

Elimine os focos
do *Aedes aegypti*
e ajude a salvar vidas.



unicef 

Saiba mais

Highlights

- On 13 February, the Government organized the National Day for Mobilization on fighting the *Aedes aegypti*, reaching 2.8 million properties in 428 municipalities all over the country. Over 300,000 military and health personnel participated.
- In total, 23.8 million properties were already visited where 844,800 (3,6%) properties with breeding grounds were identified.
- On 16 February, CDC and Brazilian government have started a joint case-study research in Paraiba to investigate the casual relation between microcephaly cases and ZIKV.

Data

5,280 microcephaly cases notified
(cumulative 2015/2016)

3,935 cases still under investigation

108 deaths (neonatal, stillborn and
abortion) related to microcephaly
notified

(Ministry of Health, 17 February 2016)

Situation Overview

According to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases of microcephaly, related to the ZIKV among newborns in Brazil starting in October 2015 mainly in the northeast region. The Federal Government of Brazil has identified this issue as a priority, and President Dilma Rousseff launched a national plan of action to combat this virus in December 2015. Various ministries governmental organizations including the police, army, firefighters and others, have been mobilized under the leadership of the Ministry of Health to support various activities related to prevention, communication, monitoring, capacity building, among others. The national plan is currently in its third phase, advancing for the fourth phase on February 19 until 04 March. UNICEF Brazil, in an effort to provide support and in response to a request for assistance, has developed a proposal to support governmental efforts to address the epidemic. The action plan is based mainly in vector control using the existing network with the Brazilian municipalities.

Brazilian government response

Brazilian government response is moving forward. Accordingly to the MoH, on 13 February - the National Day for Mobilization on fighting the *Aedes aegypti* - 2.8 million properties were reached in 478 municipalities all over the country. National mobilization efforts are undergoing until 18 February. Over 300,000 military and public health staff are participating, sensitizing the population and eliminating breeding grounds. Over 23.8 million properties were already visited where 844,800 (3,6%) were identified with breeding grounds. These efforts are part of the third phase of the national plan. From 19 February to 04 March, Government has planned the fourth phase of the plan when military staff will visit education facilities instructing students with prevention messages. On 16 February, CDC and Brazilian government have started a joint case-study research in Paraiba to investigate the casual relation between microcephaly cases and Zika virus (ZIKV). The research plans to study and evaluate more than a thousand babies (with and without microcephaly) and mothers, with results expected to be published by April 2016.

BCO's Programme Response

Coordination

A key focus of UNICEF's action in Brazil is on vector control, by joining forces with communities across the country to eliminate breeding grounds of the *Aedes aegypti*. UNICEF is conducting activities in close collaboration with the Ministries of Health (MoH) and of Education (MoE) as well as with PAHO, state and municipal governments to reach affected communities with the knowledge on how to reduce mosquito infection. UNICEF Brazil and World Bank are in contact to explore possibilities for collaboration as the World Bank develops its plans for supporting the government-led response against the mosquito. UNICEF is also in continuous liaison with LACRO and HQ in coordinating efforts to enhance regional efforts and impacts.

Strategy

Brazil Country Office's (BCO) strategy is based on supporting government-led national plans and inter-agency priorities on reducing the number of breeding grounds. BCO is using three main strategies in the ZIKV response plan: Advocacy, Communications for Development and Monitoring. BCO's priorities are to reach the most vulnerable communities and strengthen prevention and protection initiatives. BCO's unique capillarity in Brazilian municipalities is a key component for our strategy. UNICEF is present in 84% of the municipalities classified at high-risk of mosquito infection so far. Therefore, BCO's role is centered in articulating among different government levels and engaging Brazilian civil society towards the reduction of breeding grounds.

Advocacy and Mobilization

A new strategic action under UNICEF's Seal platform is starting for all municipalities in Brazilian semi-arid region. Until 31 of July, 833 municipalities should: 1) create and support the functioning of a intersectoral municipal committee to combat *Aedes aegypti*; 2) promote joint efforts for the active search and mosquito breeding disposal in households, public institutions and community spaces (with emphasis on instituting a weekly cleaning) with the participation of adolescents; 3) promote activities to empower children, adolescents and their families about the importance and measures to combat the mosquito, involving 100% of municipal schools and; 4) mobilize and maintain the means of local communication engaged to spread the importance and actions to combat the mosquito. This strategic action will be adapted and replicated for other regions following BCO's priority territories.

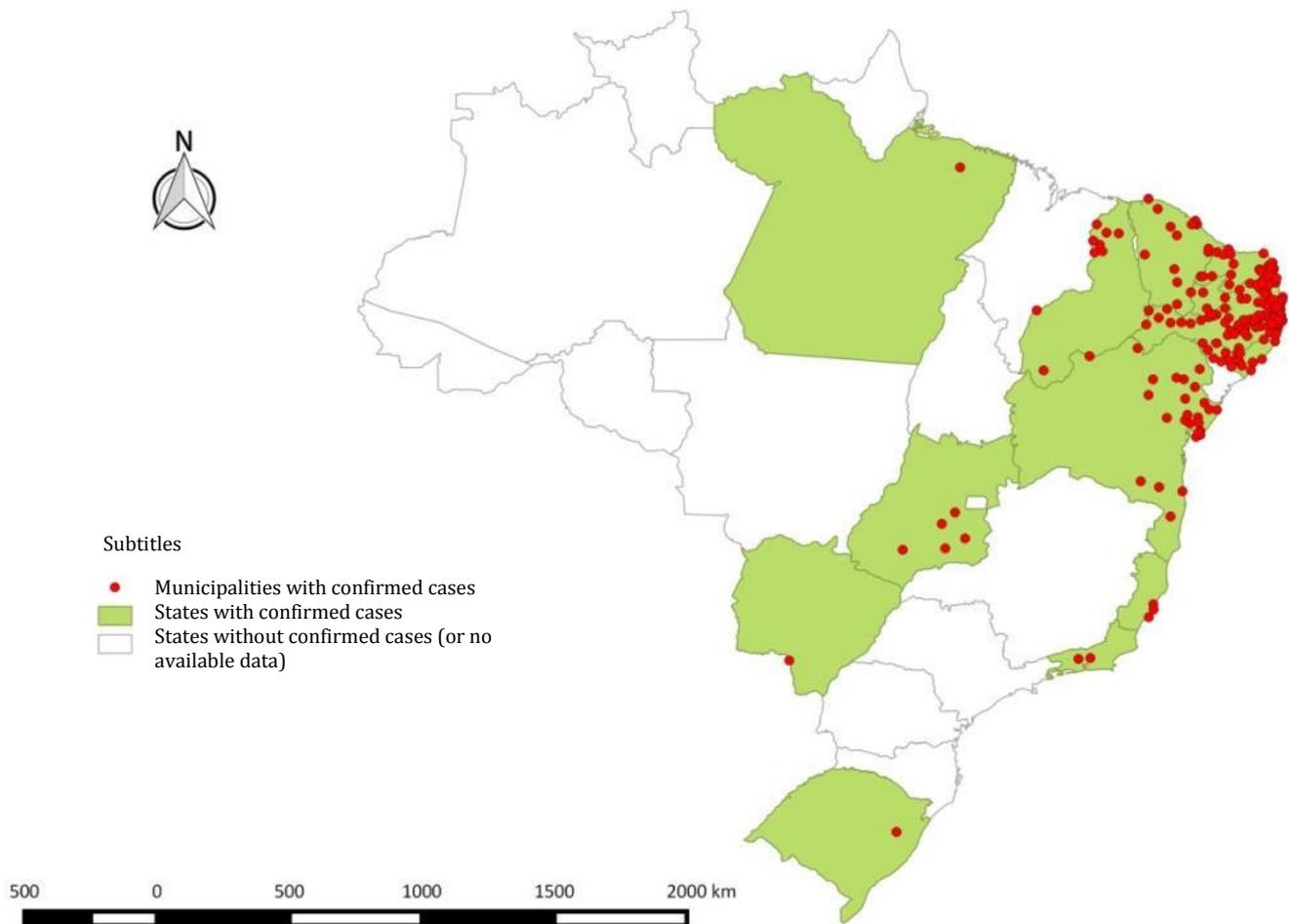
Communications and C4D

BCO is advancing on structuring focus groups in order to design specific messages for target audiences. BCO is also in contact with social media companies – in coordination with NY HQ and UNICEF USA – aiming to boost social media platforms in the fight against the mosquito infection. To date, UNICEF spokespeople were interviewed by more than 10 media channels, including outlets of national and international reach (such as Reuters). UNICEF produced and is currently distributing three radio spots with the National Ambassador Renato Aragão aiming to disseminate messages on *Aedes aegypti* prevention. These materials are being broadcasted by more than 30 radio stations countrywide, some of them of national reach. The distribution strategy is also targeting radio stations which broadcast to the most ZIKV and Dengue affected municipalities. BCO is preparing TV ads with key partners to increase the reach for the most disadvantaged communities and families. Since 12 January, BCO has posted 22 contents in social media networks (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). This material has reached 2.75 million people and engaged directly 119,000 people.

Monitoring

BCO is also actively monitoring the situation using existing well-developed data sources from MoH, to understand evolving and potentially shifting trends in the epidemic, as well as current efforts by government and other partners in their response. BCO is using four key lines of action in order to follow-up monitoring activities and producing evidence-based information to guide our response plan. The frequency and method might vary from daily to monthly depending on the product/activity: situation monitoring of *Aedes Aegypti* presence in the country and spread of related diseases; monitoring and evaluation of Brazilian response to *Aedes Aegypti*; innovative research to facilitate preventive measures against *Aedes Aegypti* and related diseases and; knowledge management.

Municipalities with confirmed cases of infectious microcephaly (not necessarily linked to ZIKV)



Source: Ministry of Health, 17/02/2016

Next SitRep: 24/02/2016

**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

Gary Stahl
Country Representative
Brazil
Tel: +(55 61) 81661645
Tel: +(55 61) 3035-1901
E-mail: gstahl@unicef.org