

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Suriname: Floods

Interim Final Report
Emergency appeal n°
MDRSR002

GLIDE n° [FL-2008-000095-SUR](#)

29 June 2009

Period covered by this Final Report: 27 June 2008 to 27 February 2009.

Appeal (current): target CHF 911,135 (USD 751,235 or EUR 592,038);

Final Appeal coverage: 100%;

[<Click here to go directly to the interim financial report, or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 27 June 2008 for CHF 381,174 (USD 363,022 or EUR 234,280) for six months to assist 3,000 families (15,000 beneficiaries).
- CHF 140,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in responding by delivering assistance.
- Revised Emergency Appeal launched on 27 July 2008 for CHF 844,295 (USD 815,122 or EUR 518,784) to include an additional relief distribution and additional capacity building activities.
- Revised budget and extended time frame on 23 January 2009, from CHF 844,295 to CHF 911,135 (USD 751,235 or EUR 592,038), to reflect the additional funds received for an additional 2 months, until 27 February 2009 to continue the recovery and rehabilitation activities.

Summary: The 2008 rainy season caused the second major flooding in the interior of Suriname in recent history. It is estimated that 5,000 families were affected by the floods, which destroyed homes and crops.

From the onset of the emergency the Suriname Red Cross (SRC), responded immediately to affected families with hygiene promotion and relief distributions. The Federation activated response mechanisms and released DREF funds for immediate support to the National Society.



Red Cross volunteer unloading food parcels from boats. Source: Suriname Red Cross

After assessments were carried out, the SRC developed a Plan of Action to assist 3,000 families in the regions and an international emergency appeal was launched. The main actions carried out within the operation included the distribution of food parcels, buckets, jerry cans, chlorine tablets and planting materials. Also, activities were carried out on community nutrition, improved agriculture techniques, and risk reduction trainings, and SRC capacity-building. The International Federation through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) have provided ongoing support to the SRC throughout the operation.

During the closure of the operation, an internal evaluation was carried out highlighting lessons learnt. An important factor in the success of the operation was the effective implementation of the recommendations given after the 2006 flooding operation. Many of the SRC volunteers and staff participated in both events.

Logistical challenges included difficulties reaching the flood affected communities because of rough river conditions and the availability and reliability of transporters via plane and boat. This meant that distributions took more time and that beneficiaries were unnecessarily detained from their daily routines.

The International Federation would like to thank the generous contributions to the Appeal including those from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Canadian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, the Kuwait Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross. ECHO contributed over 70 per cent of the funding for this Appeal.

The American Red Cross (AmCross) kindly contributed by sending two IT delegates to install a HF (high frequency) radio and train the Suriname Red Cross in its use and maintenance. AmCross also donated a laptop and two GPSs to the SRC.

Moreover, Alcoa made a bilateral contribution to the Suriname Red Cross. This direct contribution was fundamental for the completion of activities included in the Plan of Action, and are not reflected in the overall expenditures presented in the attached financial report.

This report includes an interim financial report for the following reasons: there is an outstanding partial payment of a donor contribution and a pending transaction to be recorded in the accounts. These bookings will be carried out at the first opportunity.

The situation

On 28 May 2008 constant rainfall flooded several villages located on the northern part of the Marowijne River according to the Government Department for Regional Development. Many people were evacuated to higher ground or to the neighbouring country of French Guyana. Heavy rainfall increased with high peaks in the week from 1 to 7 June 2008, leading to the overflow of the Tapanahony and Marowijne rivers and consequently flooded the villages that lay along the riverbanks.

As the water receded it became clear that many life sustaining crops were destroyed. The most affected areas, the Tapanahony, Lawa, upper Marowijne and Coeroeni, are in southern and eastern Suriname. Reports from the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (National Coordinatie Centrum Rampenbeheersing – NCCR) indicated that 30 per cent of the livestock, 65 per cent of crops and 90 per cent of the fishing industry were affected.

The government and several NGOs responded to the emergency by coordinating efforts and sharing information. Damage and needs assessments of the affected areas were conducted. The government commenced relief assistance by distributing food parcels during the first weeks after the flooding. Ensuing the government distributions, the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) commenced distributions of food and non-food items to the most vulnerable, totalling 2,554 families.

After the rain subsided and river levels receded, families were able to return to their daily activities (fishing and hunting). They salvaged crops that were used for consumption, prepared the land for the next planting. However, planting materials readily available amounted to approximately 30 per cent of normal planting levels and was of low quality. In addition, rising transportation costs made the purchase of food in the affected communities very expensive, and the variety of food products available for purchase scarce. These combined

factors have resulted in a continuous food security problem in the villages affected by the floods. Consequently, the appeal timeframe was extended to include additional food security sector actions. The budget was also revised to reflect the income received.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The Suriname Red Cross activated its response system through its disaster management department on 2 June 2008 after initial reports of flooding in the Suriname interior. The SRC National Intervention Team members were alerted and assessment coordination activities began in collaboration with the Suriname government. Damage and needs assessments were carried out for the next two weeks in the affected regions. As assessments were carried out and planning meetings commenced, supplies of plastic sheeting remaining from the 2006 floods were distributed with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development. The plastic sheeting was used by the flood affected families to protect their belongings and parts of their houses.

During the week of 15 June the SRC developed a Plan of Action to provide emergency assistance to those affected by the floods and an initial allocation from the DREF was approved. The initial allocation was to support a distribution of food parcels for 1,300 families and conduct hygiene promotion activities, starting after the food distributions undertaken by the government.

Shortly after, an Emergency Appeal was launched to assist 3,000 families with emergency food, non-food items and hygiene promotion. Funding support for the Appeal was initially slow. However, overwhelming support came allowing for an additional food distribution and added capacity-building activities. The Appeal was revised upwards on 27 July to reflect the additional activities.



Suriname Red Cross personnel during the distribution of buckets and jerry cans. Source: Suriname Red Cross

The situation, under constant re-evaluation, revealed that the food shortage problem was not going to end in the short-term. Consequently, the SRC developed a new Plan of Action to address the continued vulnerability to food shortages. The Appeal was extended for an additional two months to accommodate a longer term approach to food insecurity. Thus, allowing for a more effective impact.

In summary, the main lines of action carried out included:

- distribution of food;
- distribution of buckets, jerry cans, and chlorine tablets;
- hygiene promotion and water-borne illness prevention activities;
- capacity-building for the SRC;
- distribution of planting materials;
- community risk reduction activities.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit, deployed a Disaster Management delegate and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member, specialized in disaster management. Both arrived in Suriname in June to support the SRC in coordinating and carrying out its Plan of Action. An additional RIT member arrived in Suriname on 25 July 2008, and remained in Suriname until the end of the relief distributions in late September.

Continuity in Federation support was provided on this operation throughout transition from relief to recovery activities and from the handover between PADRU and the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO), with the constant support of a programme manager. The programme manager remained the point of contact for the operation since their arrival in Suriname on 25 July until the end of the operation.

Relief distributions

Objective: 3,000 families (15,000 people) will benefit from the distribution of food parcels and NFI items (buckets).

Impact:

Emergency food assistance was provided from July to September 2008 to 2,554 families (12,770 beneficiaries). Food assistance consisted of two distributions of food parcels and rice that met sphere standards for two months. The number of families receiving distributions varied from the original beneficiary objective due to people leaving villages in search of work, mainly at the gold mines and people that did not return to their homes by the time the distributions were completed. Furthermore, the second food parcel and rice distribution quantities were reduced to reflect the availability of other food sources at that time. More effort was put towards planning longer term food security actions that would improve the overall food security situation and mitigate risk to food insecurity in future disasters.

Community and surroundings	N° of beneficiary families receiving food parcels and rice
Dritabiki	429
Stoelmanseila	770
Langatabiki	610
Amotopo	13
Tepu	127
Kwamelasemutu	215
Alalapadu	25
Granbori	30
Godolo	335
TOTAL	2,554

A number of preparation activities were held before the distributions which included assessments, the identification of affected communities and distribution of beneficiary cards, and the identification of locations to carry out distributions. Food items were procured locally following the International Federation logistics procurement procedures.

The assessments and distributions were carried out by 41 SRC volunteers. Indigenous community leaders played an important role in this process, by providing lists of names of families in each community and by accompanying the SRC during the distributions.

Difficulties included dangerous river conditions and limited communication. Fortunately the only issue that arose from the river conditions was the loss of some food parcels. As a consequence, it was decided to use more air transportation during future distributions. Improvement was made over the course of the implementation, with regards to communication, the installment of a HF radio at the SRC headquarters and the purchase of satellite phones. However, communications limitations in remote areas will continue to be difficult in future interventions.

The emergency food relief items reduced hunger and malnutrition during the critical time when flooding had driven animals that were usually hunted for food further into the jungle, made fishing impossible, and crops inaccessible, ruined, or rotted. Monitoring indicated that beneficiaries were satisfied with the food items and that the items lasted for the appropriate time.

Contingency stocks shipped from PADRU were received and stored. Contingency items available for use in future responses include buckets, kitchen sets and jerry cans for 1,000 families. These stocks will be used to assist the most vulnerable when the next major disaster in Suriname takes place, further enhancing the capacity of the SRC to respond immediately.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

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.

Impact: The distributed food parcels were given in combination with 1 bucket, 2 jerry cans, and 600 chlorine tablets per beneficiary family. A folder with hygiene promotion materials was also given to each family in combination with hygiene promotion and training on the proper use of the chlorine tablets. Hygiene promotion was conducted during the initial assessments and again during the first distributions.

Twelve SRC volunteers conducted water and sanitation promotion in the affected communities. The table below reflects the affected communities served and the number of families reached in each community.

Community and surroundings	Beneficiary families
Dritabiki	429
Stoelmanseila	770
Langatabiki	610
Amotopo	13
Tepu	127
Kwamelasemutu	215
Alalapadu	25
Granbori	30
Godolo	335
TOTAL	2,554

It was evident that past community trainings in water, sanitation, and hygiene had been successful. Flood affected families were concerned about having clean water and asked for chlorine tablets from the start. Monitoring visits indicated that families had used the chlorine tablets properly and still remembered the proper ratios for the tablets and water.

Throughout the response to the floods, from assessment to monitoring, water-borne diseases were minimal, only two to three cases were reported in each flood affected village. Flood affected community members were aware of the possible dangers and how to mitigate the risk. Evidence of this was verified upon returning to the communities and speaking with the medical missions.

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 Sanitation and PSP and trainings on the use of the IT equipment.

Impact: A number of key trainings identified as priorities by the SRC were incorporated into the response efforts. Additionally, the response activities itself provided an opportunity for volunteers and staff to use skills learned in recent trainings prior to the floods.

Workshop	Participants
Water and Sanitation	34
Psychosocial Support	19
Media	21
HF Radio	2
Chainsaw	10
Food Security	20

The SRC is better prepared to respond to future disasters with the training and experience gained throughout

this operation,

Equipment purchased or received as in-kind donation to use on this and future responses:

- All terrain vehicle
- Volunteer equipment such as tents, backpacks, hammocks, air mattresses and air pumps
- 3 satellite phones
- 2 GPS units donated by the American Red Cross
- 1 laptop donated by the American Red Cross and a laptop purchased as part of the of the HF radio.
- 3 digital cameras
- 2 generators
- Chainsaws, work spotlights, shovels, pick axes, and first aid kits
- 5 Vehicle emergency kits

All these items will significantly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of future responses. In addition to the equipment purchased, an HF radio was installed further enhancing the SRC communications capacity.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

Objective: The most vulnerable are provided with planting materials to replace lost staple crops.

Impact: A total of 800 families in Stoelamaneilands, Nkonikiimofu, Agaikoni, Karmel, Ditabikii, Dataakonde Godolo, Akonkaba, Lawa, Kwamalasamutu, and surrounding areas of these villages received planting materials during January and February 2009. A fog generator was also purchased for the agricultural community recovery programme. Planting materials consisted of seeds and seedling of plantains, corn, napi, Chinese tanja, okra, calaila, callaloo, long beans and cassava sticks. Beneficiary families were encouraged to share seeds, plants, and the knowledge of how to plant and cook the new complementary vegetables with neighbouring communities and other families within their own communities. It is estimated that a total of 2,000 families will benefit from the distribution of planting materials and knowledge-sharing within the next 6 months between communities.

The provision of planting materials contributed to the restoration and improvement of the basic living conditions and the resilience of the affected population through increased capacity and enhanced food production. Furthermore, the introduction of these complimentary vegetables, which have a short production cycle, will significantly improve the communities' ability to cope when a disaster strikes again.

Community Risk Reduction

Objective: The most vulnerable are better prepared to withstand the effects of flooding.

Impact: The SRC, in collaboration with Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), conducted community risk reduction activities in the worst flood affected villages during January through April 2009. The specific communities were chosen based on the following factors: the communities were affected by the floods and received emergency aid through this appeal, the limited resources and capacities of the SRC and its project partners, and the known plans of other flood response actors in Suriname.

The general purpose was to assist the local population to re-establish farm production through the provision of traditional seeds; as well as improve planting materials and provide training in vegetable production. The goal is for these participating villagers to serve as a local resource on improved agricultural techniques in the community. In addition, as the project was structured these participants would utilize the information they received on their own individual plots. In taking this approach, the project is able to build capacity and empower participants to become trainers, educate their fellow community members, and have the participants' plots demonstrate the effectiveness of what they have learned. Thus, the plots and gardens work as a catalyst in having the improved agricultural systems provided by SRC and IICA adapted by others.

The following activities took place:

Community meetings to:

- Explain sustainable agriculture.
- Discuss the need to move from shifting cultivation (slash and burn) in order to improve agriculture (farming) systems and practices. Communities have been recommended to move

- towards crop rotation and work on practices to improve the soil quality.
- Discuss climate change and the need to develop a new timeframe for planting root crops in order to reduce the risk of rotting.
- Discuss how to maintain food security and improve family food nutrition activities.
- Establish a committee or appoint farmers representatives to collaborate with organizations regarding agriculture and food security.

Workshops conducted that included:

- Practical training in vegetable production, making seed beds, sowing and replanting.
- Training in seed collection and storage.
- Creating family vegetable gardens to support family food nutrition.
- Guiding farmers in their own root crop planting technique to overcome upcoming problems and constraints especially in regard to climate change effects.
- Training in healthy food preparation.

The workshops and project activities were conducted in Stoelamaneilands, Nkonikiimofu, Godoloo and Kwamalasamutu. There were 139 participants in total. It was stressed during the workshops that the people who attended the workshops should train the other farmers in the communities so that they can also benefit from the experiences of what the participants have learned during the workshops.

In addition, agricultural equipment and materials were purchased using the bilateral contribution from Alcoa to the SRC and thus are not including in the financial report. The equipment and materials were utilized in the workshops and will be the responsibility of the community farmer representatives going forward.

Variant factors such as planting and harvesting seasons, the time needed for adequate agricultural and nutritional training and monitoring, remoteness of the villages and number of visits needed to the benefiting regions, high expense of transport, and limited communication access with village members and participants, were the main challenges.

Conclusion

Overall the operation was a success. All objectives were accomplished although indicators were not. Indicators were overstated due to inadequate information during the planning stages and the changing situation conditions during implementation. However, changes in the plan of action had a positive impact on beneficiaries and on the National Society. Specifically, beneficiaries are benefiting in the longer-term based on the changes without negative consequences in the short-term. The Suriname Red Cross has benefited from trainings and equipment purchases that will dramatically improve its ability to effectively respond to disasters in the future. This is especially true for Suriname because the SRC has shown how well it utilizes the tools and knowledge gained.

Lessons learnt: On 3 March 2009, the Suriname floods lessons learnt event took place. Representatives of the International Federation, the Suriname Red Cross and partner organizations participated.. The following lessons learnt and priority needs were identified:

- Systemization of the available information of the community including active organizations within the communities and names of the community leaders.
- Pre-disaster agreements with conveyors to have access to cheaper transportation.
- Establish and maintain relationships with reliable boatmen.
- Establish a central reporting system.
- Establishment of national protocols in disaster response and the SRC role in the national context. Disaster management actors within Suriname must collaborate on an ongoing basis and clarify roles. Historically, there has been no structured coordination or documented strategy for coordination and roles in disaster. As national natural disasters become more frequent and severe in Suriname due to climate change and conditions, now is the time to formalize and prepare for impending events.
- Disaster preparedness activities and projects undertaken in Suriname over the last few years have shown sustainability and effectiveness in reducing disaster effects and minimizing human suffering. Continuation of the DIPECHO program and micro-projects in more Suriname communities are seen as the best strategy for mitigating disaster risk in Suriname.
- Food insecurity will most certainly continue to be an issue for Suriname. Resource allocation to viable

- food security projects would benefit the population at the most basic level.
- More time needs to be spent planning for long-term approaches, taking into account that technical partners are essential for food security projects.

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; phone: (597) 498 410; fax: (597) 464 780.
- **In Trinidad and Tobago:** Tanya Wood, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; email: Tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone: (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627.
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas Zone; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 380 0250; fax (507) 317 1304.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 22 730 4274; fax: (41) 22 733 0395.

[<Interim financial report below; or click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/6-2009/2
Appeal	MDRSR002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	911,135					911,135
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
Canadian Red Cross	51,000					51,000
ECHO	523,200					523,200
Japanese Red Cross	30,640					30,640
Kuwait Red Crescent	20,400					20,400
Netherlands Red Cross	161,000					161,000
C1. Cash contributions	786,240					786,240
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
ECHO	120,937					120,937
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	120,937					120,937
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	907,177					907,177
D. Total Funding = B + C	907,177					907,177
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	907,177					907,177
E. Expenditure	-904,371					-904,371
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	2,806					2,806

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/6-2009/2
Appeal	MDRSR002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		911,135					911,135	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles		2,143					2,143	-2,143
Food	189,033	196,575					196,575	-7,542
Seeds, Plants	36,540	13,407					13,407	23,133
Medical & First Aid		53					53	-53
Teaching Materials	39,120	3,008					3,008	36,112
Utensils & Tools	105,342	73,394					73,394	31,948
Total Supplies	370,035	288,580					288,580	81,455
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	40,000	24,210					24,210	15,790
Computers & Telecom	7,595	7,781					7,781	-186
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	2,760	2,752					2,752	8
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	50,355	34,743					34,743	15,612
Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,339	7,327					7,327	-988
Distribution & Monitoring	238,613	286,927					286,927	-48,314
Transport & Vehicle Costs	32,043	39,402					39,402	-7,359
Total Transport & Storage	276,995	333,657					333,657	-56,662
Personnel								
International Staff	3,850							3,850
Regionally Deployed Staff	34,481	38,052					38,052	-3,571
National Staff		279					279	-279
National Society Staff	15,450	28,691					28,691	-13,241
Total Personnel	53,781	67,022					67,022	-13,241
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	31,256	36,974					36,974	-5,718
Total Workshops & Training	31,256	36,974					36,974	-5,718
General Expenditure								
Travel	34,970	38,818					38,818	-3,848
Information & Public Relation	14,369	7,283					7,283	7,086
Office Costs	6,098	5,013					5,013	1,085
Communications	8,652	7,898					7,898	754
Professional Fees	4,500	2,420					2,420	2,080
Financial Charges	900	18,713					18,713	-17,813
Other General Expenses		422					422	-422
Total General Expenditure	69,489	80,567					80,567	-11,078
Programme Support								
Program Support	59,224	58,503					58,503	721
Total Programme Support	59,224	58,503					58,503	721
Services								
Services & Recoveries		4,326					4,326	-4,326
Total Services		4,326					4,326	-4,326
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	911,135	904,371					904,371	6,764
VARIANCE (C - D)		6,764					6,764	