

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Cook Islands: Dengue outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRCK001  
GLIDE no. **EP-2009-000103-COK**  
22 May 2009

The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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.

**CHF 50,000 (USD 44,929 or EUR 33,053) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Cook Islands Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 8,000 beneficiaries through direct services and information, education and communication materials. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

The Cook Islands is experiencing a dengue outbreak, with up to 994 cases reported on the main island of Rarotonga as of 20 May 2009. The Cook Islands Red Cross Society, in coordination with government and non-government agencies in-country, are responding to the threat with an increase in awareness-raising in identified communities as well as through the National Society's current community-based health and first aid programme. The International Federation has released CHF 50,000 from the disaster relief emergency fund to support the National Society in responding to the outbreak. With these funds, the National Society plans to procure and distribute vector control kits to affected communities as well as disseminate information, education and communication materials to the public.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by August 2009. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by November 2009.

The following donors and partners support DREF: Danish Red Cross, Irish Red Cross/ Irish government, Japanese Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross/ Monaco government, Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government, Norwegian Red Cross/ Norwegian government, Swedish Red Cross/ Swedish government, Italian government, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), OPEC Fund for International Development, and corporate and private donors.

The International Federation, on behalf of the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, would like to thank all donors and partners for their generous support to DREF.

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details and here for a map of the affected areas>](#)

## The situation

The Cook Islands is experiencing a dengue outbreak in the southern group of islands. With a country population of approximately 13,000<sup>1</sup>, as of 14 May 2009, a total of 936 cases have been reported to the

<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands Statistics Office, <http://www.stats.gov.ck/index.htm>

health department, with 57 patients admitted to hospital. The table below indicates information on the affected villages in the main island of Rarotonga.

Latest figures available from the health department as of 20 May 2009 has risen to 994, including nine cases in Aitutaki, an outer island, and one case in Mauke, another outer island belonging to the southern group of the Cook Islands.

Immediate concern is the fact that there may still be a number of cases which have not been reported to the health department. The situation is further exacerbated by the threat of A (H1N1) flu in the region, with New Zealand reporting confirmed cases of A (H1N1).

The government health department has requested for assistance and support as resources are depleting rapidly. While not yet classified as a national emergency, the national disaster risk management council is working together with relevant government and non-government organizations to address the situation.

**No. of cases in Rarotonga as of 14 May**

Location	No. of cases
Arorangi	302
Nikao/Tepuka	174
Avarua	13
Tupapa	133
Titikaveka	77
Ngatangia	40
Matavera	50
Avatiu	58
Takuvaine	61
Tutakimoa	22

A national plan is being formulated by members of the national disaster management council and the Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS) has presented the activities that will be implemented by their staff, volunteers and community partners.

## Coordination and partnerships

CIRCS is a member of the national disaster risk management council and is working closely with the government and other agencies in-country to respond to the threat. A task force is in place, with agencies putting together a response plan involving the government, the private sector and communities. In addition to this, CIRCS plans to work in collaboration with selected communities as partners to mobilize the wider public through their involvement in the response to the dengue outbreak. CIRCS also plans to leverage on their ongoing community-based health and first aid programme, working with existing beneficiary groups who will assist in awareness raising, assembling the resource kits as well as their distribution. The International Federation's Pacific regional office is providing support as needed to the National Society, with additional technical support made available by Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur if required.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CIRCS has integrated the dissemination of preventive information prepared by the ministry of health into its existing community-based activities. Further to the council meeting, CIRCS has decided to upscale its health promotion activities which will include CIRCS staff and volunteers making door-to-door visits to meet and disseminate information on preventive efforts.

## The needs

Beneficiaries will be identified according to the mapping assessment that was carried out by the ministry of health and has been translated into the geographic information system that was presented at the national meeting on 18 May 2009. The communities in the densely affected areas of Rarotonga are a priority and the remaining areas will all be covered eventually with the view to eliminate the problem. Please refer to table above for the specific numbers in villages affected.

The ministry of health has identified those affected to be between 10 and 40 years of age. Immediate needs identified by the national disaster risk management council include heavy machinery, fuel, spray chemicals, over-time hours for workers to address the threat.

CIRCS has also identified further needs in resources for family kits, community kits, transportation for staff and volunteers for distribution and dissemination activities as well further production of information, education and communication materials.

CIRCS will also mobilize the outer islands' branches to disseminate preventive information as well as distribute the kits to the affected areas.

## The proposed operation

### Distributions (basic non-food items)

**Objective:** Up to 100 community vectors control kits<sup>2</sup> are distributed to support up to 1,800 people in Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mauke islands.

#### Activities planned:

- Procurement of items for the kits
- Identification and selection of the beneficiaries and communities. Assessment was carried out by MoH
- Development of beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Preparation of the kits and distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Support to the national plan with fuel for cleaning of high risk areas.
- Distribution of the kits with appropriate monitoring and evaluation on the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

### Emergency health (dengue outbreak prevention)

**Objective:** Up to 200 family vector-control kits<sup>3</sup> are distributed to support up to 1,200 people in Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mauke islands.

#### Activities planned:

- Procurement of items for the kits
- Identification and selection of the beneficiaries and communities with the national council
- Preparation and distribution of the kits by the volunteers and stakeholders
- Consultation with community stakeholders
- Dissemination of information
- Fuel support to the national teams in the use of heavy machinery

### Health promotion

**Objective:** Awareness on dengue and preventive methods are disseminated through an information, education and communication campaign for up to 8,000 people in Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mauke.

#### Activities planned:

- Procurement of available information, education and communication materials from the International Federation's community-based health and first aid manuals and the ministry of health
- Production of brochures with local language translations.
- Distribution of brochures and posters in schools and other public venues.
- Dissemination of information through radio spots
- Distribution of printed materials on dengue prevention information through house-to-house visits
- Integration of dengue prevention information in all ongoing CIRCS community workshops, including outer island branches that are not yet affected including the two islands that reported cases

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<sup>2</sup> Consists of a 30-litre fumigator, 20 litres of chemical insecticide, overalls, a pair of work boots, a pair of work gloves, a fumigating cap, a respiratory mask and a pair of safety goggles.

<sup>3</sup> A family kit (for six people) lasts for one month and consists of six aerosol mosquito repellent (adult), two roll-on repellents (child) and four aerosol cans of house spray insecticide.

## How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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

- In Cook Islands Red Cross Society: Ms. Niki Rattle, Secretary General, email: [nikratt@redcross.org.ck](mailto:nikratt@redcross.org.ck), phone +682 22598
- Pacific regional office in Suva, Fiji: Mr. Manish Pant, Acting head of regional office, email: [manish.pant@ifrc.org](mailto:manish.pant@ifrc.org), or Mr. John Bales, Regional disaster management coordinator, [john.bales@ifrc.org](mailto:john.bales@ifrc.org), phone: +679 3311 855, fax: +679 3311 406
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia:
  - Jagan Chapagain, Deputy head of Asia Pacific zone, email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org), phone: +6 03 9207 5700
  - Disaster management unit: Mr. Daniel Bolaños, Regional disaster response delegate, email: [daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org); phone: + 60 3 9207 5728, mobile: +60 12 283 7305
  - Resource mobilization & planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit: Ms. Penny Elghady, Resource mobilization & PMER coordinator, email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 9207 5771
  - For pledges of funding: [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

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

# **APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Cook Islands : Dengue Outbreak

MDRCK001

ORIGINAL

## **RELIEF NEEDS**

Medical & First Aid

- Family Vector control kits (200)

10,963

- Community Vector control kits (100)

22,059

Utensils & Tools

3,342

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**Total Relief Needs**

**36,364**

## **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Distribution & Monitoring

668

Transport & Vehicles Costs

5,049

## **GENERAL EXPENSES**

Information & Public Relations

4,000

Other General Expenses

668

## **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)

3,250

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**Total Operational Needs**

**13,636**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)**

**50,000**

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**Less Available Resources**

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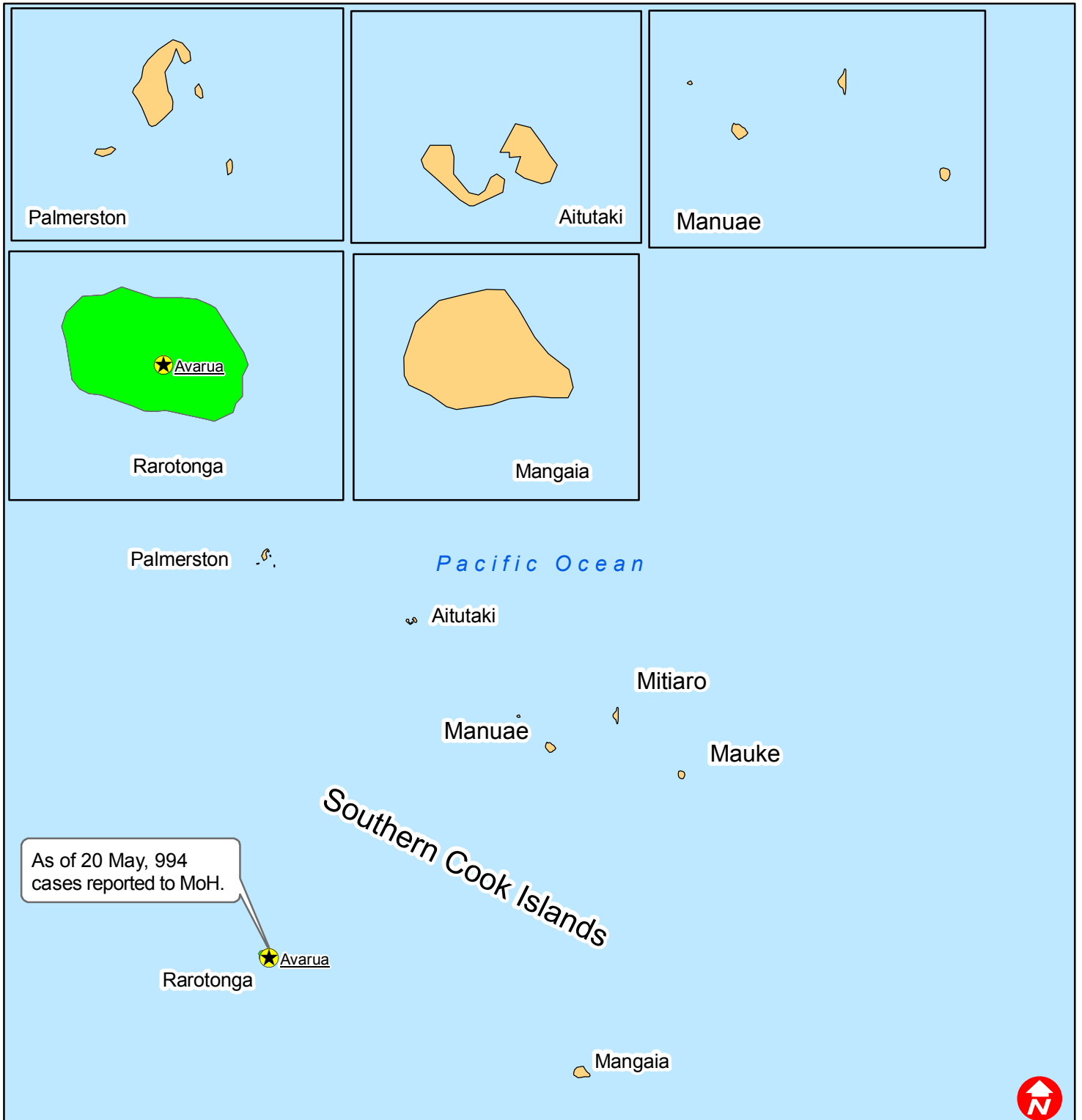
**Net Request**

**50,000**

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- Affected areas
- Capital