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Emergency Plan of Action operation update Guyana: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	MDRGY002
Date of issue: 5 October 2015	Glide no. FL-2015-000093-GUY
Operation start date: 1 August 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 August to 18 September 2015
Overall operation budget: 148,142 Swiss francs (CHF)	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Number of people to be assisted: 2,500 people (500 families)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Civil Defence Commission, Regional Democratic Councils, the Ministry of the Presidency, Environmental Protection Agency and the Mayor and City Council of Georgetown.	

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Summary

On 1 August 2015, the Guyana Red Cross Society was allocated the sum of 148,142 Swiss francs from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support the delivery of assistance to 2,500 people (500 families). The operation is expected to be implemented over a three-month period and completed by 31 October 2015. Through this DREF operations update, the National Society reports the progress on activities and delays for the activities proposed under the water and sanitation and livelihoods sectors.

Heavy continuous rains and subsequent flooding in Guyana mainly affected the 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 regions, causing damage to housing, affecting the livelihoods and water and sanitation of 199,000 people. The Guyana Red Cross Society has started to address and meet the humanitarian needs of 2,500 people in the 10 selected communities. The National Society has met with the local authorities and coordinated with the communities to provide assistance and conducted field visits and assessments. To date, 1,000 mosquito nets, 500 filters and 500 jerry cans have been allocated for distribution to the selected communities. Detailed assessments have been completed in 4 communities: Imbotero, Smiths Creek, Kaiburi and Friendship.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster



A flooded street, yard and home in Georgetown. Source: The Guyana Red Cross Society

Heavy rains in July 2015 caused severe flooding in five regions in Guyana: Barima-Waini, Pomeroon-Supenaam, Essequibo Islands- West Demerara, Demerara-Mahaica and Mahaica- Berbice. The floods affected various parts of the regions and resulted in varying degrees of damage to housing and buildings, livestock and farms, cash crops and water and sanitation facilities. At the time of reporting, the rains have since stopped and the floods have receded; however, there is still damage from the flooding, and. There is still intermittent flooding in some areas.

Continuous assessments have reaffirmed the existing needs, which include relief items such as nets, hygiene kits and storage for drinking water. There is a need to address water and sanitation issues, particularly garbage disposal and consumption of potable water and livelihood assistance, as

some of the communities depend entirely on livestock and farming and have had their main source of food and income severely affected, so their capacity to meet basic needs has been significantly reduced. Some seeds to grow crops would be welcomed by the beneficiaries as well as individual garbage bins for home use. Some households have indicated the need for large water storage containers.

Selected communities

Based on the analysis of continuous assessments carried out by the National Society in collaboration with the Civil Defence Commission, Regional Democratic Councils, the Ministry of the Presidency, and the Mayor and City Council of Georgetown, the following communities were selected for this DREF operation:

- Region 1:** Imbotero and Smith's Creek in the Barima River
- Region 2:** Kaiburi and Friendship in the Pomeroon River
- Region 3:** Crane Phase #2 and Metermerzorg communities
- Region 4:** Alboystown, Lodge and Ruimveldt communities
- Region 5:** Moraikobai

The selection of these communities was based on the severity of the damages sustained and their level of vulnerability.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Guyana Red Cross Society during the July rain and subsequent flooding sent out alerts to the teams and branches country wide with the aim to monitor the level of rainfall and its possible effects. The gathered information was then reported to headquarters for compilation and analysis.

During the emergency phase, in coordination with the relevant authorities, the national society and its volunteers supported the establishment of shelters and the distribution of relief items, such as food, hygiene kits and eating utensils. The community disaster response teams helped to evacuate families, conduct preliminary assessments and continued to monitor the situation to provide information to headquarters.

The National Society headquarters, which is located in central Georgetown, continues to monitor and track the information sent by the branches. In addition, coordination and communication with the Office of the Presidency, the Civil Defence Commission, the local authorities and the communities are ongoing.



**The National Society's flooded compound.
Source: The Guyana Red Cross Society**

Overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In July 2015, a plan of action with the support of the IFRC regional disaster management office was drawn up and submitted while continued damaged assessments were being conducted.

The Guyana Red Cross Society continued to promote and maintain close communication and coordination with the Civil Defence Commission and other partnering agencies.

Movement Coordination

The Guyana Red Cross Society continues to maintain regular contact with the IFRC and provide information about the situations and the operations. A visit was made by the IFRC regional disaster coordinator for the Caribbean, and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to support the operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As the lead national agency responsible for emergency management, the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) provided support to the affected communities through the distribution of water and cleaning supplies. Long boots and cellular phone credit was provided to all shelter personnel.

The CDC has reported that various government agencies were deployed and conducting sector assessments in the affected areas.

1. Guyana Power and Lights Inc. - has returned to normal operations nationwide.

2. Guyana Water Inc. - continues normal operations and remains on alert to respond if required.
3. Ministry of Public Health - environmental health officers continue to conduct assessments at established shelters and affected communities in all regions.
4. Ministry of Agriculture - the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) and other Ministry of Agriculture departments have been working continuously to ensure drainage of all communities, and the operationalization of all pumps and sluices.
5. Guyana Police Force - continues to patrol the Conservancy between Providence and Flagstaff.
6. Environmental Protection Agency – has teams on standby to assist in assessment activities.
7. Guyana Red Cross Society – began implementing the DREF operation
8. Guyana Defence Force (GDF) – continues to conduct patrols in the conservancy, additionally, the GDF is assisting the CDC in assessments of affected communities.
9. Ministry of Public Infrastructure - Hydromet continues to monitor weather conditions and provide regular updates. Additionally, the Ministry is monitoring all public infrastructures continuously, and it is on alert to respond if required.
10. Guyana Livestock Development Authority - field staff continue to monitor the situation, and they are also conducting assessments in the affected communities. Additionally, the chief veterinary officer and chief veterinary public health officers have been advised to strengthen surveillance activity on meat (ante-mortem and post-mortem).
11. National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute – conducting crop damage assessments in affected regions.
12. Mayor & City Council – continues to monitor the situation and clear drainage blockages.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The findings of the joint assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency and supported by the Guyana Red Cross Society indicated a need for emergency relief, which includes the following:

- a. Dredging of the various outfalls
- b. Deployment of pumps to non-functional and functional kokers/sluices to improve their respective drainage capacity
- c. Distribution of cleaning supplies to residents of affected communities
- d. Supply of perishable (food and water) and non-perishables to identified communities
- e. Detail sector damage assessment and needs analysis should be conducted



Garbage floating during the floods. Source: The Guyana Red Cross Society

Water and Sanitation actions

With the prediction of more rains and the evidence of damages caused by the July floods, it is evident that water and sanitation conditions in the communities are not ideal and safe, making it necessary to conduct basic sanitation, hygiene, vector and waste management actions in the community, including health education and relief supplies.

Relief Supplies

The main livelihood for some communities is livestock and farming; many have lost their crops and have been forced to find an alternate source of income. For most, this was their only source of income to support their families. The Ministry of Agriculture assessed the damage to crops and livestock in order to render a recovery programme for the affected families; however this process is taking time. Hence the immediate

needs for families to replant their crops while they await their recovery programme

The emergency shelter located in Albouystown was opened for an extended period; as a result, additional hygiene kits, cleaning kits and cots were needed.

The request by the Guyana Red Cross Society for support to enhance the local relief efforts were based on the following scenarios, both of which indicate increased rainfall based on Hydromet forecasts in a traditionally flood - prone area that is already below sea level.

Scenario 1- Enhanced rainfall continues and causes strain on community from increased public health risk of waterborne diseases.

Scenario 2- Enhanced rainfall continues and results in displacement of community, increased public health risk of waterborne diseases.

Risk Analysis

The current weather pattern in Guyana shows scattered showers of heavy rains, which means there are still some days of flooding ahead. The National Hydromet Office has forecasted an increase in heavy rains; consequently, coastal flooding is likely.

In addition, the National Society has received reports of extremely dry weather in Region 9.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

To respond to the immediate needs of 500 families impacted by the July 2015 floods.

Proposed strategy

The Guyana Red Cross Society aims to achieve its objective through coordination with the various actors involved at the national level and as an auxiliary to the government and partner to the National Disaster Office, the Civil Defence Commission. The Guyana Red Cross will interact with all agencies involved in the assessments, planning, implementing and monitoring of disaster response operations. At the National level, it will interact with the National Disaster Office through the Office of the Presidency, the local authorities through the Regional Democratic Councils and the Mayor's office, the communities through their governing bodies, national institutions operating in the field, social organizations and national and international humanitarian agencies.

The aim of the strategy would be to address the urgent needs of people affected in terms of shelter, access to food and water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as their reduced capacity to earn an income and provide for their families.

Community selection criteria:

1. Communities who have lost their livelihoods
2. Communities with limited access to food and water and sanitation.
3. Communities without access to safe drinking water

Family selection criteria:

1. Families with damage to their dwellings and/or with damage to latrines
2. Single mothers with children
3. Older adults
4. Families with children under 5 years of age and with physically and or mentally challenged family members
5. Families who do not have a source of income since their livelihoods were affected
6. Persons with disabilities

Operational support services

Human resources

In order to implement this plan of action, the Guyana Red Cross Society hired a multidisciplinary technical team that will ensure the implementation of the activities to support emergency relief:

- One national emergency relief coordinator in the field (charged to the operation)
- Finance and logistics personnel
- Communications and reporting (due to a family emergency, this team member works from out of the office and is mostly only available before and after working hours)
- Volunteer personnel

Monitoring is through the National Society emergency relief team. The headquarters also has a monitoring team for financial reporting, and it is responsible for ensuring the quality of intermediate and final reports.

Logistics and supply chain

The operation received a shipment of relief items from the IFRC's Global Logistics Service (GLS) in Panama. Additional procurements will be made in-country as domestic markets carry the items required for the operation. The Guyana Red Cross Society has finance personnel with the responsibility to oversee the relevant procurement functions. All supplies will be channeled through the warehousing operations to ensure adequate procurement,

management and distribution of relief supplies. The National Society warehouse was cleaned and protected for receipt of the relief items.

Communications

Communication activities will be based on an assertive promotion of the Red Cross's work while at the same time avoiding the provision of biased information to beneficiaries and the public.

The Red Cross has a dedicated communication focal person that supports the organization to ensure visibility as proper backup for institutional activities during emergency response and recovery phases.

The following are the communications objectives according to target audience:

1. Internal Communication - Members of the Red Cross are aware of the humanitarian context through field briefings, status reports and operations coordinators. The Communication focal point will support the adaptation of information and tools to the local context as required using varied modes of communication via the development of stories from the field and the updating of the Guyana Red Cross Society's social media page with the support of youth volunteers.
2. External Communications - A series of information messages will be developed to the delivery of transparent information to the population in general and beneficiaries in particular that will convey what the Red Cross does to assist those affected by emergencies. This will be done via Public Service Announcements through social networks, interviews and bulletins. For more information and photos, please visit the Guyana Red Cross Society's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossGuyana>
3. Documentation - Documenting support processes in emergency situations gives credibility to the Red Cross with donors and the population in general. As a result, all of the relevant articles, photos and beneficiary stories will be compiled and archived to document the emergency support that was provided.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The National Society will have a monitoring team composed of technical staff. Likewise, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)/IFRC's disaster management coordinator for the region will conduct at least two monitoring visits to the DREF implementation area.

Since the activities are short term, this project will issue one intermediate progress report and one final report at the end of the operation, which is scheduled for the final week in October.

Administration and Finance

The National Society has trained staff available to provide the necessary support the work areas included in the plan of action.

On 15 September, a finance briefing was conducted by PADRU finance officer for National Society staff, volunteers and the RIT in country.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Programming / Areas Common to all Sectors

Outcome 1 The operation's implementation is managed in a coordinated manner with a proper implementation and monitoring system	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1 The operation has been monitored and implemented according to the time frame established in the plan of action		
Output 1.2 The activities of the project are disseminated at local and national levels through an adequate communications system			90%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Hiring of an operations coordinator	x		100%
Identification and deployment of a RIT Generalist	x		100%

Monitoring visits to the project area by headquarters	x		35%
Monitoring visits by the IFRC	x		50%
Production of press releases		x	0%
Progress towards outcomes			
The hiring of the operations coordinator was completed, including the in-country mission of a RIT from Guyana to support the operation.			
Monitoring visits:			
1) Regional Chairman Region #5 – On 26 August, a brief outline of the DREF operation plan of action was shared.			
2) Regional Chairman Region #3 – On 27 August, initial discussions were held to provide information on the activities and seek guidance and information as to the affected communities. The regional chairman and National Society staff visited several communities to do an initial assessment to verify if the communities would meet the selection criteria. Crane Phase 1 and 2, Plastic City and Poedreoyen were visited.			
3) The community of Moraikobai is an Amerindian community governed by a village council headed by a Touchau. A meeting was held on 28 August.			
4) Regional Chairman Region #2 – On 28 August, the National Society staff shared the DREF plan of action's objectives; Initial visits were conducted by the National Society staff on 28 and 29 August to the communities of Friendship and Kaiburi.			
5) Regional Chairman Region #1 – On 4 September, after a brief outline of the operation, the regional Chairman expressed his gratitude on the National Society's work. Initial visits were conducted on 5 and 6 September to the communities Smiths Creek and Imboteru.			
6) The Civil Defence Commission met once per week with its platform members and other stakeholders to share information on the disaster situation; the Guyana Red Cross Society was present at all meetings			
7) The Ministry of the Presidency-Head of the Political Division met on Friday, 11 September with the National Society; the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the DREF Plan of Action and to request, through the Ministry of the Presidency, a meeting with key persons from relevant Ministries. The Guyana Red Cross Society was asked to have a follow up meeting to highlight progress and coordination.			
8) Mayor and City Council– Monday, 14 September – The mayor was briefed on the DREF operations plan; he was grateful for the initiative and offered his full support. The communities of Albouystown, Lodge and North and South Ruimveldt were suggested, which coincided with the initial assessments. The mayor requested assistance with health and hygiene promotion and household garbage disposal units.			
Monitoring visits by the IFRC			
A field visit was conducted on 9 September to assess if the community had met the selection criteria. The IFRC regional disaster manager was present for the visit.			
Challenges			
Scheduling meetings with key persons in government agencies was challenge as there is a new government administration as of May 2015, and its offices are quite busy with the affairs of the country.			
September was an Amerindian Heritage month, which involved many different activities; as a result, activities in the Amerindian communities were limited until October.			

Outcome 2 Continuous and detailed evaluation, monitoring and analysis to inform the operation's design and implementation.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1 Initial and detailed needs assessments are updated after consulting the beneficiaries.		40%
	Output 1.2 T The Guyana Red Cross Society has an increased understanding of the damage assessment and needs analysis process leading to enhanced support for national emergency response and relief efforts		40%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	

Performing a rapid assessment	x		40%
Performing a detailed assessment by mobilizing a National Intervention Team (NIT) team to the affected area using the Open Data Kit (ODK) tool	x		40%
Purchase of 2 ODK and Mega V kits	x		100%
Implementation of a satisfaction survey to beneficiaries using ODK		X	0%
Production of a report and the dissemination of a satisfaction survey		X	0%

Progress towards outcomes

1) On 19 and 20 September, assessments were completed in Kaiburi, Friendship, Smiths Creek and Imbotero. Moraikobai communities. The five remaining communities were completed by the end of September. The analysis of the information is simultaneously being done with the assessments.

2) Six telephones were purchased on 18 September to be used in place of the ODK and Mega V Kits.

Challenges

Discussions between the National Society, the regional administrations and the Civil Defence Commission were delayed due to reorganization of ministries following national government elections. In addition, the time period that has elapsed between the initial flooding and the stage of implementation has led to a reduction in the sense of urgency around the emergency operation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis:

There are no reports of death due to flooding, or increased cases of diarrhea in the affected regions. The Ministry of Health has reported general access to health services despite the increased rainfall. There is no reported disruption to water distribution services. However, water distribution lines are under flooded water. Many latrines and wells have been flooded. Affected people continue to drink water from the flooded wells.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 500 families whose homes have been severely flooded have access to safe water and improve hygiene practices.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion			
Outcome 1 Increased access to safe water through public messages to 500 families	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.1 Families affected by the floods have items to store and treat water in the home, which improves access to safe water	
	Output 1.2 The capacity of the Guyana Red Cross Society is strengthened to support health and water and sanitation (WATSAN) interventions		0%
Outcome 2 Improved hygiene practices through public messages to 500 families	Output 2.1 Families have access to hygiene promotion and messages		0%
	Output 2.2 Families have access to protection from mosquito-borne diseases		0%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Identification and registration of families using ODK, with family and community information properly disaggregated	x		40%
Acquisition of 500 hygiene kits that meet Sphere Standards	x		10%
Acquisition of 500 mosquito nets that meet Sphere Standards	x		100%
Acquisition of 500 water filters that meet Sphere Standards	x		100%
Acquisition of 500 jerry cans that meet Sphere Standards	x		100%
Distribution of hygiene kits, mosquito nets, filter kits and jerry cans using ODK and Mega V		x	0%
Water, sanitation and health (WASH) and vector control management workshops		x	0%
Filter and jerry can use workshops		x	0%
Implementation of a beneficiary satisfaction survey		x	0%
Study of the feasibility of cash transfers		x	0%
Progress towards outcomes			
1) Procurements of the mosquito nets, water filters, and jerry cans have been completed. Quotations for hygiene kits have been received.			
Challenges			
The implementation has been delayed for various reasons related to late receipt of the DREF funds and due to difficulties in coordination with local stakeholders as a result of competing priorities. Nevertheless, distributions will be held once the community trainings are completed.			

Food security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods

Needs analysis:

Families who were affected by heavy rains and who have temporarily lost their livelihoods and sources of employment; homes were flooded, causing food to be lost. Families in some of the affected regions are used to a diet of milk, meat, rice, cassava, corn and vegetables. With crop damage assessments underway in the affected regions, there is an immediate need for food due to crop losses.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 500 families who have lost their food and whose livelihoods have been affected will be assisted.

Food security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods			
Outcome 1 Ensure that families whose livelihoods have been affected have access to basic food items	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.1 500 families have access to food that covers their basic needs for 2 months	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Identification and registration of families using ODK, with family and community information properly disaggregated		x	0%
Purchase of food items to cover the basic needs of 500 families		x	0%
Distribution of food kits using ODK and Mega V		x	0%
Implementation of a beneficiary satisfaction survey		x	0%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>Due to the elapsed time between the flooding and the acquisition of the DREF, the National Society has determined that this may no longer be an immediate need for people affected by the flood as the water has receded. However, there will likely be a need for seeds and large water storage units and garbage disposal units.</p> <p>The National Society is currently completing the assessments and its analysis to make a more well-informed decision.</p>			

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the National Society:** Teni Houty, a.i. chairman, phone: +592 226-5174, email: guyanaredcross@yahoo.com
- **In Barbados:** Tamara Lovell, regional disaster management coordination for Anglo-Caribbean, phone: +246-417 2727; email: tamara.lovell@ifrc.org
- **In Trinidad and Tobago:** Lorraine Mangwiro, regional representative for the Caribbean, email: lorraine.mangwiro@ifrc.org
- **In IFRC regional office:** Carlos Inigo Barrena, disaster response and crisis and early recovery coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org.
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Stephany Murrilo, regional office senior logistics & mobilization officer, Phone: +507 317 3050; email: Stephany.murillo@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Cristina Estrada, quality assurance senior officer, phone: +41.22.730.4529; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

- **In IFRC regional office:** Priscila Gonzalez, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC regional office:** Ursula Araya, Relationship Management Coordinator. +507 317 3050; email: Ursula.araya@ifrc.org

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humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
