

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Suriname: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRSR002
GLIDE n°FL-2008-000095-SUR
28 July 2008

This Revised Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 844,295 (USD 861,181 or EUR 518,927) in cash, kind, or services to support the Suriname National Society to assist 3,000 beneficiaries for six months.

CHF 140,000 (USD 133,333 or EUR 86,047) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

This Emergency Appeal was launched on a preliminary basis 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.



Distributions in Stoelmanseiland. Source: International Federation.

Heavy rains caused serious flooding primarily in the Marowijne, Lawa and Tapanahoni regions of Suriname. Multi-agency coordination and detailed assessments indicated that more than 3,000 households were affected. This revised Emergency Appeal focuses on supporting the provision of appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief; and outlines the most recent support from donors - specifically the European's Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the Netherlands Red Cross, and Kuwait Red Cross.

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 revised Appeal Budget;](#)
[or here to view contact details>](#)

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. Two children died while evacuating the area, and 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 to the 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, were destroyed. The most affected areas are in the Southern region of Suriname: Tapanahoni, Lawa, upper Marowijne and Coeroeni area.



A Suriname Red Cross volunteer in Stoelmanseiland with beneficiaries Source: International Federation

Suriname experienced torrential rainfall at the beginning of May 2006, which caused serious flooding throughout the country and affected some 25,000 people and approximately 25,000-30,000 square kilometres of land. However, for 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 grounds. In addition, newly-settled families had taken measures to elevate their houses. However, due to extremely high water levels, damages are still extensive.

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 to no roads. Many schools, houses, resorts and roads were reported damaged. In addition, reports indicate that 30 percent of the livestock, 65 percent of crops

and 90 percent of the fishing industry have been affected.

Sporadic rainfall in the region continues and forecasts show possible higher than average predictions for the near future. The government has carried out damage and needs assessments of the affected areas and is working closely with the Suriname Red Cross. Detailed damage and needs assessments have been completed by the Red Cross; however, to date the government has not released assessment data.

Food shortage is being addressed through the government who is distributing food parcels, as is the Suriname Red Cross. However, due to crops having been submerged for an extended period and the fact that fishing and hunting in many areas is no longer possible, food security remains a concern. In addition to the food shortage, the specific threats identified by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (National Coordinatie Centrum Rampenbeheersing – NCCR) are the economic consequences that include 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 (SRC) carrying out damage and needs assessments and providing transportation in order to distribute humanitarian aid to the affected regions. The NCCR is leading the coordination of the emergency operation activities: it is coordinating all actions with all cooperation actors present in the country, and the SRC has been attending meetings held by this coordinating body.

The Ministry of Regional Development has distributed more than 1,000 food parcels to last for two weeks; however, the government has not released detailed distribution data. In addition, six temporary shelters were established by this Ministry. Also, 600 plastic sheets that were pre-stocked in the SRC warehouse were made available by the National Society and distributed through the Ministry of Regional Development. The SRC has worked with NCCR to coordinate its water and sanitation promotion activities as well as the food and non-food items distributions.

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

From the onset of the disaster, the SRC was in close contact with the International Federation, including the Regional Representation for the Caribbean as well as the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), to share information and coordinate activities and resources.

The SRC, along with the disaster management delegate deployed by PADRU, attended a donor meeting on 9 July 2008 organized by the NCCR. The meeting was attended by the EU Delegation stationed in Suriname, the International Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, the Embassy of the

Netherlands as well as the Suriname Minister of Defence and Development. The meeting focused on the status of the flood operation. It also discussed the additional needs for which the government may call upon the international community to assist. The Suriname Red Cross will take part in subsequent meetings in order to maximize operational efficiency and to avoid duplication.

As a result of a joint field assessment with 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.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The SRC has been able to begin partial implementation of the Plan of Action (PoA), based on the completion of detailed damage and needs assessment which confirm the 3,000 family target, using funds allocated from the DREF. In addition, due to the generous support of ECHO as well as the Netherlands Red Cross (via the Government of the Netherlands), this revised appeal includes expanded activities to address food insecurity in the affected regions.

The SRC has been in contact with key community partners and private companies in Suriname to seek potential financial support. The Suriname Aluminum Company ALCOA has provided the SRC with a bilateral USD 50,000 grant so additional relief activities can be undertaken.

A disaster management delegate and a general Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member remain in Suriname supporting the SRC in their emergency operation. In addition, the International Federation has deployed a Project Coordinator to Suriname to support the Suriname Red Cross in implementing the plan of action.



Food parcels being transported from Paramaribo to the Marowijne Region Source: International Federation

The needs

After close collaboration with the 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 continue to be assessed in coordination with the NCCR; however, at this time, it is believed that food needs are the most critical, due to damages to agriculture. 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 as well as improvement of telecommunications of the Suriname Red Cross. The activities and progress will be monitored throughout the entire operation.

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 distributions 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

Relief distributions	
Objective: 3,000 families (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

As a result of the detailed assessments, 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 can be exchanged for humanitarian assistance.

The SRC received a partial shipment of 1,800 jerry cans and 720 buckets (from PADRU) on 4 July. The remainder of the non food items (NFI) arrived on 8 July. In addition, the SRC locally procured 3,000 food parcels on 4 July. Due to the funding provided by ECHO, additional food parcels will be locally procured to allow for a second distribution of food to affected families. Families previously registered and having received NFI and food parcels will be eligible for this second round of food distributions, which is being coordinated with the Government and will start around the second week of August.

The SRC started the first round of non-food items distribution on 16 July as follows:

- Dritabiki and surrounding communities – 753 families;
- Stoelmanseila and surrounding communities – 777 families;
- Langatabiki and surrounding communities – 620 families

These distributions are almost complete, with the exception of the Amerindian Community. This effort is being coordinated with the NCCR and should be completed within the coming weeks.

Due to recently secured financial support from donors, contingency stock will be procured from the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) within the coming days to be in place and support 1,000 families if needed.

Challenges

- Late shipment of remaining NFI delayed completion of distribution to beneficiaries
- Dangerous river conditions overturned a boat carrying 198 food parcels near Langatibiki, causing the loss of nearly all the parcels. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained.
- 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. This will be addressed by a vehicle purchase through the International Federation.

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

In conjunction with detailed assessments, the SRC conducted hygiene promotion activities, consisting of distributions of posters and flyers, on vector control, chlorine tablets use and hygiene practices. The following areas and number of families were reached:

- Dritabiki - 417 families;
- Langatabiki - 1000 families;
- Tepu - 135 families;
- Kwamalasamuto - 226 families;
- Alalapadu – 24 families;
- Stoelmanseila 750 families;
- Amatopo – 13 families.

These families will receive additional hygiene promotion education in conjunction with future distributions.

Challenges:

A partial distribution of jerry cans had taken place with the first round of distributions, as noted in the objective above, and late shipment of remaining non food items delayed completion of distribution to the beneficiaries.

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. <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 one to two months after completion of food and non food items distributions.

Complementing the relief operation, radio equipment has been purchased as part of the DIPECHO VI disaster preparedness project and will arrive on 24 July 2008. Upon arrival, installation and training will take place with the support of American Red Cross who will deploy an IT/Telecom volunteer to work with the Suriname Red Cross and a RIT specialized in IT to complete this activity.

The Suriname Red Cross is limited to one vehicle for operational use at the Headquarters level (other vehicle assigned to the Blood Bank), and therefore, will be procuring a lease on an all terrain vehicle from the International Federation for six months, after which point the appeal will allow for residual buyout of the vehicle for donation to the Suriname Red Cross.

Challenges:

The SRC does not have access to VHF or HF radio at this point. Therefore, it is impossible for volunteers in the interior to communicate with the SRC Headquarters to relay pertinent information as well as communicate their well-being and travel plans. It has therefore been decided to purchase three satellite phones in order to rectify this challenge and improve the ability to communicate during this and future operations.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Suriname Red Cross held a press conference, including Suriname television, radio, and newspaper on 2 July 2008 in order to promote the mission of the Suriname Red Cross and activities the Red Cross is undertaking in response to the floods. In addition, the Suriname Red Cross has prepared a press release highlighting the need for financial support as well as sending out solicitation letters to potential contributors within Suriname.

Additional information will continue to be shared with media in order to raise awareness of the Red Cross response, as the scope of the disaster has hardly been visible in the media so far.

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 SRC has invested time and funding since the 2006 floods with an aim to increase 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 National Intervention Team (NIT) members have been trained, as well as 20 Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) facilitators through DIPECHO VI funding. Various in-country capacity building trainings, including water and sanitation and relief, have been conducted. It is now possible to say that the SRC 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. To date, more than 35 volunteers have responded to the emergency in support of the SRC.

Capacity of the Federation

In this year's emergency 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 Port of Spain has also been providing support since the beginning of the emergency.

The Federation has deployed a Disaster Management Delegate, a RIT (general), and a project coordinator to support the Suriname Red Cross. In addition, the requisition of non-food items will be provided by the Federations' Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) based in Panama.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
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; 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, Ameritas 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.

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

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

SURINAME FLOODS**MDRSR002**

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter	20,000	40,000	20,000
Construction Materials			0
Clothing & Textiles	6,000	12,000	6,000
Food	118,140	354,420	236,280
Seeds & Plants			0
Water & Sanitation			0
Medical & First Aid			0
Teaching Materials			0
Utensils & Tools	51,915	67,460	15,545
Other Supplies & Services			0
Total Relief Needs	196,055	473,880	277,825
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings			0
Vehicles Purchase		35,000	35,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment		8,000	8,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.			0
Medical Equipment			0
Other Machinery & Equipment			0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse			0
Distribution & Monitoring	36,750	69,550	32,800
Transport & Vehicles Costs	47,250	94,500	47,250
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	4,950	4,950	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	11,950	39,481	27,531
National Staff	6,000	13,875	7,875
National Society Staff	4,200	1,575	-2,625
Consultants			0
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	18,900	6,515	-12,385
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	9,660	15,732	6,072
Information & Public Relations	4,575	8,400	3,825
Office running costs	4,200	3,150	-1,050
Communication Costs	4,000	3,150	-850
Professional Fees			0
Financial Charges	500	630	130
Other General Expenses			0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	24,261	54,112	29,851
Cost Recovery - RLU	7,923	11,795	3,872
Total Operational Needs	185,119	370,415	185,296
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	381,174	844,295	463,121
Available Ressources			
Net Request	381,174	844,295	