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Rio de Janeiro

For immediate release

BrazilFoundation Announces Rio Doce Region Grantees

The bursting of two dams in November of 2015 in the town of Mariana, Minas Gerais, caused great environmental damage, and impacted the livelihoods of thousands of people. In response to the disaster, **BrazilFoundation** created the **Minas Fund**, dedicated to the state of Minas Gerais, with initial focus on investing in socioenvironmental initiatives supporting the affected population.

Our team recently visited the affected region, identifying some of the major challenges that the local population faces, such as lack of potable water and diminished work and income opportunities. **BrazilFoundation** is proud to announce four of these organizations to receive support from the Minas Fund, who will work for the socio-economic recovery of the region:

Coletivo MICA – Mídia, Identidade, Cultura e Arte (Belo Horizonte & Mariana, MG)
Workshops with 100 students from nine public schools in Mariana to help them understand, reflect and communicate their needs and rights as citizens. [READ MORE](#)

"What we want for Brazil and for the young of this project is that they are aware of the right to communication, freedom of expression and that they are active subjects in identity construction process and cultural values."

Yara Diniz, Mica Leader

Instituto pelo Bem do Planeta (Governador Valadares, MG)
Environmental education through cultural activities to encourage 4,000 elementary school students and their teachers to take initiative for a positive recovery of the river and forests, essentially making them multipliers of good environmental practices. [READ MORE](#)

"The project's aim is for future generations to continue the work that I am starting, because I'm afraid I will never again see, in my lifetime, the river as it used to be."

Ricardo Abraham - Project leader

Cáritas Diocesana de Governador Valadares

The project will be implemented in seven municipalities of Meio Rio Doce to: engage the

affected population to uphold their rights and participate in the reparations negotiations, guarantee transparency in the negotiations process, and help draft proposals with the community leaders to help the Rio Doce recover. [READ MORE](#)

“We're trying to help the people of Valadares improve their living conditions and our river. What happened was a catastrophe, and the lack of potable water has been a major problem for all of us.” Flávia Finhani, Vice-President

AEDAS – Associação Estadual de Defesa Ambiental e Social (Belo Horizonte & Mariana, MG)

Assistance and guidance on rights and reparations for the local population directly affected by the dam burst in Mariana. [READ MORE](#)

"This disaster has caused great trauma on the people here. Our dairy production and trade has stopped. Our city revolved around milk production, and now we dream of getting back our city - the way she was before: calm, quiet, no mud or mining trucks. "

Sergio Parrot - resident of the Bento Rodrigues district in Mariana.

About **Brazil**Foundation

BrazilFoundation mobilizes resources for ideas and actions that transform Brazil. In 15 years, the Foundation has raised over US\$ 35 million for social initiatives in the areas of Education, Health, Culture, Socioeconomic Development and Human Rights. The resources raised have enabled **Brazil**Foundation to identify, finance and monitor more than 440 social projects in 26 Brazilian states, directly benefiting thousands of people.

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