



Image credit: IFRC

STRENGTHENING community capacities for vector control and community surveillance through technology

Vector-borne diseases (VBDs) are a severe public health problem in the Americas and a serious threat to people, their families, and their communities. VBDs are responsible for serious outbreaks and epidemics and they represent a burden for countries, contributing to increasing poverty and overloading health systems.

Since the beginning of 2020, common VBDs in the Americas (chikungunya, zika, yellow fever, dengue, among others) are coexisting with the COVID-19 pandemic, greatly impacting communities and national health systems in several countries. Moreover, they are appearing in places where they had not previously occurred or had long been eliminated. For example, yellow fever cases are being reported in urban areas for the first time in over 50 years.

IFRC, in collaboration with National Societies and their volunteers, plays a very important role in vector control initiatives in the Americas. IFRC has implemented effective projects aimed at vector control and, during the last 5 years, has participated in 16 operations related to VBD

outbreaks in the Americas, benefiting more than 1.5 million people.

The National Societies and their volunteers distributed throughout the Americas can make a definitive contribution towards achieving a locally adapted, sustainable, and effective response against vectors, specifically through community engagement and mobilization, which are part of the movement mandate.



Image credit: Luc Alary/Canadian Red Cross



Technology and community participation for vector control in the Americas

With increased demand to fight against locally adapted vectors and with a focus on sustainability, IFRC aims to develop a Regional Vector Control Program in the Americas.

The goal of the initiative “*Strengthening community capacities for vector control and community surveillance through technology*” is to save lives and minimize the risks of VBDs using technology to strengthen community capacities in controlling vectors and community surveillance.

The initiative will use new and context-adapted technology to empower communities on the fight against VBDs, and to promote health messages and campaigns, community-based monitoring and control, as well as to support early identification of these diseases. Additionally, the project will develop a toolbox with resources and materials



and will promote research and innovation through strategic partnerships. The project will also incorporate cross-cutting issues such as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).



What do we want to achieve?



Communities strengthen their capacity to prevent VBDs through empowerment education and mobilization.



Communities and volunteers implement strategies to improve access to safe water and WASH practices.



Communities are empowered to be active agents in vector control actions.



Communities adopt innovative solutions (technology) for disease prevention and community mobilization.



The National Societies and their volunteers strengthen their capacities to lead vector control actions and support communities.

CASE FOR SUPPORT

Resources are needed to help improve the capacities of communities and National Societies in the Americas to better manage vector control actions.

The initiative will develop community and school plans to prevent and control VBDs, as well as provide training workshops, develop technologies, and compile and disseminate tools and resources, among other activities.

Required funding: **6,645,658 CHF**

Implementation timeframe: **3 years**