**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | *NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark* |
| Title of alert: | Floodings in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil |
| Type of crisis: | * *rapid onset humanitarian crisis*
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**Section B: Rapid onset humanitarian crisis:**

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| b.1 Where is the crisis? In the south of Brazil, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. Areas that have barely been rebuilt after last years flooding and are now hit again in greater scale including the valleys of the Jacuí, Taquari and Pardo rivers and the Serra Gaúcha, as well as the cities of Muçum, Roca Sales, Arroio do Meio, Lajeado, Santa Tereza and Estrela, that has ended up being totally or partially destroyed once again. Municipalities on the north coast, such as Maquiné, and in the valleys of the Paranhana, Caí and Sinos rivers, which were the epicentre of the floods in 2023, have once again suffered damage, especially cities in the metropolitan region, the 5th most populous in Brazil, home to around 4.3 million inhabitants. Santa Maria and the Central Region also suffered heavy impacts. Porto Alegre, the capital of the state, has experienced the worst flooding in its history.b.2 What is the nature of the crisis? Intense, high-volume rainfall, which reached more than 700 mm in some places, hit almost every municipality in the state from April 27 onwards, causing unprecedented flooding. The accumulated rainfall between April 22 and Monday 6 equaled the entire average rainfall forecast for five months influenced by El Niño. Millions of people have been affected in various ways.There were severe landslides, destruction of roads and highways and other key infrastructure as well as agricultural lands and animals. More than 538.000 people have been displaced from their homes and are now climate refugees, 700 are injured and at least 147 people have died. This number is expected to rise as there are still destroyed areas where bodies are being found under rubble. The material damage is in the billions. Rebuilding cities, economies and lives will take a long time. Rio Grande do Sul was hit hard by floodings in September 2023, and many areas had not yet been rebuilt and were even more vulnerable to face another bigger flooding as the current. b.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information? [ACAPS](https://www.acaps.org/en/countries/brazil), the [EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre](https://erccportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ECHO-Products/Echo-Flash%22%20%5Cl%20%22/daily-flash-archive/5063) and [UN OCHA](https://reliefweb.int/report/brazil/el-nino-linked-rains-trigger-devastation-brazil) have registered the floodings and the consequences and [Brazil’s national meteorological and hydrological service, INMET](https://alertas2.inmet.gov.br/47318), have issued alerts. [The Federal Government of Brazil have issued official numbers on affected people](https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/05/e-um-compromisso-nosso-deixar-o-rio-grande-do-sul-como-era-antes-da-chuva-diz-lula-em-reuniao-ministerial) and our partner [Friends of the Earth Brazil](https://www.amigosdaterrabrasil.org.br/2024/05/08/inundacao-no-rs-a-emergencia-e-climatica-a-responsabilidade-e-politica-a-solidariedade-a-nossa-forca/) provides on the ground information. More than 70% of the capital of Porto Alegre's population of 2 million is without electricity and water with difficulties in communicating and supplying basic survival items. Drinking water has been a daily dilemma for the entire population, and is in short supply on the shelves of many supermarkets. Regions and municipalities in the interior of Rio Grande do Sul remain isolated, unable to receive help. Many families have no news of each other. The urgent emergency and protection needs are rescues, providing food, water and clothing as well as establishing WASH facilities to secure hygiene and furthermore funds to help the homeless and displaced, setting up shelters.On the 11th of May the Brazilian government announced around 12.1 billion reais ($2.34 billion) in emergency spending to deal with the crisis. About 15,000 soldiers, firefighters, police and volunteers have been at work across the state to rescue those trapped and transport aid. Also UN bodies are working in the areas. In coordination with local authorities, UNHCR is distributing relief items, as well as focusing their support on affected refugees. UNICEF is organising technical assistance actions as well, focusing on women and children in temporary shelters. Community structures and NGOs are very active as well. Friends of the Earth Brazil are e.g. collaborating doing community kitchens in Morro da Cruz with the World March of Women, and in the solidarity kitchen of the MTST in Azenha (Homeless Workers' Movement), which joined other movements such as the MAB (Movement of People Affected by Dams) and MPA (Small Farmers' Movement), providing up to 1,800 meals a day for the people affected in Porto Alegre and the metropolitan region.b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started. [Record rainfall started April 27](https://www.acaps.org/en/countries/brazil). The region is still influenced by El Niño and [Brazil’s national meteorological and hydrological service](https://alertas2.inmet.gov.br/47318) sent out the last alert on May 6 with 60 mm of rain/hour and 100/day with winds reaching 100 km/h. b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?DERF could provide urgent emergency relief in terms of rapid disbursement of food and water, construction of shelter as well as WASH facilities especially for vulnerable groups including women, children and rural hard to reach communities. Emergency rebuilding of especially housing is also needed.  |