

### Severe Flooding in the Interior due to heavy rainfall



#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Due to heavy rainfall in the interior and southern sections of Suriname, the President declared the districts of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Marowijne, Para, Saramacca, Coronie and Nickerie disaster areas on Wednesday 25 May, 2022.
- The weather forecast indicates there is a high risk of further flooding due to continuing moderate to intense rainfall from ITCZ activity, that may be enhanced by a stationary upper level trough in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), Suriname has mounted a national response to the emergency and updated CDEMA and the CDPG on the situation.

## Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State



### SURINAME

The following report was provided by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR) to a meeting of the Caribbean Development Partner Grouping (CDPG) on 26 May 2022:

- Rising waters caused by heavy flooding resulted in a number of major challenges in the southern section of Suriname.
- The significant amount of rainfall forced the authorities to open the spillways of the Brokopondo dam which resulted in villages below the dam experiencing higher flood water levels. It is anticipated that these water levels will not fall significantly any time soon, and there may be a need to continue to discharge water over the coming period.
- There is also a concern with wastewater management as many persons are engaging in improper waste disposal practices which have the potential to create health problems.
- Many of the roads used to access the affected villages to provide help to citizens have been damaged by heavy floods.
- Access to the southern part of Suriname can now only be gained by aircraft, helicopters or boats to bring relief to residents of the areas.
- Electrical and water hygiene purification installations, built close to the river are now under water and severely damaged. This has posed a challenge for the country to provide the citizens with clean water for drinking and hygiene purposes.
- There has been a significant increase in the mosquito population across villages in the Interior which has raised concern about the potential for illness among citizens.
- Families are displaced - relocation to relatives elsewhere in their village or to higher areas has taken place.
- Schools are not accessible to teachers and children.
- Food security is being threatened as many of the agricultural areas used for planting crops and rearing animals are now under water. Farms are inundated and crops are submerged under water resulting in crop losses.
- Many small self employed entrepreneurs have lost their livelihoods
- Priority concerns in the affected areas include Agriculture (food security issues), Health, WASH, psycho-social; water-borne diseases, and Education.



## The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- The CDEMA Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) is monitoring the situation and the Caribbean Donor Partners Group (CDPG) held its first meeting to discuss the flood event on Wednesday May 26, 2022.
- The CDEMA CU will send a Response Support Mission to Suriname on Monday May 30, 2022.
- 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.





### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing educational supplies, hygiene supplies and school kits.
- The Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) has pledged its support of a medical mission on the ground which serves some clinics. PAHO is also preparing a team of two health experts to fly into Suriname this weekend to support the efforts on the ground
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), through the Suriname Ministry of Agriculture will be rolling out an emergency project that will bring immediate relief to those affected.
- Water storage tanks are being procured through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and existing programme funding is will be re-directed where possible to assist persons living in the Interior.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has indicated that it can provide water tanks, tents, clothing and other supplies that may be required.
- UN Women will be providing personal care kits, food vouchers and monetary donations.
- CARPHA, CWWA and CAWASA are on standby to provide have experts that can be deployed as needed in Suriname to address areas such as emergency disease surveillance, shelter management and water and waste management.

RRM partners are on standby to provide support as further information becomes available.

