

SURINAME FLOODING

SITUATION REPORT No. 1

AS OF 8:00 PM ON 18 MARCH 2022

Severe Flooding in the interior due to heavy rainfall



HIGHLIGHTS:

- A significant flooding event commenced in Suriname on Sunday 13 March, 2022 due to heavy rainfall in the interior of the country causing rivers and creeks to overflow and the flooding of communities
- Over the period, a number of households (adults, children, babies and the elderly) were severely affected and displaced which resulted in several of them being evacuated to higher ground
- The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Suriname mounted a national response to the emergency and continues to update CDEMA on the situation

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State



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The following report was provided by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Suriname as at 18 March 2022:

The following areas have been affected by flooding:

- Catchment area of the Upper Saramacca River (Matawai Gebied)
- Marowijne River catchment area (Paramaccan area)
- Tapanahony area
- Catchment area of the Lawa River
- Upper Suriname
- Albina, Moengo e.o.
- Southern part of Suriname (Tepu, Apetina and Palumeu)
- Daily life of the affected population have been significantly impacted, especially in the areas of housing, nutrition, education and sanitary conditions
- In the Sipaliwini area/ Pamacca administrative resort (DC Jabini Ose) 746 adults/children including 41 babies have been affected
- In the Matawai (DC Bonjasky) Lower reaches 275 persons have been affected
- In the Matawai (DC Bonjaski) Upper reaches 121 households have been affected
- In the the Wayambo area 275 persons including 11 babies have been affected
- In the Bigi Poika in Para District 169 persons including 43 babies have been affected
- The total number of displaced persons is estimated at around 1464 persons
- Most of the camps in the Tapanahony area are underwater and 10 families have been displaced to another surrounding village
- Apart from Tevreden, Pusugrunu and Vertrouwen, the other villages in the Matawai area are partly or completely underwater as well as the farmlands
- In Thunder camp, the boarding grounds have been flooded

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- The road to Pusugrunu and Nieuw Jacobkondre are not easily passable and partially washed away
- The road to Bigi Poika and Apoera are very difficult to pass
- The road to West Suriname is accessible but with difficulty. The last part of the road to Pusugrunu is virtually impassable
- The road to Bigi Poika is deteriorating daily
- Airport Drietabiki (SMDA) available for operation
- Pusugrunu Airport (SMPG) available for operation, according to DC Bonjanski
- Airport Godo holo (SMGH) not suitable for flight operation
- The administrator of Aviation Radio Kamer indicated that the flight paths in the south and southwest are open under strict conditions; they are Kwamalasamoetoe, Pusugrunu, Coeroeni and Amotopo. The following flight paths are closed: Nieuw Jacobkondre, Palumeu, Tepoe, Alalaparoe, Sipaliwini and Kawemhakan
- Outpatient clinics, schools, and educational housing are closed
- Telecommunications: Virtually normal telecommunications traffic via radio transmitters and GSM mobile network
- Many **people are in need**, mainly the upper Marowijne and above Saramacca Area and south Suriname
- Many food communities in all areas have also been flooded, food security has decreased greatly and there is an imminent food shortage. It is therefore important that emergency aid must be provided in the form of food parcels and drinking water
- Temporary forced relocation to relatives elsewhere in their village or to higher areas has taken place
- Before the official rainy season there has already been a lot of rainfall with the result that there has been saturation of the soil. The flooding caused by the many rains in recent weeks has reached very high altitudes, almost identical to the floods of 2006
- There are also profound reasons for increased alertness and strict monitoring of the well-being of the population throughout the south of Suriname, especially in the areas of lower Marowijne, Lawa/Tapanahoni and Upper Suriname. Within these areas there is a particularly serious threat of food shortage, which may increase in the coming weeks if rains continue.

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State



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On the basis of the above criteria, the following picture of the situation can be given, using the following classification:

1	Stable situation	Green
2	Alertness	Yellow
3	Strict monitoring	Orange
4	Critical phase	Red
5	Chaos, catastrophe	Black

Status as of 16 March 2022

Region	Threat to life	Food situation	Drink water situation	Shelter Housing	Gezondh state	Under wise	Economist . activity and	PHASE
Top-Saramacca	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Critical phase
Above Marowijne Hotels	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Lawa-Tapanahoni	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Tapanahoni - South	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Sipaliwinie	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Upper Suriname	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Bigi Poika	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Strict monitoring
Brokopono m.n Kwakugron	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Critical phase

Source: National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Suriname

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- **Somewhat increased threat of loss of life:** There is a slightly higher risk of water-related accidents such as drowning in all the areas mentioned due to the fact that many places are under water or existing bodies of water are much deeper than normal.
- **Impending food shortage:** Due to the persistent rains, according to the reports received, insufficient food has been produced to withstand long periods of rain. Because a significant part of the farmlands in various areas have been underwater for several days or even weeks and many crops have not yet grown optimally due to weather conditions, there is a very good chance that the harvests from these farmlands will be lost, which will lead to aggravation of the food shortage.
- **Drinking water:** The local population is largely dependent on rainwater, creek and river water for its drinking water supply. Due to the floods, creek and river water are polluted and not suitable for consumption. NCCR has supplied drinking water to some of the impacted areas.
- **Reduction of economic activities:** In the most affected areas, income-generating activities have been low-level or even completely discontinued, such as small workshops, commercial agriculture, tourism and other economic activities.
- **Temporary cessation of educational activities:** Educational facilities in the areas Boven Marowijne and Tapanahony temporarily closed.
- **Personal safety:** The current situation gives rise to abnormally increased risks of danger to personal and/or internal security.

COVID-19 considerations:

- Suriname has also not been spared from the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, especially in the interior and the current hard-hit areas
- When carrying out the emergency operation, it will be absolutely necessary to observe the necessary COVID measures to prevent an increase in COVID-19
- The number of people directly affected is estimated at 1064 persons/ 266 families as of 9 March 2022 and efforts are being undertaken to get a more accurate figure from the various data collection activities.

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The NCCR has made the following recommendations:

- Organized and coordinated food relief. At this stage it is recommended to provide food to the affected areas/villages in an organized way: However, it is to be expected that other villages will also need food aid in the foreseeable future due to the possible failure of normal harvests.
- Increased preventive attention and preparedness for medical services from alternative locations/nearby villages, in particular prevention of, and preparedness for, COVID-19 outbreaks and waterborne diseases.
- Daily monitoring and reporting in collaboration with the district commissioners, administrative services and the traditional authority.





The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- The CDEMA Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) is monitoring the situation.
- The CDEMA CU continues to maintain contact with the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Suriname.
- As the CDEMA CU awaits the Needs List from Suriname, partners are requested to anticipate the requirement for fresh water, sanitary supplies, and monetary donations.
- The CDEMA CU recognises the multi-hazard environment in which this severe flood event has occurred and will continue to monitor the situation and stands ready to provide support where requested.

