

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## DEADLY FLOODS IN BRAZIL WERE WORSENERD BY CLIMATE CHANGE, STUDY FINDS



A damaged refrigerator was used to ferry groceries last month after flooding in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Credit...



Four days of pounding rain have inundated many parts of a southern state, cutting off towns and leaving people trapped as they await rescue by helicopters.

**NYT**—Human-caused warming has doubled the chances that southern Brazil will experience extreme, multiday downpours like the ones that recently caused disastrous flooding there, a team of scientists said on Monday. The deluges have killed at least 172 people and displaced more than half a million residents from their homes.

Three months' rain fell in a two-week span of April and May in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. After analyzing weather records, the scientists estimated that the region had a 1 percent chance each year of receiving so much rain in so little time.

They estimated a significant increase in likelihood, which is consistent with a basic finding about climate change and rainfall: because warmer air can hold more moisture, whenever it rains, it is likely to rain more intensely.

The floods damaged roads, bridges, airports and transmission lines. They ruined soy, rice and wheat crops, which are essential to Brazil's food supply and economy.

Schools closed for weeks, leaving hundreds of thousands of students out of the classroom.

Years of scientific studies have warned that climate change would lead to more intense rainfall and flooding in southern Brazil. But politicians still struggle to accept and act on future climate risks, said Natalie Unterstell, the head of Talanoa, a climate policy research institute in Brazil.