CAMBODIA:
DENGUE FEVER

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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 Bulletin is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time but this may change.

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The Situation

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. This compares with 4,368 cases in 2006. 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.

Provinces with highest prevalence:

- **Kandal**: 1307 cases 10 dead
- **Kampongcham**: 1226 cases 22 dead
- **Siem Riep**: 981 cases 11 dead
- **Takeo**: 852 cases 8 dead
- **Phnom Penh**: 825 cases 6 dead
Cambodia dengue fever; Information Bulletin no. 01

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. ‘We need foreign help’.

The virus, which 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 bother 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.

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 response
Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) has launched a serious response to the health emergency. It has launched a nationwide campaign through its network of Red Cross volunteers and youth in conjunction with provincial health, youth and sport education departments. National HQ has issued an alert letter to all 24 branches in the country and dengue fever has been integrated into all Red Cross activities.

CRC is helping 370 children hospitalised in the national paediatric hospital. They have been given 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 for assist 125 patients in Preah Sihanouk Hospital with a similar package. The national society will identify other hospitals that may require support.

The national society has also been working with the media to raise people’s awareness. The Phnom Penh municipality Red Cross branch has liaised with local television to broadcast on dengue prevention.

The International Federation’s Global Agenda Goal 2 is reduced number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health.