

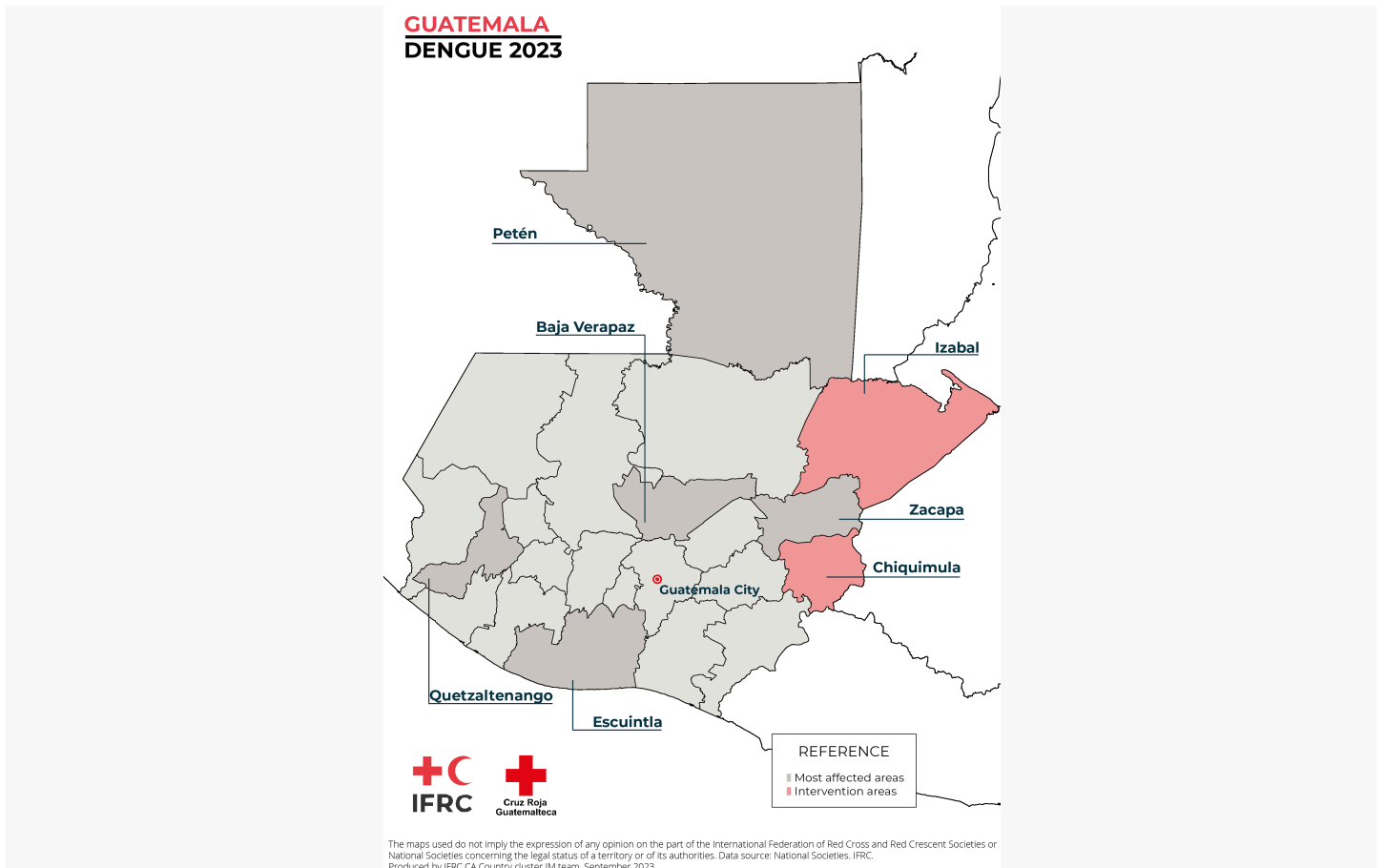


Dengue chemical and physical control actions carried out by the Guatemalan Red Cross in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Source: GRC

Appeal: <b>MDRGT020</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 277,247</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Epidemic</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>14,299 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>5,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>14-09-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>31-03-2024</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Chiquimula, Izabal</b>			

*The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.*

# Description of the Event



Areas most affected by the dengue epidemic and areas prioritized by IFRC-DREF in Guatemala. Source: Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

## Date when the trigger was met

31-08-2023

## What happened, where and when?

Dengue continues to be the arbovirus with the highest number of reported cases in the Americas region, with outbreaks occurring on a cyclical basis every 3 to 5 years. The year 2023 was the year with the highest historical record of dengue cases, exceeding 4.1 million new infections. This number surpassed those of 2019, when more than 3.1 million cases were recorded, including 28,203 severe cases and 1,823 deaths (1).

On March 23, 2023, the World Health Organization reported on the geographic expansion of dengue and chikungunya cases beyond the historical areas of transmission in the Region of the Americas, constituting a major public health problem (2).

On September 15, 2023, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) issued an epidemiological alert on the increase of dengue cases in Central America and the Caribbean, given the increase of cases in countries and territories of this subregion and the upcoming start of the summer season in South America (3).

On August 31, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) of Guatemala declared a National Health Emergency due to the dengue epidemic for a period of three months, ending at the end of November. However, MSPAS reported that, according to the projection made, the dengue health emergency could end in the first quarter of 2024. The deadline could be extended according to article 6 of ministerial agreement number 258-2023, with which the emergency was declared in August. It established that periodic evaluations should be carried out to determine progress, and the deadline could be extended if the circumstances that gave rise to the emergency persisted (4).

On December 19, 2023, the National Council for Disaster Reduction unanimously resolved to declare an Institutional Yellow Alert at the

national level, due to the meteorological effects of the El Niño phenomenon, the health effects of dengue, the 2023-2024 forest fire season and the 2023-2024 temperature drop season.

The collaboration of the Guatemalan Red Cross in supporting the dengue prevention actions carried out by MSPAS was fundamental. The National Society, through IFRC-DREF, contributed resources, expertise and community outreach, complementing and enhancing government efforts. This was evidenced by greater coverage and efficiency in the implementation of prevention and control strategies, such as educational campaigns, eradication of mosquito breeding sites, and distribution of essential supplies. It also contributed to raising community awareness of the importance of preventive measures, making the fight against dengue more inclusive and effective.



Coordination meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Health in Santo Tomas de Castilla, Izabal. Source: GRC



Delivery of laundry washing kits in Santo Tomas de Castilla, Izabal. Source: GRC



Abatization day in the department of Chiquimula. Source: GRC

## Scope and Scale

According to information presented in Epidemiological Week 47 (through November 25, 2023), 64,316 cases of dengue were reported nationwide, which represented a 6-fold increase (64,316 / 8,165) compared to the same week in 2022, including 225 suspected cases of severe dengue, of which 134 were confirmed and 97 resulted in deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 0.15%. In view of this situation, dengue circulation continued to predominate among the arboviruses monitored in the country.

The distribution by Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks (DDRIS) in the country showed the highest risk in Sur Oriente, Petén, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Sacatepéquez, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa and El Quiché; however, the distribution was generalized throughout the country.

In recent decades, although dengue outbreaks were intermittent, the country experienced a steady increase in the incidence of the disease. This increase can be attributed to a number of historical and contemporary factors, including rapid and haphazard urbanization, lack of access to quality health services in rural areas, lack of effective vector control measures, and climate change.

In considering the potential adverse consequences of this hazard, it is important to note that dengue not only places a medical burden on the affected person, whether hospitalized or not, who becomes unproductive for a certain period of time, but also exerts an economic cost on other family members who need to interrupt their work or education to care for the affected person.

Furthermore, with respect to the groups most likely to be affected, health authorities reported that of the total number of cases, 45% (29,166) corresponded to children under 15 years of age of both sexes and 55% (29,721 / 53,705) corresponded to women. Furthermore, although dengue can affect people of various ages and income groups, its effects are also amplified in households facing additional vulnerabilities and restricted access to health services.

The National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) forecast several cold fronts for December 2023, which were accompanied by drizzle. This represented a risk of a new increase in dengue cases and the spread of the disease until the end of the year and early 2024 (5).

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Dengue in Guatemala	<a href="https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunita-rio/dengue-en-guatemala-mas-de-64-mil-casos-en-2023-seis-veces-mas-que-en-2022/">https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunita-rio/dengue-en-guatemala-mas-de-64-mil-casos-en-2023-seis-veces-mas-que-en-2022/</a>



2. Regional Health Data in the Americas	<a href="https://opendata.paho.org/es">https://opendata.paho.org/es</a>
3. Geographic expansion of dengue cases in the Americas Region	<a href="https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON448">https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON448</a>
4. Epidemiological Alert - Increase in cases of dengue in Central America and the Caribbean	<a href="https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-casos-dengue-america-central-caribe-15-septiembre-2023">https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-casos-dengue-america-central-caribe-15-septiembre-2023</a>
5. Dengue health emergency could end by first quarter of 2024	<a href="https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunitario/emergencia-sanitaria-por-dengue-podria-finalizar-hasta-el-primer-trimestre-del-2024/">https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunitario/emergencia-sanitaria-por-dengue-podria-finalizar-hasta-el-primer-trimestre-del-2024/</a>

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC-DREF was implemented with specific funds from the IFRC, which in turn provided technical, administrative, financial and PMER support through the staff of the Delegation of the Cluster of Central American Countries (CCD) for its effective execution. Regular meetings were held every 15 days to discuss progress and/or difficulties in the implementation process.</p> <p>Outbreak control actions were carried out directly by Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers, with the support of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) in accordance with the Institutional Response Plan.</p>
Participating National Societies	10 thermobulizers were purchased with the Spanish Red Cross through the ECHO-PPP Programmatic Alliance project, in response to a request sent by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to the National Society within the framework of the IFRC-DREF.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mission is present in Guatemala and carries out joint actions with the Guatemalan Red Cross to address issues of operational security, safer access, operational communication, restoration of family ties and protection of health services through its country office and cooperation area. However, no support was provided for the planning and execution of this IFRC-DREF.
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## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
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<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>The national authorities, coordinated by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), implemented continuous monitoring of the dengue epidemic in the country, using the Epidemiological Situation of Arbovirosis report at the national level. In areas with a high incidence of dengue, physical and chemical vector control campaigns were carried out, including the detection and registration of suspected cases.</p> <p>In addition, close coordination was established with the municipalities to improve environmental sanitation conditions and guarantee the availability of safe water in the communities. At the same time, strategies were implemented to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, a crucial step in controlling the spread of dengue.</p>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>There was no presence of other institutions, organizations or agencies of the United Nations system carrying out dengue prevention or containment actions in the areas prioritized for this IFRC-DREF.</p>

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**

In the communities that were assisted with IFRC-DREF actions, there were no other organizations carrying out dengue prevention actions; there was only direct coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) through specialized groups or technical tables at the departmental/local level.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



There are several significant gaps in health conditions and the management of diseases such as dengue fever in Guatemala that require urgent attention. One of the main gaps is in the protection of public health during the rainy season. The lack of adequate sanitation infrastructure increases the population's vulnerability to gastrointestinal, dermatological, respiratory and vector-borne diseases, thus raising the risk of epidemiological outbreaks that especially affect children, the elderly and vulnerable groups.

Another important gap is the necessary strengthening of the health system to effectively combat dengue. This includes training health personnel in the identification and timely treatment of the disease, improving the infrastructure of health centers, and providing sufficient drugs and other essential resources to ensure adequate patient care.

In addition, a gap persists in public education and awareness regarding dengue. Information campaigns should be intensified to promote the elimination of mosquito breeding sites and personal protection against bites. These campaigns should be supported by effective planning that includes coordination with local authorities, home visits, and social mobilization to ensure a significant impact on disease prevention.

Finally, there is a critical gap in epidemiological data collection and analysis that impedes an effective response tailored to local conditions. Improving the capacity to collect and analyze information on the spread of dengue would make it possible to identify high-risk areas and adjust prevention and control strategies more accurately and effectively.



In the context of the dengue epidemic in Guatemala, several critical gaps in prevention and control strategies have been identified that require urgent attention. One of the main gaps is the lack of a comprehensive vector control strategy that encompasses both the effective elimination of mosquito breeding sites and the promotion of vector control practices in communities. This gap impedes an effective response to the mosquito breeding cycle and the subsequent spread of dengue.

In addition, there is a significant gap in sanitation and hygiene conditions. Lack of access to safe drinking water and failure to promote basic hygiene practices, such as hand washing and proper waste management, increase the risk of disease and complicate efforts to control dengue. These deficiencies in infrastructure and health education need to be addressed to reduce the vulnerability of affected communities.

Another critical aspect is the need to strengthen social mobilization around the identification and elimination of mosquito breeding sites and the promotion of hygienic practices. Community participation is essential for an effective response, but the lack of coordination and



support for social mobilization initiatives represents a major gap that limits the capacity to respond to the epidemic and protect the most vulnerable populations.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Addressing and preventing the dengue epidemic in Guatemala must consider protection, gender and inclusion needs to ensure that all people, regardless of sex, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or situation, have equal access to the necessary prevention and care measures. This is essential to protect the health of the entire Guatemalan population.

One significant gap is the guarantee of protection for the most vulnerable groups, including adequate medical care for those affected by the disease, especially children, pregnant women and the elderly.

Another important gap is the incorporation of a gender approach in all prevention strategies. This implies the active participation of women and men in decision-making and implementation of preventive measures, as well as addressing gender inequalities that may influence the spread of dengue.

In addition, the inclusion of more vulnerable groups, such as indigenous communities, is crucial. This requires adapting dengue prevention and control strategies to address the specific needs of these populations, including the promotion of culturally sensitive prevention practices and the availability of accessible health services.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

In the fight against dengue in Guatemala, several critical gaps stand out in terms of prevention and control that need to be addressed to improve the effectiveness of current strategies. One of the most significant is the lack of active community participation. This gap refers to the need to more effectively incorporate communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of dengue control strategies. Without genuine community participation, strategies lack the local perspective and adaptation needed to be truly effective and sustainable.

Another important gap is the absence of clear and transparent accountability mechanisms. Transparency in the actions of the health authorities and organizations involved is fundamental to building trust and cooperation among communities. The lack of these mechanisms prevents communities from adequately evaluating the effectiveness of the measures implemented and proposing relevant adjustments, which can lead to a disconnect between the actions carried out and the real needs of the community.

Additionally, insufficient training of local leaders and health promoters is a critical gap that limits the responsiveness and sustainability of dengue control strategies. These individuals play a crucial role in disseminating information, identifying mosquito breeding sites, and promoting preventive practices. Without adequate and ongoing training, communities may not be sufficiently empowered to respond effectively and sustainably to the threat of dengue.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Guatemalan Red Cross proposed to contribute to the national response to the dengue epidemic, providing support to the emergency needs of 1,000 families (5,000 people) in the areas of health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in the departments of Chiquimula and Izabal.

At the end of implementation, the Guatemalan Red Cross reached 13,851 people through various dengue prevention activities, including health, WASH, CEA and PGI actions.

## Operation strategy rationale

The implementation of the response strategy was carried out in close collaboration with authorities at both the national and local levels, including the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and the Ministry of Education. In addition, advantage was taken of the working platform established by the National Society branches in the departments where the interventions were implemented.



The first phase of the implementation consisted of the detailed programming of the activities that were developed in coordination with the Health Districts and the directors of local educational centers.

The main objective of the strategy was for each individual and sector of the population to assume their responsibility in the fight against the dengue vector. Efforts were also made to activate health commissions in each locality to collaborate effectively in the implementation of the proposed activities.

The Guatemalan Red Cross played a key role in supporting families, communities and MSPAS in reducing Aedes indices, the presence of the vector and the incidence of dengue cases. In addition, the importance of carrying out specific outbreak control actions was recognized, so the plan included fogging days in a radius of 100 meters around the homes of confirmed dengue cases, in compliance with national protocols and the guidelines of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

To achieve the proposed objective, a series of actions were carried out in the prioritized sectors, as described below:

#### HEALTH:

Community leaders were trained to identify and refer dengue cases in a timely manner, educational sessions were developed for the general population to raise awareness of preventive practices against dengue, and ongoing training was provided to Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers and primary health personnel to enable them to properly manage dengue cases, including warning signs.

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

The National Society purchased Deltamethrin to perform fogging and eliminate the adult mosquito, Temephos to eliminate larvae in water stored at the household level, personal protective equipment and office supplies. These activities complemented the actions of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) according to the support needs identified in the coordination meetings. It should be noted that the six backpack-type thermal nebulizers used by the National Society during the operation were donated, along with the remaining supplies, to MSPAS at the end of the IFRC-DREF implementation period as part of the actions to strengthen health services in the prioritized departments.

Volunteers joined vector personnel to carry out abatement and nebulization campaigns, coordinating these actions with community leaders. Protocols and procedures established by MSPAS were followed, and prior to eliminating breeding sites, awareness-raising activities were carried out to increase short-term effectiveness and ensure sustainable conditions. To reinforce prevention measures, mosquito nets were also provided. This was a key measure to reduce exposure to dengue-transmitting mosquito bites and thus reduce the spread of the virus. In addition, in areas of the departments of Izabal and Chiquimula, where access to medical care can be a challenge, prevention through mosquito nets was an effective and low-cost strategy to protect the health of the most vulnerable communities.

Educational sessions were developed to prevent the proliferation of dengue using the UNTADITA strategy and the VELITA method. Cleaning kits for sinks were distributed. UNTADITA is a procedure to keep sinks and drums free of Aedes aegypti based on the modification of existing practices. The VELITA method encourages people to turn over containers that are not in use, dispose of materials and containers considered garbage, clean water tanks, eliminate aquatic plants, clean terraces and gutters frequently, and finally cover all containers in which water is stored for domestic consumption.

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

The CEA approach was cross-cutting and was used in the different activities and intervention strategies, considering two-way conversations with the communities and their community structures. The success of these activities was based on consistent behavior change. To ensure early and appropriate care-seeking, and to encourage action at the household and community level to reduce mosquito populations in the community, all actions were based on the CEA approach. This approach was used to share key messages promoting positive behavior change in communities, conduct risk communication activities based on the evolving epidemiological situation, monitor and respond to rumors and misinformation, and increase the involvement of volunteers and community leaders in dengue prevention activities.

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

To ensure that all activities took an inclusive and protective approach, basic training in minimum PGI standards was conducted for staff and volunteers who provided direct response. Child-friendly spaces were also provided for community activities. In addition, a Child Protection Risk Analysis was prepared under IFRC guidance for this operation.

#### STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETIES:

At the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop was held to identify successes and failures to continue strengthening future



operations. In addition, uniforms and institutional visibility equipment were provided to staff and volunteers who participated directly in the operation.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

This operation established as a priority to provide direct attention to families residing in the departments of Chiquimula and Izabal. This decision was based on epidemiological reports on dengue in Guatemala issued by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.

The activities were carried out by technical staff hired specifically for the IFRC-DREF. This team was supported by volunteers from the branches of the department of Chiquimula and the department of Izabal (Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomás de Castilla).

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selected departments were in an epidemic alert zone, which included both urban and rural areas, according to the epidemiological reports on dengue in Guatemala issued by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.

Special consideration was given to the vulnerable population, which in this particular case included women and children between 5 and 9 years of age, who presented a high incidence of dengue cases.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	2,575	Rural	58%
Girls (under 18)	0	Urban	42%
Men	2,425	People with disabilities (estimated)	0%
Boys (under 18)	0		
Total targeted population	5,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Political and social instability	Maintain a constant dialogue with local and national authorities to be informed about the political situation and receive support in case of needing safe access to affected areas. At the same time, design flexible operational plans that allow for rapid adaptation to changes in the environment, such as rescheduling activities. This should include the establishment of clear communication channels with both the team on the ground and the community to inform them of any adjustments in programmed activities.
Difficulty in accessing remote communities and affected areas	Preparation and training of personnel and volunteers, along with collaboration with local organizations and government authorities, can facilitate access to remote areas. In addition, the contingency plan will be used to transport personnel and supplies in the event of adverse weather conditions or security situations.



Disinformation and community resistance	A comprehensive communication strategy is essential to address misinformation and community resistance. This includes working with community leaders and local organizations to promote understanding and acceptance of dengue control measures. Communication should be clear, culturally sensitive, and based on scientific evidence. Community feedback should be collected and used to adapt communication and action strategies.
Safety of field personnel and volunteers	To ensure the safety of personnel and volunteers in the field, safety protocols should be implemented, including measures to protect personnel and volunteers from health and safety hazards. This may include the proper use of personal protective equipment, training in safety measures, and coordination with local security forces to ensure protection in potentially hazardous areas.

**Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation**

The risk of social conflicts due to the political situation that arose during the inauguration of the new authorities. However, the National Society prioritized the implementation of Safe Access Plans with the collaboration of volunteers, technicians and branches to ensure the safety of the work teams. In addition, as has been the practice on previous occasions, activities at the community level were carried out in collaboration with health service personnel and community leaders.

**Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?**

Yes

# Implementation



**Budget:** CHF 60,738  
**Targeted Persons:** 5,000  
**Assisted Persons:** 7,232

**Indicators**

Title	Target	Actual
Number of primary health care (PHC) practitioners trained in the proper management of dengue, including the identification of warning signs and alerts.	40	82
Number of people reached through dengue prevention actions.	5,000	7,000
Number of community leaders and health commissions trained in the early identification of cases and their efficient referral (community surveillance).	150	150

**Narrative description of achievements**

With the objective of contributing to the strengthening of health personnel at the local level, the Guatemalan Red Cross carried out four workshops on prevention, containment and management of community cases of dengue, aimed at volunteers and staff of the vector unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) in El Estor, Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla and Chiquimula,



reaching a total of 82 people.

Also, in order to strengthen prevention actions at the community level, the National Society held educational sessions on dengue prevention and organized three community health fairs to expand the dissemination of information on what dengue is and practical preventive measures, reaching 7,000 people.

In addition, to reinforce community surveillance, workshops were held for health commissions and/or community leaders, benefiting a total of 150 people.

In collaboration with the MSPAS vector personnel, community radio broadcasts were carried out to share key messages on what dengue is, signs and symptoms, prevention measures and where to go in case of symptoms. MSPAS radio spots on these topics were also played. For these actions, the National Society acquired loudspeakers, microphones, among other equipment.

Finally, posters were printed on what is dengue, signs and symptoms, and the velita method, which were placed in health centers, educational centers, community halls, and partially distributed to MSPAS for dissemination in other health centers and strategic points.

## Lessons Learnt

- Collaboration with community leaders and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) ensures effective information dissemination and coordinated implementation of prevention activities.
- Involve community leaders and community members in planning and decision-making about dengue prevention strategies. This ensures that interventions are culturally appropriate and more acceptable to the community.

## Challenges

- Delays in the procurement process are reflected in the fact that inputs arrive late or out of time for community activities.
- Conduct training/updating processes with community leaders who do not have time to replicate information due to multiple functions, or temporarily live in the communities.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 183,527

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

**Assisted Persons:** 13,851

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of communities or target sites that have experienced vector control interventions (both chemical and physical).	14	18
Number of people reached with actions related to water, sanitation and hygiene	5,000	13,821
Number of National Society staff and volunteers trained and reinforced in environmental sanitation equipment operation and maintenance skills.	10	30

## Narrative description of achievements

The Guatemalan Red Cross, in order to strengthen the skills of volunteers and vector personnel of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), conducted two workshops on the management of environmental sanitation equipment, reaching 30 people.

In addition, the National Society, in coordination with the MSPAS, carried out physical and chemical vector control actions (fogging and abatization), reaching a total of 13,821 people. At the same time, 1,640 kits for washing the pile, 1,000 mats and 1,000 mosquito nets were

distributed, based on previous evaluations to meet the most immediate needs of the population.

To ensure the safety of volunteers in physical and chemical vector control actions, the National Society purchased personal protective equipment (masks, boots, goggles, etc.). In addition, supplies such as carts, shovels, sacks and gloves were purchased for the hatchery cleaning activities, which were subsequently delivered to the communities and branches involved in the operation to continue with these actions.

As part of the strengthening of the branches, other supplies such as chairs, tables, portable electricity generators and boxes for storing tools were purchased. In addition, thermonebulizers were purchased and donated to MSPAS after the operation to strengthen local health centers in the prevention and control of dengue. Maintenance was also provided to the National Society existing thermal foggers to guarantee their use in future vector control and prevention activities.

## Lessons Learnt

- The development of fogging and abatization campaigns in collaboration with vector brigades of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and scheduled deliveries of essential supplies to the affected communities to control and prevent the spread of dengue allows us to optimize time and economic resources.
- The exchange of knowledge and experiences between National Society staff and volunteers and MSPAS vector personnel from different regions facilitates mutual learning and continuous improvement in dengue vector control techniques.

## Challenges

- Expand interventions with other actors, such as midwives, students, teachers, among others, to comprehensively strengthen dengue prevention and management actions.
- Guarantee the training and updating processes of the National Society's staff and volunteers, as well as the staff of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) in the physical and chemical control of dengue in order to comply with local, national, regional and international regulations, thus ensuring the safety of all people.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 2,935

**Targeted Persons:** 50

**Assisted Persons:** 20

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of child protection measures implemented after risk assessment	1	1
Number of Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers who have received training/updating in the Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach.	50	20
Number of child-friendly spaces established during the implementation of community activities	5	4

## Narrative description of achievements

The Guatemalan Red Cross carried out a child protection analysis during the planning of the IFRC-DREF with the objective of identifying practical actions to protect children in the development of the planned actions. In this regard, the creation of safe spaces was identified as essential to ensure child safety, as well as ongoing training of staff and volunteers in terms of minimum PGI standards with emphasis on the dengue pandemic and the child protection.

The National Society organized a workshop on PGI minimum standards, focusing on the context of the dengue epidemic and the



importance of safe spaces for children. 20 people participated in this activity out of the 50 initially planned. The participation of all staff and volunteers active in the operation had been planned; however, due to the socio-political context related to the general elections in the country, road blockades prevented all participants from mobilizing safely.

Finally, at least 5 safe spaces for children had been planned, of which only 4 were created. This was due to the fact that, due to the socio-political context, the spaces had to be adapted for the development of the activities, thus reducing the number of safe spaces planned.

## Lessons Learnt

- It is essential to incorporate elements and processes of specific training and updating in Gender Protection and Inclusion (PGI) at all stages of the operation. This ensures a comprehensive and respectful intervention, sensitizing staff and volunteers to the importance of these practices and guaranteeing protection and respect for all people.
- It is crucial to continue to provide and maintain child-friendly spaces during community interventions. These spaces must ensure a safe and nurturing environment that also addresses their needs during community interventions.

## Challenges

- Adapting the child-friendly spaces to the changing needs of the communities required constant planning and adjustments. This involved logistical and organizational challenges that demanded additional time and resources.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 978

**Targeted Persons:** 500

**Assisted Persons:** 520

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of CEA mechanisms implemented	1	1
Number of people reached with CEA-related actions	500	500
Number of staff and volunteers trained/updated on CEA-related topics	25	20

## Narrative description of achievements

The Guatemalan Red Cross had initially planned to reach 1,000 people with CEA-related actions; however, a rapid assessment by the team and community leaders led to adjust this target to 500 people, taking into account the availability and remaining implementation time of the IFRC-DREF.

In order to establish a feedback mechanism at the community level, the National Society created spaces for dialogue and communication with the leaders of 18 communities where IFRC-DREF actions were developed. In these spaces, the progress of the operation was socialized and feedback was received, allowing for the coordination of pertinent and effective actions. This action reached 200 people.

In addition, in the intervention branches, meetings were held with the Board of Directors and volunteers to socialize the progress of the operation, as part of the accountability actions.

A workshop was held on the importance of CEA and the most useful mechanisms in the context of an epidemic. This workshop was held in conjunction with the PGI workshop to optimize the mobilization time of the participants. Initially, 25 people were planned to participate; however, due to difficulties in coordinating schedules, only 20 people attended.

Also, as part of CEA actions, the National Society socialized key messages about dengue, addressing both general information and myths and truths about the disease. This action reached 300 people, including representatives of health commissions, midwives, the educational community, among others.



## Lessons Learnt

- It is important that in each operation concrete CEA actions are integrated to guarantee the active participation of the communities as well as accountability at all times during the operation.
- The implementation of audiovisual media to disseminate key messages to the population ensures greater coverage and understanding of the data and information disseminated.

## Challenges

- Organize periodic meetings with the CEA team to carry out operational reviews and ensure efficient socialization of information and reports to the coordination and technical teams. These meetings will not only foster greater synergy between the teams involved, but will also ensure that the needs, demands and suggestions of the community are addressed in an adequate and timely manner.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 11,129

**Targeted Persons:** 2

**Assisted Persons:** 0

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of follow-up field visits by the IFRC	2	0

## Narrative description of achievements

No field monitoring visits were made due to the socio-political context and the constant blockades of main roads in the areas of operation. This prevented the mobilization of IFRC staff at the beginning of the operation. However, an alternative was implemented to provide frequent virtual follow-up, thus ensuring continuous monitoring and adequate supervision of activities.

## Lessons Learnt

- Establish frequent internal meetings for the team responsible for the management of the IFRC DREF, with the objective of updating and monitoring the data collected, particularly in areas of high dengue incidence. These sessions not only allow for reviewing information and adapting strategies effectively, but also facilitate transparent communication on any relevant changes or decisions made during the process.

## Challenges

- Ensure that IFRC staff make field visits, given the constant changes in the context, to monitor the implementation of actions.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 17,940

**Targeted Persons:** 50

**Assisted Persons:** 0

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops developed	1	1



Number of staff and volunteers receiving personal protective equipment and visibility gear	50	0
Number of technical personnel hired specifically for the operation	4	4

## Narrative description of achievements

The Guatemalan Red Cross hired four people (an operation coordinator and three specialized technicians) specifically to lead the IFRC-DREF, ensuring timely and quality execution as planned. In addition, it developed a face-to-face lessons learned workshop, in which representatives from all areas involved in the planning and execution of the IFRC-DREF participated. This allowed for analysis and reflection on the operation, identifying strategic recommendations to strengthen the National Society's future operations.

The National Society also purchased visibility equipment (uniforms, caps, sleeves, vests, etc.) for 50 volunteers. However, due to a delay in delivery by the supplier, it was determined that it was not appropriate to distribute the equipment in the final stage of the operation. It was therefore prepositioned for use in future IFRC-DREF operations, according to a detailed distribution plan and with the authorization of the IFRC-DREF focal point at the IFRC regional office.

## Lessons Learnt

- The recommendations identified in the lessons learned workshops not only strengthen the National Society's internal capacities, but also ensure that future operations will benefit from the experience gained. The evidence gathered through these workshops provides a solid basis for informed decision-making and continuous improvement of humanitarian interventions.

## Challenges

- Ensure the availability of visibility supplies for volunteers from the beginning of the operation to strengthen their safety in the field.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/9-2024/7	Operation	MDRGT020
Budget Timeframe	2023/9-2024/3	Budget	APPROVED

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 10/Oct/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRGT020 - Guatemala - Dengue

Operating Timeframe: 14 sep 2023 to 31 mar 2024

#### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>277.247</b>
DREF Response Pillar	277.247
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-256.373</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>20.874</b>

#### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	60.738	53.692	7.046
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	183.527	184.613	-1.086
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2.935	2.952	-17
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		-690	690
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	978		978
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>248.178</b>	<b>240.566</b>	<b>7.612</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	11.129	229	10.901
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	17.940	15.578	2.362
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>29.069</b>	<b>15.807</b>	<b>13.262</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>277.247</b>	<b>256.373</b>	<b>20.874</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

## Please explain variances (if any)

A total of 277,247 CHF was allocated from the DREF Fund for the implementation of this DREF Operation. The Guatemalan Red Cross spent a total of 256,373 CHF. The remaining balance of 20,874 CHF will be returned to the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

The most significant variances in the budget versus the actual expenditure of some budget lines, such as Health and Strengthening the National Society, are due to the fact that, in accordance with planning, the National Society was able to identify suppliers that offered more competitive prices for the acquisition of supplies and services. Additionally, the delay in the hiring of some key personnel positions directly responsible for the operation, due to administrative processes, contributed to these variances in execution.

In addition, the National Society has prepositioned visibility supplies (vests, caps, uniforms, etc.) for 50 volunteers. These supplies will be distributed in future IFRC-DREF operations as needed, based on a detailed distribution plan and with the authorization of the IFRC regional office DREF focal point.



# Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:** María Teresa Estrada, Health Director, mariat.estrada@cruzroja.gt

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Diana Oviedo, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, diana.oviedo@ifrc.org

**IFRC Project Manager:** Mariela Gómez, Disaster Management Coordinator, mariela.gomez@ifrc.org

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Mariela Gómez, Disaster Management Coordinator, mariela.gomez@ifrc.org

**Media Contact:** Andrés Lemus, Communication Coordinator, andres.lemus@cruzroja.gt

[Click here for reference](#)

