



KEY DATA



2,398,255
AFFECTED POPULATION



422,753*
DISPLACED PEOPLE



5,340
PEOPLE LIVING
IN COLLECTIVE
SHELTERS

806

INJURED
PEOPLE

182

CONFIRMED
DEATHS

Source: Civil Defense, 08 July 2024

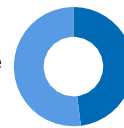
*Last Update from Civil Defense, 10 June 2024

CHARACTERISTICS, LOCATION AND MAIN NEEDS OF AFFECTED REFUGEES & PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

10,904

REGISTERED BY UNHCR
IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Male
52%



Female
48%



3,807 (35%)
individuals with
specific needs



120
Estimated
indigenous people
from Venezuela

About **43,000** refugees
and people in need
of international
protection are
impacted by the floods



67%
Venezuelans



28%
Haitians



3%
Cubans

Source: UNHCR Registration and Case Management Tool ProGres

Source: SISMIGRA, March 2024

TOP 6 NEEDS



Protection



Shelter



Food



WASH



Health



Cash Assistance

Source: UNHCR Protection Monitoring covering only refugees and people in need of international protection.



The scenery of total destruction: view of Passo da Estrela, a neighborhood in Cruzeiro do Sul (Vale do Taquari), where more than 600 houses were completely washed away by the floods, leaving behind a landscape of mud and rubble. @AnaScattone/UNHCR

UNHCR mission to Vale do Taquari, one of the most severely affected areas by climate change

From 30 June to 3 July, UNHCR team in Rio Grande do Sul conducted a field mission to *Vale do Taquari*, one of the regions in the State most severely affected by extreme climate events. UNHCR emergency team has assessed the situation in 7 cities in the center of the Valley, having witnessed the total devastation left behind by recurring and worsening floods since 2020. In the second half of 2023, the area experienced an unprecedented hailstorm in August, followed by severe floods in both September and November. These events in 2023 affected 10 cities, resulting in 54 casualties. However, the worst disaster in the region's history occurred in May 2024, impacting a total of 34 cities, with some seeing more than 45% of their population displaced. Among the seven cities visited, a total of 56,270 individuals were forced to leave their homes, with over 1,600 still without a place to return to, currently being hosted in 28 collective shelters. UNHCR has engaged with local authorities to discuss humanitarian interventions and provide technical expertise to improve preparedness efforts, including contingency and risk mitigation plans. The team also met with displaced families, many of whom are refugees, confirming evidence that refugees are often disproportionately affected by disasters due to limited access to safe housing and economic opportunities and, therefore, are left with no option other than to live in high-risk areas.



Haitian refugees affected by the floods receive counselling from UNHCR and its partner SJMR on protection, access to government social benefits and employment opportunities in Arroio do Meio, Vale do Taquari-RS. @A. Scattone/UNHCR

Communities affected by the floods benefit from protection counselling and referrals to specialized services

During the mission to *Vale do Taquari*, UNHCR and its partner *Serviços Jesuítas para Migrantes e Refugiados* (SJMR) organized reception days on 1 and 2 July for refugee communities in the cities of Lajeado and Arroio do Meio. A total of 735 individuals, mainly Haitians, with a few Angolans and Senegalese, benefited from the sessions. Many had returned to their houses despite the risk of further floodings, given the limited availability of housing and unaffordable rent prices of new houses. UNHCR and SJMR provided counselling on reissuance of documentation, access to social benefits, as well as information on basic services and job opportunities. UNHCR and SJMR joined efforts with a local Haitian refugee-led organization, *Associação dos Haitianos no Vale do Taquari* (ASHVT) for community mobilization. Further interventions by UNHCR are planned in the Valley in the coming weeks.

Training to collective shelters' management teams in Porto Alegre

On 2 July, experts from UNHCR and IOM on Site Management and Site Coordination (CCCM) joined the team from the Ministry of Social Development (MDS) in delivering a one-day training for 54 individuals who are part of the management teams of collective shelters. Most participants were either civil servants or NGO staff members working as social assistants or site managers in the response to the floods in the capital Porto Alegre, as well as from the cities of Eldorado do Sul and Cruzeiro do Sul. They benefited from sessions on technical tools for sheltering displaced populations affected by natural disasters, as well as site management and general coordination. This initial training is part of a broader CCCM capacity building strategy, led by MDS and the Secretariat of Social Development of the State of Rio Grande do Sul (SEDES), with the technical support of IOM and UNHCR. UNHCR has been working on adapting the international CCCM training package to the local context with the aim to publish a new, tailor-made CCCM guidance booklet for local site managers. A calendar of new trainings has been agreed with MDS and UNHCR will be offering similar trainings to other cities affected by the floods. The initiative aims to meet the extensive need expressed by local authorities and MDS, reaching over 200 civil servants working as site managers in different municipalities across the state.

UNHCR joins the office of Public Defense in outreach initiatives in Sarandi

On 2 and 3 July, UNHCR joined a one-stop shop initiative named "*mutirão*", which was organized by the State Public Defense Office in coordination with the Armed Forces, Civil Defense, the Porto Alegre Municipality and many other public institutions providing services to the affected communities. The initiative took place in Sarandi, an impoverished neighborhood where many Venezuelans, Haitians, Cubans and Brazilian families have been affected by the floods. UNHCR provided counselling on government social benefits and access to asylum, renewal of lost documentation, as well as referrals to specialized services.

Inauguration of the first Humanitarian Center for Sheltering Victims of the Floods in Canoas

On 4 July, the first of the three Humanitarian Centers for sheltering and assisting displaced families by the floods (CHA) has been inaugurated by the Governor and Vice Governor of Rio Grande do Sul and the Mayor of Canoas. The center named "*Recomeço*" will accommodate 630 individuals (126 families), with a contingency capacity to shelter close to 1,000 individuals. UNHCR has provided technical assistance on site planning, shelter construction and site management to the Vice-Governor Cabinet of Special Projects, responsible for the construction of CHAs. UNHCR has also provided a total of 189 shelter units (RHUs) for the space. Distribution of non-food items (NFIs) is underway to the families arriving to the site, including blankets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and sleeping mats. UNHCR was able to contribute with the shelter units (RHUs) and CRIs thanks to the support of private donors such as LATAM and Gerdau, as well as the Armed Forces of Brazil (FAB and EB).



Rio Grande do Sul Governor, Eduardo Leite and Vice-Governor, Gabriel Souza have inaugurated the first of the 3 Humanitarian Centers for Sheltering and Assisting Displaced Families in the metropolitan area of Porto Alegre. The Center "*Recomeço*" is an initiative of the State of RS in collaboration with the Canoas Municipality and counted with the support of donations from private sector and UN Agencies, as well technical expertise on site planning and site management from UNHCR. @Joel Varas/GVG