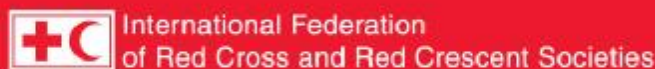


# DREF operation



## Argentina: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRAR005  
Glide No. EP-2009-000059-ARG  
25 April 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 184,012 (USD 157,707 or EUR 121,732) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 96,600 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Since the beginning of 2009, several South American countries have been experiencing dengue outbreaks. In March 2009, Argentina had confirmed 37 dengue cases and there were 240 unconfirmed cases in the province of Salta. In April, the Ministry of Health has informed that the total number of cases has reached 15,000 and that there have been 4 deaths. The provinces most affected are Chaco, Salta, Catamarca, Tucuman and Jujuy. This DREF operation is focused on carrying out awareness-raising campaigns, workshops on dengue prevention and distribution of vector control kits for families and communities.



The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, transmitter of the dengue virus which is affecting the majority of provinces in Argentina. Source: Diario Pregon

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 23 July 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 October 2009).

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

## The situation

Dengue outbreaks in South America have been on the rise during the past years. Contributing factors include climatic changes due to deforestation, increase in population, poverty, overcrowded cities and increase in migration among neighbouring countries.

In February 2009 the province of Salta experienced constant rain, severely affecting the city of Tartagal. DREF funds were requested to assist 1,000 families with basic relief items. In March 2009, according to the Provincial Secretariat of Epidemiology (Direcciones de Epidemiologia Provinciales, INEVH), approximately 15,000 cases and 4 deaths were reported. The table below describes the number of cases by province:

Province	Number of cases
Buenos Aires	4
City of Buenos Aires	2
Catamarca	3,728
Chaco	8,086
Corrientes	40
Jujuy	457
Salta	1,710
Santa Fe	438
Tucuman	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,598</b>

Source: INEVH

The most affected provinces are Chaco, Salta, Catamarca, Tucuman and Jujuy. In Chaco two people have died due to haemorrhagic dengue.

In **Chaco**, a sanitation crisis committee was formed, led by the Minister of Health. Medical personnel and sanitary resources were deployed to start fumigation activities as well as the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns in the areas affected, including Saenz Pena and Charata. Additionally, health authorities have sent medicines, mosquito repellents and fumigation equipment to the municipality of Resistencia. An Air Force airplane deployed three fumigation pumps and more than 50,000 repellent units to the most affected areas.

In **Salta**, the local authorities are assessing the breeding grounds of the mosquito *Aedes Aegypti* in the most affected areas of Oran and Tartagal. This will help anticipate the spread of the disease. Authorities are carrying out cleaning activities around houses and have been fumigating as a preventive measure.

In **Catamarca**, the governor declared a state of emergency due to the high levels of dengue cases reported. Additionally, an emergency alert was declared in **Tucuman** and the local authorities are fumigating and carrying out prevention activities. A state of emergency was declared in the cities of Libertador General, San Martin and San Pedro de Jujuy in the province of **Jujuy**.

The government of Buenos Aires activated two toll free hotlines for consultations on dengue symptoms. Local authorities are providing trainings for sanitation directors and epidemiology directors from the urban regions around the city.

In other provinces, including Cordoba, Mendoza and San Luis, local authorities are taking all precautions necessary to fight the dengue outbreak by performing fumigations, awareness-raising campaigns and clean-up activities.

## Coordination and partnerships

The national and local governments have been constantly monitoring the emergency in each affected province. Coordination meetings have been held among the Argentine Red Cross, provincial and national authorities including the Ministries of Health, Interior and Social Development and non-governmental organizations. The objectives of these coordination meetings are to ensure immediate actions are taken and avoid the duplication of efforts. Additionally, the coordination meetings are assisting in identifying the most vulnerable communities.

The ARC has included in its Inter-Institutional Network for Risk Management organizations including Caritas Argentina, UNICEF, Accion Sur (a local NGO), Doctors of the World Argentina (Medicos del Mundo) and Save the Children.

The International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation Office for the Southern Cone continue to be in close communication with the ARC to monitor the situation. A PADRU disaster management delegate will be deployed to the country to support the National Society's plan of action. In addition, two technical health coordinators will supporting the operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the onset of the emergency, the Argentine Red Cross has been monitoring the situation through its local branches. A nationwide technical crisis committee was formed by the ARC headquarters, which is performing the following activities:

- Monitoring of the situation in the affected area.
- Meetings and telephone communication with key actors working in the health sector.
- Survey of actions carried out by local ARC branches.
- Strategy intervention design (based on surveys and local assessments).
- Production, design and printing of material with dengue prevention information.
- Distribution of printed material to the affected areas.

All ARC local branches are carrying out massive awareness-raising campaigns, including:

- Distribution of printed material with information on dengue prevention. The printed material has been facilitated by the national government and is being used as part of the campaign.
- Placing of posters in strategic areas (health centres, hospitals, schools, public areas, community centres, etc.).
- Airing of radio spots on local radio stations.
- Community workshops, which will be carried out in ARC local branches' nursing schools and by ARC volunteers.
- Awareness and prevention campaigns through house visits.
- Each local ARC branch is conducting face to face or telephone meetings with key actors from the health sector from the different regions of the country.

Since the beginning of the emergency the Argentine Red Cross, through its Community Health Programme, has been carrying out dengue prevention activities (among other water borne diseases) and the promotion of good health practices, especially in the most affected areas, as a response to the current outbreak. This community health project is being implemented by the ARC through its local branches to improve health conditions for the most vulnerable families in six communities in the northern provinces of Corrientes, Chaco, and Salta. These communities have a high level of vulnerability as they were affected by the economic crisis. Therefore, the ARC presence through the health project in the region facilitates increased prevention activities against dengue.

After the landslide emergency in Tartagal in February 2009, the ARC has strengthened its preventive measures in the fight against dengue. Thirteen volunteers were mobilized to carry out house visits in order to provide psychosocial support, hygiene and health promotion in temporary shelters. Additionally, provision of dengue prevention kits are part of the project and activities are on-going.

## The needs

The level of vulnerability of each affected province is different due to the social and economic context and the availability of medical services. One key method to address dengue is the cleaning of possible breeding grounds of mosquitoes, such as the elimination of empty recipients where rain water can accumulate. The ARC has identified health promotion and awareness-raising through campaigns as the most urgent needs. Through prevention campaigns is possible to raise awareness about the epidemic and how to prevent it, and create a culture of dengue prevention among the population.

The ARC has divided the beneficiary families into two groups. The first group is based on the high level of dengue cases in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Jujuy, Salta and Tucuman. The second group targets the provinces that have a medium level of dengue cases, which are Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Entre Rios, Formosa, Misiones, Santa Fe and Santiago del Estero. The ARC is coordinating with local authorities and other organizations the distribution of vector control kits. The distribution activities are being coordinated by

the Argentine government and the ARC will distribute to those who have not received any assistance by the government, and avoid duplication of efforts.

## The proposed operation

The ARC elaborated a plan of action that contemplates raising awareness in dengue prevention (and other vector borne diseases) through trainings and clean-up activities for approximately 96,600 families in 13 provinces including the city of Buenos Aires. Additionally, 3,000 families and 40 communities will receive vector control kits.

### Emergency health (dengue prevention)

**Objective: 3,000 families will benefit from the distribution of vector control kits; additionally, 40 communities (500 families) will benefit from vector control kits to assist them against the dengue outbreak.**

#### Activities planned:

- Procurement of items for the kits
- Identification and selection of beneficiaries and communities
- Preparation of the kits
- Distribution of kits

Vector control family kit	
1 per family (6 people) x 1 month	
6	Aerosol mosquito repellent (adults)
2	Crema mosquito repellent (children)
4	House insecticide (Aerosol)

Approximately 750 kits will be distributed per province (4 provinces), for a total of 3,000 kits.

Vector control community kit	
500 families x 1 month	
1	Fumigator x 30 lts.
2	Chemical insecticide x 20 lts
1	Overall
1 (pair)	Work boots
1 (pair)	Work gloves
1	Fumigation cap
1	Respiratory masks
1	Safety glasses

10 vector control kits will be distributed per province (4 provinces), for a total of 40 kits.

The 4 provinces that will receive the vector control kits are Chaco, Corrientes, Salta and Tucuman.

## Health promotion

**Objective: Increased awareness and prevention of dengue through an awareness raising campaign for approximately 96,600 families in 13 provinces in Argentina.**

### Activities planned

- Procurement of visibility material
- Printing of brochures and posters
- Distribution of brochures and posters in schools, community centres, health centres
- Airing of radio spots (already elaborated)
- Prevention campaigns through house visits and distribution of printed material on dengue prevention information.
- Conduct workshops on how to prevent vector diseases (in at least two schools in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Salta and Tucuman) for volunteers and communities.

## 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:**

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- In Buenos Aires: Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone; email: [gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org](mailto:gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Ghotai Ghazialam, Disaster Management Delegate, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org](mailto:ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

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

**DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**  
Argentina Dengue Outbreak

Annex 1  
MDRAR005

BUDGET CHF

**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	6,128
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	109,634
Other Supplies & Services	

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**Total Relief Needs 115,762**

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings
Vehicles Purchase
Computers & Telecom Equipment
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
Medical Equipment
Other Machinery & Equipment

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	10,144
Transport & Vehicles Costs	
Service fee & Recovery	

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	18,665
Consultants	

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	14,102
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	6,044
Information & Public Relations	4,632
Office running costs	865
Communication Costs	322
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	635
Other General Expenses	881

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	11,961
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**Total Operational Needs 68,251**

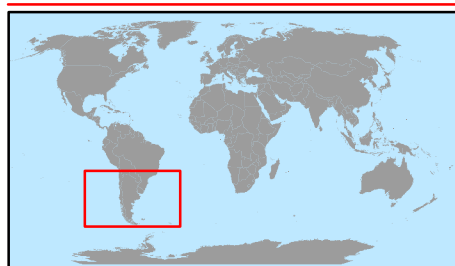
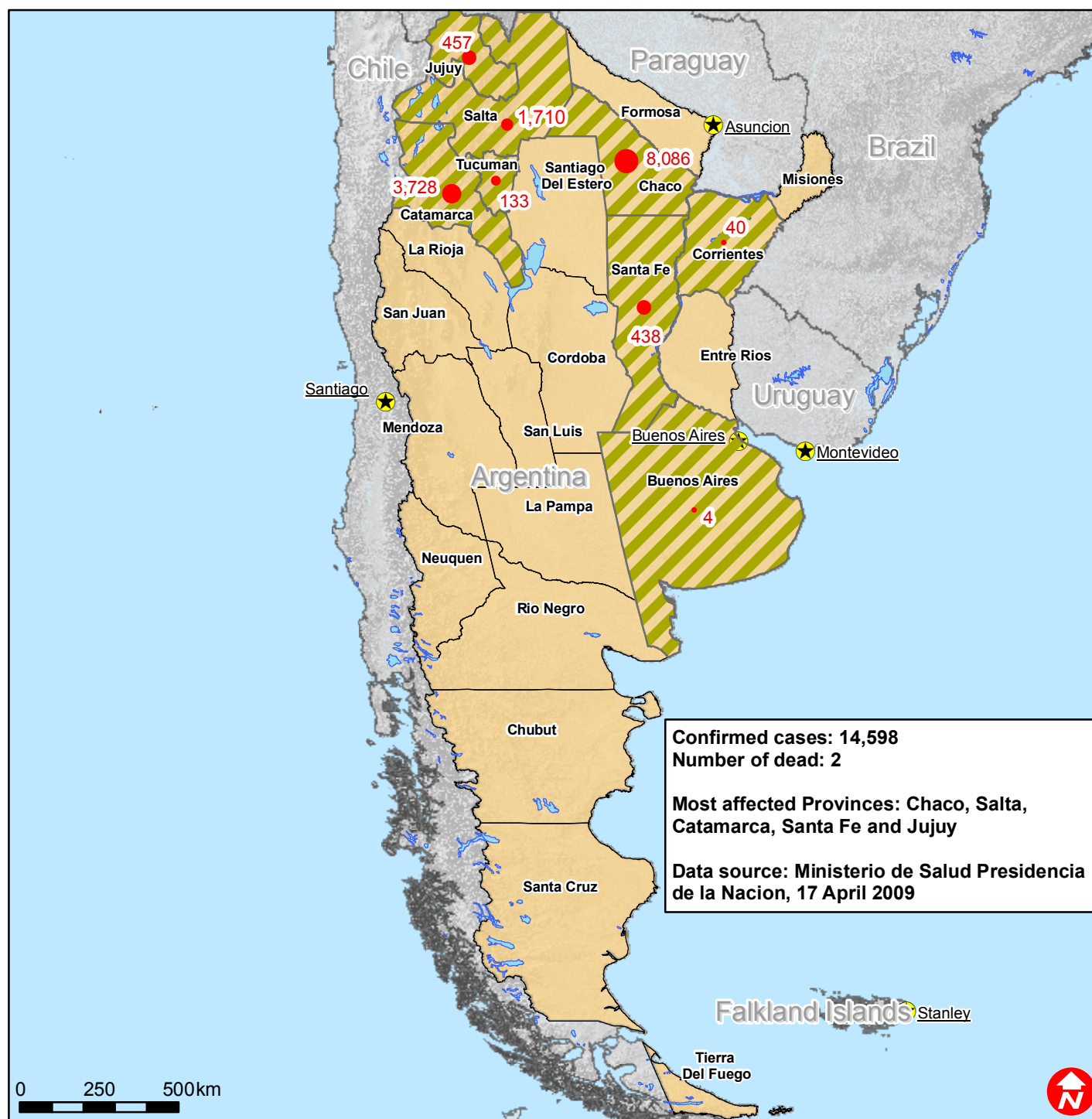
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**DREF ALLOCATION 184,012**

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# Argentina: Dengue



- Capitals
  - Lakes
- Suspected cases of Dengue**
- 1 - 4
  - 5 - 13
  - 14 - 36
  - 37 - 64
  - 65 - 228