DREF operation update

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mexico: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRMX004
GLIDE n°EP-2009-000249-MEX
Update n° 1
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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.

Period covered by this update: 26 November to 24 December 2009.

Summary: CHF 86,724 (USD 85,811 or EUR 57,394) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 November 2009 to support the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 6,000 families.

Mexican Red Cross volunteers carry out activities under the slogan "Fight against dengue" in the State of Jalisco. Source: Mexican Red Cross.

The Mexican Red Cross has trained 182 volunteers in dengue awareness activities to carry out actions within the most vulnerable groups in 33 communities in the states of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Jalisco and Guerrero. In addition, 6,000 families have received long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets targeting the elderly and families with children under 5 years old. In addition, the Mexican Red Cross has implemented an awareness-raising campaign to disseminate dengue prevention messages to the population in the six aforementioned states.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 25 February 2009; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 25 May 2009).

The major donors of 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.

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The situation

In October 2009 torrential rains caused flooding in the states of Tabasco, Veracruz, Jalisco, Nayarit, Guerrero and Quintana Roo, which resulted in an increased number of Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes triggering dengue outbreaks.

During 2009, the Mexican Epidemiological Surveillance Single Information System (Sistema Único para la Vigilancia Epidemiológica – SINAVE, Mexico) reported that 41,687 dengue cases were confirmed, which represents a 30 per cent increase from last year. A total of 7,898 of these cases have been confirmed to be dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The Mexican health authorities are focusing particularly on the States of Veracruz and Tabasco which were affected by intense rains caused by the effects of Hurricane Ida that flooded thousands of hectares of crops and left thousands of people homeless. Both States have been affected by a high concentration of mosquitoes which have caused the increase of dengue cases spread by the day-biting mosquito Aedes Aegypti which breeds in stagnant water. Authorities started fumigation activities in Tabasco and Veracruz, located in the eastern region of the country.

The Mexican government through the Ministry of Health has been providing support to the affected communities. On 18 November, health authorities informed that medical workers started to carry out fumigation activities in two of the affected States. A total of 120 medical workers were initially deployed to fumigate mosquito breeding grounds, and approximately 14,000 medical consultations were carried out by the Health Secretariat in the state of Tabasco. Some 17 communities in Cardenas and Huimanguillo in the State of Tabasco have been cleaned and approximately 70,000 people have been protected by vector control activities carried out by the Health Secretariat. Mexico's Interior Ministry declared a state of emergency in certain municipalities in these two States.

Coordination and partnerships

The Mexican Red Cross has been working closely with the Mexican authorities, especially with the Health Secretariat. Local health authorities in the states of Veracruz and Tabasco have started cleaning and fumigation activities to control the vector. The Mexican Red Cross developed a plan of action that includes response activities against dengue (cleaning, prevention and awareness-raising) that have been coordinated with governmental institutions (municipalities and health authorities) and non-governmental organizations.

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Mexican Red Cross has been coordinating with the International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) for technical support in the emergency response. The National Society has also been in contact with the Federation's Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico.

Mexican Red Cross volunteers carry out prevention activities in the State of Guerrero under the slogan "Fight against dengue". Source: Mexican Red Cross.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Relief Directorate of the Mexican Red Cross has been responding to the emergency through the local branches in the affected areas since the beginning of the emergency. The National Society dispatched a total of 2,000 mosquito nets from its own prepositioned stocks (not included in the DREF funding allocation) to Tabasco, which were distributed in the municipalities of Cardenas and Huimanguillo. These municipalities were the most affected by the floods due to the intense rains.

The Mexican Red Cross has also initiated an awareness-raising campaign in the 6 most affected States with trained volunteers conducting the dengue prevention activities. The activities included the distribution of impregnated mosquito nets, posters and information material in schools, educational centres, homes for the elderly, public places and hospitals (especially those located in hard to-reach areas). The MRC volunteers have been carrying out community talks disseminating messages on dengue prevention measures, safe water handling and cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds. This campaign is conducted by carrying out

training workshops within the national network of Fight Against Dengue promoters (Promotores de Lucha contra el Dengue) and by distributing information materials, manuals and visibility material. These activities have been accomplished through the coordination with the Health Secretariat and with funds from the DREF.

Progress towards objectives

To date, the MRC has trained 182 of the planned 275 volunteers. The National Society aims to reach approximately 120,000 people in 33 of the most vulnerable communities and educational centres in the States of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Jalisco and Guerrero. On 6 December 2009, 12,000 impregnated mosquito nets were dispatched from PADRU to Mexico and the National Society received them on 16 December. The MRC has distributed these in the six affected States. In addition, the MRC has sent 70,000 posters, 6,000 manuals and 300 t-shirts to the 6 States in order to be distributed in schools, educational centres and health facilities.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: 6,000 families will benefit from mosquito nets to reduce dengue transmission.
Activities planned: **Activities planned:** • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Identification of beneficiary families. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute mosquito nets and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate the distributions and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

Progress:

On 6 December, PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) dispatched 12,000 impregnated mosquito nets by sea, arriving in Mexico on 16 December 2009. The MRC has dispatched 2,000 mosquito nets to each local branch of the six affected States of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Jalisco and Guerrero (12,000 total). The distribution of impregnated mosquito nets is ongoing, and details will be provided in the next report.

Hygiene promotion
Objective: Increased awareness and prevention of dengue through the description of symptoms to the most vulnerable through an awareness-raising campaign and distribution of informational material.
Activities planned: • Coordination with governmental and non-governmental authorities (Health Secretariat). • Designing of visibility material for community distribution (posters and manuals). • Identification of community activities and carrying out of volunteer activities with the communities • Identification of volunteers to participate in training workshops "Únete a la lucha contra el Dengue" (Join the fight against dengue) campaign. • 350 volunteers will be assigned to the dengue awareness campaign. • Identification and selection of beneficiaries. • Carry out sensitizing community talks, distribution of informative material in the communities, hygiene promotion campaigns, safe water handling, vector control and cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds. • Distribution of 10,000 posters in each state (60,000 posters). • Monitoring and evaluation of activities.

Progress:
To date, 182 volunteers from the MRC (youth groups, relief workers, medics and nurses) have been trained through the "Fight against Dengue" campaign. Other trainings are scheduled to reach the target number of volunteers supporting the operation (275). These training sessions focus on dengue: transmission of the vector, prevention and elimination of mosquito breeding grounds. The MRC aims to reach approximately 120,000 people through this campaign in 33 communities in the states of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit and Guerrero. Up to now, the National Society has reached 2,500 people in 6 communities. Additional information on the trainings and dengue awareness campaign will be provided in the next report.

The MRC distributed to each of the 6 MRC state branches campaign information material including 70,000 posters, 6,000 manuals and 300 t-shirts. This material will be disseminated by each MRC state branches to the local branches working in the campaign.

Challenges:
It is a challenge to involve all MRC branches in the fight against dengue. Constant communication and trainings are necessary to engage all local branches in this campaign. The campaign has to be well implemented to have a greater impact in the affected communities. Nevertheless, the MRC is making sure that the local branches are well informed as to how to disseminate key messages and carry out the dengue awareness campaign.

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

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