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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Guyana: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation no. MDRGY002; Glide no. FL-2015-000093-GUY
Date of issue: 1 August 2015	Date of disaster: 15 to 16 July 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Tamara Lovell, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Anglo-Caribbean	Point of contact (name and title): Dorothy Fraser, Secretary General, Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS); De Vaughn Lewis, First Aid Coordinator, Guyana Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 20 July 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: 148,142 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Number of people affected: 199,000 people	Number of people to be assisted: 2,500 (500 families)
Host National Society(ies) presence (no. of volunteers, staff, branches): (1,234 volunteers; 55 staff; 7 branches)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant):	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:	

<[Click here](#) for the DREF budget. [Here](#) for a map of the affected area. [Here](#) for the contact information>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Heavy rainfall along Guyana's coastal regions during the period of Wednesday, 15 July and Thursday, 16 July 2015 has resulted in increased water levels in rivers and canals. Regions #3 and #4 are the most affected regions with flooding in several communities, in yards and homes in some instances.

The activation of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was authorized. Total losses and the total number of people affected by the flooding are yet to be determined. However, based on the 2012 Preliminary Census Report, with more than 70 per cent of the country's population living along the coastal areas, a significant number of households have been either directly or indirectly affected. In addition, the latest reports provided by the NEOC indicate the following damage:

AREAS AFFECTED

Region 1 - BARIMA - WAINI

Reports of flooding in Region 1 have been received as follows:

- Communities in the Barima River - Hotoqui, Arukami, lower Kariabo, Araua
- Communities in the Kaituma River are reportedly affected by flooding.

Region 2 - POMEROON - SUPENAAM

- Both banks of the lower Pomeroon River are flooded.
- The Tapacuma-Mainstay Conservancy is high and is being monitored by the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA).
- The creek at the back end of Supenaam is high and the area is flooded.

Region 3 - ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS - WEST DEMERARA

- There is flooding from Hydronie (East Bank Essequibo) to Free and Easy (West Bank Demerara).
- Canals No. 1 and 2 are reportedly under about 2 feet of water.

Region 4 - DEMERARA-MAHAICA

- Farmlands are still flooded, especially in the areas from Dutchfort to Bee Hive.
- Water is still high in Buxton backlands.
- The larger pump is not working at Hope due to a hydraulic leak and the smaller one is unable to independently drain the area.
- The pump at Victoria and one pump at Montrose are not operational.
- There is one badly damaged (of the two) sluice doors at Chateau Margot.
- Number 2 unit at Strathespy has a problem; one (of three) unit at Victoria is not operational.
- A fuel shortage for some pumps (such as the Huntley pump) is anticipated.
- Great losses in cash crops due to the flooding are anticipated.
- Water has receded in the streets of Georgetown; however, the canal levels are still high.
- Siltation of Lamaha Street tunnel and the tunnel from Avenue of the Republic to Muneshwar outfall need urgent attention.
- A team is assessing blockages at the Kitty pump station.
- Due to the heavy activity of the large population of squatters, the North Ruimveldt sideline dam canal is heavily silted and is contributing to major flooding in Alexander Village, East and West Ruimveldt, Tucville, Meadowbrook, Lamaha Springs and North Ruimveldt.

Region 5 – MAHAICA - BERBICE

- Bara Bara to Mora Point is at risk to flooding; teams are checking to confirm farmers' reports of flooded farmlands in these areas.
- Lower Morakabai is flooded; water is on farmlands.
- There is high water level in Mahaicony, and Mahaica is at risk.

PUBLIC BUILDING UPDATES

The impact (level of damage) to public buildings throughout the affected areas is still to be determined; however one school in Albouystown is currently being utilized as a collective centre.

Summary of the current response

The authorities, led by the Civil Defence Commission and several ministries, responded immediately with the provision of supplies from the capital Georgetown. Food, hygiene kits, and eating utensils have been distributed by the authorities. In the communities, community disaster response teams trained by the Red Cross assisted with the assessments done jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency. Individual private donors have also responded to a limited extent with material support.

Various ministries, community leaders, Civil Defence Commission, private sector and the Red Cross have been present at all the meetings, where they have shared information and coordinated actions. The NEOC has further subcommittees in water and sanitation (WATSAN), health, education, shelter, communications, logistics and safety.

Overview of Host National Society

The Guyana Red Cross Society has been providing humanitarian services in Guyana for more than 60 years. Founded as an organization to bring voluntary medical aid to the wounded on battlefields, the Guyana Red Cross Society has evolved into a humanitarian institution that provides a wide range of services and programmes to people in Guyana and throughout the world. As the needs of vulnerable people have changed, so have the Guyana Red Cross's programmes and services.

The Guyana Red Cross Society in July 2009 embarked on a the first phase of the strategic planning process by engaging in widespread review and analysis, both within the National Society and externally with its partners, clients, donors, volunteers and other key stakeholders. The first three core areas defined the work the National Society does

in its communities to improve the lives of vulnerable people. These areas were built on the strength and competencies within the organization and at the same time focused the National Society's efforts for future growth. Within each core area, national programmes provide standard services that address common community needs in Guyana. At the local level, volunteers and staff ensured that programmes and services addressed special needs and circumstances within their communities and built on local capacities.

For each core area, strategic goals were defined to express the specific difference the National Society will make as a result of mobilizing resources to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

All initiatives, whether local or national, should address unmet needs and contribute directly to strategic goals. Red Cross initiatives seek to prevent or mitigate the circumstances that contribute to vulnerability. Direct programmes and services to clients will be complemented by advocacy initiatives, where this may reduce barriers or improve conditions for vulnerable populations.

The Guyana Red Cross Society maintains strong collaboration and networking with donors, line ministries, Regional Democratic Councils and other stakeholders in carrying out interventions within the coastal regions. The GRCS continues to mobilize resources and carry out interventions in the affected regions. The Guyana Red Cross Society has participated in all relevant meetings, posted updates on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), and the secretary general personally visited Georgetown to assess the situation.

The GRCS reported the distribution of a limited number of long-lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITs) for mosquitos and jerry cans, which were already pre-positioned in Guyana from the 2005 floods operation. Other actions included:

- Provision of volunteers to assist in moving families to shelters and in compiling data regarding the number of affected households.
- Provision of utensils for utilization in the emergency shelter at Albouystown
- Sourcing of posters for dissemination of information on health and hygiene promotion.

Movement Coordination

Following the initial reports of flooding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) made contact with the Guyana Red Cross Society. IFRC support has consisted of daily contact via the telephone and electronically to support the development of a plan of action to provide relief to the most affected.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

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

The CDC has reported that various government agencies have deployed representatives to the NEOC while others are conducting sector specific assessments in the affected areas.

1. Guyana Power and Lights Inc. - Has returned to normal operations nationwide.
2. Guyana Water Inc. - normal operations continue, and it 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. Additionally the Ministry has increased collaboration with the Mayor and City Council (M&CC), and it will advise them to conduct a health assessment visit at the Dharam Shala in Albouystown where some complaints have been received from the residents.
4. Ministry of Agriculture - The NDIA and other departments of the Ministry of Agriculture have been working continuously to ensure drainage of all communities and the operationalization of all pumps and sluices.
5. Guyana Police Force (GPF) - Some actions by the GPF include:
 - i) It has facilitated the use of a temporary roadway on the Western carriageway of Cemetery Road.
 - ii) It continues to patrol the Conservancy between Providence and Flagstaff.
6. Environmental Protection Agency – It has teams on standby to assist in assessment activities.
7. Guyana Red Cross Society – It has started work on the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) appeals, numbers on affected populations are being requested to accompany the appeal.
8. Guyana Defence Force (GDF) – It is conducting patrols in the Conservancy. Additionally, the GDF is assisting the CDC with the assessments of the affected communities.
9. Ministry of Public Infrastructure – The Guyana Hydrometeorological Department (Hydromet) continues to monitor weather conditions and provide regular updates. Additionally, the Ministry is monitoring all public infrastructure 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 situation and clear blockages to drainage.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

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

- a. Dredging of the various outfalls
- b. Deployment of pumps to non-functional and functional kokers/slucies 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 established collective centres
- e. Detail sector damage assessment and needs analysis should be conducted

Although the local authorities are well advanced in relief efforts, specific needs identified by the GRCS to enhance the relief efforts are:

- Water, health and hygiene awareness - Some areas are still flooded, and it is likely that there will be more rain going forward; there is the need for some public awareness on the importance of proper water, health and hygiene practices to avoid water and vector-borne diseases. The GRCS has sourced suitable publicity materials and will need support for their adaptation, printing and dissemination.
- Relief supplies – The government has provided assistance to the 135 people who are currently in one of the two operational collective centres to date. It is anticipated that the collective centre located in Albouystown will likely be open for an extended period of time. Consequently additional hygiene kits, cleaning kits and cots will be needed.
- In-depth damage assessments – Assessments are being conducted by various ministries to determine the impact at the sectorial level. However, the level of impact at the household level needs to be determined. In the interest of a timely response, it is proposed that this operation include a needs assessment as a priority activity. Once completed, a revised plan of action and budget will be submitted.
- National Society capacity building - The National Society Meals on Wheels operations have been affected by flooding. With an average of 50 people being served daily, the recurring floods have put the delivery of food to an already vulnerable group of people at risk; therefore, the National Society has requested support to prevent flooding of the kitchen facilities in order to ensure the delivery of this critical service. Assistance in the development of the GRCS flood contingency plan has also been requested as a key priority given the high probability of further rains. This support will be sought outside of the DREF operation.
- Community assessments – With a high probability of more rainfall, it is important for detailed assessments to be conducted as a way of building community resilience and informing the National Society contingency planning processes.

The request by the Guyana Red Cross Society for support to enhance the local relief efforts are 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 a strain on the community and increases the risk of waterborne diseases.

Scenario 2- Enhanced rainfall continues and results in the displacement of the community and increases the risk of waterborne diseases.

The planned response is currently based on Scenario 1 and outlined in this plan of action. However, it is expected that additional rainfall will result in Scenario 2 occurring. In this case, the GRCS would be required to implement a rapid assessment using Open Data Kit (ODK), with expected support focused on emergency shelter, distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs), as well as water, health and hygiene promotion. As a result, the immediate replenishment and distribution of jerry cans, long-lasting insecticide treated nets, hygiene kits and cleaning kits is

necessary. Red Cross volunteers will show how to use water filters and jerry cans at the time of distribution. Training will be provided in a number of key areas intended to cover the immediate needs of affected persons. These areas include: Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), water, sanitation and health (WASH) and vector control management. CBHFA workshops will be conducted in each affected region by local volunteers while WASH and vector control management will target selected beneficiaries to be trained in order to support and facilitate the transfer of skills and knowledge across their respective communities. Volunteers will also take part in the WASH and vector control management training.

In the event of Scenario 2 occurring, external support would be requested through appropriate Red Cross communication lines.

Risk Assessment

- External support will be needed if rainfall surpasses GRCS's capacity.
- Damaged roads will make it difficult to access targeted areas. The Guyana Red Cross Society will quickly work to ensure that volunteers are trained in Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) to support these types of assessments at the community level as needed.
- An outbreak of water-borne diseases poses a threat to public health. The GRCS team will work closely with the Ministry of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency to implement activities geared towards public education on appropriate water, health and hygiene methods, including the prevention of dengue, leptospirosis, diarrhoea and other health issues.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Objective: To respond to the immediate needs of 500 families impacted by flooding.

Community selection criteria:

1. Communities who have lost their livelihoods
2. Communities with damage to roads that hinders their economic activities
3. Communities with limited access to food and water and sanitation.

Family selection criteria:

1. Families with damage to their dwellings
2. Single mothers with children
3. Older adults
4. Families with children under 5 years of age
5. Families who do not have a source of income since their livelihoods were affected
6. People with disabilities

The criteria above will be reviewed once a more detailed assessment is made available by the Guyana Red Cross Society in the next few days.

Operational support services

Human Resources

To implement this plan of action, the Guyana Red Cross Society has 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
- Volunteer personnel

Monitoring is being conducted through the GRCS Emergency Relief Team. Headquarters also has a monitoring team for financial reporting, and it is responsible for ensuring the quality of intermediate and final reports.

A total of 40 volunteers and staff will be mobilized to support this operation.

Logistics and supply chain

The operation does not foresee the need to procure materials internationally. All procurements will be made in-country as domestic markets carry the items required for the operation. The Guyana Red Cross Society has finance personnel that will oversee the relevant procurement functions. All supplies will be channelled through the warehousing operations to ensure adequate procurement, management and distribution of relief supplies.

Communications

Communication activities will be based on the active promotion of the Red Cross's work while avoiding the dissemination of biased information to beneficiaries and the public.

The Red Cross has a dedicated communication focal person that ensures the visibility the organization's 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 the operation's coordinators. The communication focal point will support the adaptation of information and tools to the local context as required through the use of varied modes of communication via the development of stories from the field and the updating of the GRCS social media page with the support of youth volunteers.
2. External Communications - A series of information messages will be developed for the delivery of transparent information to the population in general and beneficiaries in particular, as well as to 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.
3. Documentation - Documenting support processes in emergency situations ensures that the Red Cross remains credible with donors and the population in general. As a result, all relevant articles, photos and beneficiary stories will be compiled and archived to document the emergency support provided.

If objectives are fully fulfilled, not only will each line of action by the Red Cross be recorded, but it will also enhance the organization's image in terms of trustworthiness and credibility and thus achieve greater support in future emergency operations.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and 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 scheduled for the final week in October.

Administration and Finance

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

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS												
Outcome 1 The operation's implementation is managed in a coordinated manner with a proper implementation and monitoring system.	The operation is implemented according to the implementation schedule At the end of the project, there are sources of verification for the actions conducted												
Output 1.1: The operation has been monitored and implemented according to the timeframe established in the plan of action	2 progress reports regarding the implementation of the activities There is an operations coordinator by the end of the first month of implementation												
Output 1.2: The activities of the project are disseminated at the local and national level through an adequate communications system	2 beneficiary stories have been produced and disseminated by the end of the second month of the operation At least three press releases have been produced and disseminated by the end of the project												
Activities	July	August	September	October									
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Hiring of an operation coordinator													
Identification and deployment of Regional Intervention Team (RIT) Generalist													
Monitoring visits to the project area by headquarters													
Monitoring visits by the IFRC													
Production of beneficiary stories													
Production of press releases													
OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS												
Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed evaluation, monitoring and analysis to inform the operation's design and implementation.	No. of damage assessments conducted												
Output 2.1 Initial and detailed need assessments are updated after consulting the beneficiaries	There is a rapid damage assessment by the end of the second week of the operation. By the end of the first month of the operation, there is a detailed assessment report using the ODK. There is a beneficiary satisfaction survey by the third month of the operation												
Output 2.2: The Guyana Red Cross Society has an increased understanding of the damage assessment and needs analysis process leading to enhanced support to national emergency response and relief efforts	Damage assessments conducted accurately and in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Civil Defence Commission to support government interventions in emergency relief efforts												

Activities	July				August				September				October			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Performing a rapid assessment																
Performing a detailed assessment with ODK by mobilizing a National Intervention Team (NIT) team to the affected area																
Purchase of 4 ODK and Mega V kits																
Implementation of a satisfaction survey to beneficiaries using ODK																
Development of a report and dissemination of a beneficiary satisfaction survey																

Health & Care

Needs analysis:

There are neither reports of death due to flooding nor increased cases of diarrhea in the affected regions. The Ministry of Health has reported that access to health services has not been impeded despite the increased rainfall. CHBFA workshops will be conducted in each of the affected regions to raise community awareness on the prevention of hygiene diseases such as diarrhea, skin infections and respiratory infections.

In an effort to deliver cost-effective training within the scope of the DREF operation, 20 beneficiaries will be identified across the affected regions and trained in vector control management. These individuals will be identified as potential volunteers and supported to transfer their skills and knowledge to their respective communities upon return to their regions. This training will be delivered in the Guyana's capital Georgetown, and it will also target up to 10 National Society volunteers and staff.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 500 families whose homes have been severely flooded have access to health information and prevention on vector-borne diseases.

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS															
Outcome 1 Increased access to information on health care and prevention of hygiene-related diseases	Ministry of Public Health morbidity reports from areas served by the GRCS															
Output 1.1 Improved understanding of communities on the prevention of hygiene-related diseases such as diarrhea, skin infections and respiratory infections	CBHFA training delivered to people in each of the affected regions by the end of the second month of operations															
Outcome 2 Improved access and information on the protection and prevention from mosquito and vector-borne diseases	Improved hygiene information through public messages to 500 families															
Output 2.1 Families have access to protection from mosquito-borne diseases	By the end of the second month of the operation, LLITs have been distributed to 500 families															
Output 2.2 The capacity of affected communities and the Guyana Red Cross Society is strengthened to support health interventions	Basic malaria and vector management training conducted for staff, volunteers and community members															
Activities	July				August				September				October			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
CBHFA Workshops in 6 regions conducted																
Identification and registration of families using ODK, with family and community information properly disaggregated																

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF OPERATION

31/07/2015

MDRGY002 - Guyana Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	2,516
Food	23,133
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	35,635
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	39,061
Ustensils & Tools	1,224
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	101,569
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,120
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,962
Logistics Services	4,103
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,184
International Staff	3,952
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	10,338
Volunteers	4,513
Other Staff Benefits	0
Total PERSONNEL	18,802
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	1,446
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	1,446
Travel	2,892
Information & Public Relations	578
Office Costs	2,684
Communications	752
Financial Charges	193
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,099
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	9,042
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,042
TOTAL BUDGET	148,142



Guyana: Floods

