

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Paraguay: Dengue

DREF operation n° MDRPY009  
GLIDE n° EP-2011-000035-PRY  
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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.



After 7,071 confirmed cases of dengue and some 14,292 suspected ones, Paraguay launched a contingency plan to combat the outbreak. Photo Source: ABC Digital

**99,593 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 6,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On 8 April 2011, the government of Paraguay reported 7,071 confirmed cases of dengue and 14,292 suspected ones across the country and launched a contingency plan to fight the outbreak. As part of its auxiliary role to the government, the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) is working to control the increase of dengue cases.

With the support of this DREF-supported operation, the National Society will complete a three level operation. First, the PRC will carry out several coordinating and advocacy activities with government institutions. Second, the National Society will support the formation of community-based groups and work alongside them in vector control through cleaning campaigns for the elimination of mosquito breeding grounds and in preventive health. And last, the National Society will carry out a dengue-awareness communication campaign using different media outlets.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 July 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 October 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected areas where the National Society will work>](#)

## The situation

The social and demographic changes that have been occurring in the last 50 years in Paraguay, including unplanned urban development with overcrowded conditions, and inappropriate water supply and sanitation systems, has created the ideal conditions for the increase of mosquito-transmitted diseases. In 2011, the weather has favoured the proliferation of vectors and the Paraguayan Meteorological and Hydrology Directorate (Dirección de Meteorología e Hidrología) forecast rains across the country, particularly in the centre, south and east regions.

The Epidemiological bulletin of the General Directorate of Health Surveillance (Dirección General de Vigilancia de la Salud) of 8 April 2011 stated that there have been 14,292 suspected cases and 7,071 confirmed cases of dengue thus far in the year. The serotypes 1 and 2 of the dengue virus have been detected across the whole country, with an incidence rate of 107.76 cases for every 100,000 inhabitants. Since Paraguay had an important outbreak of dengue serotype 3 in 2007, the current presence of the serotypes 1 and 2 increases the possibility to develop severe cases. Thus far, 23 people have died due to the disease, most of them residents of Ciudad del Este in the department of Alto Paraná, where the incidence rate is 568,15. cases for every 100,000.

Department	Reported cases	Confirmed cases	Suspected cases	Deaths
<b>Concepción</b>	848	288	510	1
<b>Amambay</b>	340	66	73	
<b>San Pedro</b>	165	21	135	
<b>Cordillera</b>	428	47	360	1
<b>Paraguari</b>	266	112	90	
<b>Central (Centro occidental)</b>	781	91	671	
<b>Guaira</b>	305	26	277	1
<b>Caazapa</b>	25	2	22	
<b>Caaguazu</b>	531	194	302	
<b>Alto Parana</b>	7,850	4,373	3,475	12
<b>Canindeyu</b>	56	2	48	
<b>Itapua</b>	169	18	75	
<b>Neembuco</b>	108	15	48	
<b>Misiones</b>	74	4	69	
<b>Presidente Hayes</b>	410	145	256	
<b>Alto Paraguay</b>	6		6	
<b>Boqueron</b>	95	30	64	
<b>Asuncion</b>	4,510	528	3,933	1
<b>Central (area metropolitana)</b>	5,045	1,109	3,878	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,012</b>	<b>7,071</b>	<b>14,292</b>	<b>23</b>

Source: Epidemiological bulletin of the General Directorate of Health Surveillance of Paraguay, 8 April 2011.

On 12 March 2011, the Emergency Council of the Ministry of Health declared an environmental alert in 10 municipalities of the districts of Asunción (Central department) and Ciudad del Este (Alto Paraná department). This effort aims to facilitate the formation of community working groups and the support of the armed forces to complete cleaning campaigns. Similarly, with the resolution 1109/11 the Environmental Secretariat (Secretaría de Ambiente -SEAM) launched its environmental contingency plan to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, which legally bounds the owners of empty lots to clear them in ten days. On 17 March 2011, the Chamber of Deputies declared a state of health alert due to the dengue outbreak in Asunción, Central, Alto Paraná and Guaira. Likewise, the Chamber of Senators urged for the declaration of national emergency and the start of a 90 day campaign to eliminate the mosquito breeding grounds.

A day after, on 18 March, the Executive Council of the National Emergency Secretariat (Consejo Ejecutivo de la Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional) approved the contingency plan "Operation: Fighting Dengue" ("Operativo: Combate contra el Dengue"), which will be applied in the municipalities of Asunción, Lambaré,

Limpio, Fernando de la Mora, Ñemby, San Lorenzo, Mariano Roque Alonso, Luque, Capiatá, San Antonio, and Ciudad del Este. These municipalities will be prioritized based on their larvae infestations and case rates. This two-month plan has four lines of action: vector control, identification and reporting of fever cases, case treatment, and information campaign to the population.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social) issues an information bulletin on a weekly basis and organizes at least one meeting per month where the Paraguayan Red Cross participates. In addition, the National Service for the Eradication of Malaria (Servicio Nacional de Erradicación de Paludismo—SENEPA) works in close collaboration with the municipalities with highest case of larvae infestation. Thus far, they have carried out 4,583 community cleaning campaigns, clearing public spaces and empty lots, detecting and eliminating breeding grounds. Likewise, the Paraguayan Organization for Inter-municipal Cooperation (Organización Paraguaya de Cooperación Intermunicipal—OPACI) coordinates with SENEPA and the State General Prosecutor’s Office (Fiscalía General del Estado) to support the work of SEAM and the National Emergency Secretariat (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional—SEN).

The PRC, in its role as auxiliary to the state and active member of the SEN, has been called to support the contingency plan “Operation: Fighting Dengue” through its branches and sub-branches. On those areas where the National Society does not have physical presence, the PRC will have volunteers supporting the activities of the Ministry of Health, the municipalities, SENEPA and others. Some of the activities that will be completed within the contingency plan as inter-institutional actions include the creation and training of anti-dengue brigades, communication campaigns, detection and reporting of fever cases.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since mid February, when the Ministry of Health launched the epidemiological alert, the National Society’s branches of Central and Alto Paraná municipalities have responded to the call of support and became part of the inter-institutional coordination team. As a result of the demands imposed by the situation, the PRC requested support from different Partner National Societies to undertake the needed community activities. In response to the request, the American Red Cross is supporting the formation of community-based working groups (called *mingas* in Paraguay) and the acquisition of equipment.

The National Society, with support of the IFRC’s Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil, requested the support of the DREF to complement the ongoing operation in the most affected municipalities. The PRC will intensify its coordination efforts, mobilize volunteers to awareness-raising campaigns to distribute informative brochures, establish more community-base groups to detect and eliminate breeding grounds, and carry out a communication campaign using posters and radio spots.

## The needs

**Selection of people to be reached:** the National Society will work in four departments and nine municipalities:

Department	Municipalities
Central	Itá, Capiatá, Ñemby, Mariano Roque Alonso, Nueva Italia, and San Lorenzo
Alto Paraná	Ciudad del Este
Concepción	Concepción
Guaira	Villarrica

All the areas mentioned above have branches of the PRC. However, if after further coordination with the Ministry of Health there is a need to provide additional support in other areas, the headquarters of the National Society will mobilize their volunteers.

The PRC estimates that it will reach between 38 and 40 communities in the next three months, which counts for some 6,000 families. In order to combat the outbreak there is a need to develop community-base groups, complete a dengue awareness campaign, and equip the community-base groups with environmental cleaning tools.

## The proposed operation

The proposed operation has three core lines of action. First, the National Society will complete several coordinating and advocacy activities with the institutions that belong to the National Emergency Secretariat, including the Ministry of Health, SENEPA, the Police Department and Fire Department. Second, the PRC will support the formation of community-based groups and lend the necessary equipment to complete cleaning campaigns to eliminate breeding grounds. And last, the National Society will carry out a dengue-awareness communication campaign using different media outlets.

For the current operation, the National Society will deploy around 20 volunteers in each branch, half of them supported by this DREF allocation and the other half with the bilateral support of the American Red Cross.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome: Community-based groups detect and eliminate breeding grounds following a collaborative strategy between the National Society, the municipality, the region's health authority and SENEPA.**

**Outputs:**

- Nine municipalities in 4 departments (Central, Alto Paraná, Concepción and Guaira) coordinate with the branches of the national society.
- At least 38 communities in 9 municipalities are aware and working on the prevention of dengue
- Three branches and six sub-branches have the equipment and tools needed to carry out cleaning campaigns.

**Activities planned:**

- Coordinate with the municipal office, SENEPA and health authorities to elaborate a regional plan of action.
- Complete community mappings to determine areas of risk for dengue infection
- Carry out meetings with community members to explain the working methodology.
- Procure cleaning materials and personal protective equipment to use during cleaning campaigns.
- Complete cleaning campaigns targeting mosquito-breeding grounds with the participation of the community-based groups.
- Distribute informative brochures in the communities.

The PRC will work on those municipalities and communities that have been signalled by SENEPA as the most affected. The municipal authorities will be the main responsible of the community-based groups (*mingas*) and the PRC will support with the logistical aspects, materials and its volunteers. The cleaning kits that will be provided to the *mingas* consist of:

- Wheelbarrow
- Garbage bags
- Hoe and shovels
- Rake
- Machete

In addition, the National Society will support the cleaning campaigns with fumigation equipment. It must also be mentioned that all equipment bought to be used by the *mingas* will become property of the local branches of the National Society by the end of the operation.

### Emergency health

**Outcome: Dengue-related morbidity and mortality is reduced through a comprehensive approach to preventive health and increased awareness**

**Outputs:**

- At least 6,000 families (30,000 people) are reached with a preventive health campaign.
- Thirty per cent of the population in 9 municipalities receive information through popular radio stations and television on the prevention of dengue.

**Activities planned:**

- Train volunteers on epidemic control.
- Print informative material.
- Complete educational campaigns in public spaces.
- Launch a communication campaign with radio and television spots.

- Carry out educational talks in schools and promote the formation of cleaning brigades in school grounds.

During its community work with the *mingas*, the National Society will involve schools in the process, as well as conduct educational talks and distribute printed material on the prevention of dengue.

For this operation, the PRC will revise all audiovisual material that has been previously created and adapt them to the current campaign in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the SEN. The second phase will be to complete agreements with television and radio channels to air the informative spots for at least two months.

Finally, the DREF will also be used to support the National Society with the salaries of some of their staff supporting this operation, including the operations coordinator and a health technician.

## 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.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Paraguay:** Luis Díaz de Bedoya, President of the Paraguayan Red Cross, phone: 59521-222-797; email: [crppcia@uninet.com.py](mailto:crppcia@uninet.com.py)
- **In Argentina:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; phone: +541 1495 17420; email: [gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org](mailto:gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org)
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, PADRU coordinator; phone: + 507 316 1001; fax: + 507 316 1082; and email: [jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org](mailto:jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org).
- **In Panama:** Chiran Livera; PADRU Disaster Management delegate; phone: + 507 316 1001; fax: + 507 316 1082; and email: [chiran.livera@ifrc.org](mailto:chiran.livera@ifrc.org).
- **In Panama:** Marta Trayner, Emergency Health coordinator; phone: + 507 317 3074; and email: [marta.trayner@ifrc.org](mailto:marta.trayner@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: + 41 22 730 4381; fax: + 41 22 733 0395; and email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org)

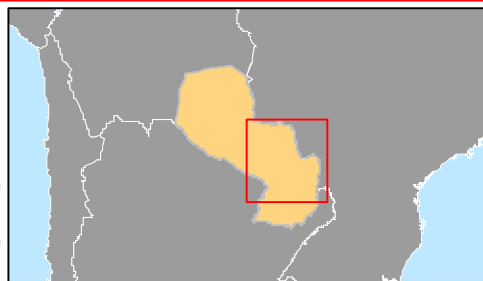
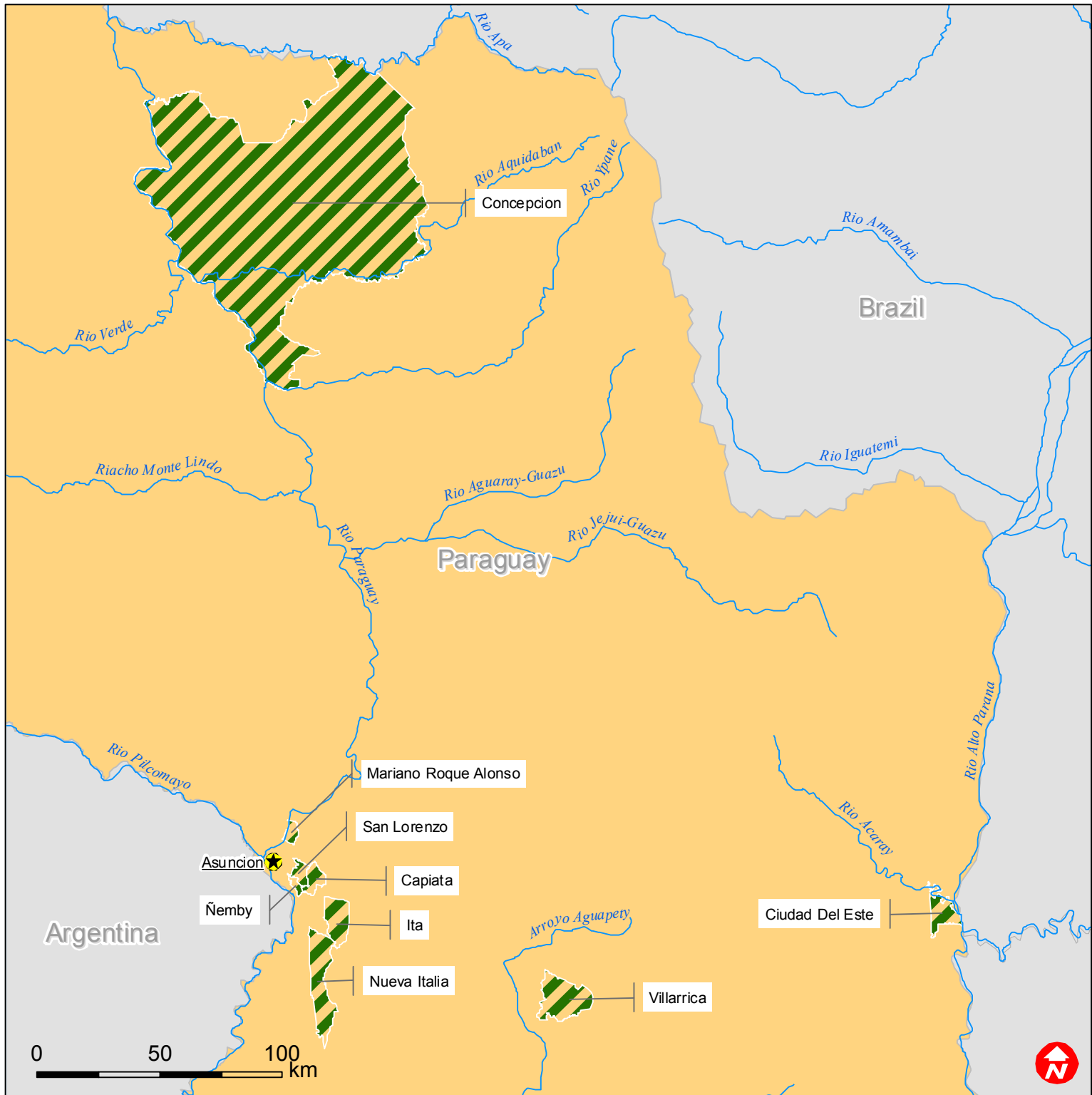
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)


**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		
Shelter - Transitional		
Construction - Housing		
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		
Construction - Materials		
Clothing & Textiles		
Food		
Seeds & Plants		
Water & Sanitation		
Medical & First Aid	2,266	2,266
Teaching Materials	4,605	4,605
Utensils & Tools		
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	21,222	21,222
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>28,093</b>	<b>28,093</b>
Land & Buildings		
Vehicles		
Computer & Telecom		
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		
Medical Equipment		
Other Machinery & Equipment		
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage		
Distribution & Monitoring		
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,526	5,526
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>5,526</b>
International Staff		
Regionally Deployed Staff		
National Staff		
National Society Staff	17,823	17,823
Other Staff benefits		
Consultants		
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>17,823</b>	<b>17,823</b>
Workshops & Training	4,145	4,145
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>4,145</b>
Travel	5,526	5,526
Information & Public Relation	23,027	23,027
Office Costs	2,763	2,763
Communications	2,763	2,763
Professional Fees		
Financial Charges	3,847	3,847
Other General Expenses		
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>37,927</b>	<b>37,927</b>
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	6,078	6,078
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>6,078</b>
Services & Recoveries		
Shared Services		
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>99,593</b>	<b>99,593</b>



# Paraguay: Epidemic - Dengue



 Affected municipalities