

Country profile BRAZIL



Habitat for Humanity in Brazil

Habitat's work in Brazil began in 1992, serving families who suffered tremendous losses due to floods in Belo Horizonte. Since then, Habitat for Humanity in Brazil has developed projects in 11 states and served 12,708 families, helped build 4,531 homes, improved 1,512 homes and helped 2,356 families secure land tenure. In Brazil, Habitat for Humanity is currently present in six states with projects ranging from building new homes, to repairs and improvements, water access and securing land tenure.

The housing need in Brazil

A recent survey ranked São Paulo as the world's 10th most expensive city, and Rio de Janeiro as the 12th. New York, North America's most expensive city, is 32nd, making Brazil the most expensive country in the Americas. Even though, it continues being a country with high social inequality.

Brazil has between 6 million and 8 million fewer houses than it needs, and people earning less than US\$1,000 per month account for about 90 percent of this deficit.

The greatest needs are in the northeast and southeast. In the cities, there is overcrowding and housing deterioration. It is estimated that more than 50 million Brazilians live in inadequate conditions. Most of these families have an income below the minimum wage of roughly US\$300 per month. According to data from several sources, 26 million people in urban areas lack access to potable water, 14 million do not have trash collection service, and 83 million are not connected to sewage systems.

COUNTRY FACTS

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| Capital | Brasilia |
| Date of independence or creation of the state | Sept. 7, 1822 |
| Other country facts | Brazil is a Federal Presidentialist Republic, with a multiparty democracy. It is also a secular state. |
| Population | 203.4 million people |
| Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones) | 84 percent |
| Life expectancy | 73.62 years |
| Unemployment rate | 4.9 percent |
| Percent of the population living below the poverty line | 5.1 percent |

*Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, UN

HABITAT FACTS

When Habitat started working in Brazil
1992

Families served
12,708

Volunteers hosted
2,435

Housing solutions
New houses
Progressive improvements
Access to water
Land tenure



Our Programs:

Building new houses

Habitat for Humanity Brazil is one of the entities authorized to work in partnership with the Brazilian government to build new houses for vulnerable families. Through the Minha Casa, Minha Vida (My House, My Life) program, Habitat Brazil is building 1,623 houses in two cities in the state of Pernambuco.

House improvements

Through microcredit loans with the support of a technical assistance team, qualified masons and volunteers, mothers and fathers can guarantee a better future for their children and a safe and healthy home where they can study, rest and play. In Recife, 250 families will benefit from a project called The Future Begins at Home. In São Paulo, 100 families will have their houses improved through the Habitat in the Community project.

Water for Lives

In the semiarid region of Pernambuco, this project aims to improve the quality of life of families who live in extreme poverty and often have to walk for up to two hours to fetch water for their homes. By repairing and enlarging their roofs and building cisterns for water catchment and storage, hundreds of people have access to safe, usable water.

Advocacy

Building impact in the sector is one of Habitat for Humanity's global objectives. Habitat Brazil participates in debates and policy discussions for city councils at the national, state and municipal levels. Habitat Brazil represents all NGOs and civil society organizations in the National Cities Council — formed by 71 holders representing the most diverse segments of civil society — to help solve the housing deficit and benefit more families living in inadequate houses.

Financial Literacy and Environmental Education

Workshops for families and young people on budget planning, human rights and environmental preservation encourage full community development.

Meet a Habitat family

Inês Maria do Espírito Santo is 65 and has lived in Bomba do Hemetério for over 40 years. Santo, a widow who is unemployed, lives with her daughter and two young grandsons. The family income is barely enough to make ends meet, and there was never enough to invest in improving their home. Their house had no bathroom or septic tank; the walls and roofs were damaged and in danger of collapsing; and there was no proper floor and few windows, which made the home very hot, humid and moldy. Through microcredit loans, the family is progressively improving their house and guaranteeing that there is enough space to develop in a safe, healthy, adequate environment. After just improving the roof and ventilation, both children have been able to focus more on their schoolwork. Their health has improved, and they have been able to sleep better.

What you can do

You can help needy Brazilian families who live in unhealthy, cold and overcrowded homes by taking one or more of the following actions:

DONATE

HFH Brazil : www.habitatbrasil.org.br/doe.aspx
HFH São Paulo: <http://hph.org.br/httpswww-habitatbrasil-org-brdoe.aspx/>

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Brazil or lead your own. For more information go to: habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Quote 821300, Brazil HFH on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709



To learn more about Habitat projects in Brazil please contact us.

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