

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Maldives Dengue Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRMV001

1 July 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.

**CHF 42,600 (USD 50,318 or EUR 34,686) has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 150,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

In the first half of 2011, a total of 1,289 cases of dengue were reported to the Centre for Community Health and Disease Control (CCHDC) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In a country with a population of 309,000, this represents a significant increase in incidence reported over the same period in the past two years. According to reports, most cases are being identified within island communities (i.e. outside the capital Male') and especially affecting children under the age of five. On June 28-29, dengue claimed the lives of four children under the age of five.



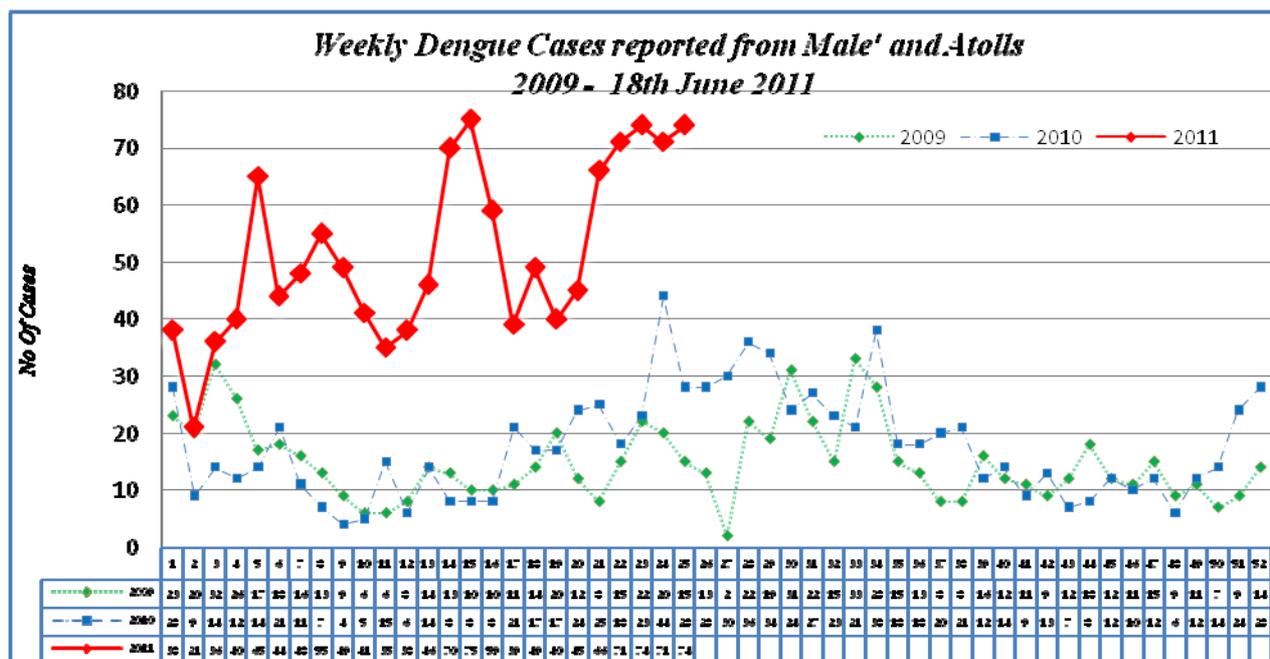
Maldivian Red Crescent volunteers posting up dengue prevention posters in Male' as part of community awareness campaign, 30 June 2011. Photo: Maldivian Red Crescent.

The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is a new and young National Society, which has already established branches on 10 of the country's 21 atolls (see attached map). The branches are strategically located to reach all areas of the country. In an effort to support national authorities in responding to the dengue outbreak, MRC will initiate communication activities highlighting prevention messages, as well as community clean-up campaigns in the 196 communities across the country for a period of about three months. It intends to use its existing network to reach atoll communities where there are increased levels of reporting of dengue cases. This response will provide an ideal opportunity for the National Society to deliver timely outreach services to communities and improve their capacity to respond effectively to health issues and challenges which may arise in the future.

This operation is expected to be implemented within three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 September 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 December 2011).

## The situation

Since January 2011, a total of 1,289 cases of dengue have been reported to the Centre for Community Health and Disease Control (CCHDC). Of the reported cases, 18 per cent are dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) and 1 per cent is dengue shock syndrome – both have complications which can be fatal, particularly among young children. The reports indicate that more than half (54 per cent) of the cases are in Male', 15 per cent in Hulhumale' island and the rest in the remaining atolls. Some 28.1 per cent of these reported cases are of children under the age of five; on 28 and 29 June, four children all under the age of five succumbed to the disease. In the last two weeks, 145 new cases were reported with an increased rate of diagnosis of DHF. As the country enters the rainy season (which peaks in July/August), a period when dengue outbreaks traditionally occur, and considering the above situation (which is also illustrated by the graph below), the importance of taking action now to prevent further deterioration of the situation need to be underlined.



Source: Centre for Community Health and Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family, Maldives. Last updated 28 June 2011.

## Coordination and partnerships

Both the President's Office and the Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives, convened meetings of stakeholders over 29-30 June to analyse and discuss the situation. A number of working committees have been established. MRC is currently the only non-government actor participating in discussions and is therefore a critical partner in the implementation of activities to control the evolving dengue outbreak. As part of the outbreak response, the government will launch a vector control campaign (fogging) over the coming weekend, with a particular emphasis on construction sites. The Ministry of Health has requested, and will be relying on, the MRC to carry out prevention and advocacy activities throughout the country, with technical support from the Ministry and local authorities. The main mechanisms will be through the production and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, as well as assisting in general public awareness relating to the destruction of mosquito breeding grounds (vector control) and protection of children. At a local level, MRC branches will cooperate with the Island Councils to achieve maximum impact. There are no other organizations in Maldives which have a network outside the capital.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRC is currently distributing the limited amount of dengue prevention IEC materials in stock around Male' and to communities where branch structures exist. Once materials have been reproduced through this operation, MRC will be able to distribute to all of the 196 communities.

## The proposed operation

The worst of the monsoon season has yet to come. Rains generally continue until late August. The focus of MRC activities will therefore be on community dengue prevention communication and clean up campaigns

over the next three months. These will include raising awareness on dengue and its prevention through focus groups (e.g. parents associations, schools, women's' groups), and mass media. MRC will also undertake community clean up campaigns and encourage communities to carry out regular monitoring to prevent the development of potential mosquito breeding sites and for this to become more of a common practice.

The proposed intervention of MRC will be a major learning experience for the existing and newly-recruited volunteers, and will position the National Society as an important community actor. The situation also creates a major opportunity for MRC to continue with its nationwide branch establishment plan as well as increasing their visibility.

### **Community Mobilisation**

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

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 production of media messages
- Production and distribution of IEC materials highlighting dengue prevention
- Rapid training of volunteers to communicate messages regarding dengue and its prevention
- Conduct of community awareness raising activities through focus groups and mass media campaigns
- Conduct of clean up campaigns to destroy mosquito breeding sites
- Continuous monitoring and review by relevant headquarters/branch staff and volunteers

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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 nonviolence and peace.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**DREF BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
National Staff	500	500
Volunteers	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Workshops & Training	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
Travel	9,500	9,500
Information & Public Relation	25,000	25,000
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>34,500</b>
Program Support	2,600	2,600
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>42,600</b>

