

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: GLOBAL FLOODS

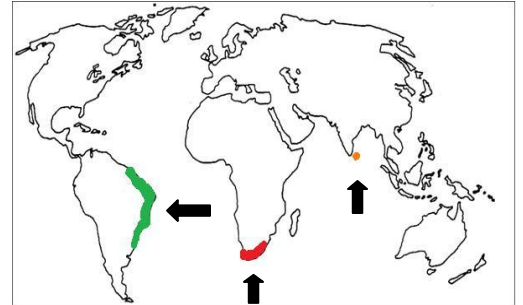
- OVER 900 TOTAL DEATHS AMONG BRAZIL, SRI LANKA, AND SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE FLOODS
- 375,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED
- MULTIPLE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN HIT BY FLOODS OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, WHICH MANY EXPERTS HAVE ATTRIBUTED TO LA NIÑA
- FLOODS HAVE RESULTED IN DESTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURE, LEAVING THOUSANDS WITHOUT FOOD
- AGRICULTURAL LOSS WILL GREATLY EFFECT THE ECONOMIES OF EACH COUNTRY
- WATER-BORNE DISEASES AND ILLNESS FROM POOR SANITATION ARE A MAJOR THREAT

BRAZIL

The flood that struck the country has been labeled as the deadliest natural disaster in Brazil's history. Days of heavy rains unleashed flash floods and rivers of mud. The floods leveled out houses, washed away high ways, damaged crops, dislodged cars, and left thousands of people homeless in the area north of Rio de Janeiro. The mudslides and floods have crushed and destroyed multiple cities that are responsible for a majority of the country's produce. Thus far, over 800 have died and 400 are reported missing. Hundreds of people are believed to still be in areas of risk of fresh mudslides. The floods and mudslides hit Brazil with such a force that the geography of the region has changed profoundly. Icaro Moreno, president of EMOP, a government public works company, states that "There is a huge geographical change; it's as if towns were completely reshaped."

SRI LANKA

There have been devastating effects due to the massive floods that the country is experiencing. Concerning death totals, approximately 43 people have been killed. The amount of deaths has been low, however Sri Lanka is facing a serious food shortage. One million people potentially will be without food due to the destruction of agriculture; 400,000 of which are children. Many families in flood areas are facing a nightmare scenario in which rains have washed both their food source and livelihood away. It is estimated that a quarter of a million acres of agricultural land and over 240,000 livestock have been lost. In the midst of the loss of food and resources, 350,000 people have been displaced, and 3,744 houses have been destroyed. With the lack of food, children are especially at risk because they are more vulnerable to disease and other health problems, which result from malnutrition and bad sanitation. The organization *Save the Children* has been involved in relief with the country, helping distribute food, clothing, and



other necessities to families.

SOUTH AFRICA

The country is experiencing some of the worst rainfalls in recorded years, and yet, they expect more rains to come. Damage to homes, property, vehicles, and the loss of revenue from damaged agricultural crops from flooding is going to cost the country millions. The flooding has submerged houses, roads, and crops since December. The country's poorest residents are the ones that have been most affected by these horrific storms. This storm has affected eight out of the nine provinces in South Africa, making them disaster areas.

CAUSES

According to meteorologists, it is believed that the cause of the floods around the world is due to La Niña. Other countries that have experienced major flooding include Pakistan, Australia, and the Philippines. La Niña is caused by the change of temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. The water cools, which results in increased cloud and weather-build up. According to NASA, the current cycle of La Niña is one of the strongest on record, and unfortunately, she is not looking to end any time soon.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

This is a monthly newsletter that is intended to provide information about issues around the world. The Office of World Missions believes it is important to be aware of global issues and begin entering discussions that affect others in our local and global communities.