

Update from Brazil *September 2018*

Welcome to your latest update from Connect2 Brazil, as we look back at how your prayers and support have made a difference to families in São Paulo over the past 8 years.

The city's shanty towns hold 2 million people in poor conditions, often without adequate sewerage or electricity. Your support has helped people get a safe and permanent place to call home, in locations closer to jobs and services.

You have also backed their campaigns for access to basic amenities like water, sanitation and electricity, so they can live with dignity.

CAFOD's Brazil team and our partners APOIO and MDF thank you for all your solidarity with the communities of São Paulo. The struggle for justice and decent housing for the poorest people continues.



Eliete, a community educator for APOIO, gave us this special message for you:

"I know that you are far away and are making an enormous effort to support us here. I thank you for all your efforts. It hasn't been in vain. Here we fight not only for housing but for the environment, for women, for education, for children.

"Every day we are transforming lives. Thank you, friends."

Lives you helped change



Maristely is a youth leader who has a new sense of confidence after getting involved in the community project. "Because of my perseverance, I live in a better place."



Zeza now lives in safe, decent housing. "We fought to win our homes," she says. "Together, we built this community. Here is where I built my self-esteem and self-worth. Now I can help others to defend their rights."



José Vicente da Costa proudly shows the title deeds for his home.

"I never imagined that at my age I would finally have a home to pass on to my children and grandchildren. I give thanks to God, and to everyone in MDF who helped us."

Key moments on our journey

2010

- We meet the Mauá and Divinéia communities who are working together to access permanent and safe housing and receive basic services.



2012

- In Divinéia, lobbying leads to affordable electricity for poor families.
- CAFOD's partner wins a court ruling obliging the government to provide housing for 200 evicted people.



2013-15

After 30 years, nearly 700 families in Divinéia and Vergueirinho receive legal titles to their homes.

- 7,202 families are accessing housing or basic services programmes.
- 2,053 families get a fair rate for electricity after successful lobbying.
- 2,612 households are benefiting from improved basic sanitation facilities like access to water and sewage systems.



2016

- 550 families are now receiving safe drinking water.
- Title deeds for 2 building occupations - Hotel Lord and Hotel Cambridge - are finally handed over to the residents' associations.
- Sanitation works in 33 locations are benefiting a total of 99 households.



Key moments on our journey

2016 ctd

- Land title claims of 6548 families in 12 communities are recognised by local authorities.

2017 / 2018

- Following a successful campaign and CAFOD petition, residents of the Mauá building avoid eviction. Local authorities agree on next steps to convert the building into social housing.
- 150 housing rights groups with 3000 members have learned about leadership, creating a more sustainable city through influencing the urban planning process, organising rubbish collections, managing water and creating green spaces.
- 60 demonstrations and assemblies took place to lobby for better social housing policies for people living in poverty.
- Through APOIO's support, residents win the right to live in a previously abandoned hotel, which will be converted into 176 flats.





Farewell from Brazil

CAFOD's Brazil Programme Officer Kezia Lavan explains the real change you have helped bring about.

Over the last 8 years your solidarity has helped us reach thousands of the poorest people in São Paulo.

With Brazil experiencing its most turbulent time in decades, the poorest are worst affected. Those standing up for their rights are too often subject to violence, criminalisation and stigmatisation.

Thanks to APOIO and MDF's dedication and your support, our communities in São Paulo have found the courage to pull together and challenge injustice and indifference. This leaves a lasting legacy of hope and leadership in these communities.

Community members have told us how important it has been to know that CAFOD supporters are thinking of them and working for them. "It gives me great joy" says Eliete from APOIO.

While CAFOD's work for the housing rights of the poorest will continue with our partners in Brazil, we would like to offer you a new focus for your support and prayers from next year.

Hello to Colombia

We are excited to invite you to join young people in the Magdalena Medio area of Colombia as they work to build peace.

To mark the start of this new relationship between UK parishes and Colombia's "Generation Peace", starting January 2019, we will be moving on with a new name, Hands On, to replace Connect2.

If you have farewell messages for our Brazilian friends, please send them in: *Connect2, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd, London, SE1 7JB.*

To find out more, do get in touch with your local CAFOD office or visit: cafod.org.uk/HandsOn

