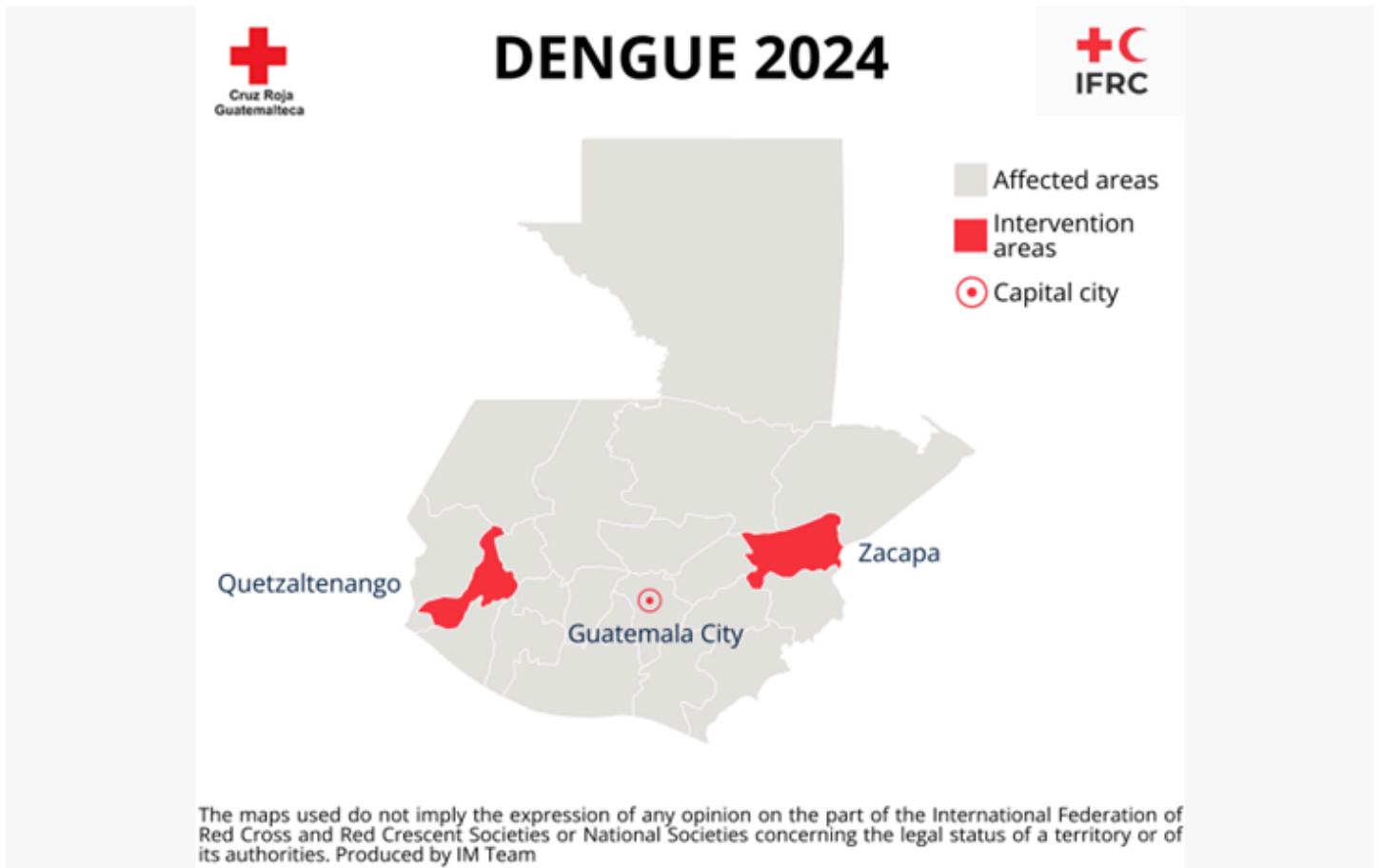




Fumigation campaigns carried out in the department of Chiquimula. Source: GRC.

Appeal: MDRGT022	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 395,901	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Epidemic
Glide Number: EP-2024-000099-GTM	People Affected: 35,294 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 23-05-2024	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 4 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 23-05-2024		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 30-06-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 19,575		Targeted Areas: Quetzaltenango, Zacapa	

Description of the Event



Map 1. Affected areas and areas of intervention with this IFRC-DREF. Source: IFRC.

Date when the trigger was met

27-06-2024

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. During the year 2024 between epidemiological weeks (SE, for its acronym in Spanish) 1 and 25 of 2024, 10,363,448 suspected cases of dengue have been reported in the region. The cumulative incidence is 1,098 cases per 100,000 population. This figure represents an increase of 232% compared to the same period in 2023 and 420% compared to the average of the last 5 years. In addition, 140 cases of severe dengue fever have been reported, of which 102 have resulted in deaths(1).

On 16 February 2024, in view of the exponential increase in dengue cases observed in the first weeks of the year in several countries of the Region of the Americas, PAHO made an urgent appeal to Member States. The organization emphasized the need to intensify vector control measures and to maintain active surveillance, ensuring early diagnosis and timely treatment of cases (2).

On 7 March 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS, for its acronym in Spanish) of Guatemala, through the Directorate of Epidemiology and Risk Management, issued an epidemiological alert for dengue (3). This alert was established to reinforce dengue control and prevention plans, based on data accumulated up to epidemiological week 7, which ended on 17 February. As of that date, a total of 6,760 cases of dengue fever had been recorded, of which 31 were severe cases resulting in 3 deaths. The decision to issue this alert was motivated by the beginning of the high dengue transmission season in the country. As part of this measure, specific epidemiological surveillance actions were reinforced, including standardized protocols for the detection, notification, and registration of cases in hospitals and health areas.

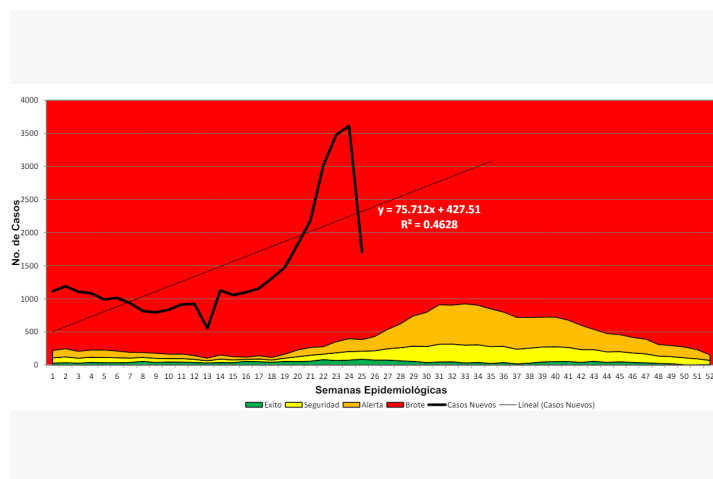
Given the increase of dengue cases in the country, the MSPAS declared a National Health Emergency on 30 April, 2024 (4), through Ministerial Agreement Number 152-2024, published in the Official Gazette of Central America. The agreement underscores the responsibility of health sector institutions to carry out, within their competencies, epidemiological surveillance, outbreak investigation

and entomological surveillance. These actions are fundamental for the implementation of integrated management strategies for vector control, seeking to mitigate the spread of dengue.

Up to last epidemiological week 25, 35,294 suspected cases of dengue have been registered in the country. In the same report for week 25, 14 of the 29 Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks (DDRIS, for its acronym in Spanish) reported an incidence of dengue higher than the national average. The most affected departments are Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Zacapa, El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, Sacatepequez, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Jalapa, Escuintla. Suchitepequez, Chiquimula, Guatemala (North West) and Guatemala (North East).

In this context, on 13 May 2024, the vector-borne disease control program of the health area of the department of Quetzaltenango requested, through a letter, direct support to the Guatemalan Red Cross. It mainly requested collaboration to implement health promotion actions, abatization, fogging and cleaning of mosquito breeding sites. Similarly, on 14 May 2024, the endemic disease control program of the health area of the department of Suchitepéquez requested, also through a letter, the support of the Guatemalan Red Cross to develop dengue prevention and mitigation actions. These requests have been issued due to the lack of personnel and resources necessary to develop the actions framed in the national dengue emergency.

On 27 June, at a meeting of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the national level, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) verbally requested the National Society to replace the intervention in the department of Suchitepequez with that of Zacapa. This request was based on the significant increase of dengue cases in Zacapa and a considerable decrease in Suchitepequez. The request was made in response to evidence of the most affected areas and the shortage of personnel and resources needed by MSPAS to address the national dengue emergency.



2024 weekly endemic dengue corridor in Guatemala, EW25.
Source: MSPAS.



Fumigation day carried out in the department of Chiquimula.
Source: GRC.

Scope and Scale

According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), nearly 500 million people in the Americas are currently at risk of contracting dengue (5). According to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) of Guatemala, as of epidemiological week number 25 of the year 2024, a total of 35,294 suspected cases of dengue have been registered in the country. With this data there is an increase of 5.3 times more (5,595 / 35,294) cases compared to the same week of 2023 and an increase of 531% compared to 2023, 776% compared to the average of the last 5 years.

Dengue continues to be the most prevalent disease among the arboviruses monitored in the country, underscoring its constant circulation and significant impact on public health in Guatemala. The MSPAS also confirms that the age group most affected by this disease includes mainly children under 15 years of age, with a special focus on children of both sexes between 5 and 9 years of age. In addition, women between 25 and 39 years of age also present a high incidence.

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In addition, it is important to note that dengue generates profound impacts at both the individual and societal levels. Individually, dengue can cause a wide range of symptoms ranging from high fever and headache to severe forms such as hemorrhage and shock, which can lead to prolonged hospitalization and, in severe cases, death. This disease not only affects the physical health of individuals,

but also impacts their emotional well-being and economic capacity due to lost workdays and associated medical costs. On a societal level, dengue outbreaks can overburden healthcare systems, diverting resources from other necessary areas and limiting the ability to respond to other medical emergencies. Socially, outbreaks foster fear and anxiety within communities, affecting social cohesion and the normal conduct of daily activities. In addition, the economic impact is significant, as it reduces labor productivity and can create negative changes in tourism in affected areas, thus affecting the local economy.

According to MSPAS and based on information from the National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (Insivumeh) on the effect of the El Niño current and climate change, a significant increase in cases of arbovirosis is expected from June to September 2024. This increase is attributed to the increase in rainfall during these months, which favors the proliferation of the vectors of these diseases. In addition, periods of heat wave are expected between the second half of July and the first half of August, which will not extend, contributing to more intense rainfall and delaying the onset of winter. This set of climatic factors could intensify the transmission of arbovirosis in the country during this period (6).

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Government of the Republic of Guatemala - Health Declares National Emergency due to Dengue Epidemic	https://prensa.gob.gt/comunicado/salud-declara-emergencia-nacional-por-la-epidemia-de-dengue
2. PAHO - Incidence of dengue fever in the Americas	https://www.paho.org/es/temas/dengue#:~:text=Cerca%20de%20500%20millones%20de,en%20riesgo%20de%20contraer%20dengue.&text=El%202023%20fue%20el%20a%C3%B1o,de%20letalidad%20de%200%2C051%25).
3. Prensa Libre - MSPAS on alert for dengue	https://dca.gob.gt/noticias-guatemala-diario-centro-america/en-alerta-por-dengue/
4. PAHO - Situation Report No. 25. Epidemiological Situation of Dengue in the Americas - Epidemiological Week 16, 2024	https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/informe-situacion-no-25-situacion-epidemiologica-dengue-americas-semana-epidemiologica
5. PAHO - Epidemiological Alert: Increase in Dengue Cases in the Region of the Americas, 16 February 2024	https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/alerta-epidemiologica-aumento-casos-dengue-region-americas-16-febrero-2024
6. Government of the Republic of Guatemala - Health Declares Dengue Alert	https://www.prensalibre.com/guatemala/salud-declara-alerta-por-dengue-en-guatemala-al-sumar-7-mil-casos-en-2024/

Summary of Changes

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



Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operational Update No. 1, the Guatemalan Red Cross intends to inform about:

- (i) A change in the geographical areas of intervention. Change the department of Suchitepéquez for the department of Zacapa.
- (ii) A second allocation of CHF 19,575 for a total DREF Budget of CHF 395,901.

This adjustment is due to a verbal request made by the Epidemiology Department of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) during a technical meeting of the Emergency Operations Center (COE). The specific request was for the Guatemalan Red Cross to concentrate its response in the department of Zacapa, replacing the department of Suchitepéquez.

The decision was based on data from the last epidemiological report, corresponding to week 25-2024, where Suchitepéquez showed a decrease in dengue cases compared to Zacapa, which currently ranks third among the Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks (DDRIS) with incidence rates that exceed the national average. In particular, the municipality of Gualán in Zacapa reported 396 cases with an incidence rate of 780.10, underscoring the need for support in this area.

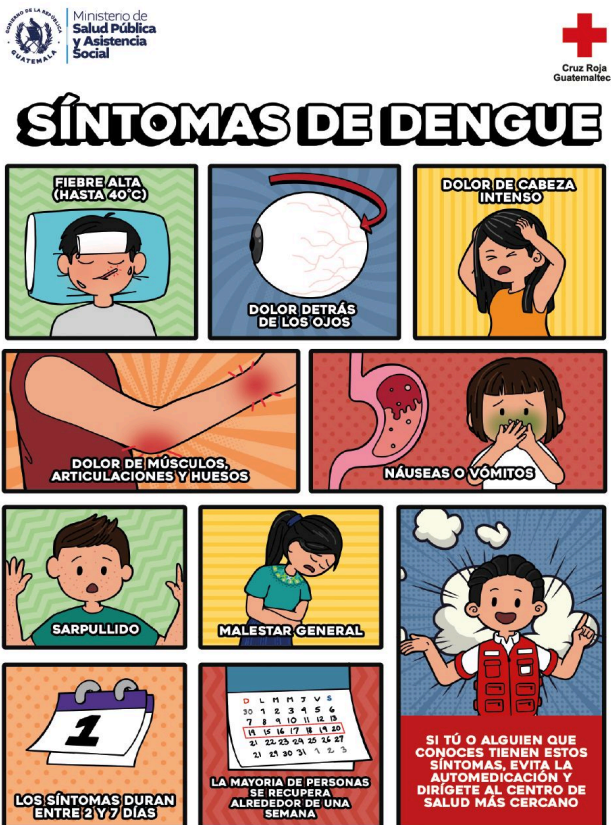
Since there is no Guatemalan Red Cross branch in the municipality of Gualan, the budget increase includes additional expenses for lodging, food and mobilization of technical staff and volunteers during field intervention days. This budget adjustment also covers the purchase of mosquito nets, an essential dengue containment measure implemented by the National Society. This action is not only aligned with preventive public health practices in the country, but is also culturally appropriate and widely accepted, which ensures effective implementation and enhances its impact on reducing dengue transmission.

It is important to note that despite these geographic and financial changes, the target population will maintain its original focus.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

13-05-2024



Example of a poster on dengue symptoms to be used in educational sessions and distributed in different community spaces. Source: GRC.

Example of a poster on one of the actions for dengue prevention to be used in educational sessions and distributed in different community spaces. Source: GRC.



Health	<p>The National Society has begun to review its protocols and methodologies for the community approach to health. Through the branches in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Suchitepequez, and within the framework of the ECHO-PPP project, informative sessions on practical measures for dengue prevention have been implemented, mainly with community leaders in some of the communities where the project carries out interventions.</p> <p>In addition, constant communication has been maintained with representatives of the central headquarters of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and with health areas at the departmental level.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>The Guatemalan Red Cross has begun to socialize internally the procedures for the development of physical and chemical vector control actions, both at headquarters and local level, especially with the branches of Quetzaltenango and Suchitepequez, according to the guidelines of the vector unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS).</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>The National Society has internally socialized the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) minimum standards in emergencies so that teams can update and reflect on the community-based approaches to be implemented. In addition, as part of this IFRC-DREF request, a child protection risk analysis was conducted under the guidance of IFRC. This aims to ensure that children enjoy safe spaces during all community interventions and can actively participate in the proposed actions.</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>The Guatemalan Red Cross, taking as a reference the implementation of the IFRC-DREF on dengue implemented last year, has developed rapid internal discussion sessions with the teams on the actions and mechanisms of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) that should be considered for the different actions proposed in this new IFRC-DREF. In addition, the most practical and relevant ways to incorporate this approach throughout the operation have been explored.</p>
Coordination	<p>The Guatemalan Red Cross has maintained direct and close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) at various levels of care, focusing especially on the geographic areas prioritized for this IFRC-DREF project. It has also maintained constant communication with its branches in the two prioritized departments, ensuring that planning takes into account the specific contextual elements of each region.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>Currently, the Guatemalan Red Cross does not have specific funds to meet the request of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS). However, it has already initiated several internal actions to communicate and update teams on specific issues related to the dengue emergency. In addition, the material produced in recent dengue response operations and projects is being reviewed to adapt it to the new MSPAS requirements and subsequently validated with the communities in the framework of this IFRC-DREF request.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>The National Society has an institutional response plan that details specific actions for emergencies, disasters, or crises. However, it does not currently have a specific contingency plan for epidemiological outbreaks. Despite this shortcoming, it has adapted the existing response plan to frame and guide proposed actions for outbreak situations.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>In view of the national emergency declaration for dengue, the Emergency Operations Center of the National Society has begun to monitor the incidence of dengue cases at the national level. This monitoring has been based on official information provided by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and on dengue reports from the different departments through the different branches.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC, through its Central America Country Cluster Delegation (CCD), has provided ongoing support to the Guatemalan Red Cross in the analysis and formulation of this IFRC-DREF. In addition, during implementation, specific support is anticipated from specific areas of the IFRC Americas regional office.</p> <p>The National Society also plans to develop follow-up actions with IFRC staff during the implementation of the actions to ensure that the action plan is executed according to the established quality standards.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Spanish Red Cross, through the Programmatic Partnership project, has supported the National Society in advance planning and preparation to strengthen epidemiological surveillance in anticipation of the season of increased risk of dengue outbreaks. This collaboration involves close monitoring of dengue cases and early identification of outbreaks, enabling an agile response. These actions were carried out before the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) declared a dengue emergency in the country.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

During the formulation of this IFRC-DREF, no contact has been established with the ICRC, and the National Society does not anticipate its involvement in the implementation phase.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>Since January 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) of Guatemala has initiated and reinforced various actions to address the dengue situation in the country. These actions include the stratification of at-risk localities by municipality through entomological surveys, implementation of fogging and abatization actions, as well as promotion and education with training of health personnel. Meetings of the Health Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) have also been held to discuss comprehensive strategies.</p> <p>With the declaration of a national dengue health emergency, MSPAS has stressed the need for health sector institutions to conduct epidemiological surveillance, outbreak investigation and entomological surveillance. Special emphasis has been placed on the implementation of integrated management strategies of the <i>Aedes aegypti</i> vector and on promoting prevention and health promotion actions. These are crucial to reduce morbidity through control and elimination of breeding sites, and the strengthening of communication campaigns to educate about the risk and prevention of dengue in the communities.</p> <p>MSPAS has insisted on the importance of health entities providing the necessary resources, including personnel, vehicles, financing and supplies such as insecticides, larvicides and fogging equipment. In the context of this emergency, and as part of the CONRED System, MSPAS will activate the Health Emergency Operations Center to coordinate sectoral and intersectoral actions, as established in Article 5 of the Ministerial Agreement Number 152-2024 on the National Health Emergency, published in the Official Gazette of Central America.</p> <p>Currently, MSPAS has implemented a National Emergency Plan for the prevention, control and care of cases of arbovirolosis, with special emphasis on dengue. This plan</p>



seeks to reduce the incidence of dengue in the country through a series of comprehensive actions that include prevention, mitigation, and care within the integrated health services network. In addition, the plan aims to prevent the increase in dengue mortality at the national level. To achieve these goals, the plan encompasses the development of strategies in several areas, such as governance and leadership, epidemiological surveillance, laboratory surveillance, case management, integrated vector management, environmental management, risk communication, health promotion and education, and financial and accounting management.

UN or other actors

Currently, there are no other institutions, organizations, or cooperation agencies that are carrying out dengue prevention or containment actions in the two departments prioritized by this IFRC-DREF.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

In the municipalities of Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) has begun to form technical roundtables to address the dengue outbreak and establish coordinated prevention and response actions. Red Cross branches have been invited to participate in both technical tables.

In addition, in the municipality of Gualán, Zacapa, MSPAS has invited the National Society to participate in technical meetings at the local level. The purpose of these meetings is to initiate actions focused on raising awareness for dengue prevention, as well as to implement physical and chemical control measures in specific areas.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



The lack of constant training/updating of health personnel represents a major obstacle to effectively responding to dengue outbreaks. This situation is worsened by the scarce presence of health personnel in the most vulnerable communities, limiting the implementation of health promotion and prevention actions. In addition, the MoH has limited resources for the purchase of supplies and equipment for chemical vector control, essential for the elimination of larvae and adult mosquitoes, for outbreak control.

The situation is also made more complex by the scarce presence of risk communication campaigns, which are crucial for health promotion and prevention. Therefore, it is necessary to implement effective and accessible communication strategies, such as the distribution of posters, radio messages and community radio broadcasts, to inform the population about necessary and practical preventive measures.

Regarding the scarcity of diagnostic methods such as dengue rapid tests, which facilitate early diagnosis, there is an immediate need. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) faces financial limitations that hinder the acquisition of such supplies, and there is little response from national and international health organizations in terms of donations of this type.

Likewise, the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 emerges as a latent need, especially for the staff and volunteers of the National Society who carry out home visits in contexts of high virus transmission. The absence of PPE not only puts the health of workers and volunteers at risk, but also threatens to hinder the continuity of dengue control activities.



Lack of access to safe drinking water forces people to store water in containers, which, in the absence of proper management practices, become potential breeding grounds for the dengue vector. The accumulation of solid waste and insufficient cleanliness of rural, peri-urban and urban areas aggravate the situation by providing numerous breeding sites for mosquitoes. In many communities, there is a lack of basic tools, such as shovels and carts, necessary for the effective cleaning of public roads and community spaces, such as schools, parks, primary health care posts, etc., which prevents the systematic elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

At the household level, the lack of adequate cleaning supplies, such as disinfectants and brushes for washing sinks, makes it difficult to prevent breeding sites inside homes. In addition, insufficient supplies such as bed nets and repellents represent a significant gap in the dengue containment strategy. These resources are essential to protect the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility. In addition to aligning with preventive public health practices in the country,



mosquito nets are culturally accepted and facilitate their effective adoption, thus enhancing their impact in mitigating dengue transmission.

In terms of personnel protection, adequate personal protective equipment such as gloves, full face masks and respiratory filters are necessary to protect personnel and volunteers during chemical vector control activities.

Improving entomological control management is another need. Training of Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and National Society staff is needed to ensure a more effective and coordinated response to dengue outbreaks. Continuous training is an essential element to improve entomological surveillance and control practices. In addition, there is a notable lack of specialized equipment and supplies, such as thermal foggers and chemicals, essential for physical and chemical vector control through spraying and abatement in areas of high dengue incidence.

These needs allow the identification of an effective response to be implemented based on the alert issued by MSPAS, which includes social mobilization, health promotion and education, and entomological control. Social mobilization involves involving communities in dengue prevention and control activities, encouraging active participation and cooperation. Health promotion and education seeks to raise awareness among the population about dengue prevention and control measures, while entomological control is essential to monitor and reduce the population of mosquitoes that transmit the disease.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the face of a dengue emergency response in Guatemala, it is essential to identify and address the main gaps in protection, gender and inclusion to ensure an equitable and effective intervention. First, there is a lack of a differentiated approach that takes into account the specific needs of women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with pre-existing medical conditions, who are more vulnerable during epidemics. In addition, the limited participation of women in decision-making and in the implementation of response actions reduces the effectiveness of interventions. Gender-based violence, exacerbated in crisis situations, also represents a significant gap, as women and girls may face greater risks of abuse and exploitation.

In addition, training and refresher training on minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion for staff and volunteers needs to be strengthened to ensure an adequate and sensitive response to these specific needs. The lack of safe places for children during community activities is a significant gap. Children require protected environments while their families participate in dengue prevention and control actions. These spaces provide not only physical safety, but also an environment conducive to their continued emotional and physical development. In times of crisis, these safe environments can reduce stress and anxiety in children. They also provide an opportunity for children to learn about dengue prevention measures. Kits that include educational materials and practical resources, such as books with key messages, crayons and repellent, are essential to support this educational work in the community.

Inclusion of indigenous communities is insufficient, often due to linguistic and cultural barriers that impede access to information and services. To address these gaps, it is essential to implement response strategies that ensure that all people, regardless of gender, age or status, receive the necessary support and can actively participate in dengue prevention and control.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Identifying the most recurrent and immediate needs related to Community Engagement and Accountability is essential for a comprehensive approach in the response to the dengue emergency. First, there is a lack of effective mechanisms to involve affected communities in the design and implementation of dengue control and prevention strategies. Communication between health authorities and community leaders is poor, resulting in limited ownership of measures by the local population.

In addition, accountability is affected by poor socialization in resource management and decision making, generating distrust and a perception of ineffectiveness in the response. There is also a lack of adequate and accessible information, as well as the absence of mediation or translation of information into local languages, making it difficult for indigenous communities and other linguistic groups present in the affected areas to understand and adhere to health recommendations.

Likewise, myths and rumors related to dengue and its prevention and treatment methods are insufficiently addressed. This contributes to the reproduction of misinformation, which in turn can hinder disease control efforts. These gaps underscore the need to strengthen communication channels, encourage the active participation of communities, ensure clear and transparent processes, and develop specific strategies for cultural and linguistic mediation, as well as education and demystification of erroneous beliefs, to improve the effectiveness of interventions and public confidence in health authorities, as well as all organizations supporting the emergency response.



Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The Guatemalan Red Cross has not encountered any limitations in the identification of needs. Access to official data and information provided by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), as well as secondary sources and information provided by the delegations in the departments prioritized by this IFRC-DREF, has allowed the identification of needs in a quick and concrete manner.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC- DREF allocation, the Guatemalan Red Cross aims to contribute to the National Health Emergency due to dengue, providing support to the immediate needs of 5,000 people (1,000 families) in the sectors of health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa for 4 months.

Operation strategy rationale

The strategy of this IFRC-DREF will focus on providing direct support to the health areas of the departments of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa, within the framework of the national emergency declaration due to the dengue epidemic. The main objective is to mitigate damage and control environmental risk factors, ensuring that the joint and coordinated work between the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and the Guatemalan Red Cross contributes to counteract the disease and ensure the welfare of Guatemalan families.

The proposed actions focus on entomological surveillance for the implementation of comprehensive dengue management strategies. In addition, prevention and health promotion actions will be promoted, which are essential to reduce morbidity. These actions include control and elimination of breeding sites, as well as risk communication campaigns for prevention in communities and homes, with the active participation of the population.

Actions by Priority Sectors:

HEALTH: Focus will be on developing educational sessions for the community on practical measures for dengue prevention. Educational materials and spots with key messages on dengue prevention, hygiene promotion, protection, participation, and other emerging issues will be developed and validated. Perifoneo campaigns will be carried out to share information and key announcements. In addition, refresher workshops on dengue management, including identification of warning signs, will be organized for MSPAS staff and Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers.

In addition, dengue rapid tests will be purchased and provided to MSPAS as a donation, in response to a bilateral request, due to the urgent need and limited response to requests from other organizations. In addition, personal protective equipment against COVID-19 will be distributed to staff and volunteers, as the country continues to have high rates of COVID-19 infection. This preventive measure is necessary for staff and volunteers, as well as for people in the communities during home visits. Finally, two health technicians will be recruited to lead the planned actions.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH): Educational sessions and home visits will be developed to inform and demonstrate dengue prevention strategies using the UNTADITA strategy and the VELITA (flip, remove, clean and cap, for its acronym in Spanish) method. Fogging and abatization campaigns will be carried out, as well as the elimination of mosquito breeding sites. Cleaning kits for sinks (chlorine, detergent, cleaning brush, etc.) will be purchased and distributed.

A workshop on the operation and maintenance of environmental sanitation equipment will be organized for volunteers active in the operation, and repair and maintenance tasks will be carried out on this equipment (thermonebulizers, pumps). In addition, thermonebulizers (two for each delegation and one for the National Society's headquarters) and tools and equipment for the elimination of mosquito breeding sites will be purchased for the communities and delegations (wheelbarrow, hammer, shovel for waste collection, rake, etc.)

Repellents and mosquito nets will also be distributed. The delivery of mosquito nets is one of the key dengue containment measures used by the National Society. This distribution will prioritize especially vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those with reduced mobility who need to remain at rest for prolonged periods of time. The distribution of mosquito nets is not only in line with the preventive practices used by public health in the country, but is also a culturally appropriate and widely accepted intervention, which facilitates its effective implementation and increases its impact on reducing dengue transmission.



Vector control supplies will also be purchased and distributed to strengthen health services and delegations (chemicals for the elimination of adult mosquitoes and larvae, gloves, flashlights, pressure washers, etc.). Personal protective equipment (boots, full face masks, gloves, filters for masks, goggles, etc.) will be distributed to volunteers active in the operation, mainly for exposure to chemicals during spraying days. A specific coordinator for IFRC-DREF will be hired to coordinate these activities.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI): Training and refresher workshops on PGI in the context of dengue will be developed for staff and volunteers active in the operation. PGI-related materials will be developed and printed for use in health and WASH education sessions. Dengue prevention kits (repellent, coloring book with key prevention messages, crayons, etc.) for children and adolescents will be purchased and distributed. In addition, materials and supplies will be purchased for the creation and/or promotion of safe spaces for children and adolescents during the development of community actions. A child protection risk analysis will be conducted in accordance with IFRC guidelines.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA): A CEA workshop with emphasis on the context of the dengue emergency will be developed for MSPAS personnel, staff and volunteers of the National Society active in the operation. Since this is an emergency response, the National Society has prioritized health, WASH and PGI actions based on the preliminary needs identified. These actions will be strengthened according to the internal and community assessment on the choice of a base CEA mechanism (suggestion box, satisfaction surveys, focus groups, etc.).

Materials will be developed and printed to share key messages related to CEA and other emerging issues/needs according to the selected mechanism. Dissemination of key messages related to health, WASH, PGI, etc. will also be supported through the most trusted community channels.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETY: Insurance will be taken out for volunteers active in the operation. Material for the visibility of the operation (blankets, banners, etc.) will be purchased and distributed. Communication expenses will be covered for staff and volunteers (telephone, Internet service) and for the operation (field visits by communication staff, generation of audiovisual material), lodging and mobilization, and office material will be purchased. An administrative technician will be hired specifically for the IFRC-DREF. At the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop will be developed as part of the National Society accountability and capacity building mechanisms.

To ensure that this strategy is implemented according to the established parameters, the Guatemalan Red Cross will hold regular bilateral meetings with representatives of the IFRC Central America Country Cluster Delegation (CCD), representatives of the National Society delegations and representatives of the MSPAS. These meetings will allow for real-time monitoring and the implementation of necessary adjustments in a timely manner.

It is important to note that the ECHO-PPP project has carried out interventions in specific communities in the municipality of Coatepeque, located in the department of Quetzaltenango. These actions have been oriented exclusively to prevention and strengthening of community surveillance systems, along with informative talks to local leaders on dengue prevention. However, it is important to recognize that these initiatives have only reached a small fraction of the population in both departments.

In that sense, this IFRC-DREF is a complement to the activities carried out as part of the ECHO-PPP project actions, and will allow increasing the population to be reached with educational actions, as well as incorporating specific vector control actions in coordination with MSPAS, given that the project lacks funds for the purchase of essential equipment and supplies for the emergency response to dengue, such as thermobulizers, chemicals for physical and chemical vector control, rapid diagnostic tests, sinkhole cleaning kits, and tools for the elimination of mosquito breeding sites, among others. Instead, the IFRC-DREF plans to finance the acquisition of these equipment and supplies, which will be essential to support the comprehensive response to dengue established by the MSPAS.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This IFRC-DREF will provide direct assistance to people in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa. The Guatemalan Red Cross will give priority to children between 5 and 9 years of age of both sexes, as well as to women.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The target population was calculated based on estimates established in bilateral meetings between the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and the National Society, taking as a basis the cases reported in epidemiological week 25-2024, versus the cases in the two prioritized departments.



The prioritized departments are among the fourteen departments that are part of the Departmental Directorates of Integrated Health Services Networks (DDRIS), which, according to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), have a higher incidence of dengue than the national average.

The prioritization of children from 5 to 9 years of age of both sexes, as well as women, corresponds to the fact that, according to MSPAS epidemiological reports, they present a high rate of affectation. However, the National Society will carry out constant monitoring to identify other groups requiring priority attention.

Total Targeted Population

Women	1,808	Rural	58%
Girls (under 18)	767	Urban	42%
Men	1,673	People with disabilities (estimated)	0%
Boys (under 18)	752		
Total targeted population	5,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Disinformation and community resilience	A comprehensive communication strategy is essential to address disinformation 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.
Lack of coordination between the institutions involved	Establish clear lines of communication and inter-institutional coordination to ensure collaboration between the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), Guatemalan Red Cross, and other organizations. In addition, implement regular follow-up and coordination meetings. Also use digital platforms for communication and information exchange in real time.
Safety of staff and volunteers in the field	Implement safety protocols, including measures to protect staff and volunteers from health and safety risks. This may include the proper use of personal protective equipment, training in safety measures, and coordination with local law enforcement to ensure protection in potentially hazardous areas.
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 case of adverse weather conditions or security situations.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Social conflicts, demonstrations and/or road closures due to discontent of the population with particular groups within the governmental structures at central and local levels.



From the Guatemalan Red Cross headquarters, the mobilization of personnel and volunteers will be monitored, as well as the follow-up of official sources to prevent displacements in case of demonstrations, blockades or other situations. In addition, information and mechanisms framed in the safest access will be socialized. Also, from the beginning of the operation, the protocols that each branch has at the local level for this type of events will be made known.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 64,814

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people who participated in educational sessions on practical measures for the prevention of dengue.	5,000	0
Number of communities reached with perifoneo actions.	10	0
Number of MSPAS personnel and Red Cross volunteers trained/updated in the proper management of dengue.	50	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Red Cross has made progress in providing essential printed material for educational sessions and other training processes, initiating the printing of posters detailing dengue symptoms and prevention methods. In addition, an operational entomological surveillance manual is being printed for use by volunteers, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) personnel and community representatives.

In parallel, the National Society has organized two refresher workshops on dengue management, including the identification of warning signs and signals. These workshops are aimed at MSPAS personnel and Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers active in the operation, and are scheduled to take place between late July and early August.

The National Society has also begun the process of purchasing the necessary supplies to develop perifoneo actions. In addition, the recruitment of a health technician for the department of Quetzaltenango has been completed. It is also planned to start hiring a technician for the department of Zacapa, once the request for a change of department is approved in this operational update.

In addition, the Guatemalan RC has initiated activities to socialize the activities proposed in this DREF internally, with the presidents and boards of directors of the delegations that will be involved in the response, as well as externally, with staff of the Regional Health Directorate and health centers, which has supported the prioritization and selection of communities to intervene. Socialization meetings have also been held with community leaders and censuses have begun in the selected communities. So far, 40 people (9 women, 31 men) have participated in these meetings.



Budget: CHF 250,871



Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with actions related to water, sanitation and hygiene.	5,000	0
Percentage of families visited that implement practical actions for the prevention of dengue.	90	0
Number of sink washing kits distributed.	1,000	0
Number of repellents and mosquito nets distributed.	1,000	0
Number of Guatemalan Red Cross staff and volunteers trained and strengthened in environmental sanitation equipment operation and maintenance skills.	50	0
Number of volunteers who have received personal protective equipment.	50	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Guatemalan Red Cross has taken concrete steps to strengthen the technical skills of volunteers active in emergency operations. As part of these efforts, it has scheduled a workshop on operation and maintenance of environmental sanitation equipment for early August, aimed at volunteers involved in the IFRC-DREF.

In addition, to ensure the availability of the necessary supplies for the planned activities and distributions, the National Society has initiated the purchasing process to acquire thermal foggers, chemicals for nebulization, washing kits for sinks, and lids for water storage containers.

The National Society has also hired a specific coordinator for the IFRC-DREF, thus ensuring that all actions are implemented in a timely manner and with the required quality standards.

Finally, the National Society has planned meetings for the second week of July with the Central American Cluster Delegation team and representatives of the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit. The purpose of these meetings will be to confirm the requirements for upcoming purchases, ensuring that the inputs are procured and delivered in time for proper distribution.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 36,341

Targeted Persons: 800

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of children and adolescents who received dengue prevention kits.	1,000	0
Number of Guatemalan Red Cross communities and branches that received materials and supplies for the creation and promotion of safe	16	0

spaces for children and adolescents.		
Number of Red Cross staff and volunteers trained or updated in PGI related topics.	50	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Guatemalan Red Cross has advanced in actions related to the availability of printed material to disseminate information and key messages on dengue and the sectors prioritized in the IFRC-DREF. Currently, the process of printing posters on gender-based violence in the context of the dengue emergency has begun.

In addition, in collaboration with the communications department, work is underway on the design of a coloring book that will form part of an educational kit on dengue prevention aimed at children. Initially, the National Society planned to distribute 800 of these kits, but after a review of the pre-positioned supplies from the previous dengue IFRC-DREF, there was a delay in receiving the volunteer uniforms. These uniforms will now be distributed in the new IFRC-DREF, and the funds initially allocated for them will be reallocated to increase the distribution of dengue prevention kits for children to a total of 1,000 kits.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,913

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with CEA actions (use of mechanism, key messages, etc.)	1,000	0
Number of CEA mechanisms implemented.	1	0
Number of MSPAS staff and Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers trained or updated on CEA related topics.	50	0

Progress Towards Outcome

As part of the accountability process, the Guatemalan Red Cross held a meeting with the communications department and the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) team. The objective was to design a community census in the departments prioritized by the IFRC-DREF, which is planned to be developed during the month of August. This census will make it possible to accurately select the families to be assisted with the planned actions and, at the same time, to identify the basic CEA mechanism for the operation, adapted to the needs and characteristics of the local population.

In parallel, the National Society has presented the IFRC-DREF to the branches of the priority departments, as well as to community leaders and representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS). In addition, community assemblies have been planned prior to the census. These assemblies will serve to present the IFRC-DREF and the planned actions, as well as to encourage the active participation of the communities throughout the process.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 13,994

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of field monitoring visits conducted.	3	0

Progress Towards Outcome

Representatives of the IFRC Central America Cluster Delegation have initiated virtual follow-up meetings with the Guatemalan Red Cross to learn the status of the first actions developed and discuss technical, operational and financial requirements for specific processes. In addition, field visits are planned to coincide with distribution and training activities to ensure direct follow-up and support at these key stages of the operation.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 27,968

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers active in the operation with insurance.	50	0
Number of lessons learned workshops developed.	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Guatemalan Red Cross is still in the process of hiring a specific financial technician for the IFRC-DREF. In addition, the National Society has begun the internal consultation process to purchase insurance for volunteers active in the operation.

On the other hand, although the National Society had initially planned to purchase uniforms for volunteers, an internal review identified that the uniforms from the previous IFRC-DREF dengue were not delivered on time by the supplier and are still available in the warehouse. As a result, the National Society has decided not to proceed with the purchase of new uniforms and instead use the existing ones. The funds originally allocated for this purchase will be redirected to the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) sector to purchase an additional 200 dengue prevention kits for children.

About Support Services

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

A total of 50 volunteers will be activated for this IFRC-DREF in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa, with the objective of implementing community actions in the areas of Health, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Participation and Accountability (CEA). Each activity is expected to have a rotating group of 10 volunteers to ensure their constant presence and ensure their physical and emotional well-being.

In addition, the following staff will be recruited specifically for the IFRC-DREF:

-1x IFRC-DREF Coordinator: Responsible for directing and following up on the planned actions, ensuring they are carried out as planned and with the required quality standards.

-2x Health Technicians: Responsible for following the technical guidelines to ensure the proper implementation of actions in the field.



They will also provide support in data recording, follow-up and analysis of activity information.

-1x Administrative Technician: Will provide support to staff and volunteers in all actions, and will serve as liaison with the administrative and financial staff of the Guatemalan Red Cross headquarters, to ensure that procedures and accountabilities are developed according to internal and external parameters. In addition, will support the purchasing processes (issuance of requisitions, follow-up, etc.) in coordination with the central purchasing department of the National Society.

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

The National Society has a defined administrative-financial procedure for making purchases. This procedure includes several important steps. First, a detailed request is made for the items needed. If the amount requested is Q7,000.00 or more, three quotations are obtained to compare prices and quality. Then, a quality and cost analysis is performed and the purchase is approved. Once the product is delivered, it is verified that it meets the quality requirements. Finally, the check is processed for payment to the supplier.

Despite the National Society internal capacity, some supplies, mainly personal protective equipment for COVID-19, repellents, mosquito nets and dengue rapid tests, will be procured through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). The rest of the supplies will be procured locally by the National Society, taking into account the availability and quality in the local market.

How will this operation be monitored?

To monitor and record the progress of the actions, the National Society will use two complementary procedures. The first is the use of the recording instruments and indicators established by the Ministry of Health. This will allow the actions carried out to be recorded as part of the monthly actions in the Health Districts and integrated into the national statistics. In parallel, the National Society's internal registry platform will be used to document the scopes by sector, as established in the IFRC-DREF action plan.

Periodic internal meetings will be promoted among the management team, operation staff, delegation boards and volunteers. Periodic external meetings will also be held with representatives of the different structures of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) to analyze the scope of the results proposed by the operation, identify gaps and propose improvement actions when necessary.

To evaluate the scope of the operation, official data on entomological indices and dengue incidence obtained by the health services will also be used. In addition, a satisfaction survey will be conducted among the people reached with the different actions and the health services personnel. This information will be of vital importance for the continuous strengthening of the National Society regarding epidemic control actions.

Regular meetings will be held with representatives of the IFRC Central America CCD for operational and financial monitoring. Finally, at the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop will be held as part of the National Society's accountability and capacity building mechanisms.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The IFRC-DREF team will work closely with the National Society communication department to develop key messages, radio spots, materials, etc. All products produced will be validated with community representatives and by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS).

In addition, the communication department will be directly responsible for publishing messages, materials, etc. through the National Society official social networks.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGT022 - Guatemalan Red Cross Guatemala: Dengue

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	353,939
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	64,814
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	250,871
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	36,341
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,913
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	41,962
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	13,994
National Society Strengthening	27,968
TOTAL BUDGET	395,901

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

24/07/2024

#V2022.01

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



Contact Information

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

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

IFRC Appeal Manager: Nelson Aly Rodriguez, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org

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

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Diana Oviedo, Operations Coordinator, diana.oviedo@ifrc.org

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

[Click here for the reference](#)

