

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Argentina: Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRAR005
Final Report
GLIDE n° EP-2009-000059-ARG
22 December 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: CHF 184,012 (USD 157,707 or EUR 121,732) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 April 2009 to support the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) in delivering direct assistance to some 120,000 beneficiaries, as well as reaching approximately 1,560,000 people with important health promotion key messages. It is estimated following implementation that more than 1,680,000 people were directly and indirectly reached by this operation. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Several South American countries have been experiencing a dengue outbreak since the beginning of 2009, and Argentina was no exception.

The Argentine Red Cross drew up a Plan of Action to respond to the dengue outbreak. The operation initially proposed to distribute 3,000 family and 40 community vector control kits. This objective was met and the potential impact of the community kits was increased, due to advice provided to the ARC by government authorities that resulted in the elimination of household insecticide from the family kits and the inclusion of a larvicide in the community kits. This change was made with the aim to maximize the overall effect of the community kits by killing mosquito larvae and eggs, and this was made possible thanks to a generous contribution from the BASF company.

The second objective of this Plan of Action was to deliver key messages on awareness and prevention, which was met and surpassed. Almost three times as many people were reached than originally planned, as the ARC staff and volunteers extended their work to reach more schools, communities and health centres than originally planned, as well as delivered radio spots to more radio stations than originally estimated in 13 provinces. For instance, in the province of Salta it was possible to work with 32 communities, rather than the 2 originally planned; in Chaco with a total of 4; in Tucumán with a total of 24 and in Corrientes with a total of 3. The number of schools originally planned for were two per branch (8 in total), but it was possible to work with a total of 54.

Thus, the Argentine Red Cross completed the objectives of providing 120,000 people in four of the most affected provinces with vector control materials, as well as reaching more than 1.6 million people in 13



Volunteers and staff of the Argentine Red Cross distributed vector control kits to families and communities in four of the most affected provinces. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

provinces with key messages on prevention through dissemination materials and tools, including radio spots.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bilateral Emergency Fund contributed CHF 90,470 and the Netherlands Red Cross and Netherlands government CHF 30,180 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. 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 for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The incidence of dengue has increased in South America, and could become endemic. Contributing factors to this situation are climate change, population growth, poverty and population density in the cities, as well as an increase in human mobility (migration amongst neighbouring countries).

Paraguay experienced a historic epidemic in 2007. In 2008, Brazil was shaken by numerous serious cases of the virus. Figures from the Pan American Health Organization report¹ that In Latin America altogether, 904,245 cases of classic dengue fever and 25,672 of dengue hemorrhagic fever were seen in 2008, with 303 of them resulting in deaths. Eighty per cent of these cases were reported by Brazil. So far this year, Bolivia is experiencing the worst epidemic in 20 years.

Specifically in Argentina in December 2008, the Argentine government defined its new integral national dengue prevention campaign, which was rolled out in February and March 2009. Dengue cases began to appear in the northern area of the country at the beginning of March 2009. This situation evolved and the national authorities issued an epidemiological alert, with constant monitoring. Every suspicious case was treated as a case of dengue. Coordination took place with provincial authorities and support was provided to them in terms of training, personnel and funding.

Needs addressed

This emergency took place in a large geographic area (northern and central Argentina), where different vulnerability factors are present, and where the dengue fever crisis contributed towards deepening social vulnerability. In line with the assessments carried out by the Argentine Red Cross in the field and the coordination with governmental organizations, this operation focused on addressing the issue of dengue fever through health promotion activities at the short and medium term.

The Plan of Action was implemented in four of the most affected provinces, all of which reported endemic cases of dengue at the onset of the crisis: Salta, Chaco, Tucumán and Corrientes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Argentine Red Cross, through its Community Health Programme and its National Disaster Programme, has been carrying out on-going and seasonal actions related mainly to dengue prevention and health promotion, especially in the north-west and north-east areas of the country. Since the onset of this epidemic, the following actions were carried out:

At the national level, a Technical Crisis Committee was established in the headquarters. This committee implemented the following actions:

- ü Monitoring of the situation in the affected areas.
- ü Coordination with key stakeholders in the National Health team.
- ü Support of actions and needs at the branch level.
- ü Design of intervention strategies.
- ü Design, production and printing of material to disseminate dengue prevention measures.
- ü Distribution of this material to the branches.

¹ Data extracted from PAHO, 2008: Number of Reported Cases of Dengue & Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF), Region of the Americas: Epidemiological Week / EW 53c.

The branches then carried out mass dissemination campaigns in public areas, with the following actions:

- ü Distribution of communications material with dengue prevention information.
- ü Placing posters in strategic locations such as health centres, hospitals, schools, public spaces, community centres, etc.
- ü Dissemination of spots in local radio stations
- ü Community workshops
- ü Door-to-door dissemination and prevention campaign
- ü Follow up with local health authorities

Meanwhile, the Argentine Red Cross assessed the situation country-wide and the information available, as well as its own possibilities, and the decision was made to work in the most vulnerable areas in accordance with two groups of provinces with the largest number of local cases: Salta, Jujuy, Catamarca, Tucumán, Chaco, Corrientes and the largest number of imported cases: Santiago del Estero, Formosa, Misiones, Córdoba, Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, mainly in these four areas of action:

1. Implementation of mass campaigns for the prevention of vector-borne illnesses
2. Implementation of community campaigns for prevention and clean-up activities
3. Implementation of Dengue Prevention Workshops at schools
4. Delivery of vector control kit (both family and community)

The ARC's Plan of Action to respond to the dengue outbreak reached around **1,680,000 people (138,000 through the Emergency Health objective and 1,560,000 through the Hygiene Promotion objective, as detailed below).**

Achievements against objectives

Emergency health (dengue prevention)	
Objective: 3,000 families will benefit from the distribution of vector control kits; additionally, 40 communities (500 families) will benefit from vector control kits to assist them against the dengue outbreak.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Vulnerable families and communities will reduce the likeliness of becoming infected with the dengue fever virus and a contribution will have been made towards the elimination of the vector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of items for the kits • Identification and selection of beneficiaries and communities • Preparation of the kits • Distribution of kits

Modification of the family and community kits for vector control

Based on recommendations made by epidemics specialists of the National Ministry of Health to technicians of the ARC, it was decided to change some items initially proposed for the kits, as mentioned in DREF Bulletin Update n° 1. It was advised to substitute the **household insecticide** initially proposed to be included in the family kit for a **larvicide** to be delivered in the community kit. This chemical, which was previously distributed by the Ministry of Health, presents very low toxicity for humans and is more effective in cold weather for the purpose of eliminating mosquito larvae and eggs. The BASF Company donated all the larvicide that was distributed to the four branches of the ARC. In light of this generous donation, the funds that were to be destined towards the purchase of the household insecticide went to the purchase of a larger amount of insecticide for the community kits, with an aim to broaden the scope of coverage of the ARC branches.

As a result of the above-mentioned change, the kits were composed of the following items:

Family Vector Control Kit	
1 family x 6 persons x 1 month	
6	Family-sized repellent spray (adults)
2	Cream repellent (children)

Seven hundred and fifty of these kits were delivered in each province: Chaco, Corrientes, Salta and Tucumán, with a total of 3,000 kits, reaching an average of **18,000** people.

The community kits were made up of the following items:

Vector control community kit	
500 families x 1 month	
1	20 lt atomizer/pump
2	Insecticide chemical
8	Larvicide
1	Work overall
1	Pair of work boots
1	Pair work gloves
1	Protection helmet
1	Breathing mask
1	Work goggles

A total of ten community kits were distributed in each province (Chaco, Corrientes, Salta and Tucumán). It is estimated that each community kit covered a total of 500 families for one month, and that each family has an average of six members. Hence, the number of people reached by the community kits was approximately **120,000**.

Impact:

Through the distribution of the family and community vector control kits, an estimated 120,000 people (20,000 families) will have reduced the likeliness of becoming infected by the dengue virus. While it is challenging to ascertain the exact number of cases that were avoided through these actions, it is safe to say that with the equipment and chemicals distributed, as well as with the message delivered to these families by the ARC staff and volunteers when delivering the goods, 20,000 families are less vulnerable to this threat.



Constraints: None to report.

Hygiene promotion	
Objective: Increased awareness and prevention of dengue through an awareness-raising campaign for approximately 96,600 families in 13 provinces in Argentina.	
Expected results	Activities planned

<p>Community capacities are enhanced for the prevention of vector-borne illnesses in communities located in areas where there is dengue and there is a high degree of vulnerability in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa, Jujuy, Misiones, Salta, Santa Fé, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ž Procurement of visibility material Ž Printing of brochures and posters Ž Distribution of brochures and posters in schools, community centres, health centres Ž Airing of radio spots (already elaborated) Ž Prevention campaigns through house visits and distribution of printed material on dengue prevention information. Ž Conduct workshops on how to prevent vector-borne diseases in at least two schools in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Salta and Tucumán for volunteers and communities.
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With an aim to disseminate key messages on the prevention of vector-borne diseases, the following activities were carried out in at least two schools of the planned provinces.

PROVINCE	Beneficiaries	Activities
Catamarca	16,744	<i>Distribution and publication of brochures, posters and dissemination of previously prepared radio spots.</i>
Jujuy	3,924	
Chaco	58,320	
Corrientes	350,346	
Salta	353,280	
Tucumán	450,000	
Buenos Aires	97,658	
City of Buenos Aires	6,848	
Córdoba	47,500	
Entre Ríos	43,750	
Formosa	19,500	
Misiones	7,000	
Santa Fé	65,836	
Santiago del Estero	38,260	
Total	1,558,966²	

The total above is an estimated figure of indirect and direct beneficiaries based on number of brochures and posters distributed, as well as on the coverage of each radio station. The number of people reached is higher than originally established in the Plan of Action due to the fact that branches expanded their actions to other communities, schools and health centres, and radio spots were elaborated to deliver to the media.

This activity involved a total of 37 ARC branches whose staff and volunteers visited 201 schools, 133 health centres and 162 community centres. Radio spots were distributed to 110 radio stations. A total of 235,740 brochures and 11,010 posters were distributed during this activity.

Under this objective, the other main area of action was prevention and clean-up activities in the four most affected provinces, which took place as follows:

Group	ARC Branch	Door to door visits (families)	People reached (6 per family)
1	Salta	4,109	24,654
	Chaco	870	5,220
	Tucumán	5,673	34,038
	Corrientes	888	5,328
TOTAL	4 provinces	11,540	69,240

² This figure will be used as the approximate amount of people reached by this objective in order to avoid double counting.

The ARC staff was able to reach many more communities than originally planned for (2 per province), thus reaching more people with key messages and contributing towards reducing the likelihood of these families being infected by the dengue virus.

The third main line of action within this objective relates to workshops in schools on prevention of vector-borne diseases in at least two schools of each one of the targeted provinces. For this purpose, the schools were previously selected, the material was printed and prepared and the talks were organized and agreed upon with school authorities, as planned. It was possible to carry out a broader coverage in response to a request from educational and health authorities.

The work carried out with the schools is reflected in the following table:



Clean up activities were carried out as part of the hygiene promotion objective. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

Province	Number of schools	Participating teachers	Participating students and parents
Catamarca	2	20	450 students
Chaco	2	90	645 students and 28 parents
Corrientes	15	30	450 students
Salta	7	26	1,500 students
Tucumán	28	602	25,973 students
TOTAL	54	768	29,046 students and parents

The total number of people reached by this activity is 29,814 including students, teachers and parents.



School children receive key messages through talks delivered in the 4 most affected provinces by qualified ARC staff and volunteers. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

Impact:

The ARC staff and volunteers were able to almost triple the planned goal for this objective, thus increasing the amount of people who had access to important information and key messages on the prevention of dengue. As with the previous objective, it is challenging to estimate how many cases of dengue fever were prevented, but it is safe to say that the multiplying effect of the messages delivered will leave an imprint on those who are exposed to them, thus reducing their vulnerability to this threat.

Constraints: None to report.

Capacity of the National Society

The operational structure for this operation included volunteers, paid staff, staff hired specifically for the operation, both at the headquarters and branch levels. Nationwide, a total of 446 volunteers participated in this operation in the different areas of action, and one local technical coordinator was hired in Tucumán for three months to support the operation.

The National Society created a web page where photos and articles from the operation were uploaded. Each branch sent in a monthly report to the ARC headquarters, and the situation reports and operation updates were shared with the 63 branches of the ARC.

In terms of external communication, situation reports and operation updates were published on the ARC's website (www.cruzroja.org.ar), as well as shared with NGOs and specific governmental organizations. The press published articles about the activities carried out in the different provinces and several interviews were done on local and provincial radio and television channels. Local media also informed on the ARC activities on their local web pages.

Capacity-Building

It is important to mention the opportunity for growth and professionalization provided to the human resources committed to this operation (both volunteers and paid staff), in light of the experience and training received.



One of the many television interviews done by staff of ARC with an aim to disseminate key messages. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

The “learning by doing” approach, incorporating technical knowledge into practice, has favoured the sense of engagement, responsibility and enthusiasm of all involved in the operation. Knowledge around community health (especially on the thematic of dengue prevention), logistics and financial procedures were strengthened.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The activities of this Plan of Action were closely monitored throughout the operation. All variations of the context and situation were analyzed with an aim to re-orient actions where necessary.

At the end of the operation, a participatory evaluation was carried out with the participation of all stakeholders involved (ARC governance and management bodies, volunteers, focal points of NGOs, and government authorities).

The methodology used for this purpose was a local closing meeting, where each branch presented the results achieved at the local and national levels, and then there was an exchange of experiences amongst all participants.

Lessons Learnt

Throughout the implementation of the Plan of Action, different circumstances arose that tested the response capacity of the National Society. An important difficulty was that during the implementation of the operation, the A(H1N1) pandemic emerged, for which reason it was necessary to take security measures and include key messages for the population.

Positive aspects learnt at the Red Cross level (headquarters and branches)

- Ø The constant support provided to local technicians in the field: support and communication.
- Ø The lines of intervention were defined with the participation of government authorities, thus ensuring optimal coordination.
- Ø The objectives set out in the Plan of Action were not only fully achieved, but surpassed.
- Ø The operational teams of ARC headquarters and branches worked in a fluent, well-articulated manner.
- Ø The ARC headquarters support team provided support throughout the project, capacities were strengthened, and the ideals of team work and effort were applied within the institution and in the communities.
- Ø Beneficiary survey and kits distribution took place without problems, thanks to prior experience of the volunteers and paid staff and a joint effort with local government authorities.
- Ø The volunteers' capacity was strengthened. Volunteers were committed and enthusiastic.

Lessons learnt at the municipality, community and local institutions level

- Ø Beneficiaries highlighted the appropriateness, compliance and quality of items received.
- Ø Indigenous peoples' communities highlighted that ARC showed respect for them, and worked in a coordinated and participatory manner.

- Ø The clean-up campaign was very well received by the different communities.
- Ø The commitment and responsibility shown by Provincial Ministries of Health was important, as well as the availability of the mass media for the dissemination of key messages.
- Ø The material delivered was well reviewed by health professionals.

Issues to improve for the future

- Ø Achieving greater dissemination on the part of national media.
- Ø The bags in which the family kits are delivered should be changed for resistant paper bags or other environmentally-friendly material.
- Ø Volunteer recruitment and management can be improved for future operations.

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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRAR005 - Argentina - Dengue Outbreak

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2009/12
Appeal	MDRAR005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	184,012					184,012
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	128,084					128,084
C5. Other Income	128,084					128,084
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	128,084					128,084
D. Total Funding = B + C	128,084					128,084
Appeal Coverage	70%					70%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	128,084					128,084
E. Expenditure	-128,084					-128,084
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		184,012					184,012	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	6,128	9,931					9,931	-3,803
Utensils & Tools	109,800	48,780					48,780	61,020
Total Supplies	115,928	58,711					58,711	57,217
Transport & Storage								
Storage		949					949	-949
Distribution & Monitoring	8,897	8,171					8,171	726
Transport & Vehicle Costs		466					466	-466
Total Transport & Storage	8,897	9,586					9,586	-689
Personnel								
National Society Staff	16,315	15,231					15,231	1,083
Total Personnel	16,315	15,231					15,231	1,083
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	16,056	1,485					1,485	14,571
Total Workshops & Training	16,056	1,485					1,485	14,571
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,044	1,301					1,301	4,743
Information & Public Relation	5,394	12,981					12,981	-7,587
Office Costs	865	4,280					4,280	-3,415
Communications	322	1,796					1,796	-1,475
Professional Fees		506					506	-506
Financial Charges	1,594	13,880					13,880	-12,286
Total General Expenditure	14,219	34,745					34,745	-20,526
Programme Support								
Program Support	11,961	8,325					8,325	3,635
Total Programme Support	11,961	8,325					8,325	3,635
Services								
Services & Recoveries	636							636
Total Services	636							636
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	184,012	128,084					128,084	55,928
VARIANCE (C - D)		55,928					55,928	