

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## CAMBODIA: DENGUE FEVER

10 July 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

### In Brief

**This Bulletin is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time but this may change.**

#### For further information:

- In Phnom Penh: Men Neary Sopheak, Deputy Secretary-General; email: [sopheak.MenNeary@crc.org.kh](mailto:sopheak.MenNeary@crc.org.kh); Phone +855 23 21 28 76; mobile: +855 12 81 08 54, Fax 855 23 21 28 75;
- In Phnom Penh: Scott Tind Simmons, Federation Representative, email: [scott.tindsimmons@ifrc.org](mailto:scott.tindsimmons@ifrc.org); Phone: +855 12 901 400 (mobile); Fax +855 23 210 163;
- Mr Bekele Geleta, Federation Head of Regional Delegation, Bangkok, Phone: +66 2661 8201 ext 100, Email: [bekele.geleta@ifrc.org](mailto:bekele.geleta@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: Sabine Feuglet, Asia Pacific Department, Geneva, Email: [sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org](mailto:sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org); phone +41 22 730 4258; fax 41 22 733 0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

Cambodia is in the grip of a dengue fever outbreak with almost 17,000 cases and 174 deaths reported. Many of the cases are children. This compares with 4,368 cases in 2006. The Cambodian government has requested assistance from neighbouring Thailand to contain the situation after the death toll last month leapt five-fold compared with the previous month. Teams of specialists and medical equipment have already been sent to Cambodia to support local efforts.

#### Provinces with highest prevalence:

Kandal	1307 cases	10 dead
Kampongcham	1226 cases	22 dead
Siem Riep	981 cases	11 dead
Takeo	852 cases	8 dead
Phnom Penh	825 cases	6 dead

<b>Kampong Speu</b>	678 cases	11 dead
<b>Prey Veng</b>	526 cases	14 dead

'Dengue is hitting almost all provinces nationwide. We cannot contain the virus with our limited resources,' Ngan Chanta, head of Cambodia's anti-dengue programme. 'We need foreign help'.



*Fever pitch: Cambodian Red Cross volunteers talk with their family, friends & neighbours about keeping safe from dengue.*

The virus, which generally strikes during the June-September wet season and in Cambodia appears to hit mostly children.

In Krouch Chhmar village Channel News Asia reported a scene that is becoming depressingly familiar. Saing Ratha was lying semi-conscious, her thin body shaking with fever as her mother desperately tried to cool her by placing blocks of ice under her arms.

Her 10-year-old bother Saing Sokun lay curled around a block of ice next to her in a basic rural clinic. Both have been struck by dengue fever. 'In my village every house has been afflicted by dengue; in some homes all the children are sick,' said the children's mother, Chhiv Thy.

Press reports indicate that the alarm over dengue fever is not confined to Cambodia. Warmer weather and heavy rains have helped the mosquito-borne virus spread. At a glance, Indonesia reports 748 deaths, Malaysia 56 dead, Myanmar 30, and Vietnam 27. In Thailand, there are reports of a 36 per cent increase in cases.

## Red Cross response

Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) has launched a serious response to the health emergency. It has launched a nationwide campaign through its network of Red Cross volunteers and youth in conjunction with provincial health, youth and sport education departments. National HQ has issued an alert letter to all 24 branches in the country and dengue fever has been integrated into all Red Cross activities.

CRC is helping 370 children hospitalised in the national paediatric hospital. They have been given food, clothes and a small amount of money as they attempt to recover. 200 patients at Takhmao hospital have received similar items plus 500 bottles of serum to assist in their treatment. CRC is preparing for assist 125 patients in Preah Sihanouk Hospital with a similar package. The national society will identify other hospitals that may require support.

The national society has also been working with the media to raise people's awareness. The Phnom Penh municipality Red Cross branch has liaised with local television to broadcast on dengue prevention.

The International Federation's Global Agenda Goal 2 is reduced number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health.