

**ALERT****FLOODS****actalliance****Brazil**

San Salvador, 10 January 2021

**SITUATION**

On the morning of Wednesday the 6 January 2021, the district of Sao Paulo in Brazil , was hit by summer storms.

The São Paulo State is home of around 45 million people ranging from very vulnerable communities to well structure urban and rural areas. From the beginning of the pandemic, the state has been the epicentre of the COVID-19 in Brazil, with more than 1.5 million cases and 47,768 deaths until this day (<https://covid19br.wcota.me/>), a quarter of the national numbers. Adding to that, from 6th of January, the summer storms started earlier bringing great damage to the poorer areas of São Paulo. From 2016 to 2020, more than 75 people died from floods, 35 only in 2020.

Data from INPE (National Institute of Space research) and the State University in São Paulo (UNESP), shows that an outstanding season of summer storms will continue in the next months, with its peak from February to April, increasing the alert for areas hit by the floods in the first weeks of 2021.

In the São Paulo Municipality, the most affected districts are in the East and in the South of the city. In the East, the Jacuí and Jardim Santa Helena neighbourhoods are in an area that follows the river course of the Rio Tietê – one of the longest and most polluted rivers in Brazil. That river has a system of dams and barriers that overflows during the rainy season affecting the life of the most vulnerable communities alongside its course. In the south, the Grajaú district has many very poor communities living in the shore of the city's larger reservoir in informal settlements.

Outside of the metropolitan area, in the coastal area known as Baixada Santista, there are also urgent situations in the municipality of Cubatão, especially by the Pilões River. During this event, an area greatly damaged by the floods was the Vale do Paraíba, the poorest region in the state of São Paulo, home of large traditional black rural communities (organized since the freedom from slavery times) and indigenous communities, and many environmental reserves.

This situation leads to at least 1200 families affected by the floods, causing food insecurity and very low health sanitation standards. The situation is especially bad for around 2400 children, in those areas, for a total 6000 people.

Because of the fact that Summer Floods have started earlier than usual, it is expected that the amount of affected population will increase in the following months.

**NEEDS**

The floods have put the district in a state of crisis. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities.; more specifically for children. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Civil protection systems and local authorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	The movement of people affected by dams

To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders the civil protection system and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
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The Ecumenical ACT Forum Brazil (FEACT Brazil), with a leadership from KOINONIA, ACT member, will attend the problem with the flood of family houses and public facilities affected the living conditions and health of the communities. Other ACT Alliance local members will engage on the external dissemination and advocacy activities related to the disaster.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Alwynn Javier Alwynn.javier@actalliance.org**

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