

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Maldives: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRMV001  
GLIDE n° EP-2011-000078-MDV

Update n° 1  
2 August 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

**Period covered by this update:** 2 July to 31 July 2011

**Summary:** CHF 42,600 (USD 50,318 or EUR 34,686) was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 1 July 2011 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 190 island community beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.



Partnering with the Ministry of Health, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) took over the

Dengue awareness session in G.Dh Thinadhoo AEC School.  
**Photo:** Haifa Imad/IFRC.

responsibility of prevention and advocacy activities. MRC has distributed information about dengue prevention, which has already reached 159 island communities out of 190 in the country. MRC has also initiated and is continuing school awareness sessions (in all schools in Maldives) as well as clean up programmes in specific communities. Although MRC is a fairly new national society, widespread community acceptance has been found in all communities as MRC has received positive support from all atoll and island councils in carrying out different tasks. Implementation of the operation began on 1 July, and will be completed by 30 September 2011.

In line with IFRC reporting standards, a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 December 2011).

The Canadian Red Cross contributed CHF 15,000 to this operation to replenish DREF. IFRC, on behalf of the Maldivian Red Crescent, would like to thank all donors and partners for their generous support of DREF. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>  
<click here to view contact details>

## The situation

A total of 1,309 cases of dengue have been reported to the Centre for Community Health and Disease Control (CCHDC) in 2011. The reports identify that there have been 692 cases in Male', 198 in Hulhumale' and 419 cases of dengue in the remaining atolls. A total of 28.1 per cent of these reported cases are of children under the age of five. From the total of ten deaths, seven deaths occurred during the month of June 2011 (four children died over the period 29-30 June) and one on 19 July, of which two are adults (one local and one expatriate) and the rest were children from islands outside Male'. Outbreaks of dengue in the Maldives traditionally occur during the rainy season (which peaks in the July/August period). Cases of dengue have been reported from 44 islands and some resorts. CCHDC identified nine communities as being severely affected and seven moderately affected communities since June 2011.



A Maldivian Red Crescent volunteer giving out public awareness messages regarding dengue prevention. **Photo:** Maldivian Red Crescent.

The government launched an eradication (fogging) campaign in June to early July, with a particular emphasis on construction sites. The Ministry of Health has requested support from MRC to carry out prevention and advocacy activities throughout the country within the 190 island communities. The main mechanisms are through the production and distribution of information materials, school sessions, as well as assisting in general public awareness relating to mosquito breeding grounds and protection of children.

To date, all printed information, education and communication (IEC) materials have been dispatched to all 190 communities (totaling 9,048 posters and 41,313 leaflets), out of which 84 per cent (159 island communities) have reported the receipt of these materials as of 31 July. At the same time, school sessions are also being carried out in all 348 schools across the country (both government and private schools), targeting students from grades 4 to 12 anticipating indirect benefits in knowledge for their families members.

MRC is also carrying out island cleanup programmes in selected communities which 16 islands where MRC units are based, nine severely affected communities, seven moderately affected communities (identified by CCHDC, Ministry of Health) and three other communities which have begun to report dengue cases.

With most adult cases of dengue being reported within the expatriate working population of the Maldives, MRC conducted activities targeting people from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Special leaflets were made in these languages with the assistance of sister National Societies, the IFRC South Asia regional delegation, Asia Pacific zone office, and high commissions and embassies present in the country. Volunteers of these nationalities were mobilized and trained in giving public awareness messages which took place on 7 July in the capital Male'. Similar activities are to continue within industrial islands (used for agriculture and fisheries, amongst others) resorts, and other bigger islands.

# Red Cross and Red Crescent action

## Progress towards outcomes

### Community Mobilization

**Outcome:** The incidence of dengue is reduced in the ten worst affected island communities and outbreaks are prevented in all others

**Outputs and activities planned:**

- Mobilisation of existing branches to work closely with Island Councils to ensure coordination of interventions.
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Health in the carrying out school awareness session.
- Production and distribution of IEC materials highlighting dengue prevention.
- Mobilizing volunteers to communicate messages regarding dengue and its prevention.
- Conduct of clean up campaigns to destroy mosquito breeding sites.
- Continuous monitoring and review by relevant headquarters/branch staff and volunteers.

### Progress:

Island cleanup programmes in selected communities has been carried out in 16 MRC units, nine severely affected communities, seven moderately affected communities (identified by CCHDC, Ministry of Health) and three other communities which have begun to report dengue cases. These communities did the clean up along with four MRC units.

To date, all IEC materials have been dispatched to the 190 island communities (totaling 9,048 posters and 41,313 leaflets), out of which 84 per cent (159 island communities) have reported the receipt of these materials.

A total of 348 schools will be targeted for dengue awareness activities across the Maldives and to date 43 per cent have been completed. Twenty out of 21 schools in Male' have been completed (student population of 94 per cent which is 1,440 students). As for schools in other atolls, 148 schools have confirmed that they have completed the session and follow-ups are being made with the other schools. The presentations was sent to all schools on CD, via email and is also made available on MRC face book group (Maldivian Red Crescent) as well as on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gk110m74d0Q>

More than 556 volunteers (70 in Male' alone and 486 from other six communities) have been mobilized during the operation, from packing IEC materials to dispatching. A pool of 17 volunteers was trained to conduct the school awareness sessions, amongst which five volunteers committed to facilitate the sessions.

The first monitoring visits took place from 10-17 July. The communities visited the following atolls:

- Haa Alif (Hoarafushi and Utheem)
- Haa Dhaa (Kulhudhufushi and Nolvivaram)
- Gaaf Dhaal (Thinadhoo and Gadhdhoo)
- Laamu (Gan)

What was mainly identified within the visits is that the atoll and island councils had already started taking initiatives in cleaning the island by locating possible breeding sites (which mainly include abandoned water wells and properties). The government has also initiated fogging in the islands (through the Maldives Defence Force). From the visits it was also identified that the unsolved problem of every day waste management has caused difficulties. This, together with the ongoing rainy season, may create more problems with possible new breeding sites.

During the process of the operation, MRC has gained a tremendous amount in both visibility and acceptance from all communities, with weekly press releases (four updates to date) and free airtime on local television (three 30-minute shows each on VTV and Raajje TV).

These are clear signs that MRC is being positively received from the media on publishing MRC activities.

### Challenges:

- Although all materials left headquarters within the first week of the operation, MRC faced a lot of difficulties in ensuring that the materials were received by the different communities. Mainly because of the geographical structure of the country, transportation is not only costly but timely as well. However, MRC received immense assistance from different parties such as the Transport Ministry, Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) and other private parties.

- Due to set and sometimes inflexible curriculum in schools, there have been difficulties faced in allocating time for MRC volunteers to take on school awareness activities related to dengue. The Ministry of Education has sent out messages to all schools both government and public that these sessions should take place in all schools.
- As MRC is not present in each and every atoll, getting information from those islands with no MRC presence has been a challenge.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

## Contact information

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Please send all funding pledges to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org).

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# Maldives: Epidemic

