



# CIVIL DEFENCE COMMISSION

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## **SITUATION REPORT # 7 as of 22:30 hours, Monday May 22, 2017**

**SUBJECT:** Flooding in Regions 7 & 8

**EVENT:**

Flooding in villages in Regions 7 (Cuyuni/Mazaruni) and 8 (Potaro/Siparuni) as a result of heavy rainfall.

**PROGNOSIS:**

The Guyana Hydrometeorological Service has forecasted that cloudy to overcast conditions with light to moderate showers and frequent rains are expected throughout the country tonight. Both flood affected Regions, Regions 7 and 8 may also experience thundershowers.

**AREAS AFFECTED**

**Region 7**

A joint field visit was conducted in several of the flood affected communities within Region 7. This field visit facilitated investigations of the level and extent of flooding, in addition to the impacts to the communities.

Flood water has receded off the land in most of the affected communities; however the water level in the rivers remains high.

**Kako**

Water has receded from on the land in Kako in most places. It was reported that a total of eight (8) houses were flooded on Friday May 19, 2017; assessments today showed that the water had receded from all of these houses with the exception of two (2) homes which still had some water lodged inside.

A total of seventeen (17) persons were displaced from their homes as a result of this flood, with eleven (11) of these being children. All of these, however, have been able to return to their homes as the water has receded.

All farms in the community were affected when the water level was high, with flood water between 6 – 15 feet in the farms. Although the water has receded, soils remain very moist causing negative impacts to the cassava and other crops.

It was expressed that the community of Kako has not experienced such extreme flooding since in the 1960's.

The community has seen an increase in the presence of mosquitoes, and is anticipating an increase in vector-related illnesses. Access to potable water is limited at this time.

### **Quebenang**

The field visit revealed that the farms in Quebenang were flooded; however the water did not reach to high enough levels to affect the homes and buildings within the Quebenang community. All farms in the community, totaling eighty (80) were affected; although the water has receded, crops continue to be impacted as soil moisture levels remain high.

### **Jawalla**

Water has receded off the land in this community. The field visit revealed that eight (8) households were displaced due to the extreme flooding incident. There is a concern that there may be an increase in water-borne illnesses in the community, especially among the children, as they have to traverse through flooded areas, and most of them are usually barefooted.

The representatives of the Village Council will investigate the number of households and farms which were affected.

### **Waramadong, Kamarang (Warawatta), Imbaimadai, Philippai, Amokokopi and Paruima**

No new information has been received on the height and impact of the flood in these communities.

### **Region 8**

The water levels in all flood affected communities in Region 8 have receded off the land. A period of heavy rainfall on the evening of May 22, 2017 has caused a slight increase in the water level in the Ireng River.

### **Kaibarupai**

A team, led by the Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, continues to further assess the level of impacts in the community. Six (6) residents from the community are displaying symptoms of illness.

### **Kanapang, Itabac, Waipa, Sand Hill Settlement, Kopinang and Chiung Mouth**

No new information has been received on the impact of the flood in these communities.

## **PUBLIC BUILDING UPDATES**

The kitchen at the school at Kanapang has been destroyed due to the flood.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES**

No new information has been received on the impact of the flood to infrastructure in the affected communities.

## **ACTIONS BY THE CIVIL DEFENCE COMMISSION:**

A representative from the Civil Defence Commission was part of a joint team which investigated the extent and impact of flooding within several communities across Region 7.

Additional actions taken by the CDC can be summarized as follows:

- Dispatched additional relief hampers to the Logistics Centre at Orinduik (Region 8), to be further distributed to flood affected residents within the Region.
- Distributed sixteen (16) food hampers, and one (1) 4L bottle of Tidy Up disinfectant to the community of Kaibarupai. Additionally, four (4) bags of clothing from the supplies provided by the Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA) was distributed to the community.
- Distributed thirty-eight (38) cleaning hampers, fifteen (15) blankets, one (1) 4 L bottle of Tidy Up disinfectant to the community of Waipa. Additionally, 100 lb of black-eye peas were provided to the community from the supplies provided by the APA.
- Preparing to deploy relief supplies to the villages of Kopinang and Chiung Mouth.
- Preparing to facilitate a medevac for six (6) residents from the Kaibarupai community.

## **ACTIONS BY THE REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL**

The Regional Democratic Council (RDC) of Region 7, which recently formalized the Regional Disaster Risk Management (RDRM) Committee of the Region, facilitated a joint field visit to several of the flood affected communities across the Region to ascertain the extent and impacts of flooding, and to investigate the needs at this time. The team comprised of the following individuals:

1. Mr. Gordon Bradford, Regional Chairman and Chairman of the RDRM Committee
2. Ms. Ciana Persaud, Regional Information Officer and Secretary of the RDRM Committee
3. Mr. Akbar Chindu, Regional Education Officer
4. Mr. Bentick, Agricultural Assistant – National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute (NAREI)
5. Dr. Browne, Doctor – Region 7
6. Ms. Allana Walters, Planning and Training Assistant - CDC

The team visited the communities of Kako, Quebenang and Jawalla; they were able to conduct ground assessments of the level of impact and damages to homes, buildings, farms and the population of the communities suffered, and were also able to engage with the residents on the needs which have arisen as a result of the flooding.

Additional actions taken by the RDC can be summarized as follows:

- Dispatched cleaning and medical supplies and to Kamarang, to be distributed to flood affected communities in the coming days.
- Preparing to conduct ground assessments in other flood affected communities.
- Making arrangements for aerial assessments of the flood affected communities through use of a drone.
- Advised residents (through the Agricultural Assistant) to reap crops in flood affected farms in order to prevent complete losses.

## **ACTIONS BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS:**

### **Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs**

The Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MoIPA) has continued to donate and receive donations on behalf of the flood affected residents in Region 8. Today, they have donated several items to the CDC to be distributed in Region 8, including rice, sugar, flour, adult and children's clothing, sheets, shoes, toilet paper, and Wheat Up.

The Ministry has also deployed two (2) of its personnel to lend support to the flood relief operations; Mr. Anil Roberts – Principal Regional Development Officer, will aid the operations at the CDC's Headquarters, while Mr. Ovid Williams – Logistical and Communications Officer, will be assisting in coordination at the Forward Logistics Centre at Orinduik.

The Minister within the Ministry, Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, continues to lead teams within the Region in the assessment of flood impacts and the distribution of relief supplies.

### **SVC Pharmacy**

SVC Pharmacy has donated rice and several tins of sardines to be distributed to the affected communities in Region 8.

### **Ms. Shellon Marks and Mr. Royston Cumberbatch**

Ms. Shellon Marks and Mr. Royston Cumberbatch have donated clothing and baby supplies to be distributed to the flood affected residents.

### **Mr. Kamal Singh (GAICO Construction)**

Mr. Kamal Singh and GAICO Construction, when learning of the destruction of school's kitchen at Kanapang, promptly responded to support the rebuilding efforts. They have donated a four-burner gas stove, gas cylinder and accompanying fittings to the

Kanapang School. They also donated mosquito nets and several footballs for the residents and students of the community.

### **Remote Area Medical**

Remote Area Medical (RAM) team will be lending their support towards the relief operations in Region 8 through the provision of transportation for 1,200 lbs of relief supplies to Orinduik tomorrow (22-05-2017), so that they can be shuttled to the affected communities.

### **Sterling Products Limited**

Sterling Products Limited has donated 751 packs of soap powder and 21 cases of laundry soap to the flood affected residents in Region 8.

### **NEEDS**

Additional needs which have been identified are as follows:

- Long boots (Children sized)
- Water tanks
- Buckets
- Water purification tablets
- Mosquito nets
- Insect repellent
- Mattresses
- Tarpaulin
- Rechargeable lamps
- Fuel (gasoline/ diesel)
- Boat & outboard engine
- Tents
- Hammocks
- Farine
- Powdered milk
- Canned foods
- Sports equipment

### **NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (NEOC)**

#### **Contact Information**

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