

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Suriname: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRSR002
GLIDE n°FL-2008-000095-SUR
Operations update no. 2
29 September 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update:
27 July to 22 September 2008

Appeal target (current): CHF 844,295 (USD 861,181 or EUR 518,927).

Appeal coverage: 108%

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 27 June 2008 for CHF 381,174 (USD 363,022 or EUR 234,280) in cash, in-kind, or services to support the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) to assist 3,000 families (approximately 15,000 beneficiaries) for six months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF): CHF 140,000 (USD 133,333 OR EUR 86,047) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society in the response.
- This Revised Emergency Appeal was launched on 27 July 2008 for CHF 844,295 (USD 861,181 or EUR 518,927) to include an additional relief distribution and additional capacity building activities.



Area of Dritabiki during the second distribution of essential relief items. Source: Suriname Red Cross

[<click here to view the attached interim financial report;](#)
[here to see the consolidated donor response;](#)
[or here to view contact details>](#)

Summary: Several weeks of heavy rains in the Paramaccan and Tapanahony regions of Suriname caused rivers to rise substantially, thus flooding nearby villages and destroying agricultural plots. The Suriname government coordinated assessments and relief efforts of multi agencies and organisations. The affected areas were not declared as "disaster areas" by the government. In this case international assistance was unable to respond to the flooding requested. However, the Suriname government has requested United Nations assistance to plan and implement an early recovery strategy.

The Suriname Red Cross commenced rapid and detailed assessments in the regions and made relief distributions to the most vulnerable people affected by the June 2008 flooding in the Paramaccan and Tapanahony regions of Suriname. Distributions were completed on 7 September. As part of the early recovery strategy mentioned above, the Suriname Red Cross with support from the Federation will conduct a food security evaluation within a limited flood affected area to determine if communities are commencing recovery or if an additional intervention is needed.

This second operation update focuses on the completion of relief distributions and planning of recovery and capacity building activities. These activities are made possible by the donations of the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid, the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Cross, and Netherlands Red Cross. Response to this appeal has been very generous and includes bilateral

donations from several Partner National Societies (PNS) and other organisations; consequently no further funding is sought.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will 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).

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. People evacuated the area to higher ground or to the neighbouring country of French Guyana. Heavy rainfall continued with high peaks in the week from 1 to 7 June 2008, leading to the overflow of the Tapanahony and Marowijne rivers. Consequently, this led to the flooding of more villages that lay along the riverbanks. As the river waters receded it became clear that many life sustaining crops were destroyed. The most affected areas are the Tapanahony, Lawa, upper Marowijne and Coeroeni, in southern and eastern Suriname.

Suriname experienced severe floods in May 2006 which affected some 25,000 people and approximately 25,000 to 30,000 square kilometres of land. The 2006 floods were considered by many as the first natural disaster in Suriname in over 20 years. However, for this emergency two years later, the Suriname population and the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) were better prepared than in 2006. For instance, people undertook early attempts to protect their personal belongings by moving household items to higher grounds. Newly settled families had taken precautions to elevate their houses. The SRC was able to anticipate needs and was better prepared, having trained National Intervention Team (NITs) members. Nevertheless, damages from the surge of rainfall were extensive.



Distribution activities in Dritabiki. Source: Suriname Red Cross

In the southern region of Suriname, close to the border with French Guyana, the flood water reached levels similar to those in the 2006 floods. The only way to access these villages is by boat via the river, even during non-flood periods, as there are few roads. Many schools, houses, resorts and roads were reported damaged. River water levels have receded, but remain higher than normal. In addition, reports from the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (National Coordinatie Centrum Rampenbeheersing – NCCR) indicate that 30 per cent of the livestock, 65 per cent of crops and 90 per cent of the fishing industry have been 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. The SRC emergency relief

activities included distribution of 5,108 food parcels, 5,108 jerry cans and 2,554 buckets. In addition, the SRC distributed 12,770 boxes of chlorine tablets and conducted trainings on the proper use of chlorine tablets and hygiene promotion.

Food shortages were addressed through the distribution of food parcels. However, in many areas fishing and hunting were not possible for several weeks following the floods, and many crops that were submerged for an extended period and were ruined entirely. Food security, therefore, remains a concern. In addition to the food shortage, the specific threats identified by the NCCR are the economic consequences that include damaged tourism facilities, reduced employment opportunities, reduced supplies for tourists, damaged micro-enterprises and crops and artisan gold-mining facilities.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation is supporting the SRC through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) in Trinidad and Tobago. PADRU through the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) has coordinated shipments of relief supplies, contingency stock and equipment. To date, a Disaster Management Delegate, a General Regional Intervention Team Member,

and a Programme Manager have provided in-country support to the SRC. The management of this operation is now moving from PADRU to the CRRO.

In addition to the donation of the Netherlands Red Cross, donations from the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross have been allocated to this appeal since the last reporting period. The American Red Cross (ARC) sent two volunteers to install a much needed high frequency radio that was previously purchased by the SRC. ARC also made in-kind donations of a laptop computer, a GPS and two satellite phones.

As a result of a joint field assessment with ECHO field staff, a project to address food security needs of the region through this appeal was submitted to ECHO and approved for EUR 400,000. The ECHO funded food security project allowed a second food parcel distribution and additional SRC capacity building activities, including the procurement of contingency stocks for future emergency responses if needed.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) coordinated its response activities with the NCCR to assist with the provision of chlorine tablets to the SRC for distribution. Other international organizations are also providing support to the response, such as UNICEF.

The overall operational coordination of the emergency response is with the NCCR. From the onset of the disaster, the SRC has been in close contact with the NCCR. New collaborative efforts have begun for the early recovery phase. The government has requested that the UNDP develop and implement an early recovery strategy. SRC and Federation representatives have attended early recovery planning meetings with UNDP, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Peace Corps. Future meetings coordinated by NCCR will be attended by SRC and Federation representatives so that Red Cross actions are encompassed into the overall early recovery strategy and resources are utilized effectively.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The SRC completed two rounds of relief distributions, which included food parcels, buckets, jerry cans and chlorine tablets.

The SRC has been coordinating all its actions with the NCCR, the overall coordinating agency for the flood response, and has begun efforts to expand its partnerships to include organisations that have technical expertise in food security and ties within the communities affected by the floods.

A Federation Project Coordinator arrived in Suriname on 25 July to support the Suriname Red Cross in implementing the full plan of action, coordinate Federation resources, and provide continuity in monitoring and reporting. To date, five Federation and Partner National Society members, including a PADRU Disaster Management Delegate, a General RIT from Jamaican Red Cross, two IT volunteers from American Red Cross, and a Project Coordinator have been deployed to Suriname to support the SRC.

As relief distributions have finished, SRC preparedness activities for future disasters are heightening. Activities relating to preparedness for the National Society to date include, purchases consisting of contingency stocks for 1,000 families, three satellite phones and three digital cameras and installation of a high frequency radio. In addition, a water and sanitation workshop was completed on 13 September and preparation for a psychosocial support workshop and a food security assessment are underway. A food security assessment of flood affected areas will take place immediately following the workshop in late October.



Volunteers unloading a plane in Dribabiki. Source: Suriname Red Cross.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions

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

Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 of the most affected families have received 2 food parcels; one for 15 days and one for 30 days as well as one bucket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
Contingency stocks of non-food items for 1,000 families are in place to be used if needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency stock of NFI will be purchased in-country to support 1,000 affected families in inaccessible areas.

Progress

The SRC registered beneficiaries considered most vulnerable, targeting families who had severe damage to their dwellings and livelihoods (agricultural plots). Beneficiaries were registered with the SRC and issued distribution tickets which were exchanged for humanitarian assistance.

All activities for this objective are complete. The objective stated the total number of beneficiary families would be 3,000. After all assessments were undertaken and the needs had become clear, the number of beneficiaries targeted and registered to receive relief distributions was reduced. Additionally, not all families returned from French Guyana and other places where they had sought refuge after the flooding. The actual number of beneficiary families that received relief distributions is 2,554. The SRC distributed food and non-food items to beneficiaries from 16 July to 8 September 2008 in the following communities:

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

Due to the funding provided by ECHO under this emergency appeal, additional food parcels were procured locally to allow for a second distribution to the most affected families. Families previously registered and having received NFI and food parcels were eligible for the second round of food distributions. There were 198 parcels lost in the Marowijne River during the first distribution due to rough waters. Replacement parcels were purchased and distributed.

One additional community, Godolo, located on the Tapanahony River received food parcels after an SRC assessment of the area concluded that assistance received to date would not be sufficient as food supply runs out and due to damaged crops, will have a temporary food shortage.

Contingency stock was procured through the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) to support 1,000 families if needed. These items are stored for use in future emergencies.

Beneficiary satisfaction surveys were conducted in conjunction with the second round of distributions. Results are being compiled and will be available in the next operations update.

Challenges

- Dangerous river conditions remain a threat to the safety of persons and supplies during transport.
- Access and transportation to the affected areas is limited to boat and air (under normal circumstances). This has led to elevated distribution costs, which are accounted for in the budget.
- Limited access to vehicles at Suriname Red Cross for operational needs.
- Limited flights and charters available.
- Unavailability of the government's assessment and distribution information.

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.

Expected results	Activities planned
The beneficiaries benefit from water and sanitation activities, such as provision of safe drinking water and hygiene awareness-raising activities to prevent water-borne diseases from spreading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion practices and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population. • 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.) • 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). • Distributing 6,000 household level water storage (i.e. 10-liter collapsible) jerry cans to 3,000 families.

Progress

All planned activities for this objective have been completed. The following areas and number of families were reached:

Community and surroundings	Beneficiary families
Dritabiki	429
Stoelmanseila	770
Langatabiki	610
Amotopo	13
Tepu	127
Kwamelasemutu	215
Alalapadu	25
Granbori	30
Godolo	335
TOTAL	2554

The SRC conducted hygiene promotion activities, consisting of distributions of posters and flyers on vector control, chlorine tablets use and hygiene practices. Beneficiary families that received food parcels also received two jerry cans and a supply of chlorine tablets during the first round of distributions.

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.

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

Progress

Volunteers conducting hygiene promotion were provided a brief orientation by Suriname Red Cross Regional Intervention Team members specialized in water, sanitation, and hygiene. The PSP workshop will take place from 6 to 8 October 2008 and will be facilitated by two trainers from the Jamaican Red Cross.

Complementing the relief operation, radio equipment has been purchased as part of the DIPECHO VI disaster preparedness project and arrived on 22 August 2008. Installation and training was completed with the support of two American Red Cross deployed IT/Telecom volunteers, one through the appeal.

Three satellite phones have been purchased for the SRC. The phones were used during the distributions and monitoring trips to the interior. In addition to an in-kind donation of one IT person mentioned above, the American Red Cross donated two satellite phones, a GPS and a laptop computer. The satellite phones and HF Radio allow (otherwise unavailable) communication between field members and the SRC headquarters.

The Suriname Red Cross is limited to one vehicle for operational use at the Headquarters level (other vehicle assigned to the Blood Bank). Thanks to the generosity of donor support a heavy duty equipped all terrain vehicle has been procured from the International Federation and should arrive in Suriname prior to the end of this appeal.

Additional trainings, including food security assessment, media, and outboard boat training are scheduled in late October to coincide with the early recovery plan of action and the Federation and ECHO monitoring field visits. Additional trainings to build the capacity of the SRC will take place as resources allow.

An evaluation is planned at the end of this operation in order to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of its disaster response and generate lessons learned to improve future performance, build on past experiences and contribute to knowledge-sharing within the Federation and international humanitarian community.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the planning, management and coordination of the operation and subsequent on-going activities related to the response and make recommendations for future disaster planning and preparedness

Challenges

- The delay of the HF radio equipment shipment made it difficult to plan deployments.
- Although the purchase of an all terrain vehicle for the SRC will provide much needed transportation, the SRC will still have very limited mobile capacity.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Suriname Red Cross held a press conference, including Suriname television, radio and newspaper on 25 July 2008 to promote the mission of the SRC. In addition, the Suriname Red Cross prepared and issued a press release on 15 August highlighting the second food distribution. An interview was granted to national media shortly thereafter. Additional information will continue to be shared with media in order to raise awareness of the Red Cross response.

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. The CRRO Information Officer will visit the flood affected areas and the Suriname Red Cross to obtain beneficiary and volunteer stories and conduct media training in October.

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 Panama: Jono Anzalone, Disaster Management Delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email: jono.anzalone@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- 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 Alcazar, Resource Mobilisation Coordinator, Americas Zone; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone (507) 380 0254; 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 and consolidated donor response below;
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	2007/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	mdrs002
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	844,295					844,295
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	129,200					129,200
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	129,200					129,200
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	915,440					915,440
D. Total Funding = B + C	915,440					915,440
Appeal Coverage	108%					108%

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	915,440					915,440
E. Expenditure	-584,648					-584,648
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	330,792					330,792

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)	844,295						844,295	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	40,000							40,000
Clothing & textiles	12,000							12,000
Food	354,420							354,420
Utensils & Tools	67,460	62,381				62,381		5,079
Total Supplies	473,880	62,381				62,381		411,499
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	35,000							35,000
Computers & Telecom	8,000	6,544				6,544		1,456
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		2,752				2,752		-2,752
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	43,000	9,296				9,296		33,704
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	69,550	30,966				30,966		38,584
Transport & Vehicle Costs	94,500	940				940		93,560
Total Transport & Storage	164,050	31,906				31,906		132,144
Personnel								
International Staff	4,950	1,650				1,650		3,300
Regionally Deployed Staff	39,481	7,198				7,198		32,283
National Staff	13,875	115				115		13,760
National Society Staff	1,575	9				9		1,566
Total Personnel	59,881	8,972				8,972		50,909
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	6,515							6,515
Total Workshops & Training	6,515							6,515
General Expenditure								
Travel	15,732	13,026				13,026		2,705
Information & Public Relation	8,400	2,090				2,090		6,310

Office Costs	3,150	233			233	2,917
Communications	3,150	5,002			5,002	-1,852
Financial Charges	630	-9,760			-9,760	10,390
Total General Expenditure	31,062	10,591			10,591	20,470
Programme Support						
Program Support	65,908	34,836			34,836	31,072
Total Programme Support	65,908	34,836			34,836	31,072
Services						
Services & Recoveries		856			856	-856
Total Services		856			856	-856
Operational Provisions						
Operational Provisions		425,810			425,810	-425,810
Total Operational Provisions		425,810			425,810	-425,810
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	844,295	584,648			584,648	259,647
VARIANCE (C - D)		259,647			259,647	

Donor response to MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

TIMEFRAME: 19 Jun 08 to 27 Dec 08

LOCATION: Surinam

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	844,295
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	915,440
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	108%

Updated on: 29 Sep 2008

Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF
BUDGET		844,295					844,295
FUNDING							
<u>Opening Balance</u>							
Income							
Cash contributions (received and pledged)							
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	50,000	51,000				51,000
ECHO	EUR	400,000	652,400				652,400
Japanese Red Cross	USD	28,400	30,640				30,640
Kuwait Red Crescent	USD	20,000	20,400				20,400
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR	100,000	161,000				161,000
Total Cash contributions			915,440				915,440
Total Income			915,440				915,440
TOTAL FUNDING			915,440	0	0	0	915,440
COVERAGE			108%				108%