

Brazil

Habitat for Humanity in Brazil

Habitat for Humanity Brazil began its work in 1992 after a flood struck the city of Belo Horizonte, affecting hundreds of families. Since then, Habitat Brazil has developed projects in 11 states. Currently Habitat is present in four states with projects ranging from building, repairing and improving homes, to providing access to water and strong advocacy work.

The housing need in Brazil

Brazil has between 6 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. In the cities, there is overcrowding and housing deterioration. It is estimated that more than 50 million Brazilians live in inadequate conditions. According to data from several sources, 26 million people in urban areas lack access to drinking water, 14 million do not have trash collection services and 83 million are not connected to sewage systems.

Rural areas in the northeast region are currently suffering the worst drought in the past 50 years. Adequate access to water is a privilege that over 17 million people do not have. Women and children are forced to walk long distances to fetch water for their homes, often in sources where the water is untreated.

Habitat's contribution in Brazil

To date, Habitat Brazil has helped build and improve homes, provided water access and helped families secure land tenure. Habitat Brazil through its participation in national platforms and networks such as the National Forum for Urban Reform and the National Cities Council, promotes public policies that give millions of people living in inadequate conditions the opportunity to improve their homes.



COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Brasilia
Date of independence or creation of the state	Sept. 7, 1822
Population	209.3 million
Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)	84%
Life expectancy	75.51 years
Unemployment rate	13.1%
Percent of the population living below the poverty line	6.5%

HABITAT FACTS

Date when Habitat started working in the country	1992
Individuals served in FY18	2,040*
Volunteers hosted in FY18	663**
Housing solutions	New, repairs

* 25 individuals served through market development

** Includes Sao Paulo: 400 volunteers

FY stands for fiscal year 2018, which starts on July 2017 and ends on June 2018.



Our programs

Building new houses

Habitat for Humanity Brazil works in partnership with the Brazilian government to build new houses in partnership with vulnerable families. Through the Minha Casa, Minha Vida (My House, My Life) program, Habitat Brazil is currently building 685 houses in two states.

House improvements

Through microcredit loans and 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.

Access to water

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 families have access to safe, usable water.

Advocacy

Building impact in the sector is one of Habitat for Humanity's global objectives. Habitat Brazil is extremely active in this goal, participating 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 and public power to help solve the housing deficit and benefit more families living in inadequate houses.

Meet a Habitat family

Sunlight streams through the balcony and lights up Mayara's face. The 24-year-old is happy that she can take in some fresh air and live in a home that can better accommodate her disabilities. Mayara was born with hydrocephalus, a condition that can cause brain damage and physical problems. She and her mom, Regina, live in a one-bedroom house in Heliópolis. Regina partnered with Habitat Brazil to remodel the home to make it more accessible.

"It made me revive my dream and hope of having a comfortable and pleasant house to live in," Regina says. "My family was transformed. We are very happy, satisfied and relieved."

What can you do?

We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. You can help us with those actions:

DONATE

<https://doe.hph.org.br>

VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Brazil or lead your own. For more information, go to:

www.habitat.org/gv/catalog/lac

HABITAT'S OFFICE

To learn more about Habitat's projects in Brazil, please contact us:

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Before, the house had only one bathroom, which is on the first floor. Since the living area is on the second floor and Mayara relies on a wheelchair to get around, Regina had to carry her daughter up and down the stairs to shower.

Now, the second floor also has a bathroom, making things easier for both mom and daughter.



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