



Salvador - Bahia



Extreme Weather Event:

Extreme Rains

Period: May 2 to 8, 2025

Monitored Waste Pickers Organization:

- CAEC - Cooperativa de Catadores Agentes Ecológicos de Canabrava,
- COOPERBARI - Cooperativa de Trabalho dos Recicladores da Unidade do Ogunjá,
- CANORE - Cooperativa de Trabalho dos Agentes Ambientais na Nova República.

Characteristics of the Waste Pickers' Cooperatives:

CAEC	66 Cooperative Waste Pickers	58% are women 6% of the board is composed of women	94% of waste pickers are Black or Brown	160 t/month Average monthly production R\$ 120.000,00/month Average monthly revenue	R\$ 1.412,00/month Average monthly income per waste picker
CANORE	10 Cooperative Waste Pickers	60% are women 30% of the board is composed of women	100% of waste pickers are Black or Brown	18 t/month Average monthly production R\$ 8.000,00/month Average monthly revenue	R\$ 600,00/month Average monthly income per waste picker
COOPERBARI	17 Cooperative Waste Pickers	47% are women 6% of the board is composed of women	70% of waste pickers are Black or Brown	36 t/month Average monthly production R\$ 42.000,00/month Average monthly revenue	R\$ 900,00/month Average monthly income per waste picker

Context

Partnership:



Between May 2 and 8, 2025, a sequence of **intense and persistent rains** caused **flooding, flash floods, and landslides** in the cooperatives monitored in Salvador. On May 5, COOPERBARI sent a video to the monitoring group reporting that a landslide that had occurred around the same time the previous year **had worsened**, and cooperative members were **concerned about the risk of further deterioration**. CANORE reported **flooding inside the warehouse**, while CAEC recorded the **collapse of part of the wall and the access gate to the sorting center**, also as a result of the heavy rains.

According to the **National Institute of Meteorology (INMET)**, during those days, rainfall reached 246.2 mm, which **represents 80% of the historical average for the entire month of May (302.2 mm)**.

CAEC, CANORE, and COOPERBARI are among the oldest cooperatives in Salvador, founded between 2003 and 2006. They **carry out household collection and collection from large waste generators** on an unpaid basis and without any formal agreement with the City Hall. The cooperatives' only source of income comes from the sale of recyclable materials.



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Extreme Weather Event Indicator - EWE

In Salvador, during the week of the event, it rained approximately 38% more than the historical average for the entire month of May.

The month of May was marked by **intense rainfall** in Salvador, exceeding the historical average for the period. According to the A401 reference station of the National Institute of Meteorology (INMET), total rainfall reached **418.6 mm**, while the historical average for the month is **302.2 mm**.

According to **Salvador's Civil Defense agency (Codesal)**, the years **2017**, **2020**, **2023**, and **2025** recorded rainfall totals above the historical average, with notable peaks in **2020 (454.2 mm)** and **2025 (418.6 mm)**.

Main Impacts on the Monitored Waste Pickers' Cooperatives



Landslide risk

Soil saturation at CAEC's facilities, as well as in the sorting area at COOPERBARI — already compromised by previous incidents — significantly increased the risk of new landslides.



Absences from work

Worker absences were recorded in all cooperatives: at CAEC, a one-day absence; at CANORE, five members absent for a week; and at COOPERBARI, fifteen people absent for up to twenty days.



Flooded areas

CANORE's warehouse was completely flooded during the episodes of intense rain. At CAEC and COOPERBARI, localized flooding occurred in sorting and baling areas.



Impacts on commercialization

COOPERBARI reported a loss in cardboard sales due to moisture damage, with a discount applied at the time of sale. There was also a delay in the commercialization of plastics due to processing difficulties.



Impacts on production

CAEC's sorting line was compromised during the rainy periods, especially due to the lack of lateral closure in the warehouse, which hindered material flow and affected production pace. At CANORE, the baler had to be turned off, interrupting production.



Transportation difficulties

Members of all three monitored cooperatives reported significant challenges commuting from their homes to the workplace due to the rain.



Equipment loss

At CANORE, equipment such as the baler, forklift, and collection truck were damaged by flooding. Additionally, the refrigerator was permanently lost.



Income impacts

CANORE reported approximately a 50% reduction in members' income during the month of May. For the other cooperatives, it was not possible to quantify the financial impact.



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Main Impacts on the Monitored Waste Pickers' Cooperatives:



Interruption of operations

All monitored cooperatives had to suspend their operations due to the weather events. COOPERBARI's production line remained affected for almost the entire month of May, while CANORE had its activities halted for several days.



Leaks

CAEC registered leaks in walls and ceilings. At CANORE, leaks were identified in the warehouse's side walls.



Structural collapse:

At CAEC, part of the wall and one of the access gates collapsed, compromising the safety of the building.



Impact on Workers' Health and Safety

With the materials wet and the warehouse saturated, humidity levels in the workplace increased, compromising workers' health and reducing production performance.

Main Health and Safety Issues Reported:

- Flu and colds
- Reduced immunity
- Increased physical strain
- Increased risk of workplace accidents due to slippery floors, mud, holes, and ground irregularities

Indicators of Climate Adaptation and Response

Disaster Prevention and Contingency Plans

One cooperative reported being aware of the existence of a Prevention Plan. None of the cooperatives, however, reported having received any type of training or formal guidance on how to act in situations of climate-related emergencies.

Risk Perception and Emergency Actions

Waste pickers from the cooperatives reported not having received any training on risk identification or emergency procedures during extreme weather events.

Immediate Response Actions

Loss reduction: Measures included relocating big bags with sorted material to dry areas, shutting down electrical equipment as a preventive action, and moving workers to safer areas inside the warehouse.

Contacting authorities: Relevant authorities were notified on the situation.

Resource reallocation: CAEC used financial resources from reverse logistics credits to repair areas affected at one of the cooperatives. However, the cooperatives did not receive any additional emergency support to address the immediate damage caused.

Level of importance of the Extreme Weather Event in the cooperatives' daily operations:



CAEC
CANORE
COOPERBARI
Salvador - Bahia

About the Monitoring Initiative

The Extreme Weather Event Monitoring Project is developed by WIEGO with support from the Mãos Pro Futuro Program. Its objective is to build a monitoring system that links extreme weather events to their impacts on workspaces, labor conditions, and the livelihoods of waste pickers.

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