

Flooding death toll in south Brazil rises to 75 as over 100 people remain missing

Officials in Rio Grande do Sul state say more than 80,000 have been displaced by record water levels

Seventy-five people are now known to have died in the flooding in Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state, while more than 100 people remain missing, local authorities said on Sunday.

The state's civil defence authority said 101 people were unaccounted for and more than 80,000 had been displaced after record-breaking floods swept across the state, which borders Uruguay and Argentina.

Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, arrived in Rio Grande do Sul on Sunday, along with most members of his cabinet, to discuss rescue and reconstruction works with local authorities.

Rescue workers are continuing to race against the clock to save people from raging floods and mudslides. Using four-wheel-drive vehicles and at times jet skis, rescuers made their way through waist-deep water, searching for those who had been left stranded by the rising waters.

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