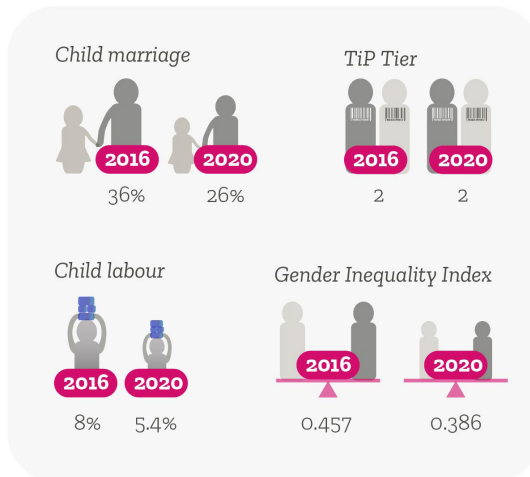


Brazil

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS IN 2016-2020



Brazil underwent a political crisis that started in 2017, when after an impeachment process new elections led to the instalment of Bolsonaro as the new president. The socio-political context regarding gender equality and the LGBTQI movement was already under threat and became even worse under the new government. Wages for females in Brazil are 20% lower than for men in comparable jobs, and the majority of women struggle to find permanent jobs. On top of that, there is an increase in reports of femicide and homophobia throughout the country. Civic space in Brazil is under continuous pressure, for example the government has become hesitant to provide a platform for Civil Society Organisations. Violence against activists defending human rights, land rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and afro-descendants is increasing. Excessive

use of force at demonstrations in urban areas is directed towards those defending LGBTQI rights, sex workers, black youth, community leaders, community workers in favelas, as well as students.

At the same time, the crisis in neighbouring country Venezuela significantly impacts the sexual exploitation and trafficking of unaccompanied children fleeing into Brazil. Xenophobia, unrest and violence in border communities have increased.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

The Down to Zero (DtZ) programme was challenged by the large numbers of immigrants from Venezuela and the increase of trafficked and sexually-exploited children. At the same time, within the context of migration, the programme has been able to adjust. In 2017 for example, the DtZ Alliance was requested by the government to develop a curriculum and subsequently trained the military police recruits in Salvador and Bahia on child rights, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation of children.

Budget 2016-2020

€ 1,163,128

MAIN RESULTS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

At the start of the programme in 2016, schoolchildren in marginalised areas participated in a training of peer educators on the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report this to the authorities. As a result in 2017-2018, groups of students from public schools in the municipalities of Salvador, Mata de São João and Camaçari have been mobilised and encouraged others to come into action as well. In order to bring sexual exploitation of children (SEC) to the attention of the communities, they organised round table discussions, debates, seminars and plays and in 2017 young mobilisers organised a cultural festival in the city of Salvador. This led them to participate in the global movement called #GirlsTakeOver in different cities which in turn led to more reported cases. Several young people took part in events such as the conference on the Status of the Child and Adolescent, the II Brazilian Congress to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents and the Faça Bonito festival in the context of the National Day Against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. With Covid-19 hitting Brazil hard in 2020, adjustments were needed, such as setting up psychosocial therapeutic support and safe and child friendly spaces for children, and supporting caregivers and professionals in Salvador, Camaçari and Mata de São João.