

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin Brazil: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBR010; Glide n° FL-2021-000204-BRA	Date of issue: 29 December 2021
Date of disaster: 7 December 2021 (extreme south) and late December (south) in Bahia state.	Point of contact: Pabel Angeles, Disaster Management Coordinator- South America pabel.angeles@ifrc.org
Operation start date: 15 December 2021	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Host National Society: Brazilian Red Cross	
Number of people affected: approximately 471,786	Number of people to be assisted by the DREF: 3,250
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Bahia State Military Fire Brigade, Bahia State Civil Defence, Bahia State Prosecutor's Office, Bahia State Health Secretariat, Unified Health System - SUS, VigiDesastre - Ministry of Health, National Health Force, Mobile Emergency Care Service - SAMU, Brazilian Bar Association - Itamaraju Subsection, Bahia State Military Police, National Civil Defence, National Department of Transportation Infrastructure - DNIT, Bahia Company for Water and Sanitation S. A - EMBASA, Brazilian Navy and Brazilian Army.	

<Click [here](#) for the affectation map. Click [here](#) for contact information.>

This bulletin is being issued for information purposes and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. At the request of the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation Brazil: Floods ([MDRBR010](#)) on 15 December 2021 to reach at least 3,250 people (650 households) in Jucuruçu and Medeiros Neto municipalities in Bahia state with shelter, livelihoods, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support for three months.

The situation

The 7 December 2021 passage of a subtropical cyclone and related flooding continues to impact the health and wellbeing of the people in the extreme south and south regions of Bahia state in Brazil. With more than 700 mm of rain in less than three days, flood waters remain in many locations in the extreme south of the state. The principal affected areas in the extreme south are in the municipalities of Medeiros Neto, Jucuruçu and Itamarajú.



The Brazilian Red Cross is responding to the impact of the floods in Bahia.
Source: BRC, 2021.

As of 23 December, the southern region in Bahia state also is registering heavy rains. The main affected areas in this region are in the cities of Itapetinga and Itabuna. Scattered rains are forecast for throughout the extreme south and south in Bahia.

The Bahia branch of the Superintendency of Civil Protection and Defence (SUDEC) estimates that at least 471,786 people are affected by floods and heavy rains in Bahia state. Humanitarian actors, including the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC), continue to conduct damage assessments and needs analysis. SUDEC has reported that 42,929 people have been displaced and 34,163 are homeless. SUDEC has reported 358 people injured and 21 deaths.

The most recent figures from the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) established in Itamarajú, indicate that at least 19,082 people have permanently or temporarily lost their homes in the extreme south of Bahia state.

The state's federal and local institutions, which includes the Ministry of Health, the Government of Bahia's organisms and firefighters from several states, are leading the assistance and early recovery actions from the two EOCs located in Itamarajú and Ilheus. The BRC actively participates in the EOC in Itamarajú, where daily coordination meetings are held.

Humanitarian actors have identified the urgent need for safe and clean water, bedding (mattresses), menstrual hygiene products and food for the affected population.

Complementing these needs, the Brazilian Red Cross team in the field reports additional information by sector:

Shelter: The water has not subsided from the homes in the cities of Itapetinga and Itabuna, locations where water levels were over 2 metres and where the level of destruction and structural risk are high. Challenges remain to repair and rehabilitate the most affected homes. Since 27 December, some families in less affected areas have been returning to clean and repair their homes.

Affected people in collective centres lack bedding materials.

Water, sanitation and hygiene: Due to the damage to the water and sanitation system, the provision of safe and clean water and hygiene are prioritised. While service providers are repairing the system, water quality and quantity continues to be deficient. Efforts are underway to increase the provision of water in collective centres.

Health: The multi-institutional relief teams are providing first aid to injured people with the primary consultations due to traumatism and incidents with poisonous animals. The federal health system has registered cases of flood-related diarrhoea in some areas and there is concern about the increase of cases. Influenza also is a concern.

The Ministry of Health is promoting contingency and prevention measures. Local health services are not currently overwhelmed in their response capacity, although there is a structural deficit of health facilities in the affected areas.

Livelihoods: Local commercial centres have been affected with the suspension of economic activities in still flooded areas, particularly in the cities of Itapetinga and Itabuna. In the Bahia state's extreme south, agricultural activities (day labourers and rural workers) are one of the main sources of income generation. The level of affectation is considerable in agricultural fields.

Food security: The Federal Government of Brazil and the municipalities in the area are distributing basic family food baskets. A food production and distribution centre has been established for use in the collective centres. The Brazilian Red Cross is coordinating with other humanitarian actors for the distribution of donations received for the floods in Bahia.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Brazilian Red Cross has mobilized 150 tonnes of donations for Bahia. As of 28 December, a total of 30 tonnes of donations have been dispatched in four flights thanks to the Brazilian Air Force and

LATAM. To date, the municipalities of Medeiros Neto, Itamaraju and Prado have received these goods and other cities in the extreme south are scheduled for the next actions. A fifth flight is planned for 30 December with an additional 20 tonnes. The Brazilian Red Cross has coordinated with Mercedes Benz to transport a portion of these donations by land.

All the donations are in the process of being mobilized and distributed according to the priorities and stages in the different affected locations in Bahia state. These goods will continue to be distributed by the BRC and Federal, Bahia state and municipal governments as well as the local Civil Defence. Donations to BRC's campaign for this emergency are being received in Caixa Econômica Federal – 104. Agencia: 2123.Cuenta: 5613. Operación: 003



The Brazilian Red Cross donations for the floods in Bahia are received and distributed with other humanitarian actors. Source: BRC, 2021.

The first shipments sent contained hygiene and cleaning items and personal protection equipment; nutritional supplements (amedoiim paste) were also provided to contribute to the food security of the affected population.

The Brazilian Red Cross has mobilized staff and volunteers to the affected area. With a multi-capacity team, the National Society is providing first aid, psychosocial support, and general support in collective centres.

With the activation of the DREF through the IFRC, the Brazilian Red Cross is in the process of assisting 650 households in the extreme south by providing bedding (mattresses and blankets) for those families who have lost their homes, as well as cash distribution for minimum food needs.

Health strategies have been established to monitor outbreaks of diarrhoea and influenza, and as a palliative measure, the distribution of family filters is planned to increase water quality, as well as primary health care actions and the provision of personal protective equipment against COVID-19.

The Brazilian Red Cross has mobilized its National Psychosocial Support Team to provide assistance to families, creating safe spaces for children and individual and community actions to enhance individual and collective resilience. The BRC also works to strengthen response teams and provide spaces for active listening and emotional diffusion, reducing the impact and increasing the quality and efficiency of services.

The IFRC is supporting the Brazilian Red Cross with its DREF operation. In consideration of this operation in Brazil, the Canadian Red Cross and ECHO have contributed to replenish a portion of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

Additionally, the IFRC in the Americas is accompanying the BRC in disaster management, communication, finance, and reporting. The IFRC, with support from the Canadian Red Cross for emergency deployments, has mobilized a short-term field coordinator from the Argentine Red Cross. An alert has been issued for the deployment of two rapid response positions in field coordination and logistics to support the Brazilian Red Cross.

The Americas regional communication team is working with the BRC communication team to strengthen its external products (press coverage of the National Society's actions, as well as key messages).

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Brazilian Red Cross:

- Julio Cals, President; presidencia@cvb.org.br
- Leonardo Ali, National Coordinator for Disaster Risk Management: leonardo.ali@cvb.org.br
- Thiago Quintaneiro: International Cooperation: thiago.quintaneiro@cvb.org.br
- Ana Luiza Serrão, communications: comunicacao@cvb.org.br
- Donations: parcerias@cvb.org.br

In the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Southern Cone and Brazil:

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, alexander.claudon@ifrc.org

In the IFRC regional office for the Americas:

- Roger Alonso, Head of the Disaster, Climate & Crisis: Prevention, Response and Recovery (DCCPRR) Department; roger.alonso@ifrc.org
- Felipe Del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; felipe.delcid@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Marion Andrivet, Partnerships & Resource Development in Emergencies Manager; marion.andrivet@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Maria Larios, Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Manager; maria.larios@ifrc.org

[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) for the map of affection.
2. Click [here](#) for the DREF Brazil: Floods (MDRBR010) plan of action.
3. Click [here](#) to return to the title page.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Affectations in the State of Bahia

Brazil | Floods Data as of 2021-12-28



Key Figures



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.
 Data sources: OCHA FISS, Humanitarian Data Exchange, Superintendence of Protection and Civil Defense (Sudec), Brazilian Red Cross.
 Produced by IM team, DCCPRR Unit, IFRC Americas.

