

# Information bulletin

## Philippines: Dengue Outbreak

<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">PHL-2019-000085</a>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 18 July 2019
<b>Date of disaster:</b> Ongoing since 05 July 2019	<b>Point of contact (name and title):</b> Mark Alvin Abrigo, OIC Health Manager for PRC
<b>Operation start date:</b>	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>
<b>Category of disaster:</b> Yellow	
<b>Host National Society:</b> Philippine Red Cross (PRC)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 106,630 dengue cases	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> TBC
<b>N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> -	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> Department of Health (DOH), WHO	

***This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Department of Health (DOH) has requested support from Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), will seek funding thru DREF activation to provide support to the affected population.***

## The situation

From 1 January to 29 June 2019, 106,630 dengue cases have been officially reported nationwide through the Philippines Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSRS), an 85 per cent increase from the 57,564 cases reported over the same period in 2018<sup>1</sup>. With 456 deaths recorded, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is pegged at 0.43 per cent, lower than 0.55 per cent in the same period last year. The median age of cases is 12 years, the most affected age group among dengue cases is five to nine years old (23 per cent). The most affected age group among dengue deaths is also five to nine years old (39 per cent).

On Monday, 15 July 2019, the DOH has declared a national dengue alert amid the surge in reported cases of the mosquito-borne viral illness. The national dengue alert was issued to urge regional DOH offices to step up dengue surveillance, case management and outbreak response in primary health facilities and hospitals, as well as through community and school-based health education campaigns, clean-up drives, surveillance activities, case investigations, vector control, and logistics support for dengue control (insecticides, rapid diagnostics tests, medicine, etc).



Children listening attentively to PRC volunteers doing dengue awareness and prevention campaign in Camarines Sur. (Photo: PRC)

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), has raised the [Code Blue](#) alert, activating

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, Situation Report 1 Dengue Outbreak, 1-2.

the national Health Cluster, led by DoH and PRC is cooperating/supporting DOH on the responses. This is a response level alert for 50 per cent agency resource mobilization. This means that teams have been mobilized to augment existing regular day-to-day resources. Likewise, logistics are mobilized to affected areas or to treat patients.

The DOH is undertaking a nationwide public information campaign to follow the '4-S method' which stands for "search and destroy" mosquito-breeding sites, employ "self-protection measures" such as wearing pants and long-sleeved shirts, and daily use of mosquito repellent, "seek early consultation", and "support fogging/spraying" in areas where an increase in cases is registered for two consecutive weeks to prevent an impending outbreak.

The most affected areas are Western Visayas (Region VI), which had the greatest number of reported dengue cases so far this year with 13,164, followed by Calabarzon (Region IVA) with 11,474 cases, Central Visayas (Region VII) with 9,199 cases, Region XII or Soccsksargen <sup>2</sup>(9,107 cases) and Region X or Northern Mindanao (8,738 cases)<sup>3</sup>.

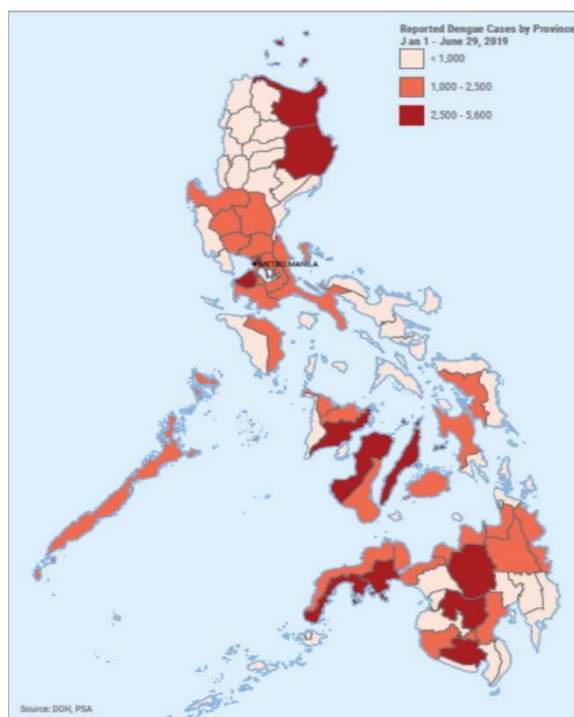
Iloilo, Aklan, Antique and Guimaras provinces in Western Visayas declared an outbreak, with many municipalities seeking a state of calamity<sup>4</sup>.

The provincial government of Iloilo has reported that their 12 hospitals are licensed to accommodate 615 patients daily; with the dengue outbreak, the bed occupancy rate went up to 316% or 1,863 patients and continuously increasing. Iloilo Province declared dengue outbreak last 5 July 2019.

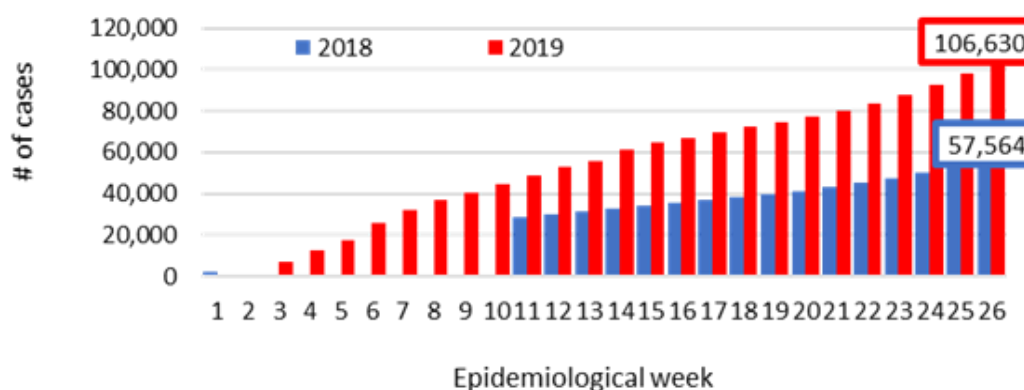
Dengue cases have been observed to peak every three to four years. The last peak occurred in 2016. Given the pattern, the health department expects an increase in cases this year. This rise in dengue cases comes as the health department continues to monitor the ongoing measles outbreak.

Chart below shows the comparison of dengue cases in the Philippines between 2018 and 2019.

Map: Reported dengue cases by province 1 January-29 July 2019\*



Accumulative cases of Dengue in the Philippines 2018-2019



\* Accumulative cases are subject to change after inclusion of delayed reports

<sup>2</sup> The name is an acronym that stands for the region's four provinces and once city South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, Situation Report 1 Dengue Outbreak, 1-2

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization, Situation Report 1 Dengue Outbreak, 1-2

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 17 July 2019, a meeting called by NDRRMC and attended by PRC to discuss the response to the dengue outbreaks. Due to the declaration of dengue alert, PRC has alerted its local chapters to activate Red Cross 143 volunteers/RCAT Health and organize health information dissemination on dengue. Summary of PRC responses to date:

- PRC Operation Centre is on call 24/7 providing updates on all responses.
- PRC alerted its local Chapters to activate community-based volunteers (RC143) and chapter-based volunteers (Red Cross Action Team Volunteers - RCAT143) and organize Health Information Dissemination on Dengue.
- PRC is strategizing for the deployment of EMU/hospital extension wards to hospitals as support to the ongoing dengue outbreak in Iloilo province.
- Red Cross chapter in Iloilo will mobilize their volunteer nurses from their regular volunteers, medical associations, hospital and academic partners and be operationalized in two (2) shifts per day.
- Community mobilization of RC143 Community Health Volunteers are being mobilised for health campaigns and clean-up drives.



PRC Volunteers conducting dengue awareness and prevention session in Camarines Sur. (Photo: PRC)

The IFRC Philippine country office has been coordinating with the National Society, Movement partners in-country and the Humanitarian Country Team in support of PRC coordination. The IFRC Philippine country office is also coordinating and providing updates to the Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The DOH has requested support from PRC and with the support of the IFRC, will seek funding thru DREF activation to provide support to the affected population.



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## Contact information

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

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## 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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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