



GUYANA

National Programme for Disaster Prevention

Disaster Context

Guyana, situated just north of the equator on the northeast shoulder of South America, is extremely vulnerable to droughts, floods, cyclones, and chemical pollution. The climate is tropical with an average daily temperature of 27 to 32 degrees Celsius. A major factor contributing to flooding is the seasonal and daily distribution of rainfall. The mean annual rainfall on the coast is approximately 229 centimetres, 142 of which fall from May to August and 71 centimetres from November to January. There is little natural drainage area for storm water since the soils of the coastal plain are mainly compact clays that are relatively impermeable. Should heavy rains occur during a high tide, the rainwater has to be stored in large canals that often overflow, causing flooding in urban centres.

Project Title

Emergency Operations for the Drought Caused by El Niño in 1997-1998 (GUY/98/002)

Sectors

- Aid coordination
- Capacity-building in the long term
- Advisory service

Funding

A sum of \$569,690 was obtained from the international community by UNDP.

Partners

- Donors: Canada, UK, Italy, Norway, Germany, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, China, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, OAS, CDB, Singapore, and Venezuela
- NGOs: Guyana Red Cross, Beacon Foundation, and Guyana Relief Council

- Stakeholders: Civil Defence Commission and regional relief councils.

Programme Activities

Administering funds and technical assistance to strengthen the national capacity for the coordination and planning of emergency responses through activities such as:

- Assistance to cover travel and subsistence relating to management of emergency responses and food distribution monitoring visits
- Assistance in sourcing national and international expertise
- Procurement of office and communication equipment
- Training