

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Peru and Bolivia: Dengue outbreak

DREF operation n° MDR46001
Update n° 1
13 May 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 19
February to 11 April 2011.

Summary: 78,781 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 February 2011 to support the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) and the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) in delivering assistance to at least 3,000 families.

Since the start of the operation, the **PRC** has procured and distributed the necessary safety equipment to start the cleaning and fumigation campaign. In addition, the National Society has trained volunteers, teachers and health staff and initiated educational campaigns in the affected areas. Thus far, the PRC has surpassed the goal of reaching the 4,200 students in their schools and has reached 70 per cent of the target households under the first planned output.



An estimated 8,161 students (4,202 boys and 3,959 girls) in Peru have received information on dengue and its prevention. Source: PRC

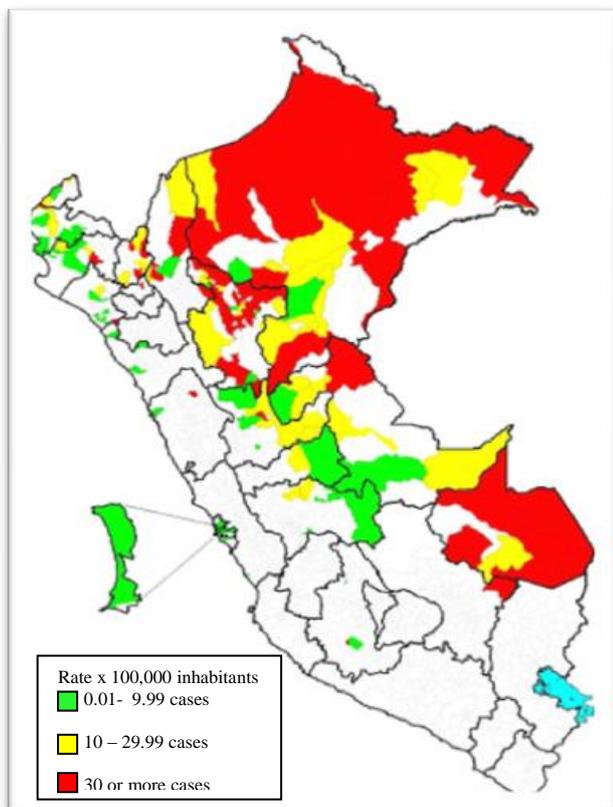
In **Bolivia**, the situation is evolving. During April 2010, the Department of Santa Cruz has seen an increase in dengue cases while in many areas of the country, including the department of Beni, have been severely affected by floods. Therefore, the **BRC** is simultaneously working on the dengue prevention operation and on relief activities across the country. The BRC plans to complete all the programmed workshops on community health education and epidemic control by the end of April, finalizing the first stage of the educational campaign to reach 1,000 families. In addition, the fumigation equipment and mosquito nets will be distributed on the following days now that the waters that isolated the Municipality of Riberalta are receding.

This operation is expected to be implemented in three months, and completed by May 2011. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation.

The Belgian government, the Canadian government and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid

Department (ECHO), contributed to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

Although in **Peru** the epidemiological curve is descending, there is evidence of emergence of dengue cases in new zones. As of the eighth epidemiological week, there were 2,240 confirmed cases of dengue, 18,148 suspected cases, and 13 deaths due to the disease. Currently, the most affected area is the department of Loreto, where there were already 1,379 confirmed and 16,935 suspected cases by the ninth epidemiological week. Within Loreto, the areas with the highest rate of transmission are the districts of Belén, Iquitos, Punchana and San Juan, all within the Maynas province. Serotype VD2 has displaced the serotype VD1 identified in December 2010, as well as the serotype VD4, the predominant one in previous years.

In **Bolivia**, as shown in the table below, by the fourteenth epidemiological week there were cases reported in several departments, however, the most affected ones are Santa Cruz with 6,225 suspected cases, Beni with 3,269 suspected cases and La Paz, with 993 suspected cases.

Although the area affected in the department of Beni is mostly rural, the majority of cases in the department of

Santa Cruz are from urban population. Moreover, more recent information provided by the Departmental Health Service (Servicio Departamental de Salud—SEDES) of Santa Cruz indicated a worsening of the situation, and increased number of deaths caused by dengue. It is also important to mention that a new Head of the Epidemiological Unit of Beni has not yet been appointed, which could create difficulties to coordinate meetings and exchange information.

| Department | Suspected cases | Confirmed cases | Deaths |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Beni | 3,269 | 314 | 14 |
| Chuquisaca | 87 | 13 | 0 |
| Cochabamba | 703 | 207 | 1 |
| La Paz | 993 | 318 | 1 |
| Oruro | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Pando | 181 | 13 | 0 |
| Potosí | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Santa Cruz | 6,225 | 2,051 | 13 |
| Tarija | 409 | 41 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 11,872 | 2,957 | 29 |

Source: Ministry of Health and Sports, 12 April 2011

Coordination and partnerships

In order to support the coordination of actions carried out by the government of **Peru**, since the beginning of the outbreak the PRC has been participating in coordinating meetings at the national level through the Health Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The EOC is also integrated by the General Office of National

Defence of the Ministry of Health (Oficina General de Defensa Nacional del Ministerio de Salud), the national humanitarian network and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

At the regional level, the PRC branch of Maynas participates on the Loreto Health EOC that was established on 9 February 2011 by the Regional Health Directorate (Dirección Regional de Salud—DIRESA). This EOC monitors the outbreak and takes decisions on prevention and health promotion, environmental sanitation, communication and trainings. Therefore, the National Society presented its plan of action in this forum.



The BRC is working in the municipality of Riberalta in Beni that has also been affected by severe rains and floods. Source: BRC

The PRC and DIRESA of Loreto agreed on the use of the same educational and visual materials to reinforce the health messages and avoid any possible confusion on the population at risk. The materials include posters, banners, informative flip charts and brochures. In addition, the PRC and DIRESA are issuing press releases together and homogenizing the information to be presented to the media.

Since the start of the outbreak in **Bolivia**, the National Society has been coordinating with the Health Network No.7 of the Riberalta municipality. The BRC and the Health Network established a partnership to carry out an ongoing fumigation and cleaning campaign that will enter into its fourth round on the last week of April. The Health Network No. 7 and the BRC are also working alongside the Laboratory of the Programme for the Control of Vector-transmitted Diseases (Laboratorio del Programa de Control de Enfermedades Transmitidas por Vectores) and a biologist of the Cuban Brigade to complete preventive health training sessions for volunteers and the health staff in the municipality.

To better address the needs of the population and increase the reach of the ongoing activities, the IFRC in coordination with PAHO also worked on a proposal that was presented to ECHO.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

| Emergency health | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Outcome: Dengue-related morbidity and mortality is reduced through a comprehensive approach to preventive health and increased awareness through community mobilization | |
| Outputs | Activities planned |
| In Peru, at least 2,000 families and 4,200 students are reached with information and educational campaigns. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train volunteers and health staff in epidemic control. • Conduct house-to-house educational campaigns for 2,000 families • Conduct 20 talks in schools targeting 4,200 students. • Conduct a communication campaign (distribution of informative materials). |
| In Bolivia, at least 1,000 families are reached with information and educational campaigns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train volunteers and health staff on epidemic control and community health education. • Train high school students and teachers on epidemic control and community health education. • Conduct five dengue awareness-raising fairs at educational centres. • Assess the population's knowledge of the disease and the sanitation practices at the household level. • Conduct a communications campaign using recreational materials such as "Denguelandia". |

Progress in Peru: The PRC is working in the district of Punchana in the Loreto Region. With the approval of the DREF, the PRC presented its plan of action to local coordinators and volunteers as well as to members

of DIRESA in Loreto to gain support and commitment for a coordinated effort. Since the introduction of the plan of action, the National Society has completed the following:

- A two-day training workshop was carried out for volunteers on the IFRC's strategies for epidemic control, with an emphasis on dengue. This workshop had 32 participants: 28 volunteers (22 women, 6 men) of from Maynas and Nauto branches in Loreto, and 4 members of the National Defence brigade of DIRESA. Three health staff of DIRESA supported the training by facilitating some sessions.
- Twenty volunteers have been trained to complete house-to-house visits to provide residents with information and to recognize and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. The house-to-house visits are being coordinated with the fumigation campaigns carried out by DIRESA. Thus far, these volunteers have already visited 1,400 households in Sector 2 (Punchana district), completing 70 per cent of the output, and plan to reach 1,092 homes more. During each visit, volunteers delivered a cleaning brush to promote the cleaning of containers.
- In coordination with DIRESA, the Regional Education Directorate (Dirección Regional de Educación) and local authorities, 257 teachers from 124 schools were trained by the PRC. The training reached four districts: Belén, 106 teaches from 30 schools; Punchana, 50 teachers from 30 schools; Iquitos, 54 teachers from 34 schools; and San Juan, 47 teachers from 30 schools. These teachers are now committed to teach their students about the subject, and are receiving support from 10 PRC volunteers (two for each session of 30 students). Thus far, 76 schools have been reached and 8,161 students (4,202 boys and 3,959 girls) have received information on dengue and its prevention, already surpassing the original planned output for students.
- One hundred schools will receive an educational flip chart to facilitate the continuation of activities.

Challenges in Peru:

Although not due to a specific challenge, there was a slight modification of the original plan. After organizing meetings with DIRESA, the National Society was made aware of an increasing gap in their coordinated response. As there was a higher need to support the work of the *Bella Vista Nanay* health centre in sector 2, the National Society decided to conduct the house-to-house educational campaign in this area instead of with Sector 4. Sector 2, also located in the Punchana district, is a flood prone area that has 12,612 inhabitants (2,492 homes) and the National Society plans to work with its whole population.

Progress in Bolivia:

The BRC is working in the Riberalta municipality in the department of Beni. The National Society is coordinating to complete three different types of workshops by the end of April:

1. From 11 to 15 April 2011, the National Society will train volunteers, teachers and health staff to become facilitators on community health education. This activity will be coordinated alongside the Health Network No. 7 of Riberalta.
2. On 25 April 2011, volunteers, teachers and health staff from the municipality of Riberalta will participate on a workshop to train facilitators on the Epidemic Control methodology.
3. Simultaneously with the Epidemic Control training, on 25 April the BRC will train 25 people, volunteers and health staff, on disease outbreaks.

Challenges in Bolivia:

It has been sometimes difficult to gather updated epidemiological information as all reports are centralized in the Health Departmental Services with little feedback to other actors. In order to overcome the challenge, the BRC maintains fluid direct communication with the Head of Epidemiology of SEDES in the department of Beni.

| Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Outcome: The risk of dengue fever is reduced through vector control activities including identification and cleaning of breeding grounds through cleaning campaigns and fumigation | |
| Outputs | Activities planned |
| At least 1,000 families (500 in Peru and 500 in Bolivia) are assisted with community cleaning campaigns and mosquito nets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with local authorities the design and implementation of activities. • Distribute two mosquito nets per family to 500 families. • Complete cleaning campaign targeting mosquito-breeding grounds with the participation of the community. • Assist the local government authorities in community and household fumigation activities as needed. • Procure cleaning equipment and personal protective equipment |

| | |
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| | for Red Cross personnel participating in the fumigation activities. |
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Progress in Peru:

The National Society, in coordination with local health authorities (the San Pablo Health Centre), has identified the first 214 families that will receive mosquito nets. The distribution will take place in the San Andrés community, Río Itaya (district of Punchana), in the coming days.

As mentioned in the previous section, PRC volunteers have already visited 1,400 homes, completing among other things, inspections and cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds.

Furthermore, to assist the local government in community and household fumigation activities as needed, the National Society donated 50 fumigation masks to DIRESA in Loreto.

In addition, the PRC procured safety equipment for the personnel participating in fumigation and cleaning activities. The provincial PRC branch of Maynas received 20 sets of protective equipment (goggles, boots, raincoats and gloves), 10 fumigation masks, wheelbarrows and rakes. In addition, the teams that are visiting houses now have office equipment to support their work.

Progress in Bolivia:

In order to support the fumigation campaign carried out by the government of Bolivia, the BRC procured some equipment, insecticide and larvicide, which have not yet been delivered as the road to Riberalta was blocked due to floods. However, since 21 March, 25 BRC volunteers from the municipal branch of Riberalta are supporting the cleaning and fumigation campaigns carried out by the Health Network No. 7 of Riberalta, who are working on District 3, the one with the highest rate of infection. These volunteers are also engaged in health promotion campaigns, delivering brochures with information on dengue and its prevention.

Challenges in Bolivia:

The National Society locally procured 500 mosquito nets that were going to be distributed in March in Riberalta municipality. However, the road to Riberalta has been blocked for over a month due to the severe rainfall and floods occurring in Bolivia (for more information, please see the Emergency Appeal available at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRBO006ea.pdf>). A report from the Bolivian Road Administration (Administradora Boliviana de Caminos) states that normal traffic will be restored by the second or third week of April as the intensity of the rains has decreased in the northern region of the country. The BRC will organize this distribution as soon as the accessibility to the Riberalta municipality has improved.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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