



COUNTRY PROFILE



This Floor Manager of a small swimwear firm based in Bahia, Brazil, is working to help her business grow through exports. This is one of the several micro and small enterprises in the North and Northeast of Brazil receiving trade technical assistance from the U.S. Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In Brazil, USAID is demonstrating that further participation of small businesses in the country's exports has the potential to generate income and foster employment.

Photo: USAID / Ana Paula Paiva

BRAZIL SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1822
Population: 188 million
Income per person: \$ 3,229 (yr)

USAID IN BRAZIL

<http://brazil.usaid.gov>

OVERVIEW

With an estimated 190 million people*, Brazil's population ranks fifth in the world and largest in Latin America. Its vast natural resources and its large labor pool reinforce why it is considered a regional leader and one of Latin America's economic powers. Still, managing a population this size presents a challenge, especially when:

- An estimated one in three Brazilians (53 million people*) live below the international poverty line;
- Unemployment is 9.9 percent* nationally and 22-25 percent* in some major urban centers;
- Approximately 15 percent* of the nation remains illiterate;
- Nearly 15 million* Brazilians lack access to reliable energy;
- Crime continues to grow dramatically;
- Brazil is home to nearly 60 percent* of all HIV/AIDS cases in South America, a majority of the region's malaria cases, and is a high-burden tuberculosis country;
- Environmental degradation continues at an alarming rate, amid increased pressure to exploit the Amazon to generate economic growth and employment; and
- Heavy internal debt remains a serious constraint to productive spending.



USAID/Brazil is preserving natural ecosystems, promoting sustainable forest management, and mitigating climate change; promoting clean, alternative energy technologies; supporting efforts to prevent and control tuberculosis; reducing crime and improving social and economic inclusion through at-risk youth employability initiatives; combating trafficking in persons and assisting victims; and promoting trade-led small business growth and employment.

PROGRAMS ENVIRONMENT:

USAID aims to increase benefits to rural poor and shape land-use trends over large geographic areas, especially the Amazon, while mitigating the

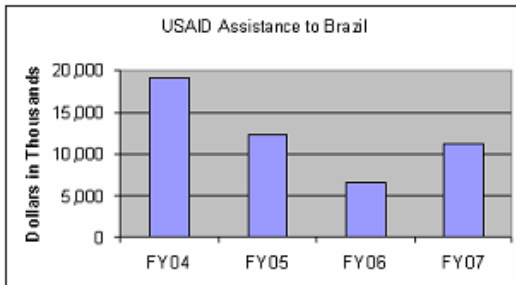
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* - Data references dated 2007; sources: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and CIA World Fact Book.



COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL



global impact of climate change and biodiversity loss; improve sustainable natural forest management practices; develop markets for environmental goods and services to provide tangible economic benefits for poor communities; and monitor and design sustainable landscapes enhancing environmental and socioeconomic benefits incorporated into government planning and policies.

ENERGY:

USAID seeks to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to mitigate global climate change and to expand the socio-economic benefits of clean, reliable power; assist the Government of Brazil to design public policies that facilitate the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies; support renewable energy and energy efficiency demonstration projects; and enhance related cooperation between U.S. and Brazilian firms and public institutions.

HEALTH:

USAID assists the Ministry and state Secretariats of Health in the implementation of a tuberculosis control program by expanding Directly Observed Therapy Short-course (DOTS) coverage; supporting research to assess multi-drug resistance and TB/HIV co-morbidity; and involving NGOs in prevention and control efforts.

DISADVANTAGED YOUTH:

USAID assistance seeks to promote economic opportunities for disadvantaged youth through technology-based training, related life skills support, job placement assistance, and entrepreneurship opportunities. The program also offers marketable skills training for at-risk youth and increases youth access to formal market employment opportunities.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:

USAID seeks to curb trafficking in persons (TIP) for sexual exploitation and forced labor purposes by providing related training to law enforcement and judicial officials. USAID also strengthens social service delivery networks that assist TIP and sexual exploitation victims and supports the improvement of shelter facilities.

ECONOMIC GROWTH:

USAID aims to reduce economic inequity by stimulating trade-led micro and small enterprise (MSE) growth and employment. USAID enhances public/private sector understanding of benefits of trade and trade liberalization; improves regulatory environment and government policies, increases access to credit and market information; and provides related technical assistance to ignite MSE trade-led growth.

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