

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bolivia: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRBO004
Glide No. EP-2009-000013-BOL
5 March 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 140,437 (USD 119,658 or EUR 95,033) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 9,000 households (approximately 44,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since October 2008, Bolivia is experiencing a dengue outbreak in six of the nine departments in the country. To date, 13 people have died due to hemorrhagic dengue and

23,090 cases of classic dengue have been confirmed. The Ministry of Health has issued a nation-wide alert as a response to this situation. The DREF funds will provide essential relief and health assistance among the affected population in the departments of Cochabamba, Beni and Santa Cruz. A specialized Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member in Public Health in Emergencies (PHE) has been requested by the National Society and is currently being recruited

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 2 June 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 2 September 2009).

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



Children in the department of Beni getting rid of old tires to eliminate breeding grounds of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.
Source: Newspaper El Deber

The situation

Since October 2008, Bolivia has been facing a dengue epidemic. The departments of Beni, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba are the most at risk with a total of 279,120 people in areas which have a high incidence of dengue fever. The department of **Beni** is one of the most vulnerable areas in Bolivia. The majority of the population lives in extreme poverty. Houses are usually wooden and floorless structures, without running water, sewer systems or electricity. People obtain drinking water from community water wells and use latrines. Most of the population depends on subsistence agriculture and the trade of agricultural products. **Santa Cruz** is the largest department of the country and possesses vast reserves of natural gas. The department has many rainforests that extend from the Andes range to the border with Brazil. The department's economy depends largely on agriculture. **Cochabamba** is known for its diverse agricultural products, tourism, and natural biodiversity areas. Despite the different socio-economic situation of these departments, all are severely affected by the dengue outbreak. The Bolivian Red Cross will focus actions on these three departments which are currently the most vulnerable to the outbreak.

Latest reports from the Ministry of Health indicate that 13 people have died due to hemorrhagic dengue (the most dangerous form of dengue), while 23,090 cases of classic dengue have been detected and confirmed. Due to the gravity of the situation, the Ministry of Health declared a national alert on 12 January 2009.

The outbreak has surpassed the capacity of the National Health System due to the high number of people infected. Non-biodegradable containers and deficient methods of disposing solid waste, amongst other reasons have worsened the health situation. The epidemic has caused panic among the population and increased the demand for health care, which is putting pressure on the public health and social security services. Some people in remote areas are not able to reach health centres and resort to alternative methods to take care of their symptoms which prevents them from receiving proper treatment



Children in a hospital in the Santa Cruz department with dengue symptoms.
Source: Los Tiempos (Online newspaper).

The following table shows the approximate number of people at risk:

Department	Community	Population at risk
Beni	Guayamerin	44,007
Santa Cruz	Plan 3000 (1ro de Mayo)	179,171
Cochabamba	Chimore	55,942
Total		279,120

Coordination and partnerships

The Bolivian Red Cross is coordinating activities at the national and departmental levels to address the dengue outbreak. The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Andean Region is also monitoring the emergency. In order to further support the Bolivian Red Cross, an alert for a RIT member specialized in public health in emergencies has been sent out. The RIT member will be therefore deployed shortly to Bolivia

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the Departmental Health Service (Servicios Departamentales de Salud, SEDES) and the Ministry of Health have carried out preventive measures through the implementation of an awareness raising campaign against dengue. The Ministry of Health is focusing on six main components in order to prevent and control the proliferation of the epidemic: 1) community communication and participation,

2) epidemiologic surveillance, 3) vector control, 4) patient services, 5) clean-up of breeding grounds, and 6) laboratory diagnosis.

The Emergency Committee (Comite de Emergencia - COE) has been activated. Its main function is to coordinate actions and make resources available to respond to the emergency.

Several organizations, including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Vision (an NGO, the Governments of Cuba and Venezuela are present in the field and have donated fumigation equipment as well as cleaning supplies. PAHO has mobilized health consultants to the department of Santa Cruz to support the activities planned by SEDES. World Vision is working on a proposal to provide assistance to present to the headquarters in La Paz. In addition, the Community Health and Mobilization Unit of World Vision (an NGO working in Bolivia) has completed a manual called "Everyone against Dengue" (Todos Contra el Dengue), that includes information on dengue prevention.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bolivian Red Cross has been concentrating all its efforts on preventive and awareness raising activities amongst the population through health brigades in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni. The BRC relief, disaster and health units have been monitoring the emergency through its nine local branches (one in each department). 60 volunteers, 20 in each of the three departments, will be mobilized and trained to provide support during the emergency response. Also, the BRC is closely coordinating actions with COE in the affected departments.

The needs

The most immediate needs identified by the National Society are insecticide-treated mosquito nets that can prevent further mosquito bites. In addition, awareness raising and massive fumigation campaigns among the affected areas are also identified as major needs for this emergency.

The proposed operation

The plan of action was prepared by the BRC, with support from the Federation, which includes the fumigation of 9,000 houses, to benefit approximately 44,000 people over three months. In addition, the BRC plans to distribute 1,200 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to vulnerable families. An awareness raising campaign will also be implemented with key messages on how to prevent dengue amongst the affected families in the departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Beni.

Relief distributions

Objective: The most vulnerable families with small children in the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and Cochabamba will receive essential relief items.

Activities planned:

- Coordination meetings with local authorities to identify beneficiaries.
- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets and jerry cans to families at high risk.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The municipalities of 1 de Mayo in the department of Santa Cruz, Guayamerin in Beni and Chimore in Cochabamba have been identified by the BRC to receive insecticide-treated mosquito nets and jerry cans. The mosquito nets will be dispatched from PADRU, while the jerry cans will be procured locally following Federation procurement standards.

Emergency health

Objective: 9,000 houses in the municipalities of 1 de mayo, Guayamerin and Chimore will be fumigated once a month during three months.

Activities planned:

- Bidding and procurement of equipment to fumigate houses.
- Training of volunteers on the proper use of the fumigating equipment.
- Coordination with local authorities in the three benefiting municipalities.
- Coordination of fumigation rounds with the Ministry of Health

- Fumigation of houses in the three selected municipalities.

Hygiene promotion

Objective: Increased awareness and prevention of dengue through the description of the symptom to the most vulnerable through an awareness raising campaign.

Activities planned:

- Identify three community coordinators, one for each department.
- Develop an Emergency Health training workshop focused on outbreak control.
- Identify and train 60 BRC volunteers and 45 Ministry of Health workers in the prevention of dengue.
- Deployment of a RIT member specialized in public health in emergencies.
- The BRC will coordinate with local authorities the design and implementation of the awareness raising campaign.
- Agreements with private companies and radio media to promote the awareness raising campaign.
- Launching of a national advertising campaign, including brochures with relevant information.
- Appointing of a health consultant to train BRC volunteers in the prevention of dengue.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

The awareness raising campaign will focus on providing information to the general population in order to prevent the proliferation of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

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 Bolivia: Dr. Abel Peña y Lillo, President, Bolivian Red Cross, e-mail cruzrobo@entelnet.bo; phone: (5912) 220 2934/ 212 9225; fax: (5912) 235 9102.
- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316-1082.
- In Panama: Ghotai Ghazialam, disaster management delegate, PADRU; email: ghotai.ghazialam@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316-1082.
- In Peru: Giorgio Ferrario, Regional Representative for the Andean Region, Lima; e-mail: giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org; phone: (511) 221-8151; fax (511) 441-3607.
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas Zone; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas, email pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 22 730 4381; fax: (41) 22 733 0395.

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

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

BOLIVIA DENGUE OUTBREAK

MDRBO004

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	22,109
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	3,509
Other Supplies & Services	40,007
Total Relief Needs	65,625

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	5,849
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,264
Service fee & Recovery	1,300

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,283
National Staff	
National Society Staff	13,862
Consultants	995

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	5,264
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	12,634
Information & Public Relations	5,264
Office running costs	526
Communication Costs	1,755
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	688
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

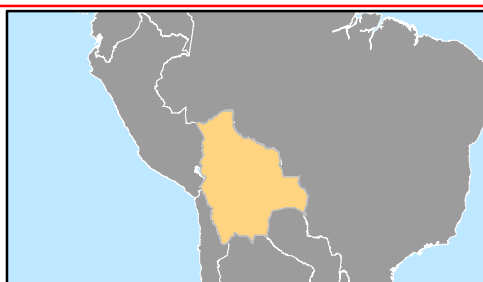
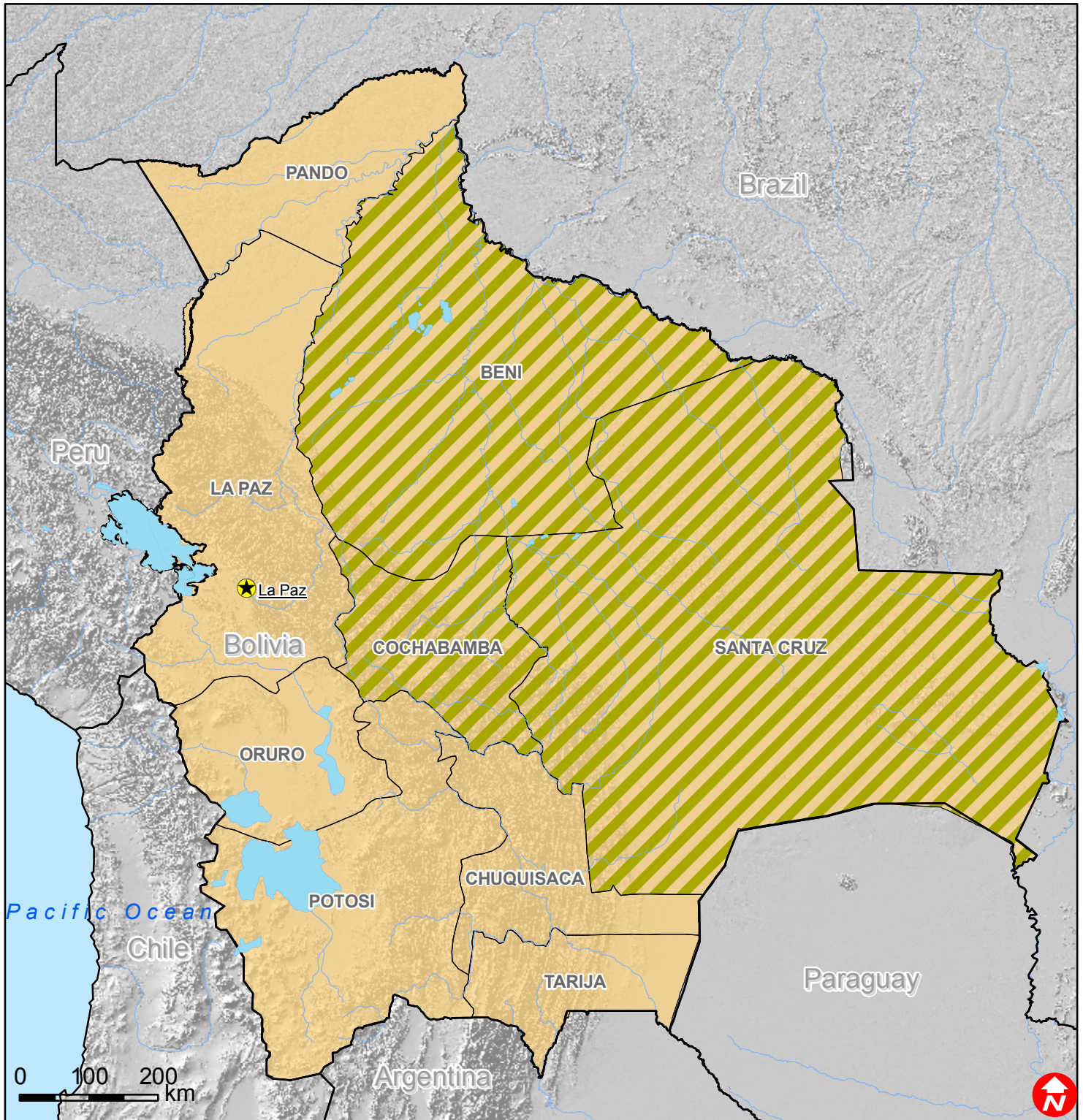
Programme Support - PSR	9,128
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Total Operational Needs	74,812
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DREF ALLOCATION	140,437
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Bolivia: Dengue



- Capital
- Lake
- Affected area
- River