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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Honduras: Dengue

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRHN007
GLIDE n° [EP-2013-000075-HND](#)
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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 162,996 has been allocated from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) in delivering immediate assistance for up to 30,000 people. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Dengue cases in Honduras until June 2013 exceed threefold the number of cases recorded during the same period on 2012. Among cities most affected by this outbreak are Tegucigalpa (located in the Department of Francisco Morazán) and San Pedro Sula (located in the Department of Cortés). To date, ten people have died from dengue and national authorities have confirmed 8,380 cases of dengue fever and 1,442 cases of hemorrhagic dengue fever. The Government of Honduras has issued a nationwide declaration of alert in 112 municipalities in response to this situation.



June 2013, the Honduran Red Cross carries out dengue prevention activities in the municipality of Villanueva – Cortes.
Source: Honduran Red Cross

The DREF funds for this operation will serve to reach 6,000 families (30,000 people) at risk in Tegucigalpa and five municipalities in the Department of Cortes.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 09 October 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 09 January 2014).

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

The situation

In Honduras, dengue fever is an endemic disease, and outbreaks are frequent during the rainy season. In 2013, however, the endemic curve has increased significantly, especially in recent weeks, and the cases exceed the records of the last 5 years, excluding 2010. By epidemiological week 25 (June 16-22), 8,380 cases of dengue had been reported. This is more than three times the number reported during the same period in 2012 (2,483 cases); likewise, based on reported cases, hemorrhagic dengue cases have increased in the same proportion - 426 in 2012 and 1,442 in 2013. Ten people have died this year due to the outbreak.

TABLE OF WEEKLY AND CUMULATIVE DENGUE CASES
Epidemiological Week 25
(June 16-22, 2013)

Department	2012		2013	
	Cases	Cumulative	Cases	Cumulative
Atlántida	5	126	41	597
Colon	7	94	7	246
Comayagua	5	65	42	292
Copan	1	32	48	206
Cortes	6	105	45	475
Municipality of San Pedro Sula*	79	875	105	2297
Choluteca	6	65	67	538
El Paraiso	1	30	6	67
Francisco Morazán		20	7	22
Metropolitan Municipality of the Central District**	28	646	192	1888
Gracias a Dios				
Intibucá		3	6	71
Islas de la Bahia		4		1
La Paz		5	53	258
Lempira	1	5	1	10
Ocotepeque	13	44	14	131
Olancho	31	184	93	708
Santa Barbara	10	39	11	164
Valle	1	10	2	47
Yoro	7	131	30	362
TOTAL	201	2483	770	8380

Source: Ministry of Health - Honduras, June 29, 2013

*Municipality of the Department of Cortes

** Municipality of the Department of Francisco Morazán

In light of the high incidence of cases, on June 21 the National Risk Management System declared a state of alert due to dengue fever in at least 112 municipalities, which represents 37% of the total number of municipalities in Honduras. This includes 28 municipalities which have been put on red alert, 12 on yellow alert and 72 on green alert. The two most affected cities have been Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, with 50% of cases. These cities are poles of development and two of the most important in the country.

Detection of cases is being done at both health centers and hospitals; meanwhile care and treatment for confirmed cases is being provided in regional hospitals. Due to the high incidence of the disease, health services have become saturated and could soon collapse if measures are not taken quickly. Fumigation,

larviciding and promotion campaigns are being conducted according to the resources available in each municipality and region.

According to health sector epidemiological analyses and projections, there is a significant risk that the number of dengue cases will rise due to increased rainfall over the coming months and to environmental conditions in districts, neighborhoods and communities.

Coordination and partnerships

The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) is part of the National Risk Management System in Honduras. At the national level, it works on dengue incidence in coordination with authorities from the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) and the Ministry of Health; at the local level, it does so with Municipal Health Centers and Municipal Emergency Committees.



Declaration of National Alert by COPECO; the Honduran Red Cross has had participation in high level meetings and discussions on the dengue outbreak. **Source: HRC.**

The IFRC disaster and crisis and early recovery unit keeps close communication with the Honduran Red Cross, meanwhile a disaster management delegate has been mobilized to support evaluation and coordination actions on the ground in support of the National Society. In addition, a member of the Regional Intervention Team will be deployed to support the National Society for one month in the implementation and coordination of the operation.

Additionally, the Swiss Red Cross is assisting the National Society with dengue prevention and control actions in Red Cross branches in the Department of Valle.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Honduras has mobilized human and financial resources to support the Ministry of Health in patient detection and care; in addition, expert staff helps health personnel refresh their skills in diagnosis and clinical management of serious classical dengue cases.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Actions by National Headquarters

The Honduran Red Cross keeps its National Monitoring Center active, and for this emergency it has activated its Emergency Operations Center through National Health and Disaster Coordination groups. These groups conduct national monitoring of branches and provide information to the Council and institutional authorities.

By using two teams in the field the Red Cross has assessed the situation in Tegucigalpa and in the Department of Cortés. These teams were comprised of HRC and IFRC experts.

Actions by Branches

Because of the risk and incidence of dengue, branches have joined in local Municipal Emergency Committee efforts. Red Cross interventions are focusing on community actions, including communities with high violence rates.

Villanueva: the Villanueva branch has reached 2,013 people, including teachers, community, and private sector workers. Together with the municipality and Ministry of Health, they have supported cleanup

campaigns and fumigation and larviciding efforts, managing to collect 15 tons of waste, larviciding 10,902 homes and fumigating 3,241.

San Manuel: this branch performs surveillance and case reporting actions; in addition, they have fumigated 4,937 homes (42.5% of the total number of homes) using their own fumigation (fogging) equipment and staff. The municipality has facilitated Red Cross actions by contributing fuel and the Ministry of Health has supplied the chemicals for fumigation.

Jesús de Otoro: Through coordinated actions with the municipality and Ministry of Health, this branch provides preventive education, larvicides, fumigation, and cleanup for 1,727 homes.

Nacaome: Hygiene surveys were conducted, as well as larviciding, educational home visits and promotion of the *untadita* campaign for 89 families.

Pespire: 47 communities were targeted through hygiene surveys, larviciding, *untadita** campaigns and educational home visits

Juticalpa: In coordination with authorities, 49 homes in the “Michell Aguilar” neighborhood were targeted for prevention actions.

The Honduran Red Cross has prepared an Action Plan to respond to the dengue emergency. It has prioritized its intervention for 10,000 families in 21 municipalities (in 12 departments) which are under red alert. The established lines of intervention include awareness raising and educational prevention actions with the communities, campaigns for eradicating vector breeding sites and larviciding, support to health units, and branch strengthening. Affected branches are joining in actions to reduce the impact of dengue.

The needs

According to assessments made in the field and interviews with key actors and authorities from the health sector, Red Cross support is needed mainly in terms of preventive education and support for eradicating the vector in communities.

For vector control at the local level, the Ministry of Health has larvicides, liquid BTI (*Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis*, a biological insecticide) and chemicals for fumigation; however, due to the geographical extent of the endemic areas, operative support needs to be strengthened in terms of transportation, fuel, and protective equipment. To support the prevention, epidemiological surveillance and vector control actions, the National Society will need to equip their volunteers (goggles, masks, gloves, etc.) and purchase thermal foggers and cleaning products for water reservoirs.

Another aspect to consider is the safety and security of personnel performing these actions in communities in areas that are high-risk due to organized violence.

Criteria for selection of beneficiaries

The current DREF supported operation will target part of the National Society’s plan of action, some 6,000 families (30,000 people) in the city of Tegucigalpa and 5 municipalities in the Department of Cortes: Puerto Cortez, San Pedro de Sula, San Manuel, Villanueva, and Choloma.

The following criteria are used to better identify vulnerable populations:

- Homes located in municipalities under alert for dengue.
- No access to running water
- Use of water tanks
- Low socio-economic level
- High population density
- High incidence of organized violence

The proposed operation

* Note: “*untadita*” refers to a mixture of bleach and detergent used to wash the inside of water storage containers to prevent mosquito eggs and larvae growth

Provide help to 6,000 families (30,000 people) in the city of Tegucigalpa and five municipalities in the Department of Cortes, in order to reduce the impact of dengue among high-risk, vulnerable populations through education and vector control in communities.

Emergency health	
Outcome: The risk of dengue fever has been reduced through information and awareness-raising regarding prevention measures for 30,000 people in the city of Tegucigalpa, five municipalities in the Department of Cortes, and other dengue-prone areas during three months.	
Outputs 1: 6,000 families are reached with information about prevention and early detection of dengue fever in the city of Tegucigalpa and 5 municipalities in the Department of Cortés.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of beneficiaries. • Conduct 4 local workshops in dengue conceptualization and control for 120 volunteers, community leaders, teachers and students to facilitate promotion. • Carry out 6,000 home visits for awareness on dengue prevention and epidemiological surveillance. Conduct 6 lectures in elementary and high schools on dengue prevention. • Conduct one National Epidemics Control Course for 24 volunteers. • Monitor and report on the activities
Outputs 2: Emergency medical technicians from the Red Cross ambulance service properly refer suspected dengue cases in the target areas over a three month period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing of manuals for dengue patient care. • Conduct 2 courses on dengue patient management for emergency medical technicians.
Outputs 3: Mass communications campaigns reach more than 30,000 people with dengue prevention information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing of information materials. • Development of radio spots. • Dissemination campaigns on prevention of dengue fever over the radio, in the press and via loudspeakers on vehicles in public places. • Distribution of information materials to branches whose municipalities are on alert.

A member of the RIT health team with experience in dengue-related interventions will be deployed to support the training of volunteers and community leaders in educational promotion of dengue prevention, who will also support implementation and operational coordination actions.

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

Technical staff will be hired to manage the project in Tegucigalpa and Cortés. Due to the distance involved, two field teams will be established, each with its own coordinator and technician.

Volunteers, community leaders, teachers and students will be trained as promoters to facilitate the replication process in communities and schools.

For wider dissemination of key dengue prevention messages, information material will be distributed and radio spots will be broadcasted.

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

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of dengue fever has been reduced through the promotion of proper water storage and cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds for 6,000 families in the city of Tegucigalpa and five municipalities in the Department of Cortes during three months.

Outputs1: 6,000 families receive support for water management and keep their water storage units clean.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for community cleanup, waste removal in the community.• Cleaning and disinfection of containers used to store water for human consumption.• Distribution of disinfection materials
Outputs2: 6,000 families are supported in actions involving cleanup, elimination of breeding sites and fumigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for organizing campaigns for community cleanup and elimination of breeding sites.• Support the fumigation campaigns coordinated by governmental authorities.

Promotion and cleanup actions in communities will be coordinated jointly with the Ministries of Health, municipalities and communities.

The Honduran Red Cross, in its humanitarian auxiliary role, supports actions promoted by the authorities, who provide resources for distribution of larvicides and fumigation. Therefore, nine fumigation equipment and three loud speakers will be procured to support the campaigns of the authorities.

This operation is expected to involve at least 450 volunteers, who will not only be provided with insurance but also with personal protective equipment (PPE):

PPE for fumigation	PPE for community activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask• Lenses• Gloves• Cap• Coveralls• Boots• Repellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long sleeve polo• Cap• Vest• Repellent

At the end of the operation, the National Society will conduct a lessons learned workshop to identify the strengths, weaknesses and overall best practices of the intervention.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Honduran Red Cross:** Oscar Fernandez, National Relief Coordinator, Phone: +504 3399-4703, E-mail oscar.fernandez@cuzroja.org.hn
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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

MDRHN007 Honduras Dengue

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	68,770
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	28,317
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	97,088
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,779
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	5,779
International Staff	4,816
National Staff	
National Society Staff	10,210
Volunteers	4,623
Other Staff Benefits	4,768
Total PERSONNEL	24,416
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	11,943
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	11,943
Travel	3,756
Information & Public Relations	3,756
Office Costs	1,445
Communications	4,093
Financial Charges	771
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	13,821
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	9,948
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,948
TOTAL BUDGET	162,996