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## Information bulletin

### Timor-Leste: Dengue Outbreak

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n°</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 29 April 2019
<b>Date of disaster:</b> April 2019	<b>Point of contact:</b> see <a href="#">contact information</a>
<b>Host National Society:</b> Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b>	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that available information points toward significant humanitarian needs that may require support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.*

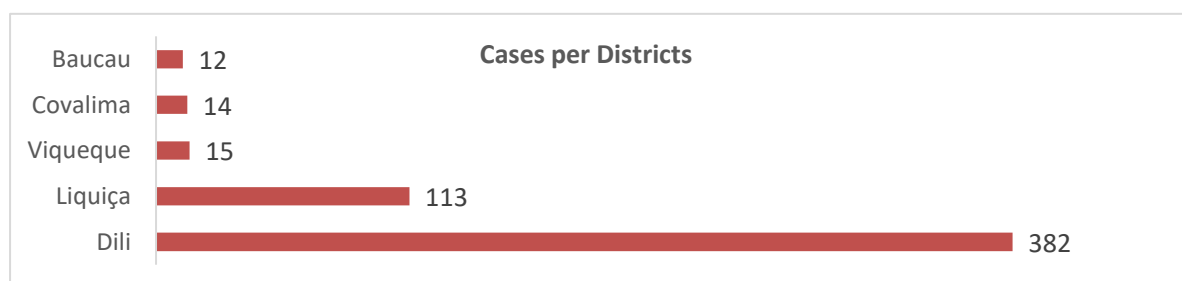
## The situation

A Dengue Outbreak occurred in Dili, Timor Leste capital in April 2019, meanwhile other districts/municipalities also experienced higher rates of dengue infection since the beginning of year. The official data showed that a total of **532** new cases have been confirmed since the beginning of 2019, with **5** resulting in fatalities<sup>1</sup>. The Dengue Outbreak has emerged after heavy rains during extended monsoon season, increasing the breeding grounds of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito as the main vector. Dengue virus is transmitted from human to human through the bite of mosquito. The Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) estimates indicating a 50%<sup>2</sup> increase in infection rates.

The present outbreak is mainly concentrated in Dili municipality (the largest city in Timor Leste with around 200,000 inhabitants), while other districts are also experiencing a significant increase in infection rates. The high number of dengue cases is concentrated in five municipalities/districts as indicated by following map.

The highest number of dengue cases is in Dili municipality (382 cases), followed by Liquiça (113), Viqueque (15 cases), Covalima (14 cases) and Baucau (12 cases). The rest cases are spread in other districts/municipalities. The number of cases continued to increase since January 2019 due to limited efforts to control and prevent the disease transmission. The government has limited available resource to response the outbreak.

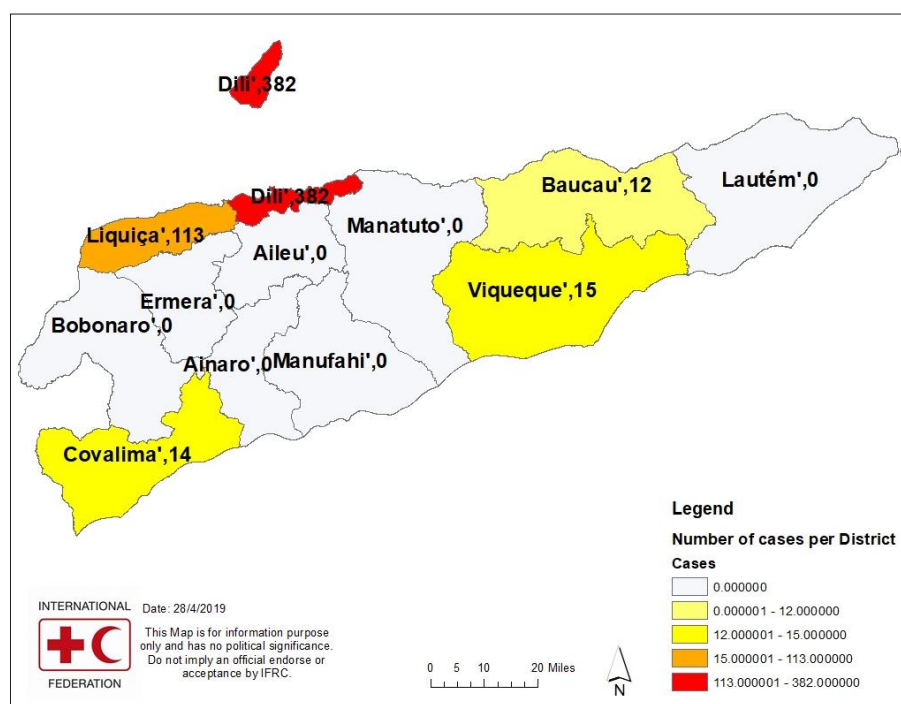
**Graph 1: Dengue Cases in Timor Leste at 21 April 2019 (MOH data)**



<sup>1</sup> Data from National Hospital Guido Valada, Dili – Timor-Leste

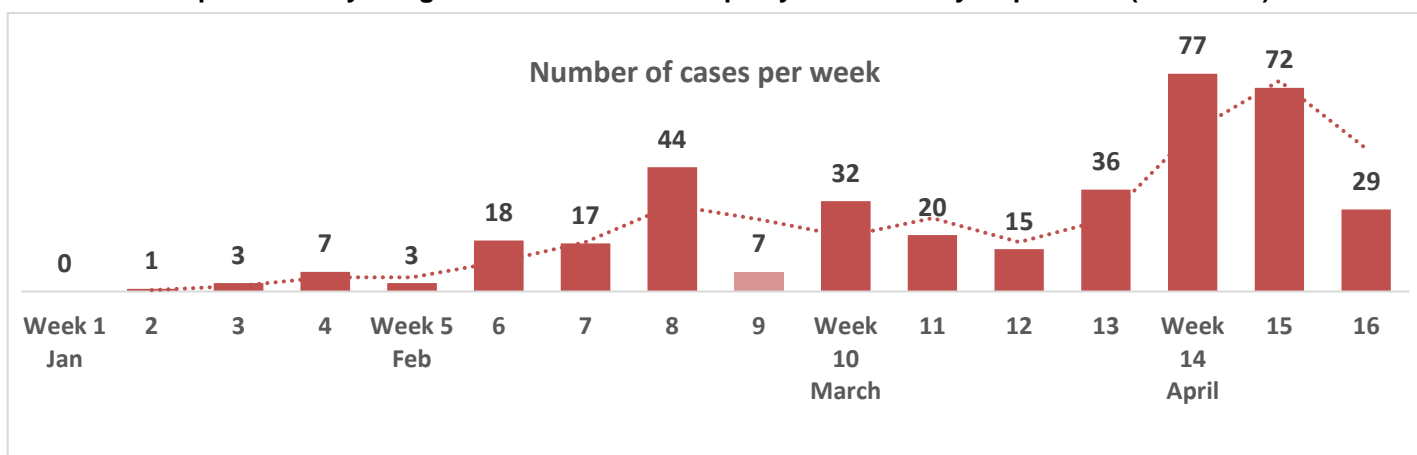
<sup>2</sup> Dengue infection statistics and case management data are significantly underreported in Timor-Leste, and as such actual figures are believed to be higher.

### Map showing the districts /municipalities with high Dengue cases



According to the recent MOH record, there was a consistent increase in number of dengue cases on monthly and weekly basis. As an example, the following graph shows the trend of weekly dengue cases in Dili municipality from 1 January to 21 April 2019. Even there is an anomaly in week nine, the data shows a continuous increase in the number weekly dengue infections across Dili. The monthly infection rates increasing between 50-70% compared to data from the previous year.

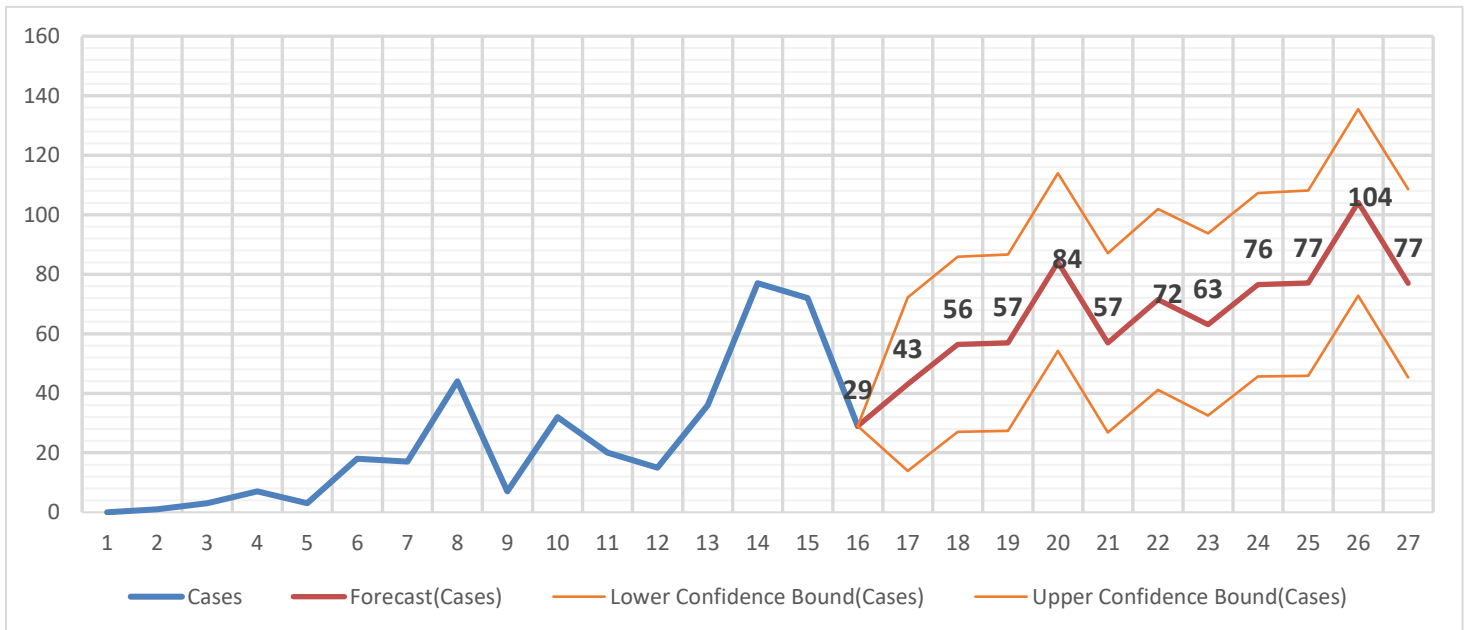
**Graph 2: Weekly Dengue Cases in Dili Municipality from January - April 2019 (MOH data)**



In response to the outbreak, the government conducted a meeting with several humanitarian organizations including CVTL. In recognition of its role as auxiliary to the government, CVTL was requested to support the response. Considering the request and current need, CVTL aims to implement holistic prevention effort in the most vulnerable communities of Dili Municipality. The main objective is the development of a dengue campaign as well as the dissemination of IEC material throughout the most at-risk communities. The CVTL needs to secure funding for implementation of activities in outbreak response. The CVTL has a good experience in the past to support dengue outbreak response (2014) with a strong commitment to follow the global standards of epidemic prevention and control strategies.

## Forecasting:

Timeline study of Dengue cases (moving average) for the previous period ( Week 1: 1-1-2019 till Week 16: 21-4-2019). It shows that in the upcoming three months till the end of June, the number of weekly Dengue cases will increase on an to reach 84 by may and 104 by June.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

- Since the government requested CVTL support for dengue outbreak response, CVTL has coordinated with Ministry of Health (MOH), local authorities, and UN Humanitarian Country Team to monitor the situation in affected areas particularly in Dili.
- CVTL is conducting cleaning campaigns across Dili city to reduce waste as a potential breeding site for mosquito.
- CVTL strengthened the health promotion and disease prevention activities under its Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) Program.
- CVTL is in continuous communication and coordination with IFRC CCST Jakarta



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to see the map
  2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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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