

Alert note

Brazil, Floods, 10 February 2022

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Forum: Forum Brazil

EPRP Link: To be updated

Type of emergency: Floods

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 29 January 2022

1. The nature of the emergency

The state of *São Paulo* was hit by heavy summer rains that affected with greater severity the metropolitan area of the state capital. Between January 29 and 30, it rained from 80 mm to 170 mm in several areas of the central and eastern parts of the state. The 4-day accumulation was very close to the historical monthly average of rainfall. On the 1st of February, because of this accumulation, the summer rain resulted in the displacement of more than 4,500 families in the 37 affected municipalities and 29 deaths. Among these deaths, 8 are children and 4 adolescents. There was also great infrastructures damage¹.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

The highest number of deaths is concentrated in the municipality of Franco da Rocha, where there are also 7 people missing in the landslide area and who are still being searched for by volunteers and rescue teams. The region of Franco da Rocha was the most damaged by the January rains. With 156.4 thousand inhabitants, Franco da Rocha is the third city in the metropolitan region of São Paulo with the most risk areas mapped. There are 382 points at risk of collapse or flooding, where around 19 thousand dwellings are located. The city of Franco da Rocha has issued an alert for the opening of the floodgates of a dam, as it has reached its safety limit, with 81.6% of its operational capacity.

The maneuver of opening the floodgates is foreseen to avoid the complete collapse of the dam in case the volume of water exceeds its capacity. This maneuver, however, causes major consequences for the population and the municipality, causing flooding in the city and even submerging environmental conservation areas of the Juquery State Park. Due to this situation, families are still in danger of new floods and landslides in the region.

In the region of the Alto Tietê there was an accumulation of 491.2 millimeters of rain. Trees fell and two landslides were registered. The Tietê River had an increase of 3.82 meters overflowing and affecting the region. In addition to the overflowing of the river, the region has the dams of the Alto Tietê system, belonging to the São Paulo State Sanitation Company (SABESP). In the area of Mogi das Cruzes municipality there was flooding on the Mogi-Dutra and Ayrton Senna highways, and also flooding in the central terminal of the region. In the municipality of Arujá, a man died after his car was submerged in a flood. The region is still on alert for the risk of new floods.

The response from the state government is insufficient and misallocated. Civil society organizations are being called to provide for the basic needs of the families affected by the floods. There are at least 1.000 families identified in the areas of Alto Tietê and Franco da Rocha with food insecurity and very low health sanitation standards, in urgent need of support

It is important to remark that, due to political dynamics, the response given by the government is quite biased, poorly distributed, and insufficient which constitutes a dire situation for the excluded

¹ Besides the disasters caused by heavy rains, the city of São Paulo has been facing, since February 1st, the accident at the building site of the subway Line 6 - Orange, which caused part of the roadway of Marginal Tietê, in the northern part of the state capital, to collapse, damaging the displacement of thousands of people in rainy periods as we were experiencing in the state.

communities: There is great government attention to areas with dams such as the Piracicaba region, but other regions with the same problem are made invisible.

3. Local and national capacity

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	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 in 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.

4. Key needs and gaps

The floods have left 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.

The Forum Brazil would like to consider a Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Budget Size
KOINONIA	Southeast region (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais e Espírito Santo) – São Paulo	Landslides Floods Violence	Total action with local Partner Movimento de Atingidos por Barragens and volunteers	USD 145,000.00
Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço (CESE):	Headquarters in Salvador-Ba	Advocacy	Monitoring	
Diaconia	Ceará, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte	Advocacy	Monitoring	
Fundação Luterana de Diaconia (FLD):	Headquarters in Porto Alegre (RS), but with national outreach	Community-based Psychosocial Support	Monitoring	

5. Potential responses

KOINONIA has led the Ecumenical Forum ACT Alliance Brazil - FEACT Brasil - in 6 emergencies in recent years, with 3 of them in RRF answering needs for food, water, material for working with children, and community-based psychosocial care, advocacy, and

communication. In all actions, we sought to consolidate local partners as foreseen in our EPRP. In this Alert and in follow-up we will present an RRF. Our project will be for 1000 families directly and about 200 thousand indirectly, with the expertise of KOINONIA and its local partners and volunteers in all the aforementioned items (food, water, material for working with children, and community-based psychosocial care, advocacy, and communication). Now we have the budget estimate of close to USD 145,000