

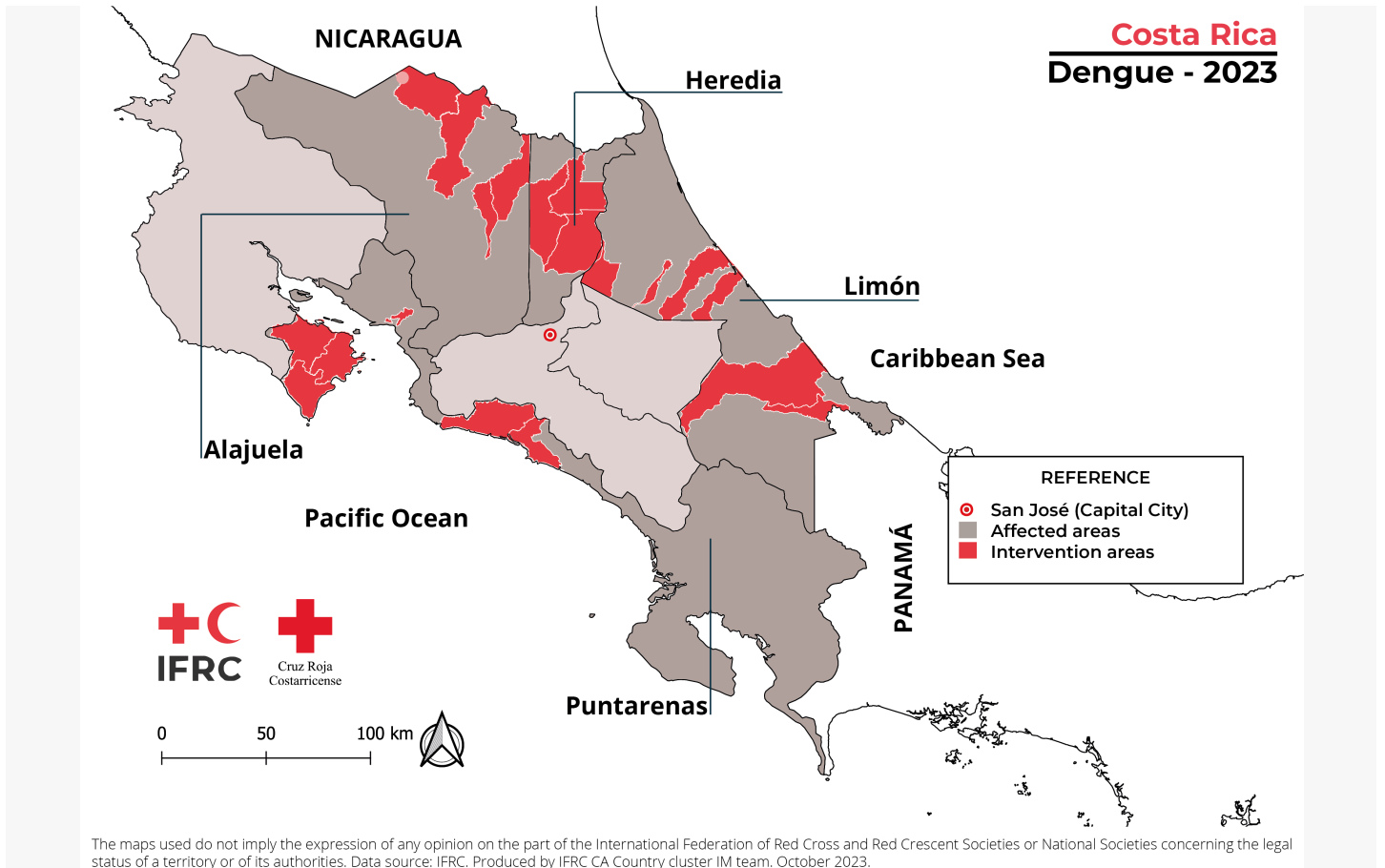


Part of the actions developed by the Costa Rican Red Cross during the implementation of the IFRC-DREF dengue. Source: CRRG

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Appeal: MDRCR023 | Total DREF Allocation: CHF 413,678 | Crisis Category: Yellow | Hazard: Epidemic |
| Glide Number: - | People Affected: 345,285 people | People Targeted: 26,665 people | |
| Event Onset: Slow | Operation Start Date: 20-10-2023 | Operational End Date: 30-04-2024 | Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months |

Targeted Areas: **Alajuela, Heredia, Limon, Puntarenas**

Description of the Event



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

Date when the trigger was met

11-10-2023

What happened, where and when?

In 2023, Costa Rica faced a worrying increase in the number of dengue cases, a situation that alerted the country's health authorities. This increase was associated with a variety of factors, including favorable climatic conditions such as heat and humidity, which favored the proliferation of mosquito breeding sites (1).

Dengue, the most prevalent arbovirolosis in the Region of the Americas, presents cyclical outbreaks every 3 to 5 years. All four virus serotypes (DENV1, DENV2, DENV3, and DENV4) circulate in Central America. In 2023, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua reported simultaneous circulation of these serotypes (2).

On September 6, 2023, Costa Rica issued a health alert due to a significant increase in dengue cases, based on epidemiological week 34 (August 20-26), where 8,261 cases were reported, almost double the number from the same date the previous year, increasing 42% from 4,780 cases in 2022 (3).

The Ministry of Health also called on key social actors, such as municipal governments, the Ministry of Public Education, community organizations, the tourism sector, and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, to join the actions to contain and prevent dengue. The population was encouraged to control and eliminate possible mosquito breeding sites and to be attentive to the ministry's recommendations.

On October 11, the Ministry of Health formally requested the collaboration of the Costa Rican Red Cross to support the response to the health alert. This collaboration focused on public education activities, prevention, elimination of breeding sites, use of larvicides, and support in fumigation campaigns, especially in the most affected provinces: Puntarenas (Central North region), Limón (Huetar Caribe region), Heredia (Chorotega region), and Alajuela (Central Pacific region).



The management of dengue in Costa Rica during 2023 highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Ministry of Health. This alliance was key to addressing the challenge from different fronts: prevention, education, and rapid response. The contribution of the National Society in mobilizing resources and volunteers was crucial, especially in high-risk areas, contributing to the establishment of a solid model of collaboration for future public health interventions in the country.

Scope and Scale

The global incidence of dengue has increased over the past two decades and has become a growing public health problem worldwide. Between 2000 and 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded an eight-fold increase in the number of dengue cases worldwide, from 500,000 to 4.2 million reported cases. Cases reached an all-time high in 2019, with 5.2 million cases reported in 129 countries.

From early 2023 through November 23, 2023, the world faced an upsurge in dengue transmission characterized by the number, size, and concurrence of multiple outbreaks, as well as spread to previously dengue-free areas. Several countries experienced unexpected increases in dengue cases, with more than 5 million cases and more than 5000 dengue-related deaths reported in 80 countries/territories worldwide, although this figure was likely an underestimate of the true disease burden.

In the Americas, 2023 was the year with the highest number of dengue cases ever reported, with more than 4.1 million new infections. Surpassing the figures recorded in 2019, when more than 3.1 million cases were reported, including 28,203 severe cases and 1,823 deaths.

In Costa Rica, dengue has exerted a considerable impact, triggering outbreaks that have harmed thousands of people across the country. The year 2023 marked a sustained increase in dengue cases, compounding the burden on a health system already challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. But the impact of dengue goes beyond health; it has left a significant economic footprint. Those affected often suffer prolonged incapacity for work and, in severe situations, require hospitalization, resulting in adverse economic costs. The spread of dengue prompted the implementation of prevention and mosquito breeding site eradication campaigns, which required additional government resources.

According to data from the Costa Rica Health Surveillance Directorate, as of epidemiological week 4, which covered January 21-27, 2024, the country recorded a total of 2,679 cases of dengue (4), which represented a sharp increase of 88.88% compared to the 298 cases reported for the same period the previous year, although no deaths were recorded.

The three regions with the highest number of dengue cases reported in the last epidemiological week were the Central North region with 646, followed by the Central South region with 519, and the Central Pacific region with 454 cases. Likewise, the cantons with the highest number of cases were Alajuela 308 cases, San José 236, Puntarenas 218, Turrialba 183, and Atenas 94 cases.

The Ministry of Health, with the support of the Costa Rican Red Cross, carried out different actions to stop the spread of this disease, such as interventions with vector control teams, in which fumigation, elimination of breeding sites inside and outside homes, and house-to-house visits are carried out as part of the focal work.

Dengue in Costa Rica went beyond a health crisis, as it had a profound impact on the national economy and the well-being of citizens. The costs of medical treatment, prevention, and vector control strategies, as well as the decrease in labor productivity due to the disease, highlighted the economic burden of this arbovirus. In addition, the impact on the quality of life and potential long-term complications of those affected were demanding a comprehensive and sustainable response.

Source Information

| Source Name | Source Link |
|--|---|
| 1. Ministry of Health - Report of cases/EW 4.2023 | https://bit.ly/3HTz0xv |
| 2. OPS Americas - Risk assessment | https://bit.ly/47XJV3O |
| 3. OPS Americas - Epidemiological alert | https://bit.ly/3Sk9jen |
| 4. Ministry of Health - Health alert due to increase in dengue cases | https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/prensa/60-noticias-2023/1665-ministerio-de-salud-emite-alerta-sanitaria-por-incremento-de-casos-de-dengue |



National Society Actions

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

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Secretariat | <p>The IFRC, through its Central America Cluster Delegation (CCD), provided constant and direct specialized technical support at all stages of the IFRC-DREF, from initial planning to closing. To ensure effective accompaniment, periodic follow-up meetings were organized to ensure optimal monitoring and advice.</p> <p>In addition, the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas contributed significantly through assistance at specific times in various aspects related to the emergency, including health, WASH, and logistics, among others.</p> |
| Participating National Societies | <p>Within the framework of this IFRC-DREF, the Costa Rican Red Cross did not establish collaboration commitments with other Participating National Societies for the development of actions at any time during the IFRC-DREF.</p> |

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The Costa Rican Red Cross did not coordinate with the International Committee of the Red Cross at any time during this IFRC-DREF.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|---|---|
| Government has requested international assistance | No |
| National authorities | <p>The Costa Rican Ministry of Health intensified its efforts to prevent dengue by implementing a series of effective strategies. This included fumigation campaigns, tire collection, and collaborations with various institutions and companies, focusing especially on priority areas. In addition, it launched the communication campaign “Basta de aplausos”, aimed at raising public awareness with clear and direct messages on the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding sites to fight vector-borne diseases.</p> <p>In parallel, the Ministry established strategic alliances with key social actors, such as municipal governments, the Ministry of Public Education, community organizations, the tourism sector, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund and the Costa Rican Red Cross, among others. These collaborations were crucial to coordinate and reinforce the various initiatives promoted by the Ministry to control and prevent the spread of dengue. In addition, the Ministry made a continuous appeal to citizens to inspect and keep their homes, yards, and communities clean, eliminating potential breeding sites of the dengue-transmitting mosquito, as part of a comprehensive approach to prevention and control of the disease.</p> |
| UN or other actors | <p>The Ministry of Health, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), presented the update of the National Integrated Management Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Arbovirolosis, as part of the actions in the fight against</p> |



dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya in the country. In addition, PAHO/WHO was supporting the Ministry in specific actions of technical advice and monitoring of the strategy.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund maintained coordinated and continuous work, organizing periodic meetings with the Municipal Emergency Committees. The objective of these meetings was to concretize joint actions focused on dengue prevention. The decisions and information shared in these meetings were fundamental to strengthening the initiatives, which, in turn, were coordinated directly with the National Society. This collaborative approach facilitated the implementation of a unified strategy at the national level, allowing for a more effective and cohesive approach in the fight against dengue.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



In the midst of the dengue emergency in Costa Rica, it was necessary to address several key health needs to mitigate its impact. These needs were identified through reports prepared by the Costa Rican Red Cross branches in the provinces with the highest rates of dengue cases. These needs were also 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, they highlighted the reinforcement of prevention and control strategies, with the central objective of reducing the spread of this disease.

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 favorable environment for vectors that transmit diseases such as dengue and other arboviruses, so the immediate needs revolve around eliminating breeding sites. This work involves close collaboration with communities to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites through home visits, clean-up campaigns, and the implementation of preventive measures, such as the destruction of containers that accumulate stagnant water.

In addition, for effective management and prevention of the dengue epidemic, it is imperative to address fundamental healthcare requirements. This includes strengthening the capacities of health personnel and volunteers through comprehensive trainings in the identification and timely treatment of dengue. It is equally important to disseminate this knowledge within communities, involving community leaders, educational institutions and public awareness initiatives, as these play a critical role in curbing the spread of dengue. Educational campaigns and awareness-raising discussions should be conducted to inform the population about preventive measures, signs and symptoms of the disease, and the critical importance of seeking early medical intervention. Vulnerable families need to be provided with basic supplies to promote safe practices and emphasize the importance of preventing the spread of the virus, such as mosquito nets and repellents, but children also need to be addressed in educational settings, as lessons from past interventions have shown that children often replicate what they learn at home, and this helps reach a greater number of people.



In the wake of a dengue emergency, addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs is crucial to prevent the spread of the disease and ensure 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, 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. Disseminating information campaigns that encourage the population to seek medical attention promptly when experiencing symptoms 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 protecting 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.



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 sector involve the active participation of communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of prevention and control strategies. This includes the promotion of participatory decision-making, where the voices of the communities are heard and considered in the formulation of programs and strategies.

In addition, it is necessary to establish clear and transparent accountability mechanisms through which the health authorities and the Costa Rican Red Cross inform the community about 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.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF operation, the Costa Rican Red Cross sought to contribute to the national response to 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).

The total number of people reached was 26,665 (5,333 families) through health, WASH, PGI, and CEA actions.

Operation strategy rationale

Dengue prevention became 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 2023 posed significant challenges that required a comprehensive intervention adapted to the local context. In this regard, the Costa Rican Red Cross, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, conducted an assessment in the cantons of the four most affected regions. The purpose of this assessment was to identify which of these cantons had the highest incidence of dengue cases and, based on this evidence, to determine which populations were most at risk. Based on this information, areas of intervention were prioritized and specifically addressed with these IFRC-DREF funds.

The response strategy proposed by the Costa Rican Red Cross contributed effectively and sustainably to addressing these challenges by combining multiple interconnected actions. The implementation of the strategy was 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. It also took advantage of the working spaces established by the National Society branches in the most affected and priority provinces.



The strategy began 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 was for each actor involved to assume their responsibility in the fight against dengue. Efforts were also made to strengthen communication with the representatives of the cantons of the prioritized provinces so that they would actively support the planning and execution of the proposed activities.

The Costa Rican Red Cross played 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 reducing the Aedes index, the presence of the vector and the incidence of dengue cases. The proposed strategy focused on the following sectors and specific actions:

HEALTH: Reaching 6,000 people through the implementation of health-related activities, including: A series of actions were carried out to strengthen dengue prevention and promote safe practices in the communities. These actions included conducting informative talks with community leaders, awareness sessions in educational centers, and the 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 were trained and updated on topics related to dengue prevention and self-protection measures so that they could pass this knowledge on to other National Society volunteers and staff. In addition, essential supplies such as insecticides, liquid larvicides, and personal protective equipment were donated to the Ministry of Health, allowing greater coverage of the fumigation campaigns 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 sealing 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 fumigation would be determined once field actions are initiated to ensure their relevance.

PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI): Development of refresher talks for delegation staff and volunteers 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 actions proposed 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 would also carry out a risk analysis for child protection.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA): Post-distribution accountability feedback mechanisms would be implemented (to be defined after the development of the CEA strategy), complaint management through a specific hotline 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.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING: The hiring of 2 profiles to support the implementation of the actions contemplated in this IFRC-DREF request, 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 would 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 correct development of the actions proposed in the strategy, the National Society has held regular coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health to follow up on ongoing actions, including the planning of joint fumigations and ensuring that in-kind donations delivered to the Ministry of Health are being used as agreed and in accordance with the needs of the affected population. Regular coordination and follow-up meetings have also been held with the focal points of the Ministry of Education and local authorities.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The Costa Rican Red Cross focused on assisting families in the cantons of the four regions that, according to data provided by the Ministry of Health, had the highest incidence of cases up to Epidemiological Week 39. These regions are:

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



The Costa Rican Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities, followed up to ensure that assistance was 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 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 were at risk due to their residence in these areas with high incidence of dengue cases. Given this, the National Society conducted an internal assessment of its current capacities as well as the funds required through this IFRC-DREF, and determined that adequate assistance to 5,333 families (26,665 people) in the most affected and prioritized geographic areas was necessary.

Although the Costa Rican Red Cross provided support to all people in need, it placed special emphasis 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 | 85% |
| Girls (under 18) | 2,666 | Urban | 15% |
| Men | 10,666 | People with disabilities (estimated) | 2% |
| Boys (under 18) | 2,666 | | |
| Total targeted population | 26,665 | | |

Risk and Security Considerations

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

| Risk | Mitigation action |
|--|---|
| Shortage of prevention inputs (such as repellents or fumigation equipment) | Establish partnerships with local and national suppliers to ensure a steady supply at affordable prices. Maintain adequate inventory and place orders in advance to avoid interruptions in the availability of supplies. |
| Resistance of Aedes mosquitoes to insecticides | Implement continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of the insecticides used in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Alternate or combine different types of insecticides to prevent the development of resistance in mosquitoes. |
| Low community participation | Strengthen awareness and education campaigns in the communities, using various communication channels such as social networks, local media, and community workshops. Establish dialogues with community leaders and local groups to encourage active participation and information dissemination. |

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

One of the ongoing safety concerns related to staff and volunteer exposure to mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue fever. Since much of the intervention took place in rural areas prone to the proliferation of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, staff and volunteers were exposed to an increased risk of contracting the disease. To address this safety concern, the National Society implemented prevention 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.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Budget: CHF 115,979

Targeted Persons: 6,000

Assisted Persons: 6,284

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of people reached through talks with community leaders on dengue prevention. | 400 | 1,054 |
| Number of people reached through talks in educational centers on dengue prevention. | 6,000 | 6,284 |
| Number of people reached through school kits for dengue prevention. | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Number of personnel and volunteers trained and updated on topics related to dengue prevention. | 240 | 252 |

Narrative description of achievements

The Costa Rican Red Cross, as part of its initiatives to strengthen volunteers, staff and members of partner organizations and institutions, conducted informative talks and refresher sessions on topics related to dengue prevention and self-protection measures. These activities were carried out in response to specific requests from the Ministry of Health. The topics covered included dengue, zika, chikungunya, arbovirus, Nile virus, encephalitis, integrated vector management, products used, home visit protocol, home preparation and personal protection measures. A total of 13 talks were given in the four priority regions for this IFRC-DREF, reaching 252 people. The sessions combined theoretical and practical aspects to demonstrate the applicability of the information and the need to adapt it to each intervention region.

In addition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, informative talks were given at the community level on the regular cleaning of containers, elimination of breeding sites, proper collection and disposal of waste, and recognition of symptoms and the importance of proper medical attention. These talks, which reached 1,054 people in 21 community sessions, sought to sensitize community members on how to prevent dengue and protect themselves and their communities. During the sessions, printed material was also distributed with key messages on the topics covered.

At the educational level, the National Society implemented educational sessions on dengue prevention and self-protection measures in schools, focusing on explaining what dengue is and how to prevent it both at school and at home. These actions, which were initially adjusted to begin in day care centers and day care centers due to the end-of-year vacations, were extended to 105 educational centers after the holiday period, reaching 6,284 children and adolescents.

In parallel, school kits were distributed that included an informative coloring book, a box of crayons, a bag and stickers with key messages. Although there was an initial delay in receiving these kits due to the year-end vacations, the National Society managed to distribute 6,000 kits once they were received.

In addition, to reinforce the reach of these initiatives, the National Society launched a radio campaign for dengue prevention, aimed at socializing key messages and promoting preventive actions in the community.



Finally, in support of the Ministry of Health actions, the National Society donated safety equipment, including special masks for respiratory protection of personnel involved in fumigation processes, and 243 liters of insecticide, demonstrating a continued commitment to public health and community safety.

Lessons Learnt

- Developing a comprehensive intervention strategy for the prevention and management of dengue allows reaching a larger number of people in a relevant manner, as actions are adapted to the specific characteristics of each target group and various communication channels are used. This approach ensures that interventions are relevant and effective, maximizing the reach and resonance of activities in different segments of the population.
- Engaging children and adolescents in learning activities on dengue prevention not only increases their knowledge and awareness, but also encourages the dissemination of vital information through them to their families and communities, thus amplifying the effect of interventions.

Challenges

- The lack of anticipation of the year-end vacation closure dates, both in educational centers and local suppliers, had a significant impact on the operation. This situation had a direct impact on the receipt of essential supplies for the development of some activities. In addition, the simultaneous closure of educational centers caused the temporary suspension of several previously planned activities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 220,551

Targeted Persons: 26,665

Assisted Persons: 26,665

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| Number of families reached through the distribution of family kits for the prevention of dengue. | 5,333 | 5,333 |
| Number of community clean-up campaigns for the eradication of breeding sites completed. | 10 | 28 |
| Number of home visits to raise awareness about vector control measures completed. | 30 | 40 |
| Number of community talks on topics related to safe water, hygiene and dengue prevention completed. | 15 | 73 |

Narrative description of achievements

The Costa Rican Red Cross carried out the distribution of family kits for the prevention of dengue, which included 3 mosquito nets and 2 repellents per kit. This effort was carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health, previously selecting the communities with the highest incidence of positive dengue cases to prioritize the distribution in the most affected areas.

Once the communities were identified, contact was made with community leaders or key people in each community to inform them about the actions to be implemented, the distribution of kits, and the importance of participation on the day of the call. Each distribution was coordinated specifically with each community.

For the distribution, a KoboCollect form was used to collect information from the families receiving the kits. During the distribution, a talk was given on dengue prevention as well as on the use and care of repellent and mosquito nets. With this activity, the National Society distributed a total of 5,333 kits, reaching 26,665 people.



In addition, community clean-up campaigns were implemented in coordination with local municipalities and the Ministry of Health. These campaigns included the collection and transportation of waste and the elimination of mosquito breeding sites in the most affected communities. The National Society carried out a total of 28 community clean-up campaigns, contributing significantly to raising awareness of the importance of eliminating breeding sites in homes and public areas.

The National Society, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, conducted 40 home visits in communities with high rates of dengue cases. These visits were aimed at raising awareness among the inhabitants about the elimination of mosquito breeding sites, answering questions, and clarifying doubts. During the inspections, possible breeding sites were identified and eliminated, abatement was applied, and fumigation was carried out in homes with positive cases. To strengthen the fumigation actions directed by the Ministry of Health, the National Society repaired and maintained the thermal foggers used in previous operations. All these actions made it possible to reach a total of 41 communities.

At the same time, access to drinking water and hygiene was promoted through community talks, which were carried out together with the distribution of kits and home visits. The objective was to promote disease prevention through the distribution of printed material on hygiene, health, and protection. 73 talks were given in the four regions where the IFRC-DREF was carried out, reaching 5,467 people. The number of talks increased considerably from those initially planned because the communities demanded more talks and in smaller groups to have a greater impact.

Lessons Learnt

- Coordination with the Ministry of Health and local authorities is essential to expedite the development of actions and efficiently address the most urgent needs of the population affected by dengue. This inter-institutional collaboration facilitates the implementation of joint strategies and access to essential resources.
- Family kits for dengue prevention are well received by communities when they contain culturally relevant elements aligned with local prevention practices and are in line with the recommendations issued by national authorities. This cultural and technical adaptation ensures better acceptance and effective use of the distributed resources.

Challenges

- Access to some communities is only possible by boats operated by local transporters or with the support of the Coast Guard. This logistical factor demanded the investment of more time for the distribution of resources and the implementation of activities in these areas.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,982

Targeted Persons: 75

Assisted Persons: 97

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of personnel and volunteers who have participated in talks on PGI issues. | 75 | 97 |
| Number of specific PGI strategies for IFRC-DREF implementation completed. | 1 | 1 |

Narrative description of achievements

At the beginning of the operation, the IFRC-DREF implementation team developed basic parameters related to Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) to be taken into account in the context of dengue. In parallel, the Costa Rican Red Cross carried out an analysis focused on child protection. These actions allowed the National Society to consider and emphasize work with children and adolescents in educational centers, promoting a cascading impact.

The National Society also gave five talks on topics related to PGI in the context of dengue, aligned with the activities to be developed.



These sessions oriented volunteers and staff on the approaches to be taken, taking into account the diversities and needs present in each of the communities. With this action, a total of 97 people were reached.

Lessons Learnt

- The creation of strategic parameters for the implementation of the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach makes it possible to concretize this approach in specific issues such as dengue. This structuring facilitates a more coherent and effective application of PGI, adapting it to the particularities of each operational context.

Challenges

- The lack of systematization of experiences related to the implementation of the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach in specific operations such as dengue.
- The limited availability of volunteers and personnel trained in PGI issues, which restricts its applicability in all phases of the operation.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,982

Targeted Persons: 103

Assisted Persons: 103

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| Number of staff and volunteers who have participated in CEA-related talks. | 103 | 103 |
| Number of CEA strategies developed | 1 | 1 |

Narrative description of achievements

The Costa Rican Red Cross has recognized that community engagement and accountability are crucial for an effective response. In line with this, the National Society has implemented five talks on issues related to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the context of IFRC-DREF Dengue, where essential tools for community feedback and participation were socialized, emphasizing the integration of CEA in the communities. These talks reached 103 people, including volunteers and staff from the four most affected regions.

In addition, the National Society developed a specific CEA strategy for this IFRC-DREF, to provide basic guidelines for relevant community approaches and adapt the actions according to the information shared periodically by the affected and assisted people. This strategy reflects significant progress in the adaptation and implementation of measures that respond directly to local needs and context, strengthening the comprehensive response to the dengue emergency.

Lessons Learnt

- It is essential to establish effective mechanisms for the implementation and continuous evaluation of the CEA strategy developed. This involves verifying whether the strategy is developing as planned or whether it requires modifications that were not initially considered. This approach makes it possible to dynamically adapt actions to real and emerging conditions, ensuring that the strategies are truly effective and relevant. The ability to adjust and communicate these changes at the National Society level strengthens organizational response and improves project and program management, contributing significantly to the success and effectiveness of interventions.

Challenges

- Ensure the training and continuous follow-up of volunteers and staff on CEA issues, with special emphasis on their practical applicability in all sectors and areas of the National Society. This implies not only providing initial training, but also ensuring a process of constant learning and adaptation to effectively integrate these principles into daily practice.





Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 7,136

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| Number of follow-up field visits by IFRC. | 1 | 1 |

Narrative description of achievements

Initially, a visit by the Disaster Management Coordinator of the Central American Cluster Delegation had been coordinated. However, the National Society proposed further changes in dates, which resulted in a misalignment of agendas. However, fluid and constant communication was maintained through virtual meetings for follow-up.

Additionally, the National Society requested support from the IFRC in the development of the lessons learned workshop. In response, the Delegation Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer (PMER) travelled to provide such support and, simultaneously, to assist with specific aspects related to operational closure.

Lessons Learnt

• Ongoing support, whether virtual or face-to-face, is essential to strengthen the relationship between teams. This continuous support facilitates the creation of collaborative spaces where practical and relevant solutions to emerging needs can be sought and developed.

Challenges

• None identified



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 64,049

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

To strengthen the planning and coordination of the operation, the Costa Rican Red Cross incorporated two professionals specifically for the IFRC-DREF: a project technician and a procurement analyst. The project technician, for personal reasons, decided not to continue, and given the temporary nature of the operation and the time required for a new contracting process, the project coordinator assumed these additional responsibilities. The procurement analyst, on the other hand, effectively supported all procurement and some key



administrative processes.

In the area of security, the National Society provided visibility elements to the volunteers active in all IFRC-DREF actions, thus ensuring their safety, especially considering that many of them had incomplete or poorly maintained equipment.

In addition, as an essential part of the accountability actions, a lessons learned workshop was carried out in two fundamental phases that allowed for a comprehensive and participatory analysis. Initially, a form was designed and distributed using the KoboCollect tool to compile perceptions, experiences and recommendations from all personnel involved, both volunteer and permanent, providing a broad database for subsequent analysis. Subsequently, representatives from the four priority regions were convened, ensuring equitable representation from each region's Auxiliary Committees and administrative and procurement staff from Headquarters.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the results of the questionnaire and facilitate spaces for dialogue and reflection. Participants shared presentations on the activities carried out in each region, personal experiences and identified key lessons learned. This initiative enabled the identification of areas for improvement and the collective generation of strategic recommendations to strengthen the response capacity in future operations, with the active participation of 31 people.

Lessons Learnt

- Visibility is not only crucial to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers active in operations, but also plays a key role in positioning the Costa Rican Red Cross in territories where other organizations do not have a presence. This not only improves the visibility and recognition of the National Society, but also strengthens trust and the relationship with local communities, allowing for greater efficiency in the implementation of actions.
- Internal accountability in the Costa Rican Red Cross is vital for the generation of evidence to support practical and relevant decision making. This process not only validates and improves ongoing operations, but also establishes a solid foundation for the design and execution of future operations. Through effective accountability, the National Society can learn from each experience and continually improve its responsiveness and operational efficiency.

Challenges

- Ensuring the availability of visibility supplies for volunteers and active personnel from the first day of the operation, as well as other essential materials for the development of core activities, represented a considerable challenge. This challenge was intensified by disruptions caused by internal and external factors, including the year-end national vacations, which resulted in significant delays in deliveries from suppliers.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRCR023 - Costa Rica - Dengue

Operating Timeframe: 20 Oct 2023 to 30 Apr 2024

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2023/10-2024/10 | Operation | MDRCR023 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2023/10-2024/10 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 14/Dec/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 0 |
| Funds & Other Income | 413,678 |
| DREF Response Pillar | 413,678 |
| Expenditure | -321,534 |
| Closing Balance | 92,144 |

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items | | | 0 |
| PO02 - Livelihoods | | | 0 |
| PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash | | | 0 |
| PO04 - Health | 115,446 | 138,387 | -22,941 |
| PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 221,083 | 115,940 | 105,144 |
| PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion | 2,982 | 2,792 | 190 |
| PO07 - Education | | | 0 |
| PO08 - Migration | | | 0 |
| PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 174 | 17 | 157 |
| PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability | 2,982 | 1,450 | 1,532 |
| PO11 - Environmental Sustainability | | | 0 |
| Planned Operations Total | 342,668 | 258,585 | 84,083 |
| EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships | | | 0 |
| EA02 - Secretariat Services | 6,961 | 704 | 6,258 |
| EA03 - National Society Strengthening | 64,049 | 62,246 | 1,803 |
| Enabling Approaches Total | 71,010 | 62,950 | 8,061 |
| Grand Total | 413,678 | 321,534 | 92,144 |

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

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 413,678 was allocated from the DREF Fund for the implementation of this DREF operation. The Costa Rican Red Cross spent a total of CHF 321,534. The remaining balance of CHF 92,144 will be returned to the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

The most significant variances in the budget versus the actual expenditure include: Delays in hiring specific personnel for the operation, the resignation of the project technician, and cost optimization in the procurement of supplies, including acquisitions managed through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU).

Finally, 45 sweaters and 154 uniforms remained in the National Society warehouse since they were not distributed. These uniforms will be used in the framework of another IFRC-DREF operation through a detailed distribution plan and with the authorization of the IFRC DREF regional focal point.



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

