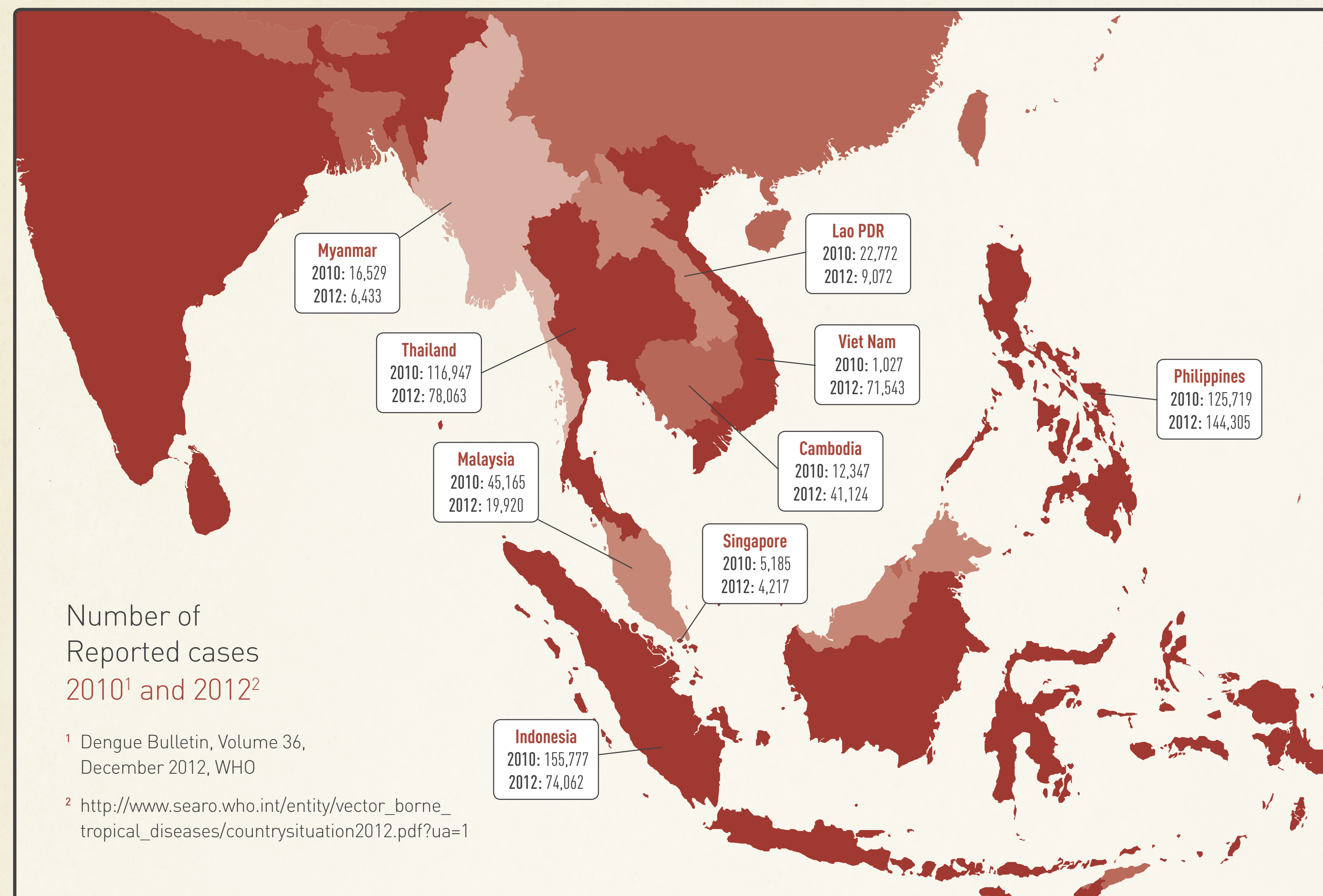


DENGUE – A SILENT DISASTER

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



All ASEAN countries (except Brunei) are among the top 30 most dengue endemic countries worldwide.

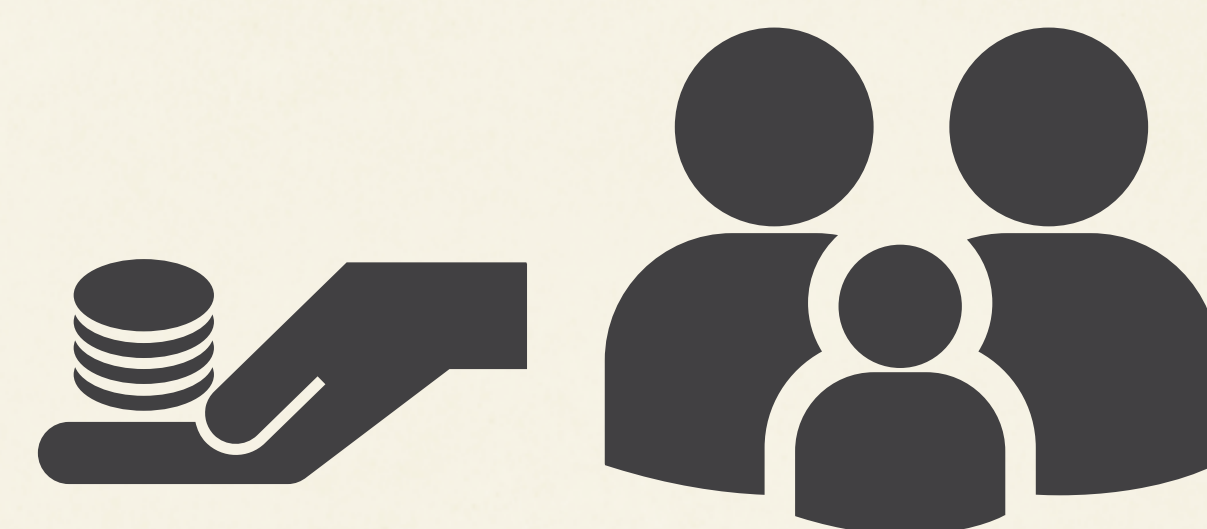


Dengue preparedness and response is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) strategic aim to enable healthy and safe living. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their local volunteers provide a vital link between governments and communities. Volunteers are able to represent the needs of the most vulnerable. They bridge the gap between communities and health services, improving access to health.



Photo: Philippine Red Cross

Dengue has a major economic impact, the impact of which is higher among the poorest and most vulnerable in terms of treatment costs and number of days lost in family productivity.



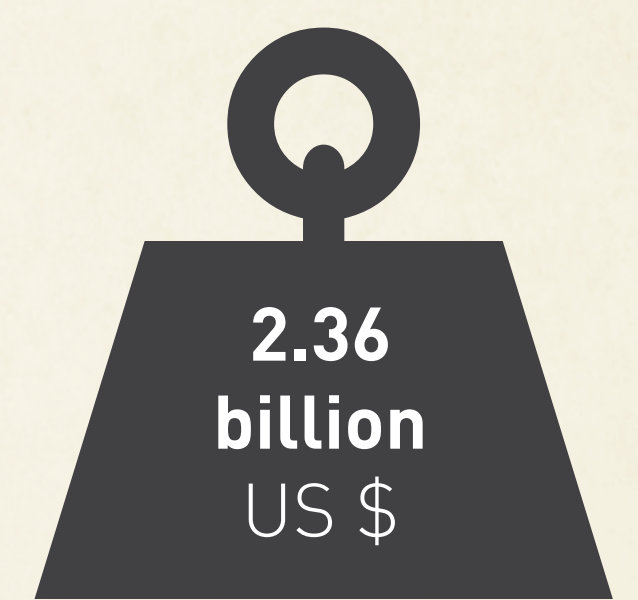
Treatment costs can be **triple** the family's monthly income



Ambulatory cases
14.8
days lost



Hospitalized cases
18.9
days lost



2.36
billion
US \$

South-East Asia

Seven Red Cross and Red Crescent prevention and control strategies



1. Social mobilization and behaviour change: Volunteers mobilize communities to raise awareness about the disease, how it is spread, how to protect themselves from dengue and how to recognize symptoms. In doing so, they assist communities to adopt behaviour change that reduces risk factors.



Photo: Philippine Red Cross



Photo: Viet Nam Red Cross

2. Community-based vector control: Red Cross and Red Crescent dengue vector control programmes are sustained mainly through community-based initiatives, for example, environmental sanitation programmes to reduce vector breeding sites.

3. Community-based surveillance: Volunteers in local Red Cross and Red Crescent branches can aid local authorities in collecting data by reporting dengue cases, especially during epidemics.

4. Early case identification and referral: National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide support to the most vulnerable populations to ensure they have access to basic services.

5. Partnerships: The Red Cross and Red Crescent has partnerships in dengue prevention with government, civil society and other stakeholders - for example, ASEAN, WHO and local authorities - to achieve joint advocacy and cost-effectiveness in community reach.

6. Strengthening capacity: Through programmes such as water and sanitation, epidemic control, and community-based health and first aid, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers increase their knowledge and skills so they can reduce health risks in their local communities.

7. Climate change: Disease patterns are changing in part due to climate change, but there is limited research to prove this correlation. The Red Cross and Red Crescent incorporates cross-cutting issues such as this one into its approach to dengue prevention.

Defeating dengue is possible

Dengue is a silent disaster. It is a major public health issue with catastrophic impacts on individuals and communities, yet it receives little media coverage compared to other disasters. The IFRC is turning up the volume on this silent disaster.

- **We call on governments** – to strengthen capacity to respond to the dengue caseload and harness integrated community health services
- **We call on donors** – to support and sustain delivery of integrated community health services that include training and community engagement on life-saving hygiene and environmental sanitation practices



Photo: Palang Merah Indonesia

- **We call on partners** – to advocate for and build partnership to improve disease surveillance, conduct essential research, and sustain community workers and volunteers so they can enhance the linkage between the community and formal health systems

For more information, read the Red Cross and Red Crescent advocacy report: Dengue – Turning up the volume on a silent disaster: www.ifrc.org/dengue