

FLOODING IN SURINAME

Situation Report No. 2



01 JUNE 2022, 1700 SRT

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 25 May 2022, the Government of Suriname declared the following affected areas in the districts of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Marowijne, Para, Saramacca, Coronie and Nickerie to be **disaster areas**.
- Following the declaration, an inter-Ministerial Crisis Team has been set up to deal with the crisis.
- A Public Health sub-group headed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) was created as part of the Crisis Team.
- Four health facilities in the Brokopondo area were visited by the PAHO mission team on 1 June. All these facilities are fully operational in spite of having been affected by flooding. Some staff quarters however need cleaning.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The newly established Crisis Team is charged, among other things, with:
 - directing the activities undertaken to identify and reduce distress in the affected areas
 - the seeking and coordination of national and international assistance.
- The Crisis Team consists of:
 - representatives of the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR);
 - representatives of the state oil company, Staatsolie;
 - representatives of the National Assembly;
 - representatives of the Meteorological Service Suriname (MDS);
 - representatives of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname;
 - representatives of the Coast Guard Suriname.
 - A cluster of Ministers on "Water crisis



Flooding in Paramaribo, 30 May 2022.



Flooding in New Lombe, 01 June 2022.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Affected
2,000



Deaths
0



Damaged
TBC



Missing
0



Displaced



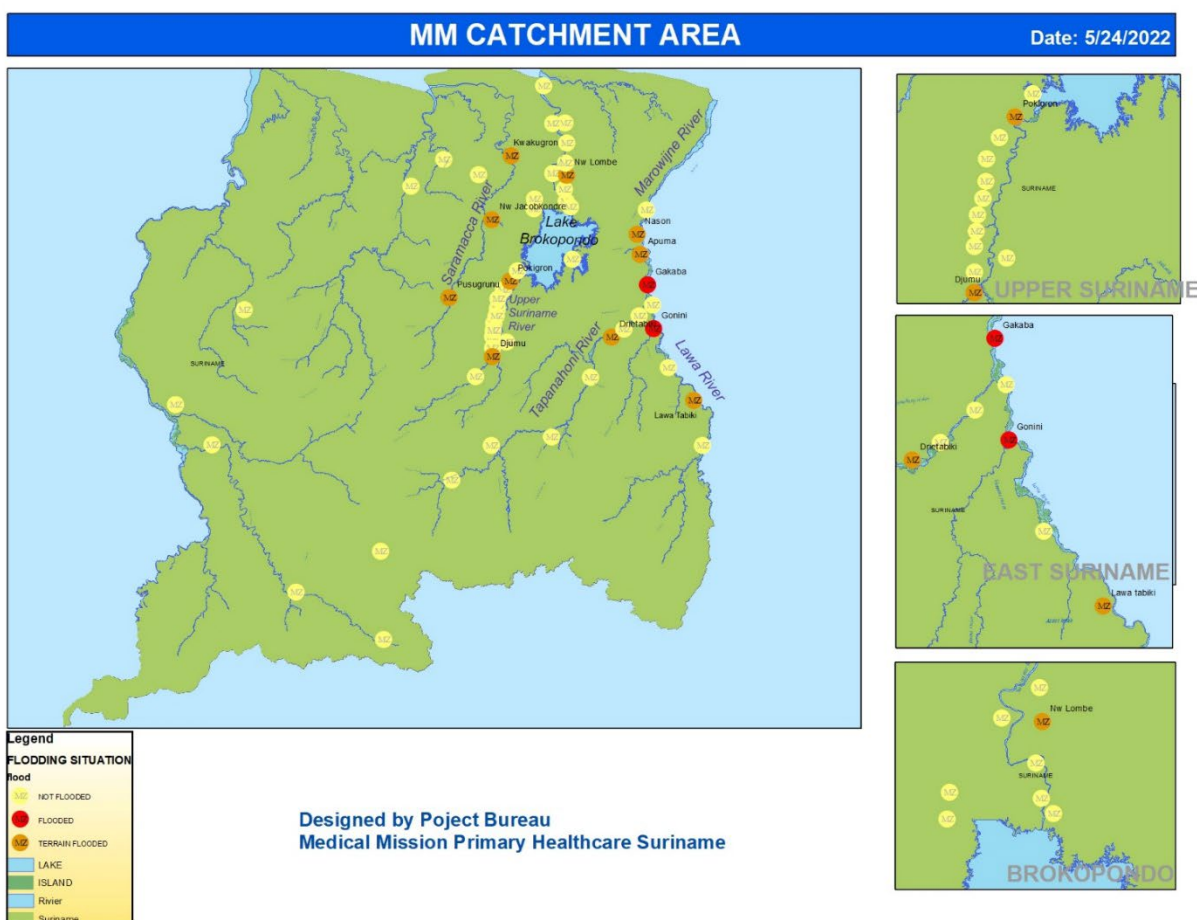
1,466

Sources

NCCR Situation Report, 24 May 2022.

HEALTH SITUATION

- The Medical Mission Primary Health Care Services(MZ) indicated that health facilities at Gakaba (Marowijne River) and Gonini (Lawa River) are flooded and not in operation (indicated in red in map below). They stressed the need for urgent assessment of damages to structure of, and equipment and records at these facilities. The possibility to implement the smart hospital concept is worth considering for the interior of Suriname.
- The health care facilities (HCF) in orange are still functional, although their surroundings are flooded. These facilities continue to provide health services as they are accessible by boat.
- All other facilities remain operational (yellow), but MZ stressed that many villages, especially the Amerindian villages in the southern part of the district Sipaliwini, close to the border with Brazil (including Kwamalasamutu, Tepu, Apetina, Palumeu) can only be accessed by airplane or via long boat ride through wild rapids (sulas). Most of the airstrips are waterlogged and some even flooded, making it impossible to land. Only the airstrip at Gakaba is made from concrete and is permanently operational.



MM health care facilities and their status as of 24 May 2022.

- The MOH leads the Public Health sub-working group/sector of the newly established Crisis Team. MOH reported that the priority areas identified by the group include provision of basic health care, including surveillance and management of flood related diseases, vector control, mental health; WASH, and waste management.
- MZ continues its syndromic surveillance and has not reported any increase of the symptoms of fever, cough, diarrhea and vomiting. However, certain areas reported that cases of skin conditions are on the rise.
- A meeting with Lt. Col. Jerry Slijngaard, National Disaster Coordinator, was held on 30 May. Mr. Slijngaard stressed the need for psychosocial support, especially for those people in the so-called trans-migration villages who were displaced in their youth during the construction of the Afobaka dam and the subsequent immersion of their villages by the rising Lake Brokopondo. He mentioned specifically the resistance of residents to use chlorine tablets to render

water safe to drink as they have a great dislike of the chlorine taste and refuse to drink chlorinated water. He added that the provision of rainwater harvesting systems including large storage tanks as PAHO provided in the response to the 2006 floods would be better and strongly supported.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Although syndromic surveillance data in the four health facilities visited report no significant increase of ARI, water and vector borne diseases, it is important to understand if the same situation is occurring in the other health facilities in more severely impacted areas.

NEEDS

- Damage and needs assessment to be conducted in health facilities located in the affected areas.
- Enhanced disease surveillance in areas affected by severe flooding
- Cleaning and sanitization of severely affected health facilities
- Installation of rainwater harvesting systems in affected areas

PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Access to health services in the mostly affected areas
- Water-borne diseases
- Vector-borne diseases

RESPONSE ACTIONS

PAHO/WHO

- A meeting was held with MOH and MZ on 30 May to discuss current health situation. On 1 June, PAHO and MZ visited four health facilities to conduct damage assessment. See Annex 1.



Meeting with MOH and MZ, 30 May 2022.

- PAHO to provide support to the MZ with emergency medical supplies, via its warehouse in Panama and stockpile in Barbados. One integrated emergency health kit and 30 medical back packs arrived in Suriname on 31 May and is being cleared for delivery to the MZ warehouse in Paramaribo. See Annex 2.

GOVERNMENT

- The NCCR continues to coordinate actions on the ground and continues to provide essential items to the affected communities. And on 26 May, they provided a situation update to CDEMA and the Caribbean Disaster Partners Group (CDPG).

UN

- During the UN Country Team (UNCT) Meeting held on 31 May, the following were discussed.
 - WFP arrived in Suriname on 31 May to support logistics. They are planning to donate inflatable boats with outboard engines.
 - UNDP is continuing their regular program of support for disaster risk reduction and has provided a boat to the Nickerie district, tools and seeds for crop production for improved food security for the indigenous and tribal populations and equipment for continued hydrometeorological monitoring in the canals. For the specific response to the current flooding situation, they are procuring 97 Dura water storage tanks to hand over to the NCCR.
 - UNFPA will provide hygiene/dignity, SRH and gender-based violence kits. These will include condoms, contraceptives and kits for safe deliveries. UNFPA is however awaiting disaggregated data from the NCCR regarding the number and categories of persons affected to facilitate this support.
 - UNICEF is providing school and WASH supplies through the Ministry of Education and is considering additional support to the NCCR based on their expressed need for water tanks and cash.

OTHER PARTNERS:

- CDEMA team arrived in country on 30 May as COST (CARICOM Operational Support Team) to support the National EOC at NCCR in preparation of Situation Reports, coordination of support, data management etc. among others.

ANNEXES:

- ANNEX 1. Assessment of Health Facilities with Medical Mission, 01 June 2022
- Annex 2: Field Visit Picture Gallery, 01 June 2022
- Annex 3: PAHO Items for donation, 01 June 2022