

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Paraguay: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRPY006
GLIDE n° EP-2009-000028-PRY
1 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 151,145 (USD 132,519 or EUR 99,818) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Paraguayan Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Paraguay has been affected by a dengue outbreak since the beginning of 2009. A total of 802 cases have been confirmed in the entire country and some 961 cases are suspected. The dengue outbreak is affecting the population living in the following departments: Central, Amambay, Caaguazú, Alto Paraná, Concepción and Asunción.

This operation seeks to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in providing assistance to 5,000 families during the dengue outbreak through an awareness-raising and community health campaign, fumigations and community cleaning.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 1 July 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 1 October 2009).

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



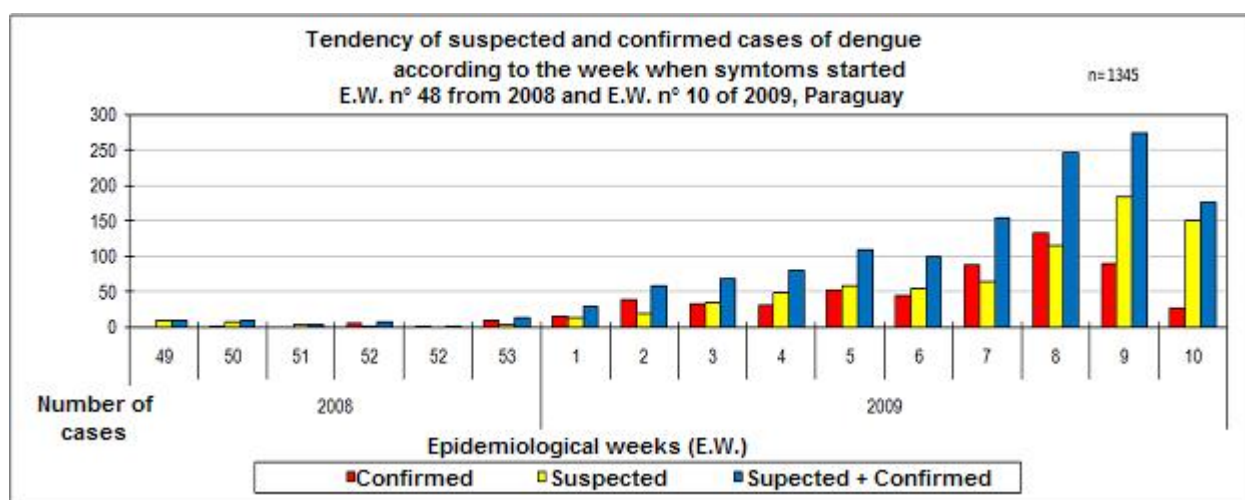
Fumigation activities are being carried out by national authorities to prevent the spread of the vector. Source: Reuters

The situation

Dengue is an illness that has begun to affect the country in recent years. The first cases were detected between 1988 and 1989, and the disease then gradually became more prevalent, affecting primarily the departments of Asunción, Central, Amabay and Alto Paraná. Between February and June 1999, 1,564 cases were confirmed. In April 2000, the country registered 2,273 confirmed cases and reported 21,482 suspected cases country-wide.

Some of the factors that have created conditions for the worsening of the dengue epidemic in Paraguay are population growth without planned or controlled urbanization, as well as the deterioration of water systems, sewer systems and waste disposal systems. The weather conditions in Paraguay during the first months of the year, including a 50 percent chance of daily precipitation and temperatures oscillating between 22° and 35° C, also present ideal breeding conditions for the *Aedes aegyptis* mosquito which transmits the virus causing infection with dengue.

In January 2009, a significant number of cases were reported in the city of Yvy Jaú in the Concepción department. After the initial outbreak in Yvy Jaú, the cities of Pedro Juan Caballero (Amambay department), Concepción and Horqueta (Concepción department), Capiatá (Central department) and recently Coronel Oviedo (Caaguazú department) also recorded dengue outbreaks.



Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

*This table presents data up to the 10th epidemiological week of 2009

During the month of February 2009, dengue serotypes 1 and 3 were identified. The Central, Amambay, Caaguazú, Alto Paraná and Concepción departments as well the country's capital, Asunción, are the most affected by the dengue outbreak; and of the affected departments, Concepción has the highest number of confirmed cases. The district of Horqueta in the Concepción department has been particularly affected. In addition, seven cases imported from Bolivia (for the most part from the city of Santa Cruz) have been registered to date. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social – MSPBS) decreed an epidemiological alert for dengue on 23 February 2009. The following table outlines the number of dengue cases confirmed up to the 12th week of 2009:

Department	N° of cases reported	N° of cases confirmed	Rate of confirmed cases*	Fever cases notified – No Dengue	Suspected cases
Concepción	418	304	159.85	42	72
San Pedro	11			6	5
Coordillera	62	2		47	13
Guairá	8			7	1
Caaguazú	161	54	11.33	49	58
Caazapá	10			8	2
Itapúa	68	2		43	23
Misiones	7			5	2
Paraguarí	47	4	1.68	23	20
A. Paraná	248	63	8.75	50	135
Central	1036	238	12.33	487	311
Ñeembucú	14			14	
Amambay	243	52	41.82	31	160
Canindeyú	7			3	4
Pte. Hayes	38	4		16	18
A. Paraguay	1			1	
Boquerón	4	2	3.66	2	
Asunción	436	77	14.84	222	137

Total General	2,819	802	12.87	1,056	961
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*per 100,000 inhabitants

The government has started implementing the contingency plan envisaged in the Integrated Management Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Dengue (Estrategia de Gestión Integrada de Prevención y Control del Dengue) in Paraguay. The country experienced a severe dengue outbreak in 2007, which led to increased preparedness based on lessons learnt in order to address future outbreaks. Thanks to the efforts made in 2007, national authorities have been able to detect the current outbreak on time.

The areas with active transmission are the Central, Alto Paraná, Concepción and Caaguazú departments as well as the capital city of Asunción, including the municipalities of San Lorenzo, Capiata, Fernando de la Mora, Limpio, Nemby, Mariano Roque, Alonso and Ypane. The identification of areas of active transmission has resulted in the intensification of care and control actions at the regional and local level. The authorities are therefore focusing on the active identification of dengue fever cases, transitional containment mechanisms for the areas affected to control the vector, fumigation, early notification to health centres of presumed case and ensuring appropriate provision of health services to patients.

A total of 41 patients have been hospitalized as a result of dengue (6.5 percent). From the hospitalized patients, 14 (34 percent) suffered from abdominal pain as their first alarm symptom, 9 (22 percent) presented haemorrhaging, and only two patients (4.8 percent) were hospitalized due to a state of shock. Fortunately, currently there are no deaths or severe dengue cases registered in the country.

A total of 123 cases were reported within the last 48 hours in the departments of Alto Paraná, Amambay, Caaguazú, Capital, Central, Itapúa, Paraguari, Cordillera and Concepción.

Coordination and partnerships

The Paraguayan Red Cross is closely monitoring the evolution of the dengue outbreak through its branches in high risk areas. In addition, the International Federation is providing support the National Society through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone.

Currently, the MSPBS, through the news bulletin n° 55 of 24 March, has provided general information to the public about the situation and control and prevention actions for dengue. Moreover, the Paraguayan Red Cross is coordinating actions with the MSPBS and the National Service for the Eradication of Malaria and Vectors (Servicio Nacional de Erradicación del Paludismo y Vectores – SENEPA).

In December 2008, the International Federation established an agreement with the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) for an epidemics project. The project activities have started to be implemented by the National Society during 2009. These activities will further increase the Paraguayan Red Cross preparedness towards future outbreaks of dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and yellow fever.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Paraguayan Red Cross is mobilizing its volunteers in order to support the efforts against the dengue outbreak of the MSPBS. Paraguayan Red Cross branches were strengthened through the campaigns implemented during the emergency response operations of 2007 for dengue, and 2008 for yellow fever and dengue. For more information on these two previous DREF operations, please visit the Federation website.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: This DREF operation will target families in 45 communities within 8 of the most affected municipalities of the departments of Central and Concepción. Please see the following table for the targeted municipalities in each department:

Department	Municipality	Nº of target communities
Central	Asunción	10
	Ita	5
	Capiata	5
	San Lorenzo	5
	Nemby	5
	Nueva Italia	5
Concepción	Concepción - urban	5
	Horqueta - urban	5

Total	8	45
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The proposed operation

The general objective of the proposed operation is to improve the living conditions of the population affected by the dengue outbreak through prevention measures, halting the spread of the vector. The Plan of Action of the Paraguayan Red Cross focuses on providing assistance to 5,000 families in the 45 targeted communities. Initial efforts will concentrate on the identification of communities at high risk. Through community brigades, the PRC will provide information and brochures with key messages on dengue prevention and control. The operation will also carry out cleaning of breeding grounds of the mosquito in the different communities. Cleaning kits will be provided in order to implement these cleaning activities. In addition, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in health will be deployed to Paraguay to support the PRC actions during one month.

Emergency Health

Objective: 5,000 families in the municipalities of Asunción, Ita, Capiata, San Lorenzo, Nemby, Nueva Italia, Concepción and Horqueta have received information on vector control and cleaning of mosquito breeding groups.

Activities planned:

- Coordination with government authorities (MSPBS, SENEPA and local municipalities' offices) and non-governmental institutions.
- Development of the beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Deployment of a RIT member specialized in health.
- Identification of community groups or brigades in the targeted communities.
- Procurement of cleaning kits, supplies and thermo-foggers.
- Provision of personal protection equipment to volunteers.
- Carrying out of cleaning activities in communities.
- Carrying out of awareness-raising visits and delivery of educational materials in the targeted communities.
- Monitoring and evaluation of activities and reporting on the visits to communities.
- Development of an exit strategy.

A total of 45 cleaning kits will be provided, one per targeted community. The cleaning kits will contain the following items:

Items	Quantity
Garbage bags of 100 lts.	100 units
Shovel with iron point	1 unit
Wide iron shovel	1 unit
Rake	1 unit
Brushsaw (or weed cutter)	1 unit
Wheelbarrow	1 unit
Fumigation backpack of 20 lts.	1 unit
Rubber boots	2 pairs
Gloves	6 pairs
Mouth cover	50 units

In addition, eight thermo-foggers (termo nebulizadores in Spanish) and their respective inputs will be procured to be used in the cleaning activities. The thermo-foggers will be under the supervision of each PRC sub branch operating in the eight targeted municipalities.

Hygiene promotion

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

Activities planned:

- Obtain manuals with information on dengue prevention and common symptoms of the infection.
- Develop an emergency health training workshop focused on outbreak control for PRC volunteers.
- Develop a awareness-raising campaign (press and radio).

- Ensure coordination with the media, especially radio stations, for the dissemination of key dengue prevention messages.

The cleaning activities in the communities will be complemented with educational materials. Volunteers will provide brochures (5,000) to targeted families with key information about dengue.

The objective of the mass media campaign is to raise awareness among the general population of the importance of maintaining areas to stop the proliferation of breeding grounds. The campaign will consist of key messages on preventive and control measures against the vector. The PRC will seek the collaboration of radio stations, especially community radio stations located in the most affected areas.

How we work	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Paraguay: Luis Díaz de Bedoya, President of the Paraguayan Red Cross, phone: 59521-222-797; fax: 59521-208-199; email: crppcia@uninet.com.py • In Buenos Aires: Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org • In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org • In Panama: Ghotai Ghazialam, disaster management delegate from PADRU, phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: gothai.ghazialam@ifrc.org • In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas, phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org • In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41) 22 730 4381; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org 	

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

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

PARAGUAY DENGUE 2009

MDRPY006

BUDGET CHF**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	5,000
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	66,980
Total Relief Needs	71,980

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	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,500
Service fee & Recovery	

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,500
National Staff	
National Society Staff	40,500
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	6,500
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	1,200
Information & Public Relations	9,000
Office running costs	1,500
Communication Costs	360
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	1,200
Other General Expenses	1,081

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

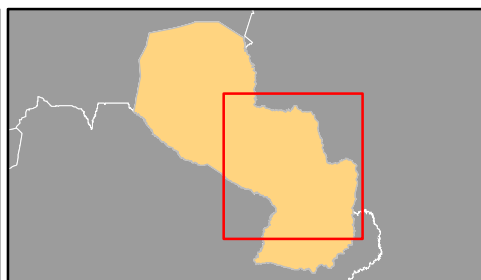
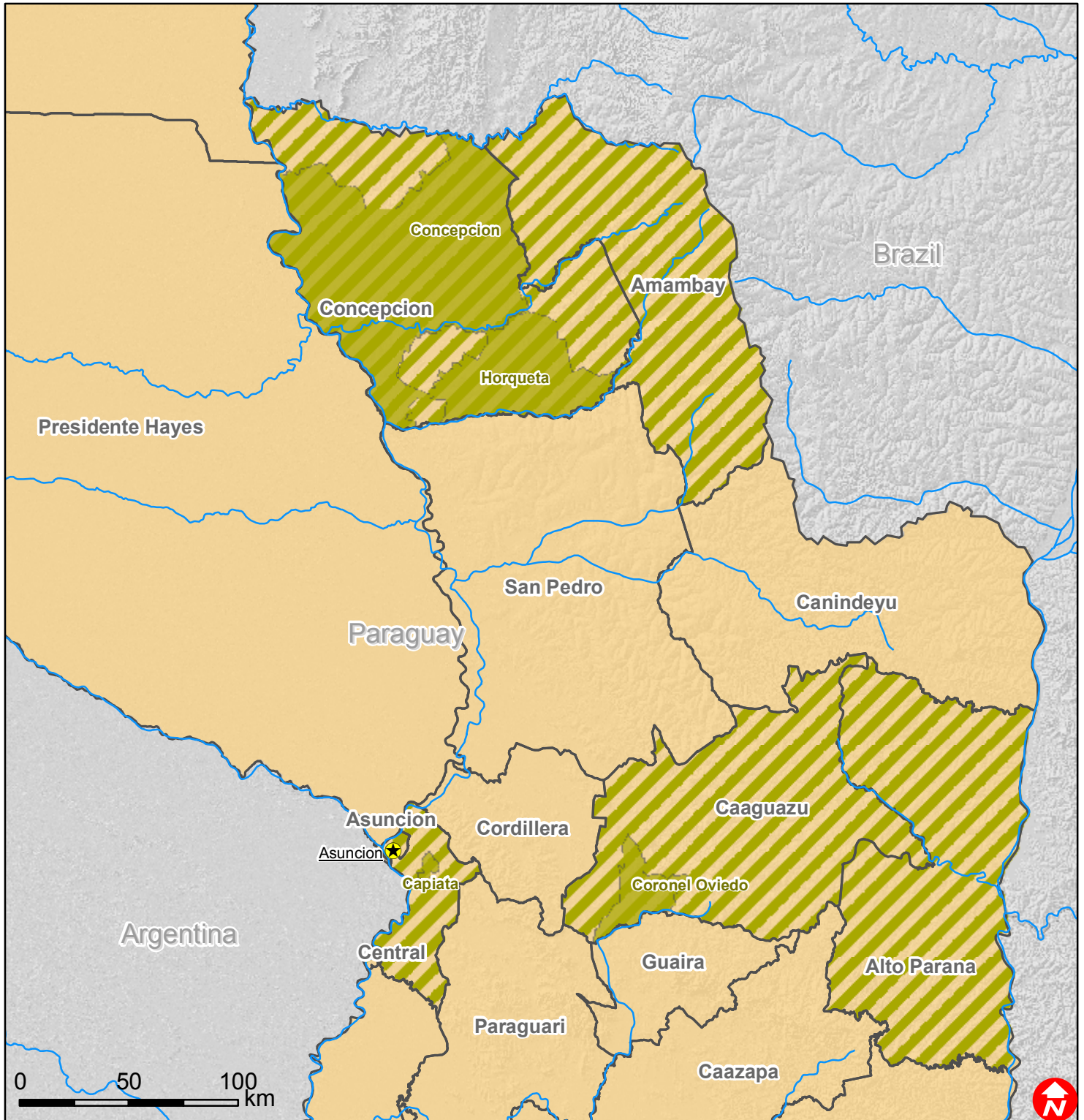
Programme Support - PSR	9,824
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Total Operational Needs **79,165**

DREF ALLOCATION **151,145**



Paraguay: Dengue



- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Departments
- Red Cross targeted municipalities
- Affected Departments