

Emergency Appeal for Flooding Crisis in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Situational Assessment #1

May 15, 2024

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Flooded playground equipment in
Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil

Context Analysis

Since April 27th, 2024, heavy rainfall has caused floods and landslides in southeastern Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul state. Under Decree 57.600, a state of public calamity was declared, affecting 441 municipalities. The humanitarian crisis has impacted 1.9 million people, with 337,346 individuals displaced of which 69,617 are in shelters, 130 missing, 380 injured, and 116 casualties. 85% of the state is submerged, an area comparable in size to New Zealand: 428 out of 497 municipalities are flooded.

Water and electricity services have been disrupted, with nearly 500,000 people without power in Porto Alegre and nearby areas. Access to clean water has been limited, affecting around 800,000 people. The rainfall is expected to persist, delaying recovery efforts and complicating search and rescue operations and humanitarian aid distribution. Casualty numbers are rising, accompanied by substantial economic losses and infrastructure damage. Due to limited access, including flooded roads and the submerged airport, comprehensive assessments have not yet been conducted. Additionally, 1028 schools have either been damaged or closed to serve as shelters, impacting 358,064 students.

Due to the magnitude of the crisis, the Chamber of Deputies approved PDL 236/2024 from the federal government, extending the state of public calamity in Rio Grande do Sul until December 31st, 2024 ([Defensa Civil](#), Brazil).

Needs Assessment

The Brazilian Civil Defense and ChildFund's partner, "Aliança Evangélica Brasileira" and WeWorld have conducted assessments, identifying urgent humanitarian needs including Mental Health Psychosocial support, Child Protection specifically for Unaccompanied and Separated, Non-Food Items such as portable power generators, waterproof boots, thermal blankets and plastic tarps for temporary shelter, reverse osmosis filters, WASH, Gender Based Violence, HealthCare and food assistance such as essential medicines, first aid kits, non-perishable food, potable water, soap and disinfectants.

Children and families in distress are particularly vulnerable to violence and abuse. Reports indicate cases of sexual violence against unaccompanied children and adolescents. Child protection agencies are establishing clear protocols for those under 18 rescued during the floods in RS. While the exact number remains undisclosed, the Public Defender's Office of Rio Grande do Sul (DPE/RS) confirms that children and adolescents are being taken to screening centers.

Families in isolated communities face additional dangers due to the lack of electricity and internet which severely hinders their ability to communicate and seek help. Unable to charge mobile phones or access emergency services the isolation increases their vulnerability, including delays in receiving medical care, shortages of essential supplies and heightened exposure to criminal activities.

ChildFund and WeWorld Response

UNICEF and other UN agencies are rallying international NGOs and local organizations to coordinate efforts, particularly focusing on child protection. The IFRC has initiated an emergency appeal to aid the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) in responding to the flooding in Rio Grande do Sul.

Under ChildFund Alliance, ChildFund International and WeWorld, in collaboration with Aliança Evangélica Brasileira, are planning to respond to the crisis in with partnership with humanitarian cluster system:

- **Supplies (food, hygiene, toys, educational materials, etc):** Distribution according to the needs of each shelter and communities affected by the crisis.
- **Child Protection Initiatives:** Implementing awareness campaigns on abuse and violence prevention, alongside efforts to combat human trafficking within internally displaced populations.
- **Capacity Building:** Providing frontline staff with essential training on Psychological First Aid, Safeguarding Protocols, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse protocols.
- **Water Supply Access:** Collaborating with P&G to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water, addressing a critical need in affected areas.
- **Community Resilience Building:** conducting training sessions to train local Civil Defense staff using simulations for emergency preparedness, developing community-based early warning systems and creating disaster response teams for future emergency events at reconstruction phase.

By strategically prioritizing these sectors, our goal is to swiftly offer immediate support to children and families. Further actions will be determined based on rapid needs assessments and the ongoing development of our response plan in the coming days.

ChildFund International and WeWorld are seeking a total of USD 200,000 to the humanitarian response.

Donation channels

ChildFund International: [Landing page](#)

ChildFund Brasil: Pix | doers@childfund.org

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