



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

F9 (FED9)

Title: **Humanitarian aid for people affected by floods in Suriname**

Location of operation: **SURINAME**

Amount of Decision: **EUR 700,000**

Decision reference number: **ECHO/SUR/EDF/2006/01000**

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

The Republic of Suriname is on the North-east coast of South America, with an area of 164,000 square kilometres and a population of approximately 493,000 people, mainly living in the coastal areas. Since the first week of May 2006, Suriname has been affected by exceptional floods. The season of heavy rains began earlier than usual, with rivers rising higher than usual. The inhabitants of Suriname are accustomed to flooding, but not on this scale. Torrential rain submerged many schools, clinics and homes. Displaced people sought refuge with those living in higher areas, stayed in their boats (pirogues) or slept in the open. The most affected areas are in the Southern, Eastern and Central regions. Some people living on small islands in Suriname's Eastern Rivers region had nowhere to go. The President of the Republic of Suriname declared the affected areas disaster areas on 8 May, establishing a crisis team of five ministries¹ and requesting international assistance. An expert from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO undertook an assessment mission from 13-17 May, in co-ordination with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination team (UNDAC). A number of humanitarian organisations sent teams to the flooded area, both for assessment and for delivery of aid. The Government of Suriname facilitated the work of relief agencies, via its national army and police corps. It also appealed for logistic support, fuel, drinking water, replacement of damaged food stocks, disease surveillance, cleaning kits and agricultural recovery.

¹ Regional development; Defence; Justice and peace; Health; Finance
[ECHO/SUR/EDF/2006/01000](#)

As a first rapid response, food parcels and 4,000 hygiene kits, of which 2,000 were funded by the European Union's budget line for humanitarian aid as pre-positioned stock, were sent from PADRU (Pan American Disaster Response Unit of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent) in Panama to Suriname on 14 May. The hygiene kits contain washing powder, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors and sanitary pads, and were distributed in partnership with the Suriname Red Cross in order to assist 20,000 people with immediate hygiene needs. However, the vulnerability of the country's population has increased greatly and the current precarious situation could deteriorate, without additional help.

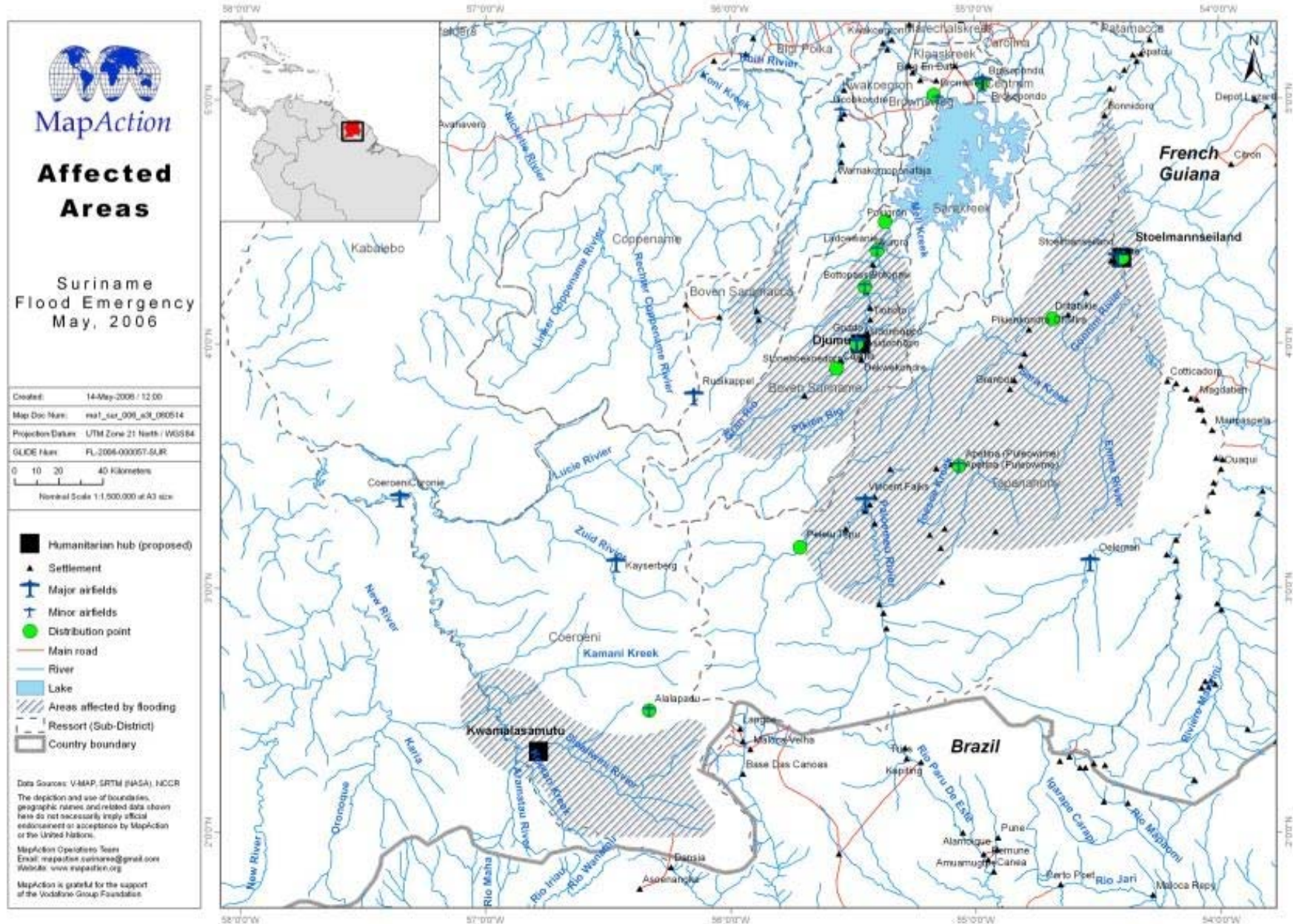
1.2. - Identified needs :

Ongoing needs to be addressed by this funding decision are in the following sectors:

- Health:- malaria transmission and outbreaks of diarrhoea in the affected areas are typically higher than in other parts of the country and Latin America, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), so swift intervention is required as flood waters recede
- Water and sanitation:- rivers are contaminated, as 70% of people in the affected area lack proper sanitation, so the safest current source of drinking water is rainwater, and purification is essential
- Food:- as the heavy rains arrived earlier than usual (the rivers usually rise in June and July), the crops were less advanced and suffered more damage than usual; with an average of 60% of subsistence crops (cassava and rice) seriously damaged (80% in lower areas) and many livestock dead
- Non-food relief items:- kitchen sets and hygiene kits, as described above

There are additional needs being covered by other donors in sectors such as education, logistics, transport, fuel, shelter and communications.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :



Exceptional flooding occurred along the Marowijne, Tapahoni and Lawa rivers on the Eastern border with French Guiana, and also in the Central region. Less is known to date about the Western region bordering on Guyana, but it is also believed to be affected. The population of the known affected area is 37,000, with over 20,000 estimated to be severely affected.²

Area	Approx. total population	Areas most affected	Population severely affected
Tapanahoni	12,000	Apomatopo, Lawa	7,200
Boven Suriname	15,000		9,000
Boven Saramacca	1,500	Poesoegroenoe and surrounding villages	525
Boven Coppename	600	Witagron	0
Kabalebo	1,800	Wanapan	36
Coeroeni	1,200	Kwamalasamutu	480
Sarakreek	4,900	All areas	4,900
Total	37,000		22,141

Suriname has a varied population. Most of the flood-affected inhabitants are Maroon (ex-slaves) and Amerindian, depending on small-scale farming, fishing, hunting, forestry and mining.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The following risks and constraints should be considered:

- Access problems, due to damaged roads, insufficient helicopters (those on loan may be withdrawn) and high-cost boats (fuel shortage)
- Situation could deteriorate with further damage to homes, clinics, roads and airstrips, as rains usually continue until July
- Limited supply of food and drinking water
- Lack of experience in the country, despite appropriate response so far, to face a disaster of this scale, including co-ordination of humanitarian actors

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: **To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by floods in Suriname**

Specific objectives:

- To provide emergency assistance to flood victims in the sectors of health, water, sanitation, food and non-food relief items

² Current humanitarian situation in Suriname, as reported to the UNDAC team on 22/05/06.
ECHO/SUR/EDF/2006/01000

2.2. - Components :

- Health:- Epidemic surveillance, vector control, medical supplies, reinforcement of local health services, especially malaria diagnosis
- Water and sanitation:- Water purification tablets, water tanks, latrines, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, health information
- Food:- Nutritional monitoring, emergency food packs (especially to pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five), training of local staff in detection and treatment of malnutrition (pre-flood acute malnutrition rate of 7.7% in rural areas), feeding programmes, distribution of seeds and tools
- Non-food relief items:- kitchen sets, jerry-cans, hygiene kits

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be **6** months.

Expenditure under the current decision is eligible from 10 May 2006.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis

DG Humanitarian Aid - ECHO has not previously been involved in Suriname, but responded to this crisis in a timely fashion via its office in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in SURINAME the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
		DG ECHO	0		
Austria		Other services			
Belgium					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany					
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	0		

Dated : 23/05/2006

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

- 1.) Under the 9th EDF (2001-7), the allocation to Suriname is EUR 18 million.
- 2.) Many donors are responding to the current crisis, co-ordinated by the Government of Suriname and by UNDAC, but their response is not yet recorded in this database.

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 700,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objective

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by floods in Suriname</i>			
Specific objective	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners³
Specific objective 1: To provide emergency assistance to flood victims in the sectors of health, water, sanitation, food and non-food relief items	700,000	Southern, Eastern and Central flood-affected regions of Suriname	- CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH - ICCO - UN - PAHO - UN - WFP-PAM
TOTAL:700,000			

³ FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, Interkerkelijke Organisatie voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

COMMISSION DECISION
of
**on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the 9th European
Development Fund in**
SURINAME

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,
Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, in particular Articles 72 and 73 thereof¹,

Having regard to the Internal Agreement of 18 September 2000 on the Financing and Administration of the Community Aid under the Financial Protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, in particular Article 25²

Whereas:

- (1) The Republic of Suriname experienced excessive rainfall from 3-18 May 2006;
- (2) Major flooding occurred in the Southern, Eastern and Central regions of Suriname;
- (3) Serious damage was caused to homes, schools, crops, livestock, clinics, roads and airstrips;
- (4) An estimated 37,000 people are affected by the floods, with over 20,000 estimated to be severely affected;
- (5) Rains are expected to continue until July, so the current situation may deteriorate;
- (6) The current situation can be considered as a particular case of urgency in the sense of Article 25.2 of the Internal agreement;
- (7) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that an urgent humanitarian aid operation should be financed by the Community for a period of 6 months;
- (8) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 700,000 from the 9th European Development Fund is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the floods;
- (9) The use of the 9th EDF fund is necessary, as all the funds allocated for ACP countries in the general budget are depleted;

¹ OJ L 317 of 15 December 2000, p.3 as modified in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (OJ L 287 of 28 October 2005, p. 4).

² OJ L 317 of 15 December 2000, p. 355.

(10) The Commission will inform the EDF Committee set up by the Internal Agreement with ex-post information according to the criteria laid down in Article 25.3 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 700,000 from the 9th European Development Fund for humanitarian aid operations to assist vulnerable people affected by the floods in SURINAME.

2. In accordance with Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To provide emergency assistance to flood victims in the sectors of health, water, sanitation, food and non-food relief items.

The total amount of this decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.

2. Expenditure under this Decision is eligible from 10 May 2006.

3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended due to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

The decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission