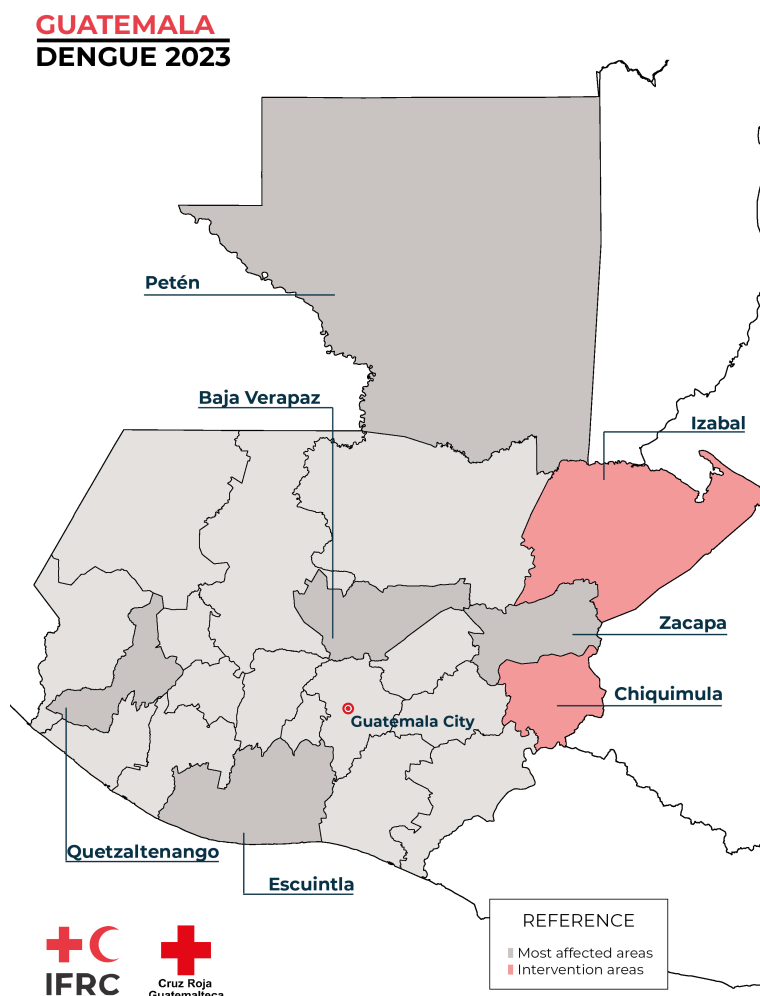




Fogging activity in Colonia el Mitch, Puerto Barrios, Izabal. 5 September 2023. Source: GRC

Appeal: MDRGT020	Country: Guatemala	Hazard: Epidemic	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 277,247	
Glide Number:	People Affected: 14,299 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-09-14	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 2024-01-31	DREF Published: 2023-09-14
Targeted Areas:	Chiquimula, Izabal		

Description of the Event



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data source: National Societies. IFRC. Produced by IFRC CA Country cluster IM team, September 2023.

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

What happened, where and when?

Dengue is the arboviruses with the highest number of cases in the Americas Region, and epidemics occur cyclically every three to five years. Although dengue is endemic in most countries in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, the current season has seen an increase in dengue cases above the average number of cases recorded in the last five years and even outside the historical transmission areas.

In Guatemala, as reported by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the situation is growing increasingly alarming. There has been a staggering 178% increase in the number of cases, with 14,299 cases recorded up to epidemiological week 34 (ending on 26 August 2023), compared to the same period in 2022 when there were only 5,150 cases (1).

Adding to the severity of the situation, thirteen Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks are currently experiencing a higher incidence of dengue than the national average. Following Zacapa, the most vulnerable areas include Chiquimula, Petén Sur Oriental, Escuintla, Quetzaltenango, Baja Verapaz, Sacatepéquez, Jutiapa, Petén Norte, El Quiché, Santa Rosa, Izabal and Jalapa.

In response to this critical situation, on 30 August 2023, the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala approved

Resolution Point 1-2023 in its 14th session urging the Executive Branch to declare a sanitary emergency due to the spread of dengue, also requesting the necessary coordination to protect the health of the Guatemalan population.

Consequently, the following day, on 31 August, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance issued Ministerial Agreement number 258-2023, in its Article 1, declaring a national sanitary emergency throughout the territory of the Republic of Guatemala due to the presence of the dengue epidemic, transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti vector, which affects all ages and both sexes (2).

The National Sanitary Emergency is declared for a period of three months, as from the effective date of the Ministerial Agreement (31 August), which may be extended if the circumstances that gave rise to it persist.

The Ministerial Agreement highlights that all centralized and decentralized public agencies and institutions, autonomous, semi-autonomous, municipalities, private institutions, non-governmental and community organizations, whose competence or object is the administration of health actions, must collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to actively participate in the promotion, prevention, and management of the crisis caused by the dengue epidemic.

Given the seriousness of the situation, the Guatemalan Red Cross, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, has planned to develop interventions to prevent and contain the dengue epidemic in the departments of Chiquimula and Izabal. In Chiquimula, the focus will be on the population of the departmental capital and the municipality of San José La Arada. While in Izabal, the intervention will be carried out in the municipality of Puerto Barrios, including the urban area, communities, the village of Santo Tomas de Castilla, and El Estor. As shown in Table 1 below, this is justified by the registration of 1,664 cases in Chiquimula and 428 cases in Izabal up to epidemiological week 34, which shows that these two municipalities are among the thirteen with the highest incidence of cases.

Sources:

(1) <https://prensa.gob.gt/comunicado/el-ministerio-de-salud-actualiza-situacion-de-casos-de-dengue-en-guatemala>

(2) https://www.congreso.gob.gt/noticias_congreso/10219/2023/1#gsc.tab=0



Mosquito breeding prevention training. Izabal. 5 Total cases and incidence of dengue up to EW 33 (2022 vs 2023)

Scope and Scale

In the Americas Region, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), between epidemiological week 1 and epidemiological week 26 (ending 1 July 2023), a total of 2,997,097 cases of dengue were reported, including 3,896 (0.13%) cases of severe dengue and 1,302 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 0.04% (1).



In Guatemala, between epidemiological week 1 and epidemiological week 24 (ending 17 June 2023), a total of 4,529 dengue cases were reported, including 6 (0.13%) cases of severe dengue and 5 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 0.11%. It is worth highlighting that the number of cases reported up to epidemiological week 24 of 2023 is 80% higher than in the same period of 2022 and 45% higher compared to the average of the last five years (1).

More recently, the latest epidemiological situation update issued by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance of Guatemala, with data up to week 34 (ending 26 August 2023) show an increase to 14,299 cases of dengue, including 36 (0.25%) cases of severe dengue and 28 deaths, representing a fatality rate of 0.19%. As shown in Figure 1, compared to the same week in 2022 (5,150), there has been an increase of 178% more cases (14,299), of which 14% corresponded to dengue with warning signs and 85% to dengue without warning signs (2).

As of the first days of September, 39 new suspected cases of severe dengue have been reported, 26 cases have been confirmed, of which 21 have died and 12 are under investigation.

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

When considering the potential adverse consequences of this hazard, it is important to highlight that dengue carries not only a medical burden for the affected individual, whether hospitalized or not, who becomes unproductive for a certain duration but also exerts an economic toll on other family members who need to cease their work or education to tend to the afflicted person.

Added to this, in terms of the groups that are more likely to be affected, health authorities report that the incidence by age group, the largest affected population is the female sector with 53%, and the age group most affected is the 5 to 9 years old group of both sexes. Furthermore, although dengue can impact individuals across various age and income brackets, its effects are also amplified within households facing added vulnerabilities and restricted access to healthcare services.

As per the last epidemiological Update on Dengue in the Central American Sub-region, published by WHO on 31 July, a significant increase in arbovirus cases is expected during the period from September to November 2023 in Guatemala (3). This is mainly due to the increase in rainfall during these months, which will inevitably result in a considerable increase in such cases.

Finally, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) National Human Development Report presented in 2022, the departments of Chiquimula and Izabal are among the most backward in terms of development in the country and the least developed in the East (4).

Sources:

(1)<https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON475>

(2)<https://prensa.gob.gt/comunicado/el-ministerio-de-salud-actualiza-situacion-de-casos-de-dengue-en-guatemala>

(3)<https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/actualizacion-epidemiologica-dengue-subregion-centroamerica-31-julio-2023>

(4)https://indhguatemala.org/app/uploads/2022/07/IDH_Guatemala_FINAL_WEB.pdf

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?

Yes



Did it affect the same population groups?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	Yes
If yes, please specify which operations	MDRGT015, MDR42005

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

In August 2019, the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) launched a IFRC-DREF Operation with the aim of contributing to reducing the incidence of dengue cases through chemical control, physical control, and promotion and prevention actions at the family and community level, in close collaboration with the authorities and staff of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance mainly in the departments of Izabal (El Estor, Puerto Barrios), Chiquimula, Suchitepéquez (Mazatenango), Retalhuleu, and Quetzaltenango (Coatepeque). Given the magnitude of the emergency, a sub-regional Emergency Appeal was launched one month later, in September 2019.

In order to achieve a greater impact and address the problem comprehensively, it is essential to implement a holistic approach. This implies not only access to drinking water and sanitation services but also solid dengue prevention and control strategies, as well as the strengthening of the health response in the most vulnerable regions of the country.

The urgency of the current planned intervention is based on the alarming incidence of cases reported by the Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks. Currently, 13 of these directorates register an incidence above the national average, with an increase of 135% in the number of cases. This shows an increase of 152% compared to the same week in 2022 (12,263 cases versus 4,869).

Epidemiological history in Guatemala has shown that dengue is a recurrent event in the country, with epidemic years in which incidence rates skyrocket, exceeding the capacities of health services. These epidemic peaks have been observed specifically in the years 2010, 2014, and 2019, with a recurrent pattern of approximately 4 to 5 years between each peak. Since the last activation of the IFRC-DREF in response to a dengue epidemic in 2019, to date, the country is again in a critical situation. For this reason, funding is being requested to respond to this epidemic and provide support to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance in prevention, containment, and community-based epidemiological surveillance actions. The seriousness of the situation and the need for intervention are evident in light of the evidence presented in the epidemiological week reports.

Lessons learned

To develop this IFRC-DREF Application, lessons learned from previous operations, mainly the 2019 dengue emergency appeal, have been taken into account to mitigate similar challenges during the implementation period. In this regard, the following aspects have been considered:

- Advanced planning and preparedness will be implemented to strengthen epidemiological surveillance. Special attention will be paid to the early detection of outbreaks and constant monitoring of dengue cases, which will allow for an agile response.
- Awareness and education campaigns will be intensified to prevent the spread of dengue, focusing on the elimination of breeding sites and the promotion of proper hygiene practices. Training of community leaders, health personnel and members of the Guatemalan Red Cross will be strengthened to ensure an effective response.
- Close collaboration and coordination will be maintained with the authorities of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, as well as with the Ministry of Education. Inter-institutional coordination will be a key priority, facilitating collaboration between different entities to comprehensively address the dengue problem.
- Continuous evaluations of the operation will be conducted and results will be monitored on an ongoing basis, allowing for timely adjustments and improvements.



Current National Society Actions

<p>Activation Of Contingency Plans</p>	<p>There is an institutional response plan that establishes specific actions to respond to emergencies, disasters, or crises. However, there is no specific contingency plan for epidemiological outbreaks.</p>
<p>National Society EOC</p>	<p>The National Society has an Emergency Operations Center that monitors the incidence of dengue cases at the national level according to official information from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, as well as reports originating from the departments through the different delegations, both cases and of preventive and mitigation actions that are currently being developed.</p>
<p>Resource Mobilization</p>	<p>Currently, the National Society is in the process of managing support with the German Red Cross to address the dengue epidemic in the department of Zacapa, specifically in the municipality of Gualán, another area with high rates of cases. This proposal focuses on the implementation of preventive actions and containment of dengue.</p> <p>The National Society is also coordinating efforts to develop a response proposal to the dengue epidemic affecting the municipality of Coatepeque, in the department of Quetzaltenango, as well as the municipality of Mazatenango, located in the department of Suchitepéquez.</p> <p>These actions are being carried out in order to expand the intervention coverage of the National Society with different resources and actors.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Through the epidemic control technical team, information and community awareness campaigns have been launched.</p> <p>The National Society, through its Health Directorate, which is being strengthened through the Public Health in Emergencies and Community Health programs, has trained personnel at the national level and volunteer health coordinators in the delegations who will provide technical support in the actions to be carried out.</p>
<p>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</p>	<p>The National Society has begun coordinating with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, particularly with the vector program, to carry out fogging activities in the departments of Izabal and Chiquimula. These two departments have registered a high number of dengue cases, and also have delegations with thermal foggers.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the dissemination of information has begun through home visits and the National Society's social networks. The objective is to share practical and relevant information on the prevention and control of dengue, providing the community with valuable resources to face this epidemic effectively.</p>
	<p>The National Society has technical staff for community participation and accountability, who will guide the actions developed, as well as ensure account-</p>



Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>ability, monitoring, and evaluation of actions. Particularly for this operation, refresher sessions have been initiated with staff and volunteers on actions related to awareness raising and behavioral change in the prioritized sectors. In addition, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) focal points have participated in the planning of the actions proposed for the operation.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>The National Society has conducted training for management, technical staff, and volunteers to ensure the full implementation of the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach, following the established minimum standards. Specifically for this operation, a risk analysis is being developed in relation to child protection under the guidance of the IFRC. In addition, refresher meetings on PGI minimum standards are being organized with the staff of the areas covered by this operation. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure the applicability of the approach in all actions, taking into account the needs identified and the particularities of each intervention context.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>Currently, there are no specific funds available for the response to this problem, however, the delegations of Chiquimula and Izabal (Puerto Barrios and El Estor) have begun to carry out joint actions of nebulization (chemical control) as well as providing information through home visits and through the social networks of the National Society, key messages and practical recommendations have been shared regarding the prevention and mitigation of dengue.</p>
Coordination	<p>Through strategic alliances with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS, by its initials in Spanish), the National Society has achieved direct and close coordination at different levels of care, according to the needs that arise, as well as the specific areas of intervention. This coordination has also facilitated access to updated epidemiological data and additional resources, strengthening the National Society's capacity to plan prevention actions and respond effectively to the needs of the communities affected by dengue in Guatemala.</p> <p>In addition, the National Society has also established preliminary contacts with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED, by its initials in Spanish) in order to learn about and follow up on the specific measures that have been implemented in response to the dengue epidemic. The objective is to coordinate and align planned actions with those already underway by CONRED, ensuring a joint and effective response.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>Guatemala is home to the country office of the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and through the Country Cluster Delegation's Programs and Operations Coordinator, the IFRC provides guidance and support to emergency response actions carried out by the National Society. In addition, the IFRC's Americas Regional Office in Panama provides support through a specialized team that assists the different components linked to the emergency: water and sanitation, health, logistics, and disaster risk reduction, among others.</p> <p>The actions planned for outbreak control will be carried out directly by Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers, with support from the IFRC and</p>
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	according to the Institutional Response Plan. Also, through the project funded by BHA/IFRC, it is planned to start with educational sessions on dengue prevention integrated into the health days.
Participating National Societies	Communication will continue with both the Spanish Red Cross and the German Red Cross, who are present in the country, through coordination meetings for situation analysis, resource management and other aspects to be prioritized.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The mission of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is present in Guatemala and it carries out joint actions to address operational safety, safer access, operational communication, restoration of family links and health service protection issues through its country office and cooperation area. At the moment there is no support planned for this operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>Since February 2023, after the beginning of the dengue outbreak in the country, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance has started with the following actions: a) stratification of risk localities by the municipality through entomological surveys; b) nebulization actions; c) promotion and education, training of health personnel, and d) meetings of the Health EOC to address the situation in the country.</p> <p>On 4 September, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED, by its initials in Spanish) issued a report on the epidemiological situation of dengue fever in Guatemala. The report highlights the actions that are being carried out, including the following: (a) Participation in inter-institutional meetings in which the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS, by its initials in Spanish) shared preventive measures against dengue; (b) Participation in a meeting with the departmental directorate of Sacatepéquez of MSPAS, in which a red alert was declared due to the increase in dengue cases in the municipalities of Antigua Guatemala, Pastores, Jocotenango and Santa María de Jesús; c) Participation in meetings of the Emergency Operations Committee (COE) at the departmental level to address the epidemiological situation of dengue and promote awareness of Ministerial Agreement 258-2023 in the department of Petén; d) Implementation of a fumigation campaign in the department of Zacapa with the objective of reducing the number of dengue cases. This campaign is being carried out by municipal crews.</p> <p>In addition, in the particular case of the departmental delegation of CONRED in the department of Izabal, it has declared a red alert in the department due to the increase in dengue cases.</p>
UN or other actors	Currently, there is 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 intervention.



Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

In the department of Izabal, a technical round table was formed to coordinate actions related to dengue prevention. In addition, home visits, nebulization and awareness-raising activities have begun.

In the department of Chiquimula, nebulization activities have begun.

These actions have been initiated by the National Society in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, as well as with other local organizations.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Community Engagement And Accountability

Ensuring community participation and accountability strengthens collaboration between health authorities and communities, resulting in a more effective and sustainable approach to dengue prevention and control in Guatemala.

The basic needs in this area involve actively involving communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of prevention and control strategies. This includes the promotion of participatory decision-making, where the voices of communities are heard and considered in the formulation of programs and strategies.

In addition, it is essential to establish clear and transparent accountability mechanisms through which health authorities and organizations involved report to the community on the progress and results of the actions undertaken. This not only builds trust and cooperation but also allows communities to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken and propose adjustments when necessary.

Community participation also involves training local leaders and health promoters to be active agents in disseminating information, identifying mosquito breeding sites, and promoting preventive practices.



Health

Sanitary conditions in most of the country are precarious and there are significant challenges in public health coverage. Due to the rainy season, the population is exposed to gastrointestinal, dermatological, respiratory, and vector-borne diseases. This could lead to epidemiological outbreaks with consequences for children, the elderly, and the most vulnerable. Stagnant water is a favorable environment for vectors that transmit diseases such as dengue and other arboviruses. Consequently, immediate containment actions have become a priority.

Likewise, to effectively address and prevent the dengue epidemic in Guatemala, it is essential to address other basic health needs, such as significant strengthening of the health system required, including training of health personnel in the identification and timely treatment of dengue. In addition, it is crucial to improve the infrastructure of health centers, ensuring the availability of medicines and resources needed to care for patients.

Also, education and sensitization of the population are essential. This includes information campaigns on dengue prevention, promoting the elimination of mosquito breeding sites and personal protection against mosquito bites, as well as the importance of seeking medical attention for suspicious symptoms. These actions should be accompanied by prior planning that integrates coordination agreements with local authorities, home visits, a physical control campaign, as well as a social mobilization campaign, together with a communication plan against dengue.

Finally, it is necessary to focus on the collection and analysis of epidemiological data to better understand the spread of dengue in the country. This will allow for a more accurate and effective response, identifying the areas at highest risk and adapting prevention and control strategies according to the local situation. These basic health needs are essential to address and prevent the dengue epidemic in Guatemala and protect the health of its population.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The comprehensive approach and prevention of the dengue epidemic in Guatemala requires addressing two basic needs. First, a sound vector control strategy must be implemented, including the elimination of mosquito breeding sites and the promotion of vector control practices in communities. Second, sanitation and hygiene conditions must be improved, ensuring access to safe drinking water and promoting awareness of the importance of hand washing and proper waste management. These measures are essential to reduce the incidence of dengue and protect the health of the Guatemalan population.

In this regard, it is necessary to promote proper hygiene practices in affected communities, encouraging frequent hand washing and personal hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease. In addition, it is necessary to work with communities to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites, through clean-up campaigns and the implementation of preventive measures, such as the destruction of containers where stagnant water accumulates. Social mobilization will be key to actively involve the population in these actions and achieve an effective response to dengue control, especially protecting the most vulnerable populations.

All these needs respond to the conclusions and recommendations issued by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, in order to provide an optimal response to the current dengue epidemic. Mainly by reinforcing prevention and control strategies to reduce the incidence of the disease.



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 whatever their situation, have equal access to the necessary prevention and care measures. This is essential to protect the health of the entire Guatemalan population.

First, it is essential to guarantee the protection of the most vulnerable groups, including adequate medical care for those affected by the disease, especially children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

In addition, it is essential to incorporate a gender approach in all prevention strategies. This involves actively including women and men in decision-making and implementation of prevention measures, as well as addressing gender inequalities that may influence the spread of dengue.

The inclusion of more vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities, is also essential. This involves tailoring 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.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Limited publicly available information to strengthen epidemiological surveillance to detect early cases and track the spread of the virus. However, the approaches and coordination of the National Society with the authorities of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance aim to minimize this gap.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Application, the Guatemalan Red Cross aims 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.

This will be done through the promotion of the reduction of the incidence of dengue cases in the most vulnerable communities in these departments, through the implementation of strategies that include chemical control, physical control, and the promotion and prevention of the disease at both family and community levels. This will be achieved through the implementation of health-related measures and the improvement of water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in these geographic areas.

Operation strategy rationale

The implementation of the response strategy will be carried out in close collaboration with authorities at both the national and local levels, including the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, and the Ministry of Education. In addition, advantage will be taken of the working platform established by the Delegations in the departments identified as priorities.

The first stage of implementation will consist of detailed programming of the activities to be carried out in coordination with the Health Districts and the Directors of local Schools and Institutes.

The main objective of the strategy is that each individual and sector of the population assume their responsibility in the fight against the dengue vector. It is also planned to activate the health commissions in each locality so that they can collaborate effectively in the implementation of the proposed activities.

The Guatemalan Red Cross will play a fundamental role in supporting families, communities and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance in the reduction of aedes indices, the presence of the vector and the incidence of cases of Dengue and severe Dengue. In addition, the importance of carrying out specific outbreak control actions is recognized, so the plan includes fogging days in a radius of 100 meters around the homes of confirmed dengue cases, in compliance with national protocols and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) guidelines.

To achieve the proposed objective, a series of actions have been proposed in the prioritized sectors, as described below:

HEALTH:

- Training in community surveillance: Community leaders will be trained to identify and refer dengue cases in a timely manner.
- Dengue prevention education sessions: Educational sessions will be developed for the general population, with the objective of raising awareness on preventive practices against dengue.
- Dengue management update: Continuous training will be provided to Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers and primary health personnel so that they can adequately manage dengue cases, including warning signs and alert signals.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

Supply of inputs and equipment: The National Society will purchase Deltamethrin to carry out the nebulization and eliminate the adult mosquito, Temephos to eliminate larvae in water stored at the household level, personal protection equipment and office supplies (sheets, pens, markers, etc.). This activities will complement the actions



conducted by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance as per the support needs that have been raised in the different coordination meetings.

It is worth highlighting that the six backpack-type thermal foggers will be used by the National Society during the implementation of the operation but these will be donated, along with any remaining supplies, to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance at the end of the implementation period of the IFRC-DREF Operation as part of the actions to strengthen the health services in the prioritized departments.

Fogging and abatization: Volunteers will join vector personnel to carry out abatization and nebulization days, coordinating these actions with community leaders. Protocols and procedures established by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance will be followed, and prior to eliminating breeding sites, sensitization activities will be developed to increase effectiveness in the short term and ensure sustainable conditions. To reinforce prevention measures, mosquito nets will also be delivered to the 1,000 targeted families. This is a key measure to reduce exposure to dengue-transmitting mosquito bites and, therefore, 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 is an effective and low-cost strategy to protect the health of vulnerable communities.

Preventive education: Educational sessions will be developed to prevent the proliferation of dengue using the UNTADITA strategy and the VELITA method. Cleaning kits will be distributed to the 1,000 targeted families to carry out these activities. The UNTADITA is a procedure for maintaining washbasins and drums free of *Aedes aegypti* based on modification of existing practices. The VELITA method encourages people to flip over containers that are not in use, dispose of materials and containers considered trash, clean water storage basins and barrels, remove aquatic plants, clean terraces and gutters frequently, and finally cover all containers in which water for household consumption is stored. These actions will be carried out during home visits scheduled to deliver Temephos.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

The CEA approach is transversal and will be used in the different activities and intervention strategies, considering bidirectional conversations with the communities and their community structures. The success of these activities relies on a consistent behavior change. To ensure appropriate care-seeking for early supportive care, and to encourage household- and community-level action to reduce mosquito populations in the community, all actions will be based on the CEA approach. This approach will be used to share key messages that promote positive behavior change in communities, carry out risk communication activities based on the evolution of the epidemiological situation, monitor and respond to rumors and misinformation, and increase participation of volunteers and community leaders in dengue prevention activities.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

To ensure that all activities take an inclusive and protective approach, basic training in PGI minimum standards will be conducted for staff and volunteers who are providing direct response. Also, child-friendly spaces will be enabled in community activities. Additionally, a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis under IFRC guidance is under preparation for this operation.

STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES:

Lessons Learned Workshops: At the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop will be held to identify successes and failures, and thus continue to strengthen future operations.

Provision of uniforms for personnel and volunteers: Uniforms and institutional visibility gear will be provided to personnel and volunteers who participate directly in the operation.

Insurance for volunteers: Medical and life insurance will be contracted to guarantee the protection of volunteers directly involved in the operation.

Targeting Strategy



Who will be targeted through this operation?

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

The activities will be carried out by technical personnel hired specifically for this purpose. This team will be supported by volunteers from the delegations 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 are in an epidemic alert zone, which includes both urban and rural areas, according to epidemiological reports on dengue in Guatemala issued by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.

Special consideration has been given to the vulnerable population, which in this particular case includes women and children between 5 and 9 years of age, of both sexes, who have a high incidence of dengue cases.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	2,575	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	0	58.00 %	42.00 %
Men:	2,425	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	0	0.00 %	
Total targeted population:	5,000		

Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
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

Risk of social conflicts due to the current political situation, marked by the recent general elections in August. However, Safe Access Plans will be implemented with the collaboration of volunteers, technicians, and delegations to ensure the safety of the work teams. In addition, as has been the practice on previous occasions, activities at the community level will be carried out in collaboration with health services personnel and community leaders.




Planned Intervention

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 11,129
		Targeted Persons	
Indicators		Target	
Number of follow-up field visits by the IFRC		2	
Priority Actions:		- Monitoring visit by IFRC staff.	

	Health	Budget	CHF 60,738
		Targeted Persons	5000
Indicators		Target	
Number of primary health care (PHC) practitioners trained in the proper management of dengue, including the identification of warning signs and alerts.		40	
Number of people reached through dengue prevention actions.		5000	
Number of community leaders and health commissions trained in the early identification of cases and their efficient referral (community surveillance).		150	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dengue management refresher workshop with National Society staff and volunteers and primary health care professionals. - Community surveillance workshops for health commissions. - Elaboration of educational material in Spanish and local language. - Radio and National Society social media campaign. - Community health fairs. - Communication actions, dissemination of key messages (perifoneo). - Purchase of personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers involved in the operation. 	

		Budget	CHF 183,527
		Targeted Persons	5000




	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene		
Indicators	Target		
Number of communities or target sites that have experienced vector control interventions (both chemical and physical).	16		
Number of people reached with actions related to water, sanitation and hygiene	5000		
Number of National Society staff and volunteers trained and reinforced in environmental sanitation equipment operation and maintenance skills.	10		
<p style="text-align: center;">Priority Actions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase of pile washing kit (mixing container, bleach, detergent, brush, barrel cap) - Purchase and distribution of mosquito nets. - Purchase of supplies and tools for fogging (personal protection equipment, full face masks, Deltamethrin, Temephos, fuel for perifoneo and fogging). - Development of a workshop on operation and maintenance of environmental sanitation equipment. - Maintenance of fogging equipment. - Purchase of tools for the elimination of mosquito breeding sites. - Development of a day for the elimination of mosquito breeding sites. - Maintenance of vehicles used for operational activities. - Purchase of thermal foggers. 		

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 2,935
Indicators		Target	
Number of child protection measures implemented after risk assessment		1	
Number of Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers who have received training/updating in the Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach.		50	
Number of child-friendly spaces established during the implementation of community activities		5	



Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the workshop on Protection, Gender and Inclusion issues. - Development of child protection risk analysis according to IFRC guidelines. - Enabling child-friendly spaces and child protection community activities according to the risk analysis, implemented in community health activities.
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	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 978
		Targeted Persons	1000
Indicators		Target	
Number of CEA mechanisms implemented		1	
Number of people reached with CEA-related actions		1000	
Number of staff and volunteers trained/updated on CEA-related topics		25	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CEA workshop for National Society staff and volunteers. - Promotion of community participation and implementation of feedback mechanisms (mailboxes, short surveys, community meetings) in specific areas as part of health and water, sanitation and hygiene activities. 	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 17,940
		Targeted Persons	50
Indicators		Target	
Number of lessons learned workshops developed		1	
Number of staff and volunteers receiving personal protective equipment and visibility gear		50	
Number of technical personnel hired specifically for the operation		4	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of lessons learned workshop (face-to-face). - Purchase and distribution of visibility and protection equipment for personnel and volunteers directly involved in the operation. - Hiring of 4 profiles for the implementation of the operation: 1x DREF Coordinator 	



2x WASH Technician
1x Health Technician

About Support Services

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

50 volunteers will be mobilized in the departments of Chiquimula and Puerto Barrios to lead community activities, provide training support, and carry out actions related to WASH, CEA, Health, and PGI.

In addition, additional technical staff will be hired to support the delegations in the execution of field activities, with the following personnel:

- 1x Field Coordinator in charge of supervising and coordinating field actions.
- 1x Health Professional at the field level for the implementation of health-related actions.
- 2x WASH Specialist to carry out vector control, sensitization, and resource distribution activities.

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

The National Society has implemented an administrative-financial procedure to manage the necessary purchases. This process begins with a purchase request, which, if the amount exceeds Q7,000.00, generates three quotations. Then, a quality and cost analysis is performed, and once the purchase is approved, the product is delivered. Subsequently, it is verified that the product meets the required quality standards before processing the payment to the supplier through a check.

The items to be purchased include Temephos, Deltamethrin, fuel, 2T oil, personal protective equipment, visibility materials, fogger repair kits, educational materials, tools, office supplies, and payment for services for the broadcasting of radio and television commercials.

Regarding warehouse and storage operations, it is expected that the products will be delivered directly from the suppliers to the place of destination; however, if storage is required, the rules established by the National Society will be followed, making use of the warehouses located at the Guatemalan Red Cross Headquarters and/or Delegation.

Transportation and freight will be used only if necessary. Only Guatemalan Red Cross vehicles will be used to transport personnel, in compliance with the regulations and safety standards established by the National Society for vehicles identified with the emblem, ensuring safer access.

How will this operation be monitored?

In order to effectively monitor the actions of the IFRC-DREF, the recording instruments, and indicators established by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance will be used. This will allow all activities carried out to be duly recorded as part of the monthly production in the Health Districts, thus contributing to national statistics. In addition, regular meetings will be encouraged between the management team, IFRC-DREF staff, boards of directors, and volunteers of the National Society, as well as with the districts, areas, and the central level of the Ministry of Health. These meetings will serve to analyze the scope of the results proposed by the project, identify possible gaps, and propose improvement activities.

To evaluate the impact of the IFRC-DREF, official data on entomological indices and dengue incidence provided by the health services will be collected. In addition, a satisfaction survey will be conducted among beneficiaries and health services personnel involved in the project. These data will be of utmost importance for the National Society to improve the quality of its actions in future interventions related to epidemic control.

In addition, regular meetings and monthly monitoring will be held to evaluate compliance with the targets set by IFRC-DREF staff and the National Society's monitoring and evaluation team, in collaboration with the IFRC PMER



officer. In addition, the National Society has a digital platform to register the people reached by the project, which will facilitate the follow-up and monitoring of compliance with the proposed results.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

The operation's staff and volunteers, in collaboration with the National Society's communication department, will develop a communication campaign aimed at mass media, such as radio and television, with the objective of raising awareness about dengue control, identification of danger signs and care measures in the face of these diseases. These messages will be submitted to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance for validation.

On the other hand, the communication department will assume the responsibility of informing both the population and the IFRC office in Guatemala about the actions carried out by the Guatemalan Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC itself. This will include the dissemination of stories of people assisted with the operation.

In line with the code of conduct for disaster relief, in all information, publicity, and advertising activities, all persons assisted will be treated as dignified human beings and not as objects to be pitied, emphasizing their skills and abilities.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGT020 - Guatemalan Red Cross Guatemala: Dengue

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	248.178
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	60.738
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	183.527
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2.935
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	978
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	29.069
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11.129
National Society Strengthening	17.940
TOTAL BUDGET	277.247

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:** Maria Teresa Estrada, Health Director, mariat.estrada@cruzroja.gt
- **IFRC Appeal Manager:** Nelson Aly Rodriguez, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Project Manager:** Mariela Gómez, Disaster Management Coordinator, mariela.gomez@ifrc.org
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Diana Oviedo, Operations Coordinator, diana.oviedo@ifrc.org
- **Media Contact:** Andrés Lemus, Communication Coordinator, andres.lemus@cruzroja.gt

[Click here for the reference](#)

