



*Rescue actions in Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul. Source: AFP Photo/Planet Labs PBCR Residents are rescued by militaries and volunteers from houses flooded by the waters of Guaiba Lake in Porto Alegre after the torrential storms hit the state of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil. May 7, 2024. (Photo by GILMAR ALVES / ASI / Agência Estado via AFP)*

Appeal No: <b>MDRBR011</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: <b>CHF 8 million</b> Federation-wide Funding requirements: <b>TBD</b>	
Glide No: <b>FL-2024-000063-BRA</b>	People [affected/at risk]: <b>1,900,000 people</b>	People to be assisted: <b>25,000 people</b>
DREF loan allocation: CHF 1,000,000	Appeal launched: <b>11/05/2024</b>	Appeal ends: <b>30/05/2025</b>

# SITUATION OVERVIEW

**BRAZIL - RIO GRANDE DO SUL**  
**MAY 2024 | FLOODS**



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Sources: Cruz Vermelha Brasileira, IFRC. Produced by IFRC Americas, HDCC, IM Team.

On 29 April 2024, the National Institute of Meteorology (Inmet) released information showing that the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul experienced rainfall three times higher than the average for this time of year. This continued through Saturday, 4 May, resulting in accumulations of over 400 millimetres, in addition to the 300 millimetres recorded in the previous four days and 300 millimetres more expected in the next three days.

In total, 441 out of Rio Grande do Sul's 496 municipalities reported flood-related issues, affecting around 1.9 million people, which accounts for more than 15% of the state's population. The state of Rio Grande do Sul spans 281,707 square kilometres, with a population of 10,882,965, making it the sixth most populous state in Brazil. Porto Alegre, the capital, is home to 1,332,845 residents. The main regions impacted by the flooding include the Metropolitan, Central, Vale do Rio Pardo, Vale do Taquari, and Serra Gaúcha areas.

In its 10 May bulletin, Civil Defense reported 141 people missing, 756 injured, 339,928 persons displaced, 71,409 living in shelters, and a death toll of 126.

According to media reports, around 800,000 people have no access to drinking water, food, shelter, hygiene products, electricity, or the means to call for help with telephone and internet services are down in many places. At least eleven hospitals have been completely shut down because of the flooding (MoH, 05/08/2024).

As of 8 May, there are blockages at 102 locations on state roads and 61 on federal highways, totalling 163 traffic interruptions. The BR-116 highway has 18 blocked points in the Serra, Metropolitan Region, and Vale do Sinos areas. The Salgado Filho International Airport in Porto Alegre is closed until, at the latest, 30 May 2024.

Conditions could worsen in the coming days, as the formation of an extratropical cyclone is expected to bring further rainfall. The National Geological Service has issued a bulletin indicating a significant increase in water levels in the Taquari River basin in the coming period. According to the report, in Muçum, the river could reach 30.27 metres, well above the flood level of 18 metres. In Estrela and Lajeado, water levels are expected to rise to 30.95 metres, already surpassing the flood mark of 19 metres.

The forecast for more rain in the first half of May, along with a decrease in temperatures, especially in areas already battered by storms, has put the state on high alert. Civil Defense has placed most of the state's river basins on alert, as water levels are expected to surpass flood thresholds.

The government submitted a Legislative Decree Project (PDL 236/2024) on 6 May, which formally acknowledges the declaration of a state of calamity across part of the national territory to address the consequences of climate events in Rio Grande do Sul.

# TARGETING

Based on Civil Defense system data, as of 10 May, 1.9 million people have been affected, which accounts for more than 15% of the state's population. Among those affected are 39,928 displaced, 71,409 sheltered, 756 injured, and 141 still missing.

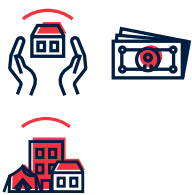
This emergency operation will focus on addressing the needs of the population that has completely lost their homes, with particular attention on the displaced population living in temporary shelters. Priority will be given to families that have not received assistance, especially single-parent families with children under five, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In the second phase of the emergency, special attention will be given to indigenous groups and rural areas.

# PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) in its response to the flooding in Rio Grande do Sul. The strategy of the IFRC's response will focus on providing immediate relief support to the affected population, as well as mitigating the impact of the disaster on health through interventions involving shelter, cash, water, sanitation, hygiene, health promotion, and psychosocial support, as outlined below:

## **Integrated assistance (Shelter, Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash)**

During the first stage of the emergency response, priority will be given to the distribution of household items that may include, among others, shelter kits, kitchen kits, cleaning kits, blankets, and solar lamps, providing instructions for their use and care. Consultations will be conducted to determine if those affected recognise the need for additional items that can be distributed during later stages.



In addition, the implementation of a multipurpose cash transfer programme will be considered as a delivery modality to address the various needs of families whose homes and livelihoods were damaged or destroyed by the floods. The scale and scope of the cash programme are subject to the results of a feasibility study that will identify the existence of financial service providers, delivery modality and mechanisms, local market conditions, amount of the transfer, and associated risks.



## **Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)**

The elevated risks of communicable diseases due to flooding and damage to health facilities underscore the importance of including in this appeal



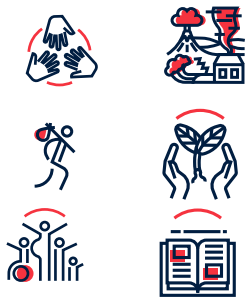
interventions focused on mitigating the impact of the disaster on the health of the population. For this reason, the BRC will implement actions to facilitate the population's access to safe water, including means for carrying out household water disinfection and the distribution of hygiene articles. The distribution activities will be accompanied by hygiene promotion sessions and safe water management for disease prevention.

Water units may be deployed to provide drinkable water to the affected population, as there are roughly 800,000 people currently without access to water.

In addition, the appeal will also encompass health promotion initiatives and essential mental health and psychosocial support activities.

**Protection and Prevention**

***(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)***



The IFRC network will adhere to Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) minimum standards to ensure that all actions align with the Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety (DAPS) framework. This also involves establishing child protection measures and safeguards against sexual exploitation and abuse.

This response will prioritise meaningful participation from the affected communities through feedback mechanisms to be defined depending on the situation and context by leveraging this information. The IFRC and the National Society can develop interventions that accurately address the community's needs and feedback while continuously refining their strategies.

**Enabling approaches**

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

**Coordination and partnerships**



The IFRC Secretariat will coordinate inputs and support information sharing, analysis, and coordination with Participating National Societies (PNSs) and donors to support the actions of this Emergency Appeal. The streamlined communications with donors will allow a holistic approach to partnering, programming, reporting, risk management, and information management.

A resource mobilisation/sustainability officer from the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation is being deployed to support this coordination.

The IFRC Secretariat will strengthen external partnerships along with the BRC to align with the interests of relevant external actors and promote transparency and accountability in all actions to be taken in Brazil.

### **IFRC Secretariat services**

The IFRC Secretariat will play an important role in ensuring efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with financial procedures and accountability for the operation, implementing mitigation measures for the identified risks. Therefore, in the first three months of the response, a multidisciplinary surge team will be deployed to provide support in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of this operation. At the end of this period, the operation will be carried out with the support of IFRC staff and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Southern Cone.



The IFRC is mobilising pre-positioned supplies from the IFRC/Argentina Red Cross Logistics Hub in Buenos Aires as well as from the Regional Logistics Unit in Panama. In the initial period of the operation, transport will be by air, with a later transition to sea transport.

The management of humanitarian assistance will be handled by the Regional Logistics Unit, which will oversee the transportation and entry into the country of prepositioned items in the Panama and Argentina Hubs, as well as additional relief items purchased as part of the operation. In the initial phase, relief items will be deployed from the Regional Hubs, subsequently transitioning to local purchasing.

The IFRC Secretariat will maintain a constant dialogue with national and local authorities to establish mechanisms that enable and facilitate its work in this and future emergency operations.

### **National Society Strengthening**

This appeal will contribute to strengthening state and municipal branches, focusing on those branches located in Rio Grande do Sul. With the results of the branch assessment, a plan to strengthen the National Society will be developed and implemented, which will contribute to improvements in the management of this and future emergencies, promoting the fulfilment of the Red Cross Humanitarian Mandate and our Fundamental Principles, as well as the improvement of the BRC's internal coordination.



Recognising the value of volunteers and their contributions to alleviating human suffering, efforts will be made to develop their skills through training opportunities in emergency response, especially in WASH, as well as ensuring optimal working conditions and general well-being and safety at all times.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information currently available for this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

## RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

### Brazilian Red Cross



Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	<b>1,230</b>
Number of volunteers:	<b>26,000</b>
Number of branches	<b>15 federal branches</b> <b>59 municipal branches</b>

#### IFRC Membership coordination

Although there is currently no PNS presence in the country, the IFRC Secretariat's role in coordinating the Movement's membership is pivotal at the regional level. At the moment, there is ongoing open communication and coordination with PNSs in the region which will be maintained throughout the operation. At the country level, Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) representatives and IFRC staff in the field will be part of the Membership Coordination structure. The main purpose of the coordination is to build a harmonised approach to programming, implementation, reporting, and evaluation of the operation, as well as information management, exchange with other humanitarian actors, and resource mobilisation.

#### Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The IFRC and ICRC have Southern Cone delegations covering the same geographical area. The delegation of the ICRC is in Brazil and Movement meetings are organised on a regular basis.

#### External coordination

The National Society is actively coordinating with key actors, including the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, the State Health Department of Rio Grande do Sul, the Ministry of Health and National Health Force, National Civil Defense, and Scouts of Brazil. By participating in state-

level coordination groups, the National Society ensures the effective delivery of assistance to affected communities. Simultaneously, the IFRC is maintaining communication and coordination with ADRA, UNICEF, and ECHO to identify needs, define target populations, and develop joint intervention strategies. These collaborative efforts guarantee that there are no gaps or duplications in the response while contributing meaningfully to the national strategy for emergency assistance.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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