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DREF Final Report

Suriname: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRSR003	Date of Issue: 2 February 2022
Operation start date: 13 June 2021	Operation end date: 31 October 2021
Host National Society: Suriname Red Cross Society (SRCS)	Operation budget: 132,884 CHF
Number of people affected: 10,100 (2,020 families)	Number of people assisted: 1,928 (386 families)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean of the French Red Cross (PIRAC) did not have a presence in the country but had offered to support the operation if needed.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The government authorities were the main actors that responded to the operation.	
The Suriname Red Cross Society spent a total of 116,772 CHF. The remaining balance of 16,112 CHF will be returned to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.	
<i>The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO, Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the SRCS, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.</i>	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

In April, May, and June of 2021, it rained heavily in Suriname causing flooding in many communities. During a joint press conference between the Ministries of Public Works, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Regional Development and Sports, held on 4 June 2021, it was announced that the heavy rains were the most serious in the last four years. Reports of flooding were made in almost every district of Suriname, including:

- Paramaribo: in the residential center and suburbs.
- Nickerie: in the communities of Wageningen, New Nickerie, Corantijn Polder.
- Coronie: Totness and surroundings.
- Saramacca: Uitkijk, Dambuntong and surroundings.
- Marowijne: Akalekondre, Albina and surrounding communities, Snesi Kondre Kondre and surrounding in the interior.
- Sipaliwini: Apitina, Tepu and surrounding Amerindian villages in the Interior.
- Commewijne: Kronenburg, Baki.

The Government stated the estimated number of families affected was 2,000. However, the Suriname Red Cross estimated that the numbers were higher, as not all affected communities could be reached, and not all affected households from the 10 Suriname districts were registered.

In October 2021, the floodwaters did not recede in many communities. Although life was returning to normal, access to some communities and thus the supply chain remained difficult. Some farmlands were still flooded, which affected the restoration of livelihoods in the districts. Many households reported damage to furniture, clothing, and large appliances such as refrigerators and doors and walls of their houses.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Assessments

The Suriname Red Cross National Society (SRCS) worked closely with different government agencies, communities in the affected areas and the National Disaster Management Coordination Centre (NCCR). Through the Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT), the National Society (NS), had conducted rapid assessments in the Nickerie, Commewijne, and Marowijne districts, between May and June and shared this data collected with the NCCR (National Disaster Operation).

During the initial stages of the operations, the National Society also assisted with personnel at the shelters and collaborated with the NCCR. At the local government's request in Wageningen, the Red Cross undertook the shelter management responsibilities as 11 families within the area (consisting of 13 women, 9 men and 4 children under the age of five [3 girls and 1 boy]) were displaced and were sheltering at a local school. The SRCS also distributed 900 buckets and 600 jerry cans, to approximately 400 families in Wageningen, Kronenburg, Akalekondre, and Bakki.

As the damage continued due to flooding, the SRCS decided to request a DREF, which was approved in June 2021, for a period of 3 months, until 30 September 2021. The communities identified for this operation were Wageningen, Akalekondre and Kronenburg.

A final detailed assessment was done on 10 July 2021 to collect the actual numbers of affected households, and this was completed on 17 July 2021. A total of 454 affected households were identified for assistance.



Figure 1: Volunteers from the SRCS conducting impact assessment during July 2021. Source: SRCS.

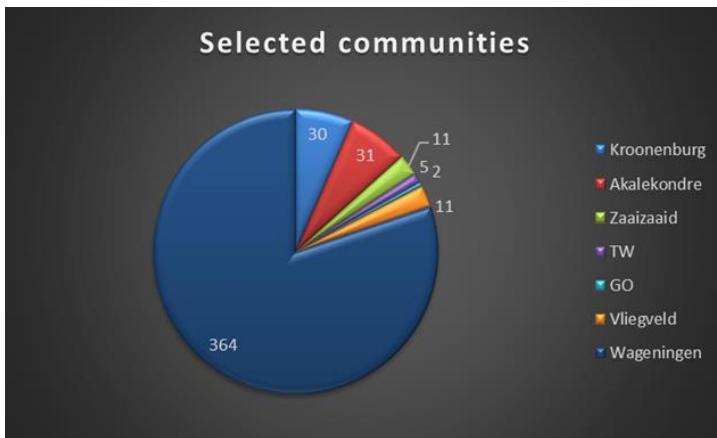


Figure 2: Total number of affected households per communities (Kroonenburg, Akalekondre, Wageningen (inclusive sub communities))

Table 1: Demographics of the selected communities (Data from the detailed assessment done between 10 and 17 July 2021)

Demographic information (age group and other)	Kronenburg	Akalekondre	Wageningen					Total	%
			Vliegfeld	GO	TW	Zaaizaad	Wageningen		
Male 0-2	5	1	0	0	0	1	36	43	2%
Female 0-2	4	10	0	0	0	0	28	42	2%
Male 3-11	9	18	3	1	1	1	113	146	8%
Female 3-11	4	12	8	0	1	3	94	122	7%
Male 12-17	3	7	1	1	1	1	57	71	4%
Female 12-17	5	4	6	0	1	0	65	81	4%
Male 18-64	32	26	13	4	2	10	327	414	23%
Female 18-64	27	31	12	4	3	11	336	424	23%
Male 65 and above	5	3	1	0	0	3	157	169	9%
Female 65 and above	3	6	1	0	2	0	209	221	12%
Number of pregnant women	1	5	0	0	0	0	11	17	1%
Number of lactating women	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	26	1%
Number of persons with special needs	6	4	1	0	0	2	23	36	2%
Number of people in HH	104	128	46	10	11	32	1481	1812	100%

The table below summarizes the losses suffered by the households in the affected communities targeted by the National Society. This data is based on the detailed assessments completed by the National Society. The survey revealed that significant damage occurred in agriculture, as in both urban and rural areas, many cultivated plots were damaged.

Assessed or Reported Needs	Kronenburg	Akalekondre	Wageningen	Total
Loss of animals	3	1	61	65
Loss of crops	30	31	109	170
Loss of tools	1	5	25	31
Loss of supplies (for own business, etc.)	1	7	8	16
Loss of paid job	8	9	12	29
Other (includes loss of household items)	1	7	151	159
TOTAL	44	60	366	470

Additional selection criteria were defined (in coordination with the authorities and volunteer committees), which resulted in the final selection of households that were targeted. The initial approved DREF targeted:

- 300 households for household items
- 100 households for cash assistance

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) was not directly represented in Suriname, however it provided support through the Port of Spain Country Cluster Delegation (POS CCD) office in Trinidad and Tobago. The ARO and CCD supported the planning of the DREF response and development of the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) for this response. Two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) Operations Manager Delegates, through the Canadian Red Cross, were deployed to Suriname. The first delegate supported the National Society remotely during July. In August, a second Operations Manager was deployed until October 2021.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The National Society was not aware of any systematic support actions, except the government's, which mainly concentrated on two sectors:

- Supported affected communities to pump floodwater from the living/public areas; restoring small bridges and protection dams; and
- Provided financial support (approx. 4,000,000 CHF reserve in the budget) to the medium-size and large-size rice farm owners, who lost their potential harvest. It is important to note that this plan did not cover small-size farm owners (one of the targeted groups).

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The initial numbers set out in the DREF were received/reported from the government agencies, NGO's, media and SRCS volunteers on the ground. It was not until the DREF was approved and funds were received that Red Cross staff and volunteers conducted a detailed assessment, to ascertain the actual affected households and damage caused by the floods and continued heavy rain. SRCS (in consultation with relevant authorities and based on the current capacity), had identified the most affected communities to be covered by DREF activities - Kroonenburg, Akalekondre and Wageningen.

The following areas of intervention were included in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA):

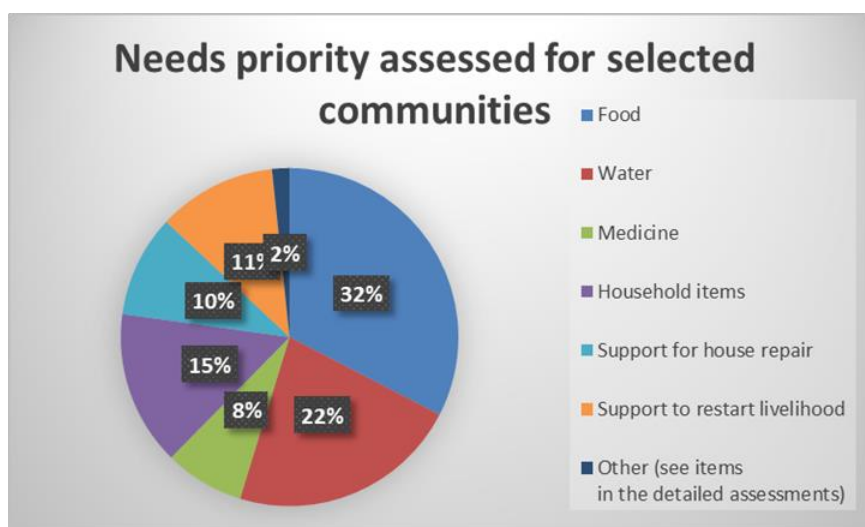
Shelter: In the initial phase of the flooding, a shelter (school building) in Wageningen was activated to host 11 families (consisting of 13 women, 9 men and 5 children under the age of 5) because their houses were either damaged or flooded. Many other households were flooded but managed to stay in their own houses. Household items were distributed to those affected families in the selected communities.

Health: With flooding, major health issues were anticipated. The health component in the EPoA aimed to implement health promotion, distribution of mosquito nets and COVID-19 PPE's etc. Based on the detailed assessment done in July 2021 in the selected communities, it was shown that there were no

or minor health issues relating to the floods. It was decided to include health promotion elements to avoid any potential risks in the future.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene: Given the circumstances with flooding and the initial assessment, it was essential to add this intervention area. The affected communities had little or limited access to clean running water (Kroonenburg and Akalekondre). On the other hand, the water system was closed because of flooding in the water distribution office in Wageningen. Distribution of the relevant items such as water purifying tablets, buckets and jerry cans and adequate training/promotion were included in the EPoA.

Livelihoods: During the initial assessment, loss of livelihoods and stock (see table “assessed or reported needs” in the Summary section of Report) were highlighted. Therefore, it was outlined in the EPoA that support would be provided through cash distribution to 100 families to restart livelihoods.



Extracted from the detailed assessment by the National Society, the diagram above outlines the basic needs that households identified. Major needs were in terms of food (32%), water (22%) and household items (15%). Support to restart livelihoods was required for more than 11 % of people affected.

Targeting

The DREF initially aimed to support 300 families (1,500 people) affected by flooding. Based on the actual numbers of the affected families (454) after the detailed assessment was done, it was agreed to support the families assessed. The distribution strategy was updated to accommodate 454 families through the [DREF Operation Update no. 1](#).

Distribution Plan

The initial rapid assessment, done during the flooding between May and June 2021, did not capture all families as persons temporarily relocated due to the floodwater in their homes, sheltering with families or friends. The estimated number of households affected was 2,000, of which the Suriname Red Cross decided to assist 300 households (see DREF proposal). The support to families increased by 154 families following a more detailed assessment in July 2021.

To support the actual number of families, the distribution strategy set out was that 100 of the 454 households would receive cash. As this fund was unconditional, affected households could decide

which immediate need to fulfil. It was decided that persons selected for the cash programming would not receive household items other than masks, hand sanitizer, water purification tablets and solar lamps.

From the detailed assessment, it was evident that both the communities Kroonenburg and Akalekondre had the most significant losses of livelihoods (both communities lost crops, etc., resulting in the loss of income and/or food for the household). Consequently, they were identified for the Cash and Voucher and Assistance (CVA) intervention.

In the community Wageningen, a mixture of needs was identified and decided that distribution of household items and implementation of CVA was needed. In this way, support would be provided to 300 families by distributing household items only and the remaining cash cards to households selected for this program. This strategy would have left 54 families without any assistance.

To support the increased numbers of households, a distribution planning meeting was held on 8 September 2021. The SRCS officially requested revision of the EPOA and budget on 20 October 2021 to assist the additional 54 families. Savings were identified and were reallocated to an additional 54 families because of virtual training instead of in-person training sessions for volunteers, due to the spike in COVID-19 cases.

The following revisions were proposed and approved:

- Local procurement and distribution of the relief items for 54 families.
- Livelihood support to all 454 identified families by local procurement of the vegetable seeds for distribution to assist with the restoration of livelihoods.
- The exact number of families and quantities of seeds was calculated based on the final savings in the National Society's existing budget.

From the initial calculations and based on the current expenditure rates, the National Society indicated having approximately CHF 13,500 as savings which were repurposed to support the additional 54 families with livelihood activities.

To complete the above-mentioned additional activities, the National Society also requested an extension of the DREF timeline until 31 October 2021, which was approved on 15 September 2021, bringing the total operating timeframe to four months.

The provision of seeds as a new activity was approved conditionally based on ensuring that basic food needs are covered.

Based on budget savings at the final stage of operation, it was possible to expand support to the 54 families (initially excluded) by distributing household items and the second round of vegetable seed distribution to all 454 affected families.

Risk Analysis

The National Society initially identified (based on the assessment results and other info available) the following risks:

- Health-related illnesses (Vector borne (Zika, Dengue, etc.), Diarrhea from polluted water).
- Persistence of hydro-meteorological phenomena.
- Risk of COVID-19 infection by volunteers, staff and people targeted.

- Because of heavy rains, roads damaged and some obstruction of access roads to at-risk communities.
- In the interior rural communities, there is a lot of illegal mining (mercury). Flooding has exacerbated the contamination of freshwater canals that are used for drinking water.
- Reduced access to healthcare and basic needs (shops, etc.) also affected by the flooding.
- Increase fear and stress linked with lack of access to health services and loss of livelihoods.

These risks were still evident in the communities during the operation, which was a clear indication of the accuracy of the assessment conducted by the National Society.

Mitigation Actions

Continuous assessment of situations due to risks (COVID-19, weather conditions, economic situations) were necessary due to rapid change (environmentally and or other risks/ COVID-19 measures).

For example, during the program's implementation, there were no outbreaks, but there were Dengue incidents. The risk for an outbreak of Dengue was high. Thus, information leaflets from previous Zika and Dengue projects were reproduced to complement the awareness sessions with the beneficiaries. Demonstrations were also given on securing water in storage containers, preventing mosquito breeding sites and treating water with aqua tabs.

COVID-19 Pandemic



Figure 4: A community member receiving an IFRC branded debit card, September 2021. Source: SRCS.

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considered the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and was aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were several preventive steps implemented to secure the well-being of the staff and volunteers. Face masks and sanitizers were mandatory for Red Cross colleagues at the distribution sites and anywhere where more than one person was. These measures were extended to beneficiaries visiting the distribution sites and home deliveries/ distribution. Points of distribution were made only in open spaces, following the safe distance rules and constant temperature monitoring.

At the same time, the National Society strictly followed the rules and regulations implemented by the Government. Training and other events were arranged online, as required.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed Strategy

Training

15 staff and volunteers started CVA and CEA training on 28 July 2021. The focus of the training was to provide the volunteers and staff with knowledge and tools to implement market assessments in the selected communities.

The results of the market assessments were significant as they guided the implementation of the CVA in the selected communities. The assessments were done during the first two weeks of August 2021 and focused on crops, as most households lost their horticulture crops during the flooding. Discussions were held with the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct community sessions but were cancelled due to the increased COVID-19 cases.

Communications

Suriname Red Cross Society hired a consultant in August to work closely with the communications focal point to create a multimedia product that highlighted the Red Cross' response to the Suriname Floods and other Red Cross activities.

The work of the consultant included:

- Conducting interviews with persons supported by the Red Cross, volunteers, National Society staff, partners, etc.
- Capturing high-quality, images and video footage (including b-roll) guided by the editorial strategy and tailored for a range of communications channels following Red Cross ethical guidelines.
- Working with the communications focal point, editing images and video footage to create multimedia products.

Deliverables

On 28 October 2021, the communications consultant completed the following for the DREF Suriname Floods Operation:

- 100 print ready horizontal pictures
- 100 web ready horizontal pictures
- 1 raw interview with CDRT members of Akalekondre
- 4 raw interviews with beneficiaries and CDRT of Kroonenburg
- 5 raw interviews with beneficiaries and SRCS volunteers of Wageningen
- 2 three-minute B-Roll films; 1 MOV file and 1 MP4 file
- 1 SRCS DREF Suriname Floods Operation full version video (MP4)
- 1 SRCS DREF Suriname Floods Operation social media version video (MP4)

Distributions

Before implementing any of the activities outlined below, the Suriname Red Cross, with the support of the NDO and local stakeholders, conducted detailed consultations to determine the households most in need of assistance and the most effective distribution channels. Local volunteer committees completed all selections with technical support and advice from the HQ.

The following summarizes the National Society distributions (also summarized in the table below):

- Emergency distribution was done between May and June 2021
- 1st round of the regular distribution - 300 families received household items, and 100 families received cash support in the form of visa prepaid cards, as follows:
 - 300 families across the three districts received household items only
 - Akalekondre on 9 September 2021, 31 families received Visa prepaid cards and PPE/household items
 - Kroonenburg on 8 September 2021, 30 families received Visa prepaid cards and PPEs / household items
 - Wageningen and surroundings on 16 September 2021, 39 families received Visa prepaid cards
- 2nd round of the regular distribution – A total of 454 families were supported as follows:
 - Akalekondre distribution on 12 October 2021, 31 families received relief items and seeds
 - Kroonenburg distribution on 13 October 2021, 30 families received relief items and seeds
 - Wageningen and surrounding distribution on 17 October 2021, the additional families (54) received relief items and seeds.
 - 339 families were supported with seeds

Table 2: Indicated distribution plan for the selected communities

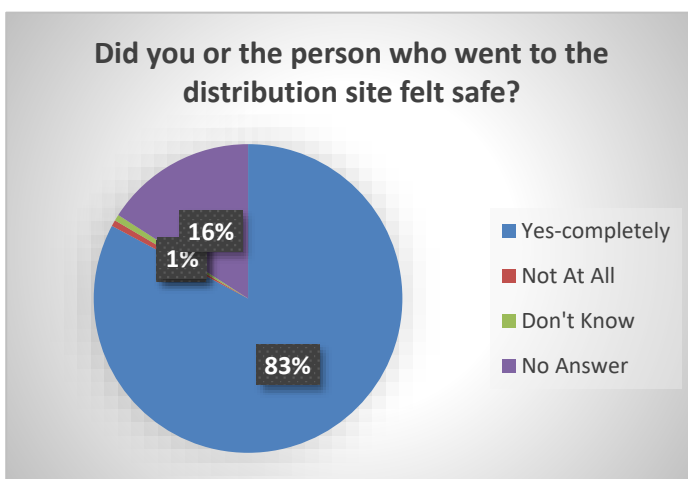
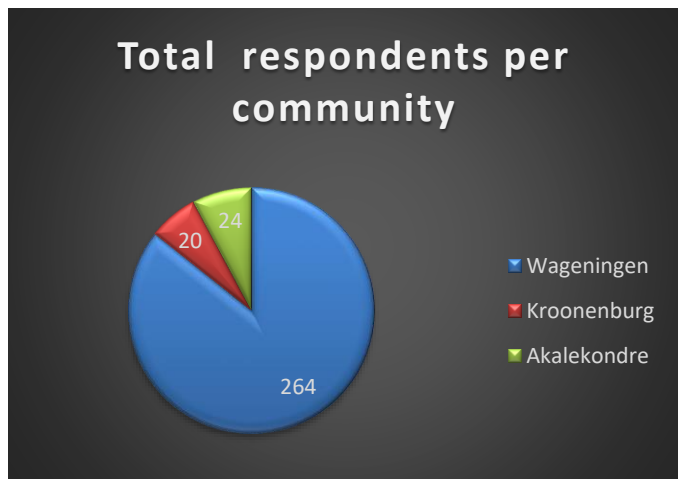
Municipality	City/Village	Distribution Point/Collective Shelter (GPS Location)	Families to reach	Type of Relief Pack
Wageningen	Vliegveld	Distribution directly to HH	13	CTP/NFI
	TW	Distribution directly to HH	7	CTP/NFI
	Zaaizaad	Distribution directly to HH	11	NFI
	GO	Distribution directly to HH	2	NFI
	Wageningen	Bestuurskantoor (Plein 1951) Pakdipo centrum (Rexoralaan) Winawang (oost einde weg)	306	NFI / CTP
Commewijne	Kroonenburg	Community center Kroonenburg	30	CTP/NFI
Marowijne	Akalekondre	Community center Akalekondre	31	CTP/NFI
Nickerie	Wageningen	Home delivery (2 second distr)	54	NFI
			454	

Post-Distribution Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure transparency and accountability, post-distribution monitoring was organized in all communities involved. Post monitoring visits were conducted on 17 October 2021 in Wageningen, 23 October 2021, in Kroonenburg and 24 October 2021, in Akalekondre. During these visits, an

evaluation was done through an IFRC questionnaire from the CVA tool. This questionnaire was used both for people reached receiving Cash and household items.

A total of 308 persons were interviewed. 20 from Kroonenberg, 24 from Akalekondre and 264 from Wageningen and surroundings. The respondents consisted of 186 women and one hundred and 122 men.



Overall, persons felt safe coming to the distribution site. However, some felt worried that because of the increased numbers of COVID-19 infections (in the case of Wageningen), they might be at risk and were hesitant to come to the distribution site.



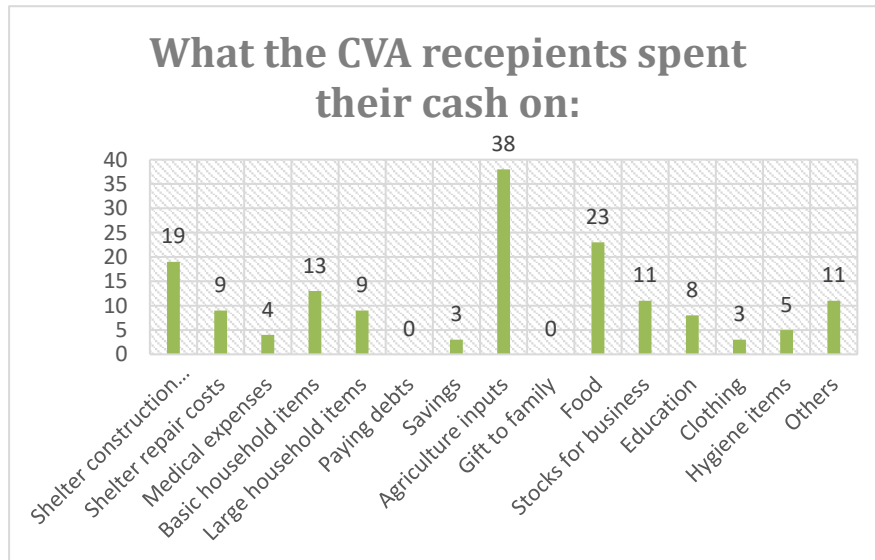
When asked whether persons were satisfied with the cash distribution, the majority was completely satisfied. It was unnecessary for the ones who did not receive cash through the cash program to answer this question. However, the ones who answered, "not at all" (those who were not selected for the cash program) could not understand why a distinction was made between who received cash and who received household items if all persons were equally flooded.

74 persons who received cash cards were asked how much money they received (bank withdrawal). The responses were recorded as follows:

- 1.4% reported that they received between \$1000- \$2999 SRD
- 0% reported that they received between \$3000- \$4999 SRD

- 24.3% reported that they received between \$5000- \$6999 SRD
- 74.3% reported that they received between \$ 7000- \$8999 SRD

Respondents expressed that they would have preferred cash at hand as checking account balances and bank withdrawals attracted high bank fees. Some respondents even complained that the bank has limits on how much money they could access daily.



It was good to know that persons who received cash spent the money constructing their houses. This was mostly the case of Akalekondre. Most were improving their homes and repairing the damage that was caused by the flood. In Akalekondre and Kroonenburg, most persons spent their cash on agriculture inputs. Although persons said in the questionnaire that they have some debts because of flooding, none used these funds to pay back these debts. Also, funds were spent on what was a priority for the household, such as education fees, medical expenses etc.

If the assistance could have been done over again, would you have preferred to receive food/goods rather than cash?



As soon as they received the cash, persons started purchasing items that they needed the most. This rapid purchasing of items also had to do with the increase of cost of goods each day because of the economic crisis in the country. Persons tried to get as much as they could with the amounts received. When asked if beneficiaries felt that the money received was reasonable, the answer was that it could be much more, especially if the calculation

was based on what the damage or loss during the floods was.

Those who received cash were satisfied that they were selected for this program. The households not selected for cash hoped that they were among those selected, although they were happy with the in-kind assistance received. The total of “No answer” is due to the interviewers who, because of a misunderstanding, did not ask this question to persons who did not received cash although this question was meant for all interviewees.



Figure 6: Volunteers conducting post-distribution and monitoring survey in Wageningen, October 2021. Source: SRCS

Lessons learned

The Lessons Learned online session was the final activity of the DREF Operation. This online session was held on 30 October 2021. 18 Red Cross volunteers attended, including the Director General. They all welcomed the implementation of the DREF as prior to this, the last DREF that was implemented was in 2008. A presentation on the DREF Operation was presented by the DM Coordinator, after which persons were asked to share discussions and lessons learnt.

From the whole team it was good to know that the SRCS team and the CCD team were constantly in collaboration. At least 20 monitoring meetings were held (every Monday during the implementation of the DREF).

Challenges and Recommendations

Below are some of the challenges experienced by the Suriname

Red Cross during the Operation.

1. The National Society had difficulties in keeping up with some procedures of the IFRC. This was due to cultural norms and what is practiced within Suriname, which differs from the expected procedures. For example, some suppliers were not accustomed to regulatory obligations (no receipt books or good received stamps, etc.). There was frequent communication with the IFRC support team in the POS CCD, regarding any grey area prior to implementation. In addition, the deployment of a RIT member with experience in procurement and other areas that aided the National Society's implementation for this operation.
2. Collecting useful data in target areas from affected households and ensuring that this data was inputted and filed correctly in tools such KOBO, ODK (Open Data Kit) etc. There were times where data was not input correctly or was incomplete. In some cases, this negatively impacted the completeness of the analysis done.
3. Some households were left off the distribution lists as persons had temporarily relocated and were not accounted for during the assessment.

Recommendations

1. The National Society should develop a clear and written procedure with regards to procurement and train staff and volunteers in this area.

2. National Society to train volunteers in data collection and analysis on a frequent basis.
3. National Society to establish a hotline or feedback mechanism where persons can contact the Red Cross in cases where they were not home at the time the assessment took place. Many persons were not on the distribution list because they were not home at the time of the assessment, (moved because of the floods) and complained during the distribution. A clear communication strategy is to be developed outlining how the National Society would implement planned activities and the explanation given to the public. Notification cards were made for each household to invite them to the distribution sites to receive their relief items.
4. Preventing discontent from being created in the communities in the future. For example, distributing one modality for aid in a community (in Wageningen some households were selected for Cash and others for NFIs). In the future National Society to decide clearly of distribution strategy and utilize one modality per community.
5. Ensuring better structure with the Communications Unit (both IFRC & National Society) and the Operations Team on the ground, through the provision of clear communication lines to facilitate better workflow.

Volunteer Recognition

In total, 83 volunteers, inclusive of staff from the Ministry of Regional Development, who assisted with the distribution activities in Wageningen, were involved in the DREF Operation.


The National Society is grateful for the unconditional participation of the Ministry of Regional Development and will work towards closer collaboration. Staff of this Ministry were on loan to assist the Red Cross in the distribution. The National Society will collaborate with the Ministry to train the staff in disaster preparedness programs to perform effectively.

The National Society volunteers were recognised for their great input before, during, and after implementing the DREF and response during the flooding. On behalf of the National Society, Donors, and IFRC, 50 volunteers received a certificate of appreciation and a token. Because of the COVID-19 measures, this activity was organized in small groups.



Figure 7: Volunteers who participated in the Volunteer Recognition activity on 30 October 2021. Source SRCS

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<h3 style="color: red;">Shelter</h3> <p>People reached: 1,518</p> <p>Male: 734 Female: 784</p>	
<p>Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.</p>		
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>
<p># of people provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance.</p>	<p>1,500</p>	<p>1,518</p>
<p>Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.</p>		
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>
<p># households provided with emergency shelter assistance</p>	<p>300</p>	<p>11</p>
<p># of kitchen sets procured, shipped and distributed</p>	<p>300</p>	<p>300</p>
<p># of Solar Lamps (2 per family for 150 families)</p>	<p>300</p>	<p>300</p>
<p># of Blankets are procured, shipped, and distributed (4 per family).</p>	<p>1,200</p>	<p>1,370</p>
<p>Narrative description of achievements</p>		
<p>It is essential to highlight that operation has been impacted by the global disruption of the logistics chain affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a delay in the shipment of supplies from Panama (all procurements for the 1st distribution were done with RLU (Regional Logistic Unit) support). When shelter items were received, the emergency shelters were closed, and persons returned home. Also, the number of households provided with emergency shelter was significantly less than expected as persons sought emergency shelter with family and friends.</p> <p>On 17 August, the National Society received the shipment of relief items from the RLU in Panama, and these items were offloaded in the National Society warehouse. The shipment contained 1,200 Blankets, 300 Hygiene Kits, 1,200 Mosquito Nets, 300 Kitchen sets, 900 Buckets, 300 Solar Lamps, 300 Cleaning Kits, 900 Jerry cans, 800 Hand Sanitizer, 3,500 KN95 masks, 6,000 water purification tablets.</p> <p>Distributions in the communities started on September 2021. They were completed before the end of the month, without challenges - based on the adequate preparation and hard work of the staff and volunteers.</p> <p>Procurement for the 2nd round was done locally at the beginning of October 2021, and distribution was completed in the second half of the month. 216 mosquito nets and 170 blankets were procured, and all were distributed to 54 additional families.</p>		
<p>Challenges</p>		

No designated shelters exist in Suriname. For this purpose, a school building was used to house families severely affected by the floods. The necessary articles were absent to give these people a good home. So, we had to assist with mattresses and food (The NDO had brought food packages after SRCS requested). By the time the DREF was approved, the shelter was closed.

Delay of the household items arrival from Panama - was covered by more concrete planning and intensified distribution schedule.

Increased COVID-19 infections in the community which increased the risk of infections in the shelter and to the volunteers.

Lessons Learned

Opening and running a shelter is not a sector of the SRCS. The SRCS acted as auxiliary as there were no other stakeholders to provide this service in the community. The SRCS will advocate for the existence of straightforward procedures regarding shelter and the establishment of a cluster team (NDO, Min of Social Affairs etc. With regards to the volunteers, shelter management will be added to their training program (NIT & CDRT training), and a list of shelter materials will be produced, which can be given to the Government to provide as soon as opening a shelter is requested.



Health

People reached: 1,928

Male: 942

Female: 986

Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families who receive health assistance.	300	454

Health Output 1.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of N95 masks delivered to families.	3,000	4,540
# of N95 masks delivered to frontline volunteers.	500	500
# of hand sanitizers delivered to families.	600	600
# of hand sanitizers delivered to volunteers.	200	200

Health Outcome 2: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities.	1,500	1,928

Health Output 2.1: Vector-borne diseases are prevented

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of LLINs distributed.	1,200	1,416

Health Output 2.2: Improved knowledge about public health issues among the target population in the areas affected.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of campaigns implemented for hygiene promotion campaigns on prevention and control of common communicable diseases	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

The relief items were received from Panama in Mid-August. Additional items were locally procured.

All distributions were completed between September-October 2021. The National Society also identified the need to implement hygiene campaigns to prevent and control mosquito-borne illnesses. Materials that were developed for Zika and Dengue viruses were recirculated to the affected areas. 2,000 leaflets, 500 stickers and 500 pamphlets were reprinted and distributed to approximately 1,900 persons.

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the National Society did one on one awareness sessions with beneficiaries explaining the preventive measures of COVID-19 and other vector-borne diseases. It is essential to mention that in Akalekondre and Kroonenburg, the CDRT's trained through the Caribbean Resilience Program funded by the GAC and the Canadian Red Cross were fully involved in the distribution and were the ones who delivered the awareness sessions to the people targeted. These were also done in the local language.



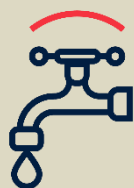
Figure 8: CDRT team member giving information to a local resident of Kroonenburg, September 2021. Source: SRCS.

Challenges

Some communities were difficult to access due to the floods. No major challenges were experienced in the distribution of items and promotion of health-related services.

Lessons Learned

The team realized that the efforts were more effective with the collaboration of the CDRTs (Community Disaster Response Teams) and the ability to offer services in the local language of the people reached.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 1,928

Male: 942

Female: 986

WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with WASH support during the emergency phase.	1,500	1,928

WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of WASH assessment carried out.	1	1

WASH Output 1.2: Hygiene-related goods which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of family hygiene kits are procured and distributed.	300	300
# of cleaning kits are procured and distributed.	300	300
# of buckets with fittings are procured, shipped, and distributed.	900	1,008
# of jerrycans procured, shipped, and distributed.	900	900
# of water treatment tablets (10 / 20 per family).	6,000	6,000

Narrative description of achievements

900 buckets, 900 jerry cans, and kitchen sets were distributed to approximately 400 families and 108 buckets to an additional 54 families. Buckets and jerry cans were distributed before the initial DREF from supplies the NS had pre-positioned and will be replenished.

In Wageningen 10 / 20 tablets were given to families so all selected beneficiaries could benefit from clean drinking water. Also, the National Society used 50 tablets for demonstration purposes.

All distribution lists have been finalized, and distributions completed in September-October 2021.

Challenges

There was a variance in the in the budget greater than 10% because of the change in exchange rates and for the National Society to facilitate the additional supplies needed for the additional families identified.

Lessons Learned

The National Society will request from the IFRC their full procurement guidelines and training for the National Society staff.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 1,928

Male: 942

Female: 986

Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihoods support.	500	1,928

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households have enough food, cash, or incomes to meet their survival threshold.	100	100
# of volunteers and staff trained in CVA and CEA	20	15
# of targeted households received vegetable seeds	454	454

Narrative description of achievements

With the guidance of the Regional Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Delegate and RIT Operations Manager, the National Society completed 3 days of training for Staff and Volunteers (16 people). 28 July 2021 – The sessions held were Introduction to CVA and Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA) in CVA. The CEA for CVA Session was conducted by the CEA Officer from the Port of Spain (POS) Country Cluster Delegation (CCD). 29 July and 3 August – How to conduct a Rapid Market Assessment (RAM).

Rapid Market Assessment (RAM) has been completed, confirming the markets' capacity to supply the goods needed by the affected communities. Initially, it was planned for 100 households to receive cash assistance via the IFRC Visa Debit Cards (VDC), with a value of USD 310 each. After completing a more thorough evaluation of the banking system in Suriname, the transfer value was increased to USD 381 per card. The programme has been created with the Service Provider and funds have been transferred.

The National Society has conducted its technical test from 23 to 28 August, and it is confirmed that the card will work with at least two of the local banks. In September, the National Society successfully distributed all 100 cash cards, providing technical assistance and advice to the people targeted.

1. Akalekondre received 31 Visa Debit cards
2. Kroonenburg received 30 Visa Debit cards
3. Wageningen received 39 Visa Debit cards.

Initially, the criteria for receiving the IFRC Visa Debit Card was for households whose income mainly depended on agriculture and livestock. This is how Kroonenburg and Akalekondre were selected as the communities

where the CVA would be implemented. 39 cards were left, and additional criteria were developed to selected out of the 393 affected households, 39 households who would also benefit from the CVA. The criteria for Wageningen were the same as for Kroonenburg and Akalekondre. Secondly, the criteria also look at single parents (female) households, senior citizens, impaired, and severe damage of properties.

The selected person should not already be registered for another cash program. The criteria of the National Society to base its selection on small scale farmers and livestock owners who were affected is also because Government planning was to provide financial support only to big and mid-size farm owners.

Utilizing the budget savings available, it was decided - additionally - to do local procurement and distribute vegetable seeds (5 types in one set) to all 454 households identified during the assessment. With the support and technical guidance from the Operations Manager, procurement and distributions were completed within October 2021, and this action was appreciated by the people affected.



Figure 9: Beneficiary displaying seeds that are already sprouting, October 2021. Source: SRCS



Figure 10: Seeds procured and distributed, October 2021. Source: SRCS

Challenges

There was a need for the speedy procurement of household items and vegetable seeds to complete the additional distribution. This was done with the technical support and supervision of the Operations Manager and based on the coordinated hard work of the entire Operations team.

For those who received cash cards, it was challenging to withdraw cash from the ATM as most of the time, the ATMs were empty (no cash).

Lessons Learned

National Society to develop their logistic and procurement policies and procedures inclusive of IFRC policies and procedures, train staff and volunteers frequently on this procurement and policies and incorporate this in daily National Society operation. Timeframe: November and December 2021.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	100	100

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in Community Engagement and Accountability	15	15
# of RIT personnel deployed	1	2
# of volunteers trained in CVA	15	15
# of volunteers able to demonstrate knowledge into practice during the implementation of Flood response and therefore were recognized and received a certification and token for good performance	50	50
# of Lesson learned workshops held	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

The National Society is grateful for the support of all its stakeholders for their collaboration. Through the deployment of two Operations Manager (one remote and the other in person) this DREF received the technical guidance it needed. Staff from the Ministry of Regional Development also partnered with the Suriname Red Cross to assist in the distribution of relief items. The National Society volunteers were recognised for their great input before, during and after the implementation of the DREF and response during the flooding. On behalf of

the National Society, Donors and IFRC, 50 volunteers received a certificate of appreciation and a token. A Lessons Learnt workshop was hosted where all stakeholders of the DREF were invited to participate and share their views.

Challenges

No challenge was experienced.

Lessons Learned

The National Society will collaborate with the Ministry of Regional Development to train the staff in disaster preparedness programs so they may perform effectively in the future.

D. Financial Report

- *See Annex.*

Contact information

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action \(PoA\)](#)
- [Operation Update no. 1](#)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **Disaster Management Focal Point:** Humphrey Blinker, humphrey.blinker@redcross.sr

In the IFRC:

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

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- **Regional Logistics Coordinator:** Mauricio Bustamante, mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org



In IFRC Geneva

- Senior DREF Officer: Eszter Matyeka, eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org
- Senior Operations Coordination Officer: Antoine Belair, antoine.belair@ifrc.or

How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of 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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/6-2021/12	Operation	MDRSR003
Budget Timeframe	2021/6-2021/10	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 27/Jan/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRSR003 - Suriname - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jun 2021 to 31 Oct 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	132,884
DREF Allocations	132,884
Expenditure	-116,772
Closing Balance	16,112

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	15,017	10,860	4,156
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	35,491	46,739	-11,248
AOF4 - Health	15,283	8,572	6,710
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	28,541	39,850	-11,309
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	94,331	106,022	-11,691
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	16,934	9,971	6,962
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	20,768	13	20,754
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	852	766	86
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	38,553	10,750	27,803
Grand Total	132,884	116,772	16,112

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/6-2021/12	Operation	MDRSR003
Budget Timeframe	2021/6-2021/10	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 27/Jan/2022
All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRSR003 - Suriname - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jun 2021 to 31 Oct 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	81,474	90,649	-9,175
Clothing & Textiles	7,200	12,171	-4,971
Seeds & Plants		7,872	-7,872
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,759	7,298	11,461
Medical & First Aid	2,950	3,093	-143
Teaching Materials	6,550	246	6,304
Utensils & Tools	14,490	25,327	-10,837
Cash Disbursement	31,525	34,642	-3,117
Logistics, Transport & Storage	8,300	12,199	-3,899
Storage		5,213	-5,213
Distribution & Monitoring	500	3,931	-3,431
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,000	831	3,169
Logistics Services	3,800	2,223	1,577
Personnel	16,400	2,187	14,213
International Staff	6,000		6,000
National Society Staff	7,600	35	7,565
Volunteers	2,800	2,152	648
Consultants & Professional Fees	800	719	81
Consultants	800	719	81
Workshops & Training	1,550	219	1,331
Workshops & Training	1,550	219	1,331
General Expenditure	16,250	3,673	12,577
Travel	12,000	5	11,995
Information & Public Relations	500	1,508	-1,008
Office Costs	2,600	1,129	1,471
Communications	650	676	-26
Financial Charges	500	346	154
Other General Expenses		9	-9
Indirect Costs	8,110	7,127	983
Programme & Services Support Recover	8,110	7,127	983
Grand Total	132,884	116,772	16,112