

SURINAME FLOODING

SITUATION REPORT No. 2 UPDATE

AS OF 6:00 PM ON 6 JUNE 2022

Severe Flooding in the Interior due to heavy rainfall

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As a result of heavy rain showers in the interior and southern sections of Suriname, various areas, in particular the Districts of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Marowijne, Para, Saramanna, Coronie and Nickerie have been severely impacted by flooding, and some are still under water. The Government of Suriname has therefore, via the OFFICIAL GAZETTE No. 55 OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE of 25 May 2022 P.B. no. 12/2022, declared the affected areas in the districts of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Marowijne, Para, Saramacca, Coronie and Nickerie to be disaster areas.

The weather forecasts of the Meteorological Service as well as of the World Meteorological Service indicate that the effects of weather phenomena such as "La Niña" will still be noticeable until after May 2022, which means that it should not be expected that the somewhat current levels in Suriname will decrease significantly in the short term, but on the contrary may rise in the coming weeks. On the basis of precipitation measurements and the weather forecast for the coming months, rain is expected to continue. It is also expected that the water level in the area below the Brokopondo dam will not significantly fall any time soon, partly because of the need to continue to discharge water over the coming period.

As a result of the high water level in the affected areas, economic and social life has been disrupted. All inland areas are affected by rotting of earth crops on the farmlands and therefore food supply and food security are at risk and will remain in danger for an unpredictable period. Many schools are not accessible to teachers and children because of the high water level, though efforts to re-start teaching have been initiated using temporary facilities, to minimise the learning gap.

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The distribution of relief goods is not sufficient and will not be able to reach everyone; the capacity of the available resources in the districts of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Marowijne, Para, Saramacca, Coronie and Nickerie to restore the areas have been exceeded and the districts are therefore no longer able to provide the necessary assistance with their own resources.

The Suriname Government therefore made the decision to have a coordinated approach to the crisis and to take exceptional measures in order to assist the inhabitants of the aforementioned areas, clearly define the impact areas, and in the context of a structured approach to assistance, seek aid from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and other aid organizations of the United Nations.



Photos captured by CDEMA's Advance Team - Suriname Flooding 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Following the declaration, an Inter-Ministerial Crisis Team was established to deal with the flood emergency.
- A Public Health sub-group headed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) was created as part of the Crisis Team.
- The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR) Suriname has mounted a national response to the emergency and has been updating CDEMA and the CDPG on the situation.
- International Partners Coordinating Group has been established to strengthen coordination among the international actors on the ground and the NCCR, in order to provide a more coordinated disaster relief operation. The group includes the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO), World Food Programme (WFP), National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) – Amazon Conservation Team representatives. and its 1st meeting was convened on 02 June, 2022.



Photos captured by CDEMA's Advance Team - Suriname Flooding 2022

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State

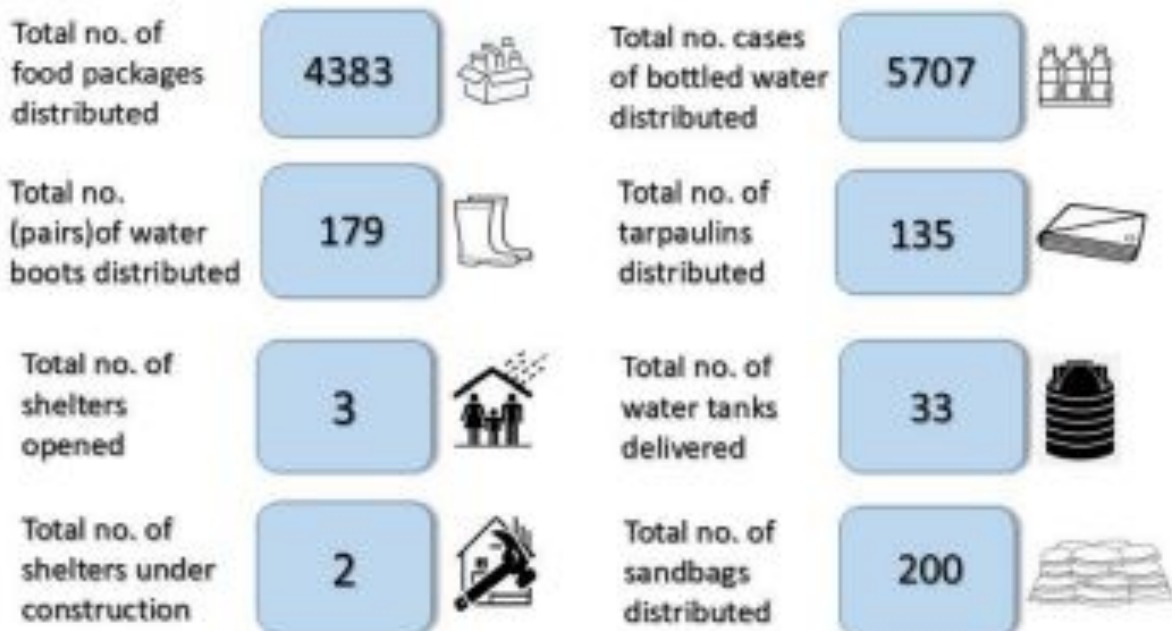


SURINAME

The following information was provided by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR) in their Situation Report #2, issued on June 02, 2022:

- Since the start of the event, the NCCR has been liaising with the District Commissioners on the identification of priority needs and relief items. The NCCR has provided potable water and distributed five thousand six hundred and seventy-one (5,671) cases of drinking water to affected districts between March and May 2022.
- Additionally, the NCCR has also distributed four thousand, three hundred and eighty-three (4,383) food packages during the same period.
- Cash remains the primary need to support the emergency response.
- An updated needs list was developed for limited circulation to partners and other institutions to manage the relief response for targeted supplies.
- The following infographics provide the details of relief distribution over the last three (3) months to the impacted districts:

Disaster Relief provided by the NCCR to impacted Districts for the period March – May 2022



Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State



SURINAME

The following provides a further breakdown of the bottle water and food package distribution per district over a three (3) month period. The information was provided by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR) in their Situation Report #2, issued on June 02, 2022:

Breakdown of the NCCR bottled case water distribution per District for the period March – May 2022

Brokopondo	3787
Tapanahony	540
Pamacca	850
Saramacca	150
Wayambo gebied	130
Para	110
Moengo	100
Coeroeni	40



Breakdown of NCCR food package distribution per District for the period March – May 2022

Brokopondo	1422
Tapanahony	1170
Saramacca	200
Pamacca	850
Para	185
Coeroeni	167
Matawaigebied	151
Wayambo gebied	130
Moengo	100
Albina	8



Figure 4: Flooding of the Suriname River - Klaaskreek

The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- In support of the significant flooding event and subsequent request for support from the Republic of Suriname, the CDEMA CU has activated the Regional Coordinating Centre (RCC) and the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM).
- A two-person Response Support Mission comprising a representative from the CDEMA Coordinating Unit and the CDEMA Sub-Regional Focal Point of Trinidad and Tobago was deployed to Suriname on Monday, May 30, 2022 to Sunday June 05, 2022 in order to assess the magnitude of the situation and to determine the type and scale of the response intervention required through the RRM.
- Additionally, the Advance Team conducted a one-day Training Course with the staff of the NCCR, on EOC Operations with special focus on Information Management (IM).
- A four (4) person CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST), also from the CDEMA Sub-Regional area comprising representatives from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, has been deployed to Suriname from June 05 to 21, 2022 to provide the NCCR with support for the Emergency Operations Centre, Report Preparation, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and Data Management.
- The CDEMA CU recognises the multi-hazard environment in which this severe flood event has occurred and will continue to monitor the situation and stands ready to provide support where requested.



Caption: Joanne Persad, Programme Manager, Preparedness & Response, CDEMA conducting training with staff of the EOC at the NCCR. Ms Persad led the Advance Team which was deployed to Suriname.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

COORDINATION:

- On 02 June 2022, the 1st meeting of International Partners was convened. It was aimed at strengthening coordination among the international actors on the ground (i.e. UNRC, PAHO, WFP, NCCR, CDEMA and NGO – Amazon Conservation Team) and the NCCR, to facilitate a more coordinated disaster relief operation.

HEALTH and WASH:

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) leads the Public Health sub-working group/sector of the newly established Crisis Team. MOH reported that the priority areas identified by the group include provision of basic health care, including surveillance and management of flood related diseases, vector control, mental health, WASH, and Waste Management.
- The Medical Mission Primary Health Care Services (MZ) continues its syndromic surveillance and has not reported any increase in the symptoms of fever, cough, diarrhea and vomiting. However, certain areas reported that cases of skin conditions are on the rise.
- A meeting was held with MOH and MZ on 30 May 2022 to discuss the current health situation. On 1 June, 2022, PAHO and MZ visited four health facilities to conduct damage assessment.
- UNICEF is providing school and WASH supplies through the Ministry of Education.

RELIEF SUPPORT:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) deployed one emergency staff from its office in Trinidad and Tobago in response to the identified needs on the ground and based on the request from the national authorities.
- WFP is considering sending two inflatable boats and two motors which should provide support in addressing one of the major constraints in the response, which is logistical challenges.
- The Government of Israel has provided a cash donation of USD 20,000.
- The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Government has provided 80,000 kilos of disaster relief.

SHELTER:

- The Military Engineering Division has been working to construct shelters and are installing water tanks in the Brokopondo area.