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Vale makes commitment to invest R\$ 500 million to the fight against the coronavirus in Brazil

The company has already contributed R\$ 314.8 million in expenditures to date for rapid test kits, PPEs and other humanitarian actions in several states.

Vale has committed to invest R\$500 million in humanitarian aid to combat the new coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2) in Brazil. To date, R\$314.8 million of this total has been allocated. The company has bought more than 600 tons of equipment - rapid test kits and personal protection equipment (PPEs) - from China to support the federal government and the states where the company has operations (MG, PA, MA, ES, MS and RJ) in combating the spread of the new coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2). The first batch arrived at the end of March and the last will be delivered in May.

This emergency aid, which represented an investment of R\$ 223.3 million, strictly follows the guidance of health authorities. The cargo, equivalent to the average weight of 600 cars, is being brought in 15 airplanes - 13 cargo planes and 2 airliners. Five flights have already arrived and the remaining ones by the end of May. Vale has also carried out other humanitarian actions that amount to R\$ 91.5 million. So far, R\$ 314.8 million has been invested.

5 million rapid test kits and 15.8 million PPE are being donated to the federal government. The company will also provide 14.5 million pieces of equipment to the six states where it operates. This includes rapid test kits and PPE. A further 5 million test kits are being added to the cargo, purchased by Brazilian banks with logistical help of Vale in China. A country with which Vale has had a partnership for almost 50 years.

"Through a common enemy, the forces of good have united to work together. Each one using their ability, using their strength. Since we have the logistical fortitude and the Ministry of Health, knows where to act, I think these things show us a society that is maturing and becoming more humane," said Vale CEO Eduardo Bartolomeo.

To bring the more than 600 tons, Vale mobilized employees and third parties in both Brazil and China.

MORE THAN EQUIPMENT

The humanitarian actions, however, are not limited to the acquisition of supplies abroad. The company has also helped in the construction of field hospitals; hospital refurbishments; equipment purchases, such as fans, hospital beds and monitors; and the donation of cleaning supplies, including 100 tons of alcohol gel. To ensure the isolation of indigenous peoples and traditional communities with which it interacts, the company will build quarantine centers, with all the necessary logistical support.

In partnership with the Israelita Albert Einstein Hospital and Mater Dei Healthcare Network, Vale launched a US\$1 million project (about R\$5 million at the average dollar exchange rate in March) to support innovative solutions targeting the reduction of Covid-19, a disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Another R\$2 million was allocated to the State Cerebrum Institute for equipment purchases. The institute, with which Vale has a 10-year partnership, has become a standard bearer in Rio de Janeiro for hospitalization and treatment of diseases.

Below are the main humanitarian actions already carried out by Vale to combat Covid-19:

Actions to support the federal government - R\$213.8 million

- - 5 million rapid test kits for virus detection;
- - 15.8 million PPE (2.54 million N95 masks; 10.8 million surgical masks; 216,000 gloves; 2.24 million aprons and 4.5 thousand goggles).

Actions to support states - R\$ 93.7 million

- 14.5 million pieces of equipment, including test kits and PPEs for the six states where the company operates (MA, PA, RJ, MS, ES and MG);
- Construction of two field hospitals in Parauapebas (PA) and the city of Rio de Janeiro;
- Refurbishment of three hospitals: two in Minas Gerais (Itabira and Belo Horizonte) and one in Pará (Parauapebas);
- Donation of R\$ 2 million to the State Cerebrum Institute to purchase brain monitoring equipment, ultrasound and monitoring robots, among other hospital items. The institute, with which Vale has a 10-year partnership, has become a standard bearer in Rio de Janeiro for hospitalization and treatment of the disease;
- Purchase of 390 pieces of hospital equipment (mechanical ventilators, beds and monitors) for four hospitals in the state of Pará;
- Donation of 81,000 pieces of cleaning products, in addition to 100 tons of alcohol gel and personal hygiene kits for 14 prisons in 13 cities in Minas Gerais;
- Donation of 5 containers with air conditioning and stretcher for Saint of Ouro Preto Health Center (MG), which will be used as an initial reception site for suspected cases of the new coronavirus;
- Supply of three ambulances for the Mariana City Hall. The vehicles are equipped with Intensive Care Units (ICU), two with respirators;
- Purchase of medical supplies for the Maranhão University Hospital (São Luís), where the Vale Foundation works with two projects: Neonatal ICU and Human Milk Bank;
- Anticipating the donation of five new rescue and fire fighting vehicles to the Maranhão Fire Department. The vehicles will provide support in the fight against COVID 19 in the eliminating of contaminants in public areas;
- Donation of two solenoid valves for the making of prototype respirators, in São Luís;
- In Espírito Santo, Vale has joined forces with SENAI and other industries to carry out maintenance of mechanical respirators that are not in use, in order to help in the treatment of patients with Covid-19.

Actions to support indigenous and quilombolas - R\$ 2.3 million

- Construction of 15 Quarantine Units in MG and ES to serve the Tupiniquim, Guarani, Krenak and Pataxó ethnic groups that have a relationship with Vale, in addition to the other indigenous people living in these states;

- Construction of a Quarantine Center for the Awá, Guajajara and Ka'apor Indians, Indigenous Health Professionals and FUNAI in Santa Inês/MA (In preparation of a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Legal Department and the alignment of supplies);
- Emergency and one-time accommodation support (14 days) for two Awá families (5 indigenous);
- Donation of cleaning kits to 475 quilombola families, mariculturists and Artesanal fishermen from Sepetiba Bay (RJ);
- Donation of cleaning kits to 10,000 indigenous families in MG, MA, ES, PA.

Other actions - R\$ 5 million

- Vale, in partnership with Israelita Albert Einstein Hospital and Mater Dei Healthcare Network, launched the "Vale COVID-19 Challenge," a public notice to support solutions that reduce the impacts of Covid-19. It focuses on the areas of prevention, risk screening, diagnosing, and follow-up of patients, and intensive care. The support will be made through financial contributions or by connecting partners so that these solutions can be executed within 15 days, with a maximum investment of US\$ 1 million (approximately R\$ 5 million at the average exchange rate for the month of March). Just over 1,400 proposals were received. The result of the challenge will come out on April 24th;

Aid of R\$ 1 billion to suppliers

At the end of March, mining was declared an essential service by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and because of this, Vale continues its activities. To ensure the financial health of its suppliers, the company announced a package of almost R\$1 billion, which will benefit approximately 3,000 suppliers throughout the country.

The company has taken a series of actions to ensure the health of employees and third parties. This includes the adoption of remote work for those eligible for the function; the removal of workers over 60 years of age or with pre-existing illnesses, who have been advised to stay at home; and the installation of 81 thermal cameras in the entrance gates to measure the temperature of employees and third parties, among other procedures. All measures taken by Vale follow the health and safety protocols established by health authorities in reference to the new coronavirus pandemic.

More information



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