DREF operation final report

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mexico: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRMX004
GLIDE n° EP-2009-000249-MEX
25 March 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 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.

Summary: 86,724 Swiss francs (85,811 US dollars or 57,394 Euros) were 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.

The Mexican Red Cross trained 400 volunteers in dengue awareness activities to carry out actions within the most vulnerable groups in 36 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 reaching approximately 120,000 people in the six aforementioned states.

A Mexican Red Cross volunteer distributes long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets to a pregnant lady in the community. Photo source: Mexican Red Cross

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

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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) 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 were confirmed to be dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The Mexican health authorities focused their response efforts 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 were affected by a high concentration of mosquitoes resulting in the increase of dengue cases spread by the mosquito Aedes Aegypti which bites during the day and breeds in stagnant water.

During the dengue outbreak the Mexican government, through the Ministry of Health, provided support to the affected communities. Authorities conducted fumigation activities in Tabasco and Veracruz, located in the eastern region of the country. A total of 120 medical workers were 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 were reached and approximately 70,000 people were protected by vector control activities carried out by the Health Secretariat.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Mexican Red Cross worked closely with the Mexican authorities, especially with the Health Secretariat. As mentioned above, local health authorities in the States of Veracruz and Tabasco implemented cleaning and fumigation activities for vector control. The Mexican Red Cross developed a plan of action that included response activities against dengue: cleaning, prevention and awareness-raising which were coordinated with governmental institutions (municipalities and health authorities) and non-governmental organizations.

"Fight against Dengue" campaign. Photo source: Mexican Red Cross

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Mexican Red Cross was in contact with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cross Societies' (IFRC) Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) for technical support in the emergency response.

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

Approximately 120,000 people were reached through the *Fight against Dengue* (Lucha contra el Dengue) campaign in 36 communities in the States of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Jalisco and Guerrero. Most of the prevention activities were trainings conducted in schools and public squares. This campaign was 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.

Achievements against objectives

The MRC trained 400 volunteers who participated in the "Fight against Dengue" campaign. Through this DREF allocation the National Society was able to reach approximately 120,000 people in 36 of the most vulnerable communities and educational centres in the states of Tabasco, Veracruz, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Jalisco and Guerrero. In addition, 12,000 impregnated mosquito nets were distributed in the six affected States. The MRC also distributed 70,000 posters, 6,000 manuals and 300 t-shirts in schools, educational centres and health facilities of the six affected States.

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

On 6 December, IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit dispatched the long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets by sea, arriving in Mexico ten days afterwards. The MRC 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). All the mosquito nets were distributed mainly in orphanages, children's homes and residential homes for the elderly and people living with disabilities.

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: Ÿ Coordination with governmental and non-governmental authorities (Health Secretariat). Ÿ Designing of visibility material for community distribution (posters and manuals). Ÿ Identification of community activities and carrying out of volunteer activities with the communities. Ÿ Identification of volunteers to participate in training workshops "Únete a la lucha contra el Dengue" (Join the fight against dengue campaign). Ÿ 350 volunteers will be assigned to the dengue awareness campaign. Ÿ Identification and selection of beneficiaries. Ÿ 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. Ÿ Distribution of 10,000 posters in each state (60,000 posters). Ÿ Monitoring and evaluation of activities.

Having trained an initial number of 182 volunteers, as a result of several trainings in each of the local branches, a total number of 400 volunteers were trained in total for the *Fight against Dengue* campaign. Participants were members of youth groups, relief workers, doctors and nurses (all of them volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross). The training sessions focused on dengue in relation to the following topics: transmission of the vector, prevention and elimination of mosquito breeding grounds.

***Fight against Dengue* campaign. Beneficiaries received mosquito nets, posters and brochures, and were instructed on dengue prevention measures by the MRC volunteers. Photo source: Mexican Red Cross**

The MRC distributed to each of the six MRC State branches campaign information material including 70,000 posters, 6,000 manuals and 300 t-shirts.

An awareness-raising campaign was implemented in the six targeted States with the 400 trained volunteers conducting the dengue prevention activities. The activities included the distribution of long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets, posters and information material in schools, educational centres, homes for the elderly and children, public places and hospitals (especially those located in isolated areas). The MRC volunteers carried out complementary community talks disseminating messages on dengue prevention measures, safe water handling and cleaning of mosquito breeding grounds.

It was a challenge to involve all MRC branches in the *Fight against Dengue* campaign, especially to train such a large number of volunteers and reach a large number of people in a short period of time; however, participation in activities helped very much to achieve the proposed objectives. One of the main achievements was to train middle and high school students to ensure their school yards were clean and water is stored properly. After the workshop the students themselves took the initiative of cleaning their own school grounds and the surrounding parks. Thereafter, each school group worked in the neighbourhood, doing house to house visits and explaining to people how to avoid the spread of mosquitoes.

Another aspect that had a very positive impact was to involve the local councils which assisted organizing the passage of garbage trucks, specifically dedicated to picking up old objects, tires, furniture and goods that the service does not usually collect, thus helping to eliminate waste material and discarded containers that can accumulate water, becoming breeding sites for the Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.

The Mexican Red Cross considers it very important to emphasize community-participation in the fight against dengue, to continue training volunteers in order to increase the number of skilled *Fight against Dengue* promoters and to introduce in the community awareness-raising activities new topics such as adaptation to climate change and its impact.

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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation'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 International Federation'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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMX004 - Mexico - Dengue Outbreak

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/3
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/2
Appeal	MDRMX004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	**86,724**					**86,724**
B. Opening Balance	**0**					**0**
Income						
Other Income						
Voluntary Income	*77,190*					*77,190*
C6. Other Income	***77,190***					***77,190***
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	**77,190**					**77,190**
D. Total Funding = B +C	**77,190**					**77,190**
Appeal Coverage	**89%**					**89%**

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					**0**
C. Income	77,190					**77,190**
E. Expenditure	-77,190					**-77,190**
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					**0**

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Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/3
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
	A						B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		**86,724**					**86,724**	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	54,960	54,579					**54,579**	**381**
Total Supplies	**54,960**	**54,579**					**54,579**	**381**
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	5,715	3,660					**3,660**	**2,055**
Transport & Vehicle Costs		528					**528**	**-528**
Total Transport & Storage	**5,715**	**4,188**					**4,188**	**1,526**
Personnel								
National Society Staff	2,102	215					**215**	**1,887**
Total Personnel	**2,102**	**215**					**215**	**1,887**
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	10,016	10,582					**10,582**	**-566**
Office Costs	520							**520**
Communications	312	59					**59**	**252**
Financial Charges	4,217	110					**110**	**4,107**
Total General Expenditure	**15,064**	**10,751**					**10,751**	**4,313**
Programme Support								
Program Support	5,637	5,005					**5,005**	**632**
Total Programme Support	**5,637**	**5,005**					**5,005**	**632**
Services								
Services & Recoveries	3,247	2,451					**2,451**	**796**
Total Services	**3,247**	**2,451**					**2,451**	**796**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	**86,724**	**77,190**					**77,190**	**9,535**
VARIANCE (C - D)		**9,535**					**9,535**	