b> Fifteen primary and secondary schools are reached with information about prevention and early detection of signs of complications from dengue in communities in the departments of Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with local authorities.</li> <li>• Conduct two lectures in 15 schools on dengue prevention for 1,000 students and teachers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 4:</b> Mass media campaigns reach 9,500 people directly and 335,735 people indirectly with dengue prevention information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing of information materials.</li> <li>• Development and airing of radio spots.</li> <li>• Dissemination of dengue fever prevention messages over the radio, the press and via loudspeakers on vehicles in public places.</li> <li>• Distribution of information materials to Red Cross branches whose municipalities have the greatest incidence of cases.</li> <li>• Deployment of a communication RIT to support the communications plan development at National and Regional level.</li> <li>• Development of media materials on National Society actions and its impact on beneficiaries at national and regional level</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 5:</b> 1,900 families are reached with active surveillance of cases in four municipalities in the departments of Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez in support of health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with governmental authorities to develop a community-based surveillance strategy.</li> <li>• Monitoring visits for early detection of cases at community level.</li> <li>• Development of weekly epidemiologic surveillance reports.</li> <li>• Conduct four epidemiological surveillance municipal workshops for community leaders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Output 6:</b> The effectiveness of the dengue operations in Central America is evaluated and recommendations gathered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with National Societies in Central America that are responding to dengue outbreaks.</li> <li>• Coordination with Partner National Societies with projects in the affected areas.</li> <li>• Hiring of an external consultant to evaluate the dengue operation at the regional level.</li> <li>• Field visits are completed in at least three</li> </ul>

	<p>countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of results and recommendations with key stakeholders.</li> </ul>
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A National Operations Coordinator will be hired to support the operation.

For the community-based prevention process, three departmental workshops will be held for key stakeholders in the communities. These trainings will help train volunteers, teachers, and students to promote prevention in schools. Moreover, two community visits will be carried out per month and prevention campaigns will be completed in 15 schools.

The development of epidemiological surveillance community workshops will be conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and aims at supporting the community's capacity to monitor the development of the disease and undertake timely actions.

For wider dissemination of key dengue prevention messages, informational materials will be distributed and broadcast through mass media; loudspeakers will be acquired to facilitate broadcasting radio spots. In addition, the National Society will create communications materials to inform about their prevention actions and the impact they are having in the community, in an effort to highlight the importance of maintaining these lines of action to reduce the risk in the health and lives of the population. A RIT with expertise in communication will be deployed to support this national strategy, while also travelling to neighbouring countries to gather new stories on the regional efforts to control the dengue outbreak. Furthermore, a video production team will create a video spot in three dengue-affected countries, including interviews with the beneficiaries.

In order to ensure the volunteers' safety, an operational security plan will be developed, which will be disseminated and implemented in each intervention.

At least 45 volunteers are expected to participate in this operation, with proper equipment and visibility for the intervention. Volunteers will be provided with insurance and basic personal protection equipment:

- Long-sleeved shirt
- Caps
- Repellent

As the dengue situation is deteriorating across Central America and several Red Cross National Societies are responding with similar actions, the Americas Zone Office in coordination with the Health unit in Geneva, will carry out a regional final evaluation.

## Contact information

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

- **Guatemalan Red Cross:** Daniel Javiel, general director, phone: +502 2381-6565; email: [direcciongeneral@cruzroja.org.gt](mailto:direcciongeneral@cruzroja.org.gt)
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Marissa Soberanis, country coordinator for Guatemala and El Salvador; phone: +50255087026; email: [marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org](mailto:marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org)
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**For Performance and Accountability  
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- **In IFRC Zone:** Lucia Lasso, operational information, monitoring and reporting senior officer; email: [lucia.lasso@ifrc.org](mailto:lucia.lasso@ifrc.org)

## 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 (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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**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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# DREF OPERATION

26-Aug-13

Dengue Guatemala

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	57,037
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>57,037</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,147
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>4,147</b>
International Staff	6,912
National Staff	
National Society Staff	6,912
Volunteers	1,397
Other Staff Benefits	1,659
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>16,880</b>
Consultants	23,722
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>23,722</b>
Workshops & Training	4,608
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>4,608</b>
Travel	8,681
Information & Public Relations	2,968
Office Costs	968
Communications	2,239
Financial Charges	507
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>15,363</b>
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	7,914
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>7,914</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>129,671</b>