



CAMBODIA: DENGUE FEVER

DREF Bulletin no. MDRKH001

13 July 2007

GLIDE number: EP-2007-000099-KHM

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below. It follows an information bulletin released 10 July 2007 on the situation.

CHF 140,900 (USD 118,000 or EUR 86,000) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of the tens of thousands at risk of dengue fever in Cambodia.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduced deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Background and current situation

Cambodia is in the grip of a dengue fever outbreak with almost 17,000 cases – mostly children under the age of 15 – and 182 deaths reported. This compares with a total of 4,368 cases in 2006. Dengue escalates during the rainy season and has thus far been reported in 23 of Cambodia's 24 provinces. The provinces with the highest prevalence are:

Kandal	1307 cases	10 dead
Kampong Cham	1226 cases	22 dead
Siem Riep	981 cases	11 dead
Takeo	852 cases	8 dead
Phnom Penh	825 cases	6 dead
Kampong Speu	678 cases	11 dead
Prey Veng	526 cases	14 dead

'Dengue is hitting almost all provinces nationwide. We cannot contain the virus with our limited resources,' Ngan Chanta, head of Cambodia's anti-dengue programme, has said. 'We need foreign help'.

The virus generally strikes during the June-September wet season and in Cambodia appears to hit mostly children.

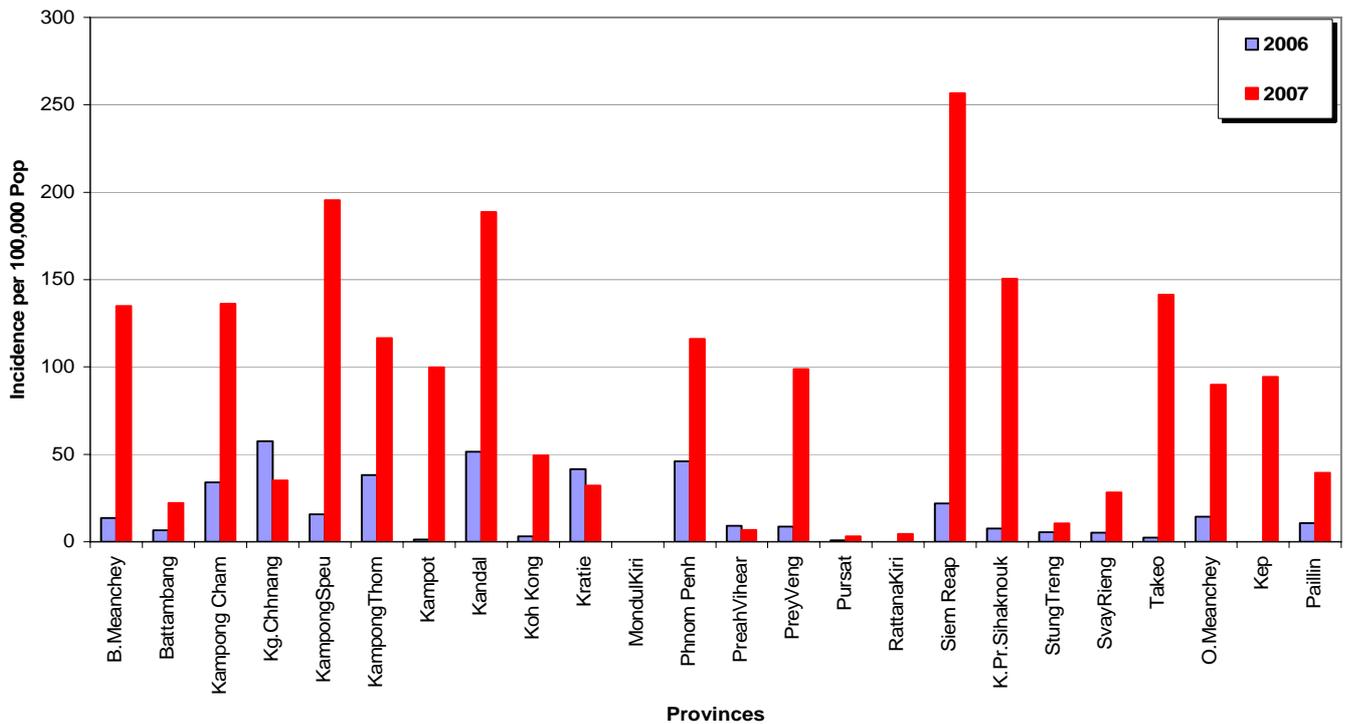
In Krouch Chhmar village Channel News Asia reported a scene that is becoming depressingly familiar. Saing Ratha was lying semi-conscious, her thin body shaking with fever as her mother desperately tried to cool her by placing blocks of ice under her arms.

Her 10-year-old brother Saing Sokun lay curled around a block of ice next to her in a basic rural clinic. Both have

been struck by dengue fever. ‘In my village every house has been afflicted by dengue; in some homes all the children are sick,’ said the children’s mother, Chhiv Thy.

Dengue epidemics tend to be every three to five years. Some of Cambodia’s most vulnerable are at highest risk with the disease striking hard at young, poor people who live in rural areas or urban slums. In recent times, 1998 was the worst year with 475 deaths. For many poor Cambodians, the traditional way of collecting water in jars compounds their risk to dengue.

**Comparison of incidence cases of DF/DHF per 100,000 Pop
between years 2006 & 2007 (During 25 weeks)**



The disease is transmitted by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which tends to breed in household water storage containers (jars, drums and tanks) and discarded containers which collect drain water.

Press reports indicate that the alarm over dengue fever is not confined to Cambodia. Warmer weather and heavy rains have helped the mosquito-borne virus spread. At a glance, Indonesia reports 748 deaths, Malaysia 56 dead, Myanmar 30, and Vietnam 27. In Thailand, there are reports of a 36 per cent increase in cases.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) has already begun responding to the health emergency. It issued a nationwide alert to volunteers to work with local authorities to raise awareness of the risks and initiate prevention measures, such as the cleaning of stagnant water. Ongoing Red Cross activities are also integrating dengue measures.

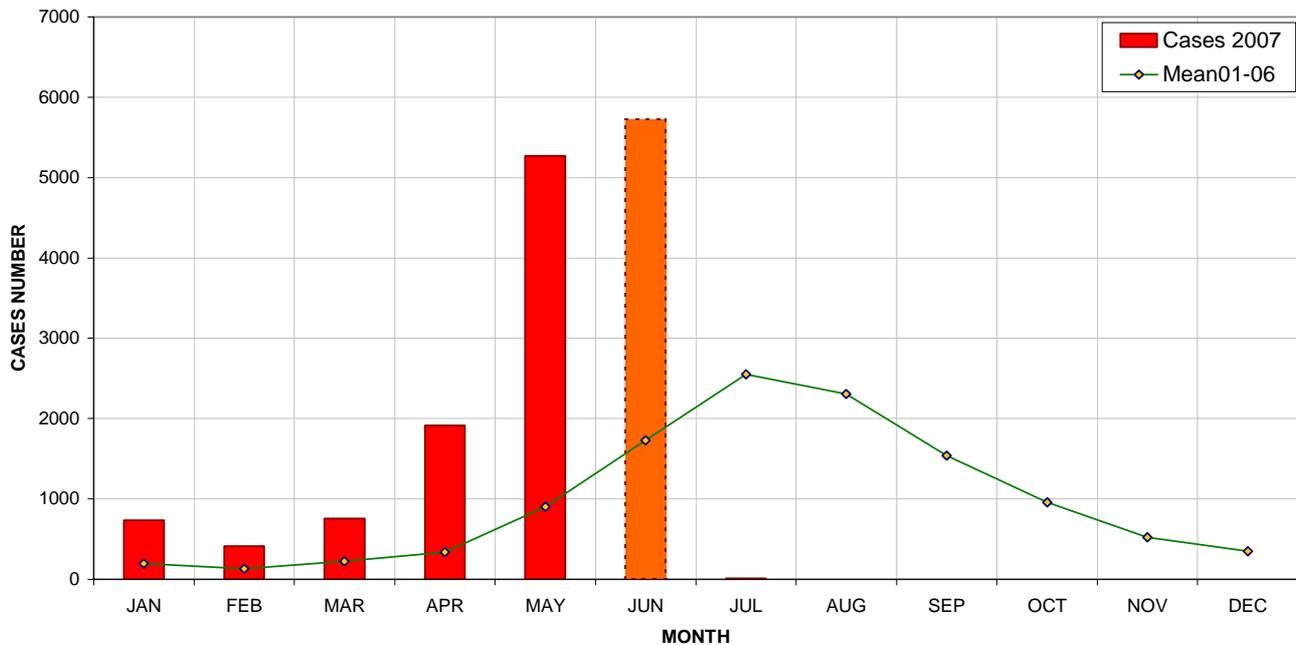
The response, although underway, needs to scale up quickly – during this the critical time – in order to save hundreds of lives and preserve the livelihood of thousands of poor families, who are those most at risk. The Cambodian Red Cross, in partnership with the International Federation and its disaster relief emergency response fund (DREF), is now scaling up via the following responses:

Abate: This will be purchased and used to kill mosquito larvae in standing water in jars etc. Abate will be transported to provincial branches with the greatest need and then allocated to affected districts and villages. This is

the main part of the response. The DREF will not purchase any chemicals to assist in spraying. The Abate purchased will be in line with WHO / Ministry of Health standards.

The Abate will be used as part of a coordinated effort to combat the dengue outbreak. The Abate provided through DREF will complement other efforts. Other partners at this stage include WHO, World Bank and GTZ. The Ministry of Health itself is accessing additional Abate (funding from World Bank). However this will arrive too late for the action that is needed now. There is presently an urgent need for additional Abate. This DREF allocation is enabling this need to be met.

DISTRIBUTION OF DENGUE CASES BY MONTHS IN CAMBODIA, 2007 (25 weeks)



Volunteers reaching & mobilising communities

Volunteers will be supported in their efforts to clean up danger pools of stagnant water. Many Red Cross volunteers have been trained in how to use Abate but will receive refresher and/or new training from the Ministry of Health at provincial level. Volunteers will also be provided with simple, appropriate information, education and communication (IEC) material to help them get across key messages of dengue prevention.

Campaign day

The Cambodian Red Cross will organise a 'campaign day' in conjunction with health authorities and community based organisations. It will coordinate a national push to increase awareness on dengue in the next two to three weeks to ensure that the initial burst of energy and attention does not wane. The campaign will include parades, role plays, a clean up exercise, formal meetings to keep dengue prevention on track, and link ups with media to promote the issue. Cambodia Red Cross' nationwide network of volunteers is well placed to ensure that the campaign is not simply a prestige event in the capital but makes a difference in all the provinces where it is needed.

Coordination:

Cambodian Red Cross branch offices will continue to coordinate with their provincial departments of health. Joint planning will ensure that the Red Cross effort complements and enhances the Ministry of Health lead. Cambodian Red Cross and the International Federation have also met with the Ministry of Health and the WHO to brief them on this DREF allocation. WHO / Ministry of Health will remain the key coordinating agencies and are committed to keeping all actors well informed.

Budget breakdown: CHF140,900

1. Purchase Abate for larvicide application: 35 tonnes x CHF 2,420 = **CHF 84,700**
2. Publish IEC materials
 - o Posters: 30,000 x CHF0.6 = **CHF 18,000**
 - o Leaflets: 30,000 x CHF 0.06 **CHF = 1,800**
3. Nationwide dengue fever week-long campaign: 24 provinces x CHF 600 = **CHF 14,400**

Operational / transportation costs: 7 % = CHF 8,325

Delegation costs: 5% = CHF 5,945

PSR: 6.5% = CHF 7,730

In summary, the DREF support is building on Cambodia RC's own fundraising effort that has already enabled action across the country, including help for 370 children hospitalised in the national paediatric hospital. The youngsters have received food, clothes and a small amount of money as they attempt to recover. 200 patients at Takhmao hospital have received similar items plus 500 bottles of serum to assist in their treatment. CRC is preparing to assist 125 patients in Preah Sihanouk Hospital with a similar package. The national society is identifying other hospitals that may require support. Additionally, clean up efforts and the promotion of key messages has already taken place in many provinces.

The Red Cross effort supports a wider campaign led by the Cambodian government. The Ministry of Health has three pillars to its strategy:

- Emergency vector control & awareness raising of danger sites for mosquito breeding (NB: Cambodian Red Cross will not assist with spraying). The Ministry of Health has already conducted spraying (in the past and present campaign) and communities are aware of this activity. Communities are also informed via local community networks as well as national media.
- Increased early recognition of the signs of dengue by mothers
- Intensified hospital care to reduce fatalities

The campaign also involves local NGOs as well as major international partners such as the WHO. The government has requested assistance from neighbouring Thailand, which has sent teams of specialists and medical equipment to support local efforts. The Asian Development Bank has provided USD300,000 to assist epidemic control.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

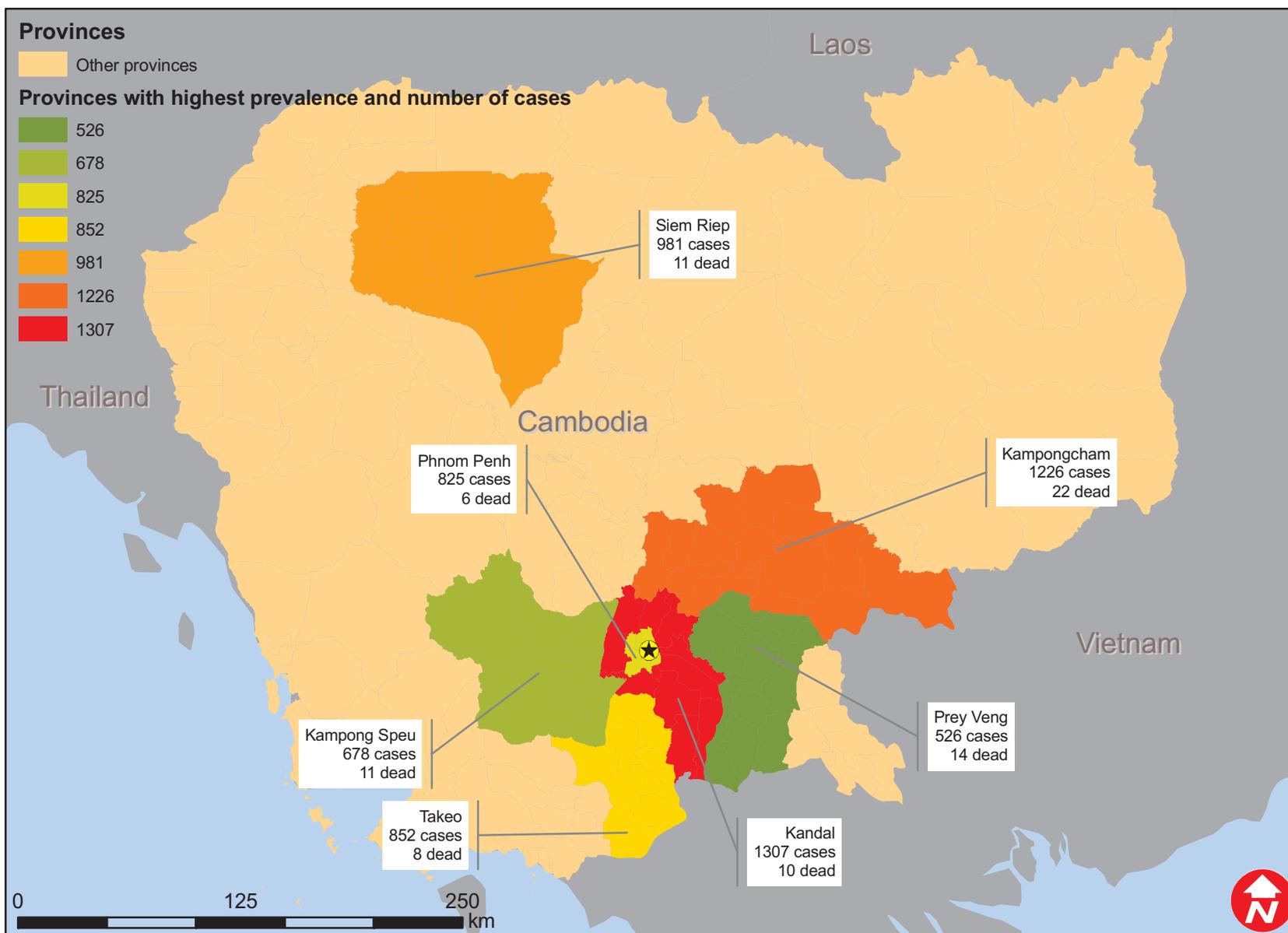
For further information:

- In Phnom Penh: Men Neary Sopheak, Deputy Sec-Gen; email: sopheak.MenNeary@crc.org.kh; Phone +855 23 21 28 76; mobile: +855 12 81 08 54, Fax 855 23 21 28 75;
- In Phnom Penh: Dr Sok Long, Director of Health Department; email: longsok@online.com.kh; Phone: +855 23 21 28 76; mobile; + 855 12 68 80 81
- In Phnom Penh: Scott Tind Simmons, Federation Representative, email: scott.tindsimmons@ifrc.org; Phone: +855 12 901 400 (mobile); Fax +855 23 210 163;
- Mr Bekele Geleta, Federation Head of Regional Delegation, Bangkok, Phone: +66 2661 8201 ext 100, Email: bekele.geleta@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Sabine Feuglet, Asia Pacific Department, Geneva, Email: sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4258; fax 41 22 733 0395

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



Cambodia: Dengue fever



Cambodia is in the grip of a dengue fever outbreak with almost 17,000 cases and 174 deaths reported. Many of the cases are children. The Cambodian government has requested assistance from neighbouring Thailand to contain the situation after the death toll last month leapt five-fold compared with the previous month. Teams of specialists and medical equipment have already been sent to Cambodia to support local efforts.