

# DREF Bulletin



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## CAMBODIA: DENGUE FEVER

*DREF Bulletin*

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Period covered by this update: 17 July 2007 to 29 August 2007.**

#### **Appeal history:**

- **Information Bulletin issued on the 10 July 2007.**
- **CHF 140,900 (USD 118,000 or EUR 86,000) allocated from the Federations DREF on 17 July 2007 to respond to the needs of the tens of thousands at risk of dengue fever in Cambodia.**
- **This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by October 2007, a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by January 2008).**
- **Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### The Situation

Cambodia's dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever outbreak this year has been the worst since 1983 when there were a reported 475 deaths. This was followed by high levels of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever in 1998 and 2006.

This year's dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever cases are more than double compared to previous years, with the latest official reports<sup>1</sup> having reached 34,542 cases, and resulting in 365 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.1 percent). According to the table below, the incidents have dramatically dropped since July. However, the country is still at risk of outbreak relapse as some provinces are still at high risk, and reporting an increase in the number of cases. Secondly, the rainy season has not ended.



*Just a few of the many hundreds of children that required hospital treatment.*

<sup>1</sup> National Centre for Dengue Prevention

Cambodian Red Cross remains committed to the following actions:

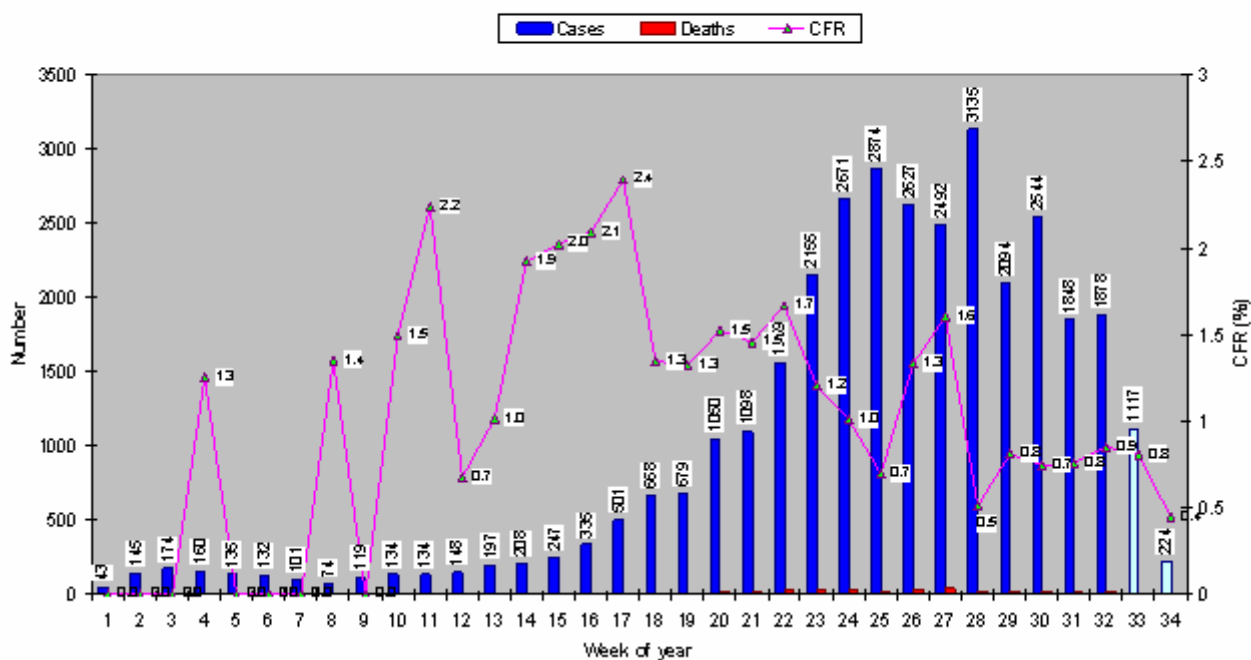
- Collaboration with government relevant agencies and partners at both national and provincial levels.
- Campaign activities in the most effected provinces using the network of Red Cross volunteers and youths.
- Distribution of Abate<sup>2</sup>, together with the provincial departments of health in four of the most severely affected provinces.
- Integrating dengue fever awareness into all Red Cross activities from national headquarters to branch and community levels.
- Disseminating information on dengue fever prevention via the mass media; TV and newspapers.



CRC volunteers participating in a cleanup campaign.

Figure from the National Centre for Dengue Prevention

Weekly Reported Cases, Deaths & Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of Dengue, Cambodia 2007 (21 August)



**Provinces which are still on alert of an outbreak relapse**  
(cumulative cases up to 21 August)

<b>Kandal</b>	4,417 cases	30 dead	<b>Kampong Speu</b>	2,362	35 dead
<b>Kampong Cham</b>	5,030 cases	65 dead	<b>Prey Veng</b>	2,109	40 dead
<b>Phnom Penh</b>	3,273 cases	16 dead	<b>Siem Reap</b>	4,873	39 dead
<b>Banteav Meanchey</b>	2,209 cases	15 dead	<b>Takeo</b>	3,402	38 dead

<sup>2</sup> Organophosphorous temephos insecticide

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the dengue epidemic, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), launched a nationwide alert and appealed to local businesses and the general public to support CRCs efforts to assist in the national drive to combat dengue fever. There was a generous response and, as a result, the national society headquarters was able to donate 61,20 bottles of serum to several hospitals. It has also supported 1,615 families with children affected by dengue by providing food/non- food kits consisting of canned milk, instant noodles, canned soya milk, mosquito nets, blankets, clothes and some cash assistance.



*CRC also sent donations to hospitals in Takeo province.*

Red Cross branches in several provinces also raised funds locally which enabled them to provide support to children affected by dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever and the hospitals caring for them. Hospitals supported by the CRC include those from Phnom Penh municipality, National Paediatric Hospital, Preah Sihanouk Hospital, Kampong Speu, Kandal, and district level hospitals.

In addition, 19 out of 24 Red Cross branches locally-raised funds to mobilize, along with the provincial departments of health, Red Cross volunteers (RCV) and villagers to conduct clean-up campaigns which included the RCV disseminating important information about dengue fever and its effects.



*Red Cross volunteers collaborated with the MoH village health volunteers to distribute Abate to households with water jars in rural villages.*

The national society has also been working with the mass media to raise people's awareness. The Phnom Penh municipality Red Cross branch liaised with local television to broadcast important messages on dengue prevention, reaching an audience estimated in the tens of thousands.

On 13 July, the Cambodian Red Cross successfully applied for DREF funding and received CHF 140,900. This funding will contribute towards the ministry of health's national efforts to respond to this health emergency.

This funding has also enabled the Cambodian Red Cross, with assistance from the Federation country delegation and regional logistics unit, to procure 35 tonnes of Abate which arrived in the country in mid- August. The CRC is now planning, in coordination with the ministry of health, to

increase the distribution of Abate in four of the above mentioned provinces covering 107 communities and reaching an estimated 90,500 households.

Health education activities carried out by Cambodian Red Cross volunteers will accompany this activity, utilizing posters and leaflets purchase through the DREF funds. The CRC will also conduct, in early September, together with the provincial departments of health, further clean up campaigns throughout 13 of the worse effected provinces.

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## 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 Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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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