# **Samarco Dam Disaster 2015**

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| **Key issues**   * Health, safety and welfare of the local population * Environmental pollution * Corporate responsibility across borders | Image result for brazil mining disaster report |

**Background Information**

All group members should read/view the following texts/video coverage.

1. Video giving an overview of the disaster

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HKnOVLpTZQ>  
<http://streaming.cle.ust.hk/media/courses/lang2030/2019_spring/case5.mp4>

1. An overview of the disaster in Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bento_Rodrigues_dam_disaster>

**Case materials**

Go through the following case materials and decide how you will divide up the reading and organize group sharing of information. You are also encouraged to read more widely around this topic.

1. *Brazil Mine Disaster Caused by Poor Drainage & Design of Tailings Dam: Report*

An article from an insurance journal which discusses the causes of the disaster; <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2016/08/30/424781.htm>

1. *Brazilian mine disaster releases dangerous metals.*

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/brazilian-mine-disaster-releases-dangerous-metals/9174.article>

1. *Samarco Dam Collapse: one year on from Brazil’s worst environmental disaster*. A discussion of the impact of the disaster: <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/oct/15/samarco-dam-collapse-brazil-worst-environmental-disaster-bhp-billiton-vale-mining>
2. *Brazil dam collapse: Samarco staff and BHP Billiton executives charged with homicide over disaster*The legal cases against executives of the companies involved: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-21/brazil-dam-collapse-homicide-charges/7953458>
3. *BHP fights Brazil claim over iron mine collapse*

An article about the rejection of the company’s original compensation plan: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36691833>

1. *Brazil's worst mining disaster: Corporations must be compelled to pay the actual environmental costs*. An article in the journal of the Ecological Society of America. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.1461>
2. *Samarco Update*. An update from BHP Hilton on their actions since the disaster.

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/-/media/documents/media/reports-and-presentations/2017/170131_samarcoupdate.pdf>

1. *How a Mining Disaster is Helping to Overhaul Impunity in Brazil.* This article discusses changes being made in the regulation of the mining industry in Brazil: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/how-mining-disaster-helping-to-overhaul-impunity-brazil>

Note:

A similar tailings dam collapse took place in Brazil in January 2019 involving Vale and a German mining company. You may like to include this incident in your research as you investigate the Samarco case.