

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. 3
23 January 2009

Period covered by this Operations

Update: 22 September to 11
December 2008.

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

Appeal coverage: 100%.

Appeal history:

- Emergency Appeal 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 (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 to respond.
- Revised Emergency Appeal launched on July 27 2008 for CHF 844,295 (USD 861,181 or EUR 518,927) to include an additional relief distribution and additional capacity building activities.
- This Operations Update increases the budget from CHF 844,295 to CHF 911,135 (USD 751,235 or EUR 592,038) to reflect the additional funds received and extends the operational timeframe for two additional months, until 27 February 2009 to continue the recovery and rehabilitation activities.



Food security assessment workshop carried out by the SRC. Source: Suriname Red Cross

[<Click here to view the attached revised budget, interim financial report or here to view contact details>](#)

Summary: The Suriname Red Cross (SRC) continues to provide assistance to the flood-affected communities in southern Suriname. Distributions of food and non-food items to 2,554 families were completed on 7 September. Contingency stocks were procured and stored in preparation for future disasters. Several trainings were conducted to build the capacity of the National Society.

Since the last Operations Update, the Suriname Red Cross, with support from the Federation and in conjunction with local partners, conducted food security assessments and has begun planning for recovery and disaster risk reduction in the food security sector. This operation timeframe has been

extended to include more sustainable and effective programme activities for the National Society to support the flood affected communities.

This third Operations Update focuses on the completion of all planned activities and details the continuum strategy and revised budget for recovery and disaster risk reduction activities. No more contribution are been sought as the appeal coverage for this operation stands at 100 percent.

This operation will be completed by 27 February 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 27 May 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

The situation

Heavy rainfall, with high peaks in the week from 1 to 7 June 2008, led to the overflow of the Tapanahony and Marowijne rivers and consequently to the flooding of 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 percent of the livestock, 65 percent of crops and 90 percent 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 of Suriname commenced relief assistance by distributing food parcels. In addition, the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) provided food and non-food items to the most vulnerable, totaling 2,554 families.

Families have been able to reestablish fishing and hunting activities since the rain subsided and river levels decreased. Some crops have been salvaged and used for consumption and land is being prepared for the planting season that takes place between November and January. However, the planting materials available only amount to approximately 30 percent of normal levels. In addition, rising fuel prices make food purchased in remote areas very expensive. Approximately, it's twice as expensive to buy a bag of rice in the flood affected areas as it is in the capital city due to transportation costs. Moreover, the amount and variety of food products available for purchase in the villages is scarce. These factors result in continued food insecurity in the remote villages that were affected by flooding.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation is supporting the SRC through the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) in Trinidad and Tobago. The CRRO is managing this operation with support from the Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama as needed.

As a result of a joint field assessment with European Commission for Humanitarian Affairs' office (ECHO) field staff, a project to address the food security needs of the region through this appeal was submitted to ECHO and approved for EUR 400,000. Due to generous contributions of ECHO and Partner National Societies (PNS), such as the Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent and Netherlands Red Cross additional post emergency and rehabilitation activities are possible.

The overall operational coordination of the emergency response has been carried out with the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management. From the onset of the disaster, the SRC has been in close contact with the NCCR. The government has requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop and implement an early recovery strategy. SRC and Federation representatives have attended preliminary planning meetings with UNDP and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Future meetings coordinated by NCCR or partner NGOs

will be attended by SRC and Federation representatives so that Red Cross actions are encompassed into the overall recovery and rehabilitation strategy and resources are effectively used.

The SRC has expanded its partnerships to include organizations with technical expertise in food security and ties within the communities affected by the floods. Specifically, the SRC has partnered with IICA. Also, SRC has incorporated volunteers from the United States Peace Corps located in the flood affected communities in its food security activities.

In November, the SRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IICA that provides a framework for working together in the long-term in the food security sector. The first joint actions took place in October and will continue through the end of this appeal (end of February 2009).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The SRC completed the following activities:

- Two rounds of relief distributions, which included food parcels, buckets, jerry cans and chlorine tablets to 2,554 families. The chlorine tablets were provided by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through the NCCR.
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion to 2,554 families.
- Procurement of contingency stocks including buckets, jerry cans and kitchen sets.
- Capital equipment purchases to use during this and future disaster operations including an all-terrain vehicle, satellite phones and generators.
- Capacity building trainings in water and sanitation, psychosocial support (PSP), media interaction, chainsaw safety, safety and security in disaster response, and food security assessment.

As the relief distributions finalized, SRC capacity building activities and preparation for the next phase of the operation heightened. Up to date, activities relating to preparedness for the National Society 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, two Water and Sanitation workshops, a Psychosocial Support workshop, a Media workshop, a Chainsaw workshop and a Food Security Assessment, with participation from other National Societies in the region, were conducted in September and October.



Food Security Assessment being carried out in Godolo.
Source: Suriname Red Cross

Food security assessments of flood affected areas began immediately following the Food Security workshop in late October and continued in southern Suriname until 11 December. A Plan of Action was developed based on the assessments to bridge the gap between emergency relief and recovery, and to prevent escalation of food insecurity by providing at risk communities with the tools, resources and practical knowledge on sustainable subsistence agriculture and income generation.

An internal evaluation is planned at the conclusion of this operation. This evaluation will aim to: a) measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the disaster response, b) generate lessons learned to improve future performance, c) build on past experience and d) contribute to knowledge sharing within the International Federation and the international humanitarian community.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions	
Objective: 3,000 families (15,000 people) will benefit from the distribution of food parcels and non-food 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.

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.

All relief distributions and related activities are complete. A detailed description of the completion of this and other objectives was provided in the previous Operations Update, which is available at:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRSR00202.pdf>

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.

All Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities are complete.

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: All planned activities for this objective have been completed. Additional trainings were held based on the priority needs of the National Society. The following trainings took place between September and October:

Water and Sanitation: A total of 34 volunteer participants completed a Water and Sanitation training during 8 to 12 September. In addition, five Water and Sanitation volunteers participated in a Water Testing Kit training and field simulation on 13 September. Trainings helped to further build the capacity of the National Society to assess and respond to water and sanitation needs in the communities. The workshops were facilitated by two Suriname Red Cross Water and Sanitation Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members.

Psychosocial Support: The PSP workshop was conducted 7 to 9 October and was facilitated by two Jamaican Red Cross volunteers. The workshop included 19 participants from various backgrounds including doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers, community developers, health promoters and pastors.

Participant Red Cross volunteers and other members of the community who work directly with the survivors of disasters are now able to: 1) identify and properly label the stress reactions of survivors and themselves; 2) distinguish between survivors who are exhibiting normal and abnormal stress reactions to a disaster event and refer those whose reactions are abnormal for immediate, advanced, psychological intervention; 3) demonstrate basic helping skills; and 4) identify the unique needs of special populations in the aftermath of a disaster.



SRC volunteer receiving training on the proper use of chainsaw. Source: Suriname Red Cross

Media: A Media workshop was conducted to train 21 Suriname Red Cross volunteers and staff, and members of other partner organizations. The workshop taught participants how to interact with the media and what messages to communicate. The one-day workshop held on 13 October was facilitated by the International Federation Communications Officer for the CRRO. Participants included Suriname Red Cross Blood Bank, Youth and Disaster Management staff, members of the Catholic Mission and the Woman's Organization, as well as the media, marketing and tourism industries.

Chainsaw: A Chainsaw workshop was held to train ten SRC volunteers in the proper use, safety and maintenance of the chainsaws procured to use during this and future disaster response operations. The five-day course held from 13 to 17 October was facilitated by Stichting Jan Starke, an organization that specializes in training people to work in hard field conditions. Specific objectives met in this workshop were chainsaw theory, personal and equipment safety, chainsaw maintenance, sharpening, repair and assembly and a field practice exercise.

Food Security Assessment: The Food Security Assessment workshop was facilitated by the International Federation and hosted by the SRC from 18 to 22 October. Six SRC volunteers, six participants from Partner National Societies in the Caribbean region and eight members of partner organizations in Suriname Participated in this workshop.

The food security training was a key component of the ongoing strategy of the Suriname floods response. Volunteers are now able to effectively work with technical experts to plan and implement a sustainable food security intervention.

Plan of Action

Donations to this Appeal have been generous, reaching 108 percent and totaling CHF 910,483. This has allowed for the response to the floods to address the ongoing food security needs that have become apparent. Therefore, a continuum strategy has been prepared to address food insecurity as part of recovery efforts, including the following actions:

Recovery and Rehabilitation	
Objective: The most vulnerable families are provided with planting materials to replace lost staple crops.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Families affected by the floods in the upper Marowijne and Coeroeni regions have enough planting materials for subsistence crops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute seeds and planting materials to replace rotted and damaged crops.
Community Risk Reduction	
Objective: The most vulnerable are better prepared to withstand the effects of flooding	
Expected results	Activities planned
Selected communities in the flood affected area have taken steps to mitigate effects to livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify land that is less susceptible to flooding. • Identify crops that are less susceptible to rotting and provide adequate nutrition. • Identify alternative seasonal calendar to reduce impact of flooding. • Training on nutrition and food preparation.
Families have livelihoods in the villages where they reside in terms of income generation, and resources and supplies for food production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish distribution, multiplication, and training centres for income generation food production. • Trainings provided on income generation possibilities.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Suriname Red Cross continues to disseminate information to the local media to inform the public of the National Society's plan of action as the operation evolves. In addition, film footage of the operation activities started during the second distribution in September and will continue until the end of the operation. Once the footage has been edited, a documentary will be made available during the final reporting period.

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. As previously mentioned, the CRRO Communications Officer visited the flood affected areas and the Suriname Red Cross to obtain beneficiary and volunteer stories and conducted a media workshop 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 Trinidad and Tobago: Robin Younger, Operations Coordinator for Suriname Floods; email: robin.younger@ifrc.org; phone: (868) 628 2439; fax: (868) 628 9715.
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; email tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone (868) 789 9493; fax: (868) 627 9627.
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar Resource Mobilization Unit, Americas Zone; e-mail: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0254; fax: (507) 317 1304, mobile: (507) 6674 1582.
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[<Revised budget below; interim financial report
click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

SURINAME FLOODS**MDRSR002**

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	40,000		-40,000
Construction Materials			0
Clothing & Textiles	12,000		-12,000
Food	354,420	189,033	-165,387
Seeds & Plants		36,540	36,540
Water & Sanitation		0	0
Medical & First Aid		0	0
Teaching Materials		39,120	39,120
Utensils & Tools	67,460	105,342	37,882
Other Supplies & Services			
Total Relief Needs	473,880	370,035	-103,845
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	0	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	35,000	40,000	5,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	8,000	7,595	-405
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0	2,760	2,760
Medical Equipment	0		0
Other Machinery & Equipment			0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse		6,339	6,339
Distribution & Monitoring	69,550	238,613	169,063
Transport & Vehicles Costs	94,500	32,043	-62,457
Service fee & recovery			
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	4,950	3,850	-1,100
Regionally Deployed Staff	39,481	34,481	-5,000
National Staff	13,875		-13,875
National Society Staff	1,575	15,450	13,875
Consultants			
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	6,515	31,256	24,741
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	15,732	34,970	19,238
Information & Public Relations	8,400	14,369	5,969
Office running costs	3,150	6,098	2,948
Communication Costs	3,150	8,652	5,502
Professional Fees	0	4,500	4,500
Financial Charges	630	900	270
Other General Expenses	0		
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	54,112	59,224	5,112
Cost Recovery - RLU	11,795		-11,795
Total Operational Needs	370,415	541,100	170,685
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	844,295	911,135	66,840
Available Resources		910,041	
Net Request	844,295	1,094	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/6-2008/11
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	123,801					123,801
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	123,801					123,801
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	910,041					910,041
D. Total Funding = B + C	910,041					910,041
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	910,041					910,041
E. Expenditure	-737,507					-737,507
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	172,534					172,534

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								
Food	189,033	175,170					175,170	13,863
Seeds,Plants	36,540							36,540
Teaching Materials	39,120	1,241					1,241	37,879
Utensils & Tools	105,342	63,921					63,921	41,421
Total Supplies	370,035	240,332					240,332	129,703
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	40,000							40,000
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	10,533					10,533	39,822
Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,339	4,367					4,367	1,972
Distribution & Monitoring	238,613	161,102					161,102	77,511
Transport & Vehicle Costs	32,043	30,283					30,283	1,760
Total Transport & Storage	276,995	195,752					195,752	81,243
Personnel								
International Staff	3,850	3,300					3,300	550
Regionally Deployed Staff	34,481	19,675					19,675	14,806
National Staff		35					35	-35
National Society Staff	15,450	13,461					13,461	1,989
Total Personnel	53,781	36,472					36,472	17,309
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	31,256	10,668					10,668	20,588
Total Workshops & Training	31,256	10,668					10,668	20,588
General Expenditure								
Travel	34,970	25,216					25,216	9,754
Information & Public Relation	14,369	7,158					7,158	7,211
Office Costs	6,098	2,212					2,212	3,886
Communications	8,652	6,593					6,593	2,059
Professional Fees	4,500							4,500
Financial Charges	900	-3,813					-3,813	4,713
Other General Expenses		148					148	-148
Total General Expenditure	69,489	37,514					37,514	31,975
Programme Support								
Program Support	59,224	47,663					47,663	11,561
Total Programme Support	59,224	47,663					47,663	11,561
Services								
Services & Recoveries		4,234					4,234	-4,234
Total Services		4,234					4,234	-4,234
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		154,338					154,338	-154,338
Total Operational Provisions		154,338					154,338	-154,338
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	911,135	737,507					737,507	173,628
VARIANCE (C - D)		173,628					173,628	