

BRAZIL FLOODS

Pernambuco and Alagoas

Short note – 08/06/2017

SUMMARY

In the last week of May, heavy rainfall and flooding were registered across the states of Pernambuco (PE) and Alagoas (AL) in northern Brazil (*Jornal do Brasil* 06/06/2017). In Pernambuco, 24 out of 185 municipalities have declared state of emergency: 55,000 have been displaced and up to 2.2 million temporarily affected by damage to WASH infrastructure (G1 29/05/2017; G1 30/05/2017). (*Senado Noticias* 06/06/2017; *Jornal do Brasil* 06/06/2017). In Alagoas, the highest estimates are of 16,000 people (4,000 families) displaced and 27 out of 102 municipalities in state of emergency, including the capital (*Jornal Hoje* 30/05/2017). As of 6 June, localised rains were still expected in Pernambuco but the overall level of rainfall for both states should decrease significantly (*APAC* 07/06/2017).

Most affected areas by flooding



Source: G1 02/06/2017

Priority sectors

- Shelter
- Health
- WASH

CRISIS IMPACT

Shelter and NFIs

In Pernambuco nearly 500 houses have been completely destroyed, while 6,800 have been damaged. Over 43,000 people have been displaced and 3,000 left homeless. In the state of Alagoas, up to 16,000 people (4,000 families) have been displaced (*Jornal Hoje 30/05/2017*). The extent of damage to housing infrastructure in Alagoas is unclear. The number of displaced is expected to decrease as waters cede and early recovery efforts are put in place (*Cada minuto 06/06/2017*).

Local authorities in Pernambuco have highlighted a pressing need for hygiene kits and diapers (*Jornal do Brasil 06/06/2017*).

Health

In Pernambuco, local health authorities have expressed concern about the quality of drinking water, and highlighted the risk of hepatitis A and E, typhoid, and cholera outbreaks. Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) is also a concern (*G1 29/05/2017*).

In Alagoas increased rainfall has been recorded since January, with the peak in the last week of May. 38 municipalities have been issued a red alert due to increased cases of AWD. Between January and May 53,700 cases were registered, compared to 41,500 in the same period in 2016. This is a 29% increase in cases, with current flooding expected to compound the situation. In the capital of Alagoas, Maceio, cases of AWD have decreased compared to the previous year, however concerns have been expressed, as recent flooding has affected areas of the city with extremely poor sanitation (*Alagoas 24 horas 06/06/2017*). So far, only the 13 most affected areas of Alagoas have been provided with medical supplies (*Alagoas 24 horas 06/06/2017*).

WASH

In Pernambuco, 16 water supply systems were paralysed during the flooding, initially affecting 2.2 million people across the state (*G1 29/05/2017*). On 30 May the water supply systems were reported gradually becoming functional and the supply returning to normal, however many affected regions still reported disruptions (*G1 30/05/2017*; *G1 31/05/2017*).

In addition to system disruptions, the quality of available drinking water is a concern (*G1 29/05/2017*).

Education

Five public schools in Pernambuco have reported infrastructure damage, while 121 are unable to function (*Jornal do Brasil 06/06/2017*). As the exact location of the damaged schools is unknown, it is not possible at this time to assess the scale of the impact as compared to the local availability of education infrastructure.

RESPONSE CAPACITY

With the declaration of the state of emergency local governments will have federal funding at their disposal for disaster response, estimated at USD 10 million (*Agencia Brasil 31/05/2017*).

In the state of Pernambuco, a large number of donations have already been distributed, including 109 metric tons of food items, 123,000L of water, over 6,000 mattresses and 13,000 NFI kits. The state

government has announced payments through several governmental cash-assistance programs (Jornal do Brasil 06/06/2017). For those who have been left homeless, 104 housing units will be made available within 30 days in three affected municipalities of Pernambuco, according to the government's plan (Portal Brasil 05/06/2017). It is unclear how quickly the government will be able to provide more permanent shelter solutions to the families in other municipalities.

Authorities in Alagoas are assessing the extent of the impact and needs in order to put in place a local response. The efforts will prioritise people made homeless, and will provide food baskets and NFIs (Cada minuto 06/06/2017). So far, medical supplies have been provided to the most affected areas to cover the needs of 500 people or up to three months (Alagoas 24 horas 06/06/2017).

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Access and movement is likely to be made difficult by localised destruction of road infrastructure. Damage to 52 roads and 244 bridges across Pernambuco has been reported (Jornal do Brasil 06/06/2017). In Alagoas, access may be hampered by accumulated water and flooded rivers. (TNH1 28/05/2017).

Limitations

Information on the extent of damage and related needs, as well as updated displacement figures in the state of Alagoas is lacking. Municipalities in Alagoas have been asked by the local Department of Civil Defence to provide information on the impact of the flooding, including updated figures, by 7 June. (Cada minuto 06/06/2017).

ACAPS welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions please contact us at: info@acaps.org