Brazil

Country profile

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P2O INITIATIVE

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This country profile is produced by Development Initiatives to support the National Dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the founding partners of the Leave No One Behind partnership, established in July 2015, our role is to provide data at a national level to help track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so we can make sure that no one is left behind.

Poverty profile

- The Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), a public think tank, calculates commonly use measures of poverty and extreme poverty. The Ministry of Social and Agricultural Development uses a different threshold to identify beneficiaries of social programmes.

- According to the latest available national data (2014) from IPEA,13% of the population live in poverty (about 25.8 million people[1]), with 4.1% living in extreme poverty (about 8.2 million people).[2]

- Poverty rates have been decreasing in Brazil since the 1990s. They declined steeply after 2003 due to economic growth and the strengthening of social protection programmes such as Bolsa Familia, a conditional cash transfer programme.

- Brazil's approach to reducing poverty has an integrated, multidimensional approach that couples income support (such as Bolsa Família) with multiple actions such as those to improve education, health, food security, income generation and rural development.

- Despite progress made through such programmes, there remains a large number of very poor people in Brazil. At the sub-national level there are clear disparities, with 60% of extremely poor people living in the rural north east region of the country, concentrated especially in the states of Bahia, Maranhão and Ceará. The south east region hosts 19.5% of the extreme poor, the majority living in the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro.

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[1] Population data for 2014 are from the National Statistics Office (IBGE – Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics.
[2] National poverty and extreme poverty lines as defined by Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicaqda (IPEA)

% of population living below national poverty line

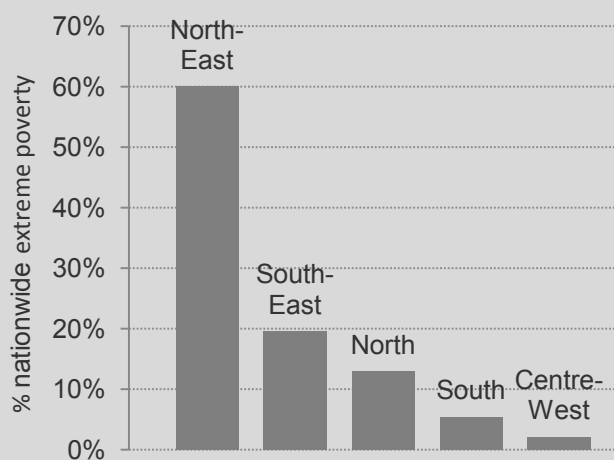# 13.0%

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on IPEA and IBGE.

% of population living below the national extreme poverty line
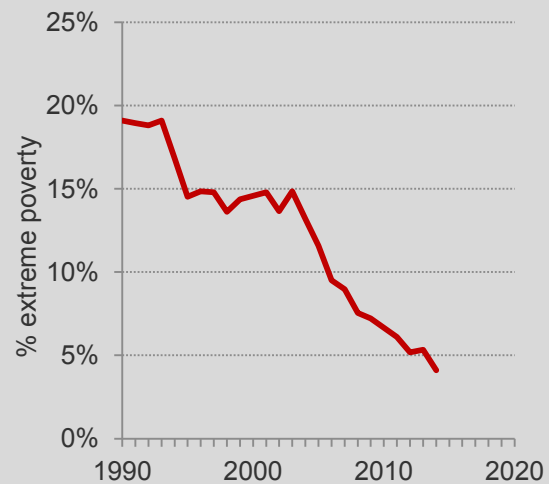
4.1%

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on IPEA and IBGE.

How is poverty regionally distributed?

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on IPEA.

Is poverty reducing over time?

Source: Development Initiatives based on IPEA and IBGE.

Inequality profile

- The Gini index measures the equality of income distribution of a country's residents, where 0 means everyone earns the same and 100 that one person earns everything. In Brazil in 2014 the Gini index was 51.84, down from 58.99 in 1999, reflecting increasing equality. However, Brazil remains one of the most unequal countries in the world – 13th out of 155 countries according to the available Gini index data.

- The level of inequality in Brazil is further illustrated with the distribution of income across income quintiles; in 2014 the richest 20% of people in Brazil owned 56.3% of national income, in contrast to 3.6% shared by the poorest 20%.

- Inequality in Brazil remains a big challenge. It is reflected in unequal income distribution but can also be seen in access to quality education, employment, health, housing and the allocation of public resources. Inequality has dimensions inextricably linked to race, ethnicity, age, gender and geography.
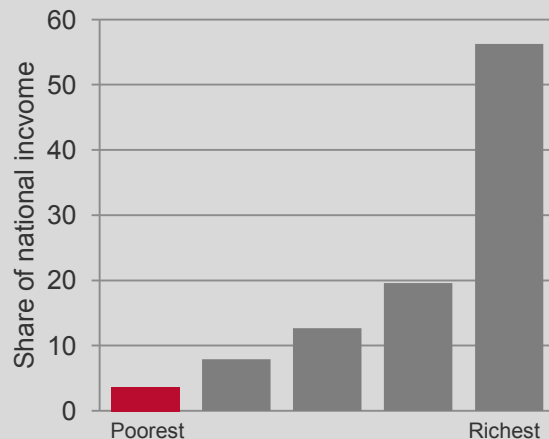
Gini index

51.48

Note: 2014 data. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

Gini index over time
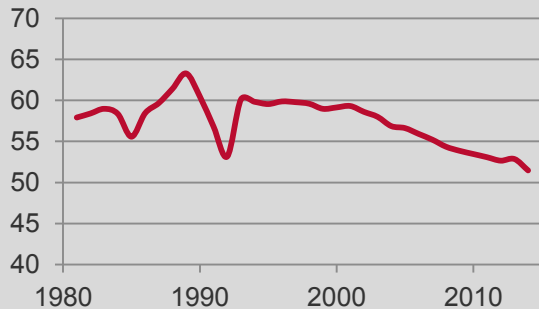
Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

How is income distributed?

Note: 2014 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

Economic profile

- In 2015, Brazil's GDP per capita was PPP$14,455, close to the regional average of PPP$14,540 for Latin America and Caribbean. This is much higher than other countries in the region such as Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua where GDP per capita was PPP$1,658, PPP$4,785 and PPP$4,884, respectively.

- However, Brazil's GDP per capita in 2015 shows a steep decline from 2013 and 2014 following an economic recession that has been exacerbated by the current political context in Brazil and is likely to continue further throughout 2017.

GDP per capita over time
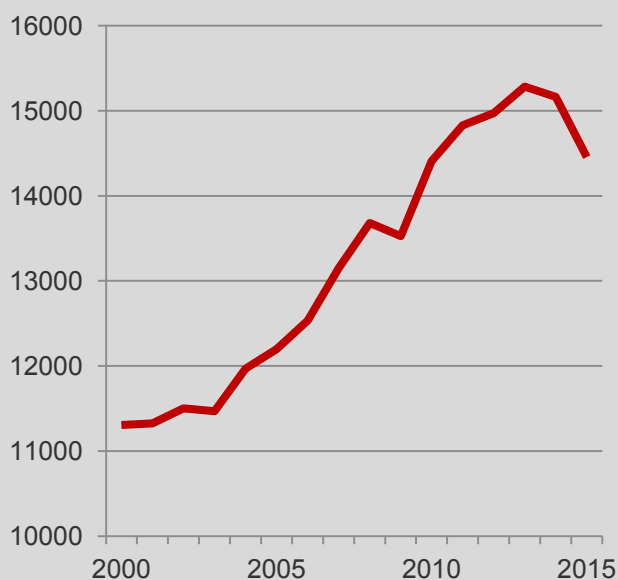
Note: GDP per capita, PPP (Constant 2011 international $) Source: World Development Indicators

GDP per capita
(2011 PPP$)

14,454.94

Note: 2015 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

Human Development Index Ranking

75/188

Note: 2015 data. Source: United Nations Development Programme.

Mean household income
per month (2011 PPP$)

563.57

Note: 2014 data. Source: World Bank's PovcalNet.

Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent international development organisation working on the use of data to drive poverty eradication and sustainable development.

- Current measures to stabilise the Brazilian public budget (PEC 241) are likely to affect the most vulnerable population, as they can limit future expenditures in public health and education, which in Brazil are used by poorer households.
- Out of 188 countries, Brazil is ranked 75 on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (HDI) (2015), with a score of 0.755.

Education outcomes

- In 2012, the Brazil government spent PPP$885.4 per capita on education, compared with a regional average for Latin America of PPP$630.6.
- In 2014, Brazil's adult literacy rate was 92.6%, up from 86.4% in 2000.

Adult literacy rate

92.6%

Note: 2014 data. Source: World Development Indicators.

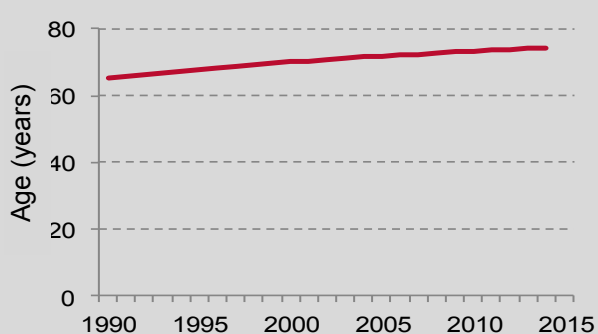### Per capita public expenditure on education (2011 PPP$)

885.4

Note: 2012 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Health outcomes

- Life expectancy in Brazil has steadily increased from 65.3 in 1990 to 74.4 in 2014.
- Since 1990, the mortality rate of children under 5 has fallen from 60.8 per 1,000 down to 16.4 per 1,000 in 2015.
- In 2014, public spending on healthcare in Brazil was PPP$581.0 per capita, compared with a regional average for Latin America of PPP$554.6.

Life expectancy at birth

Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Under five mortality rate per 1,000
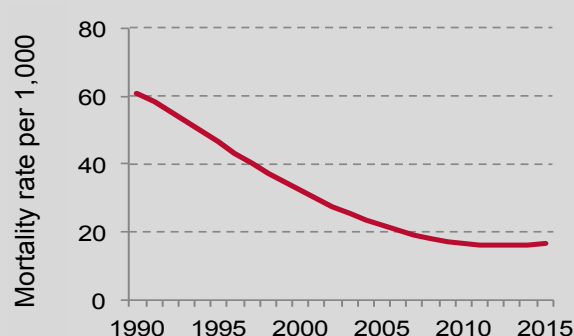
Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Per capita public expenditure on healthcare (2011 PPP$)

580.99

Note: 2014 data. Source: Development Initiatives based on World Development Indicators.

Note: Economic, health and education data in this profile are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's World Development Indicators and the UNDP's HDI; please refer to these sources for full definition of public spending. Poverty data are Development Initiatives' calculations based on the World Bank's PovcalNet.

Achieving SDGs

In the Brazilian context, Agenda 2030's ambition to ensure that no one is left behind necessitates that the current levels of inequality are tackled to make sure everyone shares in progress. Brazil faces many challenges in light of the current economic and political context, which raises important questions on the sustainability of social assistance programmes such as Bolsa Familia, which have been credited with so much of Brazil's success in reducing poverty over the last two decades. The Brazilian government created a National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals, which involves civil society and government representatives. One of the key challenges for Brazil is to disseminate and implement Agenda 2030 at the local level.

Available data shows us not only that the poorest 20% of people are being left behind but also that inequality exists between regions at the sub-national level. In order to leave no one behind by 2030 we need more and better data on who is at risk and why. To better target resources and track progress we need to better understand who they are and where they live. To achieve this we need more and better data disaggregated by at least geography, gender, age and disability.

A new project from Development Initiatives, the P20 Initiative, will be doing just this. The P20 Initiative will provide data on whether things are improving for the poorest 20% of people globally. It will do this by gathering and using existing data and promoting better disaggregation of data on people so we can ensure that those furthest behind are reached first and included in progress so the SDGs can be achieved for all.

Contact:

If you would like more information on the any of the data provided in this summary or on the P20 Initiative please contact Cat Langdon on cat.langdon@devinit.org

Data use survey

Do you use data in your work? How would you rate your use of data? What data sources do you use? We are interested to hear about the ways in which you use data in your work. Please follow the link below and complete our short survey: goo.gl/iEJdZb

The Leave No One Behind partnership seeks to drive global momentum to make sure that happens. Made up of three international non-profit organisations (CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, and Project Everyone) with the support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development we have come together as founding partners to catalyse a global movement to ensure that the pledge to Leave No One Behind turns from words into reality.

For more information on the Leave No One Behind partnership please email info@leavenoonebehind.global or visit www.leavenoonebehind.global

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