



PHOTOS: ASAS DE SOCORRO

## Communities still recovering from historic floods in Southern Brazil

Rio Grande do Sul — Brazil’s most southerly state — is experiencing its worst ever climate change catastrophe caused by the unprecedented rainfall earlier this year.

With authorities calling it the worst climate disaster in southern Brazil, the state’s federal government announced on 22 August that it would release R\$1.97 billion to help pay off debts to rural producers whose livelihoods have been ruined.

The state has a land mass larger than the UK, with more than 90%

of the area having been affected by unprecedented rainfall since April. Low-lying areas of the state’s capital Porto Alegre are completely under water. The River Guaíba rose to a record 5.33 metres.

It’s believed a total of 600,000 people were made homeless and 45,000 businesses affected by the disaster with electricity, roads and drinking water all badly affected.

In response, MAF affiliate Asas de Socorro (ADS) has delivered over 1,000kg of life-saving aid supplies to flooded communities, as well as

transporting health professionals and performing medevacs.

‘The aerial view was devastating,’ said ADS Pilot Victor Scarparo. ‘We saw submerged neighbourhoods and collapsed lives. It’s in this moment that the magnitude of the tragedy and importance of our air mission becomes clear.’

The under-reported disaster continues to take its toll and highlight the grave impacts climate change is having on the most vulnerable communities.

### Pause for prayer

Please pray for Asas de Socorro (ADS) and the communities still recovering from the devastating flooding in Brazil. ADS flights have been transporting emergency health professionals to treat fatal waterborne diseases such as leptospirosis, with more than 3,000 health centres impacted by the floods.

### Floods explained in latest podcast

ADS Pilot and Operations Director Jacob Anderson speaks on MAF UK’s latest podcast episode about the scale of suffering in Brazil — revealing that it affected more people than Hurricane Katrina in 2005. You can listen for free today at [www.maf-uk.org/podcast](http://www.maf-uk.org/podcast)

### Find out more online

If you would like to read an in-depth article about the flooding in Brazil and MAF’s response efforts, you can visit our website and browse the news section. There you can find lots of up-to-date reports from Brazil and across the MAF world. Visit [www.maf-uk.org/news](http://www.maf-uk.org/news)