

# Information Bulletin

## Jamaica: Dengue

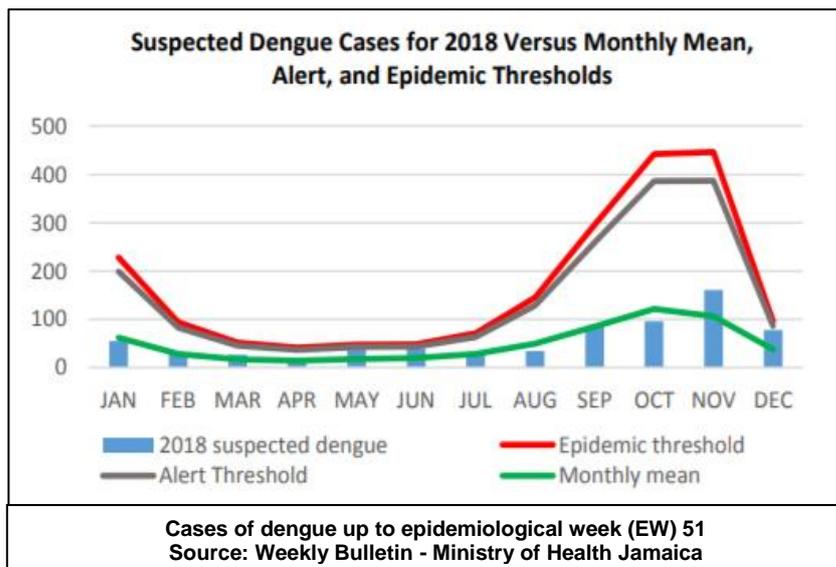
<b>Information Bulletin N° 1</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 13 January 2019
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 3 January 2019	<b>Point of contact:</b> Kwan Ho Timothy Lam: Acting head of Country-Cluster Support Team (CCST) for the English-speaking Caribbean and Suriname; <a href="mailto:timothy.lam@ifrc.org">timothy.lam@ifrc.org</a>
<b>Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation:</b> Jamaica Red Cross (JRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC),	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> The Jamaican Ministry of Health, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)	

## The situation

On 3 January 2019, the government of Jamaica declared a dengue outbreak on the island. In December 2018, the number of cases of dengue exceeded the epidemic threshold of 96, with a total of 123 recorded cases. For 2018, 7 deaths were reported in the country, of which 5 were suspected to be of dengue and 2 were confirmed to be from the disease.

The outbreak is affecting the following parishes in Jamaica's eastern and western regions:

1. Clarendon
2. Kingston and St. Andrew
3. Saint Thomas
4. Saint Ann
5. Saint Catherine
6. Saint Elizabeth
7. Saint James
8. Westmoreland



Dengue virus is transmitted from human to human through the bite of an *Aedes* mosquito. Dengue is endemic to Jamaica, with previous outbreaks occurring in 2007, 2010, and 2012.

The Jamaican government and its partners have been monitoring the situation, and the Ministry of Health activated its emergency operations centre (EOC). Jamaica's national coordination mechanism, ODPEM, also activated its EOC to monitor the threat, and needs assessments are being undertaken to determine resource gaps and ascertain required human resources for coordination.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### National Society actions



#### Jamaica

#### Context

Since September 2016, the JRC has engaged in a Zika prevention and response project, initially as a part of the global outbreak response and continuing due to the ongoing threat of Zika and other diseases carried by the same mosquito, including dengue. Activities to fight the risk this mosquito poses have been ongoing in Jamaica and 12 other countries in the English-speaking Caribbean and Suriname. The Caribbean National Societies have sought to reduce the spread of diseases transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito through public information campaigns, epidemic preparedness activities, and community-based activities to reduce its presence. Through this project, the JRC has partnered with local and government institutions to complete clean-up activities in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Mary, Portland, Clarendon and St. Catherine, with the goal of reducing mosquito breeding sites. Since January 2017, the JRC has conducted 44 clean-up exercises and sensitized 406 communities.

#### Jamaica Red Cross actions

- Since the national government declared a dengue outbreak, the JRC has held meetings with the Ministry of Health to confirm the intervention communities and to devise a plan of action to eliminate the duplication of efforts.
- The JRC has placed its volunteers on high alert, with some teams already on the ground conducting sensitization exercises, and it has commenced preparations to mobilize additional teams to the affected communities.
- The JRC is in continuous contact with the IFRC's CCST

### IFRC actions



#### IFRC

#### Actions

- The IFRC's regional office for the Americas (ARO) in Panama is closely monitoring the situation
- Coordination between the IFRC's ARO's Disaster and Crisis Department and its CCST in Trinidad and Tobago
- The IFRC's CCST will continue to monitor the situation in coordination with the JRC
- Continuous monitoring by the regional disaster management coordinator for the English-speaking Caribbean
- The dissemination of informational messages by disaster management focal points
- Development of an information bulletin
- Circulating key messages through the JRC's communications networks.
- Disseminating information from the JRC through the IFRC's social networks

## 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 (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.

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**Saving lives, changing minds.**



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.