



# Pan American Health Organization



*Regional Office of the*  
World Health Organization

<http://www.paho.org>

## Guyana Post-Flood Safe Household Drinking Water Project

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PAHO/WHO - GUYANA



# Guyana Post-Flood Safe Household Drinking Water Project

- The Flood Event
- The Water System
- The Safe Household Drinking Water Strategic
  - Public Awareness Media Campaigning
  - Project Sustainability
  - Project Implementation
    - Household
    - Schools



# The Flood Event

- January 2005 had the highest rainfall on record since 1888.
- A combination of extended heavy rainfall, malfunctioning drainage structures, and high tides contributed to accumulation of between 3 and 5 feet of water in some areas.
- The disaster was concentrated in the most populated regions.
- The risk of water related diseases in the affected area
- The disaster claimed 34 lives (7 are attributed to drowning and 27 to illnesses arising out of the floods).



- 70,000 households were affected in Regions 3, 4, and 5 and parts of Georgetown



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# The Water System

- The floods have rendered four drinking water pumping stations out of operation and reduced the operating capacity of the GWI by 25%.

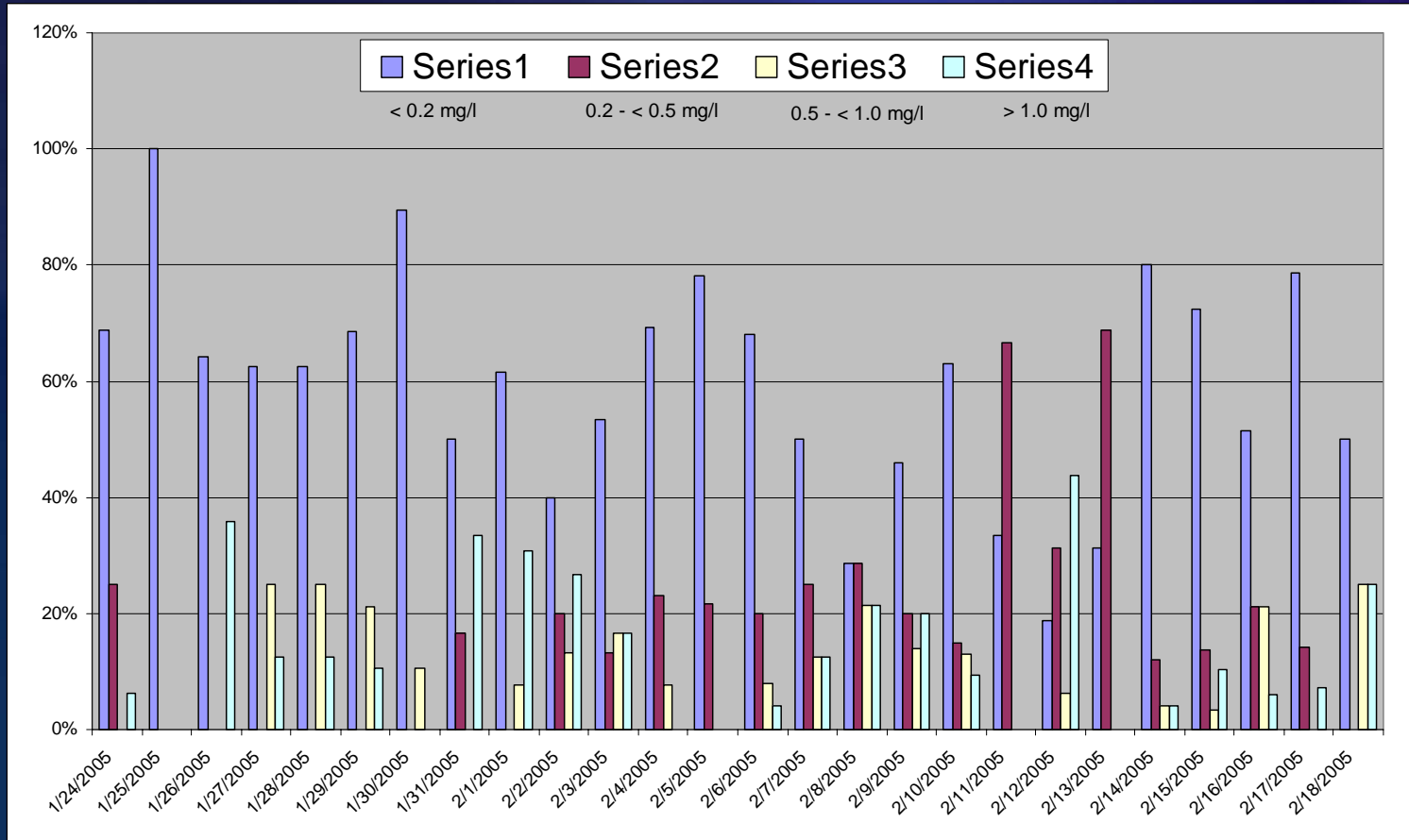


- Drinking water was distributed by trucks to temporary community water storage tanks.



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- Low water quality in the water distribution system



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**About 60% of the samples had < 0.2 mg/l of free Chlorine**

# The Safe Household Drinking Water Strategic

- **Public Awareness Media Campaigning**
  - Media campaigns were implemented through Television, Radio and News Paper.
  - The TV and radio announcements were played 4 – 5 times per day for a total period of approx 8 weeks.
  - The messages were 60 second a few were 30 seconds. The themes were: water, sanitation and hygiene.
  - The World Water Day was Celebrated with a Guyanese theme related with the flood to empower communities to deal with Safe Household Drinking Water



# Media Material

## HOW TO MAKE WATER SAFE

When flooding occurs flood waters can get into the water supply mains, making it **UNSAFE** for household purposes such as:

- ✓ Drinking
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Brushing Teeth
- ✓ Washing hands
- ✓ Bathing
- ✓ Washing fruits & vegetables

To one bucket of water add  
**1/4 teaspoon of bleach**

(Marvex, Trin Chloro etc.)



To five gallons of water add  
**1/2 teaspoon of bleach**



To a 400 gallon water tank add  
**1 cup of bleach**

(equivalent to a Chubby bottle)



**TO MAKE YOUR WATER SAFE ADD BLEACH AS FOLLOWS:**

**COVER & LEAVE WATER TO STAND 30 MINUTES BEFORE USING**

## WASHING YOUR HANDS

**Diseases easily spread when hands are not washed properly!**

To prevent the spread of diseases you **MUST** wash your hands properly and with soap:



← After using the toilet / latrine

**Before and after handling food** (especially raw foods) and eating



← After playing or handling pets or farm animals

When caring for babies or preparing their food



← After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

**Use water treated with bleach to wash your hands or rain water that has not been in contact with flood water.**



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# Project Sustainability

- Local production through private commercial / manufacture sector
  - Container
  - Disinfectant
  - Sand Filter
- Affordability





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- Project Implementation
- Household Setting up project
  - MoH selected communities
  - NGO
- Schools
  - MoE



Thanks!

I Hope to see You in Guyana  
Next Year!



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