

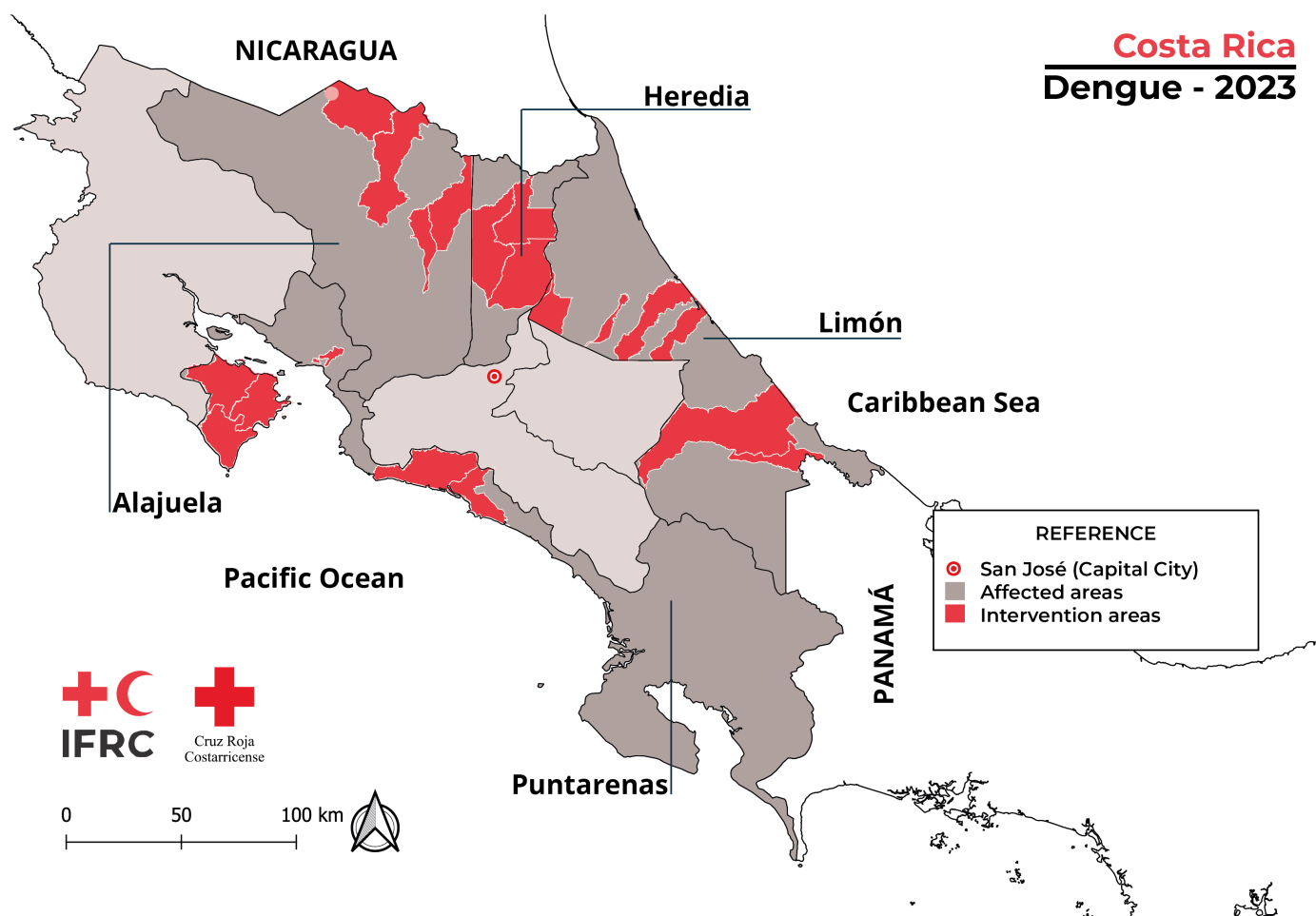


Costa Rican Red Cross staff and volunteers sharing key messages on practical actions for dengue prevention, as well as distribution of repellents. Source: CRRC.

Appeal: MDRCR023	Country: Costa Rica	Hazard: Epidemic	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 413,678	
Glide Number:	People Affected: 345,285 people	People Targeted: 26,665 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-10-20	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 2024-02-29	DREF Published: 2023-10-20
Targeted Areas:	Alajuela, Heredia, Limon, Puntarenas		

Description of the Event

Costa Rica Dengue - 2023



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: IFRC. Produced by IFRC CA Country cluster IM team. October 2023.

Most affected areas and areas prioritized by the Costa Rican Red Cross for the implementation of this DREF operation. Source: CRRC.

What happened, where and when?

On 11 October, the Ministry of Health formally extended a request for interinstitutional collaboration to the Costa Rican Red Cross. This was done following discussions which started in ending -September on opportunities for collaboration in response to the preventive health alert for dengue.

Dengue is the arbovirus with the highest number of cases reported in the Region of the Americas, and outbreaks occurring cyclically every 3 to 5 years. The four dengue virus serotypes (DENV1, DENV2, DENV3, and DENV4) are present in this sub-region. In 2023, the simultaneous circulation of all four was detected in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

The increase in dengue cases in Costa Rica has been a cause for concern among health authorities, largely attributed to the growing mosquito population. Contributing factors include favorable weather conditions characterized by warmth and humidity, and the proliferation of mosquito breeding sites. This escalation in dengue cases became evident in the final weeks of August 2023, prompting the Ministry of Health to declare a nationwide preventive health alert for dengue on 6 September 2023 (1).

Up to EW 39 (ending on 30 September) of 2023, a total of 14,403 dengue cases have been officially reported (2) in



country. These cases, recorded up to the 39th epidemiological week, show a significant 62% increase compared to the 5,475 cases reported during the same period in 2022 (3). In response to this, the Ministry of Health has been actively seeking the support of the entire population and has called for a nationwide alliance to combat dengue. Simultaneously, they have implemented a series of strategies to prevent the spread of the disease-carrying mosquito. These strategies include the fumigation of residential properties and vacant lots, the treatment of water tanks, and the initiation of control and mitigation measures.

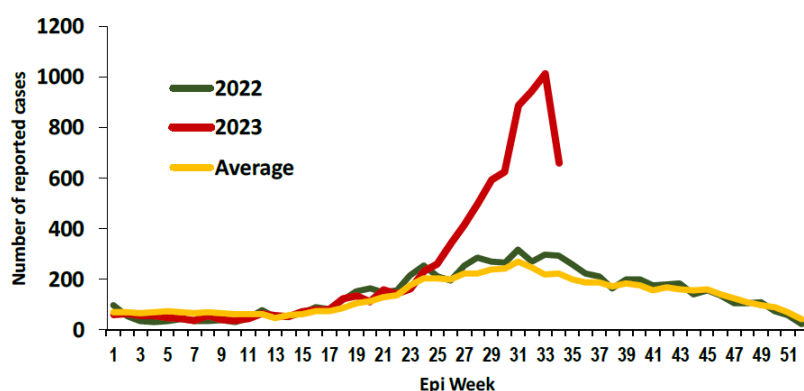
The call for collaborative efforts with the National Society is focused on jointly conducting activities that include public education and awareness campaigns for preventive measures, eliminating mosquito breeding sites, involving volunteers in field applications of larvicides, and supplying essential resources like insecticides to support spraying campaigns. These collaborative efforts are primarily directed at the provinces of Limón (Huetar Caribe region), Puntarenas (North Central region), Alajuela (Central Pacific region), and Heredia (Chorotega region), as these regions report a higher incidence of dengue cases up to EW 39, as detailed in Table 1.

To note, in 2022, according to the Epidemiological Alert issued on 15 September by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and EW 52 (ending 31 December), there were 2,811,433 dengue cases reported, placing 2022 as the third highest year in terms of total dengue cases reported within a year.

In 2023, only between epidemiological week (EW) 1 and EW 35 (ending 2 September), there were 3,407,921 dengue cases reported in the region, with a cumulative incidence rate of 343 cases per 100,000 population. Furthermore, in the Central American Isthmus and Mexico only, a total of 226,183 dengue cases have been reported for the same period with a cumulative incidence rate of 123.6 cases per 100,000 population. Of this, 26,017 (11.5%) were laboratory confirmed and 577 (0.26%) were classified as severe dengue. The highest cumulative incidence rates were reported in: Nicaragua with 1,346.7 cases per 100,000 population, Belize with 1,009 per 100,000 population, Panama with 162.2 cases per 100,000 population, and Honduras with 114.6 cases per 100,000 population (4).

Sources:

- (1) <https://tinyurl.com/AlertaSanitariaCR>
- (2) <https://tinyurl.com/BoletinEpidemiologico39de2023>
- (3) <https://tinyurl.com/BoletinEpidemiologico40de2022>
- (4) <https://tinyurl.com/EpidemiologicalAlertPAHO>



Región	Casos	Tasa
Huetar Caribe	4805	1012,6
Central Norte	3095	299,2
Pacífico Central	2133	674,5
Chorotega	1478	317,0
Huetar Norte	1072	404,7
Central Sur	956	62,4
Central Este	435	76,0
Brunca	268	71,4
Occidente	161	71,0
Total	14403	273,7

Fuente: Dirección Vigilancia de la Salud, Unidad de Indicadores de Salud

Graph 1. Dengue cases 2022 vs 2023 vs 5 year average in CR.

Table 1. Dengue cases and rates by region up to EW 39

Scope and Scale

In recent years, Dengue has had a significant impact in Costa Rica, causing epidemic outbreaks that have affected thousands of people throughout the country. The year 2023 has witnessed a consistent surge in Dengue cases,



further straining an already overburdened healthcare system in the country. Yet, beyond the strain on healthcare, Dengue has left a significant economic footprint, as those afflicted often contend with prolonged work incapacity and, in severe instances, necessitate hospitalization, resulting in adverse economic consequences. The spread of dengue has required the implementation of prevention campaigns and the elimination of mosquito breeding sites, which has required additional resources from the government.

A dengue outbreak is not tied to a cyclical pattern and can be influenced by a range of interconnected factors. Climate and temperature are pivotal, with rainy seasons providing favorable conditions for mosquito breeding. The presence and abundance of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito are also key factors. The movement of people, including international travel and trade, can introduce imported cases of dengue to new regions. When an infected individual relocates from one endemic area to another, it can spark local outbreaks.

The pre-existing immunity to dengue within a population significantly affects the virus's spread. Additionally, factors linked to socioeconomic conditions, such as rapid urbanization, limited access to fundamental services (like clean water and sanitation), and poverty, can heighten the risk of outbreaks. These conditions create environments conducive to mosquito breeding and weaken vector control measures.

According to Epidemiological Bulletin No. 39, issued by the Health Surveillance Directorate of the Costa Rican Ministry of Health, up to EW 39 (ending 30 September) a total of 14,403 cases of Dengue have been reported. The most affected province is El Limon (Huetar Caribbean region), with a total of 4,805 reported cases and the highest rate, reaching 1,012.6 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Furthermore, the provinces of Puntarenas (North Central region), Alajuela (Central Pacific region) and Heredia (Chorotega region) follow in number of cases with 3,095, 2,133, and 1,478 cases, respectively, and incidence rates of 299.2, 674.5, and 317 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, respectively. Finally, the regions of Guanacaste, San José and Cartago register lower rates of cases, however, the Ministry of Health, through its agencies, is carrying out surveillance, monitoring and awareness actions, focused on the management of breeding sites, the use of repellents and other preventive tools against mosquito bites.

In addition to the 14,403 cases of dengue confirmed up to EW 39, the Costa Rican Red Cross, through regional coordinators and in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, has evaluated the cantons that make up the provinces of the four regions with the highest prevalence of dengue cases. These assessments reveals that 345,285 people are at high risk due to their residence in these areas with high incidence of dengue cases.

Finally, it's important to emphasize that although the average Cantonal Human Development Index (HDIc) of 2023 mirrors the values seen in 2015, there is clear evidence of a regression in local human development akin to a setback of five years. This setback results from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (2). This decline directly correlates with a reduction in the overall quality of life for the affected population, who must grapple with the repercussions stemming from dengue.

Sources:

(1) <https://tinyurl.com/BoletinEpidemiologico39de2023>

(2)
<https://ciodd.ucr.ac.cr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Indice-de-Desarrollo-Humano-Canton-al-y-su-Ajustes-por-el-PIB-Ajuste-datos-al-2023.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?	No



Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No
If yes, please specify which operations	-

Lessons learned

The last DREF Operation launched by the Costa Rican Red Cross in response to Dengue Outbreak was 10 years ago, in 2013. More recently, in 2019, the National Society was part of the sub-regional Emergency Appeal (MDR42005) launched to contribute to prevent and respond to the dengue outbreak in affected countries in Central America. Furthermore, the National Society has also implemented multiple DREF Operations in response to other crises, with the most recent ones being Floods (MDRCR021) in 2022 and Population Movement (MDRCR020) in 2021.

As part of the development of this DREF Application, the National Society has drawn upon valuable lessons learned from previous operations, including:

- The importance of coordination and collaboration among multiple actors, ranging from the Ministry of Health and other governmental agencies to humanitarian organizations and the local community.
- The integration of multi-sectoral approaches is essential for the successful management of dengue outbreaks.
- The importance of continuous surveillance and monitoring, as well as the early detection of cases, are key elements for an effective response.
- The need to maintain adaptability and flexibility in responding to dengue outbreaks, given the rapid evolution of the disease.
- The importance to strengthen education and awareness of dengue prevention measures in the affected provinces.

Current National Society Actions

<p>Coordination</p>	<p>At the national level, the Costa Rican Red Cross has held initial meetings with the Ministry of Health, particularly with the Directorate of Health Surveillance, with the purpose of assessing a strategic collaboration between both entities to strengthen the comprehensive response to the dengue epidemic.</p> <p>At the regional and local levels, the branches of the National Society have begun to hold coordination meetings with the authorities of the Ministry of Health at the regional level, also with the aim of assessing joint activities. Furthermore, actions have also been initiated with representatives of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and municipalities.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>As part of the initial coordination actions with the Ministry of Health, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and municipalities, the Costa Rican Red Cross has begun to develop local awareness campaigns, focused on sharing key messages on effective dengue prevention practices and how to act in case of symptoms of the disease, spraying with thermal fogging machines (house to house), tire collection campaigns, educational prevention campaigns in some schools and distribution of repellents. These actions have been applied in a differentiated manner according to the immediate needs identified in each territory.</p>



National Society Readiness	The Costa Rican Red Cross is continuously monitoring the evolution of the dengue outbreak, preparing to take the necessary actions taking into account the guidelines of the Ministry of Health through the dengue health alert. So far, it has started to organize staff and volunteers internally and specific talks have been given to staff and volunteers to update information and practices related to dengue prevention. In addition, local actions have been initiated to disseminate key messages and promote dengue prevention practices. These actions have been adapted according to the needs identified in each territory by the National Society branches and suggestions from the local focal points of the Ministry of Health.
Assessment	The Costa Rican Red Cross carried out a preliminary assessment through the Operations Coordinators in the regions where it is present through its branches, in order to identify the geographic areas, such as regions, cantons and districts, that are affected by the dengue outbreak. This process was based on the health alert for dengue fever issued by the Ministry of Health, with the objective of gathering evidence to support informed decision making.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC through the Country Cluster Delegation for Central America provides direct support in guiding the planning, monitoring and implementation of the IFRC-DREF. Likewise, the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas provides support through a specialized team that assists the different components linked to the emergency, including: water and sanitation, health, logistics and disaster risk reduction, among others.
Participating National Societies	At the moment, the Costa Rican Red Cross has not engaged with Participating National Societies for the development of this DREF Application, and joint actions are not planned during its implementation.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

At the moment, the Costa Rican Red Cross has not engaged with the International Committee of the Red Cross for the development of this DREF Application, and joint actions are not planned during its implementation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>At the moment, the Ministry of Health has been fumigating communities, cleaning around homes and distributing preventive and informative material to the population.</p> <p>For its part, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund has provided medical attention to people who have been infected with dengue from the different medical centers, in addition, personnel from the Health Areas have frequently visited homes to provide information on precautions and preventive measures to be</p>



	taken, and in turn verify that there are no potential dengue breeding sites around the houses.
UN or other actors	As of July 2023, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), has begun to collaborate in the update of the National Integrated Management Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Arbovirolosis, presented by the Ministry of Health.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund are holding meetings with the Municipal Emergency Committees to better coordinate the development of actions related to dengue prevention. The information and decisions taken there help to reinforce the actions that have also begun to be coordinated directly with the National Society within the framework of inter-institutional support, making it possible to act within the same strategy.



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 Costa Rica.

The main 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 the health authorities and the Costa Rican Red Cross inform the community of 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 strengthening local capacities in the dissemination of information, the identification of mosquito breeding sites and the promotion of dengue prevention practices. In this regard, it is important for the Costa Rican Red Cross to develop a CEA strategy to address actions at the local and community level in a more relevant manner.



Health

Amid the dengue emergency in Costa Rica, it is crucial to address several key health needs to mitigate its impact. These needs have been identified through reports prepared by the Costa Rican Red Cross branches in the provinces with the highest rates of dengue cases. These needs have also been based on direct requests from the Ministry of Health to the National Society to provide an optimal response to the current dengue epidemic. Among the priority needs, the reinforcement of prevention and control strategies, with the central objective of reducing the spread of this disease, stands out.

In addition to the increase in dengue cases, the rainy season exposes the population to gastrointestinal, dermatological, respiratory, and vector-borne diseases, which could lead to epidemiological outbreaks with consequences for vulnerable groups of people. Stagnant water is a favourable environment for vectors that transmit diseases such as dengue and other arboviruses, so the immediate needs revolve around the elimination of breeding sites. This work involves close collaboration with communities to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites through home visits, cleaning campaigns and the implementation of preventive measures, such as the destruction of containers that hold stagnant water.

Furthermore, for the effective management and prevention of the dengue epidemic, it is imperative to address fundamental healthcare requirements. This includes bolstering the capabilities of healthcare personnel and volunteers through comprehensive training in the identification and prompt treatment of dengue. It's equally important to disseminate this knowledge within communities, involving community leaders, educational institutions, and public awareness initiatives, as these play a pivotal role in curbing the spread of dengue. Educational campaigns and awareness-raising discussions must be carried out to inform the population about preventive measures, the disease's signs and symptoms, and the critical significance of seeking early medical intervention.



Vulnerable families need to be provided of basic supplies to promote safe practices and stress the importance of preventing the spread of the virus, such as mosquito nets and repellents, but also there is a need to address children in educational centers, as lessons from past interventions has shown that children often replicate in their homes what they learn, and this helps to reach a greater number of people.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) needs in the context of a dengue emergency is essential to prevent the spread of the disease and preserve the well-being of affected communities. A comprehensive approach requires addressing two basic needs: first, a thorough vector control strategy must be implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, including the elimination of mosquito breeding sites and the promotion of vector control practices in communities. Second, protection and sanitation and hygiene practices must be improved, promoting awareness of the importance of hand washing and proper waste management and distributing mosquito nets and repellents to the most vulnerable families.

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 and appropriate waste collection. Also, the Ministry of Health has requested specific support from the National Society to carry out fumigation campaigns to help reduce the number of dengue cases.

Timely and accurate information reaching rural communities is key, for which it is essential to disseminate information campaigns that encourage the population to seek medical attention in time when they experience symptoms, which is essential for early diagnosis and treatment.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The approach and prevention of dengue in Costa Rica must consider the needs of protection, gender and inclusion, to ensure that all people, regardless of sex, gender, 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 Costa Rican population.

First, it is necessary to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable groups, including adequate medical care for people affected by the disease, especially children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions.

In addition, to ensure the relevance of actions, it is necessary to incorporate a gender approach in all prevention strategies. This implies 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.

Inclusion of the most vulnerable groups is also necessary. 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. In this regard, the Costa Rican Red Cross will develop a Protection, Gender and Inclusion strategy related to dengue prevention actions to ensure their relevance.



Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The Costa Rican Red Cross has not identified any limitations at this time. The necessary information has been available due to the good relationship with the Ministry of Health, as well as local and community authorities.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Costa Rican Red Cross aims to contribute to the national response for the prevention of dengue, providing support to the emergency needs of 5,333 families (26,665 people) in the areas of health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in the Huetar Caribbean Region (Province of Limón), North Huetar Region (Province of Alajuela), Central Pacific Region (Province of Puntarenas) and North Central Region (Province of Heredia).

This will be done by promoting the reduction of the incidence of dengue cases in the most vulnerable cantons of these provinces, through the implementation of strategies that include chemical and physical control and the promotion of disease prevention actions at both family and community level in these geographic areas.

Operation strategy rationale

Dengue prevention has become a public health priority in Costa Rica, given the constant threat posed by this mosquito-borne disease. The increase in the incidence of dengue during the last months of the year 2023 poses significant challenges that require a comprehensive intervention adapted to the local context. In this regard, the Costa Rican Red Cross, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has conducted an assessment in the cantons of the four most affected regions. The purpose of this assessment was to identify which of these cantons have the highest incidence of dengue cases and, based on this evidence, to determine which populations are most at risk. Based on this information, areas of intervention were prioritized to be specifically addressed with these DREF funds.

The response strategy proposed by the Costa Rican Red Cross contributes effectively and sustainably to address these challenges by combining multiple interconnected actions. The implementation of the strategy will be carried out in close collaboration with authorities at the national and local levels, including the Ministry of Health and the focal points of the Ministry of Education. In addition, it will take advantage of the working spaces established by the National Society's branches in the most affected and prioritized provinces.

The strategy will start with the detailed elaboration of an action plan, in coordination with the focal points assigned by the Ministry of Health and the educational authorities of the affected provinces. The main objective is for each actor involved to assume their responsibility in the fight against dengue. It is also planned to strengthen communication with the representatives of the cantons of the prioritized provinces so that they actively support the planning and execution of the proposed activities.

The Costa Rican Red Cross will play a key role in supporting the families of the most affected cantons, the Ministry of Public Health and the focal points of the Ministry of Education in the reduction of Aedes indices, the presence of the vector and the incidence of dengue cases. The proposed strategy focuses on the following sectors and specific actions:

HEALTH:

Reach 6,000 people through the implementation of Health related activities including:



A series of actions will be carried out to strengthen dengue prevention and promote safe practices in the communities. These actions include conducting informative talks with community leaders, awareness sessions in educational centers, distribution of school kits designed to prevent dengue and educate students on the importance of stopping the spread of the virus. In addition, a percentage of the National Society's staff and volunteers will be trained and updated on topics related to dengue prevention and self-protection measures, so that they can pass this knowledge on to other National Society volunteers and staff. In addition, essential supplies such as insecticides, liquid larvicides and personal protective equipment will be donated to the Ministry of Health, which will allow greater coverage of the fumigation campaigns to be carried out jointly with the National Society in the cantons of the most affected provinces.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

Reach 26,665 people (5,333 families) through the implementation of WASH-related activities, including:

Initially, 30 community clean-up campaigns (frequent emptying and cleaning of water containers, and capping of water storage tanks, etc.) to eradicate mosquito breeding sites, 30 home visits to raise awareness on vector control measures through practical recommendations adapted to the context, distribution of family kits with implements such as repellents and mosquito nets, community talks on topics related to safe water, dengue prevention practices, sanitation and hygiene, maintenance of thermonebulizers and support to the Ministry of Health in the development of dengue spraying campaigns in the prioritized provinces. The frequency of campaigns, home visits and spraying will be determined once field actions are initiated to ensure their relevance.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

Development of refresher talks for staff and volunteers of the delegations in the four prioritized provinces on PGI issues with special emphasis on the community level and the development of a PGI strategy focused on the proposed actions for this IFRC-DREF on dengue. In addition, taking into account the work to be done at the school level, the Costa Rican Red Cross will also carry out a risk analysis for child protection.

COMMUNITY, ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

Post-distribution accountability feedback mechanisms will be implemented (to be defined after the development of the CEA strategy), complaint management through a specific telephone line for the operation, development of refresher talks for staff and volunteers of the delegations in the four prioritized provinces on CEA-related issues, with emphasis on the accountability mechanisms applicable under each of the actions proposed in the action plan and development of a CEA strategy focused on the actions proposed for this IFRC-DREF on dengue.

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP:

The recruitment of 2x profiles to support the implementation of the actions contemplated in this DREF Application, as well as the provision of visibility for volunteers, mobilization expenses, food and lodging for staff and volunteers active in the operation, along with the organization of the lessons learned workshop. A significant amount in operational costs has been considered due to the fact that 80% of the intervention will be carried out in rural areas located at great distances, which often implies additional expenses in fuel and, sometimes, payment for boats.

To ensure the proper development of the actions proposed in the strategy, the National Society will maintain continuous coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health to follow up on ongoing actions, including the planning of joint fumigations and ensuring that the in-kind donations delivered to the Ministry of Health are used as agreed and according to the needs of the affected population. Periodic coordination and follow-up meetings will also be held with the focal points of the Ministry of Education and local authorities.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

For this DREF request, the Costa Rican Red Cross will focus on providing assistance to families in the cantons of the four regions that, according to data provided by the Ministry of Health, have the highest incidence of cases as of Epidemiological Week 39. These regions are:



Huetar Caribe Region (Province of Limón)
 North Huetar Region (Province of Alajuela)
 Central Pacific Region (Province of Puntarenas)
 Central North Central Region (Province of Heredia)

The Costa Rican Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, will follow up to ensure that assistance is provided to the most affected population.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

According to data provided in epidemiological week 39, the Costa Rican Red Cross has estimated that in the cantons that make up the provinces of the four regions with the highest prevalence of dengue cases, a total of 345,285 people are at risk due to their residence in these areas with a high incidence of dengue cases. In light of this, the National Society has conducted an internal assessment of its current capacities, as well as the funds required through this IFRC-DREF, and has determined that it will be able to adequately assist 5,333 families (26,665 people) in the most affected and prioritized geographic areas.

Although the Costa Rican Red Cross will provide support to all people who require it, special emphasis will be placed on children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions, considering their level of vulnerability to dengue.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	10,667	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	2,666	85.00 %	15.00 %
Men:	10,666	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	2,666	2.00 %	
Total targeted population:	26,665		

Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Change in outbreak dynamics	Design response plans that are adaptable to changes in outbreak dynamics. This involves identifying benchmarks and triggers to activate different phases of the response as the situation evolves.
Local beliefs and myths	Encourage community participation in the planning and implementation of interventions. This may include training processes for dengue prevention and mobilization of local leaders to advocate for preventive practices.
Interruption of field activities due to heavy rains	Design a flexible schedule of activities that allows for rescheduling or adjusting planned actions in case of imminent rainfall, as well as to consider possible scenarios for communicating alternative actions in time.



Lack of interest in community participation

Establish two-way communication channels to listen to community concerns and address them in a transparent manner. This can help build trust during and after the operation.


Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

One of the safety issues identified is related to the exposure of staff and volunteers to mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue. Since much of the intervention takes place in rural areas prone to the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, staff and volunteers may be exposed to an increased risk of contracting the disease. To address this safety concern, the National Society has planned the implementation of preventive measures, such as the use of repellents, protective clothing and the promotion of personal prevention practices, along with constant monitoring of the health and well-being of staff and volunteers in the field.




Planned Intervention

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 7,136
		Targeted Persons	
Indicators		Target	
Number of follow-up field visits by IFRC.		1	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring visit by IFRC staff. - Translation costs, shipping costs and financial costs. 	

	Health	Budget	CHF 115,979
		Targeted Persons	6000
Indicators		Target	
Number of people reached through talks with community leaders on dengue prevention.		400	
Number of people reached through talks in educational centers on dengue prevention.		6000	
Number of people reached through school kits for dengue prevention.		6000	
Number of personnel and volunteers trained and updated on topics related to dengue prevention.		240	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talks with community leaders on practical dengue prevention, self-protection measures, signs and symptoms, risks of not going to the doctor promptly, etc. (20 talks with the participation of 20 people in each one). - Talks in educational centers on practical dengue prevention measures (100 talks with the participation of 60 people in each one). - Distribution of school kits for dengue prevention (activity books and stickers with text and pictures related to dengue prevention measures, crayons, etc.). - Refresher training for National Society staff and volunteers on topics related to practical dengue prevention measures, self-protection measures, signs and symptoms, risks of not going to the doctor promptly, etc. (16 talks with the participation of 15 people in each one). - Purchase and distribution of insecticides, liquid larvicide and 	



personal protection equipment to be donated to the Ministry of Health for the development of fumigation campaigns.

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 220,551
		Targeted Persons	26665
Indicators		Target	
Number of families reached through the distribution of family kits for the prevention of dengue.		5333	
Number of community clean-up campaigns completed.		10	
Number of home visits to raise awareness about vector control measures completed.		30	
Number of community clean-up campaigns for the eradication of breeding sites completed.		30	
Number of community talks on topics related to safe water, hygiene and dengue prevention completed.		15	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community clean-up campaigns. - Home monitoring visits to raise awareness about vector control measures. - Distribution of family kits for dengue prevention (3 mosquito nets and 2 repellents per family). - Community talks on dengue prevention, elimination of breeding sites, safe water and hygiene. - Support to the Ministry of Health in fumigation campaigns. - Maintenance of the National Society's thermal foggers. 	

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 2,982
		Targeted Persons	0
Indicators		Target	
Number of personnel and volunteers who have participated in talks on PGI issues.		75	
Number of specific PGI strategies for IFRC-DREF implementation completed.		1	




Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of talks for staff and volunteers of the National Society on issues related to Protection, Gender and Inclusion with emphasis on community approach (5 talks with the participation of 15 people in each one). - Development of a specific PGI strategy for the implementation of this DREF Operation. - Development of risk analysis for child protection in emergency operations.
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	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 2,982
		Targeted Persons	0

Indicators	Target
Number of staff and volunteers who have participated in CEA-related talks.	75
Number of CEA strategies developed	1

Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-distribution feedback mechanisms (to be determined in the development of the CEA strategy). - Complaint handling through a specific hotline for the operation. - Development of talks for National Society staff and volunteers on CEA issues with emphasis on mechanisms relevant to the actions to be implemented under this DREF Operation (5 talks with the participation of 15 people each). - Development of a CEA strategy specific to this intervention.
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	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 64,049
		Targeted Persons	0

Indicators	Target
Number of technical personnel hired specifically for the operation.	2
Number of staff and volunteers receiving institutional visibility items.	400
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1

Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring of 2x profiles: 1x project technician and 1x purchasing assistant. - Acquisition and distribution of visibility for field staff and volunteers. - Visibility of DREF Operation (information materials, banners,
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etc.).

- Development of lessons learned workshop.
- Maintenance and fuel of vehicles used for the operation.

About Support Services

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

The Costa Rican Red Cross operates with an extensive network that includes 120 branches, 1,147 permanent staff members and approximately 6,000 volunteers throughout the country, distributed in nine regional offices and three national headquarters: Administrative Headquarters, Operational Headquarters and Metropolitan Headquarters. A multidisciplinary technical team ensures the efficiency of activities and supervises emergency operations under the coordination of the Risk Management Department, with the support of the General Management and the general administrative structure.

This DREF operation will be supported by 400 volunteers (approximately 100 in each province) during the four months of the operation, who will be rotated according to the demands of the operation. The Costa Rican Red Cross, under a comprehensive response approach, implements its actions regionally. This involves the mobilization of personnel and volunteers available in the branches located in each of the regions: Huetar Caribe (Limón) with 5 branches, Central Norte (Puntarenas) with 5 branches, Pacifico Central (Alajuela) with 4 branches and Chorotega (Heredia) with 3 branches. These teams mobilize and coordinate with each other within their respective regions, according to the planned actions and the needs that arise during the response phase. In this sense, the budget allocated for mobilizations is managed at the regional level during the four months of the DREF. In addition, sometimes it will be necessary to cover the costs not only of per diem but also lodging, as required.

Additionally, two profiles will be hired whom will be 100% dedicated to the implementation of the operation, including:

- 1x Procurement assistant to provide support to the Procurement Department, mainly in researching suppliers when necessary, negotiating terms and conditions, requesting quotations, processing purchase orders, evaluating costs and budgets, and guaranteeing the timing and quality of the processes.
- 1x Project technician to coordinate and implement activities in the field, as well as follow up at all levels to ensure effective implementation and quality of all operation activities.

Finally, although insurance costs are not included in this operation's budget, staff and volunteers are covered under the National Society's insurance policy.

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

For this DREF Operation, it is proposed to purchase materials both nationally and internationally, since local markets do not have all the products needed for the operation, mainly mosquito nets.

The Costa Rican Red Cross has a procurement department that manages the purchase of all supplies and equipment required by the committees at the national level, along with the operation of a central warehouse. Procurement procedures are supported by the government, as many of these processes use funds allocated by the State, which obliges the administration to adopt these procedures for all purchases.

Additionally, the Logistics Unit will provide support to the National Society and will be responsible for monitoring the quality of purchases made in accordance with the authorization levels required in the procurement procedures, including those of the IFRC. This includes the procurement and coordination of the transportation of 16,000 mosquito nets, a crucial component of the operation.

How will this operation be monitored?



Process monitoring is the responsibility of the National Society's National Risk Management Directorate, with the support of the General Directorate, and covers the institutional administrative structure of all its departments. In addition, the National Society's Headquarters has a team in charge of following up on financial reports and ensuring the quality of intermediate products and final reports submitted.

Regarding Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), the National Society will establish a team composed of staff from the Risk Management Department. This team will issue an interim progress report and a final report on the operation, and in parallel will respond to requests for information required for accountability.

In the area of Administration and Finance, the Financial Accounting Department has trained staff available to provide the necessary support to the work areas included in the Action Plan. The Finance-Accounting Department's strategy focuses on:

- a) Having department staff available to address specific aspects of the operation.
- b) Comply with the issuance of reports and carry out constant monitoring of compliance and proper use of budget items.
- c) Reporting to the various work area coordinators on the optimization and proper use of resources allocated to the Action Plan.

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

The National Society has an Institutional Communications Department in charge of maintaining lines and strategies both inside and outside the organization. This is done with the purpose of ensuring visibility and providing the necessary support to institutional activities during the emergency response and recovery phases. For the particular case of this IFRC-DREF, it will be based on the actions outlined in the action plan, including the actions established under the CEA approach.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCR023 - Costa Rican Red Cross Costa Rica: Dengue

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	342,493
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	115,979
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	220,551
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,982
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,982
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	71,185
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	7,136
National Society Strengthening	64,049
TOTAL BUDGET	413,678

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





Contact Information

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

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