

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Dengue

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This bulletin is being issued for information only. It reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have determined that external assistance from donors is not required.

Summary: Following a dramatic increase in dengue¹ cases during the first half of 2010, Philippine Red Cross intensified community-based interventions. Activities have focused on awareness/risk communication campaigns, clean-up drives, and supporting local health authorities in monitoring the number of cases, and on blood donor recruitment, and provision of blood/blood components, particularly to underprivileged patients. The number of cases peaked in August 2010 [30,010 reported compared to 9,532 in August 2009]. However, a significant reduction was recorded in September [14,552 compared to 6,698 in September 2009].



Volunteers from the Cebu chapter of Philippine Red Cross conduct a cleanup campaign.
Photo: Cebu Chapter/Philippine Red Cross

¹ Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection – transmitted by a day-biting mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* – which causes a severe flu-like illness, and at times a potentially fatal complication called dengue haemorrhagic fever. Some of its symptoms are high fever, rash, severe headache and pain in muscles or joints. In Asia, *Aedes aegypti* breeds mainly in stagnant water found in containers such as earthenware jars, flower vases, cans, discarded food containers, used tyres and other items that collect rainwater.

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The situation

Some 124,000 people in the Philippines contracted dengue between January and November 2010. According to the department of health, 123,939 cases were reported as of 13 November 2010, compared to 51,546 during the same period last year – an increase of 140.44 per cent. The number of deaths, as of 13 November 2010, was 737, compared to 498 during the same period in 2009; translating to a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.59 per cent.

Table 1: Dengue cases and deaths by region, as of Week 45, 2010
(Source: Public National Epidemiology Centre, Department of Health)

Region	CASES			DEATHS			
	2010	2009	% change	2010	CFR (%)	2009	CFR (%)
National Capital Region (NCR)	16055	11303	42.04	71	0.44	115	1.02
Ilocos Region (Region I)	4871	2635	84.86	36	0.74	25	0.95
Cagayan Valley (Region II)	2073	2107	-1.61	20	0.96	37	1.76
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	4791	1765	171.44	9	0.19	6	0.34
Central Luzon (Region III)	5423	2573	110.77	38	0.70	34	1.32
CALABARZON (Region IV-A)	18155	6660	172.60	70	0.39	41	0.62
MIMAROPA (Region IV-B)	2131	170	1153.53	20	0.94	2	1.18
Bicol Region (Region V)	2406	1082	122.37	11	0.46	3	0.28
Western Visayas (Region VI)	21705	4883	344.50	106	0.49	76	1.56
Central Visayas (Region VII)	9665	6264	54.29	68	0.70	76	1.21
Eastern Visayas (Region VIII)	8146	819	894.63	79	0.97	8	0.98
Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX)	2804	1402	100.00	38	1.36	6	0.43
Northern Mindanao (Region X)	6227	1897	228.26	55	0.88	20	1.05
Davao Region (Region XI)	6921	3412	102.84	48	0.69	23	0.67
SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII)	8982	3060	193.53	47	0.52	10	0.33
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	1117	371	201.08	12	1.07	6	1.62
CARAGA (Region XIII)	2467	1143	115.84	9	0.36	10	0.87
TOTAL	123939	51546	140.44	737	0.59	498	0.97

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In August and September, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) intensified its response as health authorities reported the continued surge of dengue cases. Chapters in affected provinces increased their community health education campaigns while community health volunteers mobilized people – at home and in schools – to undertake clean-up campaigns with a view of destroying mosquito-breeding sites. Additionally, PRC volunteers have supported regional, provincial and local (city or municipal) health authorities in undertaking surveillance and monitoring of cases. The National Society also provided blood and blood components to patients in need and delivered health tips to members of affected communities. The tips included elements such as encouraging intake of fluid, warning on dengue symptoms, advice against giving aspirin to patients, promoting use of mosquito repellents and nets, and promoting early consultation.

Overall, PRC activities have complemented efforts of the department of health, such as disseminating information on dengue in line with the four-S strategy:

- (i) Search and destroy
- (ii) Self-protection measures
- (iii) Seek early consultation
- (iv) Say no to indiscriminate fogging

It is worth noting that while the number of cases peaked in August 2010 [with 30,010 reported compared to 9,532 in August 2009], a significant reduction was recorded in September 2010 [with 14,552 compared to 6,698 in September 2009]. PRC continued community health education efforts to contribute towards ensuring a sustained decline in the number of cases—which took place in November—where there were 1,299 recorded cases compared to 4,191 cases same period last year.

Massive information dissemination

Information dissemination and risk communication activities reached some 60,150 students in Capiz, Cebu, La Union, Laguna, Leyte, Palawan, Quezon, Sultan Kudarat and Western Samar provinces as of end-October 2010. In addition, some 552,000 residents were reached in the cities of Bacolod, Davao, Manila, Pasay and Zamboanga; and the provinces of Bukidnon, Bulacan, Capiz, Cebu, Davao del Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Laguna, Palawan, Sultan Kudarat and Zamboanga del Norte.

Meanwhile, in October, Typhoon Megi battered the Philippines affecting mainly Cagayan, Isabela and Kalinga provinces. These areas are malaria-endemic - giving way for intensified malaria prevention information dissemination alongside dengue prevention and control campaigns, reaching some 21,000 persons by end-September.



Volunteers reach out to households in different barangays of the country as part of intensified campaign on dengue prevention. Photo: Marissa Santos/Philippine Red Cross

The campaign was complemented with the distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials. A total of 1,837 posters, 1,245 toolkits and 3,491 leaflets containing messages on dengue prevention were distributed through the local chapters in the cities of Bacolod, Davao, Pasay and Zamboanga, as well as the provinces of Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cebu, La Union, Laguna, and Zamboanga del Norte.

Table 1. Number of residents and students reached with dengue prevention campaign (as of November 2010)

Province/city	No. of students reached	No. of residents reached	No. of IEC materials distributed		
			Posters	Toolkit ¹	Leaflets
Bacolod City	n/a	325	9	110	n/a
Bukidnon	n/a	1,310	n/a	n/a	476
Bulacan	n/a	2,678	1,100	35	n/a
Capiz	1,960	5,785	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cebu City	1,215	396,840	24	n/a	n/a
Davao City	n/a	9,980	108	n/a	n/a
Davao del Sur	n/a	19,800	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ilocos Norte	n/a	1,174	n/a	n/a	n/a
La Union	259	1,471	25	319	n/a
Laguna	55,344	42,210	258	n/a	3,015
Leyte	800	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manila	n/a	2,060	n/a	n/a	n/a
Palawan	465	124	n/a	n/a	n/a

Pangasinan	n/a	6,031	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pasay City	n/a	48,557	82	n/a	n/a
Quezon	82	219	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sultan Kudarat	n/a	3,525	n/a	n/a	n/a
Western Samar	33	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Zamboanga City	n/a	9,195	131	781	n/a
Zamboanga del Norte	n/a	747	100	n/a	n/a
Total	60,158	552,031	1,837	1,245	3,491

¹Toolkit is a small book containing messages on what dengue is, what the symptoms are and how it can be prevented.

Clean-up drives

Clean-up drives were conducted in Bulacan, Cebu, Davao City, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Laguna, Manila, Pasay, Zamboanga City and Zamboanga del Norte reaching some 437,750 people in total.

Table 2. Number of residents reached with clean up drive and IEC materials distributed

Province	No. of residents reached in clean-up drive
Bulacan	2,678
Cebu	385,000
Ilocos Norte	255
La Union	1,471
Manila	200
Pasay	47,050
Zamboanga City	542
Zamboanga del Norte	556
Total	437,752

Blood services

The PRC national blood centre served blood/blood components that are not limited to: platelet concentrate, fresh frozen plasma, packed red blood cells, fresh whole blood and cryoprecipitate in the areas of Luzon including Bataan, Bulacan, Manila, Pampanga and Pangasinan.

Also, the Eastern Visayas regional blood centre served 84 dengue patients in Bohol, Leyte, Ormoc and Samar and the Western Visayas regional blood centre served 1,184 patients in Aklan, Antique and Guimaras. In addition, the Mindanao regional blood centre served 204 patients in Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, General Santos, Gingoog and Surigao del Norte.

Table 3. Blood and blood component distribution by key PRC blood centres

Blood centre	Platelet concentrate	Fresh frozen plasma	Red blood cells	Fresh whole blood
PRC national blood centre	933	1,006	30	31
Eastern Visayas regional blood centre	233	46	672	416
Western Visayas regional blood centre	1,116	20	34	14
Mindanao regional blood centre	1,153	75	n/a	n/a
Total	3,435	1,147	736	461

In addition, the PRC national blood centre also provided 58 units of cryoprecipitate in Luzon while the Mindanao regional blood centre provided nine units of platelet apheresis.

Support to the department of health (DOH) in monitoring and assessment

The PRC local chapters continued to coordinate with their provincial health offices in dengue surveillance. Also, Las Piñas, Manila, Pasay and Valenzuela chapters that are within the national capital region participate in coordination with DOH to monitor and assess the reported cases. The said coordination gave way to partnership in information dissemination.

IFRC Philippine country office

IFRC continued to support PRC in its conducting clean-up drive activities, information dissemination on dengue, production of additional IEC materials such as posters, toolkits and leaflets, and hygiene promotion as it is part of the ongoing typhoon operation.

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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