

## DREF operation n° MDRNI005 24 July 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.

**CHF 148,536 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

During 2013 Nicaragua has experienced a significant increase in confirmed cases of dengue fever, exceeding historical ranges of the last 5 years in some departments. So far, five people have died from dengue, and 1,817 cases have been confirmed by national authorities. The most affected departments in terms of greater population incidence rates are Chontales, Madriz, Chinandega, Rivas, Carazo and León, with approximately 350% more confirmed cases than those registered in the previous year.



July 2013; Nicaraguan Red Cross donates mosquito netting to the Ministry of health. Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross.

This DREF operation will provide care for 25,000 people exposed to dengue in the Departments of Chontales, Madriz, Chinandega and León.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 24 October, 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 January, 2014).

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

## Situation

In Nicaragua, dengue fever is an endemic disease and outbreaks are seen during the rainy season. However the endemic curve has increased significantly in recent weeks, exceeding historical ranges of the last 5 years. By epidemiological Week<sup>1</sup> 28 (June 16-22), 1,817 cases of dengue had been reported. This figure represents a 188% general increase of cases when compared with 2012 (965 cases). And the situation worsens when focused in 6 departments which have shown an increase in cases by more than

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the Epidemiological Calendar from the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua in the Annex Section.

350%. At the moment, the four departments with the highest dengue incidence rate are Chontales, Madriz, Chinandega and León, especially in communities with high poverty rates. During the last week, 262 more cases were reported and so far, five people have died of dengue fever.

In general, during the 2013 rainy season Nicaragua has experienced a rise in infectious diseases and diseases transmitted by vectors, including dengue. In addition, the country is currently experiencing Leptospirosis and Influenza outbreaks. On Tuesday, July 2, 2013, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) issued [Ministerial Resolution No. 379 - 2013](#), officially published July 8, 2013, which establishes a Health Alert in the entire country to prevent and control communicable diseases typical of the rainy season - from July to November 2013.

Case detection is being carried out by all health centers and hospitals in the country. Due to the increase in suspected dengue cases, health centers have readjusted their physical spaces in order to fit more beds to stabilize serious patients. The circulating serotypes in the country have frequently been Serotypes 1 and 3; however, the emergence of Serotype 2 has been detected along the Honduran border. Due to this situation, there is a greater possibility that a person with dengue will develop a more serious form of the disease. The clinical pictures of patients with dengue are showing much variability and symptomatic differences. Health staffs have adjusted their treatment strategies and patient care protocols.

### Dengue Cases in Nicaragua 2012 – 2013 Epidemiological Week 28 (7-13 July 2013)

Department	2012		2013		% Relative Variation
	Cases	Rates	Cases	Rates	
Chontales	58	1.88	265	8.61	357%
Madriz	13	0.98	93	7.02	615%
Chinandega	33	0.87	232	6.12	603%
Leon	30	0.84	196	5.51	553%
R. A. Atlántico Sur	54	4.47	63	5.21	17%
Masaya	63	2.17	138	4.76	119%
Managua	276	2.19	422	3.34	53%
Granada	20	1.19	54	3.21	170%
Boaco	42	2.79	48	3.19	14%
Estelí	36	1.79	64	3.18	78%
Rio San Juan	50	5.23	28	2.93	-44%
Las Minas	13	0.78	40	2.39	208%
Rivas	6	0.38	37	2.37	517%
Nueva Segovia	53	2.54	45	2.16	-15%
Carazo	6	0.36	29	1.75	383%
Matagalpa	130	2.51	41	0.79	-68%
Jinotega	80	2.41	18	0.54	-78%
Bilwi	2	0.15	4	0.31	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>88%</b>

The DREF operation will reach the areas highlighted in yellow.  
Source: Nicaraguan Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is currently promoting national health campaigns focusing on hygiene promotion, called "Live clean, Live healthy, Live safe, Live Nice, Live well". It is a house to house awareness campaign regarding measures of prevention, hygiene, fumigation and larviciding in coordination with municipalities (local governments), the police and the Nicaraguan army, in each of the country's Departments. At the same time, a campaign for larviciding, fumigation and elimination of mosquito breeding sites is being conducted.

According to health epidemiological analyses and projections, there is a risk that the number of dengue cases will rise over the coming weeks due to increased rainfall, higher temperatures, poor hygiene measures, poor water management, and an increase in cases in neighboring countries, all which favor the transmission of diseases.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Nicaraguan Red Cross is an active member of the National Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Relief System (*Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres - SINAPRED*); it is a member of the Committees on health, special operations, supplies, communications and infrastructure. At the national level, it coordinates - with Ministry of Health authorities - actions and support related to dengue prevention and control. At the local level, actions are being coordinated with Local Comprehensive Health Care Systems (SILAIS) and municipal authorities.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) disaster and crisis response and early recovery unit and the country coordination office are in close communication with the Nicaraguan Red Cross. A disaster management delegate has been mobilized to support evaluation and coordination actions on the ground in support of the NRC. In addition, a member of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) with expertise in Health and Epidemics Control will be deployed to support the National Society in actions for implementing and coordinating the operation

The Netherlands Red Cross is also providing support to the National Society for training volunteers of the Somoto branch in dengue prevention. A campaign for 523 families is planned in this area. In parallel, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and support in the development of an information, education and communications health campaign.

## Red Cross Actions

### Actions by National Headquarters

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has an Emergency Operations Center (COE) in its Headquarters and certain branches. For its operation, it has a defined structure approved by the National Council. There is also a National Response Plan, Contingency Plans, Standard Operating Procedures and staff that has been trained in different areas, based on the role they play as COE members. In terms of equipment, the National Society has the minimum equipment and logistical capacity to provide the first response during any adverse situation.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has prepared an initial Action Plan to respond to the dengue emergency, prioritizing its intervention in 9 departments and 21 municipalities with high incidence of dengue fever in the country. The established lines of intervention include health during emergencies, sanitation and hygiene and building National Society capacity. On Thursday, 18 July, National Headquarters convened all its branches to report on the situation and to present the intervention strategy.

On July 16, due to the current epidemiological alert in the country because of the dengue epidemic, the Nicaraguan Red Cross donated 900 mosquito nets to the Ministry of Health (MINSa) for use in health centres treating dengue patients. This donation also complements the donation of 100 nets to the Local Comprehensive Health Care System (SILAIS) in the Department of Chinandega, which was made on Sunday, 13 July 2013.

A team on the ground has assessed the situation in the Department of Chinandega. These teams were comprised of experts from the National Society and the IFRC, with support from a PAHO-Nicaragua delegate.

### Actions carried out by the National Society for the Health Alert:

- Inter-agency coordination with MINSa, PAHO and SINAPRED
- Support to MINSa during larviciding days, health and hygiene promotion talks.
- Activation of the NRC National Response Plan to respond to health emergencies.
- Activation of the COE coordinated by the Commission on Health.
- Enlistment of brigades for the following areas: National Intervention Teams (NIT) in Health, Participatory Transformation for Health, Hygiene and Sanitation (PHAST), Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA).
- Inventory of institutional human and material resources.
- Constant monitoring of the situation and information at all levels: National Headquarters, branches, Participating National Societies, IFRC, media and general population.
- Development and presentation of a 3-month plan of action.

## Actions by Committees

NRC branches have started dengue prevention activities with its branches nationwide. It is also promoting articulation with Departmental and Municipal Committees for Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Relief (CODEPRED, COMUPRED) and Local Comprehensive Health Care Systems (SILAIS)).

- **Estelí Departmental Branch:** is providing support through volunteers for the brigade composed of police, Nicaraguan army, Ministry of Health and Fire Department staff. The brigade is accompanied by a health educator in order to conduct a health diagnosis.
- **León Departmental Branch:** is supporting the larviciding campaigns promoted by the Local Health System (SILAIS) and holding educational talks on health and hygiene and cleanup days.
- **Somoto Departmental Branch:** is training volunteers in the use of materials for promoting hygiene and cleanup efforts at the branch; it is promoting the dissemination of messages through local radio in Somoto to raise awareness among the population, and holding talks promoting hygiene to prevent dengue in 523 homes in the municipality of Yalagüina,
- **Tipitapa, Chinandega, Chontales, Bluefields, Masaya and Granada Departmental Branches** are coordinating and carrying out joint actions with the Ministry of Health and CODEPRED, COMUPRED to prevent dengue fever.

## The Needs

According to assessments carried out in the field and interviews with health authorities and key actors, Red Cross support is mainly needed for education, dissemination and community prevention components.

The Ministry of Health has asked the Nicaraguan Red Cross for support in terms of mosquito nets, fumigation (fogging) equipment and support at the community level and schools. In addition, are some health centres without beds that have been prompted to make space available to provide care to affected people. These centres are in need of mosquito nets and copies of educational materials (Care Protocol) to train health workers in adult and pediatric patient management.

Locally fumigation has started; however, due to the large geographical areas and limited fogging equipment, these actions are becoming difficult in terms of coverage and frequency. It is also necessary to carry out house-by-house educational activities using educational materials encourage prevention activities at home and community level, such as cleaning of waste and larvaciding.

## Criteria for Selection of Beneficiaries

The total number of beneficiaries covered by this operation is 5,000 families (25,000 people); the departments prioritized are those with the highest case incidence rates. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, the following have been selected:

Department	Municipality
Chinandega	Villanueva
	Somotillo
	Posotelga
Madriz	Yalagüina
	Totogalpa
	Palacagüina
León	Telica
	Larreynaga
	Quezalguaque
Chontales	Acoyapa
	Santo Tomás

The criteria used to better identify vulnerable populations is:

1. High rate of incidence of dengue cases.
2. Cross-border areas with higher incidence of dengue
3. High poverty levels.
4. High population density.
5. Poor waste management

## The proposed operation

Provide assistance to 5,000 families (25,000 people) in 11 municipalities in the departments of Chinandega, Madriz, León and Chontales, in order to reduce the risk of dengue among the vulnerable population through education and vector control measures in communities.

<b>Health during Emergencies</b>	
<b>Outcome:</b> The risk of dengue fever has been reduced through information and awareness-raising campaigns on prevention and early detection of signs of complication of dengue in 25,000 people in 11 municipalities in the departments of Madriz, Chinandega, Leon, Chontales and other dengue-prone areas.	
<b>Outputs 1:</b> 5,000 Families are reached with information about prevention and early detection of signs of complication from dengue in 11 communities in the departments of Chinandega, Madriz, León and Chontales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of Beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Conduct four local workshops about dengue and its control for 120 volunteers, community leaders, and other institutions.</li> <li>• Carry out 5,000 home visits for awareness on dengue prevention and epidemiological surveillance once a month.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs 2:</b> 22 schools and high schools are reached with information about prevention and early detection of signs of complication from dengue in 11 communities in the departments of Chinandega, Madriz, León and Chontales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct four local workshops in dengue conceptualization and control for 120 teachers and students to facilitate promotion</li> <li>• Hold 22 talks in schools and high schools on dengue prevention.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs 3:</b> Mass communications campaigns reach 25,000 people directly and 294,244 indirectly with dengue prevention information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing of information materials.</li> <li>• Development of radio spots.</li> <li>• Dissemination campaigns on prevention of dengue fever over the radio, in the press and via loudspeakers on vehicles in public places.</li> <li>• Distribution of information materials to Red Cross branches with higher incidence of cases in their municipality</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs 4:</b> 2,000 mosquito nets are distributed to the public health system's hospitalization units to control the spread of the disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of targeted health centers in coordination with health authorities.</li> <li>• Distribution of 2,000 mosquito nets</li> <li>• Monitor the correct use of mosquito nets</li> </ul>

The Open Data Kit (ODK) tool will be used to facilitate the selection of beneficiaries as well as to track and monitor the community intervention. Evaluation forms will be installed in mobile devices to conduct surveys and identify the impact of the intervention and information sent by the Red Cross.

To support operation, a National Operations Coordinator will be hired to monitor and manage the implementation.

For the induction process, four departmental workshops for communities and four workshops for teachers and students will be conducted. The participants will be trained as promoters to facilitate the replication process in communities, high schools and schools. With the capacity installed, three campaigns will be conducted. For wider dissemination of key dengue prevention messages, information material will be distributed and disseminated through mass media.

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

Distribution of the 2,000 mosquito nets to health centers and hospitals will be coordinated with the Ministry of Health.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of dengue fever has been reduced through hygiene promotion and vector control actions in 11 municipalities in the departments of Chinandega, Madriz, León and Chontales during three months

**Outputs1:** 5,000 families are supported with the elimination of breeding sites through waste cleaning and fumigation.

- Support for organizing monthly campaigns for community cleanup and elimination of breeding sites.
- Acquisition and use by the Red Cross of 16 foggers to support fumigation actions.
- Acquisition of fumigation chemicals (Cypermethrin).
- Support fumigation and larvicide campaigns for 11 municipalities.

Through its volunteers the Nicaraguan Red Cross will support promotion and community cleanup actions promoted by municipal authorities and coordinated jointly with the Ministry of Health and the community.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, in its humanitarian auxiliary role, will support actions promoted by the authorities, who provide resources to conduct campaigns on the proper use of Abate and fumigation. For these actions, 16 fumigation equipment will be used by Red Cross branches to support the actions.

At least 100 volunteers, suitably equipped for the intervention, are expected to participate in this operation, and they will be insured through the DREF.

### Personal Protection Equipment for Volunteers

For community actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-sleeved t-shirt</li> <li>• Caps</li> <li>• Raincoats</li> <li>• Boots</li> <li>• Repellent</li> </ul>

In addition, six sets of personal protection equipment will be acquired for proper use of fumigation equipment - overalls, goggles, gloves, masks and hard hats.

At the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop will be conducted by the Nicaraguan Red Cross in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from the intervention.

## Contact information

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

- **Nicaraguan Red Cross:** Clemente Balmaceda Vivas, National President, telephone: +505 22651428, Email [presidencia@humanidad.org.ni](mailto:presidencia@humanidad.org.ni)

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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 (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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

28-Aug-13

MDRNI005 Nicaragua Dengue

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	7,146
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	50,019
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	32,155
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>89,320</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	1,833
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,077
Logistics Services	592
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>7,503</b>
International Staff	9,026
National Staff	
National Society Staff	4,936
Volunteers	2,539
Other Staff Benefits	5,547
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>22,048</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	4,701
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>4,701</b>
Travel	3,385
Information & Public Relations	3,902
Office Costs	2,539
Communications	5,416
Financial Charges	658
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>15,899</b>
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	9,066
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>9,066</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>148,536</b>