



Brazil

Global Village volunteer handbook

home repair



healthy homes



vulnerable populations



Welcome to Habitat for Humanity

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 1,300 communities throughout the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand

up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

About Habitat Brazil

Brazil has about 7 million fewer houses than it needs, and people earning less than US\$1,000 per month account for about 90% of this deficit. In the cities, there is overcrowding and housing deterioration. It is estimated that more than 70 million Brazilians live in inadequate conditions. 26 million Brazilian 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. Access to water is a privilege that over 21 million people do not have. Women and children are forced to walk long distances to fetch water for their homes, often from sources where the water is untreated.

Habitat Brazil has helped build over 5,700 homes, improved 2,045 homes, provided water access to 540 families, and helped 2,420 families secure land tenure.





Global Village builds — Brazil

We would like to thank you for choosing Habitat Brazil. We hope to provide a great experience for you and your team.

The key to the success of the Habitat program is mutual cooperation, which reduces cost, increases productivity, and encourages ownership and participation of the community. Volunteers are essential to all of our programs. Through your participation and project donation, we are able to serve more families who are in desperate need of adequate housing and/or access to water.

By lending a helping hand, volunteers are not only helping change hundreds of lives but also raising awareness about the importance of getting involved in service.

Thank you for taking this opportunity to immerse yourself in our culture. In addition to our work, we encourage you to take time to get to know our people, learn about our history, visit landmarks, and taste our local food.

All in one week!!

Habitat Homeowner Profile

Jeovânia and Helen



In the community of Vila Esperança, located in the metropolitan region of Salvador, lives a hard-working and close knit family. Since they were very young, Jeovânia and Lucinaldo have worked very hard to improve their lives. Born in a poor community where most of the families live with less than 300 dollars per month, beginning to work early is a rule. Even so, both had their minds set on growing. Lucinaldo and Jeovânia are part of a small group of people in Vila Esperança who managed to finish high school.

Unfortunately, the local reality did not make it easy. Unable to find work in the formal job market, very limited in the region, they survived by taking odd jobs and working in the most varied way. Through great effort, they were able to build their home and over the years have invested everything they could to make it a safe, comfortable and welcoming place. But the lack of resources was easy to see and feel. The house was very humid and had serious infiltration problems. The environment was stuffy, with almost no ventilation and many leaks. 06 years ago, the couple's daughter was born: Helen.

Helen was a healthy baby but she quickly developed respiratory problems due to mold and humidity in the house. To try to minimize her asthma attacks, Jeo and Lucinaldo brought Helen to sleep in their room. The lack of maintenance took its toll in the structure of the house: the walls were deteriorating, the roof began to give in and the floor was made of dirt because tiling was too expensive. Time passed and Helen grew and started to need more space to play in and healthily develop.

In 2015, Habitat for Humanity Brazil began working in Vila Esperança. Through the project, Helen's room was completely renovated: the walls were plastered and painted; the floor was tiled; the roof was rebuilt with new shingles to ensure its safety; airways were open in order to reduce humidity and eliminate mold. And Helen finally had her very own special place.

Now she has a safe and spacious room where she can play, do her homework and sleep. Where she can have a healthy childhood. She receives plenty of love, warmth, support and education from her parents. Now with a house that gives her comfort, physical security and protection against diseases, she can thrive and grow towards a future with more opportunities.

About The Projects

REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS



THE FUTURE BEGINS AT HOME

Since 2011, families with children and teenagers have benefitted from renovations of their homes in the states of Pernambuco and Bahia. By making homes healthier and safer, children's academic development is improved, and the appearance of diseases caused by unhealthy environments is lowered, strengthening their overall development. Since 2015, Habitat Brazil has also included simple and environmentally correct solutions to reduce water and energy consumption and preserve natural resources.

TYPE OF WORK

The work to be done may include:

- Reinforcing walls to eliminate cracks
- Plastering and painting to eliminate mildew and infiltrations
- Substituting old roofs in risk of collapse
- Constructing rooms or bathrooms
- Opening doors and windows to improve natural lighting and ventilation
- Painting

Volunteers should be motivated to work with families during the construction process. Typically, there will be one mason and three volunteers per house. One Volunteer Coordinator and one Construction Coordinator will be on site to help you and guide you along.

About The Projects

ACCESS TO WATER



WATER FOR LIVES

Habitat is actively working in rural areas of the Northeast semiarid region to help families living in extreme poverty have access to the most basic human right: safe, drinkable water. Since 2012, we have worked with partner organizations and volunteers to build cisterns to store potable water. Our goal is to provide water access to families living in rural areas who are suffering from drought. These families need to walk long distances every day in order to fetch water for their homes. This reality affects mostly women and children. Beyond the construction work, we also offer skill-building workshops about the proper use of water resources.

WHAT TYPE OF WORK

Volunteers should be motivated to work with families during the entire construction process, and will completely build a cistern for water storage in just 5 days.

Volunteers will work on activities such as cement preparation, cement plate production, cement plate assembling, tie wires around the plates, plastering cistern walls, painting, and water pump production and installation. No excavation will be done by volunteers.

Habitat Brazil pairs 3 volunteers per cistern along with 1 mason and 1 family member. Everyone will work as a team to make sure that, by the end of the week, the families are able to begin harvesting and storing potable water at home.

One Volunteer Coordinator and one Construction Coordinator will be on site to help you and guide you along.

About The Trip – Before You Leave

IMMUNIZATIONS AND HEALTH REMINDERS

Contact your doctor or visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel for traveler's health information, recommended preparations, and vaccinations.

We recommend you discuss your travel plans and personal health with a healthcare provider at home before you travel to determine which vaccines you might need.

WEATHER

The climate in the project areas is semi-arid. The coastal areas receive plenty of rain, however, the inland regions generally experience minimal rainfall throughout the year. Temperatures range from 20-38°C in the summer and winter temperatures in the region range between 12-16°C.



RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

We advise you to travel light and bring only what is necessary for the trip.

During worksite days, wear long sleeve shirts and trousers to increase sun protection. Also, good sturdy boots or hiking boots are essential for work days. Make sure your clothes are not too loose or tight to impede your work. Bring one special outfit for dinner at a nice restaurant.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

- Hat/scarf, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a lightweight raincoat for sun and rain protection
- Fleece vest, pullover, or light sweater
- Daily work clothes. Bring long trousers and long-sleeve shirts that are not too loose or tight for worksite days.
- Undergarments, socks, pajamas, swimsuit
- Hiking boots or close-toed work shoes for construction days
- Soap, shampoo, dental care, personal cosmetics, and toiletry items.
- Prescription medication. Keep it in the bottle you get from the pharmacy to keep it clear at customs.
- Insect repellent. A DEET solution seems to work best.
- Your passport, and a photocopy of your passport to keep in your suitcase.
- An ATM/credit card and spending money for souvenirs, etc.
- Earplugs for the plane or for sound sleeping.
- Work Gloves
- Camera
- Bubbles or chalk to play with children on the worksite.

About The Trip – Upon Arrival

AT THE AIRPORT

Team members building in Brazil should arrive at the Recife/Guararapes-Gilberto Freyre International Airport (REC). US Citizens traveling to Brazil need a visa for a tourist stay of 90 days or less.

It is strongly recommended that you advise immigration control that you are here for 'TOURIST PURPOSES ONLY', rather than explaining your volunteering role.

Your passport must meet the following requirements:

- Expiration date more than six months from the date you return home.
- At least two blank pages remaining

Upon arrival, Habitat for Humanity staff will be waiting to greet you at the airport and will direct you to our buses. Please be patient and flexible throughout the arrival process.

CURRENCY

The Brazilian currency is the Real and Reais for the plural. The symbol for the Real is R\$. Banknotes in circulation are R\$2, R\$5, R\$ 10, R\$20, R\$50, and R\$100. Coins in circulation are R\$ 0.05 - R\$ 0.10 - R\$ 0.25 - R\$ 0.50 - R\$ 1.00.

U.S dollars are easily exchanged at hotels, banks, travel agencies, and currency exchange offices. Generally, the exchange rate for traveler's checks is lower than for cash. Credit cards are widely accepted in large cities in Brazil, however, if you are traveling to small towns, it is advisable to exchange some money before your trip or at the airport. Be sure to notify your bank or credit card of your travel plans.

TAXIS

Taxis are usually safe, however, another option that is available is Uber. Uber offers a lower fare and the option of determining your final location on the app, which will guide the driver through a GPS system that the passenger can also monitor.

CUSTOMS

To clear customs, all luggage must go through x-ray machines. If you have a camera with film, we suggest that you remove these from your luggage and show them to a customs guard. Sometimes customs will ask you to open your luggage to examine the contents. Remember that you may not bring any items of vegetable or animal origin. Once customs are cleared, look for the Habitat personnel holding the Habitat for Humanity sign! Team members should keep close guard of their personal belongings at all times. It is not advisable to accept any help from people who offer to carry your luggage.

TIME ZONE

Brazil is in in multiple time zones. Visit <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/brazil> to learn more about the local time in the area of Brazil your team will be working.



About The Trip – General Info

LODGING

Habitat for Humanity Brazil will determine the best lodging option for your group and inform the team leader. Accommodations vary depending on the location of your team. We place 2-3 people per room, depending on the location. Rooms will have single beds or double beds for couples. If a team member needs a private room, there will be an additional charge per day. Please inform the GV Coordinator if this is a need for anyone on your team. Rooms typically have a private bathroom. Your hotel will always have a hot shower, air conditioning, and when possible access to Wi-Fi. The team does not have to bring any bedding or towels. While the staff will do everything possible to make your stay comfortable, it is best to arrive with realistic expectations.

CREDIT CARDS

Most Credit Card companies are accepted at establishments where credit card processing facilities exist. However, not all shops or facilities will accept credit cards, especially in rural areas. Please always ensure you have some cash to cover personal expenses and avoid carrying credit cards in general.

TIPPING

Some restaurants will ask if you would be OK for them to include a 10% service fee (tip) when you ask for the bill. You are not obliged to say yes, but a figure of around 10% is considered reasonable in restaurants. In the hotel and, other places, tipping is not obligatory, but is always appreciated.

MEALS

Breakfast: Normally is served at the hotel. Each region offers a different menu, but a standard breakfast includes a French type of bread, coffee, milk, butter, cheese, jellies, biscuits, juices, fruits, and cakes. Beyond this basic menu, some regional options are also included.

Lunch: Restaurants typically provide our lunches. A common menu item is rice and beans with some type of meat.

Dinner: Dinner is usually served at the hotel or in a local restaurant recommended by your host.

Snacks: Safe drinking water, fruits, and cookies will always be available for a quick break and energy boost.

Drinking water: Bottled or purified water is recommended and will be provided on the work site.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity is 120 volts and the standard frequency is 60Hz. Bring adaptors and transformers if necessary. Here's some additional info on electricity in Brazil: <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/us/brazil/>.



Brazilian Culture

RELIGION

With 73.8% of the population identifying as Catholic, this makes Brazil the country with the largest Catholic population in the world.

LANGUAGE

Portuguese is the official language in Brazil and the most commonly used. However, more than 180 languages and dialects are spoken by the Indigenous peoples in Brazil. Many Brazilians from the south (the three states which compose the South region are: Paraná, Santa Catarina, e Rio Grande do Sul) are descendants of European immigrants where you can easily speak German and Italian. Although English is included in school curriculums, few Brazilians are truly fluent in the language. Spanish is understood to varying degrees by most Portuguese speakers since they are similar languages.



GREETINGS

It is important to greet people when entering a house, restaurant, or any other establishment. Usually you offer your right hand (to shake) and sometimes you exchange a kiss on both cheeks. Brazilians are very warm and will often greet new acquaintances with hugs and kisses on the cheek.

TRADITIONAL FOOD

Due to the racial mix of Brazil, each region has developed its own very diverse dishes. “Feijoada” is considered Brazil’s national dish. It consists of black beans simmered with a variety of dried, salted, and smoked meats. A very popular meal all over Brazil and also a favorite with visitors is the “churrasco” or barbecue, which originated with the southern “gaúcho” or cowboy culture. It consists of meats grilled over an open fire. Traditionally the finest “churrascos” are served in the south of Brazil, but you can find it everywhere.

If anyone has special dietary needs please let the host know ahead of time. Vegetarianism is not the norm in Brazil and sometimes a difficult concept for local people to grasp. We will do our best to honor your request but try to be patient and as flexible as possible.

Sample Cultural Experiences

HISTORIC OLINDA AND RECIFE

- Olinda and Recife are two of the oldest cities in Brazil and have a rich historic center filled with museums, art galleries, colonial buildings, churches, restaurants, and street fairs and parties. Both cities are close so the historic centers can be visited in one day. Some local cultural activities that can be seen are Maracatu percussion groups, Frevo dancers, Afoxé ceremonies, and food festivals.



PORTO DE GALINHAS

- Porto de Galinhas is consistently voted as one of the most beautiful beaches in all of Brazil. The beach is famous for its bright water beaches and natural pools. It is located 60 kilometers (37 mi) south of Recife. From full-on tourist area to serene and quiet beaches a short walk away, this is the place to cool off in the summer. Most of the beaches in Porto de Galinhas are sheltered by reefs. The beaches generally have soft white sand, and its water is warm and crystal clear. The formation of natural swimming pools, according to the local ebb and flow, is the best option of bathing in calm waters (low tide), where you will discover the diversity of colorful fish playing around your feet.



ALTO DO MOURA/CARUARU MARKET

- Alto do Moura is located in Caruaru and is known for its rich local arts and culture as well as its local cuisine. During this activity, we will visit handcraft museums and stores and have a typical lunch at a local restaurant. After, we will visit the Caruaru Market, one of the largest marketplaces in the state of Pernambuco and a great place to shop!



*Cultural experiences will depend on hosting location within the country.

Travel Tips



- Drink lots of water and beware of heat exhaustion
- No alcohol on site
- Keep hair back, no jewelry, wear sunscreen
- Although some areas of Brazil are unsafe, we will be staying in a very safe zone. Nevertheless, many times a team of foreign visitors can attract attention. As such, we recommend that volunteers go out in small groups with a minimum of 3 people.
- Avoid walking around town with your passport
- Don't carry too much cash, and avoid staying out late
- Scan your passport and travel documents and email them to yourself. If your documents are lost or stolen, this will help expedite the replacement.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary with someone at home along with the contact information for the hotel.
- Carry only the cash you need for the moment. Carry your passport, credit card, and extra money inside your clothes in a money belt, or leave them in your hotel's safe.
- Use caution when in crowds, markets, or on public transportation. Pickpockets can be very crafty and sometimes work in pairs; one person will distract you while another takes your wallet.
- Wash your hands frequently, rest as necessary, and drink a lot of liquids.

Safety On The Work Site

- No alcohol or drugs are permitted on site at any time. Volunteers who need prescription drugs (inhalers, etc.) should make sure they have a sufficient supply on site.
- Wear sunscreen of a suitable factor and reapply it throughout the day.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the tasks involved.
- Drink plenty of water — at least 2 liters a day, even more when it is hot.
- Wear your **hard hat** at all times on site, except in designated break areas.
- Proper **gloves** can protect your hands from:
 - Cuts when carrying sharp-edged materials and equipment.
 - Skin irritation from cement, paint, lime wash and other chemicals.
 - Getting a corn while working with the tools for a long time.
- Wear **ear protection** when:
 - Any equipment is being used nearby that may cause damage to your ears.
 - Heavy machinery is working nearby you for a prolonged time.
- Wear a **face mask** when:
 - You understand the mask type and its designation.
 - Using chemicals, painting lime wash, mixing cement.
 - Scraping old paints and sanding the items to smooth.



- Wear **eye protection** when:
 - You or someone nearby is using a hammer, chisel or planer.
 - You or somebody next to you is using any type of power tool.
 - Using lime wash or chemicals or mixing or pouring cement.
- Wear **proper footwear** at all times:
 - Open-toed shoes are forbidden on the site.
 - Footwear must be covered and hard-soled.
 - Steel-toed safety boots must be worn in demolition works.
- When **lifting** an item:
 - Know your capacity and weight limits. Ask your site supervisor.
 - Keep legs slightly apart, bend the knees, keep the back straight.
 - Grab with both hands, and lift with the legs, not the back.

Gift Giving Policy

Basic Policy

Habitat for Humanity discourages short-term trip teams and individual team members from giving personal gifts while engaged in or as a result of being engaged in a short-term trip.

Because they travel the world, teams encounter diverse cultures that view the giving of gifts in distinctly different ways. Many cultures feel that to receive a gift means that a gift must be given in return. In most cases, the person or family to whom a gift is given is not in a position to reciprocate. This results in the disappointment of the very people the team is intending to make happy with the gift.

Because it may set precedent, gift-giving can have a negative impact on the host affiliate, other volunteers that build with the affiliate and future HFH teams. To avoid potential problems, embarrassment, hurt feelings and unhappiness, it is best that gifts not be exchanged between the team or individual team members an individual children, the local masons/volunteers, on-site construction supervisor, partner family, host volunteer coordinator, host affiliate staff, national organization staff, team leader or anyone else.

One Exception

When a team of volunteers descends on a worksite, a crowd of inquisitive local children will not be far behind. The giving of gifts to individual children is discouraged. However, if the host coordinator approves, team members may feel free to share small items such as balloons, bubbles, pencils, paper, etc. with the children on the worksite. Use restraint and common sense to avoid hurting anyone's feelings. If you give to one, it is expected that you will give to all. Keep in mind that once word spreads, the worksite will be overrun with children.

Bringing items to play with at the worksite like a soccer ball, jump rope or Frisbee is permissible, as long as the items are taken home every evening.

Other than small items such as those listed above, gifts should not be given to individual children, at the worksite or elsewhere. Any gifts for children should be given to the host volunteer coordinator which, after the team departs, will see that they are appropriately distributed.

Donating Tools

Teams often bring small tools to use and then donate them to the affiliate upon departure. Tools that the team is planning to donate should be given to the host coordinator following the final day of building. They should not be given to the: construction supervisor, affiliate staff, partner family, local volunteers not to neighbors at the worksite. Donated tools are retained by the affiliate and may be used for future builds.

Sponsorships

Agreeing to any type of sponsorship while a member of a short-term trip team is highly discouraged. Team members sometimes are approached about the possibility of "sponsoring" children in the host country. They might be the partner family's children, children of a host affiliate staff member, of an extended family, or simply a local resident befriended by a team member. Avoid getting involved in sponsoring anyone while a member of a team.

Questions about gift-giving donations and sponsorships should be directed to the team leader or a Habitat for Humanity contact.

Global Village Volunteers' Experiences

"It was AMAZING!!! It was my first ever global village trip, and while I had minor skepticism going in, my expectations were mostly very high. Everything about this trip exceeded my expectations. The planning, coordination, information and execution allowed me to feel comfortable and confident about traveling to a new area and all of the people on the team were of like mind and ambition and the camaraderie was incredible. The organization was well done, and I truly felt that the community was happy and welcoming to have us there and appreciated the contribution we were able to provide. 1,000 thumbs up!"

—Danica C.
Habitat Global Village volunteer 2017



"GV is a fantastic way to see different cultures and meet new people-both the local people and other volunteers on the team. And GV also provides a way for travelers to enhance their travel experience with community and humanitarian service which makes our world a better place to live. The work projects are well organized, the trip leaders have been fantastic and the local Habitat leaders are talented and great to work with. A GV trip also includes local cultural activities which add to the trip's "fun" experience, and it promotes team cohesion as well. A GV trip is a valuable, effective and enlightening travel opportunity for those who want to put a bit more into as well as get a bit more out of their world travels."

—Mark. J
Habitat Global Village volunteer 2017



**every hand
makes a difference**

