

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Suriname: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRSR002  
Glide No. FL-2008-000095-SUR  
27 June 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 381,174 (USD 363,022 or EUR 234,280) in cash, kind, or services to support the Suriname Red Cross to assist 3,000 families (15,000 beneficiaries) for 6 months.

CHF 140,000 (USD 133,333 or EUR 86,047) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 June 2008, to support this operation.

On 28 May, 2008 heavy rains caused serious flooding primarily in the Marowijne, Lawa and Tapanahoni regions of Suriname. Multi-agency coordination and preliminary assessments indicated that more than 3,000 households were affected. This Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the Suriname Red Cross, and focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the form of food and non-food relief items, supported by the promotion of water and sanitation and capacity building of the Suriname Red Cross, in the areas of water and sanitation, psychosocial support and IT telecom.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by 27 December 2008; a Final Report will be made available by 27 March 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)  
[here to link to a map of the affected area; or](#)  
[here to view contact details>](#)



Red Cross Volunteer Completing Assessment  
in South Eastern Suriname.  
Source: International Federation

## The situation

A period of constant rainfall resulted in serious flooding in late May 2008 of several villages located on the northern part of the Marowijne River. According to local authorities, two children died while evacuating the area, while many people were evacuated to higher ground or to the neighbouring country of French Guyana. Rainfall increased from the onset of the disaster, with high peaks in the week from 1 to 7 June 2008, leading to the overflow of the Tapanahony and Marowijne Rivers and consequently flooding of various villages and crops. Villages located north of the Suriname River were reported flooded, and as the water receded it

became clear that many crops, on which the population relies on, were destroyed. The most affected areas are in the Southern region of Suriname: Tapanahoni, Lawa, upper Marowijne and Coeroeni area.

Suriname had already experienced torrential rainfall at the beginning of May 2006, which caused serious flooding throughout the country and affected approximately 25,000-30,000 square kilometres of land and 25,000 people. However, in this year's emergency the population was better prepared than in 2006. For instance, people undertook early attempts to protect their personal property by moving household items to higher ground. In addition, other families elevated their houses. However, due to extremely high water levels, the damage was extensive.

In the southern region of Suriname, close to the border with French Guyana, the flood waters reached levels similar to those in the 2006 floods. This area is still being affected by rainfall according to the latest reports. The only way to access these villages is by boat via the river. Many schools, houses, resorts and roads were reported damaged. In addition, reports indicate

30 percent of the livestock, 65 percent of crops and 90 percent of the fishing industry have been affected. As the scope of the disaster is not yet fully known, no action is undertaken to address these problems. However, the different ministries and organizations are holding meetings to assess the situation and coordinate possible activities.

On 16 June - two weeks after the flooding started - reports indicated that the flood water had receded in most parts. However, some areas remain flooded, which makes life increasingly difficult for the population of those areas. In addition, there continues to be sporadic rainfall in the region with heavy rainfall expected in the near future. The government has started to carry out damage and needs assessments of the affected areas and is



**South Eastern Suriname flooded. Source: International Federation**

working closely with the Suriname Red Cross. Detailed damage and needs assessments have been difficult to carry out due to limited access and lack of roads to the affected areas. The government also announced that the drinking water is polluted and that the collection of rainwater is limited.

Food shortages are also a concern due to crops having been submerged for an extended period and the fact that fishing and hunting in many areas is no longer possible. The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (Nationaal Coördinatie Centrum Rampenbeheersing – NCCR) has also identified the threat of economic impact due to damaged tourism facilities, reduced employment opportunities, reduced supplies for tourists, damaged micro- enterprises and damaged crops and artisan gold-mining facilities.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the emergency, the government has been working with the Suriname Red Cross carrying out damage and needs assessments and providing transportation in order to distribute humanitarian aid to the affected regions.

The NCCR will lead the coordination of this and any other upcoming emergency operations (coordinating all actions with all cooperation mechanisms present in the country), and Suriname Red Cross has been attending meetings held by this coordinating body.

The Ministry of Regional Development has distributed 1,000 food parcels and will distribute an additional 1,000 in the coming week (this will complete the initial food distribution for the first two weeks); in addition, six temporary shelters were established by this Ministry. Also, some 600 Red Cross plastic sheets were distributed, through the Ministry of Regional Development. The Suriname Red Cross will work through the NCCR to coordinate the water and sanitation promotion activities as well as the food and non-food item distributions.



South Eastern Suriname flooded. Source: International Federation

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is coordinating with the NCCR as well as with the Suriname Red Cross to assist with the provision of chlorine tablets. Other international organizations are also providing support to the response, such as UNICEF.

From the onset of the disaster, the Suriname Red Cross has been in close contact with the International Federation, including the Regional Representation office for the Caribbean as well as PADRU, to share information and coordinate activities and resources.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 2 June, 2008, the SRC alerted two National Intervention Team (NIT)

members and consequently met with the government / NCCR in order to coordinate the assessment activities. The NIT teams performed rapid field assessments between the areas of Stoelmaneil and Drietabiki and informed that eight out of 14 villages were not completely under water and of those eight villages, three were abandoned since people fled to higher grounds.

The SRC also deployed four additional NIT trained volunteers to two areas in the upper Marowijne River to perform detailed damage and needs assessments. The SRC was able to distribute 600 plastic sheets with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development, pre-positioned in the Headquarters of the SRC, as these were not distributed during the floods in 2006.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), deployed a Disaster Management delegate to provide technical support to the operation during the initial assessment and coordination phase. In addition, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Jamaican Red Cross has been deployed to Suriname to support the Suriname Red Cross in the relief activities. The SRC is also in constant contact with the Federation's Caribbean Regional Representation Office in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago).

## The needs

After close collaboration with government and NGO partners as well as further assessments, the SRC has identified the following immediate needs:

- Food items.
- Non-food items (NFI).
- Water and Sanitation via hygiene promotion.

Intermediate and long-term needs are being further assessed in coordination with the NCCR. More information on this will become available as the situation becomes clearer. The first Operations Update will provide this information. Suriname Red Cross is including a capacity building objective which will enhance the National Society's ability to include water and sanitation training and psychosocial support in future response operations.

### Beneficiary selection:

Number of beneficiaries: 3,000 families (15,000 people).

Location of beneficiaries: Upper Marowijne, Lawa, and Tapanahoni areas.

Beneficiaries will be selected based on assessments of the most vulnerable within the targeted regions, with tracking via beneficiary lists and registration cards. Food distribution by the Suriname Red Cross will begin

after the government's food distribution program is completed. Further assessments are carried out in the areas with restricted access. Based on the outcome of these assessments, relief items will be available to be distributed to affected families.

Due to the fact that there is no road access to reach many of the affected areas for assessments of the situation and distribution of relief items, a higher percentage of the overall funding is dedicated to fund non-traditional modes to reach the areas and carry out assessments and distributions, such as planes and boats.

## The proposed operation

The Suriname Red Cross' Plan of Action (PoA) aims to respond to the needs of 3,000 affected families (15,000 people) and will be implemented over a period of six months. The Suriname Red Cross has an active Disaster Management Unit comprised of well-trained NIT and RIT members who will be actively involved in implementing the Plan of Action.

Immediate actions include:

- Distribution of food parcels to 3,000 families (the food parcels are based on supplies for two weeks and purchased locally), starting after the distributions undertaken by the government in the first two weeks are completed.
- Distribution of jerry cans and buckets to 3,000 families.
- Water and Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion activities to the affected communities, in cooperation with different actors such as PAHO, Ministry of Health and the Medical Mission. In addition, an IT consultant will be hired to train staff and volunteers on the use of IT equipment.

A Disaster Management delegate as well as general RIT member will support the Suriname Red Cross and continue to assess longer term needs. Overall, all activities will be monitored and evaluated and reporting on all activities will be undertaken at a regular bases. In addition, an exit-strategy will be developed.

Relief distributions	
<b>Objective: 3,000 families (15,000 people) will benefit from the distribution of food parcels and NFI items (buckets).</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 of the most affected families have received food parcels for 15 days as well as one bucket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency damage and needs assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> </ul>
A contingency stock of non food items has benefited possible unattended affected families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency stock of NFI in-country to support affected families in inaccessible areas.</li> </ul>

Distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls, monitors and records the movement of such goods. Selection criteria will prioritize families who have had to relocate to another building or location due to the fact that their house is unfit to live in due to severe water damage. The distributions will be carried out after the initial distributions of the government have been completed (note that the distribution of other NFI items is being addressed by other agents).

The food parcels, which follow SPHERE standards, will contain the following items:

### Food Parcels – 1 per family for 2 weeks supply

Item	Quantity
Rice	25 kg
Beans, brown kidney	1 kg
Green peas	4 medium cans
Sugar, white	2 kg
Salt, iodized	0.5 kg

Fish, sardines	4 large cans
Cooking Oil, sunflower	2 ltr.

The following non-food relief items will be available if necessary for families whose situation has not yet been assessed, as the access to their areas is restricted:

Description	Quantities
Plastic Sheeting (4 x 6 m tarp.)	1,000
Kitchen Set (family of 5)	500
Mosquito Nets (160 x 180 x 150)	1,000
Collapsible Jerry cans - 10 Liter	500
Individual First Aid Kits (Pillow Type)	50
Chain Saw / 20" / two-cycle gas engine / with case	2
Honda Petrol Generator (3 Kva / 110. 210 V)	1
Pick Axe with Handle	10
Shovel with Handle	10
Rope (Poly, 8 mm, twisted, 100 m)	1
Volunteer Kit for 50 persons National Society	1
Visibility Items (IFRC Banners, Flags, Stickers)	2
Twin Halogen Stand Work Spotlight 120 v / 1000 W	2

#### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 3,000 families (15,000 people) in the affected areas for 6 months.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion practices and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population.</li> <li>Initiate a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 15,000 people in the affected areas. (The focus of the campaign will be identified according to the needs and assessment.)</li> <li>Provide supplies to be used in the health promotion campaign. Supplies and visibility material should be directly related to the hygiene promotion campaign. Those can include printed materials (posters, flyers, etc), manuals, educational materials, etc).</li> <li>Distribution of 6,000 household level water storage (i.e. 10-liter collapsible) jerry cans to 3,000 families.</li> </ul>

The families will be selected from the areas close to the main flooded rivers, in the Marowijne, Lawa and Tapanahoni areas. The survey will be based on assessment reports from the National Society, other Non-Governmental Organisations such as 'Medical Mission' and the Ministry of Regional Development, all coordinated through the NCCR. Selection criteria will prioritize families who have had to relocate to another building or location due to the fact that their house is unfit to live in because of severe water damage.

Through the water and sanitation sub-working group it has been agreed that water and sanitation interventions will also be specifically targeted towards communities that suffer from water-related illnesses (water borne diseases), but as detailed damage and needs assessments are still being completed, more information on which communities will be targeted will become available in the next Operations Update.

#### National Society Capacity Building

**Objective: The capacity of the Suriname Red Cross to respond to disasters and ability to communicate during emergencies will be enhanced by capacity building workshops on Water and**

<b>Sanitation and PSP and trainings on the use of the IT equipment.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The SRC enhances its Water and Sanitation and Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct 1 training on Water and Sanitation for 15 volunteers and staff;</li> <li>• Conduct 1 PSP training in-country to train 15 volunteers and staff:</li> </ul> <p>In both cases, the following steps will be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of the participants</li> <li>- Selection of the topics to be addressed</li> <li>- Preparation of the workshop</li> <li>- Reporting on the workshop</li> </ul>
SRC staff and volunteers are trained on the use of IT equipment, to ensure effective communication in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of IT equipment previously purchased by the National Society.</li> <li>• Conduct trainings on the use of IT equipment by IT Consultant and RIT member.</li> </ul>

The participants for these trainings will be identified and selected through the SRC's existing Disaster Management Team and their NIT and RIT members, in order to complement their existing skills, sets and capacities. This will then be applied during future emergencies. Note that there have been no previous trainings on Psychosocial Support in the Suriname Red Cross; therefore, this emergency offers a good opportunity to build this programme.

#### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

Through continued public and media relations it is hoped that the public will develop a better understanding of the mission of the Suriname Red Cross and the activities Red Cross undertakes in serving humanity. The International Federation and the Suriname Red Cross seek to promote the Fundamental Principles in all activities, and subsequently facilitate additional visibility of the Movement as a whole. The National Society and the Federation will ensure coverage of the emergency operation and news articles and photographs will be published on the Federation's public web site.

#### **Capacity of the National Society**

The Suriname Red Cross invested time and funding since the 2006 floods focused on increasing the National Society's disaster response programming. Since 2005, nine RITs have been trained. In addition, two members of the SRC have completed the Global Relief Training and one member has completed Field School. This year alone, 19 NITS have been trained, as well as 20 VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment methodology) facilitators, as a result of DIPECHO VI funding. Various in-country capacity building trainings, including Water and Sanitation and Relief, have been conducted. The Suriname Red Cross has a well structured Disaster Management Team.

The above mentioned resources have been critical to the recent flood response and have highlighted the recent years of efforts spent on capacity building, including DIPECHO VI funding.

#### **Capacity of the Federation**

The International Federation through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has been providing support to the SRC in coordinating initial response and personnel to support early relief activities and applying lessons learned from the 2006 flood emergency.

The Regional Representation of the Caribbean based in Trinidad has also been providing support since the beginning of the emergency.

The Federation has deployed a Disaster Management delegate as well as a general RIT to support the Suriname Red Cross. In addition, the requisition of non-food items will be provided by the Federation's Regional Logistic Unit.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The National Society will ensure regular monitoring of the implementation of the operation, with the support of the Federation. Regular reports on the operation will be published on the Federation's web site.

In addition, the Suriname Red Cross will complete an evaluation using the Federation beneficiary questionnaire as well as internal resources to evaluate the effectiveness in meeting the PoA objectives. The data gathered during this evaluation will be consolidated, reviewed and used to draw lessons learned and build on the response capacity of the National Society.

## Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner  
Director  
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala  
Secretary General

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

- In Suriname: Marja Naarendorp, President of the Suriname Red Cross; email: [surcross@sr.net](mailto:surcross@sr.net); phone: (597) 498 410; fax: (597) 464 780.
- In Panama: Jono Anzalone, Disaster Management Delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; e-mail: [jono.anzalone@ifrc.org](mailto:jono.anzalone@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Caribbean Regional Representative; email: [Tanya.wood@ifrc.org](mailto:Tanya.wood@ifrc.org); phone: (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627.
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas; e-mail: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone (507) 380 0254; fax (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Linda Stops, Acting Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: [Linda.stops@ifrc.org](mailto:Linda.stops@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 22 730 4300.

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

**APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

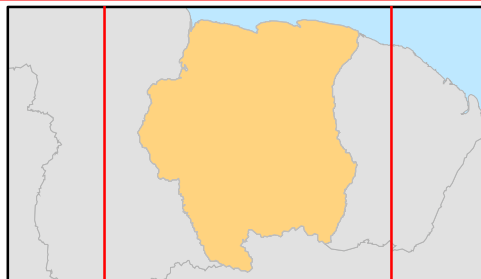
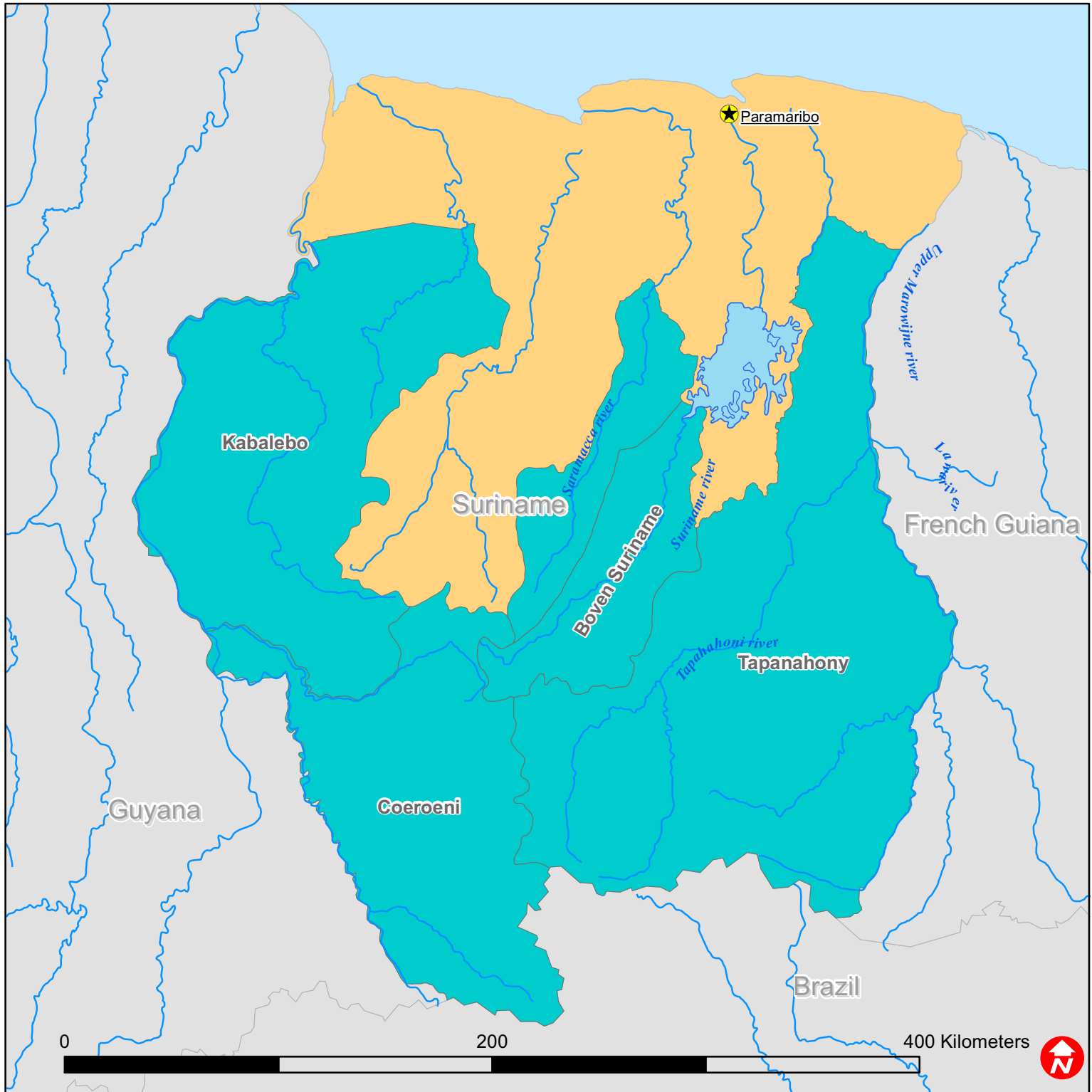
Annex 1

**SURINAME FLOODS**

	<b>ORIGINAL</b>
<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>	
Shelter	20,000
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	6,000
Food	118,140
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	51,915
Other Supplies & Services	
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>196,055</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>	
Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	36,750
Transport & Vehicles Costs	47,250
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
International Staff	4,950
Regionally Deployed Staff	11,950
National Staff	6,000
National Society Staff	4,200
Consultants	
<b><u>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</u></b>	
Workshops & Training	18,900
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>	
Travel	9,660
Information & Public Relations	4,575
Office running costs	4,200
Communication Costs	4,000
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme Support - PSR	24,261
Cost Recovery - RLU	7,923
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>185,119</b>
<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>381,174</b>
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>381,174</b>



# Suriname: Floods



 Affected areas