**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BRAZIL**

**1. Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living:**

1. **Has your country declared a prohibition on evictions? If a prohibition was declared, indicate its legal basis and how long it will last. Please specify if it is a general prohibition and if it also applies to persons living in informality or in informal settlements. Is the prohibition of evictions restricted to tenants or mortgage payers who have been able to pay their rent or serve their mortgages, or broader?**
2. **If no general prohibition on evictions was declared, please indicate how many evictions have taken place, the number of people affected, and the specific details of time, location and reasons.**

The Brazilian government did not take measures to prohibit eviction of low-income, vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, President Bolsonaro vetoed an excerpt of a bill passed in Congress that suspended eviction of overdue tenants.

Meanwhile, several communities have been threatened or evicted from their habitats, ranging from low-income urban areas, peri-urban areas and indigenous settlements, including the following areas:

* Bairro Roseira 2, Guaianases, São Paulo, São Paulo state (900 families)
* Vila União, Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo state (200 families)
* Vila São Pedro, São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo state (11 families)
* Indigenous communities in Alcântara, Maranhão state (800 famílias of 30 quilombolas communities)
* Planalto II, Porto Velho, Rondônia state (1200 families threatened)
* Residencial Castelo, Viamão, Rio Grande do Sul state (130 families threatened)

**c) Have any measures been taken to ensure that households are not cut-off from water, heat or other utility provision when they are unable to pay their bills?**

Water and electricity in Brazil are matters of state-level governments. In several states, judicial measures suspended agencies to cut-off households from water and electricity when they were unable to pay their bills.

However, it is important to note that many communities struggle with water rationing, unstable/unreliable public water provision, and lack of storage conditions. This leaves families without any water for several days a month, affecting hygiene conditions leaving them at greater risk of contamination with COVID-19, and precarious water storage may trigger other diseases like Zika and Dengue.

**2. Please provide any information about other legal or financial measures aimed to ensure that households do not lose their home if they cannot pay their rent or mortgage payments? Have any other tenant protection measures been adopted in response to the pandemic?**

President Bolsonaro vetoed an excerpt of a bill passed in Congress that suspended eviction of overdue tenants, and there are proposals under discussion to suspend or postpone housing financing installments and mortgages.

However, it is important to notice that the most vulnerable groups do not have formal rent agreements and are not engaged in official housing financing programs, but rather live in informal tenure arrangements and are extremely vulnerable to evictions. In a recent survey, piloted with 35 communities across the country, none received rent subsidies. Meanwhile, it is noteworthy the increase in numbers of homeless people.

**3.  What measures have been taken to protect persons living in informal settlements, refugee or IDP camps, or in situation of overcrowding from COVID-19?**

Governments have not taken specific measures to protect persons living in informal settlements. The precarious conditions of settlements and existing infrastructure in most Brazilian cities have contributed to the increase of COVID-19 cases. In addition, the number of tests is lower for the poorest population and therefore contamination and deaths are increasing exponentially in these areas (not to mention underreporting).

Government measures have targeted humanitarian and financial support for low-income families. However, the amount made available and reach of such measures have been insufficient to address the needs of informal workers and unemployed people in these settlements.

**4. What measures have been taken by authorities to ensure that migrant and domestic workers housed by their employers continue to have access to secure housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath? If migrant workers left their place of work to return to their place of origin, what measures were taken to ensure their right to housing?**

**5. Have any measures been taken to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness? If yes, how many persons were housed, in what form, where and for how long? How will it be ensured that persons provided with temporary accommodation will have access to housing after the crisis?**

In a recent survey piloted with 12 homeless groups across Brazil, it became clear that existing homeless shelters were already insufficient before the COVID-19 outbreak; now during the pandemic the shelters have not been adequately adapted to ensure social isolation, professionals have been working without sufficient protective equipment.

**6. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken or planned by national, federal, provincial or local Governments in your country to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath?**

In general, governments have turned their attention to expanding public health services and fall short in providing concrete measures to protect vulnerable groups and communities living in low income areas. Either due to overall precarious and overcrowded conditions, or due to lack of reliable water supply, specific hygiene measures and social isolation are extremely challenging for so many families. There is no articulated set of measures to protect the most vulnerable populations and that is why Brazil has stood out negatively in the world context of the pandemic.