

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Brazil: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRBR003
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000042-BRA
4 April, 2008

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 55,000 (USD 52,381 or EUR 34,375) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Brazil is experiencing an outbreak of dengue: 43,523 cases have already been reported. 54 deaths have been confirmed from this disease in Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian Red Cross will be mobilizing volunteers for public awareness and outreach for 10,000 individuals.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 3 July, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 03 October, 2008).

[<click here for contact details,](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Firemen are working in the favela of Coroado treating stagnant water. Source: BBC

The situation

As of 26 March, 2008, the state of Rio de Janeiro is experiencing a dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever epidemic. To date, 43,523 cases have been reported, with 54 deaths confirmed, 20 of which were from dengue hemorrhagic fever, 10 from dengue shock, and 24 from classical dengue.

These case numbers are double what they were same time last year. Field hospitals are being set up by the military and a crisis committee has been formed by the Secretariat of Health Surveillance. The Ministry of Health has established a crisis committee to address the dengue epidemic in the city of Rio.

The most affected municipalities are: Rio de Janeiro (28,233), Angra do Reis (3,141 people), Campos dos Goytacazes (2,144), Nova Iguaçu (2,643), and Duque de Caxias (1,075).

The majority of deaths (27) have occurred among school age children, ranging from 2 – 13 years of age. There have been 3,237 cases in Rio de Janeiro, 53 per cent of these occurred among children under the age of 14 years old.

Currently, the capacity of public medical facilities is overwhelmed by the large demand resulting from dengue. A Brazilian judge has ordered that the state must pay for treatment of those infected in private hospitals and clinics when public hospitals cannot meet the demand.

Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Red Cross is coordinating activities with the branches of the affected zones, as well as activating its personal to be sent to the affected areas. In addition, the branches of the BRC are in contact with the local health centres to coordinate activities.

The Ministry of Health has established a crisis committee to address dengue in the municipality of Rio. The Secretariat of Health Surveillance (Vigilância em Saúde) will be responsible for infection surveillance in collaboration with the State Government and the Armed Forces.

According to PAHO, the Ministry of Health (Ministério da Saúde – MS) is working closely with the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Center for Strategic Information in Health Surveillance (Centro de Informações Estratégicas em Vigilância em Saúde – CIEVS) to implement the required control measures and identify priority areas for intervention. The Ministry has already mobilized 100 health professionals to the federal hospitals of Rio de Janeiro to support patient management activities, including clinical case management and laboratory diagnosis. Additionally, 550 public health and emergency services professionals will be recruited by the end of next week to assist community-based interventions. Vector control activities were implemented throughout Rio de Janeiro State and especially in the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro. The fire department, military, and health inspectors from the National Health Foundation (Fundação Nacional de Saúde - FUNASA/MS) are assisting in these activities.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama, the Lima Regional Representation, and Federation Country Office in Brazil are providing support to the National Society. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in Public Health in Emergencies (PHE) has been requested by the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross developed a Plan of Action to increase community awareness among the most vulnerable communities.

The needs

Thus far, the identified needs are medical care for those infected; vector control measures including community clean-up of potential mosquito breeding grounds; community awareness campaign covering prevention, transmission, and medical care for those infected.

The proposed operation

The Brazilian Red Cross identified that the immediate needs are to conduct public outreach to raise awareness on dengue prevention.

The campaign's messages will aim at raising the general population's awareness regarding the cause, prevention, detection and patient-care of these diseases.

Emergency health

Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population are reduced through the provision of preventive and community-level health education to 10,000 beneficiaries in Rio de Janeiro for three months.

Activities planned:

- initiate a health promotion campaign within the affected population targeting 10,000 people in Rio de Janeiro;
- train 40 community-based volunteers on health promotion via hours of training;
- data assessment in the most affected communities;
- coordination with public officials and other social agencies;
- creation and publication of educational material;
- placement of educational materials in public locations;
- deliver 40 two-hour workshops covering basic knowledge regarding dengue prevention, transmission, and medical care;
- conduct 200 home visits;
- broadcast four Radio and one TV programs.

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

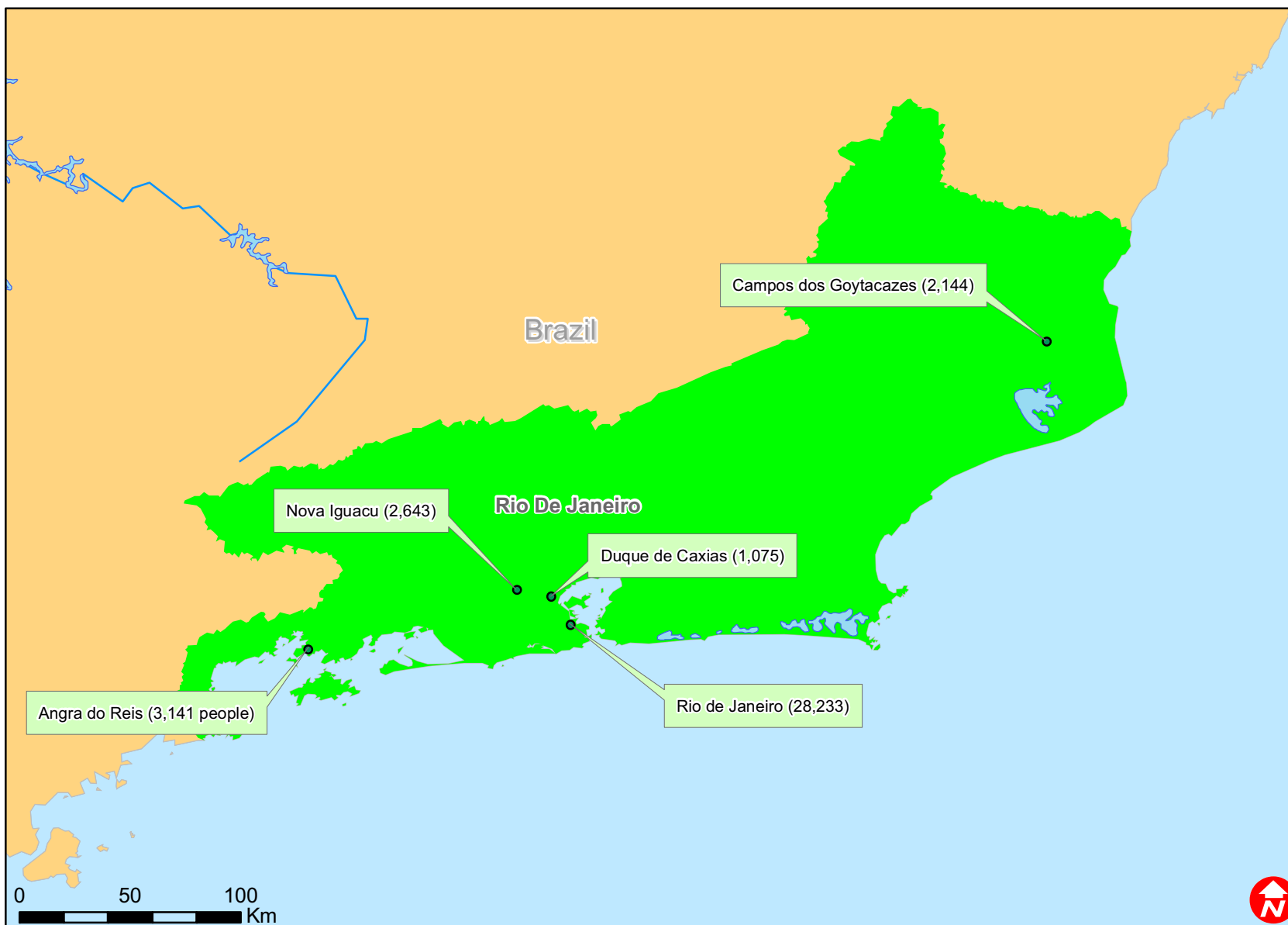
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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