

ALERT

28 January 2018



San Salvador, El Salvador

SITUATION
<p>On January 25, 2019 a dam with more than 12 billion cubic meters of mineral debris has broken and another two were affected, all with tailings of the activity of iron mining, immediately reaching the Municipality of Brumadinho and then the Parque da Cachoeira reserve, in the State of Minas Gerais. According to the latest official data, 60 persons died, 760 households (3,800 persons) were directly affected and there are still hundreds of missing people. According to the authorities many of the missing are likely buried deep in mud. The risk of the Dam B6 which has 3-4 million cubic meters of water to collapse, led authorities to evacuated 5400 households (27,000 persons) from Brumadinho.</p> <p>The impact on the soil of the ore tailings, the extent of the disaster along the rivers of the region and the contamination of the phreatic surface cannot yet be evaluated. There is an immediate impact on access to water for human consumption since the water distribution systems are affected and water is not safe for consumption for households that have not been evacuated. There are 760 families in a situation of helplessness with loss of relatives/friends and conditions to re-establish themselves in a psychosocially balanced way, in a process of care seeking to re-establish themselves. The effects of the mud torrent damaged 250 houses and destroyed 25.</p> <p>A local commission was created with local and national authorities to offer more effective assistance, nevertheless the affected people were not included, avoiding their full participation and ownership, contrasting with the localisation principle. Brumadinho is only 62km from Belo Horizonte the capital of Minas Gerais and one of the main Brazilian cities. There is an alert on the high risk of the tailing reaching two important rivers: Paraopebas river and the São Francisco river.</p>
NEEDS
<p>Vulnerable Households have lost their household items and their livelihoods are damaged and are facing significant barriers in order to meet their basic needs such as access to food and NFI. This populations directly affected need psychosocial support. The dire situation is further compounded for dam-affected people with vulnerabilities; people living with disabilities as well as women and children. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to minimize the loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met first. Finally, the community affected has a participation gap that needs to be addressed, promoting greater ownership on the assistance provided.</p>
STAKEHOLDERS
<p>The Civil protection systems and local authorities in Brazil are providing first response to the affected population and are working on evaluation of damages and needs assessment. Considering the experiences from previous responses, the Catholic Diocese is a key responder. The Movement of People Affected by Dams is a key partner due to the previous experience on similar issues, and for being linked with local families.</p>
ACT Alliance
<p>ACT Alliance members are monitoring the development of the situation and KOINONIA, a FEACT Brazil's member with others local partners is planning to provide Psychosocial support and Food security. Other ACT Alliance local members will engage on the external dissemination and advocacy activities related to the disaster.</p>

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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Core Humanitarian
STANDARD

The ACT Alliance Secretariat's continuous improvement in the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard is independently verified by HQAI

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