

# Oxfam in Brazil

- Brazil has one of the highest levels of inequality in the world
- We've worked in Brazil for more than 20 years
- We work on fighting urban inequalities, disaster risk reduction, and working with women and ethnic groups



## The situation

Brazil has one of the highest levels of inequality in the world – but maintains a very important political and economic position.

As one of the ten largest economies in the world, Brazil's role, along with that of other southern countries, has been key to various international negotiations in settings such as the G20.

## In numbers...

**3,000\***  
direct beneficiaries



Photo: Tatiana Cardal

Above: Climate change campaigner Muriel Saragoussi addresses representatives from traditional Brazilian communities in Salvador.

## How Oxfam is helping

Oxfam and other civil society and social organisations are working to increase the rights of the urban poor by:

- changing policies, practices and beliefs that prevent change
- encouraging policies that are beneficial for those in poverty, particularly women and afro Brazilians

This means trying to ensure that effective adaptation and risk reduction measures are adopted in urban zones, specifically areas with the highest concentration of poverty (which are more prone to natural catastrophes).

As world pioneers on this issue, we are documenting lessons we've learned to help other organisations, governments and people – in Brazil and elsewhere – deepen their understanding.

## Providing housing

Along with local organisations, we've worked for years to convert abandoned buildings into houses of social interest. This fight led the government to drive a subsidised housing programme: buying abandoned buildings and remodelling them to make them available to the

neediest population through fixed and accessible credit.

The first building was bought in September 2009 in Porto Alegre city. It was given to 42 families as a safe place to live.

## Preparing for - and responding to - emergencies

Oxfam works in urban areas on preventing disasters and reducing risks. If a region experiences a natural disaster, Oxfam, with the government and its allies, will provide emergency relief where appropriate.

In April and May 2009, rain flooded 13 of the 26 Brazilian states, leaving more than

450,000 people homeless, and causing huge economic losses. We assessed the damage and worked with local and international organisations and public institutions to ensure a well co-ordinated response.

## "Climate hearings"

During the 2009 UN Copenhagen summit on climate change, Oxfam and other local organisations presented a "climate hearing", during which UN delegates heard the testimonies of thousands of people affected by climate change. Brazil was one of the most active countries.

