

DREF Plan of Action

St. Lucia: Dengue

DREF n° MDRLC004			
Date of issue:	2 November 2020	Expected timeframe:	3 months
		Expected end date:	31 January 2021
IFRC Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 131,125			
Total number of people affected:	801 confirmed cases of dengue as reported at the end of epidemiological week 42 with 333 cases suspected	Number of people to be assisted:	1,000 families (5,000 people)
Provinces affected:	Island wide	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Castries, Gros Islet, Babonneau Proper and Anse-la-raye.
Host National Society presence: The St. Lucia Red Cross has 100 active volunteers and one headquarters with 11 full-time staff members.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) - Americas Regional Office (ARO) Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) - Port of Spain (POS) Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC).			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health and Wellness.			

[<Click here for the DREF budget and here for the contact information >](#)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 26 August 2020, St. Lucia's Ministry of Health and Wellness declared an outbreak of dengue fever¹. The Syndromic Surveillance report for epidemiological week 42 (dated 22 October 2020) indicated 801 confirmed cases on the island with a further 333 suspected cases. Dengue serotypes 2 and 3 circulate in St. Lucia, with a third unknown serotype to be confirmed. 26 per cent of cases require hospitalisation. 17 October 2020 saw 3 confirmed dengue-related deaths with a 4th death being investigated by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)².

This increase in the number of cases over the past two months is a clear indicator of a larger imminent outbreak on the island. As such, it is necessary to reduce the number of cases shortly.

The mean age of cases is 21 years, ranging from 3 weeks to 94 years. The northern part of the island continues to report the highest numbers of cases, although cases have been reported throughout the island². The age group 5-14-

¹ [Government of Saint Lucia. Ministry of Health declares dengue fever outbreak. 26 August 2020.](#)

² [Ministry of Health and Wellness. CARPHA confirms previous dengue-related deaths. 17 October 2020.](#)

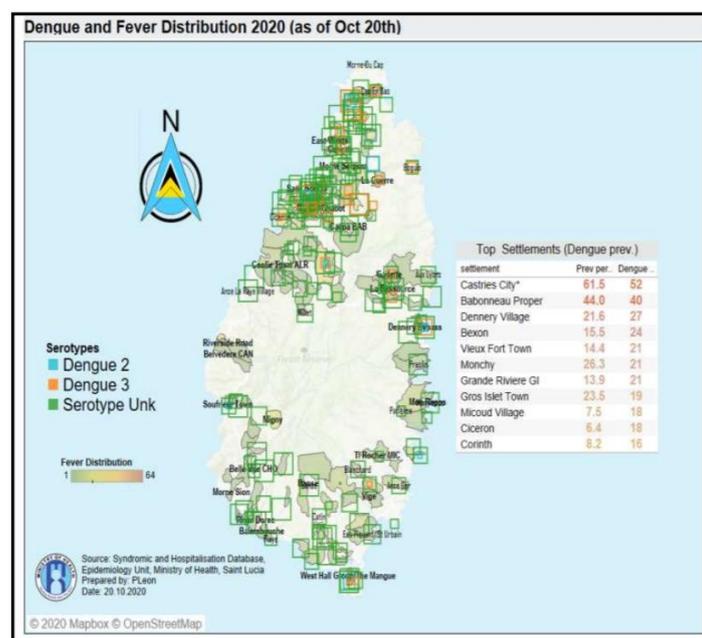
years accounts for approximately 36% of cases, of which 55% are male. Following this, the 15-24 and 25-49 age groups each accounted for 21% of cases, 52% of whom are male whereas 58% are female³.

St. Lucia is currently experiencing the most severe dengue fever outbreak in its recent history and, at the same time, is also facing the COVID 19 pandemic at the national level. The current dengue outbreak in St. Lucia represents an over 3,000% increase in the number of cases from the preceding year (20 cases in 2019 vs 801 confirmed thus far in 2020).

Notifiable Disease	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	YTD
Dengue	35	282	92	33	60	57	102	20	801

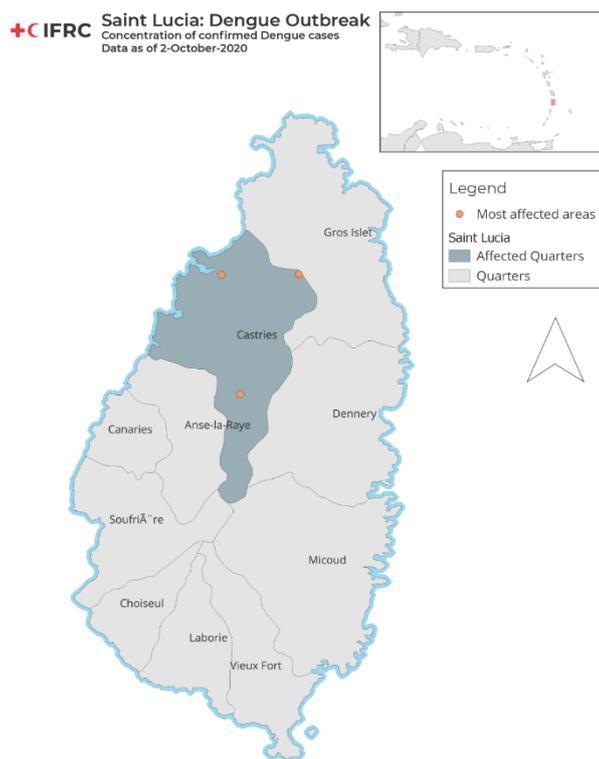
Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness, St. Lucia: Weekly Syndromic Surveillance Report Epi Week 42

While the entire island is currently affected by the outbreak, cases are concentrated in the island's northwest.



Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness, St. Lucia: Weekly Syndromic Surveillance Report Epi Week 42

³ [Government of Saint Lucia. Update on dengue fever. 2 October 2020.](#)



As such, during a meeting with the national society on 16 October 2020, the Ministry of Health and Wellness requested the assistance of the St. Lucia Red Cross in managing the outbreak. In addition, the rainy season and a lack of regular water supply means that community members have increased rainwater harvesting around their homes and this is not always done with an appropriate covering.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

In response to the dengue outbreak, the St. Lucia Red Cross has mobilized community groups to conduct house to house sensitization on Dengue. St. Lucia's COVID-19 guidelines permit movement of small groups with the use of masks and hand sanitizers. Additionally, they are consulting with various community groups to determine where clean-ups may be feasible. They are also utilizing WhatsApp and social platforms to continue risk communication activities on dengue.



They have embarked on drum proofing demonstrations and printing and distribution of information leaflets on dengue.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
Data sources: IFRC, Saint Lucia Red Cross, Government of Saint Lucia.
Produced by IM Americas.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has engaged the St. Lucia Red Cross to assist managing the outbreak and have been involved in consultations meetings with them.

The St. Lucia Red Cross published an initial GO Report on the IFRC GO platform on 25 September 2020 with a secondary report being published on 19 October 2020.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) is not directly represented in St. Lucia but through its Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) office based in Trinidad and Tobago with the CCST closely supporting the National Society. The CCST has also supported the SLRC with the implementation of health project linked with Zika virus and vector control activities in approximately 15 communities.

The Community Engagement and Accountability Officer and the Communications Officer for the POS CCST have been supporting the SLRC in the following activities:

Risk Communications - CEA:

Creation of graphics - 8 of them to be shared on social media or made into posters
Working on other PSAs

Public Communications:

Ready to draft a release alongside the NS to use in country
Created regional key messages to address dengue outbreak in two countries
Ready to share work of the St. Lucia Red Cross on Twitter and Facebook.

- CCST and PIRAC are supporting the planning of the response and development of the emergency plan of action (EPoA) for dengue fever outbreak in support of the National Society. Per agreement between the IFRC and the French Red Cross, the PIRAC acts as key Disaster Management mechanism for the Caribbean sub-region, in support to the Caribbean National Societies, within IFRC Regional Response Disaster and Crisis management

system, coordinated and led by the IFRC. PIRAC has also donated 1000 treated Long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to the SLRC.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

At the national level, the emergency is being coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The Ministry is conducting epidemiological surveillance and case detection and treatment through its network of hospitals and health centres and has been undertaking a communications campaign to prevent dengue fever. It also took action to ask stakeholders to support clean up campaigns to eradicate the vector.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

The public health impact of managing dengue amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is having a strain on the financial and human resources of the Ministry of Health. Financial burdens associated with the cost of treatment, hospitalization and prevention, as well as the indirect costs such as loss of productivity related to absences, disability and death causes of particular concern.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has requested the support of the St. Lucia Red Cross in controlling the spread of the virus. Based on this request, the areas of focus are outlined below:

Description	Needs
Provision on PPE and transmission control of the virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) - Insect repellents - Personal protection equipment for fogging activities (gloves, goggles, masks and filters) - Work tools for clean-up activities (cleaning kits - gloves, wheelbarrows, hammers, ladders, spades, hoes, rakes and bags) - Drumproofing
Community mobilization and Engagement and Risk Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human resources to carry out educational actions - Engagement programmes for youth groups and students - Community mobilization for clean-up activities (elimination of breeding sites) - Printed material for example 1) signs and symptoms of the disease; 2) prevention and control measures; and 3) to encourage seeking health services 4) educational materials - Materials for community and school mappings - Radio campaigns to disseminate public service announcements. The campaign will include key messages on coping with COVID-19 and Dengue.

Targeting

Given the call for assistance from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the SLRC as auxiliary to government will focus its activities on complementing the work of the Ministry. SLRC intends to work with 1,000 families (5,000 people) though this DREF and its Plan of Action is intended to target most vulnerable communities based on the following vulnerability criteria:

At the national level

- High population density
- Incidence of suspected dengue cases

At the community level

- Families in communities with a high incidence of dengue cases.
- Communities with a low socio-economic level.
- People in vulnerable situations: single parent households, pregnant women, older adults, children and people with disabilities.
- Families with children under the age of 15.
- Families with infants sleeping during the day
- Families where member gets sick and is necessary to implement contentions to avoid the spread

At the educational centres level:

- Schools located in areas with a high incidence of dengue cases.
- Low community organization.

While the implemented activities will see to the benefit of the entire population (particularly in risk communication) activities will be concentrated in the north of the island in Castries, Gros Islet, Babonneau Proper and Anse-la-raye. These are provinces that have the highest incidence of cases at the national level and high risk of seeing an increase in dengue cases in the coming weeks due to the presence of negative social determinants and high population density.

Activities will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health in order to contribute to the national dengue outbreak response strategy led by this government institution, which will allow optimal use of available resources.

Scenario planning

Three scenarios are possible, which will depend on the implementation of vector control activities, community mobilization and strengthening of activities being conducted by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Scenario A Best Case Scenario	Low number of Dengue cases. The government can address the outbreak with local resources.	Health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities are successfully carried out in at risk communities in coordination with the Ministry of Health Wellness and Environment Cases will decrease overtime and existing cases will receive proper medical treatment. Communities are sensitised and will initiating vector control. Breteau* index falls in at-risk communities. Stabilization and reduction of the number of new dengue cases. Sensitized communities identify early signs and symptoms of severe dengue.
Scenario B Likely scenario	A low number of Dengue cases. The government can address the outbreak with local resources.	Isolated health promotion, dengue prevention and vector control activities at the community level will take place Breteau* index remains the same/increases in at-risk communities Some communities will have no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak Increased incidence of dengue cases Saturation of hospitalization services in COVID19 pandemic time.
Scenario C Worst case scenario	A moderate number of Dengue cases. The government can address the outbreak but needs extra support.	Few health promotion and dengue prevention activities at the community level. Population has no perception of risk regarding the dengue outbreak. Increase in the number of severe dengue cases. Collapse of emergency and hospitalization services in Ministry of Health hospitals. Increase in the number of deaths.

*Breteau index measures the number of water containers containing the vector, per 100 houses inspected

Operation Risk Assessment (200 words)

The operation faces some risk factors including deploying trained volunteers to the hotspots areas might pose a risk of contracting the dengue virus during exposure. This risk will be mitigated through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment to all volunteers working in the field. The current hurricane season may also interfere with the implementation phase of the response operation.

There has also been a surge in COVID-19 cases on the island since the start of October 2020. As of 1 November, the island has confirmed a total of 84 COVID-19 cases an increase of 67% over the one-month period. The government has since imposed restrictions on movement and gatherings and the closure of schools, among other measures to curb the spread of the virus. to curb the spread of the virus. to curb the spread of the virus.

The epidemiological reports indicate that some areas impacted by the outbreak of Dengue are also experiencing an increase in the COVID-19 cases. This will require that the National Society ensure additional safety measures are put in place to protect staff and volunteers. This risk will be mitigated by adhering to both local and international guidelines on COVID-19 and ensuring that all volunteers are aware of the proper protocols and are given the necessary PPEs. The SLRC will work closely with the government to ensure safe access to the communities. Despite the restrictions, the NS has a cadre of volunteers that can effectively carry out the activities for this operation, within the stipulated COVID-19 protocols.



COVID-19 Pandemic

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 1 November, there is a total of 84 cases registered in country, of which 56 are active cases, with zero deaths and 28 recoveries according to the MoH⁴.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the [IFRC global appeal](#), which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Americas Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the NS will ensure, even as it responds to the current dengue outbreak, COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to, in line with regional plan of action and its national COVID-19 country plan.

IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The NS will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of items, procurement issues, and movement of NS volunteers and staff. For more information please consult the COVID-19 operation page on the [IFRC Go platform](#).

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

Reducing the immediate risk of spread of the dengue fever virus for 1,000 families (5,000 people) in the most affected areas in St. Lucia

Proposed Strategy:

The SLRC will work directly with communities and in coordination with local authorities and the Ministry of Health and Wellness. While the implemented activities will see to the benefit of the entire population (particularly in risk communication) activities will be concentrated in the north of the island in Castries, Gros Islet, Babonneau Proper and Anse-la-raye.

The following actions are proposed within the Plan of Action:

- a) Community Mobilization
 - Identification of key messages in coordination with the Ministry of Health
 - Preparation of printed material (leaflets, flyers), to carry out community activities

⁴ <https://www.covid19response.lc/>

- Education sessions to deliver key messages on:1) dengue prevention measures; 2) health promotion measures; and 3) identification of signs and symptoms of severe dengue. These activities will be carried out at the community level and in schools and will make use of the Zika Dengue Chikungunya (ZDC) toolkit
- <https://www.zikacommunicationnetwork.org/resources/zika-dengue-and-chikungunya-prevention-toolkit>
- <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Health/ZDC-Toolkit-Prevention-Toolkit.pdf>

b) Vector control

- Distribution of treated Long-lasting insecticidal nets (3,000 items)
- Distribution of cleaning kits to schools and communities (including repellents and gloves) (5 kits, one for each community)
- Delivery of mosquito-net lids to cover water tanks also known as drumproofing (100 lids)
- Cleaning days in communities to eliminate mosquito breeding sites
- Cleaning days in schools to eliminate mosquito breeding sites through advocacy

c) Strengthening of Ministry of Health and Wellness activities

- Provision of PPE to be used in fogging activities

A mass media campaign will be undertaken through print, radio and social media and will aim to reach national population in both the targeted areas and other affected areas with awareness on the prevention of dengue. It will be strategic to work with groups recognized within the communities to ensure sustainability of actions once Red Cross interventions are over. Meetings will be promoted between local authorities and community leaders to review progress of the actions and coordination of joint work.

The SLRC proposed strategy involves close collaboration with the Ministry of Health to ensure a coordinated and cohesive prevention campaign.

Gender, protection and inclusion principles will be incorporated into activities through encouraging the involvement of both male and female volunteers, women's participation in community activities and monitoring through focus group activities with women and other vulnerable groups.

Operational support:

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Reporting on the operation will be conducted in accordance with the IFRC's minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months of the operation's completion.

Administration and Finance

St. Lucia Red Cross will assign a specific administrator as quickly as possible to manage the operation. The IFRC has also assigned a dedicated Project Manager to support the National Society.

IFRC provides the necessary operational support for budget review and validation and bank transfers, as well as technical assistance to National Societies on expense justification procedures including invoice review and validation.

Human Resources

The DREF operation will hire:

- One Project Officer, for three months
- One Communications/ CEA Officer, for 3 months.
- One Finance Officer, for 3 months
-

The St. Lucia Red Cross will make available to the operation:

- 100 volunteers in targeted areas.

One Rapid Response Personnel could be deployed for three months to assist St. Lucia Red Cross with executing, monitoring and reporting of operation activities.

Security

St. Lucia Red Cross volunteers have been trained in basic safety standards (based on the Stay Safe manual). They will have the necessary visibility material (uniforms according to SLRC regulations) and will be provided accident insurance made available by the Movement.

Personnel conducting vector control activities will also be provided personal protection equipment and will use chemical substances in compliance with Ministry of Public Health regulations.

Logistics and Supply Chain

The operation includes international purchases of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets, cleaning kits, and repellents, coordinated with the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit in Panama. Major procurement processes will be managed at the national level by the IFRC to support the St. Lucia Red Cross. Purchases will comply with standard IFRC procedures.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Health

People targeted: 5,000 (1,000 families)

Male: 2,500

Female: 2,500

Requirements (CHF): 115,416

Needs analysis: The current dengue outbreak in St. Lucia represents an over 3000% increase in the number of cases from the preceding year (20 cases in 2019 vs 801 confirmed thus far in 2020). CARPHA has also confirmed that there have been 3 confirmed dengue related deaths with a 4th under investigation. It has vastly surpassed the number of COVID-19 cases on the island (78 COVID-19 confirmed cases as of 1 November 2020) and represents a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of the population. Failure to provide support activities to the St. Lucian health system at the community level may pose the risk of increased morbidity and mortality from dengue, with the consequent saturation of the health system and its associated services.

Risk analysis: The operation faces some risk factors including deploying trained volunteers to the hotspot's areas might pose a risk of contracting the dengue virus during exposure. This risk will be mitigated through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment to all volunteers working in the field. The current hurricane season may also interfere with the implementation phase of the response operation.

There has also been a surge in COVID-19 cases on the island. The government may impose restrictions on movement and gatherings to curb the spread of the virus. This risk will be mitigated by adhering to both local and international guidelines on COVID-19.

Population to be assisted: The target population is based on the current epidemiological reports that indicate a high prevalence of dengue amongst adolescents. SLRC intends to work with 1000 families (5000 people) through this DREF in the communities of: Castries, Gros Islet, Babonneau Proper and Anse-la-raye.

Programme standards/benchmarks: All health activities carried out under the current EPoA will be implemented in accordance with rules and procedural strategies issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness and SPHERE standards.

P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved												
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP049	Regularly check compliance with the Principles and Rules												
AP084	Community communication activities ensure people are kept informed of for dengue and vector borne diseases												
AP084	Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation, inclusive of a lessons learned workshop												
AP084	Community engagement activities help to promote healthy and safe behaviour in relation to the identified risks and vulnerabilities												
AP049	IFRC monitoring and support visits												
AP055	Lessons learned workshop												

Note: for DREF operations, it is recommended to plan all activities under Area of Focus as all are considered in direct support of the relief interventions.

Quick links

[Emergency Items Catalogue 2009](#)

[Logistics Standards Online](#)

[Procurement Portal](#)

Budget

See [Annex](#) for the budget.

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**In the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Society**

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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 Humanitarian 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.



DREF OPERATION

MDRLC004 - ST LUCIA: DENGUE

2/11/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Clothing & Textiles	18,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,750
Medical & First Aid	2,000
Teaching Materials	5,200
Other Supplies & Services	36,000
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	76,950
Distribution & Monitoring	7,699
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,500
Logistics Services	7,200
Logistics, Transport & Storage	16,399
National Society Staff	8,373
Volunteers	3,150
Personnel	11,523
Workshops & Training	2,200
Workshops & Training	2,200
Travel	7,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Office Costs	1,000
Communications	4,050
Financial Charges	1,000
General Expenditure	16,050
DIRECT COSTS	123,122
INDIRECT COSTS	8,003
TOTAL BUDGET	131,125

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	
AOF4	Health	100,482
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	14,935
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	15,709
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		131,125

