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## **UNDAC Field assessment report 13.05.06, Suriname – Floods**

### **1 Situation**

Conduct assessment by helicopter, offered and together with the Minister of Defence. The aim is to have a first quick view of the situation in the East area and along the Marowijne River in the Stoelmanseiland region.

### **2 Air assets**

The MOD has to rent a private helicopter, based at the National Airport Zorg & Hoop.

There are 3 private organisations providing air assets

1 with 2 helicopters, the other 2 companies (possible 3 TBC) are equipped with airplanes.

In depth assessment is required towards air assets. Numbers of planes, volumes has to be examined. While waiting to leave on assessment the planes were loaded with food packets to distribute to the disaster area.

### **3 Locations - Situation**

Flight towards Stoelmanseiland

Clear view that the water has flooded also the forests and the rivers and creeks get out of their borders.

The pilot who is use to fly over this region mentioned that the small rivers normally are max 2 m wide and now 5 till 6, and that large area's in the forest are flooded which is clearly visible.

Stops (hangs) on several isolated locations (some houses/parts of villages) on the side of the river were people life in their houses totally surrounded by the water. Dropping of food packets.

Several islands in the river were totally flooded. People went with their boats to the side and living temporally on higher places in improvised houses, several families together

Place: Poffiedans (?) N. 4 37.230 W. 054 24.913

Heli airstrip available

Nearest airplane airstrip GAGABA , Nasom

Approx 500 inhabitants, incl 200 children

#### **4. Logistics**

So far the region is only reachable by helicopter or the small local boats.  
Few individual food distributions started from the day before (Friday) said the villagers.

Their first requests were: sheeting, tarpaulin, food, fuel and they determinate in this order.  
Regarding the findings and seeing their living situation this is a comprehensive sequence.  
In this particular area tents are not suitable  
This places need to be reached by the helicopter or out from the nearest airstrips by boat.

#### **5 Health**

Out in the villages I spoked with the people, general they are feeling well, few diarrhea, but not for more than 1 day. 1 child 7 years with high fever (39.7) and no antibiotics available in the medical mission. Medical mission is still open and functioning but getting out of medicines.

Medical mission is located on higher places and serves as an evacuation place.  
People are living and sleeping on the balcony in front.

#### **Food and nutrition**

Crops are destroyed  
Only very restricted own stock. Rely on food distribution.  
Asking for food for babies (milk)

#### **Water and sanitation**

Only available water is rain water (in the thanks at their respective houses and which they gone get by boat in small jerry cans) and river water.  
No latrines – no water purification system or tablets.

#### **Communication**

Radio at the Medical Mission is functioning, reachable by boat.

#### **Specific Stoelmanseiland:**

Airstrip for small planes, grass, dry  
Radio with PMB  
Supply fuel by boats

Local NGO, Local Red Cross and MOD present.  
Together they take care of the distribution of food to the surrounding villages witch is brought by plane and distributed by boats.  
Buildings for warehouse are available.

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