

Alert Note**Flood - Ribeira Valley, São Paulo, Brazil***September 14th, 2026***Completed by:** Rafael Soares de Oliveira - KOINONIA**Date completed:** September 14, 2026**Forum:** Ecumenical Forum ACT Brazil**Type of emergency:** Flood - medium-scale emergency**Date of emergency:** September 13, 2026**1. The nature of emergency**

The flooding occurred on 13 September following heavy rainfall that began on 10 September, causing rivers to overflow in the Eldorado area of the Ribeira Valley, São Paulo, Brazil.

Heavy rainfall and river flooding in the region have been reported in the media (reports [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), but there has been no specific coverage of the impact on Quilombola communities.

The flooding is currently forcing people to leave their homes and isolating traditional rural Black communities known as Quilombola communities. These communities were established by Black people who escaped slavery and organised themselves according to traditional ways of life in remote areas, away from colonisers and landowners, particularly during the nineteenth century.

2. The impact and the scale of the emergency

This is a medium-scale emergency requiring a Rapid Response Fund (RRF) intervention with a duration of at least three months.

Heavy rainfall in recent days has raised the level of the Ribeira de Iguape River and directly affected Quilombola communities in the municipality of Eldorado, in the Ribeira Valley, São Paulo. Rising waters have flooded homes, isolated communities, disrupted roads, and hindered communication, movement and access to essential services.

An estimated 200 families (approximately 800 people) have been directly affected, while the total number of families affected, either directly or indirectly, may reach 500 (around 2,000 people). Of those affected, 52% are women and 20% are children; all are Black or of mixed Black heritage.

The affected Quilombola communities identified so far are:

- Sapatu: families have water inside their homes;
- Minguara: water is approaching homes, placing them at risk of flooding;
- Ivaporunduva: homes have already been reached by floodwaters;
- Pedro Cubas: affected by flooding and difficulties in access;
- Galvão: the community is cut off, with movement restricted and the delivery of supplies severely constrained;
- São Pedro: the most critical situation, with the community completely isolated, no vehicle access, communication difficulties and a risk of power cuts.

General data on the municipality of Eldorado, Ribeira Valley, São Paulo, and its Quilombola communities

Eldorado has a territorial area of 1,654.256 km² (IBGE) and a population of 13,069 inhabitants (2022 IBGE Census). More than 70% of its territory is covered by native Atlantic Forest vegetation, while around 30% is occupied by protected areas, including the well-known Caverna do Diabo State Park.

The at least 200 directly affected families live across an area representing approximately one tenth of the municipality's territory, where they engage in subsistence and market-oriented production. These communities also play an important role in preserving forests and the wider environment across an area representing up to one fifth of the municipality, equivalent to approximately 330.851 km² of land and forest.

3. Local and national capacity

The Quilombola communities are organised through local associations and at the municipal level. They are supported by long-standing volunteers involved in emergency response activities coordinated through the ACT Brazil Ecumenical Forum (FEACT Brazil). In south-eastern Brazil, this response is led by KOINONIA in collaboration with the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB).

To date, the national emergency management agency operating locally, known as Civil Defence, has not deployed to the affected communities and has only issued an alert. Although media reports refer to assistance being provided by Civil Defence in the wider affected area, no such support has yet reached the Quilombola communities covered by this alert.

4. Key needs and gaps

The main identified needs and gaps are:

- Transport and access: vehicles capable of reaching isolated communities and crossing flooded sections, including through vehicle rental where necessary.
- Cash assistance: approximately USD 500 per affected family, provided to the women heading each household.
- WASH and essential household items: safe drinking water, women's health and hygiene items, and childcare supplies. These needs would be covered through the proposed cash assistance provided to each family.
- Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS): psychosocial support for affected individuals and communities.
- Advocacy: engagement with the relevant authorities to prevent the nearby dam from opening its floodgates in a way that could cause or exacerbate further flooding in the affected communities.

This information was gathered during an initial visit by volunteers on 13 September, through direct discussions with Quilombola associations and the KOINONIA team.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
KOINONIA	South-eastern Brazil: under the EPRP, KOINONIA is responsible for leading FEACTION Brazil's emergency action in this region. National	Floods, flash floods and landslides; Community-Based Psychosocial Support; Advocacy. National communications
CESE	National	National communications
Diaconia	National	National communications

Fundação Luterana de Diaconia	National	National communications
6. Potential responses The proposed response will focus on: • Strengthening the dedicated local response team; • Strengthening communications to support public advocacy; • Coordinating local action by MAB volunteers. These initiatives will be led by KOINONIA, with ACT Forum organisations mobilised to strengthen communications and public advocacy efforts. The main planned activities are: 1. Coordination, monitoring and psychosocial support: Coordinate volunteer groups to monitor and assist families who remain isolated, using small boats where necessary to reach affected communities. Volunteers will also visit displaced families staying with friends or relatives in unaffected areas, in order to maintain regular contact, gather up-to-date information on their situation and needs, and provide Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS). 2. Cash assistance: Develop and implement a cash-assistance strategy for affected families and, where cash transfers are not feasible, identify appropriate alternative mechanisms for providing financial or material assistance. 3. Transport and relocation support: Facilitate the transport of affected people, particularly women and children, from isolated or flooded areas to safe and dry locations where they can access established family and community support networks. 4. Advocacy: Maintain sustained engagement and advocacy with the relevant authorities on flood-control measures, particularly regarding the management of the nearby dam, on coordinated, staggered releases and timely early warning to downstream Quilombola communities		