



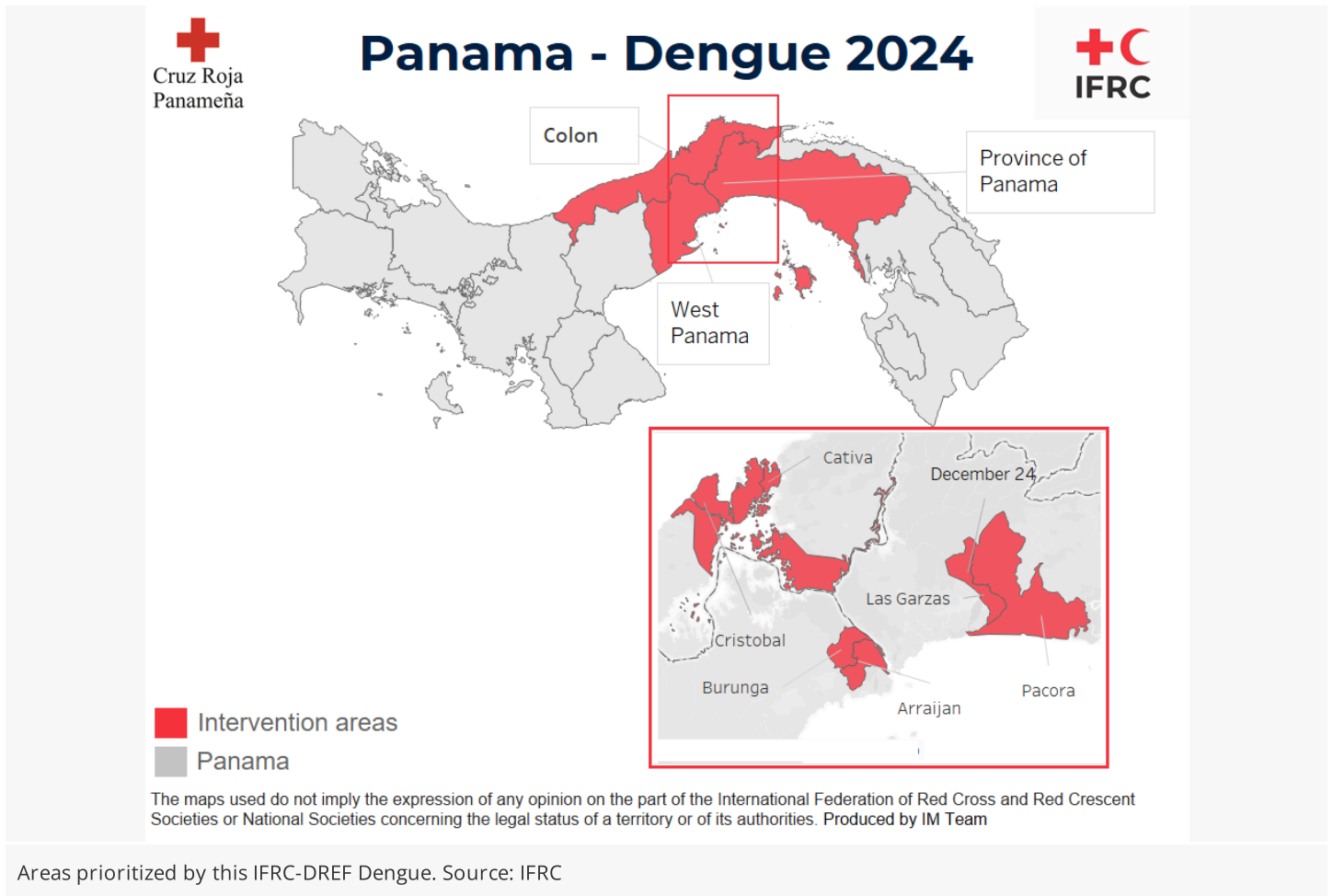
Red Cross Society of Panama staff shares key messages to children on practical actions for the prevention of Dengue. Tierras Altas, Chiriqui. Source: RCSP.

Appeal: <b>MDRPA019</b>	Country: <b>Panama</b>	Hazard: <b>Epidemic</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 420,995</b>	
Glide Number: <b>-</b>	People Affected: <b>9,830 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>30,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>20-08-2024</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>4 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-12-2024</b>	DREF Published: <b>20-08-2024</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Colon, Panama</b>			

# Description of the Event

## Date when the trigger was met

09-08-2024



## What happened, where and when?

Dengue is a major public health concern in the Americas region, where climatic conditions and urban infrastructure favor the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the main vector of this disease. The region faces a high incidence of dengue, with recurrent epidemic cycles that challenge public health systems in many countries. Factors such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events and the El Niño phenomenon contribute to its spread. Rapid population growth and unplanned urbanization are also crucial factors; poor housing and inadequate water and sanitation services facilitate the creation of mosquito breeding sites in discarded objects and other containers used to collect water.

On February 16, 2024, the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), alerted by the behavior of dengue in the first weeks of the year, with an exponential increase in cases in several countries of the Americas region, reiterated the call to Member States to intensify efforts to control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. They also urged to continue with surveillance, early diagnosis and timely treatment of dengue cases. At the same time, they called for the organization of the health care services network to facilitate access and proper management of patients, with the aim of preventing complications and deaths associated with this disease. They also emphasized the need to strengthen communication campaigns to increase community participation in reducing mosquito breeding sites and seeking timely medical attention (1).

Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 28 of the year 2024, a total of 10,893,547 suspected cases of dengue were reported in the Americas region, with a cumulative incidence of 1,154 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. This figure represents an increase of 233% compared to the same period in 2023 and 418% over the average for the last 5 years (2).

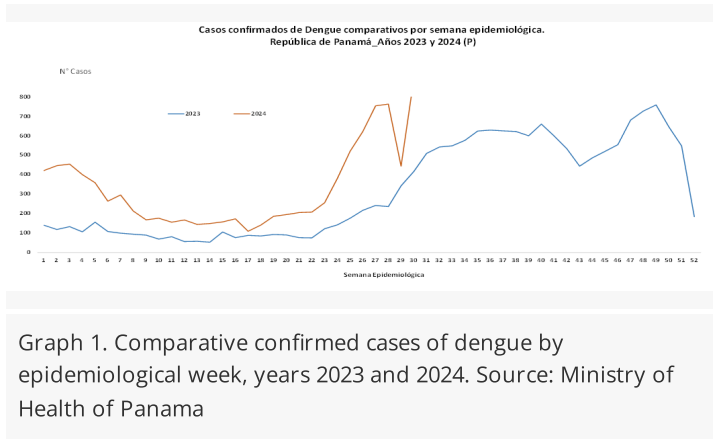
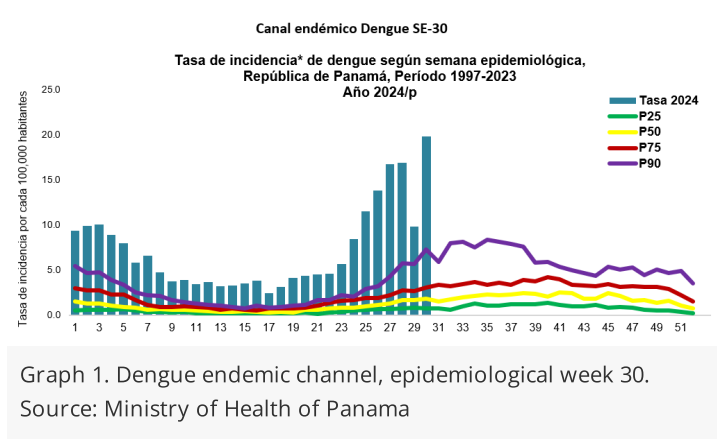
In Panama, the increase in the number of dengue cases has also been a cause for concern among health authorities, and is considered a significant threat to public health. The Ministry of Health, through resolution N. 1580 of July 25, 2024, has declared a Dengue Health Alert



in the Health Regions of Panama Metro, Colon, Panama Oeste and Panama Este (3). Up to epidemiological week N. 30, a total of 9,830 confirmed cases have been accumulated, with a total of 22 deaths nationwide.

The Gorgas Memorial Institute (ICGES) reported that the four dengue serotypes that have been present from 2018 to 2024 are currently circulating in Panama; DENV-1 (genotype V), DENV-2 (Asian American genotype), DENV-3 (genotype III) and DENV-4 (genotype II). They also pointed out that the Cosmopolitan genotype of serotype DENV-2, which is strongly impacting dengue morbimortality in several countries of the region, has not yet been detected in Panama.

Finally, on August 9, 2024, the Panamanian Ministry of Health formally requested the collaboration of the Red Cross Society of Panama to join the comprehensive response within the national plan in response to the dengue health alert. This collaboration seeks to strengthen dengue control and prevention measures in the country, in an effort to mitigate the spread of the disease and its devastating effects on the population.



Graph 1. Comparative confirmed cases of dengue by epidemiological week, years 2023 and 2024. Source: Ministry of Health of Panama

## Scope and Scale

In the latest report issued by the Ministry of Health for Epidemiological Week 30, 1,056 cases of dengue were reported, of which 895 are specifically attributed to that week and the rest are updates from previous weeks. So far, the cumulative total of confirmed cases stands at 9,830, including six imported cases, along with 3,594 suspected cases. The national incidence rate reaches 217 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with the East Panama region standing out as the most affected, with an incidence of 483 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

From a demographic perspective, the distribution of cases between men and women is equal, with a 1:1 ratio. Young people between the ages of 10 and 19 are the most affected age group, with a rate of 279 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. However, the 25-49 age group has the highest number of cases, totaling 3,719.

In terms of hospitalizations and deaths, 97 new hospitalizations have been reported to date, totaling 1,006. The Panama Metro region has the highest number of hospitalizations, with 230 cases, representing 22% of the national total. In addition, two new deaths have been confirmed in men over 60 years of age, from Sabanitas and Las Cumbres, bringing the cumulative number of deaths at the national level to 22.

The inter-annual analysis reveals a notable increase in cases in 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year, exceeding 5,000 additional cases. This year, the epidemiological curve (graph 2) shows a significant increase from week 20, peaking between weeks 28 and 30, contrasting with the stable and low trend in 2023.

The Gorgas Memorial Institute has identified the circulation of the four dengue serotypes (DENV1, DENV2, DENV3 and DENV4) in the country this year. The areas with the most cases include Las Garzas with 1,186 cases, followed by 24 de Diciembre with 412 cases in Panama Metro, and Pacora with 346 cases in Panama Este, among others.

Dengue has a profound and multifaceted impact on people lives, with particularly acute repercussions in vulnerable groups. The disease not only poses a direct risk to individual health, but also triggers social and economic consequences that can perpetuate cycles of poverty and exclusion. Severe complications arising from dengue require prolonged medical care, generating significant costs and loss of income due to incapacity to work. In communities with limited resources, these expenses can have devastating effects, forcing families to choose between essential medical care and other basic needs.

Also at the educational level, school absenteeism due to dengue directly affects the learning process, which can have long-term consequences on students' academic and professional development.



In addition, dengue can lead to social isolation, deteriorating community cohesion, and exacerbating the emotional and psychological vulnerability of those affected. It universally affects urban and rural populations, but specific groups such as the elderly, minors, individuals with obesity, pregnant women, and people with chronic conditions such as diabetes face a particularly high risk.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. PAHO - Situation Report No. 28. Epidemiological Situation of Dengue in the Americas.	<a href="https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/informe-situacion-no-28-situacion-epidemiologica-dengue-americas-semana-epidemiologica">https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/informe-situacion-no-28-situacion-epidemiologica-dengue-americas-semana-epidemiologica</a>
2. Ministry of Health - Health alert due to increase in dengue cases	<a href="https://www.minsa.gob.pa/noticia/ministerio-de-salud-declara-alerta-sanitaria-por-aumento-de-casos-de-dengue">https://www.minsa.gob.pa/noticia/ministerio-de-salud-declara-alerta-sanitaria-por-aumento-de-casos-de-dengue</a>
3. PAHO/WHO - Epidemiological Alert: Increase in cases of dengue in the Region of the Americas	<a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/world/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-de-casos-de-dengue-en-la-region-de-las-americas-16-de-febrero-del-2024">https://reliefweb.int/report/world/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-de-casos-de-dengue-en-la-region-de-las-americas-16-de-febrero-del-2024</a>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

**If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:**

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### Lessons learned:

In recent years, although the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) has not implemented dengue-specific operations, it has identified important lessons learned through the implementation of other recent operations and lessons learned workshops. These lessons have been considered in the planning of this IFRC-DREF proposal, including:

(a) Procurement planning: it is critical to ensure a detailed procurement plan from the start of the operation to ensure that all procurements are available on time. This involves considering internal and external factors that may delay delivery and thus the implementation of actions.

b) Visibility and personal protection: From the start of the operation, it is crucial to ensure elements of visibility and personal protection for volunteers and active personnel. This ensures not only the safety of the team but also the visibility and recognition of the organization in the field.

c) Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches: Continuing to strengthen these approaches in all operations is essential to guarantee the relevance and pertinence of actions, ensuring that they respond adequately to the needs of affected communities.

d) Collaboration with governmental and non-governmental actors: Maintaining fluid communication with these actors is key to joining efforts and avoiding duplication of actions, thus allowing us to reach a greater number of affected people in need.



# Current National Society Actions

## Start date of National Society actions

09-08-2024

<b>Health</b>	<p>As part of its initial actions, the Red Cross Society of Panama has implemented awareness campaigns through social networks, focused on disseminating key messages on effective dengue prevention practices, how to act upon symptoms of the disease and preventive measures at home. These messages are aligned with Ministry of Health guidelines.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Society has carried out awareness-raising actions, also in coordination with local authorities and community teams, especially in the regions of Tierras Altas and Soloy in the province of Chiriqui. These activities have been carried out in the context of the ECHO-PPP project.</p>
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<p>As part of the initial response actions, the Red Cross Society of Panama has begun to implement fumigation days in two host communities and in two Temporary Migration Reception Stations (ETRM) in the province of Darien. These activities are carried out under the Migration project of the National Society, with the support of the agreement with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), and complement the actions of socialization of key messages on practical prevention mechanisms in the context of human mobility.</p>
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>At the national level, the Red Cross Society of Panama has held an initial meeting with the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Public Health and the regional health directors of the affected areas to explore a strategic collaboration to strengthen the comprehensive response to the dengue epidemic.</p> <p>The National Society headquarters continues to communicate and coordinate on an ongoing basis with local committees in the most affected areas prioritized in the Ministry of Health alert. This effort is focused on identifying their operational capacity in terms of logistics and personnel, ensuring that they have the minimum resources necessary to carry out an effective action against dengue.</p>
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	<p>The Red Cross Society of Panama has been constantly monitoring the evolution of dengue in the country and has begun to prepare to implement the necessary measures in areas with high dengue rates. This preparation is carried out under the direction of the local committees of the National Society and following the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, established in the health alert. Internally, staff and local chairmen have been organized in the most affected areas to ensure an effective response, including updating information from previous interventions and identifying needs at the local level. In addition, local initiatives are already being implemented to disseminate key messages and promote dengue prevention practices.</p>
<b>National Society EOC</b>	<p>The EOC of the Red Cross Society of Panama has been monitoring the dengue situation in the country through internal and external sources. In addition, it has been organizing and sharing relevant information with the National Society authorities to facilitate decision making. This information is also available to all members of the National Society.</p>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC, through the Country Cluster Delegation for Central America, has provided direct guidance in the planning of this IFRC-DREF application. In addition, the different technical areas of the delegation are expected to provide continuous support for the monitoring and implementation of the project. In addition, the IFRC Regional Office for</p>
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	the Americas will provide extra support to assist the different components linked to the emergency when necessary.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The American, Italian, Swedish and Spanish Red Cross are present in the country and are not participating in the actions planned for this operation.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross are present in the country and are not participating in the actions planned for this operation.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>To address the increase in dengue cases, the Ministry of Health, the Caja de Seguro Social (CSS) and other health institutions have established a coalition, seeking to promote a more comprehensive and coordinated response. At the CSS, action plans are being implemented at its health facilities to manage the increasing number of recently reported cases. These efforts are aimed at ensuring the best possible care for affected patients. In addition, the population has been urged to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms such as fever with headache, pain behind the eyes, mucosal bleeding, blood in the urine, skin lesions, fainting and severe abdominal pain.</p> <p>On Thursday, August 8, an inter-sectoral and inter-institutional team, under the direction of the Ministry of Health, carried out an operation in the village of Las Garzas. During this event, the population was reminded of the importance of allowing the teams to carry out inspections, collect garbage and eliminate breeding sites in residences and commercial premises, among other places. It was also recommended to eliminate any container that can accumulate water, such as pots, bottles, cans and unused tires, and to ensure that reserve containers are well covered and clean, to prevent the reproduction of the <i>Aedes aegypti</i> mosquito.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) acts as a direct link with the Public Health and Epidemiology Directorate of the Ministry of Health, in charge of monitoring dengue cases in the country.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The entities of the National Health System, together with local, national and international organizations involved in the response to the dengue emergency, are holding coordinated meetings. The objective is to harmonize efforts, optimize the use of available resources and avoid duplication of actions, in order to effectively combat the dengue outbreak.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



In the face of the dengue emergency in Panama, critical public health management needs are identified to mitigate the impact of the disease, based on reports from the Red Cross Society of Panama health committee and directives from the Ministry of Health, consolidated during a key meeting on August 8, 2024.

Key gaps include the need for effective coordination between different levels of health care within the Ministry of Health to manage the increase in dengue cases. This increase, exacerbated by factors such as population density, poor housing infrastructure, inadequate waste management and the rainy season, raises the risk of gastrointestinal, dermatological, respiratory and, especially, vector-borne



diseases. This can trigger epidemiological outbreaks with serious consequences for vulnerable groups. In addition, the accumulation of stagnant water provides a favorable environment for the transmission of vector-borne diseases (arbovirosis), highlighting the importance of community education in the identification and elimination of mosquito breeding sites, and the promotion of prevention practices. It also stresses the need to strengthen response capacity through training in dengue pathology, including its life cycle, signs and symptoms, treatments, and prevention and control measures. Dissemination of this information is essential, especially in communities and among local and educational leaders, to facilitate a deeper understanding and better management of the health emergency. Finally, there is a crucial need to provide basic resources, such as gloves, garbage bags, cleaning supplies for laundry rooms, among others, to vulnerable families. This is essential to facilitate the adoption of safe and effective dengue prevention and control practices.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

There is a need to strengthen vector control coordination with the Ministry of Health, which is essential to improve access to safe water and reinforce hygiene practices, including hand washing and effective waste management.

Another important gap is the capacity of communities to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites, which requires substantial improvement in waste management and collection, based on the particular characteristics of the communities. The lack of adequate personal protective equipment for volunteers who carry out clean-up campaigns in homes and green areas also represents an urgent need.

In addition, there is a need for logistical support in the Ministry of Health spraying campaigns to reduce the adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population, including the provision of fuel for thermonebulizers. This support is crucial to extend the reach of interventions in affected communities and to strengthen educational initiatives on dengue prevention.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

For effective dengue prevention and management in the country, it is critical to integrate protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) considerations to ensure equitable access to prevention and care for all people. It is necessary to recognize and address the needs of vulnerable groups, who may face significant barriers due to inadequate housing conditions, limited access to water and sanitation.

There are gaps in incorporating a PGI approach in dengue prevention strategies, which is essential to actively include diverse demographic groups such as pregnant women, children, adolescents, the elderly, people with disabilities, and members of ethnic and LGBTBIQ+ groups in decision-making and implementation of preventive measures.

Another important gap lies in the adaptation of dengue prevention and control strategies to the specific needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring that prevention practices are culturally sensitive and that health services are accessible to all.

Finally, there is a need for sensitization and ongoing training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PEAS) policy for volunteers who conduct field interventions, ensuring their commitment to and understanding of PGI policies.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

There is a significant gap in the active participation of communities in the implementation and monitoring of dengue prevention and control strategies. This gap manifests itself in the need to foster more participatory decision-making, ensuring that the voices of communities are heard and considered in the formulation and implementation of programs and strategies. In addition, there is a need to develop clear and transparent accountability mechanisms, allowing health authorities and the Red Cross Society of Panama to report to communities on the progress and results of interventions, which in turn builds trust and cooperation.

Another important need is the strengthening of local capacities for effective dissemination of contextualized information, identification of mosquito breeding sites and promotion of preventive practices against dengue.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The Red Cross Society of Panama has not identified any gaps or limitations that could cause significant disruptions or delays in the implementation of the proposed actions. Fluent communication has been maintained with the Ministry of Health, as well as with other organizations present in the areas most affected by dengue, which ensures efficient inter-institutional coordination.



# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF allocation, the Red Cross Society of Panama aims to contribute to the national response for the prevention of dengue by supporting the emergency needs of 30,000 people in the areas of health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in 8 townships in the country for four months.

## Operation strategy rationale

Dengue prevention is a public health priority in Panama due to the constant threat posed by this mosquito-borne disease. In this context, the Red Cross Society of Panama is working closely with the Ministry of Health, using epidemiological reports to assess the most affected communities and prioritize specific areas of intervention with IFRC-DREF funds.

The response strategy of the Red Cross Society of Panama is designed to be effective and sustainable, combining multiple interconnected actions implemented in collaboration with authorities at the national and local levels. This includes taking advantage of the workspaces established by the National Society local branches in the most affected areas. The implementation of the IFRC-DREF, which will run for 4 months, will focus on reducing Aedes larval indices, the presence of the vector and the incidence of dengue cases, with a special focus on families in the most affected communities.

The proposed strategy focuses on the following sectors and specific actions:

### HEALTH:

The objective is to reach 5,000 people through the implementation of various health-focused activities designed to strengthen dengue prevention and promote safe practices within communities. These activities will include awareness campaigns in educational centers and the distribution of school kits specially designed to prevent dengue and socialize with students about the importance of combating this disease. Each school participating in the workshops will receive a school kit as a tool to support prevention.

In addition, training will be offered to staff and volunteers of the National Society who will participate in the operation, covering essential topics such as the life cycle of the mosquito, signs and symptoms of dengue, treatments, prevention, vector control and self-protection measures. This will enable both staff and volunteers to effectively transmit this knowledge to other communities.

Digital media awareness campaigns and community awareness fairs will also be conducted to inform the population about preventive measures, signs and symptoms of the disease, and the importance of seeking early medical intervention. These actions will be planned and validated in a participatory manner with the communities, ensuring that the material developed is relevant and appropriate to their current informational needs, and that it considers their perception of dengue and the specific context in which they find themselves.

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

The objective is to reach 30,000 people (6,000 families) through a series of WASH-related activities. These activities will include 10 community clean-up campaigns and home monitoring visits (house-to-house) to raise awareness about vector control measures and the identification and elimination of mosquito breeding sites, in collaboration with Ministry of Health staff. In addition, family kits for dengue prevention will be distributed. There will also be 15 community talks focused on dengue prevention, elimination of mosquito breeding sites, and the importance of maintaining safe water and hygiene. In addition, safe water storage containers will be delivered to 500 families (2 per family).

All these actions will be carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, which will be in charge of carrying out the necessary fumigations. The Red Cross Society of Panama will contribute with the purchase of fuel for the thermal foggers, thus extending the coverage of the fumigation campaigns. The frequency of the campaigns, home visits and fumigations will be determined once the field actions begin, to ensure that they are relevant and effective.

For the clean-up campaigns, specific points will be established where tarpaulins will be used and actions will be taken to share key messages and relevant information through the use of loudspeakers. In addition, personal protective equipment (gloves, goggles, rubber boots) will be purchased to ensure the safety of the volunteers. It is essential that home visits are carried out continuously to confirm that mosquito breeding sites have been effectively eradicated, as part of the actions of the Ministry of Health surveillance system.

### PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

Awareness talks will be conducted for volunteers and staff on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policies (PEAS), which will include the signing of this policy, with special emphasis on child protection and at the community level. Additionally, specific Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) guidelines will be developed for the implementation of the actions of this IFRC-DREF.





Considering the activities at the school level, the Red Cross Society of Panama has previously conducted a child protection risk analysis, aligned with the IFRC's Global Child Protection Policy. Tailored awareness messages will also be created for different population groups, including children and adults, and a tool will be used to assess the level of knowledge about dengue among these population groups.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

Post-distribution surveys will be implemented as a feedback mechanism to strengthen the National Society's accountability system. This will include the activation of feedback channels such as an operation-specific phone line for handling complaints. In addition, talks will be developed for National Society staff and volunteers on CEA issues, highlighting the mechanisms relevant to the actions to be implemented under this IFRC-DREF Operation. These talks will reach 100 volunteers and will be conducted in five sessions.

In parallel, a specific CEA strategy will be developed for this intervention. This strategy will include the accompaniment of the technical areas in the participatory validation of the messages and the necessary information, as well as the adaptation of the topics to the current needs of the community context.

#### STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY:

To carry out this operation, the Red Cross Society of Panama will initially mobilize 100 volunteers. However, it is prepared to increase this number if the context requires it and the situation in the affected areas evolves. In addition, although the organization has vehicles available in the local committees, it is considered necessary to expand the fleet by renting a 15-passenger bus to facilitate the mobilization of personnel.

Two additional professional profiles (1 finance manager and 1 operational assistant) will be hired to support the implementation of the actions detailed in this IFRC-DREF request, as well as the incorporation of four technical volunteers who will remain active for 60 days, given the complexity of operating simultaneously in three different provinces.

As part of the visibility and uniformity measures, the National Society will purchase visibility items for the volunteers, such as T-shirts, water bottles and pens with the organization's emblem. All necessary expenses for mobilization and food for staff and active volunteers will be covered, and accommodation will be provided if necessary.

Area managers and technical coordinators from the National Society headquarters will conduct periodic monitoring visits to directly address the needs and concerns of staff and volunteers in the field.

Finally, a lessons learned workshop will be organized at the conclusion of the operation. This event will be instrumental in gathering valuable information that the National Society will use to plan, implement and monitor future operations, thus ensuring continuous improvement of its interventions.

In addition, the National Society will maintain continuous cooperation and coordination with government authorities and other organizations on the ground, working closely with the Ministry of Health. This partnership is essential to strengthen the response and provide the best possible humanitarian assistance to those most in need.

In parallel, the National Society will hold regular follow-up meetings with representatives of the IFRC Central American Cluster Delegation. These meetings are part of the accountability mechanisms and aim to ensure constant monitoring of the actions carried out.

It is crucial to mention that, through the Pilot Programmatic Alliance Project (ECHO-PPP), awareness-raising actions have been coordinated in the province of Chiriqui, and with the support of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), fumigation activities are being implemented for vector control. It should be noted that the intervention zones designated in this IFRC-DREF have been carefully selected by the Ministry of Health and differ from the areas mentioned above. This planning ensures that there is no duplication but rather a complementarity of actions, which optimizes resources and efforts in the most critical areas in response to dengue cases at the national level.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

According to the health alert issued by the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross Society of Panama has identified the communities of Las Garzas and 24 de Diciembre in Panama Metro; Pacora and Chepo in Panama East; Cristóbal and Cativá in Colón; and Burunga and Arraiján in Panama West, as the areas with the highest incidence of dengue cases. These areas total 501,651 people at risk.

In response, the National Society has internally assessed its capacities and the funds available through the IFRC-DREF, concluding that it can provide adequate assistance to 30,000 people in these affected areas.



## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

While the Red Cross Society of Panama is committed to providing support to all people in need, it will prioritize its assistance to high-risk and vulnerable groups. This includes the elderly, children and adolescents, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or heart disease, who are more susceptible to serious complications from dengue.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	12,600	Rural	80%
Girls (under 18)	2,520	Urban	20%
Men	12,400	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	2,480		
Total targeted population	30,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Changing outbreak dynamics	Design response plans that adapt to changes in dengue outbreak dynamics. This requires the identification of key indicators and triggers that allow the activation of different phases of the response as the outbreak situation evolves, ensuring agile and appropriate action.
Interruption of field activities due to heavy rains	Establish a flexible schedule that allows rescheduling or adjusting planned actions. In addition, it is important to develop effective communication strategies to inform all involved about changes or alternative actions in a timely manner.
Contagion of mosquito-borne diseases to staff and volunteers	Ensure the constant use of approved and effective insect repellents among volunteers and staff. Additionally, the use of appropriate protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts, should be promoted to reduce skin exposure to mosquito bites.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The implementation of actions in areas classified as high risk may expose staff and volunteers to clashes with violent groups or theft situations. To mitigate these risks, the Red Cross Society of Panama is committed to ensuring safer access and maintaining effective operational security in the field. In addition, the National Society will take steps to ensure that both staff and volunteers are easily identifiable through the use of clearly marked uniforms. This not only improves security, but also strengthens the visibility and legitimacy of the operation in these critical areas.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

# Planned Intervention



**Budget:** CHF 126,948

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached through educational talks and distribution of school kits for dengue prevention.	5,000
Number of schools that received school kits.	50
Number of dengue awareness fairs held.	10
Number of volunteers and staff trained on dengue-related topics.	100

## Priority Actions

- Conducting 100 talks in educational centers. Talks on practical dengue prevention measures will be held, reaching approximately 50 people in each session, to share information with students on how to mitigate the spread of this disease.
- Distribution of 5,000 school kits for dengue prevention. These kits will be distributed to students participating in the educational talks and will include activity books and stickers illustrating dengue prevention measures, crayons and other educational materials, distributed among students to reinforce learning and awareness of the disease.
- Delivery of 50 dengue prevention kits to educational centers. These will be distributed to educational centers and each kit will contain garbage bags, disposable gloves, gardening gloves, two rakes and soap for hand washing, providing educational centers with the necessary tools to maintain a clean environment free of mosquito breeding sites.
- Development of 6 training sessions for personnel and volunteers. These sessions will train 100 volunteers and National Society staff in topics on the mosquito cycle, disease cycle, signs and symptoms, treatment, prevention, and vector control, providing essential skills to effectively carry out dengue prevention and control activities.
- Launch of a digital media awareness campaign. This campaign will disseminate vital information about dengue, including signs, symptoms, and prevention measures, using social networks and radio spots to reach a wide and diverse audience.
- Implementation of 10 awareness fairs. These fairs will be organized in various locations to inform the population about preventive measures, signs and symptoms of dengue, and the importance of seeking early medical care, reinforcing the prevention and control message at the community level.



**Budget:** CHF 215,024

**Targeted Persons:** 30,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached through dengue prevention actions (including community talks and home visits).	30,000
Number of families that received family kits for dengue prevention.	6,000
Number of families that received tanks for safe water storage.	500



Number of community clean-up campaigns carried out.	15
Number of volunteers and personnel equipped with personal protective equipment.	100

## Priority Actions

- Organize 10 community clean-up campaigns to involve people in the communities in the elimination of waste and potential mosquito breeding sites.
- Acquire 5 canopies and 5 speakers to facilitate and promote participation in community clean-up campaigns.
- Distribute 6,000 family (30,000 people) dengue prevention kits, which include 12 garbage bags, 2 pairs of rubber gloves, 1 broom and 2 cleaning blankets, to equip families with the necessary tools to keep their homes and environments clean.
- Collaborate with Ministry of Health personnel in the identification and elimination of mosquito breeding sites, thus improving vector control in affected areas.
- Implement home monitoring visits (house to house) to raise awareness of vector control measures and ensure effective application of preventive strategies.
- Conduct 15 community talks on dengue prevention, elimination of breeding sites, and the importance of maintaining safe water and hygiene, educating the community on effective practices to reduce the risks associated with dengue.
- Distribute 1,000 safe water storage tanks (2 per family), ensuring that families have access to water sources that do not contribute to the proliferation of mosquitoes.
- Purchase personal protective equipment for 100 volunteers including gloves, goggles and rubber boots, so that they can perform their activities safely and effectively.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 4,154

**Targeted Persons:** 600

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached through awareness-raising messages tailored to different population groups.	600
Number of volunteers and staff who have been trained in the PEAS policy and have signed the implementation commitment.	100

## Priority Actions

- Implement 5 awareness-raising processes on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy (PEAS), which will include a detailed explanation of the policy and the signing of a commitment by volunteers and staff.
- Develop key awareness-raising messages specific to different population groups (children and adults), ensuring that the information is relevant and accessible to each group.
- Use an assessment tool to verify the level of knowledge about dengue among children and adults to measure the effectiveness of information campaigns and adjust educational strategies as needed.
- Develop specific Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) guidelines for implementing this IFRC-DREF, ensuring that all activities include minimum PGI elements.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 8,094

**Targeted Persons:** 600



## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of post-distribution surveys completed.	600
Number of volunteers and staff who have participated in talks on CEA-related topics.	100

## Priority Actions

- Conduct 600 post-distribution surveys to evaluate the effectiveness and reception of the interventions carried out as part of the operation.
- Establish a hotline for handling complaints related to the operation, ensuring an accessible and efficient channel for the resolution of concerns and problems.
- Organize 6 talks for National Society staff and volunteers on CEA issues, with a specific focus on mechanisms relevant to actions implemented under this IFRC-DREF.
- Develop specific CEA guidelines for the implementation of this IFRC-DREF, ensuring that all communication strategies are aligned with the objectives and needs of the operation.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 10,970

**Targeted Persons:** 0

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of field visits completed.	4

## Priority Actions

- Conduct field monitoring visits by the Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Health and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) teams to follow up on the implementation of activities.
- Financial expenses associated with the operation.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 55,806

**Targeted Persons:** 100

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers and staff equipped with basic visibility elements.	100
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted.	1





## Priority Actions

- Hire two people specifically for the operation: a financier and an operational assistant to ensure the necessary efficiency and administrative support.
- Purchase and distribute 100 visibility kits for volunteers and field staff, including identification elements.
- Procure operation-specific visibility materials, such as informational materials, banners and other promotional items to increase the visibility of the operation.
- Develop a lessons learned workshop at the end of the operation to evaluate processes and results, identifying areas of improvement for future interventions.
- Maintain and provide fuel for the vehicles used in the operation, ensuring that they are in optimal condition to carry out the activities without interruption.
- Recognize the work of volunteers through formal acknowledgments to value their essential contribution in carrying out activities.
- Purchase office supplies necessary for the operation administrative operations.

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

The National Society has planned the purchase of supplies, including visibility equipment and personal protective equipment, for 100 volunteers and staff members active in the operation. In addition, per diems have been secured to facilitate the execution of all programmed activities. This number of volunteers could be increased if the situation requires it, due to an increase in dengue cases, and after an internal evaluation to justify the expansion.

Prior to their active participation, all volunteers will receive training and refresher training in vector control to ensure effectiveness and safety in their tasks.

To strengthen the operation actions, two key people will be hired: a finance and an operational assistant. The financial will be in charge of supervising and managing the operation's budget, ensuring that all expenses are kept within the established limits and are properly justified. On the other hand, the operational assistant will provide essential support in the coordination and planning of daily activities, ensuring their proper execution as planned and making necessary adjustments. In addition, he/she will be responsible for coordinating all the logistics of the operation, including the transportation, storage, and distribution of materials and supplies required to carry out the activities.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Panama offers a large and diversified market, providing the opportunity to access a variety of supplies and services from multiple suppliers. Therefore, all procurement related to this operation will be managed locally by the Red Cross Society of Panama, following the standard procurement procedures established by the IFRC.

The National Society is equipped with a robust organizational structure that enables it to efficiently manage the procurement, storage and transportation processes, key elements in the logistics chain of humanitarian operations. It has a specific department within the management body, dedicated exclusively to the procurement of goods and services. In addition, it has implemented rigorous financial procedures and an accounting and auditing control system supervised by the General Management. This system is recognized and used by both Participating National Societies and donors in general. It also has a specific purchasing manual that guides all its transactions.

### How will this operation be monitored?

The Red Cross Society of Panama has integrated into its management team a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer (PMER), who will be responsible for directing follow-up actions in accordance with the National Society's guidelines and the specific requirements of the IFRC-DREF. Reports will be prepared and submitted in a timely manner throughout the operation. In addition, there will be direct support from the IFRC Central America Cluster Delegation throughout the life of the operation to provide technical support and follow-up in the priority areas of the operation. At the end of the operation, a workshop on lessons learned will be organized, using the IFRC methodology.

In addition, the National Society has an accounting department in charge of executing financial resources following the established guidelines and budget. The management of financial resources is aligned with the National Society's by-laws and IFRC guidelines.



Expenditures justified during the operation will be limited to those incurred specifically during the four-month duration of the operation, excluding any permanent structural expenses.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

The communication strategy of the Red Cross National Society, in response to the current dengue emergency, is articulated around a comprehensive campaign deployed through social networks and alternative media such as radio spots. The main objective is to inform the community about the auxiliary role of the National Society, highlighting its fundamental principles of Neutrality and Impartiality. In addition, the campaign will include the dissemination of practical advice for the prevention of Dengue.

This campaign, which will be implemented primarily on social media platforms and radio stations, will employ clear and accessible messages to reach both affected populations and society at large. It seeks to foster a deeper understanding of the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross Society of Panama while providing essential prevention guidance, which is aligned with Ministry of Health guidelines.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRPA019 - Panama Red Cross Society Panama: Dengue epidemic

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>354.219</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	126.948
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	215.024
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4.154
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8.094
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>66.776</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	10.970
National Society Strengthening	55.806
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>420.995</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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