

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SURINAME: FLOODS

Appeal No. MDRSR001
14 August 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 6 June to 6 August 2006; Appeal target: CHF 854,305 (USD 706,309 or EUR 550,346); Appeal coverage: 71.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 242,355 (USD 195,129 or EUR 153,295)

[\(click here to go directly to the attached Interim Financial Report\)](#)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 15 May 2006 for CHF 854,305 (USD 706,309 or EUR 550,346) for 5 months to assist 4,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries).
- Final Report is therefore due on 15 January 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000 (USD 82,713 or EUR 64,433). This has been reimbursed by the Netherlands Red Cross under the Appeal.

Operational Summary: Distribution to over 4,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries) of food parcels, rice and hygiene kits was completed by 24 July 2006, in accordance with the Appeal-related plan of action. This followed an initial distribution of food parcels to 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries), carried out by the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) in the days following the flooding, and procured locally through the National Society's own emergency funds. All stocks held by the SRC have now been depleted. Distribution of plastic sheeting and family tool kits is on-going and has been somewhat delayed. This is primarily due to the post-emergency rise in transportation costs to the more remote parts of the country, which were most affected by the flooding.

The Suriname Red Cross has also been focusing much of its activities on water and sanitation and hygiene promotion – and is the only organization doing so in the flood affected areas. Hygiene promotion has been completed in the worst affected areas of East Suriname and Upper Suriname River, and plans are underway to pursue these activities in South Suriname. Follow-up training and monitoring of impact will be undertaken in all areas, two months after the initial training activities. To date, 20 SRC volunteers, trained in water and sanitation and health promotion have in turn trained 186 persons from 79 villages in the remote 'interior' in hygiene promotion; these people will in turn disseminate the information within their own communities and to surrounding villages. Hygiene promotion activities have been enthusiastically received by the communities – especially information on how to purify residual water, particularly relevant now that the dry season has begun. A number of participants have expressed the desire to pursue further training.

The Suriname Red Cross is currently investigating the most cost-effective ways in which to distribute the remaining plastic sheeting and tool kits, and is planning for the second round of hygiene awareness raising and monitoring activities. Operations related to this Appeal are expected to be completed by 15 October 2006. Should further funding become available, the Suriname Red Cross remains interested in undertaking additional disaster management capacity building interventions as part of the Flood Operation - particularly National Intervention Team (NIT) training and Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment. In

addition, the SRC is looking to replenish its 'Disaster Emergency Fund' – which was utilized to locally-procure food parcels for 5,000 families as part of the National Society's own initial emergency response.

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background

Torrential rainfall in Suriname at the beginning of May 2006 resulted in serious flooding in the interior of the country, covering approximately 25,000-30,000 square kilometres. It has been estimated that some 25,000 people were affected by the rising water levels, with the most severe damage concentrated along the riverbanks in the south and southeast of the country, as well as in 157 villages in the remote lowlands, where most families live in thatch-roofed houses.

The Government declared the affected areas (mainly the southern lowlands) a disaster zone on 8 May 2006, and the Suriname military was called in to evacuate people to higher ground.

Because the rainy season in Suriname usually lasts until the end of July, contingency plans were developed under the aegis of the recently created National Coordination Centre for Disasters, in order to prepare for various scenarios should flooding continue. The major concerns centred around health risks, the economic impact of the flooding – particularly with regard to the effects of water saturation on the current year's crops, and the considerable damage sustained by the transportation network and infrastructure.

In the event, by the end of July 2006, water levels had considerably receded and villagers have been gradually returning to their normal lives and seasonal activities. On 19 June, the Central Coordinating Committee was disbanded, although food distributions are on-going. The Government of Suriname has announced that it will pursue food distribution – albeit on a more restricted scale – until the end of the current year.

Operational developments

The Suriname Red Cross, with on-going support from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Guyana Red Cross Society, has completed the initial round of emergency relief distribution under the Appeal – following on an initial National Society-funded food distribution undertaken some weeks earlier. SRC has been working in close collaboration with governmental and local authorities to provide food parcels and hygiene kits to the most affected – in a timely and efficient manner. SRC acted in partnership with local NGOs and networks in the remote ‘interior’ parts of the country, in identifying beneficiaries and assessing needs, as flood waters have continued to subside.

Hygiene promotion activities got underway during the reporting period, with key support from the French Red Cross’s Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas /Caribbean (PIRAC). These have now been completed in two of the most affected areas in the country. The SRC is also taking advantage of these activities to continue to monitor the condition of household dwellings and to identify areas requiring shelter assistance.

The emergency operation has been marked by exemplary collaboration between regional and international partners within the Red Cross Movement and has provided clear opportunities to strengthen SRC capacity, most particularly in the areas of water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit has provided logistical, technical and financial support throughout the operation, and has been coordinating the participation of regional resources, in particular through the deployment of Regional Intervention Team members.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 4,000 affected families in the southern and eastern districts of Suriname benefit from relief supplies in the form of family food and hygiene parcels and plastic sheeting.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

As of 24 July, all food parcels, bags of rice (25 kg each) and hygiene kits had been distributed to 4,000 families (20,000 beneficiaries) according to the Suriname Red Cross plan of action under the Appeal. SRC has been focusing its energies on rapid and efficient distribution of food relief and hygiene parcels, to meet the most immediate needs following the flooding. The latest distribution figures are presented in the table below:

REGION	DISTRIBUTION HUBS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY FAMILIES Food & Hygiene	DISTRIBUTION (Appeal-funded)				
			FOOD PARCELS	RICE (bags of 25 kg)	TOOL KITS	PLASTIC SHEETING	HYGIENE KITS
UPPER SURINAME	Atjoni	3,183	3,183	3,183	67	1,240	2,690
	Kajana	252	252	252			
EAST SURINAME	Langatabiki	565	565	565	66	700	
	LAWA AREA	710	0	0	0		710
TEPU	Kwamelasmutu	600	0	0	0		600
TOTAL -		5,310 (26,550)	4,000	4,000	133	1,940	4,000

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Distribution of plastic sheeting and tool kits is on-going. Of the 7,500 plastic sheets dispatched to Suriname¹, close to 2,000 have now been distributed, as well as 133 of the 500 tool kits; it is planned that each tool kit will serve up to five families. This distribution is progressing somewhat more slowly than expected, primarily because displaced families have returned to their homes and are involved in activities associated with the dry season (i.e. planting crops). In addition, the rising cost of transportation now that the emergency has been declared over, has somewhat constrained the SRC's ability to convey the voluminous and weighty plastic sheeting to more remote areas. The National Society is currently exploring the most efficient and cost effective way to distribute the remaining plastic sheeting and tool kits in stock. Additional assessments are being undertaken at the same time, to up-date beneficiary information in order to focus distribution of the remaining plastic sheeting and tool kits to those most in need.

Impact:

Emergency food security assistance was provided during the first two months of the operation to 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) – of which 4,000 (20,000 beneficiaries) were assisted with a second distribution under the Appeal, four weeks after a first distribution of food was undertaken directly by the SRC thanks to its own Disaster Emergency Fund. With the additional 4,000 hygiene kits distributed to families – of which 310 in the regions of Lawa and Tepu – the Suriname Red Cross provided rapid and much needed food and non-food relief to over 5,310 families (26,550 beneficiaries).

Constraints:

- Late receipt of the last 2,000 bags of rice (25 kg) resulted in a limited delay of one week in distribution. The situation was rapidly remedied by the SRC so that distributions could proceed.
- Numbers of beneficiaries identified during the assessment stage did not always tally with actual number of beneficiaries during distribution. Relief goods were distributed to those on the original list as a matter of priority, with volunteers trained to deal with situations in the field as they arose. No complaints were received and the distributions were carried out without incident.
- The rising cost of transportation has impeded the timely distribution of plastic sheeting and tool kits. Despite this, the Suriname Red Cross, with support from the Federation, has continued to carry out its relief distribution according to the plan of action. All distribution of emergency food and hygiene kits was successfully completed by 24 July 2006.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: Staff and volunteers are provided with training in basic water and sanitation principles by the Suriname Red Cross, with the support of the Federation, and appropriate water and sanitation interventions are carried out in the worst-affected areas.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Hygiene promotion has been completed in two of the worst affected areas, namely the East of Suriname and the Upper Suriname River. A total of 186 persons from 79 villages have been trained in water and sanitation, and hygiene by the 20 newly trained volunteers of the SRC, and 248 posters have been distributed to schools, shops, churches and households. These trained people will in turn conduct awareness-raising sessions within their communities and with others from surrounding villages.

The plan is to continue hygiene promotion activities in the East and South of Suriname and the Upper Saramacca region. Once the initial training has been completed, volunteers will return to the areas in order to monitor impact. One measure of this will be the incidence of water-borne illnesses, such as dysentery, with a view to identifying areas that may require further intervention.

The hygiene promotion activities have been very well received and are considered to have been very timely given that families were in the process of preparing for the dry season – with the information on how to purify residual water considered to be particularly relevant. Indeed, the incidence of water-borne illnesses such as dysentery

¹ Of which 5,500 from PADRU and 2,000 from the French Red Cross's Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas/Caribbean (PIRAC).

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normally increases during the dry season, when people have used up their reserves of clean water and must resort to using water from stagnant pools.

The SRC is planning the next round of field visits during the months of August and September, to include additional training sessions in South and East Suriname and initiate monitoring of previous activities. Commitment has been such that a number of volunteers have been using their holiday entitlement in order to pursue these activities. The SRC is presently negotiating with the regular employers of RIT members and SRC volunteers, to entitle them to special leave from their full-time jobs in order to complete all training and monitoring activities as planned.

Impact

Participant response has been very positive and the 186 people trained in hygiene best practice are disseminating the information within their communities and to neighbouring villages. Some participants have requested further training. The SRC is the only organization in the field at present doing health promotion, and the response from the local population has been enthusiastic.

Constraints

Now that the emergency phase is over, SRC volunteers have returned to their usual places of employment (volunteers included firemen, nurses and social welfare employees). Employers are reticent to release volunteers for further field work, due to the 'man-hours' lost during the emergency. SRC is in negotiations with employers regarding the availability of volunteers and is already planning the next round of field visits, so as to provide employers with sufficient advance notice.

Federation Coordination

This operation has clearly demonstrated the mutual support and cooperation of the Red Cross entities within the region, along with international support.

The International Federation coordinated the response to the floods through the involvement of PADRU, RIT members and various PNSs, including: the French Red Cross (PIRAC) in the area of water and sanitation – which included two water and sanitation RIT trained members from SRC; the deployment of two delegates from the Netherlands Red Cross for relief and shelter inputs; a RIT member from Guyana Red Cross Society to assist with relief distribution and hygiene promotion activities (given the National Society's experience in flood related emergencies); and the on-going support to SRC operations by PADRU's Disaster Management Delegate based in Port of Spain.

The SRC was closely involved in all national coordinating bodies during the emergency and continues to work closely with governmental and local authorities in targeting its on-going distribution and through its hygiene promotion activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

All Red Cross actions are in line with the Fundamental Principles. Issues related to both diversity and gender have been particularly important for the Suriname flood operation, taking into consideration the different ethnic groups in the interior of the country, particularly the Amerindians.

National Society Capacity Building

A number of key opportunities for capacity building with the National Society were integrated into the operational response. RIT members and National Society personnel gained valuable experience in a disaster operation. In particular, RIT trained personnel assisted as direct counterparts in the shelter, and relief and logistics elements of the operation.

Furthermore, the water and sanitation activities provided an ideal opportunity to build SRC capacity in this area. As a direct result of this activity, the capacity of SRC to respond to limited water and sanitation emergencies has been considerably enhanced. Twenty staff and volunteers have been fully trained to provide dissemination of good practice in relation to water-related health – thus preventing the proliferation of water-borne illnesses. With the training and experience gained throughout this operation, SRC will be able to act as 'first responder' in any future flood related emergency.

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The RIT trained members of the SRC in the area of water and sanitation who initially joined the French Red Cross PIRAC team, have acquired additional experience and have been able to implement activities with only minimal technical support. These members are now available for future deployments throughout the Caribbean in cases of flood-related emergencies requiring water and sanitation intervention.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Through continued public and media relations, it is hoped that the public will develop a better understanding of the mission of the Suriname Red Cross and the activities undertaken by the Red Cross in general. 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 worked to ensure local and international coverage of the emergency operation. News articles and photographs have been published on the Federation's public web site.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR001 - SURINAM - FLOODS

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRSR001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		0				0
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Cash contributions						
Netherlands Red Cross		311'800				311'800
Swedish Red Cross		84'910				84'910
C1. Cash contributions		396'710				396'710
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)		6'860				6'860
Netherlands Red Cross		108'380				108'380
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		115'240				115'240
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		100'000				100'000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		100'000				100'000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		611'950				611'950
D. Total Funding = B + C		611'950				611'950

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		611'950				611'950
E. Expenditure		-380'185				-380'185
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		231'765				231'765

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Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/6
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		0					0	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles			350				350	-350
Food			82'269				82'269	-82'269
Water & Sanitation			193				193	-193
Medical & First Aid			378				378	-378
Other Supplies & Services			20'891				20'891	-20'891
Total Supplies			104'081				104'081	-104'081
Transport & Storage								
Storage			833				833	-833
Distribution & Monitoring			211'171				211'171	-211'171
Transport & Vehicle Costs			341				341	-341
Total Transport & Storage			212'345				212'345	-212'345
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegate Benefits			420				420	-420
National Staff			1'138				1'138	-1'138
Total Personnel Expenditures			1'558				1'558	-1'558
General Expenditure								
Travel			2'216				2'216	-2'216
Information & Public Relation			1'817				1'817	-1'817
Office Costs			1'112				1'112	-1'112
Communications			145				145	-145
Financial Charges			73				73	-73
Other General Expenses			18				18	-18
Total General Expenditure			5'380				5'380	-5'380
Program Support								
Program Support			24'712				24'712	-24'712
Total Program Support			24'712				24'712	-24'712
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			32'109				32'109	-32'109
Total Operational Provisions			32'109				32'109	-32'109
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)			380'185				380'185	-380'185
VARIANCE (C - D)			-380'185				-380'185	