



CIVIL DEFENCE COMMISSION

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SITUATION REPORT # 5

SUBJECT: Flooding in Regional Democratic Council (RDC) – *Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo (Region 9)*, Guyana.

Date: June 13, 2011

EVENTS:

There has been continuous heavy rainfall in Region 9 and in the Roraima State of Brazil resulting in the Rio Branco, Ireng and Takutu Rivers overflowing their banks. As a result of this event, Lethem and its environs and other low lying areas of Region 9 have become inundated with flood water.

PROGNOSIS

The Hydrometeorological Department of the Ministry of Agriculture forecasted that Region 9 can expect mostly cloudy conditions with occasional showers for the rest of the week. The completion of the works on the road, bridges, and culverts by the Ministry of Public Works and Communication and hired contractors is expected to make the road from Kurupurari to Lethem passable. The massive rain clouds in the Roraima state of Brazil are being monitored.

IMPACT

A total of sixty one (61) Amerindian communities in Central, South Central, North, Deep South and South Pakaraimas have been impacted by the floods in Region 9. Water continues to recede in all of the impacted areas, with the most significant decrease in Central Rupununi which includes Lethem and its immediate environs.

INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Roads: The Ministry of Public Works and Communication in collaboration with hired contractors continues to execute works to rectify the damaged sections between Kurupukari and Annai and along the Hunt Oil Stretch. The water level of the section of the road at Pirara that was overtopping is now receding and vehicles are being pulled across with equipment from the Regional Democratic Council. Mr. Leon Goring, Engineering Coordinator of Ministry of Public Works and Communication continues to conduct detailed assessment of the bridges, road ways, culverts and other infrastructures in the affected areas.

Bridges: The Ministry of Public Works and Communication and the hired contractors continue to work on the Araquai and Karaudanawa Bridges in Deep South Rupununi and the Najah Bridge in Central Rupununi.

Culverts: The Ministry of Public Works and Communication in collaboration with hired contractors continues to assess the culverts that were inundated. Works on the four slightly damaged culverts between Lethem to Pirara is still to commence.

Airstrips: Only the Sand Creek main airstrips remain inoperable. The alternative airstrip at Sand Creek is operational.

Public Transportation Services: As soon as the water receded at Pirara and assessment and rectification works completed it is expected that public transportation via off road vehicles from Kurupurari to Lethem will recommence. Mini buses, trucks and other four wheel drive vehicles have commenced using the Lethem to Kurupukari road way today, June 13, 2011. These vehicles will be monitored to determine how passable the road is.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC BUILDING UPDATES

Schools: All schools have been reopened.

Government Buildings: The Amerindian Hostel is now being used as a shelter.

Residents Homes: Displaced residents continue to return to their homes. Cleaning supplies are still being distributed to the residents to clean their homes.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE UPDATES

Most of the businesses are now reopened and assessment of the damages and losses continue. Information on business and commercial activities in the other parts of the region is still being awaited. An assessment of the stock level of fuel and cooking gas is still being conducted.

UTILITY UPDATES

Guyana Telephone and Telegraph (GT&T): No new development

Digicel: No new development

Lethem Power Company (LPC): No new development

Guyana Water Inc (GWI): Residents of the affected communities are still being provided with water treatment tablets and solutions. Culvert City is receiving additional hours of water supplies. Three (3) technicians from GWI are expecting in Lethem on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 to conduct assessment of the pump station and treat the affected wells.

SHELTER UPDATES

All shelters are closed except for the Amerindian Hostel which has a total of 18 persons.

FOOD AND RATION UPDATES

The Civil Defence Commission, Ministry of Health, Guyana Red Cross Society and UNICEF in collaboration with the Guyana Defence Force Air Corps continue to stockpile rations and other essential items at Lethem. One Y-12 load supplies arrived at Lethem today, June 13, 2011. Limited amount of cooking gas is available in central Rupununi. The business community is

making all efforts to source gas to maintain adequate supplies for the residents. The trucks that were stranded at Pirara are now arriving at Lethem.

WATER DISTRIBUTION UPDATES

Water and water treatment tablets are still being distributed to the residents on a daily basis. RAMS continues to distribute potable water to the affected residents daily. RAMS and GWI are collaborating to ensure that the residential wells that were affected are treated before the water they produced is used for human consumption.

HEALTH UPDATES

The Ministry of Health's representative in the region reported a few cases diarrhea, vomiting and skin infection in the regions. All affected persons were treated. No serious case was reported. The Chief Medex arrived in Lethem on Sunday, June 12, 2011, and an additional medex is expecting in the region. Representative from the Ministry of Health continue to visit the shelter that remains open and conduct examination and briefing of the persons housed in that shelter. Fumigating of Lethem and the immediate environs continues and preparation for similar activities in the other part of the region is being made. The Guyana Red Cross Society continues to distribute a number of hygiene kits to residents of the affected communities. Additionally, the REOC is coordinating the distribution of sanitation kits as residents return to their homes.

AGRICULTURE UPDATES

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to assess and monitor the affected areas and provided assistance to the affected residents.

EDUCATION UPDATE

All schools in the region have reopened. Students from Arapaima and the St. Ignatius Primary Schools will now be sitting their Grade 2 and 4 Assessment Examinations on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17, 2011 respectively. Arrangements are being put in place to transport the completed CSEC examination from the remote areas to Georgetown.

SECURITY UPDATE

No new development.

ADDITIONAL RELIEF PROVISIONS

The Guyana Red Cross Society, UNICEF, Air Service Limited and RAMS through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) continue to provide assistance to the affected residents. The Ministry of Public Works and Communication, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other line agencies at Lethem, and the Civil Defence Commission continue to support the Regional Democratic Council in the coordination of the relief efforts. The REOC at the Regional Guest House remains activated.

OTHER UPDATES

The Minister of Amerindian Affairs, the Honorable Pauline Sukhai and team visited the sub-district of Sand Creek and other communities on Sunday, June 12, 2011 and is currently visiting the Sub-district of Karasabai and outlying communities. RAMS aircraft is unserviceable and is awaiting a replacement part.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Food Supplies
- Disinfectant
- Medical Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Water purification tablets and solutions
- Restoration of bridges, culverts
- Reopening of closed schools
- Fumigating of affected areas
- Closing of shelters
- Treatment of wells with Calcium Hydrochloride
- Provision of fuel to key installations

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (REOC)

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