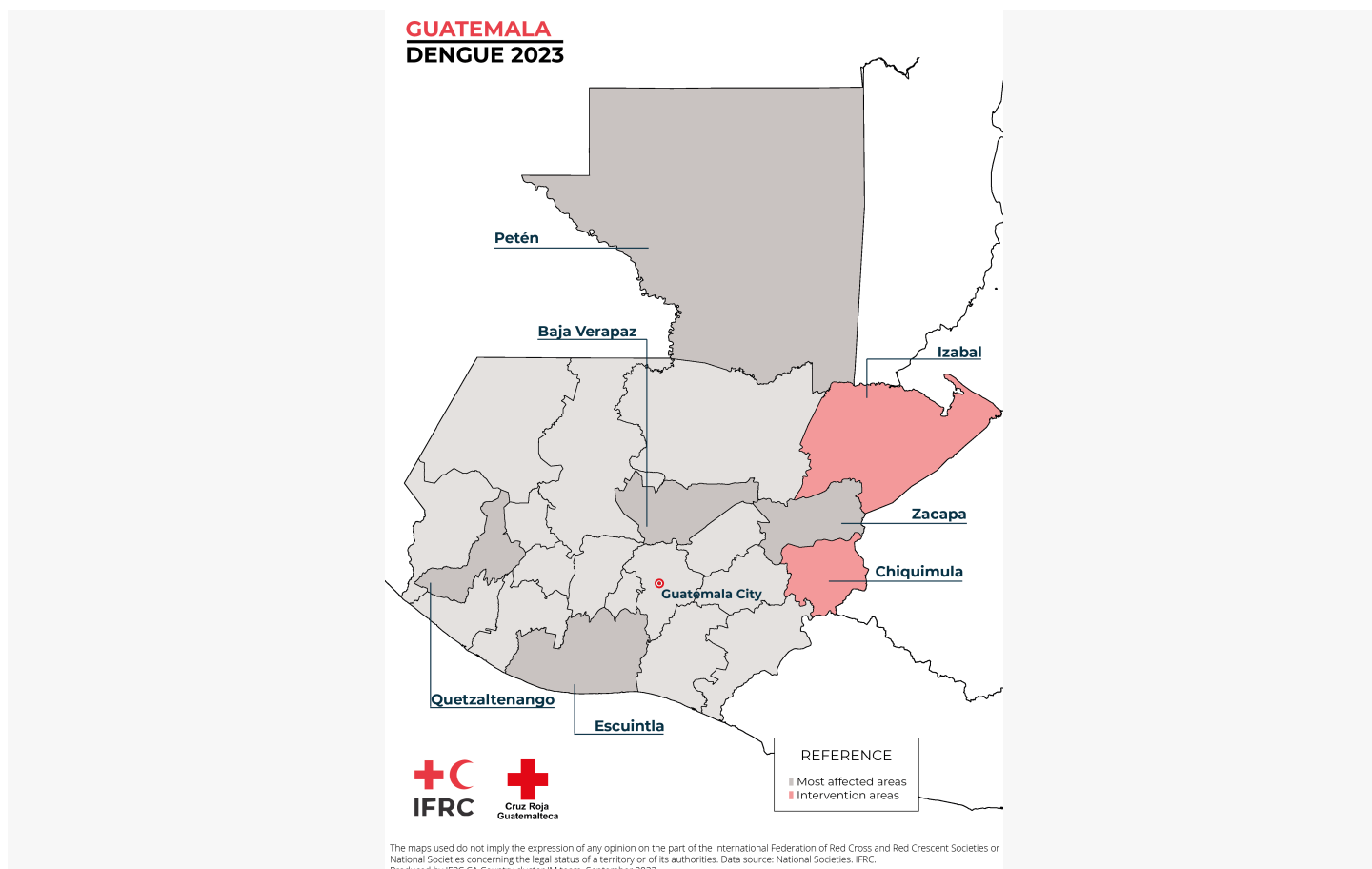




Implementation of actions by Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers: Source: GRC.

Appeal: MDRGT020	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 277,247	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Epidemic
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 14,299 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 14-09-2023	New Operational End Date: 31-03-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: -		Reporting Timeframe End Date: -	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Chiquimula, Izabal	

Description of the Event



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

What happened, where and when?

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

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

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

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

On 19 December 2023, the National Council for Disaster Reduction unanimously resolved to declare an Institutional Yellow Alert at the national level, due to the meteorological effects of the El Niño phenomenon, the health effects of dengue, the 2023-2024 forest fire season and the 2023-2024 temperature drop season.

The collaboration of the Guatemalan Red Cross in supporting the dengue prevention actions carried out by MSPAS has been fundamental. The National Society, through the DREF, has contributed resources, experience and community outreach, complementing and enhancing government efforts. This has been evidenced in greater coverage and efficiency in the implementation of prevention and



control strategies, such as education campaigns, eradication of mosquito breeding sites, and distribution of essential supplies. It has also contributed to sensitizing communities to the importance of preventive measures, making the fight against dengue more inclusive and effective.

Sources:

- (1) <https://opendata.paho.org/es>
- (2) <https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON448>
- (3) <https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-casos-dengueamerica-central-caribe-15-septiembre-2023>
- (4) <https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/comunitario/emergencia-sanitaria-por-dengue-podria-finalizar-hasta-el-primer-trimestre-del-2024/>



Educational session on dengue prevention in an educational center in Morales, Izabal. Source: GRC

DDRIS	2022		2023	
	Casos	Tasas	Casos	Tasas
Petén Sur Oriental	371	170.9	2555	1162.2
Zacapa	581	212.7	3121	1131.2
Chiquimula	269	59.3	4371	951.7
Sacatepéquez	136	34.3	3711	903.5
Baja Verapaz	495	146.0	2312	670.9
El Quiché	16	2.0	5399	647.6
Jalapa	113	27.7	2669	644.9
Quetzaltenango	1594	172.7	5198	555.1
Guatemala Nor Occidente	121	13.2	5119	559.7
Escuintla	531	65.3	4441	539.2
Guatemala Nor Oriente	27	5.2	2580	495.8
El Progreso	54	27.6	863	448.4
Santa Rosa	179	39.6	1977	432.7
Petén Sur Occidental	436	193.7	932	407.8
Jalapa	299	53.6	2171	385.0
Izabal	116	25.4	1567	345.4
Guatemala Sur	161	16.9	3171	327.6
Petén Norte	307	162.4	610	318.1
Alta Verapaz	676	48.9	3103	220.5
San José	29	28.0	243	214.0
Solalá	29	6.0	1029	210.9
Guatemala Central	74	6.1	2414	197.6
Chimaltenango	28	3.7	1426	165.0
Retalhuleu	282	73.9	564	139.3
Suchitopéquez	458	73.9	786	125.5
San Marcos	380	31.5	919	75.1
Huehuetenango	399	28.0	1056	72.6
Uspulután	18	1.9	19	1.9
Totonicapán	3	0.6	9	1.8
Total País	6165	47.0	64316	365.4

Dengue, casos e Incidencia* por Dirección Departamental de Redes Integradas de Servicios de Salud -DDRIS- Guatemala 2022- 2023 Hasta SE-47

15 DDRIS sobrepasan la incidencia nacional, aparecen resaltadas en el cuadro.

Se registra incremento de 6 veces más (64,316 / 8,165) casos en comparación a la misma semana del 2022.

Fuente: DTI / Departamento de vigilancia y control
Incidencia por 100,000 habitantes



Total cases and incidence of dengue up to EW 47 (2022 vs 2023). Source: MSPAS

Scope and Scale

According to information presented in Epidemiological Week 47 (up to 25 November 2023), 64,316 cases of dengue were reported nationwide, which represents a 6-fold increase (64,316 / 8,165) compared to the same week in 2022 (1), including 225 suspected cases of severe dengue, of which 134 have been confirmed and 97 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 0.15%. In view of this situation, dengue circulation continues to predominate in the country's surveillance arboviruses.

The distribution by Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks (DDRIS) in the country shows the highest risk for Sur Oriental Petén, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Sacatepéquez, Baja Verapaz, Jalapa and El Quiché; with higher incidence, however, the distribution is generalized in the country.

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

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

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

The National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) forecasted several cold fronts for December 2023, which will be accompanied by drizzle. This represents a risk of a new increase in dengue cases and the spread of the disease until the end of the year and the beginning of 2024 (2).

Sources:



Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Guatemalan Red Cross informs of:

A no-cost extension of 2 months (new end date: 31 March 2024).

The timeframe extension request is being made due to several critical factors that have affected the normal course of the DREF. First, administrative procurement processes have experienced unexpected delays, preventing the timely execution of essential activities. In addition, staff turnover and vacation periods at the Vector Unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) have limited the continuity of crucial fogging and abatization activities, which are essential to mitigate the transmission of the dengue virus.

In addition, the team has faced additional delays due to nationwide road blockades caused by demonstrations related to the electoral process in the country. These incidents have required the rescheduling of various activities.

Despite these challenges, there is no need to modify the implementation strategy or increase the budget. This is due to the fact that there has been efficiency in cost management and the reprogramming carried out has generated surpluses that will allow for an effective redistribution of resources according to the assessments of the implementation team and in alignment with IFRC policies.

This extension will ensure the efficient and effective implementation of all planned activities, meeting the needs of the affected population and in line with the Institutional Yellow Alert declared at the national level by the National Council for Disaster Reduction, due to meteorological phenomena, the dengue health situation, the 2023-2024 Forest Fire Season and the 2023-2024 temperature drop season.

Current National Society Actions





Educational session on dengue prevention measures: Source: GRC.



Fumigation day at educational center: Source GRC.



Waste cleanup day in a community of Izabal. Source: GRC: Government of Izabal.

Health

In November 2023, a dengue management training initiative was developed, consisting of four workshops focused on the prevention, containment and management of community cases of the disease. These workshops, aimed at volunteers and personnel from the vector unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, trained a total of 82 people, significantly strengthening the competencies of these key actors in the fight against dengue.

In addition, educational sessions have been implemented at the community level, focusing on dengue prevention. These sessions have had a remarkable impact, reaching a total of 1,414 people. This educational activity is crucial to increase awareness and knowledge about dengue among the population, thus contributing to better prevention and management of the disease in the affected communities.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, several days of physical and chemical control of the dengue vector have been carried out in four delegations. These activities have achieved a wide reach, impacting a total of 2,727 homes distributed as follows: 763 in Chiquimula, 750 in Puerto Barrios, 162 in Santo Tomas de Castilla and 1,052 in El Estor.

In November, DREF technical personnel participated in a practice session on the handling of sanitation equipment in preparation for a workshop on the operation and maintenance of this equipment. In addition, thermal foggers, abate and deltamethrin were purchased and distributed to each delegation to strengthen vector control actions.

Finally, at the beginning of December, three mosquito breeding site elimination days were held in various communities, including Barrio Nuevo and Barrio La Coroza in El Estor, and Piedras Negras in Santo Tomas de Castilla.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The process of acquiring resources has begun to carry out a workshop on Protection, Gender and Inclusion, aimed at staff and volunteers active in the implementation of the DREF. At the same time, the National Society are working on structuring child-friendly spaces to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for children in the DREF intervention areas. These measures are essential to ensure that activities are inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all demographic groups involved.

Community Engagement And Accountability

An effective dialogue has been established with the leaders of the 14 intervened communities to inform and discuss DREF's actions. In addition, meetings have been held with the nursing assistants of the community health posts, seeking to unify efforts and share progress in the prevention of dengue.

In the municipality of El Estor, Izabal, a meeting was held with the Board of Directors of the Delegation and volunteers to present the progress of the DREF, as part of the accountability actions. Similarly, a meeting was held with the staff of the Health Center to



	<p>report on the progress of activities.</p> <p>In the Santo Tomas de Castilla Delegation, an accountability meeting was held with the Board of Directors and volunteers, reinforcing transparency and continued commitment to the objectives of the DREF.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Key meetings have been established with the presidents of the delegations in the two intervention departments. The purpose of these meetings is twofold: on the one hand, to socialize DREF actions and, on the other hand, to ensure their continued support during their development. A crucial aspect agreed upon in these meetings is the commitment of the delegation presidents to actively participate in the meetings with the staff of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS).</p> <p>In addition, thanks to the strategic alliances formed with MSPAS, the National Society has achieved direct and effective coordination at the different levels of health care. This collaboration has focused on addressing emerging needs and identifying specific areas of intervention. A significant advantage of this coordination has been access to updated epidemiological data and additional resources, which has strengthened the National Society's capacity to plan and execute prevention actions, and respond efficiently to the needs of communities affected by dengue in Guatemala. At the local level, this has materialized in meetings with Health Center directors, Vector Unit staff and National Society delegation presidents to socialize DREF actions, analyze the dengue situation and prioritize communities or neighborhoods for intervention, resulting in the precise identification of areas for intervention in each department.</p> <p>Finally, the team maintains constant communication between DREF staff and delegation presidents to keep them abreast of ongoing actions. This coordination is complemented by the regular sending of weekly plans and reports via e-mail, ensuring fluid and effective communication at all times.</p>
<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>A series of effective actions have been implemented thanks to a committed and specialized team. The operation has a core team of four professionals: a coordinator and three health technicians. Each health technician is responsible for supervising and guiding the activities in different locations: one in Chiquimula, another in El Estor, and a third responsible for Santo Tomas de Castilla and Puerto Barrios in Izabal.</p> <p>This team is complemented by the collaboration of 50 active volunteers. These volunteers play a crucial role in the execution of physical and chemical control activities of the <i>Aedes aegypti</i> mosquito, the transmitter of the dengue virus. In addition, they conduct home visits to educate and raise community awareness about dengue prevention, as well as days dedicated to the elimination of mosquito breeding sites, an essential task to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.</p> <p>In addition, through the Pillar 2 Programmatic Alliance project, with the support of the Spanish Red Cross, communities are being prepared to control epidemics and pandemics. Work is being done to prepare communities for the outbreak of dengue, specifically in the municipalities of Mazatenango and Coatepeque, where educational sessions on dengue prevention are being offered, as well as the strengthening of community surveillance, with local authorities and personnel from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Coordination meetings have been held with the directors of the Health Centers and the staff of the vector unit. The main objective of these meetings was to carry out a detailed analysis and an exhaustive assessment of the dengue situation at the local level. Using the situation rooms, it has been possible to determine specifically the areas that require urgent and direct intervention by the DREF.</p> <p>In addition, to ensure the effectiveness and continuous improvement of the National Society's interventions, evaluation meetings are held after each fogging and abatization day. These meetings are essential to provide feedback to the team on the daily work and</p>



	to identify opportunities for improvement in tactics and strategies. This ensures a more effective response tailored to the specific needs of each dengue-affected area.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	There is an institutional response plan that establishes specific actions to respond to emergencies, disasters, or crises. However, there is no specific contingency plan for epidemiological outbreaks. Currently, the National Society actions are governed by the DREF Dengue.
National Society EOC	<p>The EOC monitors the incidence of dengue cases at the national level according to official information from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, as well as reports originating from the different delegations, both cases and preventive and mitigation actions that are currently being developed.</p> <p>In addition, the team maintains a close relationship with the EOC for mobilization to the intervention areas in order to guarantee the safety of those carrying out the actions.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The DREF is being implemented with specific IFRC funds, which in turn have provided technical, administrative, financial and PMER support through personnel from the Central America Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for its effective execution. Periodic meetings are held every 15 days to discuss progress and/or difficulties in the execution process.</p> <p>Outbreak control actions are being carried out directly by Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers, with the support of the IFRC and in accordance with the Institutional Response Plan. In addition, through the BHA/IFRC funded project, educational sessions on dengue prevention have been developed and integrated into the health days.</p>
Participating National Societies	Currently, an administrative-financial management process has been initiated for the acquisition of 10 thermal foggers, with the Spanish Red Cross through ECHO's Piot Programmatic Partnership project, in response to a request sent by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to the National Society within the framework of the DREF.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mission is present in Guatemala and carries out joint actions to address issues of operational security, safer access, operational communication, restoring family links and protection of health services through its country office and cooperation area. To date, there has been no collaboration in the implementation of this DREF.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The national authorities, coordinated by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, have implemented continuous monitoring of the dengue epidemic in the country, using the Epidemiological Situation of Arbovirolosis report at the national level. In areas with a high incidence of dengue, physical and chemical vector control campaigns are being carried out, including the detection and registration of suspected cases.</p> <p>In addition, close coordination has been established with the municipalities to improve environmental sanitation conditions and ensure the availability of safe water in the</p>



	communities. At the same time, strategies are being implemented to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, a crucial step in controlling the spread of dengue.
UN or other actors	Currently, there is no presence of other institutions, organizations or agencies of the United Nations system carrying out dengue prevention or containment actions in the areas prioritized for this DREF.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

In the communities that are being addressed, there are no other organizations carrying out Dengue prevention actions, only direct coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance through specialized groups or technical tables at the departmental/local level.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



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

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

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

It is necessary to focus on the collection and analysis of epidemiological data to better understand the spread of dengue in the country. This will allow for a more accurate and effective response, identifying the areas at highest risk and adapting prevention and control strategies according to the local situation.

In the context of DREF implementation, significant progress has been observed in the execution of specific actions. However, a detailed analysis of health needs in the intervened communities reveals that substantial challenges persist. These challenges are rooted in structural and grassroots conditions specific to these communities, which implies that the health needs initially identified remain relevant and require ongoing attention.



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

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



In the context of DREF implementation, significant progress has been observed in the execution of specific actions. However, a detailed analysis of WASH needs in the intervened communities reveals that substantial challenges persist. These challenges are rooted in structural and grassroots conditions specific to these communities, which implies that the WASH needs initially identified remain relevant and require ongoing attention.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

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

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

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

The inclusion of more vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities, is also essential. This involves tailoring dengue prevention and control strategies to address the specific needs of these populations, including the promotion of culturally sensitive prevention practices and the availability of accessible health services.

Despite the significant progress made in the implementation of actions under this DREF, the initial needs related to Protection, Gender and Inclusion in the intervened communities remain the same. These needs reflect the structural and fundamental conditions of the communities, implying that, although significant interventions have been made, inherent challenges remain that require continued and focused attention.



Community Engagement And Accountability

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

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

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

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

Despite the significant progress made in the implementation of actions under this DREF, the initial needs related to Community Engagement and Accountability in the intervened communities remain the same, which implies that, although important interventions have been made, there are still inherent challenges that require continuous and focused attention.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Currently, no significant limitations have been identified, thanks to the efficient communication and coordination established with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance. This effective collaboration has allowed access to relevant information that reinforces and enriches the actions outlined in this DREF, based on concrete and updated evidence.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

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

This has been achieved by promoting the reduction of the incidence of dengue cases in the most vulnerable communities of these departments, through the implementation of strategies that include chemical control, physical control and the promotion and prevention of the disease at both the family and community levels. This has also been achieved through the implementation of sanitary measures and the improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in these geographical areas.

Operation strategy rationale

The implementation of the response strategy has been carried out in close collaboration with authorities at both the national and local levels, including the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, and the Ministry of Education. In addition, advantage has been taken of the working platform established by the National Society Delegations in the departments where interventions are being implemented.

The first phase of implementation consisted of the detailed programming of the activities that have been developed in coordination with the Health Districts and the Directors of the local Schools and Institutes.

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

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

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

HEALTH:

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

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

Supply of inputs and equipment: The National Society will purchase Deltamethrin to carry out the nebulization and eliminate the adult mosquito, Temephos to eliminate larvae in water stored at the household level, personal protection equipment and office supplies (sheets, pens, markers, etc.). This activities will complement the actions conducted by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance as per the support needs that have been raised in the different coordination meetings.

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

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



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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

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

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

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

STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES:

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

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

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

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

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

The activities are being developed by technical personnel hired specifically for this purpose. This team are being supported by volunteers from the delegations of the Department of Chiquimula and the Department of Izabal (Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomás de Castilla).

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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

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



Total Targeted Population

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

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Political and social instability	Maintain a constant dialogue with local and national authorities to be informed about the political situation and receive support in case of needing safe access to affected areas. At the same time, design flexible operational plans that allow for rapid adaptation to changes in the environment, such as rescheduling activities. This should include the establishment of clear communication channels with both the team on the ground and the community to inform them of any adjustments in programmed activities.
Difficulty in accessing remote communities and affected areas	Preparation and training of personnel and volunteers, along with collaboration with local organizations and government authorities, can facilitate access to remote areas. In addition, the contingency plan will be used to transport personnel and supplies in the event of adverse weather conditions or security situations.
Disinformation and community resistance	A comprehensive communication strategy is essential to address misinformation and community resistance. This includes working with community leaders and local organizations to promote understanding and acceptance of dengue control measures. Communication should be clear, culturally sensitive, and based on scientific evidence. Community feedback should be collected and used to adapt communication and action strategies.
Safety of field personnel and volunteers	To ensure the safety of personnel and volunteers in the field, safety protocols should be implemented, including measures to protect personnel and volunteers from health and safety hazards. This may include the proper use of personal protective equipment, training in safety measures, and coordination with local security forces to ensure protection in potentially hazardous areas.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Risk of social conflicts due to the current political situation, since the new authorities are expected to take the position in January 2024, which will be marked by the general elections in August 2023. However, the National Society has prioritized the implementation of Safe Access Plans with the collaboration of volunteers, technicians and delegations to ensure the safety of the work teams. In addition, as has been the practice on previous occasions, activities at the community level will be carried out in collaboration with health services personnel and community leaders.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 60,738

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of primary health care (PHC) practitioners trained in the proper management of dengue, including the identification of warning signs and alerts.	40	82
Number of people reached through dengue prevention actions.	5,000	1,414
Number of community leaders and health commissions trained in the early identification of cases and their efficient referral (community surveillance).	150	0

Progress Towards Outcome

During November 2023, significant progress was made with the completion of four workshops focused on the prevention, containment and management of community cases of dengue. These workshops, aimed at volunteers and staff of the vector unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), trained a total of 82 people. In addition, educational sessions on dengue prevention were initiated at the community level, reaching 1,414 people.

However, in order to further strengthen these initiatives and achieve the proposed indicators, a two-month extension is requested for the execution of pending activities. These include the continuation of educational sessions, community surveillance workshops for health commissions and community leaders, the organization of community health fairs, and the continuation of communication actions, such as the dissemination of key messages through the use of loudspeakers.

The continuation of these actions within the framework of the DREF is crucial to achieve a significant impact on public health in the affected departments. Community education, vector control, and continued collaboration with MSPAS is critical to mitigate long-term risks and ensure a sustained decrease in the incidence of dengue.



Budget: CHF 183,527

Targeted Persons: 5,000



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of communities or target sites that have experienced vector control interventions (both chemical and physical).	14	14
Number of people reached with actions related to water, sanitation and hygiene	5,000	13,635
Number of National Society staff and volunteers trained and reinforced in environmental sanitation equipment operation and maintenance skills.	10	10

Progress Towards Outcome

Physical and chemical control actions have been carried out to combat the dengue vector, including fogging and abatization, in close collaboration with personnel from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS). These efforts have been extended to 14 communities in the departments selected by the DREF, reaching 2,727 families (13,635 people). Although it was initially proposed to intervene in 16 communities, a rapid assessment conducted jointly by the DREF team and MSPAS representatives led to the decision to adjust this goal to 14 communities. This change was made with the objective of ensuring that the actions are carried out efficiently and with the required quality in the time available for DREF execution.

In November, the initial practice of operation and maintenance of environmental sanitation equipment was carried out, training a total of 10 volunteers. In order to make the most of the two-month extension of the DREF, we plan to continue with the elimination of breeding sites and the physical and chemical vector control actions.

At the same time, purchases are still underway, including mosquito nets, personal protection equipment, repair and maintenance of environmental sanitation equipment, tools for eliminating breeding sites, equipment to strengthen the delegations and lids for water containers.

The extension of these actions within the framework of the DREF is vital to ensure a lasting impact on public health in the affected areas. The combination of physical and chemical dengue vector control actions and continued collaboration with the MSPAS are key elements to reduce the risks associated with dengue in the long term and ensure a sustained decrease in its incidence.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,935

Targeted Persons: 50

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of child protection measures implemented after risk assessment	1	1
Number of Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers who have received training/updating in the Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach.	50	0
Number of child-friendly spaces established during the implementation of community activities	5	0



Progress Towards Outcome

To date, the procurement process for the necessary supplies for the child-friendly spaces has begun. In addition, the procurement process for the Protection, Gender and Inclusion Workshop for staff and volunteers active in the DREF is scheduled to begin in January 2024.

The implementation of these actions is fundamental to ensure the minimum conditions of access and protection for all people involved. These actions will not only improve the effectiveness of the DREF, but will also reaffirm the National Society's commitment to inclusion and protection of all people, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment that encourages active participation and learning.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 978

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of CEA mechanisms implemented	1	0
Number of people reached with CEA-related actions	500	20
Number of staff and volunteers trained/updated on CEA-related topics	25	0

Progress Towards Outcome

Effective communication has been established with the leaders of the 14 communities where DREF is currently intervening, with the objective of socializing and coordinating the pertinent actions. In addition, meetings have been held with the teams of the delegations of the departments involved in the implementation of the DREF.

By January 2024, the implementation of CEA mechanisms, such as suggestion boxes and community assemblies, is planned to begin. Although it was initially planned to reach 1,000 people with CEA actions, a rapid assessment by the team and community leaders led to adjust this target to 500 people, taking into account the availability and remaining implementation time of the DREF.

Additionally, on the same date, it is planned to develop a training and updating workshop on CEA issues for staff and volunteers active in the DREF. These actions are crucial to ensure a more focused and effective intervention, adapting to the needs and capacities of the affected communities.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 11,129

Targeted Persons: 2

Indicators

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



Progress Towards Outcome

Given the socio-political situation in the country ahead of the 2023 general elections, and exacerbated by road blockades throughout the country and the rescheduling of activities, the schedule has been readjusted to conduct follow-up visits between January and February 2024. During this period, support will also be provided on urgent issues to ensure an effective and efficient closure of the DREF.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 17,940

Targeted Persons: 50

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops developed	1	0
Number of staff and volunteers receiving personal protective equipment and visibility gear	50	0
Number of technical personnel hired specifically for the operation	4	4

Progress Towards Outcome

The hiring of a field coordinator, whose responsibility is to supervise and coordinate the actions of the DREF, as well as three specialized Health/WASH technicians, who will be in charge of implementing activities related to health, WASH, PGI and CEA, has been completed. By January 2024, the procurement of protective and visibility equipment for DREF staff and active volunteers is scheduled to begin. In addition, a lessons learned workshop is planned for March 2024.

About Support Services

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

There are currently 50 active volunteers in the departments of Chiquimula and Izabal to lead community activities, provide training support and carry out actions related to WASH, CEA, Health and PGI.

In addition, specific technical personnel (one field coordinator and three specialized Health/WASH technicians) have already been hired for the operation, who are working in each of the delegations in the two departments that are being intervened during this operation.

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

According to the National Society's purchasing process, any purchase exceeding Q 7,000 must be made through the purchasing department, following a quotation process. This procedure can take an estimated time of one to three months for the acquisition of products, supplies or equipment.

Currently, major purchases are pending, including personal protection and visibility equipment for volunteers, maintenance of sanitation equipment, and tools to strengthen the delegations. These purchases have already been authorized by the IFRC and are only pending formalization by the National Society.

How will this operation be monitored?

To ensure effective follow-up of the operation, virtual meetings have been scheduled with representatives of the IFRC Central America Cluster. The main purpose of these meetings is to monitor the progress and developments of the operation.



The IFRC has provided a recording tool to document the number of people reached, allowing real-time monitoring and clear visualization of the interventions. In addition, every week, the DREF coordination is dedicated to analyzing and systematizing the results obtained, ensuring a continuous evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the actions.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

In collaboration with the National Society's communication department, DREF staff and volunteers are developing a communication campaign targeting the media, such as radio and television. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness about dengue control, identification of danger signs, and appropriate response measures to these diseases. The messages generated will be sent to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance for validation.

In parallel, the communication department will be responsible for informing both the population and the IFRC office in Guatemala about the activities carried out by the Guatemalan Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC. This includes sharing stories of the people assisted by the operation.

Following the code of conduct for disaster relief, in all our information and publicity activities, we are committed to treating all people assisted with dignity and respect, focusing on their skills and abilities, rather than presenting them as objects of pity. This approach ensures respect for the integrity and dignity of the people involved in the operations.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGT020 - Guatemalan Red Cross Guatemala: Dengue

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	248,178
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	60,738
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	183,527
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,935
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	978
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	29,069
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,129
National Society Strengthening	17,940
TOTAL BUDGET	277,247

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

27/12/2023

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

